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June 2015 — Vol. 24 #5



Nelda Moore, Ken Fuchs, Editors

A Monthly Newsletter of the Iris Society of Austin

IRIS AUSTIN



No meetings in June, July, or August

Next scheduled meeting:
Tuesday, September 8, 2015
6:45 P.M. Gate closes at 7 P.M.

Annual Rhizome Sale
September 12, 2015

American Iris Society Conventions:

“East We Go in 2016”
May 23-28, Newark, New Jersey

The Median Iris Society Mini Convention
May 18-20, 2017

Des Moines, Iowa
May 23-27, 2017

New Orleans, Louisiana 2018



“Iris in Wonderland 2015” by Ken Fuchs

As anticipated, “Iris in Wonderland 2015,” the 2015 AIS National Convention in Portland, Oregon, hosted by The Greater Portland Iris Society May 18-23, was an awesome event which provided an overdose of beautiful colors and forms of everything “Iris.” Over 600 irisarians from nearly every state were there, and representatives from a number of other countries also attended, including Canada, England, Germany, the Netherlands, Ecuador, Australia, and most noticeably, New Zealand. About 23 “Kiwis” were ever-present and they added charm and humor on the bus tours. Iris Society of Austin members Tracey Rogers, Ellen Singleton, Carolyn Wylie, David Kraemer and his wife Susan, Al and Barbara Elliott, Pat Byrne, Donna Little and her husband Tim, Susan Flanagan and her husband Jack, Dara Smith, Jaime Hadley, Jim Landers, and Ken Fuchs attended and everyone brought back great memories and lots of pictures.

There were two optional bus tours available on Monday and Tuesday, the Columbia River Gorge tour and tours of The Oregon Garden and Keith Keppel’s and Kevin Vaughn’s gardens. Ellen and Carolyn took the River Gorge tour on different days. Jaime rented a van and he and Dara took their own Columbia River Gorge tour on Monday. Tracey, Ellen, Donna and Tim took the Other Gardens Tour. Tuesday evening we explored downtown Portland. We eagerly found Portland’s Chinatown, where on Sunday Tracey had visited the



ISA Website:

http://www.kenfuchs42.net/isa_index.html

Lu San Chinese Garden. However, we were disappointed by the many closed shops and restaurants and the dozens of homeless people who now occupy the entire historic Chinatown district. Luckily, we located the “new Chinatown” several miles away where we enjoyed a nice dinner at an authentic and busy Chinese restaurant. We were the only non-Chinese patrons there that evening, and the food was excellent (except for the barbecued pork bellies that were served in place of the barbecued ribs that we ordered).

On Tuesday, Jaime, Dara, and I drove to Astoria, Oregon and down the coastal highway as far as Tillamook. Following the traditional AIS schedule, there were Board meetings on Tuesday and Section meetings all day Wednesday at the Convention headquarters, the Red Lion Jantzen Beach Hotel, which had been fully renovated since the 2006 Convention and offered a very elegant and luxurious setting for the meetings and banquets. Jim Landers attended the Reblooming Iris Society Board meeting Tuesday morning and consequently did not go with us to Astoria. He also attended the AIS Foundation Meeting Tuesday evening.

Some of the Section meetings our ISA members attended included the SIGNA Program, “Species, Past, Present, and Future”; the Pacific Coast Native Irises program; “Rebloomers for Everyone” by Riley Probst; “Multi-Petaled Siberians” by John Coble; a two-hour TBIS panel discussion with Keith Keppel, Barry Blyth, and Joe Ghio; “Care and Culture of Spuria Irises” by Jim Hedgecock. Thursday meetings included “Historic Dwarf and Median Iris, a Microcosm of the Challenge of Iris Preservation” by Charles Carver and the Space



Wednesday evening was the traditional Welcome Dinner. The hotel staff managed to serve all 600+ attendees very efficiently, and the food was excellent. Convention Chair John Ludi welcomed everyone and following the dinner AIS President Jim Morris perform the roll call of all the twenty-four regions. Then we all stood and then took our seats according to the number of Conventions we had attended. Missouri hybridizer Dave Niswonger was attending his 46th Convention, and special recognition was given to Virginia Keyser from California. This was her 50th Convention. A woman from New Zealand spoke very highly of Virginia, who had made many visits to New Zealand and has fostered New Zealand-American friendship in the iris world.



In all there were eight buses to take us to the Guest Gardens Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Most of the ISA delegates traveled on the same bus and several lady “Kiwis” made the bus trips all the more fun. There was some confusion in the parking lots when we began gathering at 7 a.m. to load the buses. Each day we took the same color coded bus (Green #10), but the buses were switched each day and arrived at different times. Once we were allowed to board, the bus rides went smoothly. Ted Baker from the BCIS was our lead bus captain. There were drawings each day for prizes, including 2015 rhizomes, cups, note cards, iris-themed coasters, and knitted items created by Judy Nunn.



