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*Nelda Moore, Ken Fuchs, Editors*

A Monthly Newsletter of the Iris Society of Austin

# IRIS AUSTIN



## NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, November 13, 2018, 6:30 P.M.  
Auditorium

Zilker Botanical Garden,  
2220 Barton Springs Road  
Austin, TX 78746

PROGRAM by Marney Abel:  
"Using Iris Terminology"

## IRIS THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION:

Turkey by Marney Abel, ham by Jaime Hadley, dressing by Nelda Moore  
Needed: Potatoes, cranberry sauce or salad, Jello salad, green salad, green beans/vegetables, and pie, cake, fruit, desserts

## NO DECEMBER MEETING

Pay your dues - \$12 - at the January meeting.

## EVENTS AT ZILKER BOTANICAL GARDEN

### CONSERVANCY:

Nov. 3 Moonflower Herb Fest

Nov. 10-11 Plein Air Austin Art Show & Sale in Auditorium

Nov. 13 10 A.M. Board of Directors Meeting AAGC; food by West Lake Hills and Iris Society

Nov. 17 10 A.M. – 2:30 P.M. AAGC Decorate Club Christmas Trees in the Greene Room (IRIS)

December 1 Santa in the Garden

December 29 10 A.M. – 12:30 P.M. Remove ornaments and decorations, take down club trees and place in boxes

January 8, 2019 AAGCC meets.

Hostesses: West Lake Hills Garden Club and Iris Society of Austin

## IRIS SALES

During the October meeting Marney Abel suggested that Iris Austin sell rhizomes on the Website.



Although members have sold rhizomes in the Zilker Botanical Garden Auditorium, at extra Club Sales in the Austin Area Garden Center, at churches, yard sales, in parking lots in shopping malls, and at Farmers' Markets, perhaps it is time to think about the way that we have sold rhizomes in the past. Shoppers have known us to sell irises in the Norris Conference Center, but this time a small group who rented at the same time did not purchase many of the irises and we had rhizomes left over from the sale with the other clubs. This time we did not even have a problem finding a parking place around the Norris Conference Center. Many people remained out of the weather.

Since irises can be planted in the spring in Central Texas, we might have irises in pots or collections of irises for sale during the April Show in the Austin Area Garden Center. Many visitors have always admired the horticulture division. They write names of their favorite

— continued on the next page

flowers so that during the fall sale they can try to find the cultivars.

During a sale in the center the conservancy may charge a percentage of the sales, but this is low considering the rental fees elsewhere.

Another approach to raising more money would be for members to donate irises for the sale. These Central Texas irises would sell faster than more expensive ones from hybridizers who sell irises from their nurseries or gardens for a higher price plus shipping charges. Sometimes a hybridizer includes new \$50 introductions for the club that has a large order, but this does not happen often.

During sales at the Farmers' Market a member could show blossoms in the spring and take orders for the rhizomes that would cost ½ at the time of the order with the remainder to follow when the purchaser picks up the rhizomes in the fall sale. Of course, this requires time and good record keeping. The name of the person and his address would be kept with a current e-mail or telephone number. The irises when delivered must be freshly dug, cleaned, groomed, trimmed, and properly labeled after the plants are treated in a solution of one part bleach to ten parts of water for 15 minutes or soaked in a germicide fungicide using 1 tablespoon to a gallon of water. The growers would have to watch their spring blossoms and somehow tag the plants for the sale. The price of the rhizome would not be marked low. Unknown or mystery irises are usually bargains.

Places for sales in the future remain with the society. The time is always the first Saturday after Labor Day in September.

#### OTHER IRISES TO PLANT IN THE FALL

Plant some bulbs now such as Dutch irises. Then keep their names because they can be in the April Show. Many plants related to irises can brighten your garden: Mexican shell flower, herbertia (*Alophia drummondii*) bulbs, the wild purple pleat-leaf (seeds of *Eustylis purpurea*), *Dietes bicolor* or *grandiflora* KNOWN AS BUTTERFLY IRISES, *Neomarica gracilis* and *Neomarica longifolia* KNOWN AS WALKING IRISES.

Remember that ditch lilies such as *Iris giganticaerulea*, *Iris pseudacorus* or *Iris virginica* need boggy conditions but they are not true Louisiana Irises.

