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August 2014 — vol 23 #5



Nelda Moore, Editor

A Monthly Newsletter of the Iris Society of Austin

IRIS AUSTIN



next ISA meeting >>>

**Special Date for
August 2014 meeting!**

Iris Society of Austin Meeting
Monday August 25, 2014
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
- Prep for September Sale
- Bring food and your sale rhizomes for pricing

next AAGC meeting >>>

Austin Area Garden Council Meeting
Tuesday September 9, 2014

9:30 am

Zilker Garden Center
Marney Abel – ISA representative

upcoming events >>>

August 22-23 – Region 17
Convention in Amarillo

September 6 – Rhizome Sale
Norris Conference Center
2525 W Anderson Ln, 78757
South side of Northcross Mall

September 9 – Regular Meeting

October 14 – Regular Meeting

Horticulture Notes

summer iris fun

Irises are now free of spent bloom stalks unless some reblooming varieties are showing off in your garden. Do not allow seed pods to form unless you are a hybridizer. Spurias have bloomed and have probably now begun their dormant period. When the foliage browns you can cut them down. But don't pull them out of the ground and destroy these beauties. When cool weather returns, Spurias will begin to re-emerge so feed and water. Their food is the same as Rose food. Spurias and Louisiana irises are heavy feeders, but Louisianas need acid food or soil. Louisiana irises are becoming too thick in their containers; therefore, tag them correctly and pull many out for the sale after Labor Day.

Keep the garden clean--free of dried iris leaves, tree limbs, and leaves blown by the high winds. Feed irises after they bloom, on Labor Day, and on Valentine's Day for big blooms or show blooms. Also remember that irises love sunshine as well as freezing weather. Witness the iris garden that bloomed in the spring!

The gardens at Zilker Botanical Gardens have had their bloom stalks removed, weeds have been removed, but rains have probably brought new wild flowers, soapberry trees, and grass seeds blown from across the road. These gardens need constant attention. The garden staff feeds these gardens.

Happy growing and showing!



Swedish
Log Cabin
in Zilker
Gardens

See page 3
for the
story

Celebrating Youth

Nicholas Sadler earned second runner up in the Region 17 Youth T-Shirt Contest with his fantastic drawing depicting some irises. He has received a free T-Shirt and a Tom Burseen new introduction. Other Region 17 winners were Aiden Strauss (6 and under) and Chelsea Curlee (13-15).

The American Iris Society is offering youth members the opportunity to earn an AIS Youth Patch. The youth member must complete a total of twelve different iris and AIS related activities within a twelve-consecutive-month period. Eight of the activities are required of all applicants, and the other four can be selected from a list of other activities based on the youth's particular areas of interest. To earn the AIS Youth Patch these activities must be documented and verified to the AIS Youth Chair.

REQUIRED ACTIVITIES

1. Be an active, dues-paying American Iris Society Youth member, either individually or Classroom Iris Project (CIP) member.

2. Enter the yearly Ackerman Essay Contest for AIS Youth Members.
3. Enter the annual AIS Youth Coloring Contest.
4. Grow at least 2 different types of irises, such as Dwarf Bearded, Median Bearded, Tall Bearded, Spuria, Louisiana, or Species Crosses. Container gardening is permitted.
5. Write an article for your club newsletter, regional newsletter, The Iris Fan (youth newsletter) or the AIS Bulletin, IRISES - proof of publication required. If possible, provide photos.
6. Be an active member of your club or region by helping at a show, sale, or event (adult verification is required). Be available to answer questions.
7. Recruit a new AIS member, either adult or youth. E-members qualify
8. Visit other gardens during bloom time. Adult verification is required, with garden owner or parent.

For full details, visit

<http://www.aisyouth.com/Patch/>

Help Needed for Sale

The Annual Rhizome Sale will be Saturday September 6 at the Norris Conference Center near Anderson Lane and Burnet Rd. Plenty of publicity and signage will bring the public to the entrance, but Tracey needs help... If you would like to volunteer, please give Tracey a call at 512-280-4856.

