

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

JUNE, 2011

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NO MEETING IN JUNE

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**52nd ANNUAL AIS REGION 17
CONVENTION AUGUST 12 AND 13**

Bonnie and Hooker Nichols, Texas hybridizers from Hillcrest Gardens in Dallas, will be the guest speakers at the 52nd Annual AIS 2011 Region 17 Convention sponsored by the Johnson County Iris and Daylily Society of Cleburne on August 12 and 13.

The headquarters are located at 205 South Caddo in downtown Cleburne's Liberty Hotel (817) 645-5660. Iris meeting rates are \$79.90 for a king or \$75.65 for a queen bed excluding tax before July 29. A continental breakfast is included in the registration.

Registration for the convention is \$65.00 per person and includes both Friday and Saturday night buffets. The Saturday Judges Training provided by Bonnie Nichols is \$5.00 per person.

The Hospitality Suite and Judges Training will be held in the hotel meeting rooms. The banquet, boutique, and Region 17 business meeting and auction will be in the Cleburne Conference Center, 1501 W. Henderson, Cleburne, 76033.

Checks for the registration fee of \$65 plus \$5 for the Judges Training per person can be sent to the following address by July 29:

JCI & DS
c/o JOHN PARKS
P.O. BOX 3563
CLEBURNE, TX 76033-3563



Shelia Senghas Gets Involved with “Median Heaven in 2011” Convention

Shelia Senghas felt privileged to hobnob around the gardens during the Median Iris Convention in Oklahoma April 14-16 with Perry Dyer, Paul Black, Hugh Stout, Debra Strauss, Judy Keisling, and her iris friends. Region 17 Past R.V.P. Debra Stauss was in charge of the auctions, and her informative posters in the lobby of the Clarion Hotel introduced the iris seedlings for bidding online on the Facebook page. At the welcome dinner Thursday evening Shelia enjoyed the presentation of guest irises growing in the gardens on tour and then as she recounts, “Friday morning the weather had changed to a cold windy chill; however, it did not deter the irisarians for they were eager to begin their garden journey. By the time the bus unloaded at the Hugh and Jennifer Stout Garden at Dancing Tree the wind gusts had increased to 40-50 mph and the cold seeped through to the bones. The Stout Gardens were quite extensive and there was a great deal to see. The gorgeous garden areas were surrounded by woods, pastures, ponds, and paths that led in, around, and among the flora. Whimsical yard art abounded in interesting garden settings showing Jennifer’s creativity and artistic abilities. All of that, along with the exquisite colorful beauty of the irises in bloom, filled one’s senses with pure nature at its finest. The quality of bloom, color, bud count, and stalk height in the garden was greatly impacted by the drought in Oklahoma City; yet, the peak bloom of the guest arilbreds and arilbred medians, along with the four classes of medians, provided a wonderful representation for viewing. Sadly, very few of us were able to tolerate the cold wind, and,

though a catered lunch had planned to be served outside under a gazebo. Jennifer invited everyone inside to eat an hour and a half earlier than planned....”

After this the bus headed to the Cowboy Hall of Fame. Saturday the bus traveled to the gardens of Louise Carson, Judith Andrews, Will Rogers Garden Center, and once again to the Stout Garden, where the groups gathered for garden judging.

“Upon arriving at the hotel the attendees dropped off their ballots, and Perry Dyer, Mona French, and Shelia counted the votes two hours before the banquet, when awards were given to Paul Black for ‘Dazzling’ a 2008 IB; Mona French for ‘Florence French’ the name of Mona’s mother; Nearpass by Spoon for ‘Moon and Stars;’ Chuck Chapman for an SDB named ‘Limesicle;’ Pete McGrath for an AB called ‘Hannah’s Prayer;’ and Paul Black’s Seedling ‘Q59B,’ an IB.”

“Shelia said that she was thrilled that her best friend and iris mentor, Mona French, had carved her name into the hybridizing world and received one of the ‘Best’ Awards.”



DAZZLING (Black 08)



VIVALDI (Baumunk 07)



LOVESICK BLUES (Lauer)