#### JUDGES' TRAINING ON JANUARY 19

A Judges' Training will be taught by Debra Strauss on Saturday, January 19, 2019, beginning at 9 A.M. with breakfast and registration in the Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church, 7127 Bee Cave Road, Austin, TX 78746-4102. Mrs. Strauss has selected "Out of This World Irises" to teach about unusual bearded irises called Space Agers or Novelty Irises that are now in an American Iris Society Section. These irises usually have appendages extending from the 3 beards on the falls. These can be horns, spoons, pom poms or carnations or flounces. The cost is \$10.

To join the Novelty Iris Society send \$15 for single annual membership, \$40 for single triennial, or \$20 for dual annual membership to Kathy Wade 4304 Vista Ridge Lane, Alvarado, TX 76009. Bonnie Nichols is president of this iris society while Kathy Wade also publishes a newsletter for this society.



*Alophia drummondii*



purple pleat-leaf



Butterfly irises



Blue walking iris



*Iris giganticaerulea*

## BACTERIAL ROT IN IRISES

### Icky-smelly-deadly!

By Bonnie Nichols

12+ inches of rain and counting.....the weather is cooler and the days are shorter. What is that icky smell in the garden??

The rain, while refreshing our lakes and absolutely necessary for all living creatures – can be a not-so-good thing for our bearded irises. The tall bearded irises seem to be more impacted than the smaller irises such as Standard Dwarf (SDB), Intermediate (IB), and border bearded (BB) – however, not exempt from rot.

Bacterial rot can happen no matter the temperature. Bearded irises do not like a prolonged period of time with their roots and/or rhizomes soaked with water. Rot can happen quickly and can be deadly for irises.

Be observant! While our neighbors might think we are “a bit” strange slowly and carefully looking at nothing but green irises leaves and not a bloom in sight – the earlier we can attack rot, the better our chances are of saving the rhizome. The outer leaves may turn yellow or the entire fan may be laying on the ground – these are definite signs of rot. The smell of rot is very unpleasant – okay, it is downright icky! Push on the top of the rhizome. If rot is present, the rhizome will be mushy. Sometimes maggots or small worms are already present.

If you find rot, you can dig the infected rhizome. This late in the season might be problematic to dig the rhizome and get it re-established before winter. Iris need about 6 weeks to establish new roots. Whether you dig the rhizome or not, you must clean out all the infected tissue. You can use a sharp knife to scoop out the rot. THROW THE ROTTED tissue away! Do not leave it in your flowerbed. DO NOT reuse the knife until you have thoroughly cleaned it with soap and water. Once the rot has been removed, you can apply several types of products that may work to stop the rot.

For the last few years, we used DIAL (not store brand) antibacterial soap. The irises have either build up a tolerance to the soap and/or the manufacturer has changed the formula, because last year I had limited success stopping the rot with the soap. Another product you may try is BARTENDERS FRIEND or COMET applied directly to the area you removed the tissue from. When the DIAL soap was

not working for me I researched for an older product than many of us used in the 1980s. We used AGRISTREP. You cannot find the product any longer. I researched the active ingredients of AGRISTREP and found that FERTILOME FIRE BLIGHT SPRAY has common ingredients. Finding the product on store shelves is difficult and only a handful of stores carry it. I found it online through Amazon – buying one 2 oz container at a time. NOTE: There may be generic products on the market.

To purchase through Amazon is about \$12-\$14 per 2 oz. You apply the product directly on the infected area. NO NOT dilute in water. You may have to apply multiple times (2 x per day) for a few days. I know the product is expensive; however, so was the \$60 for my “favorite” new iris purchase. I found the Fertilome product at BWI through our nursery license. Wholesale, the product is appx. \$10.

We purchased twelve 2 oz. containers. Please let me know if you would like to try the product.

I have some pictures attached of what the rot looks like and various “remedies”.

Happy gardening. Don't give up on the irises. They just need our help getting through the monsoon season to bloom for us in the spring. Please contact me if you have questions at [bjnhtn@aol.com](mailto:bjnhtn@aol.com) or [info@irises-dallas.org](mailto:info@irises-dallas.org) or by phone in the evening (214) 676-9892.



MINUTES OF THE IRIS SOCIETY OF AUSTIN  
October 9, 2018

The meeting was called to order and presided by President, Jaime Hadley. There were no minutes from the September 2018 meeting that was rhizome prep for the sale.

Treasurer's Report:

The balance for October 1, 2018 is \$16,166.05.

AAGC Council Report:

We had a special guest speaker, Judith Craft, to join our meeting this evening. She spoke about the changes to the gate collections, gift shop staffing and club membership fees that have come about in the development of the Conservancy. As a Club, we still affirm the development and the decisions to form and support the Conservancy.