If you have rhizomes that you want to offer at the sale, please bring them to our next meeting which is on a special date, August 25. Please be sure your fans have the variety name written legibly on one leaf. We will be adding the prices at the August meeting.

last meeting's minutes >>

Iris Society of Austin Meeting

Tuesday May 13, 2014

The meeting was called to order by President Pat Byrne. The minutes from the last meeting were approved.

A copy of the monthly Treasurer's Report was given to the Secretary to keep on file. The ending monthly balance for March, April 2014 was \$16,420.29.

Nelda Moore and Don Freeman presented the AAGC Council Report. The Garden Council is asking garden societies for additional contributions (\$2,500.00) to Central Texas Gardener as part of payment for ZGF advertisement. There will be an October 25th gala. AAGC will move forward with \$7,000.00 initiative to have a Zilker Garden virtual tour for electronic devices. The ZGF raised \$32,413.42.

There was a motion to not hold ISA meetings in the months of June and July that was voted on and passed. Nelda will inquire with the clubhouse scheduling so we can change our August meeting to be later in the month to prepare and price rhizomes for the club sale in September. The next meeting will be Monday August 25, 2014.

Don Freeman began a discussion for the ISA to consider funding and contributing to a project that would add Spuria and Louisiana iris beds to the front of Zilker, with perhaps some type of arbor design and a new trail or walkable path to the location from the parking lot.

continued on next page

The Swedish Log Cabin At Zilker Gardens

The pioneer log cabin located near the one-room schoolhouse and the wishing well is about 167 years old since it was built around 1838, before Austin was even a town. It was owned by a Scotsman J J Grumbles and located in Govalle, east of Austin on 400 acres of good farm land purchased by Sven M Swenson in the 1850's. Sven and his Uncle Svante Palm promoted the immigration of thousands of their countrymen to Texas when there was a shortage of both food and land in Sweden. The hardworking Swedes became successful and worked one year or more on Swenson properties in Austin and West Texas for their passage to Central Texas.

The Swedes are credited with bringing the concept of building houses of logs to this country where trees were found. This one room structure of heavy hand-hewn cedar logs with a shingle roof originally had a dirt floor. It probably is a replica of those first log cabins built in Delaware by Swedish colonists in 1638.

Gustav Palm, a watchmaker, lived in this cabin at Govalle along with his wife and large family after their arrival from Sweden in 1848. Their long difficult journey took 6 weeks, but after some years they moved to East 14th and San Jacinto Streets, where this cabin became their wash house. Years later the cabin was moved to Nelson Park in Round Rock. When that property was sold in 1965, the log cabin was dismantled, the logs numbered and the cabin rebuilt in Zilker Park. Carl T Widen, who was president of the Texas Swedish Pioneer Association, Louis Palm, and others were credited with moving the structure.

Inside the cabin the organ used to carry clothing across the ocean, hand-made furniture, and other authentic items commonly used by early settlers are dusted and repaired by the volunteers during this renovation. Some of the items will be in working order by the time the cabin is reopened.

based on a speech by Jean Quist Sellstrom

Zilker Virtual Tour

Wilda Campbell, Vice President of Education for AAGC, is working on financing for a new project that will allow anyone with a smart phone or other device to view or tour parts of the gardens while sitting indoors in the air conditioning before walking through the gardens. Any club can adopt an area for \$50 and have it appear as part of the virtual tour.

Anyone interested in assisting with the site selection process, please call Wilda at 512-542-4011 or e-mail wildacampbell@gmail.com.

Don Freeman and some members of the garden staff are working on a wedding feature to be located in the front iris-daylily area that will be landscaped with Louisiana irises.

minutes continued >>

We would exchange our bed that is hidden in the shade at the back of the gardens for this area in the front.

