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Aug/Sept 2017 — Vol. 26 #08/09

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



AUGUST 27 – NO MEETING

NEXT MEETING – SEPTEMBER 5

6:30-9 p.m.

Greene Room in Austin Area
Garden Center

2220 Barton Springs Road, 78746

Hospitality – Nelda Moore

Pot Luck

PRICING RHIZOMES FOR SALE

SEPTEMBER 9 – IRIS RHIZOME SALE

Norris Conference Center

2525 W. Anderson Lane, Bldg. 3, 78757

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

OCTOBER 10 6:30-9 p.m.

Meeting in Auditorium AAGC

Hospitality – David Kraemer

Friday, October 27 1-5 p.m.

Set Up for Sale in Auditorium

October 28 Show and Sale

Porcelain Arts, Herb, Bonsai, Daylily,

Iris, African Violet

November 14 6:30-9 p.m.

Meeting in Auditorium, AAGC

Thanksgiving Celebration

December NO MEETING Merry Christmas!

ISA MEMBERS ATTEND ISA/REGION 17 MEETING



The Iris Society of Dallas hosted the 2017 American Iris Society/Region 17 Meeting August 4-5 at the Holy Cross Lutheran Church on Marsh Lane in North Dallas. Approximately forty-six Texas Irisarians were present, including twelve from the Iris Society of Austin: **Don and Pat Freeman, Al and Barbara Elliott, Pat Byrne, Tracey Rogers, Ellen Singleton, Dara Smith, Jaime Hadley, Shelia and Danny Senghas, and Ken Fuchs**, the largest group after the Dallas host society. Inside the entryway across from the Registration Table were several tables covered with good-sized rhizomes and two colorful trifold posters with pictures of the many different irises for sale for \$5 each.

There was no real business activity Friday evening, with emphasis on socializing and getting reacquainted. The festivities began with the evening meal, a buffet-style build-your-own hamburger or chicken breast sandwich with potato salad, peach cobbler, and unimaginably enormous slices of delicious apple pie. Then attendees at each table were designated as a team, and Michael Reed conducted a competitive game of “Name that Logo.” There were four

(continued on next page)

images in each round. He began with a cropped image (usually a corner detail) of a very familiar logo (Dr. Pepper), person (Marilyn Monroe), or building (the Alamo). Each following image in the set of four earned higher points. Several teams successfully identified the image on the second picture. At the end of the game, one table with six ISA members had the lowest (winning) score! There was a board meeting Friday night after the fun activities concluded.



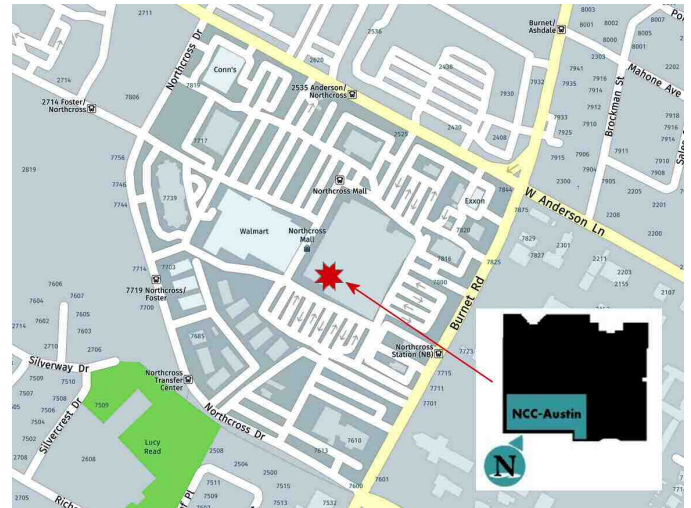
Following a Continental Breakfast Saturday morning, Cheryl Deaton from California conducted the Judges Training class on Ethics and Judges' Responsibilities. Her PowerPoint

slides and commentary were entertaining and informative. After the lunch break, Region 17 RVP Peggy Cathey conducted the business meeting. Reports from all of the fifteen Region 17 societies were presented. The highlight of the Meeting was the annual rhizome auction, the primary fundraiser for Region 17. Hooker and Bonnie Nichols took turns as auctioneer.