Age/Novelty Section Meeting hosted by Bonnie Nichols. There were two Judges Training sessions, “Awards and Ballots” by Judy Keisling and “Are These Really Rules” by Dell Perry, and also a Silent Auction and a Boutique. Ellen Singleton and Donna and Tim Little attended the Geek Dinner and Auction Friday evening.

NEXT MONTH: The Garden Tours

ISA News and Notes

Minutes of the May 12, 2015 Meeting will appear in next month's newsletter.

At the May 12 meeting Don Freeman swore in the ISA officers for the upcoming 2015-2016 year:

- President – Pat Byrne
- Vice President - Programs – Donna Little
- Vice President - Membership – Jaime Hadley
- Secretary – Dara Smith
- Treasurer – Marney Abel
- Historian – Tracey Rogers

ISA members present pledged to support these officers.

Region 17 has gained a new iris society – **East Texas Iris Society** with Connie Ford as president. This makes 15 affiliates in Region 17, and this puts the region in 2nd place from 4th place in total membership.

RHIZOME SALE – SEPTEMBER 12, 2015

Ellen Singleton and Tracey Rogers would appreciate your getting in touch with them if you intend to dig up a garden for many different rhizomes that you intend to donate for this sale.

REGION 17 / AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

Region 17/ American Iris Society Annual Meeting will be in Crowne Plaza Hotel in Addison, Texas August 14 and 15. The room rate is \$90 plus tax per night until July 24. Contact the hotel at 972-980-8877 and tell them that you are with the Iris Society of Dallas or use the link provided on the ISD webpage to book online: block code IRI.

To register for the meeting complete the form and mail it so that it arrives no later than August 5. This registration is \$50 that includes Friday and Saturday dinners. The meal choice is chicken or vegetarian.

Judges Training costs an additional \$10.

Mail to Dell Perry, 800 Purcell Drive, Plano, TX 75025.



Don Freeman swears in the new officers for 2015-2016



My First Iris Experience by Esther Stone

When I was about 3 years old my family moved from the farm where I was born into the city of Des Moines, Iowa. It was a huge change for all of us leaving behind the gardens, our flowers, chickens, the goats, Buster our bull, and the wonderful way of life as we'd known it. Mother was our Master Gardener, and she was marvelous. Plants seemed to love her as much as she loved gardening. At the side of our new little home was just the right spot for Lilies of the Valley and some of her beautiful deep, rich purple iris. The iris surrounded the Lilies of the Valley. I don't know the names of the iris but this is where I fell in love with them. The contrast of that beautiful deep rich purple and those white, heavenly-scented Lilies of the Valley seemed to be a little bit of heaven to me. I'd spend many mornings and afternoons whiling away the time by that little patch of heaven (it seemed

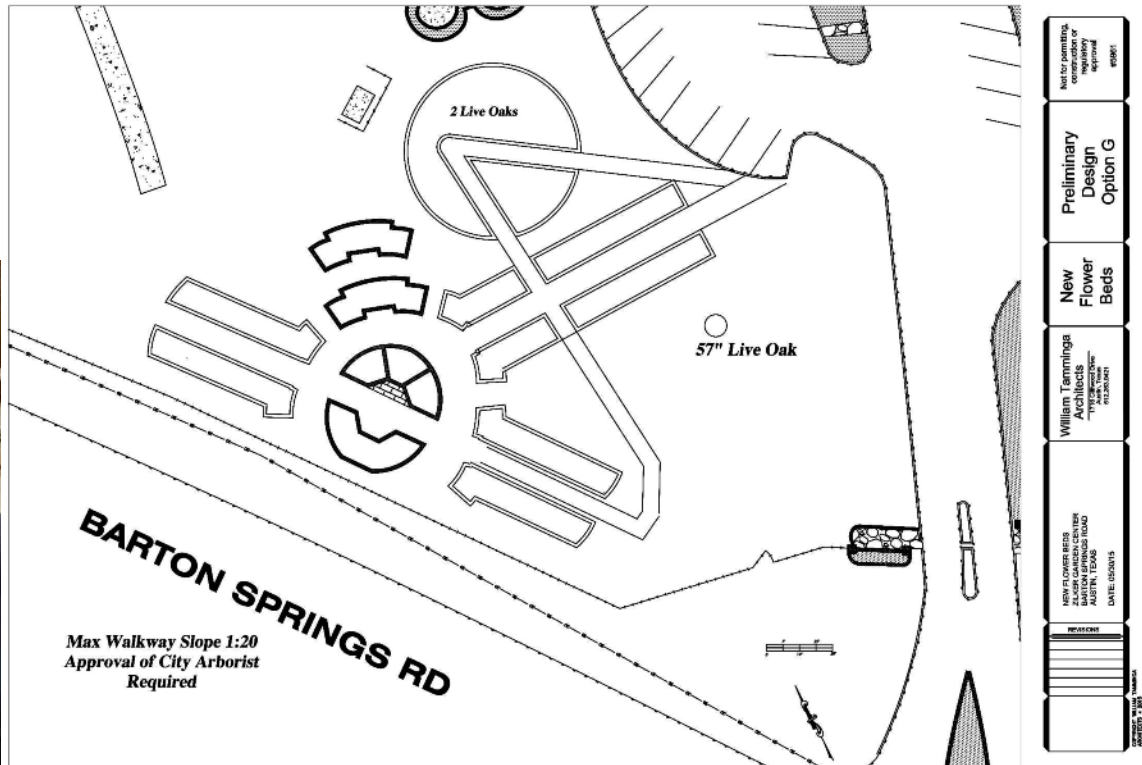
pretty large to me at the time). Today Lilies of the Valley and beautiful purple iris are still favorites of mine; the color combination of rich purple and white are my favorites. I love the other colors of iris, too, I've never seen an "ugly" iris, but oh, the glorious, deep, rich, color of purple It just doesn't get any better than that!

