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February 2013 — vol 22 #2

Nelda Moore, Editor

A Monthly Newsletter of the Iris Society of Austin

# IRIS AUSTIN



## next ISA meeting >>>

Iris Society of Austin Meeting  
**Tuesday February 19, 2013**  
**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
- Business Meeting
- Grower and hybridizer Bob Van Liere will be visiting from Colorado

## next AAGC meeting >>>

Austin Area Garden Council Meeting  
**Tuesday March 12, 2013**  
**10:00 am**

Zilker Garden Center

Nelda Moore – ISA representative

## upcoming events >>>

Mar 12, 2013 – ISA Meeting

Mar 30, 2013 – Annual Iris Show

Apr 9, 2013 – ISA Meeting

Apr 15-20, 2013 – AIS Nat'l Conv  
Apr 21-23, 2013 – LA Iris Conv

May 14, 2013 – ISA Meeting

## Bob Van Liere

### February Guest Speaker

Bob Van Liere will be the featured speaker during the Iris Society of Austin's meeting February 19 at 6:45pm in the Zilker Garden Center auditorium, where the club usually meets on the second Tuesday of each month. Please note that the meeting this month is one week later than normal.

Van Liere is the owner of 2.5 acres of iris beds located at 2700 West Amherst Avenue in Denver, Colorado. As one of the largest sources of irises in Colorado, Van Liere loves growing and hybridizing tall bearded iris for beauty, performance, and the pleasure of the public at the Iris4u Iris Garden, his pride and joy. The gardens are open from mid-May to mid-June with peak bloom usually from around May 20 to June 4.

As past-president of the Tall Bearded Iris Society, Bob hails from AIS Region 20. He has won numerous awards for his introductions, especially for 'Sisters of Loretto' a 2006 with standards that have a

yellow base with a rosy red-pink overlay and falls nearly the same with darker edges. Bob says that he named this iris after the sisters who ran the Loretto Heights College just up the street from his garden because he admired their commitment to justice and peace. The iris is a cross between 'Lorilee' and 'Lady Friend'. It bloomed in Central Texas during the 2008 American Iris National Convention in Austin.

'Solomon's Treasure' has standards that are cream yellow with a faint maroon infusion at the midrib. The falls are maroon with a lighter area around the beard. The hafts are a bright yellow-gold and the beard is orange. This hybrid produces great branching with 9 to 11 buds. He named this after Solomon's riches since he produced a treasure for you.

'Whistler's Tune' is a purple-violet self with heavy lace and bright golden hafts. The beard is a gold-orange with some violet to match the standards and falls. This iris just wants the grower to pucker up and whistle a happy tune.

# Iris Show Preparation

It may not be early to bed the night before the Iris Show, but it will be early to rise to cut the bloom stalks for the horticulture section that you will enter from 7:30am until judging time. If you choose to cut any unopened flower for the show the day before, you may want to keep it under a light during the night while you get some rest. If, on the other hand, you have kept some in your bathroom for a few days, you may have to discard them after putting them in the bottle. They will be spent blooms by the middle of the show.

After cutting the show-winning stalk, be sure to turn it upside down and shake it gently, being careful not to damage the falls. Any water or insects should fall out of the blossom. You will still need to look for spiders, however, so that the elusive critter does not climb over to someone's blue ribbon winner-to-be. This is the time to use the tweezers and the cotton swab in your grooming kit. Then take a cloth and remove your fingerprints from the stalk in your hand.

When you get to the show, in the preparation room, usually the Greene Room at Zilker, sign the entry sheet to select the number that you will use to identify your show-winning irises. If you signed in first, your number should be ONE! Then take some of the half-filled bottles and place your iris in the bottle with its best show face forward and use the pieces of pipe insulation provided to secure it in place. Hang the entry tag just below its stalk at the top of the vase. This tag

is secured with a rubber band. Then take the entry to the auditorium. The Placement Team will check that you have completed the form, both the top and the bottom. It is the lower portion that the show chairman will use in order to complete the show report. It will be torn off by a clerk after the judges complete all their judging duties in the auditorium. Remember to use your Show Schedule to correctly label your iris in the class and group where you want to enter it, such as tall bearded, border bearded, space age iris, Louisiana, or spuria. Any specimen entered in the wrong classification cannot be judged by AIS rules.

