

# IRIS AUSTIN

NEWSLETTER OF THE IRIS SOCIETY OF AUSTIN  
An affiliated Society of the American Iris Society in Region 17

NOVEMBER, 2010

VOL. XIX, NO. 10

**Meeting:** November 9

7 P.M. Hospitality: Marney Abel

Ham and Meat Dish

Vegetable or Salad

Pie

7:30 P.M. Meeting

Select Show Theme

Program: Patricia Colacino

Showing Past Winning Irises

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## IRIS SOCIETY WORKED

### SATURDAY IN FRONT GARDEN

Don Freeman organized a work day at Zilker Botanical Gardens front iris bed Saturday, October 16, at 9 A.M. and nine workers weeded the area, cut the dead ends of foliage and removed any dead leaves before using cotton bur compost and pine bark mulch with ironite around the rhizomes. Michael of the PARD staff then watered the garden which was moist before the group began to fertilize the beautiful irises.

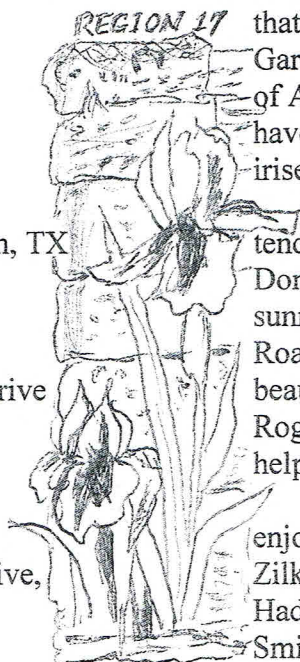
A few Dutch irises have also been added in the garden to keep the bloom much longer.

The iris garden in the Rose Garden will have a number of snapdragons as companion plants.

Nelda Moore planted 'Spittin Cotton,' 'Yuppy Puppy,' and 'Yukon,' which were left from the sale, in any spaces where the other irises were missing. These are not on the plot plan that was given to PARD in the Adopt a Garden program, which the Iris Society of Austin has entered. Plant markers have been placed to the right of the new irises.

This new bed received much tender care when it was established by Don Freeman and Charlie Hensley in the sunny location near the Barton Springs Road, where many travelers admired its beauty last spring. Marney Abel, Tracey Rogers, and Patricia Freeman also helped with the planting.

Many thanks go out to those who enjoyed the beautiful cool morning at Zilker including new members, James Hadley as well as Dara Smith.



## **EIGHT FROM AUSTIN ATTEND REGION 17 AIS MEETING IN LUBBOCK OCTOBER 22 AND 23**

Don and Pat Freeman, Jim Landers, Joe and Nelda Moore, Tracey Rogers, and Shelia and Danny Senghas were in Lubbock either before the storm or after the rains had soaked the area and caused some hail damage Thursday evening. The cotton fields were either snow white or stripped with bales of picked cotton lined like so many hay stacks in the field. Gins were operating and the Region 17 American Iris Society Meeting hosted by the South Plains Iris Society in the Radisson Hotel provided entertainment by Hannah Howard, educational meetings, excellent Mexican food, South Plains Buffet of chicken and breaded steak with vegetables and dessert, and a cotton pickin' good time as promised.

Debra Strauss, Region 17 Vice President, welcomed the members of the societies and conducted the business meeting in the Santa Fe Ballroom.

During the Saturday banquet Alex Harding, the 2009 Region 17 Youth Award Recipient and a 2010 Clark Cosgrove 1<sup>st</sup> Runner-Up, demonstrated how to remove the anther to add pollen to the stigma lips before tearing off the falls to produce seed pods that might hold 2 seeds or 20 seeds. He explained that in 3 years one might have bloom on the new seedlings as a result of the cross pollination. He showed his display board surrounded by 2 potted irises to assist with his explanation of hybridization.

Phil Williams of Rocky Top Gardens in Eagleville, Tennessee, conducted Judges Training on Ethics, provided inspirational messages, and gave a concert at the end of the banquet. He told about his passion for growing irises, weeding the rows, and playing the piano at night until at least 2 A.M. He lives by the Golden Rule and asks judges in training to be honest in taking care of their irises, weeding them, and evaluating their performance with notebook in hand. When he attempted to become a hybridizer, he stopped when his child came running up

to him, saying that he had helped by planting beans from a pod. He reached out to the boy to give him a hug just as his family had always done when greeting him and he remembered his grandmother's inviting smells of home.

Jim Landers presented a special certificate to Don and Pat Freeman for winning three top awards in Region 17—one Best of Show and two Silver. Pat Freeman has also won an Educational award and several Best Design awards.

Jim Landers, historian and newsletter editor for Region 17, also made a motion for Region 17 to send \$50 to the AIS Foundation in memory of Louisiana Iris Specialist and founder of SLI 94-year-old Marie Caillet, who died May 20, 2010.

Officers for the next 2 years will be Gordon Carver, Region 17 Vice President; Dawn Boyer, Assistant V.P.; Dana Brown, Secretary; and Ramona Howard, Treasurer.