It was later on in my life after I'd had my three children when I actually had a renewed experience happen to me. I'd had an emergency surgery in Phoenix, Arizona, and just after awakening from my surgery and the anesthetic I opened my eyes to the most beautiful sight – it took my breath away. A sweet, dear friend had visited me while I was sleeping and left on my table an iris that was larger than any I'd ever seen before. Once again it was that divine, glorious purple, and there was no vase showing, just that huge, monstrous iris on my table, with what seemed like a light from inside yet there wasn't but it was beckoning to me to wake up and get

well. (You know, flowers do that! They really do!) It was so absolutely beautiful it was beyond description to me. I've never forgotten what that meant to me that day or how beautiful it was. I didn't begin my real "planting/growing" love affair with iris then. I always felt I could never grow them. It wasn't until I'd moved to Austin and had some space here in our yard and my husband wanted to try growing them with me that I ventured out, and boy! Did "we" ever!! We're still learning about these beautiful plants and will continue to learn because I still feel they're some of the most beautiful plants on the earth. I'll never have enough of them; I'll always keep trying to find more room for them, and poor Bob will probably always be making new iris beds. Tell me... Where does it end?.....or does it? ☺ I say "poor Bob" but Bob loves iris as much as I do, and that's about as good as it gets!!

Redesigned Iris Beds

New ISA member architect Bill Tamminga presented his first draft design for new iris beds at the May 12th meeting.





Red Lion on the River Hotel

Moments in Portland



Columbia River bridge, viewed from hotel room



Entrance to Portland's historic Chinatown



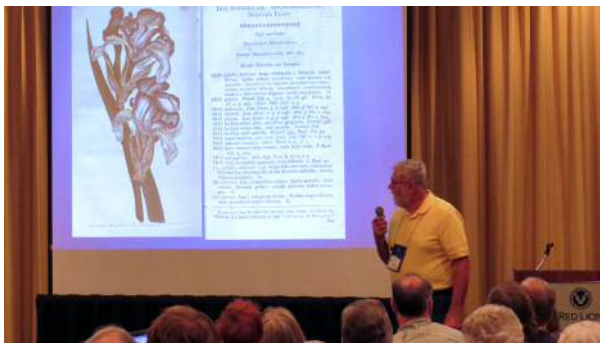
Courtyard entrance to Lu San Chinese Garden



Dinner in the "new" Chinatown



Barbecued "ribs" – no, pork bellies



Robert Pries presents the SPECIES PROGRAM



The Region 17 gift basket in the Silent Auction



Taking a break between section meetings



Dara Smith, Susan and Jack Flanagan



Pat Byrne receives DVDs of the 2006 Convention



Dara considers getting some PCNs.



A ginger ale by the river



Ellen and Tracey love the Boutique.



Keith Keppel, Joe Ghio, and Barry Blyth discuss tall bearded irises.



At the Wednesday evening Welcome Dinner



"Ken, is this your wallet?"



At the Awards Banquet, Dara Smith wins the Raffle Quilt.

NOTE: Halfway to the Killeen airport Sunday morning, Ken realized he had forgotten his wallet, and he and Jim had to return to Temple and reschedule a flight to Portland for Monday.