If you have signed up to enter an



TB 'Sistes of Loretto' - (Bob Van Liere 2005)  
HM 2008

artistic design in the show, be sure to bring your vase, your flowers and other plant material, any background you would like to use, and any other accents you want to add to your artistic display.

Then you can finally relax and wait for the show to open so that you can greet the public and answer all those questions about growing those beautiful specimens.

## 2013 ISA Iris Show >>>

# Jewels Of The Earth

"Jewels of the Earth" is the theme selected for the 2013 Iris Society of Austin Show that will adorn the Austin Area Garden Center Auditorium in Zilker Botanical Gardens, 2220 Barton Springs Road, Saturday, March 30.

This 24th accredited show will be judged under the rules and regulations of The American Iris Society. The public is invited to attend from 1 to 4pm. No admission to the show will be charged by the Iris Society of Austin.

Pat Freeman will accept the names of those who will enter the

Artistic Division, which will include Novice, Traditional or Mass Design, Designer's Choice, Small Design, and Table for Two.

The beautiful schedule will be designed by Ken Fuchs.

Horticulture Section placement will be from 7:30am until 9:45am by David Kraemer while Don Freeman will be in charge of staging and properties. Pat Byrne will instruct clerks and secure judges, and Nelda Moore will provide publicity and hospitality. The 2013 Show Chair is Jaime Hadley.

# 2013 AIS Nat'l Conv

## Close to home in Addison, TX

The American Iris Society National Convention will be hosted by the Iris Society of Dallas, and held April 15-20, 2013 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 14315 Midway Rd, Addison, TX 75001. The hotel can be reached at 972-980-8877, and be sure to request the "IS3" room rates.

Full adult registration for the convention includes Welcome and Awards Banquets, bus transportation to tour ten different gardens, Judges

Training, an AIS flower show and a Convention Book. Registration fees are \$299 by February 1, \$349 by March 1, and \$399 by April 1.

Send registration forms and payment for both conventions to Dell Perry, 800 Purcell Drive, Plano, TX 75025 or call 972-816-3418. Visit the Iris Society of Dallas website at [www.irises-dallas.org](http://www.irises-dallas.org) for more information on both conventions and to print registration forms.

**more on 2013 AIS national convention >>>**

## Geek Dinner

Have you heard how much fun the Geek Dinner is? You don't have to be a computer geek to attend, just join a bunch of great iris folks for dinner.

After having spent your day getting off the tour bus, rushing around the garden trying not to miss anything, then getting back on the bus and on to the next garden to repeat it all again... there is no better way to wind down your day than a relaxed evening with friends at the Geek Dinner reviewing all those iris that are now on your wish list.

First there is meeting with your old iris friends and meeting new iris friends. If you happen to be a subscriber to one of the iris lists or electronic robins, you can meet other members and put faces to all those funny email names.

Of course there is a great meal. Then the real fun for the night... the Geek Dinner Auction where you get

to bid on new iris introductions, gift certificates from commercial iris growers, and iris themed items. The proceeds from the auction go directly into the American Iris Society Electronics Services fund that sponsors such things as the digital projector for slide shows, new features on the AIS website, and the development of new electronic services for AIS members. Oh and of course some great door prizes.

Now is the time to make plans for the 14th annual Geek Dinner being held Friday Apr 19, 5:30-8pm right in the convention hotel of the 2013 AIS National Convention. The tables always fill up fast so please RSVP by April 12 with your \$26 check to:

Joanne Prass-Jones  
35572 Linda Dr, Fremont, CA 94536  
joanne@usjoneses.com  
(510) 795-9723

## last meeting's minutes >>

Iris Society of Austin Meeting  
Tuesday January 8, 2013

The meeting was called to order by President, Marney Abel. The minutes from the November 2012 meeting were read and approved. There was a good crowd for the rainy weather. Welcome to our visitor Tom Ashbaugh!

There was no Treasurer's report.

Nelda Moore gave the AAGC Council Report. The AAGC Nominating Comm. is looking for Council President and VP of Operations. Every member club is being asked to donate and build a Faerie House for butterflies displayed on the Escarpment Trail for children's activities.