Carolyn Wylie made a motion to appoint Don Freeman and Mike Renfro to present a proposal to the ISA on iris bed improvements to Zilker. This motion passed unanimously.

Please contact Nelda or Tracey to sign up for a turn on the hospitality duties for one of the upcoming meetings. 2015 Calendars are available for \$5.00.

Important Dates:

Region 17 Meeting – August 23 -24

ISA August meeting – Monday August 25 (sorting/pricing rhizomes)

Rhizome Sale – Saturday September 6 at Norris Conference Center

September meeting – Tuesday September 9

2015 Iris Show – Saturday April 11, 2015

The meeting program presented was “AIS 2014 Convention – Dallas Déjà Vu” Thanks, Ken!

submitted by Dara E Smith, Secretary

support CTG on PBS >>

Clubs and individuals can continue to finance the sponsorship of the Central Texas Gardener series on PBS by sending a check payable to Austin Area Garden Center, 2220 Barton Springs Road, Austin, TX 78746 as soon as possible. Note on the check that the money is for Central Texas Gardener.

\$2,500 is still needed. This sponsorship translates to television advertising which is very helpful for Zilker Botanical Gardens.

Members in the News

Lori Anderson and Linda Neudek with their flower arrangements from the Iris Society of Austin 2014 Spring Iris Show were featured in the Hill Country Herald in an article written by Shelia Senghas and published Wednesday, May 21. The show was held in the auditorium of the Austin Area Garden Center in Zilker Botanical Garden April 12, 2014. Lori won first place with Two Container "Side Show" while Linda Neudek won second place for "Clowning Around" in the Novice Division in the judged show entitled "Irises Under the Big Top." Both ladies live in Leakey, where Lori has historic irises that have been growing on her property for over 50 years.

Member Jim Landers was also mentioned in the article, along with other Texas iris hybridizers. Special thanks to Shelia for sending the article and sharing the world of irises with our neighbors deep in the Hill Country.

For the full article, go to hillcountryherald.net, and look for the button that says "Read This Week's Paper"



Region 17 Convention

American Iris Society Region 17 will be hosted by North Plains and South Plains Iris Societies August 22 - 23 in the Holiday Inn, 8231 W Amarillo Blvd, Amarillo, where the room rates are \$99 per night plus tax. This also includes a breakfast buffet or made to order from the breakfast menu.

Registration will be Friday from 3-6:30pm with a Welcome Dinner and entertainment from 7-10pm.

On Saturday registration will be from 8-11:30am, and the Judges Training on Exhibition Judging other than tall-bearded iris begins at 8:30.

Lunch will be on one's own at noon and the Business Meeting will begin at 1pm

From 2:45 until 5:15pm there is a Rhizome Auction. The Cash Bar will open at 6:30pm and the banquet will be held from 7 until 10pm with Craig Edwards from Blue J Iris speaking about Innovations in Space Age Irises.

Registration is \$75 and Judges Training is \$5. For the Saturday Dinner Only the cost is \$35. The registration fee includes the Friday and Saturday evening meals. A tour of the Amarillo Botanical Gardens is optional at no additional charge.

For those of you not able to attend, look for a presentation at one of our meetings this fall!

hospitality volunteers >>

The following members have volunteered to provide hospitality for future meetings:

| | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| August 25 | Nelda Moore |
| September 9 | Nelda Moore |
| October 14 | Marney Abel |
| November 11 | Dara E Smith |
| January 13 | Carolyn Wylie |
| February 10 | Ellen Singleton |

region 17 youth >>

A Youth Achievement Award is given each year at the Annual Region 17 Convention, along with a check for \$50. The winner of this year's award will be nominated for the 2015 AIS Clarke Cosgrove Award, which will entitle free registration for the 2015 AIS Convention, a trophy, and a cash prize that will be presented at the 2015 AIS Convention.



TB 'Stir It Up'
2014 ISA Show Best Amoena
& Best Multi-Color
grown by Pat & Don Freeman