The dinner Saturday evening was again buffet style with chicken tenders or chicken-fried steak as the entrees, a tossed green salad, mashed potatoes, corn, and green beans. As we were finishing dinner, Cheryl Deaton turned on the projector and we saw the title of her main program: SEX IN THE GARDEN. We all waited for the show to begin. She had pictures of the parent plants of her many hybridizations and made the whole topic of hybridizing fun. Michael Reed had made a large backdrop with two rectangular cutouts surrounded by cardboard picture frames. Surrounding these frames on the front were also half a dozen photos of well-known, easily recognizable celebrities. Our ISA group and others all took turns having our picture made, making us celebrities, too. The 2017 AIS/Region 17 Meeting was a very special one because it marked the 70th birthday of the Region 17 organization. After Cheryl's discussion of Sex in the Garden and our picture taking, we all enjoyed a large slice of birthday cake.

ANNUAL RHIZOME SALE

The Iris Society of Austin hosts their annual rhizome sale Saturday, September 9, 2017 at the Norris Conference Center, 2525 West Anderson Lane in the Northcross Shopping Center on the corner of Anderson Lane and Burnet Rd. The entrance and parking is on the southwest side of the shopping center next to the Wal-Mart. Doors will open at 9 a.m. and close at 3 p.m. At this time we don't know if set up will be the day before or we will do a speedy setup Saturday morning starting at 7:30. Once we know, we will send an email blast out to members.



A volunteer sheet will be passed around at the September meeting, but if there is something specific you would like to do, contact Tracey Rogers or Ellen Singleton before the meeting or if you won't be at the meeting but plan on being at the sale, let them know. Everyone can help with set up. We usually need 4 to 6 people depending on how busy sales are to help with checkout. One person counts and calculates the total sale, while the other enters it into Square and collects payment. We also need volunteers on the floor to answer questions, close out bags as rhizomes sell out, and a couple of volunteers to greet customers. Coffee and snacks will be provided in the morning.

If you are planning on donating rhizomes to the sale, please have them cleaned and trimmed to bring to the September meeting for pricing or bring to the sale setup already priced. If you can, please let Tracey know ahead of time what you will be donating. If we know ahead of time what irises we will have, we can have the picture pulled and add the name to the list so if someone is looking for a specific iris, we can tell them whether we have it or not and if not find something similar. Unknowns are welcome. If you



have a picture of an unknown you are bringing, include the picture. While we irisarians want to know what we are growing, the general public just wants a pretty iris and they want to know the color and what it looks like.

We are signed up to participate in the Porcelain Arts Society event Saturday, October 28th at Zilker Botanical Gardens in the Garden Center, where if there are any leftovers, we will need to pot them beforehand. If you have any pots you would like to donate, please bring them to the meeting or if you would like to volunteer to host some potted irises, please let Tracey or Ellen know.

Feel free to post flyers around your neighborhood. Thanks in advance to everyone for their help. This is our main money making event and we can't do it without you.

You can reach Tracey Rogers at rogers89@earthlink.net or at 512-789-2015. Ellen Singleton can be reached at iriswede51@yahoo.com or at 512-496-9602

JUDGES TRAINING

January 20, 2018 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church
7127 Bee Caves Road
Austin, TX 78746-4102

PREPARING IRISES FOR PLANTING

For best bloom in Central Texas rhizomes should be planted in September and October. The soil should be prepared in late August or early September by amendments such as bone meal for Bearded irises, acid soil for Louisiana irises (water irises), and rose soil for Spuria irises. These 3 varieties of rhizomes prove to be successful for most iris growers. This is also the time to plant Dutch iris bulbs that will emerge in the spring.

Remember that these plants, like fruit trees, need a certain amount of freezing days to produce bloom. They love the cold, and they, like roses, need a certain amount of sunshine each day.

Since some of the iris did not bloom last year in April, they worked on increases while a few irises produced blooms perhaps for the first time. It was an unusual time because cool weather and warm summer rotated until some rhizomes bloomed in June and July. For the April Show many Louisianas and Spurias bloomed profusely for the displays.

To prepare rhizomes for the September Sale — the Saturday after Labor Day — dig them from your garden and bring them to the sale in a paper bag with each iris labeled with the correct name of the cultivar. Cut the foliage of Bearded irises in an upside down "V," leaving about 6 inches of leaves. Never cut them so close to the rhizome and do not shave off the roots. It takes longer for them to grow in the field if you do such a thing. Clean the plants in a mixture of Clorox and water. Then allow them to dry in the sunshine before placing them in a bag. Write the name of the cultivar on the paper bag and attach a picture of the iris.

Louisiana irises are cleaned and some of the root system can be trimmed so that the rhizome can be wrapped in a wet paper towel or newspaper and inserted in a plastic bag.