The ISA volunteered to sell water at the annual Zilker Garden Festival. Don Freeman moved that ISA donate \$200.00 to pay for the water to sell at the festival. The motion was seconded by Pauline Guerrero and passed.

Don Freeman gave a Horticulture Report suggesting we spread granular molasses to feed the microbes in the soil or apply in liquid form at 1 Tablespoon per gallon water with a sprayer. For this year's blooms, since our show is on March 30, fertilize earlier – late January to early February. Products our members have good results with include liquid bone meal and HastaGrow. Get your supplies at GeoGrowers (Hwy 290) and Brite Ideas (S Congress and Ben White area) mention you are a member of AAGC club for a possible discount. (ph. 444-2100)

# Judges Training

The **South Plains Iris Society** presents a class on **Tall Bearded Iris**

led by Bob Van Liere

**February 23, 2013** Noon – 2pm \$10

Home Plate Diner, 7615 University, Lubbock, TX

Contact: Dana Brown, 806-746-6002, [ddbro@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ddbro@sbcglobal.net)

There will be other opportunities for judges training in April at the AIS National Convention in Dallas.

**meet the hybridizer >>>**

## Carl Boswell (3/16/25 – 7/16/10)

Carl Boswell was a native Californian, who lived in Concord with his wife LaRue and two sons. In 1985 he named an SDB 'Cute Stuff' for a grandson. During his years as a hybridizer he introduced all classes of medians, spurias, Japanese, tall bearded irises, arilbreds, and arilbred medians. Over 100 of his hybrids were introduced to commerce.

His relationship with irises started in 1950 when he was landscaping his new home and purchased twelve seedling irises for \$2.50. At the time Coca Cola was 5 cents a bottle. He had no idea that these unknowns that seemed so expensive when he bought them from a friend of Carl Salbach, Sydney Mitchell, and C.G. White would change his life.

Later, in 1953, Boswell and his wife bought another \$25 worth of irises. Both of them were hooked on irises, and their small back yard was suited for growing dwarfs and medians.

They helped to organize Mount Diablo Iris Society in 1960 with Grace Mills of Antioch. LaRue

became the first woman president after a time. Carl also served as president of the Dwarf Iris Society, and treasurer of Region 14. Both were awarded the Larry Gaulter Lifetime Achievement Award in Region 14.

In 1997 Carl received the AIS Hybridizer's Medal in the same class with Terry Aitken and Barry Blyth. Over the years he earned nine William Mohr Medals and two CG White Medals for his arilbreds. He also won an Honorable Mention in 1974 for 'Brassie Lass', an Intermediate Bearded Iris; and a Caparne-Welch Medal in 1991 for 'Puppet Baby,' a miniature dwarf bearded iris.



AB 'Jewel of Omar' - (Carl Boswell 1986)  
HM 1989, Mohr Award 1991, Mohr Medal 1993

**meeting minutes cont'd >>**

Jaime Hadley gave the Iris Show Report, stating that the Show Schedule is almost ready! Our theme is "Jewels of the Earth". This year we will have a new Design show entry category for Small arrangement (less than 15"). Backdrops for artistic designs can be pre-made tri-fold display boards available at local craft shops. We will still provide the wooden tri-folds for anyone that would like to use one.

Ken Fuchs, VP Membership, reminded us that dues are due!! \$12 individual, \$18 joint, \$6 youth. A call was made for volunteers for the Nominating Committee.

The AIS National Convention will be April 15 – 20 in Dallas, TX. Register before February 1st to take advantage of the early discount.

Jim Landers announced dates for other Region 17 Iris shows:

Belton Iris Society – April 6, 2013

Waco Iris Society – April 6, 2013

This month's program was on Bulbs from Barbara Sautner.

*submitted by Dara Smith*

**joys & concerns >>>**

Our thoughts are with Bob Stone as he is recovering from a heart attack; Donna Little caring for ailing family members; and Jeannette Steadman who is in rehab in Round Rock after surgery on her leg following a fall

Has anyone heard from Imre Eifert? He has not made it to a meeting in a long time

Happy Birthday, to youth member Nicolas Sadler who turned 5 on Jan 8