On August 12 and 13, 2011, the Johnson County Iris and Daylily Society will celebrate 25 years by hosting the Region 17 Meeting in Cleburne.

In 2012 Austin will host the event.

Bonnie Nichols will chair the American Iris Society National Convention April 15-20 in Dallas. Nelda Moore offered to bring cookies for Hospitality.

## **THE IRIS SOCIETY OF AUSTIN TO PRESENT IRIS CUPS AND SAUCERS TO SHOW WINNERS**

From the boutique in the Pueblo Room in the Radisson Hotel Pat Freeman and Jim Landers admired iris cups and saucers that will be awarded to irises on the head table at the show on April 10, 2011. Take good care of the winning stalks that are in your garden.

The South Plains Iris Society had a raffle, a silent auction, and a table for painted tiles showing newer irises. Many beautiful items from vases, hand-crafted items, books, iris glasses and pitcher sets, and iris pictures were sold.

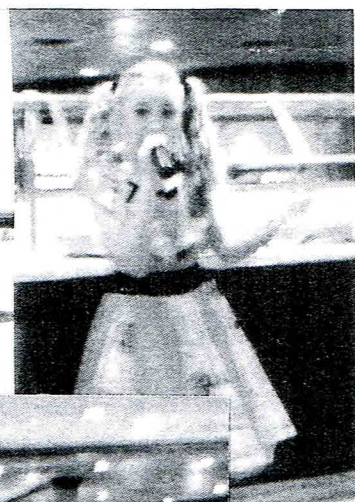


Debra Strauss installing Region 17 AIS Officers in Lubbock: Gordon Carver Vice President; Dawn Bryer Assistant RVP; Dana Brown Secretary; Ramona Howard Treasurer.

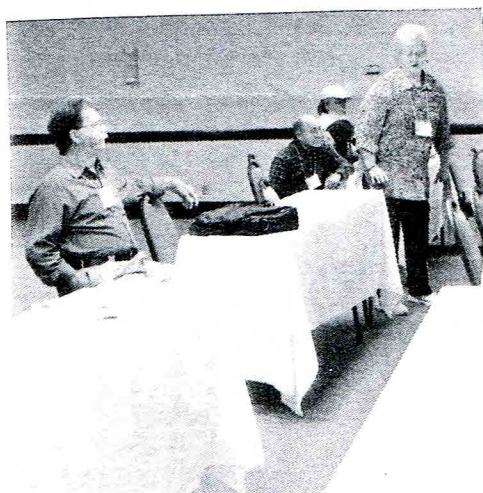
GORDON CARVER INSTALLING Dell Perry as Judges Training Chairman; Peggy Cathey as Membership Chairman; Debbie Strauss as Parliamentarian and Newsletter Chairman; Jim Landers as Historian.



HANNAH HOWARD SINGING THE BLUES



Phil Williams, who conducted Judges Training, was the Speaker as well as the Musician, playing the piano. Joe Moore and Ramona Howard in the background.



Don Freeman admires the Louisiana Iris wrapped in cotton and burlap.



Claire Harding, who won the essay contest; Happy Carver, wife of Gordon and Claire's grandmother; and Alex Harding, the Youth called 'Awesome Alex' by Tom Burseen and winner of awards.



Austin Iris Society  
Meeting Minutes  
October 12, 2010

ISA President Nelda Moore called the meeting to order. New members James Hadley and Dara Smith were introduced. The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Treasurer Pat Byrne was not present.

Horticulture report by Don Freeman: It is time to trim back big fans, clean up, and apply compost (1/4 inch) plus bone meal or superphosphate and a light layer of mulch, keeping all this an inch or two away from the rhizomes. In response to a question, he said alfalfa meal or pellets are good. Greensand can be added if the foliage is pale green.

For Louisiana irises, remove dead leaves and apply compost, mulch, and fertilizer (Dromgoole's Flower Power is a good fertilizer).

Garden Council report by David Steed: Tickets for next spring's Zilker Garden Festival will be \$7.00 on the day of entry or \$5.00 in advance. ISA members will be able to get tickets for \$3.00.

Nelda offered three raffle tickets for registration at next year's AIS meeting in Victoria, British Columbia.

We voted to hold our sale at the Norris Conference Center again next year. It was agreed that it was a good location and reasonably priced. There was a surcharge which paid for cleanup, which we agreed was worth it. Stephanie pointed out that we ran out of irises this year; if we can provide more irises for sale next year, we will make more money.

Several common weeds in this area were shown and identified. Nelda brought horseherb, bunch grass, pennywort, and spotted spurge, which she had identified. Carolyn Wylie brought two others, which Imre Eifert identified as *Boerhavia* and another spurge (*Euphorbia*).

Plans for our next meeting (Thanksgiving meal with ham and side dishes) and future programs were discussed.

Patricia Colacino will contact Dell Perry to see if she will do judges training in January. Nelda suggested Jim Landers do a judges training session in the spring; Jim agreed if a suitable date can be found.

Ken Fuchs showed slides that he and Jim Landers took at the Madison AIS meeting.

Carolyn Wylie, Secretary