Austin Iris Club business:

1. The Sale Report was presented by Tracey Rogers. Income of \$2952.22 before expenses. Expenses for Conference Center Room Rental, rhizome purchases and the Department of Agriculture license fees of \$1609.20. There were a few rhizomes leftover. And Ellen / Tracey will organize a planting / work day to use these in repopulating the beds in the front.
2. We have made a deposit to hold the room for next year's rhizome sale at the Norris Conference Center. If there are any other suggestions for a different location please let



SEOUL SEARCHING

Long-time ISA members Ken Fuchs and Jim Landers spent a week in Seoul, South Korea, September 29 – October 6. This was an especially nostalgic trip for both of them. They attended a Peace Corps Volunteers Revisit Program. Ken served as a PCV teaching English on Jeju Island 1968-69, and Jim served in U.S. Army at a Hawk Missile site on the west coast of the Korean peninsula 1966-67. The visit

Tracey or Ellen know so that we have time to consider other options.

3. There was a proposed work date to prepare our Zilker iris beds, but in the time since the meeting the day that we chose was already scheduled for another Zilker event. Look for another date to come.
4. Nelda Moore gave a speech about Irises. Thank you, Nelda for representing ISA.
5. November 17, 2018 (10:00am–2:00pm) ISA has volunteered to decorate a Christmas Tree.
6. BE GREEN!! Bring a cup for yourself to each of our meetings for the pot luck dinner.
7. April Show Date (still TBD) – the Show Chair this year is Donna Little with help from Jaime Hadley.

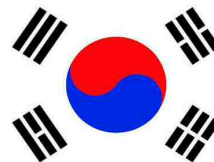
Important Dates:

- Next ISA Meeting – Tuesday November 13th, 2018 (bring a side dish, ISA will provide Turkey and Ham)
- Tentative ISA Spring Show – Saturday April 13, 2019
- AIS Convention April 23 - 27, 2019 San Ramon, CA

Next month's program: "IRISES 101" – Learning the "Lingo", color patterns. It will be informative for everyone!!

The meeting was adjourned.  
Dara E. Smith, Secretary

Submitted for Approval on: November 13, 2018.



was sponsored by the Korea Foundation and all events and tours were organized. They visited the National Museum of Korea, Changdeok Palace, the Kimchi Museum, the Korean Folk Village, and the DMZ. Jim was on the lookout for irises and did spot a few plants on the grounds of the U.S. Ambassador's Residence. There is a Seoul Iris Garden at the Seoul Botanical Garden, but they will have to wait for another trip to see the irises there.

## MEMORIES OF KOREA



View from hotel rooftop of Gyeongbok Palace and the Blue House (at base of the mountain), the Presidential Residence.



Guards and visitors in traditional Hanbok/Korean dress during the changing of the guard at Gyeongbok Palace



Colorful umbrellas hang over the walkway along Cheonggyecheon Stream in downtown Seoul.



Returned PCVs with family members and instructors gather above Cheonggyecheon Stream.



Jim in uniform in front of Throne Hall at Changdeok Palace, 1967



Ken and Jim in front of Throne Hall, October 2, 2018



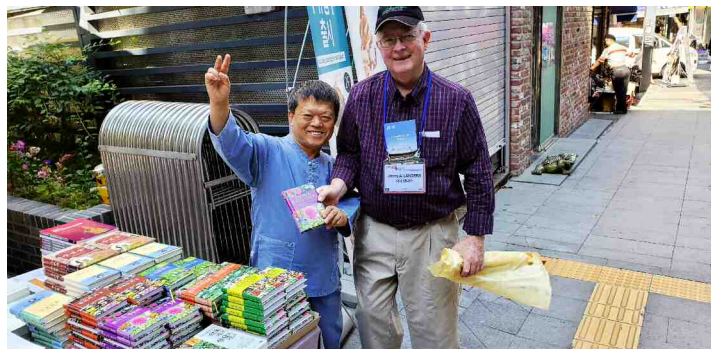
Jim takes pictures of Ken taking pictures.



Visitors wearing Hanboks get free entry to the palace grounds and like to pose for tourists with cameras.



Mandu (dumpling) soup with side dishes for lunch – delicious!



A friendly vendor thanks Jim for buying a picture book of garden flowers of Korea.



Fresh ingredients for making kimchi



Making Kimchi 101



Farmer Dancers at the Korean Folk Village



The U.S. Ambassador's Residence



Some iris plants in the garden at the Ambassador's Residence



On the viewing stand in the DMZ; North Korea in the distance.