

- *Ellen Captures Queen*
- *AIS Photo Contest*
- *Cynthia Sadler wins*
- *Here Comes the Judge*



Nelda Moore, Ken Fuchs, Editors

A Monthly Newsletter of the Iris Society of Austin

IRIS AUSTIN



MEETING: MAY 12, 2015
6:45 P.M. Gate closes at 7 P.M.

Installation of officers

Hostesses: Tracey Rogers and Nelda Moore

American Iris Society Conventions:

“Iris in Wonderland 2015”

May 18-23, Portland, Oregon

Red Lion on the River (Jantzen Beach)

909 N. Hayden Island Drive

Portland, Oregon 97217

“East We Go in 2016”

May 23-28, Newark, New Jersey

Des Moines, Iowa

May 23-27, 2017

The Median Iris Society Mini Convention

May 18-20, 2017

The **2016 Society of Louisiana Irises** will be in Shreveport, Louisiana. In 2017 it will move back to Dallas, TX. **In 2018** there will be a joint convention with AIS, SLI, and the Greater New Orleans Iris Society in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Ellen Singleton Captures Queen of Austin Iris Show
April 11 at Zilker Botanical Garden

Ellen Singleton entered a tall bearded, space age iris named ‘Al’s Gal’ by Tom Burseen, a Texas Hybridizer, to win the Queen of the Austin Iris Show held in conjunction with the American Iris Society Saturday, April 11, in the Zilker Botanical Garden Center. The show was open to the public 1–4 P.M. Don and Pat Freeman showed a Louisiana Iris called ‘Rhett’ that received Runner-up of the show and Best Red.

The Silver Medal and Certificate awarded for the most blue ribbons in the Horticulture Division will go to Don and Pat Freeman while the Bronze Medal and Certificate will go to Jaime Hadley for winning the second most blue

ribbons with a total of nine. While Pat Freeman had the Best Design of the Show with the use of 2 containers entitled “Double Rainbow,” Jaime Hadley won Artistic Sweepstakes by showing a small design in “A Little Bit of Color” and a Table for Two in “Dinner at the Rainbow Room.” Shelia Senghas will receive a Bronze Award for the only entry in the Educational Division. Her ‘A Rainbow of Iris Around the World’ was an outstanding exhibit with the globe and background telling where irises are grown and a leaflet telling about irises in general.

Since this 26th accredited show was entitled “Colors of the Rainbow,” which referred to the colors of irises, other winners showing Best Specimens by color included the following:

- Best Violet - ‘Lady of Lometa’ - Don & Pat Freeman
- Best Orange - ‘Thai Orange’ - Tracey Rogers
- Best Gold - ‘Glitter Gulch’ - Don & Pat Freeman
- Best Blue - ‘Ty Blue’ - Ellen Singleton
- Best Plicata - ‘Jeanne Clay Plank’ - Dara Smith
- Best Multi-Color - ‘Flights of Fancy’ - Donna Little
- Best Purple - ‘Hocka Hoona’ - Stephanie Sheridan
- Best Bicolor - ‘Cosmic Elegance’ - Dara Smith
- Best Bitone, Best Brown - ‘Rustler’ - Don & Pat Freeman
- Best Amoena - ‘Scatterbrain’ - Stephanie Sheridan



2015 ISA Show Judges – Kathy Wade (apprentice), MaryAnn Holman, Angie Smith, Dolores Rumpf, Vicki Howard, Keith Smith

Best Pink - 'Beverly Sills' - Ellen Singleton

Best White - 'Dural White Butterfly' -
Don & Pat Freeman

Best Yellow - 'Notta Lemon' - Carolyn Wylie

Other Best Specimens of Sections included the following:

Best Median - 'Red Hot Chili' IB - Dara Smith

Best Historic - 'Persian Berry' - Nelda Moore

The most popular entry was the tall bearded space
ager 'Thornbird' with 5 entries followed by 'Persian
Berry' with 4 entries.

Both 'Casino Cruiser' and 'Glitter Gulch' had entries
in the TB Section as well as the TB SA section. Only 13
of the 134 varieties had more than one entry. Another
interesting fact is that 155 individual stalks entered in the
Horticulture Division included 134 varieties/cultivars. Of
the total of 167 entries there were 156 in Horticulture, 10
in Artistic, and 1 in Educational.

Judges for the Horticulture Division were MaryAnn
Holman, Keith A. Smith, and Vicki Howard. Kathy

Wade was an Apprentice Judge from Alvarado. Judges
for the Artistic Division were Austinites Angie Smith and
Dolores Rumpf.

When one compares the 2014 show with the 2015
one, this was held just 1 day earlier, there was just 1 more
exhibitor, but there were 40 more total entries. There
were only 2 more in the Tall Bearded Section and only 1
more entry in the Median Section. This year there were
23 entries of Louisiana Irises, but zero last year. Four of
the varieties on the Head Table this year were also there
last year.

Jaime Hadley used his computer to total all of the
entry tags. He also showed a Siberian that won the Best
Purple and a Louisiana, the Best Yellow in the recent Fort
Worth Show.

