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May 2017 — Vol. 26 #05



Nelda Moore, Ken Fuchs, Editors A Monthly Newsletter of the Iris Society of Austin

# IRIS AUSTIN



## NEXT MEETING

**Tuesday, May 9, 6:30 P.M. – 9 P.M.**

Auditorium

Installation of Officers

POT LUCK – Bring a salad, casserole,  
or dessert to share

May 9 Austin Area Garden Council Meeting

10 A.M.

Zilker Garden Festival Comments

11 A.M.

Ellen Singleton, Council Representative

May 18-20 Median Iris Rule Supreme in 2017

Lafayette, Indiana

Courtyard Marriott

May 23-27 American Iris Society Convention

Des Moines Marriott Hotel

700 Grand Avenue

Des Moines, Iowa 50309

desmoinesmarriot.com

515 245 5500

April 8-15, 2018 A.I.S Convention in

New Orleans, LA

August 4-5 A.I.S./Region 17

Convention/Meeting Dallas, TX

September 9, 2017 Iris Austin Rhizome Sale

Norris Conference Center in Austin on

West Anderson next to Wal-Mart

## JAIME HADLEY HAS BEST SPECIMEN OF SHOW 2017



The 2017 Iris Show was held at the Zilker Botanical Garden Center on Saturday, April 8. There were 16 exhibitors: 9 in Horticulture, 10 in Artistic, 4 in Educational, and 6 in Photography. There was a total of 99 entries: 63 entries in the Horticultural Division, 16 in the Artistic Division, 4 in the Educational Division, and 16 in Photography.

Best Specimen of Show, Best Louisiana, Best Blend -

‘Bayou Tiger’- Jaime Hadley

Runner-up to Best Specimen of Show, Best Bitone, Best

Border Bearded - ‘Autumn Wine’ - D Boyle

Best Gold, Best Space-Age - ‘Casino Cruiser’ -

Jim Landers

Best Tall Bearded, Best Bicolor - ‘Battle of the Bands’ - Jim

Landers

Best Brown, Best Spuria - ‘Fire Mist’ - Don & Pat Freeman

Best Yellow - ‘Dandilite’ - Don & Pat Freeman

Best Blue - ‘Ty Blue’ - Dara Smith

(continued on next page)



Best Purple - 'Lady of Lometa' -

Don & Pat Freeman

Best Multi-Color - 'Merci Marci' - D Boyle

Best Violet - 'Sinfonietta' - Jaime Hadley

Best Red - 'Cherry Cup' - Don & Pat Freeman

Silver Medal and Certificate (for the most blue ribbons - 6) - Don and Pat Freeman

Bronze Medal and Certificate (for the second-most blue ribbons - 5) - Jim Landers

Special Award for the Best Specimen Hybridized in Texas - 'Lady of Lometa' - Hybridized by Jim Landers

#### D BOYLE AND IRIS 'ROPER'S REVENGE'

The April Newsletter showed D with her winning iris displayed in the Flower Show during the Zilker Garden Festival. Her ribbons were on the table. I mentioned that Tracey Rogers had won this award in 2016. Tracey informed us that she only won the Award of Merit last year.

D Boyle placed higher with the Award of Horticultural Excellence, which is awarded to the exhibit judged finest in the entire Horticulture Division in this 2017 Flower Show. Congratulations to D Boyle and her extraordinary iris — a wonderful asset to every garden. You can purchase a rhizome in September, the Saturday after Labor Day.

#### 2017 BRINGS MEDIAN IRIS MINI CONVENTION TO INDIANA

The 2017 Median Iris Mini Convention on May 18-20 will be hosted by the Iris Growers of Eastern Indiana, the Indiana Daylily and Iris Society, Region 6, and the Median Iris Society in Lafayette, Indiana, in the Courtyard Marriott, 150 Fairington Avenue 47905 telephone 765-449-4800.



Workers have planted over 800 rhizomes of 278 cultivars in 6 gardens. Four of the gardens are in the Lafayette area, and 21 hybridizers have sent 54 cultivars for this huge collection of MTBs ever for a mini convention. The master planting is at Chuck and Barbara Bunnell's with more than 142 individual named cultivars. Some of the top 15 include 'Cameo Queen,' 'Forever Blue,' 'Stop and Stare,' 'Giggles and Grins,' 'Flirting Again,' and 'Zooboomafoo.'

In addition to 6 gardens Avon Gardens, which covers over 5 acres of manicured and maintained landscapes, will be a featured attraction on Friday as well as an alfresco lunch stop.

Debbie Strauss from Region 17 encourages attendees to purchase many "Maybe Get Lucky Tickets" because all used for drawings throughout the weekend will be winners of a prize. Lucky winners will receive 2017 Median introductions while a second section of tickets will focus on bottles of wine. Other fun things will be Median Bingo, Median Trivia, Median Crossword Puzzles, Iris Chain Reaction, and the photo booth and Marvelous Median Bags.

Lynda Miller is the Keynote Speaker at the closing banquet. Her MTB 'Moose Tracks' (2015) gathered much interest during 2015 and 2016, winning the Ben R. Hager Cup for best median iris both years.

#### DEBBIE STRAUSS RECEIVES ITEMS FOR TEXAS BASKET

If you are in the Auction Room in Des Moines during the convention, please bid on the Texas Basket that will be arranged by Debbie Strauss. Some iris items include those by Donna Little, gifts purchased in museums by Marney Abel and Nelda Moore, and a few interesting things from Austin.