Spurias with their wiry rhizomes are dug, washed, cleaned, and wrapped in wet paper before putting them in a plastic baggy. Label them and keep them in a cool place.

PLANTING IRISES

All of your irises that you plant for showing should have a plant label beside it or a plot plan that you keep for reference since you must use the name of the iris on the entry tag supplied by the show. When you plant irises, separate Spurias, Bearded Irises, and Louisianas. Spurias go dormant in the heat of summer. Do not think that they have died. They will appear when it is cool. Then you can water them. but during the time that they are dormant, rains can take care of them. These irises are heavy feeders so feed them at least 3 times per year. They are also the tallest and they can remain in the same place for many years. They do not need to be dug and separated often.

Louisiana irises are planted in containers that have holes drilled at the top so that rainwater can escape. These irises, like the other two, can be fed on Labor

Day, Valentine's Day, and Mother's Day. They also can be in the ground where the soil remains wet or placed in a pond. These are the native wildflowers of Louisiana swamps. These can be planted at least 2 inches deep and mulched during the summer.

Bearded irises are planted about an inch in the new soil. Then when they are watered deeply, they will show the top of some of the rhizome. They love to bask in the sunshine and hold the soil with their roots. They do not like to stay wet since they will rot or get diseased. Never sprinkle them.

HORTICULTURE

The Iris Garden should be groomed at this time since the dead leaves at the base of the plants are so dry and easy to remove. With a scissors the tips that are dried on the leaves can also be clipped. Leaves from the trees that have blown among the irises can be raked to make the garden clear of debris. This is the time to check Louisiana Irises for moisture so that they will bloom in the spring. Try not to have them standing in water, but be sure that the rhizomes stay

moist. Weeding is important. The light rain can bring up thousands of grasses, spurge, pig weed, and nut sedge.

KEEP IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Kathy Petheram, whose husband Harry Homer Petheram, passed away unexpectedly in July in Salt Lake City while traveling.

Jim Landers' brother Mel Landers, former ISA member and president of ISA, who suffered a debilitating infection in his brain and has been hospitalized since July 10. He was in Scott & White for a month and is now in the V.A. hospital in Temple for extended rehabilitation.

Charles Barksdale, who has developed a medical problem that requires immediate attention. Because of the time restraints involved, he will not be able to plant and care for the bearded irises that he ordered from Superstition Iris Gardens and Schreiner's. Donna Little has graciously agreed to accept delivery of the rhizomes, 70 in all, and will pot them and care for them until Charles' health improves.



AIS REGION 17 2017 MEETING AND BIRTHDAY PARTY



IRISES
\$5 each
Get yours before they are gone!



A Good AIS Judge...
Agrees to do the job that the rules entitle
the club to do for the benefit of the program
- Be fair and honest
- Be objective
- Be impartial
- Be courteous
- Be respectful
- Be helpful
- Be cooperative
- Be a good team player
- Be a good ambassador
- Be a good role model
- Be a good example
- Be a good citizen
- Be a good neighbor
- Be a good friend
- Be a good person



REGION 17 CELEBRITY SHOWCASE



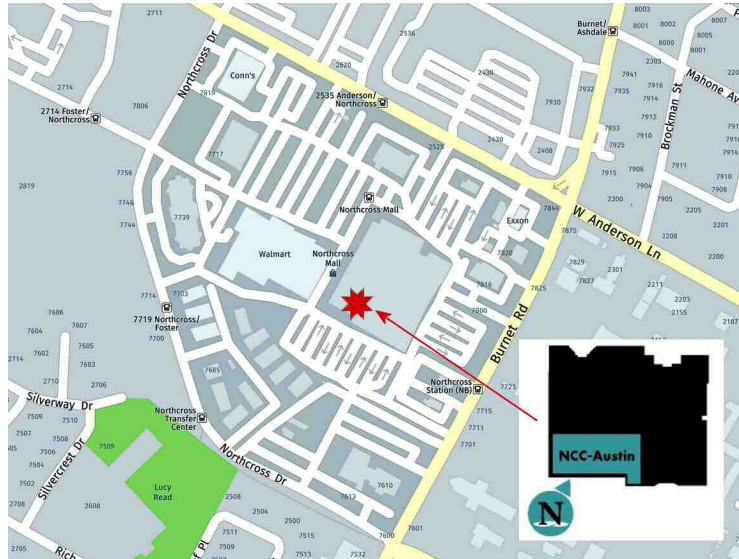


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Plenty of complimentary parking

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



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