Congratulations for a job well done here and in other
shows to all other members of the Iris Society of Austin
who were winners and received recognition in local
newspapers: D Boyle, Donna Little, Don and Pat
Freeman, James Hadley to name a few.



PHOTO CONTEST DEADLINE JUNE 30

Janet Smith, American Iris Society Photo
Contest Chairman, invites everyone except contest
judges and the contest coordinator to enter the
photo contest by selecting only 5 photos to submit
by June 30, 2015. There are 6 categories:
Landscape: irises in a garden; Field: irises in a field
or home garden; People: events, tours, a person, or
people at iris location; Close up of an iris or irises;
Effects: Iris photos—art effects, macro of bloom
segments; Wildlife photos of pets, wildlife, or
garden art with the irises.

An entry form is on the AIS website. E-mail
high resolution no smaller than 1600x1000 in size
digital photos or mail a CD with high resolution
photos to the AIS Photo Contest Coordinator: The
AIS Photo Contest c/o Janet Smith, P.O. Box 1585,
Coarsegold, CA 93614-1585.

Winners in each category will receive a 2015
iris introduction as well as an annual membership.
Runners-up if they live in the USA will receive a
2013-2014 iris introduction.

Cynthia Sadler wins a First Place for Photography

We are very proud of Cynthia Sadler for her
photographic achievement. Cynthia won a 1st
place blue ribbon for her photo entry at the Iris
Show in Odessa. The photo was entered in the
"People or Person in the Iris Garden," category,
and was judged by professional photographers.
Congratulations Cynthia! [Submitted by Shelia
Senghas.]

Jim Landers received the best photograph
award in the Photography Division at the 2015
Belton Iris Show, and Ken Fuchs received a blue
ribbon for his entry. D. Boyle and Donna Little
also submitted entries in the Photography
Division.

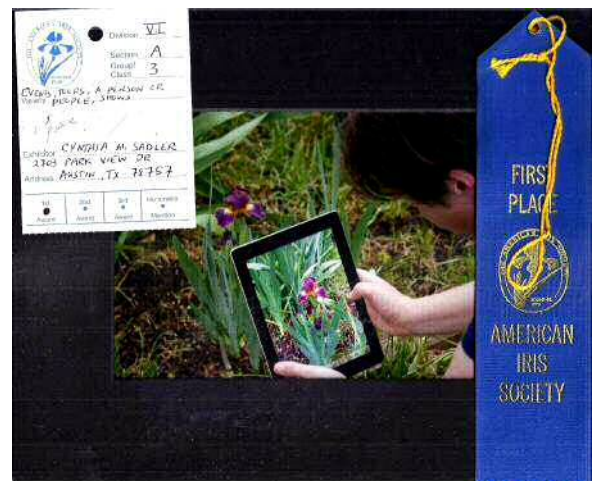


Photo by Shelia Senghas

"Colors of the Rainbow" The 2015 Iris Society of Austin Show



Jaime Hadley





Tracey Rogers



Dara Smith



Pat Freeman



Lori Anderson



Nelda Moore



Ken Fuchs



'Al's Gal'
Ellen Singleton



Shelia Senghas



'Rhett'
Don & Pat Freeman



'Lady of Lometa'
Don & Pat Freeman



Jaime Hadley



MINUTES OF THE IRIS SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

April 14, 2015

The meeting was called to order and presided by Pat Byrne. The minutes from the March 2015 meeting were approved as published in the April newsletter. Welcome to new members who joined at our show Denis and Linda Hartford. Also, we had a visitor Bill Kavenough. Happy 81st Birthday to Imre!!

Treasurer's Report:

A copy of the monthly report was given to the Secretary to keep on file. The ending monthly balance for March 2015 was \$17,851.94. The current balance on April 14 is \$17,656.94. Recent expenses include new member dues, judges' compensation and ZGF water supplies.

AAGC Council Report:

All members need to tell Marney to record any volunteer hours for time put in for ZGF. There are many more Spring events upcoming: April 25, 26 – Orchid Show, April 27 – Butterfly forum, May 13, Bonsai Meeting, May 23 - Daylily Show.

Austin Iris Club business:

An anonymous person has contacted Zilker and wants to dig up and donate her iris. Anyone interested in this offer can contact Nelda Moore for more information.

Horticulture: After the bloom season, cut off old stalks unless you are going to harvest any seed pods. Leave your plants in the ground until it is time to dig and divide in August / September.

The Master Gardeners convention is in Belton April 18, 19 and the Belton Iris Society will be selling potted iris rhizomes 8a–5p.

Don Freeman led a discussion on the update of the potential move of the irises from the rose garden up to the area in the front that borders Barton Springs Road. We would like for the plan to include an ADA trail extending from the herb garden to the area of the iris and daylily beds. The next step is to provide some drawings and plans that can be studied and discussed with other parties. A meeting is planned for Friday April 17 where all the progress to-date and future planning will be reviewed. Everyone is invited to offer suggestions and ideas to help move the planning forward.