# MINUTES OF THE IRIS SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

April 11, 2017

The meeting was called to order and presided by Nelda Moore. Minutes from last month's meeting were approved as presented in the ISA Newsletter. Welcome to new member, Jane Connelly!

## Announcements:

Ellen Singleton reported on the AAGC meeting for ISA – check the website for future dates of Zilker activities of upcoming shows and sales. Ideas have been requested for the Master Plan of Zilker and surrounding area. ZBG hours are going to be 9:00a – 6:00p (Thur until 8:00p). A new club has joined AAGC – Plein Aire (painting club).

Start thinking of irises for the sale and let Ellen know what you would like to see offered for sale. Sale date is Saturday September 9th, 2017

## Treasurer's Report:

April 2017 current balance \$12,792.44.

## Austin Iris Club business:

- The ISA had our approved Show on April 8, 2017. Jaime Hadley gave an update on the tally of awards and results.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED SOON FOR IRIS GARDEN

With a dry cold wind came no rain; therefore, it is time to water the irises early in the morning at least once a week. Louisiana irises are now forming seed pods that should be cut. Spurias are growing and blooming, but they need some water until they show much brown foliage and go dormant. Then the leaves can be cut to the ground level above the rhizome in July. The Spurias will start to grow again in September when it is cooler and wetter.

When members are not busy with every day chores, they can weed, water, and groom the iris gardens at Zilker Botanical Garden. Volunteer hours can be sent to Ellen Singleton.

Happy growing!



- Jaime Hadley moved, and Carolyn Wylie seconded, that the current slate of officers be accepted to serve again for the year beginning June 1, 2017 with one exception: if Pat Byrne (who was not present at the meeting) is not interested in serving again as VP of Programs, she will be replaced on the slate by Shelia Senghas. Nelda Moore will speak to Pat to confirm her wishes regarding the position.

## Important Dates:

- ISA Meeting – Tuesday May 9, 2017 at Zilker.
- 2017 American Iris Society Convention – May 23 – 27 Des Moines, Iowa.
- ISA Sale – Saturday September 9, 2017

The meeting program was presented by Ken Fuchs – “Iris in Space – the Iris Society of Austin Show April 8, 2017”.

The meeting was adjourned.

Dara E. Smith, Secretary

Submitted for Approval on: May 9, 2017.

## From Tracey:

### RHIZOMES FOR SEPTEMBER SALE

I had a request at the show for two irises that were on the head table. I wanted to see if anyone thinks they might have them for the sale – ‘Ty Blue’ by Tom Burseen and ‘Battle of the Bands’ by Michael Sutton. I know a few of you grow ‘Ty Blue,’ so I'm hoping someone can bring it to the sale. I told them that ‘Ty Blue’ would probably be easy to get.

## WANTED FOR MY GARDEN

I'm looking for ‘Pink Magnolia’ by Opal Brown (1968). It's a flattie. I ran across it looking for something for the sale. I'm prepared to purchase, but thought I would check to see if anyone in the club had it and was interested in a trade. As a member of the Novelty Iris Society, it's sad that I don't have a any flatties in my garden. Contact me via email [rogers89@earthlink.net](mailto:rogers89@earthlink.net) or call me at 512-280-4856. Thank you.

## LOUISIANA IRIS CONVENTION DALLAS 2017

BY JIM LANDERS

Louisiana Iris enthusiasts gathered in Dallas the third week of April to visit and enjoy the gardens in the area. The first garden visit was with Del Perry's Seandel Iris Garden in Plano. Beautiful flowering plants covered nearly all of her residential lot including along the drive way and the alley. Besides Louisianas she had many Spuria blooming and lots of bearded irises. At the snack area there was STRONG Texas coffee which was enjoyed at the early hour of the visit.



bearded irises (and some companion plants that looked more like my garden). Hooker had about a six-by-twelve-foot area filled with small seedlings growing in two- and three-inch pots.

Bobbie Mason's home in Red Oak was completely surrounded by lush growth of all kinds. Plants were everywhere and all looked good. Large, small and in between sizes of many different varieties of flowers and leafy plants enabled all to see something that they liked and wanted. 'Muriel Baucum Begley' with her dark red coloring was impressive in her home next to the house. Irises, both Louisiana and bearded were prevalent, but roses, plumeria, begonias and many others were present.



The Reed garden was the next on the list. Another perfect example of what hours and hours of yard work and grooming can do for a yard. A wide variety of blooms greeted visitors and with the graciousness of the hosts the visit was another high spot of the tours.

Words cannot do justice to the home gardens of Bonnie and Hooker Nichols. Just beautiful, amazing, wonderful, and everywhere, the flowering plants were stunning. And mixed throughout the area were many seedlings ready and eager for their time in the spotlight. Judges Training by Perry Dyer was conducted at the Nichols with an abundant supply of blooms and plants to choose from.

Then on to the Nichols Mesquite Gardens. This is the large field next to Lew Begley's home, and the whole area was filled with Louisiana, Spuria, and

Last but certainly not least was the Stegemoller Event Center in Ennis. This is a large area with many different gardens and different areas for weddings and family reunions and business conferences and beautiful meeting sites. There are several large ponds with fountains and fish and water plants and all in a serene county setting. Iris gardens both large and small were located in several areas. 'Southern Star' was outstanding in the Louisiana area.



About fifty people attended this conference and all were friendly and interested in the Louisiana Irises and in each other. Old friendships were renewed and many new ones were established. Next year's convention will be in New Orleans and will be a Whopper.



MEMORIES OF THE 2017 SHOW



TREASURES AT HOME IN ELLEN'S (AND TRACEY'S) GARDEN

