

in this issue >>>

- Rhizome Sale September 8, 9am
- AIS Reg 17 Convention Summary
- National Convention Planning
- Random Iris News



September 2012 — vol 21 #9

Nelda Moore, Editor

A Monthly Newsletter of the Iris Society of Austin

IRIS AUSTIN



next ISA meeting >>>

September Meeting Early!!

Iris Society of Austin Meeting
Tuesday September 4, 2012
6:45 pm (gates close at 7:00)

Late? call 477-8672 ext 13

Zilker Garden Center
2220 Barton Springs Rd
Austin TX 78746

- Potluck Supper
- Preparing for September Sale

next AAGC meeting >>>

Austin Area Garden Council Meeting
Tuesday September 11, 2012

10:00 am

Zilker Garden Center
Nelda Moore – ISA representative

upcoming events >>>

September 8 – Rhizome Sale

Norris Conference Center
2525 W Anderson Ln, 78757
South side of Northcross Mall

Sept 28 – AAGC Open House

10am at Zilker Garden Center

October 9 – Regular Meeting

November 13 – Regular Meeting

AIS Region 17 Conv.

The AIS Region 17 Convention 2012 concluded August 4, at the Omni Hotel Southpark with a delicious dinner of herb roasted chicken with lemon beurre blanc, escalloped potatoes, green bean almandine with cream brulee, chocolate cake and almond amaretto cheesecake.

Members from most of the 14 affiliated societies were present to receive goodies in special fabric bags sewed by Pat Byrne. Tiny hand-painted tiles were favors, while Dell Perry decorated white paper bags holding a rhizome of bearded irises as well as Spurias and Louisianas from her garden. The popular raffle held a coverlet trimmed by Pat, an iris vase, a huge wreath, and a beautiful iris flag donated by Donna Little. Ticket sales yielded \$122. The Silent Auction brought \$580 to the Iris Society of Austin's treasury. In addition to all of these activities door prizes were given to all who attended. Jim Landers provided one membership in the Reblooming Iris Society that was won by Gloria H.

Marney Abel, newly-elected president of the host club, gave the welcome address to all of the

irisarians, many of whom purchased rhizomes in a frenzy while ignoring a mortgage on their home. Gordon Carver, Regional Vice President, gave the invocation and asked for the roll call of each society. Nelda Moore introduced the speaker, Mike Lockett, a North Chesterfield, Virginia hybridizer of reblooming iris, a horticulturist, an owner of a successful nursery, a grower of herbs and peonies, and a landscaper.

Mike showed a power point program with several gardens he designed that appeared as jeweled areas made up of cushions of blue and yellow pansies amid pink peony tulips. In a memorial garden dedicated to the memory of his mother, he planted irises in a riot of colors all blooming at the same time, leaving a stunning picture developed by a successful educated gardener. He is a soil maker, removing existing dirt containing nut sedge and other weeds and creating nutritious organic mounds with green sand. He would never use super phosphate on irises since this contaminates the aquifer. He emphasized the importance of wise use of water since in New

continued on next page

Nat'l Convention 2013

Short trip to convention fun

Dell Perry and Bonnie Nichols showed slides of eight gardens that will be on tours at the AIS National Conventions in 2013 and 2014. They hope everyone will make the short drive to the DFW area for the convention to be hosted April 15-20, 2013 by The Iris Society of Dallas in the Crown Plaza Hotel and Resort located at 14315 Midway Road, Addison, TX. Reservations can be made by calling 800-377-9778 for \$99 plus taxes if you mention the code "IS3." Register by February 1, 2013, for the discounted rate of \$299. Dell Perry is the registrar at seandelirises@yahoo.com.

The tour gardens will feature guest irises sent by hybridizers from all over the world, so we can all see how well these plants perform in Texas. Tour gardens include:

Addison Garden, Brown Garden, Burseen Garden, Carver Garden, Clark Garden, Dallas Arboretum, Nichols Gardens, Thompson Garden.

The Iris Society of Dallas will also host the Society for Louisiana Iris Convention April 21-23 at the same hotel. Louisiana Iris garden tours will include: Addison Garden, Nichols Northaven Garden, Bobbie Mason Garden, Dell Perry Garden, and Mike Reed Garden.

Rhizome Sale Prep

All members are encouraged to bring bearded iris rhizomes to the Sept 4th meeting. Your donated plants can be groomed for the sale by removing the dead foliage, but leaving about 6 inches of green leaves that are trimmed into an upside down "V", and labeled with the correct name of the iris. You can also provide the hybridizer and the year the iris was introduced, especially for the Texas hybridizers, since there is a special award for blooms hybridized in Texas during our annual show, which will be Saturday, March 30, 2013. Always remove the dirt from the iris and soak the rhizome in a solution of bleach water to prevent the spread of disease.

For Louisiana Iris and Spurias clean them, soak them, and wrap the root

system in a wet paper towel or newspaper, and then put the rhizome in plastic. Leave the top of the foliage showing.

When planting all the rhizomes you purchase at the sale, the bearded irises are carefully placed on a mound of soil with the rhizome's roots spread down over the dirt. Then cover the rhizome and mix in about a handful of bone meal. Water thoroughly and deeply, but do not allow the bearded irises to stand in water.

Louisiana irises are water irises. These can be placed in an acidic soil in tubs or buckets. Drill holes in the top of the container to drain any rain water or use dunks to prevent mosquitoes from hatching.

cont'd from pg 1 >>

Jersey, the garden state, people were fined for using more water than the amount allocated for each consumer. Water is precious and as caretakers of the earth, consumers need to be awakened to wise use of any natural resources and the use of organic fertilizers and pesticides.

Mike and his wife have two parrots and a rescued dog. He has recently worked on his home and has removed a dead Bradford pear tree that froze as did a cherry tree in his dentist's yard.

Mike also provided an interesting program showing Zurbrigg irises that he used for crosses for his seedlings. He admires the reblooming irises created by Betty Wilkerson of Kentucky. Many irises, in his opinion, should have received AIS awards, but politics still plays a pretty part in this process.

Deepest sympathy is extended to Shelia Senghas and her family on the loss of her beloved mother August 2. Please keep the family in your prayers.

Argyle Acres has been sold to Willow Creek Farm and Gardens of Wautoma, Wisconsin. The Spears of Texas have decided that their irises needed to be with the daylilies, peonies, and trees in the agribusiness of Wisconsin.

Reblooming bearded iris hybrids are featured as perennial show-offs in Garden Gate Magazine for the October Issue 107. 'Immortality' is pictured as the "reblooming wonder."

After these bloom in the spring, feed with an all purpose fertilizer such as 5-10-10 to encourage rebloom.