Donna Little has started a list to collect ideas from the members on Next Year's Program Suggestions.

Jaime Hadley started a discussion covering things that went well and things that could use improvement from

the results of our recent show. In the "things we liked", the small arrangements category for design is very popular. Looking at the success in other local shows – including a photography division. We should plan for changes to our show schedule and maybe have a program on photography. We would also need to engage someone to judge. In the "things that could be done differently" there were a few items brought up. 1. Entry tags – they are confusing. Next year we can decide how to best fill them out. For example, maybe we should use the entry number from the entry sheet for each (iris, design, exhibit, etc.) and not the exhibitor number. We could also make the entry sheets available on-line for everyone to have in advance of the show day. (This was available this year.) Next year we will try to go over the tags and the sheet before the day of the show. Things to refresh on: Fill out the variety name on both the top and bottom of the card, only use the numbers on the entry sheet (ie. Do not add iris/entry names to the sheet without a number.)

2. Space Agers – Are they: Space Agers, Tall Bearded, Intermediate, or Historic??? Yes!! Ok, seriously – we should make it easier for the judges to determine a "Best of" in each category regardless of where they are placed. We can discuss how we want this to be handled with rules of placement (ie. All space age must go in space age unless they are Intermediate, Historic, but not TB) or some other strategy that is easy to explain. The case in point is that this year there was not a "Best of TB" and the Best of show was a Space Age.

3. More placement help – David Kramer was surely missed this year while he attended the LA iris convention. We need a little more help with this next year.

A special thank you to Tracey and Marney for all the hospitality and decorations for the luncheon and the show!

Next month we will have the installation of the ISA officers:

President - Pat Byrne,

Programs – Donna Little,

Membership – Jaime Hadley,

Secretary – Dara E. Smith,

Treasurer – Marney Abel,

Historian – Tracey Rogers.

Important Dates:

ISA meeting – May 12, 2015

American Iris Society Convention – May 18 – 23, 2015
Portland, OR

Region 17 Convention – August 14 – 15, 2015 Addison,
TX (Hosted by Dallas IS)

Iris Society of Austin Rhizome Sale – September 12,
2015

The meeting program presented by Ken Fuchs was a
video with highlights from the Austin Iris Society Show
held Saturday April 11, 2015.

The meeting was adjourned.

Dara E. Smith, Secretary

The American Iris Society in Region 17 is in need of judges. Show bench judging is very rewarding. Early in the month of April I received an invitation to judge an Iris show that was in dire need of a judge. Because of a prior commitment to another show on that date I had to decline. A previous commitment seemed to be the answer that they were getting from everyone they asked. Sometimes several Iris shows in a region will have the same dates for their shows and if they do not find a judge early in the year there may be difficulty finding one that has not previously committed for that date. Other times situations will arise that will make it impossible for a judge to follow through with a commitment and the show will have to hunt diligently for a replacement judge. For example, last year, I had to cancel four judging commitments due to an emergency illness that made it impossible for me to honor my commitment to judge. Thankfully it was still early enough for the clubs to find other



judges.

Every show I have judged has been a fun and rewarding experience. Sometimes I am in a city I have never been to before and I love to explore the inner city and drive by and view old buildings. I love to travel through the countryside and view the many terrains of our beautiful state. Since Texas Iris shows are in the spring, the wildflowers are abundant and afford opportunities to photograph amazing color along the roadside. While I was in Odessa to judge the Iris show, I had time to drive around in the old downtown part of the city and I saw a beautiful small garden full of tall, dark vibrant, antique purple Irises. They were contained within a gothic-style, rusty, metal staked fence at a historical house that was built in 1865. While talking with a member at the show, I mentioned the garden I had seen downtown and, to my surprise, she knew all about that house and said the city owned the house and she got permission many years ago to plant



HERE COMES THE JUDGE

By Shelia Senghas

“Judge,” in its legal and other uses, implies particularly that one has qualifications and authority for giving decisions in matters at issue. Garden judges for the American Iris Society are appointed after being a member of AIS for a certain amount of time along with judging classes, apprenticeship, and demonstration of knowledge of that being judged along with the ability to carry out judges’ responsibilities. It is indeed a privilege and an honor to follow in the footsteps of some of the greatest Irisarians in the history of Irises. Some of the decisions you make as a judge will join with the judging decisions of other judges before you and continue to affect Irises of the future.

those irises there within that small gothic-fenced garden. What great Iris trivia that was for her to share with me.

I enjoy meeting and working with other judges and I continue to learn from them. When visiting the city you are judging in there is ample opportunity to view the gardens of other Irisarians and perhaps be able to see Irises growing in their gardens that do not grow in your area. Show judging can be very rewarding. One of the most rewarding things of all is visiting with the people that love the Iris flower. It is wonderful to see the imagination of others in the themes of their Iris Shows and they give me great ideas to bring back and share with others in our local club. The clubs normally pay for the judge’s lodging, a meal, and provide compensation to pay for your trip’s gasoline.

If you think you might be interested in becoming a judge for the American Iris Society, talk to any of the officers or judges at our club and we will help you get started.

