



IRIS AUSTIN

A Monthly Newsletter of the Iris Society of Austin



Nelda Moore, Ken Fuchs, Editors

February 2020 — Vol. 29 #2

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

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, February 11, 2020

6:30 P.M.

Zilker Botanical Garden Auditorium

2220 Barton Springs Road

Austin, TX 78746

Potluck

Host: Nelda Moore

Program: Exhibition Table

CONCERNS AND PRAYERS

We send heartfelt condolences to Stephanie Sheridan's family, for the loss of their loved one.

Audrey J. Baker recently lost her sister who has visited here.

Marney Abel's brother died in Oklahoma City as a result of cancer.

Donna Little attended Judges Training and looks forward to joining iris activities after experiencing health issues.

Don Freeman is taking cancer treatments. Pray that they cure and protect his health.

JUDGES TRAINING OF JANUARY 18

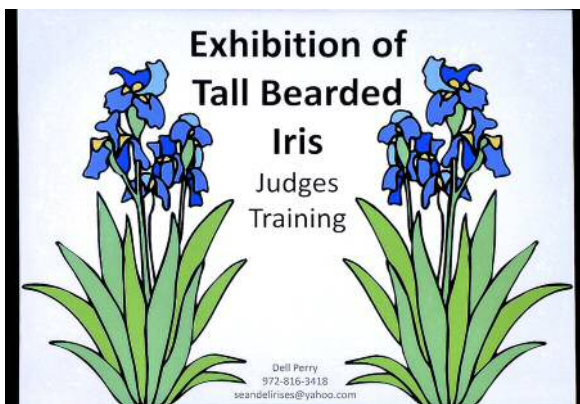


Dell Perry, a well-known member of the American Iris Society and Region 17, shared delightful information about show rules, the timeline for an April iris show, and the exhibition judging of tall bearded. From the time a grower cuts the stalk, to grooming it for the show, and placing the cultivar in the container, Dell Perry provided details to the 11 members who eagerly absorbed every detail and asked questions that she answered expertly.



Those attending from the Iris Society of Austin were Marney Abel, Ken Fuchs, Jaime Hadley, David Kraemer, Jim Landers, Donna Little, Nelda Moore, Dara E. Smith, Ellen Singleton, and Clifton Speer. Vic Peters attended from the Dallas area.

Judges Training was held in Ross Hall of the Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church in Austin. Breakfast and registration began at 9:30 - A.M. with the 3-hour JT course starting at 10:30 A.M.



Remembering Stephanie Sheridan

On Jan 19 the Iris Society of Austin lost one of its most dedicated, long-time members, Stephanie Clark Sheridan. Stephanie was most often the first member to arrive at our monthly second Tuesday meetings. She was always cheerful and eager to help with any tasks. She loved irises and had two winning entries on the head table at the 2019 Iris Show. She also earned the Bronze Medal at the Show. Stephanie will be dearly missed by all of us. Her obituary follows.

Stephanie Clark Sheridan

October 29, 1945 - January 19, 2020



Stephanie Clark Sheridan of Austin passed away January 19 after her battle with lung cancer. She was born October 29, 1945 to Steve and Henrietta Clark of Flatonia, Texas, shortly before they relocated to Austin. She attended Rosedale Elementary, Lamar Junior High, and graduated from McCallum High School in 1964. She started her career in Austin working as a dispatcher for the Department of Public Safety. She would later go on to work for the IRS until her retirement. While working for the IRS, she attended night school and received a college degree.

Stephanie was known for her love of flowers, which came from gardening with her mother. Both were members of one of Austin's first garden clubs – Violet Crown. Stephanie was active in the Austin Daylily Society, the Iris Society of Austin, and the American Iris Society right up until the time of her passing. She also loved music and country western dancing. So much so, that she learned to play steel guitar under the legendary Burt Rivera. Being a single mom kept her busy in the early 1970's, but she would occasionally find time to play with bands in and

around the Austin Area. She was very likely Austin's first female steel guitarist. Stephanie identified very closely to her Czech heritage and was a member of the Austin Czech Historical Association. Everyone knew of her love for animals, particularly her cats, all of whom were rescued. She loved thrifting long before it was "a thing". She often volunteered at Austin's Next To New thrift shop. She was an avid Longhorns fan and thoroughly enjoyed watching her last game, the 2019 Alamo Bowl from her hospital room with her son.

Stephanie is preceded in death by her parents Steve and Henrietta Clark. She is survived by her husband and soulmate of 22 years Brian Reese of Austin, children Bernadette Buchko, Michael Buchko, Tony Sheridan, and his wife Hien. She has two grandchildren, Shayden and Tiffany.



Stephanie, Tony, and Tiffany and her Best Historic, Best Blue 'Great Lakes' (2019)



Stephanie cheerfully working at the 2017 Sale

IRIS SOCIETY OF AUSTIN TO HOLD ACCREDITED SHOW APRIL 11

The Iris Society of Austin has been preparing for the April 11 show with "Anniversary Celebrations" as the theme. Nelda Moore volunteered to be Show Chairman. Ken Fuchs submitted the Show Schedule for approval by Lois Rose, the American Iris Society Exhibition Chair. She has approved it and we are Show #16. ISA members will receive printed copies of the schedule at the March meeting. Ken will order show ribbons and other supplies needed to hold the show in the Austin Garden Center Auditorium in Zilker Botanical Garden. Although admission to the show is open to the public at no charge, a small fee to enter the gardens is collected at the gate.

This show is produced in cooperation with the American Iris Society and its Handbook. The approved schedule will be the law of the show. AIS judges will judge the show.

PREPARING A HORTICULTURAL ENTRY FOR THE IRIS SHOW: GROWING, ENTERING AND GROOMING THE STALK

When does an irisarian begin to prepare an iris for the April 11th show? They plant the rhizome, feed it bone meal, water deeply, and then weed around it. They feed it again on February 14th so that the blossoms will be healthy and large.

On the morning of the show they arise early and cut the stalk close to the ground. They hold it upside down to release water droplets and insects. Then they place a name tag around the bloomstalk before placing it in a container used to transport the cultivar to the Greene Room to groom and gingerly place it in a vase provided by the iris society. They write the name of their entry on an exhibitor's sheet provided with their number that they will continue to use on the entry tag, upper and lower parts. Then they use a rubber band to secure the entry tag on the container. They take insulation and wedge the bloomstalk in the neck of the vase, but they are careful to place it with its best face forward and over the entry tag. They continue to go through this process until they reach the last entry. All of these cultivars and their exhibitor's sheet then go inside the auditorium to the clerk who checks all information and closes the entry tag. The entries then go to the Placement Coordinator.

GROOMING

After examining the bloomstalk for insects, spiders, dust, the exhibitor uses their grooming kit. They take a cotton ball or a tissue and remove fingerprints from the stalk instead of dusting from below with some kind of powder. They could have held the bloomstalk underneath the blossom to avoid leaving prints. Using a Q-tip they can gently remove any dirt, smudges, insects, etc. from the blossoms. They are extremely careful in dealing with the stalk because all petals must be attached with no visible tears or cuts. They always make sure that the blossom is freshly opened and the spathes are intact. A judge can hold a writing pen underneath or behind a petal and if there is a black shadow showing, the petal has lost substance. No trickery is tolerated. The bottom branch should be exhibited above the container opening. The stalk should be upright and foliage, if trimmed, must have only 1/4 or less removed. Shape of the leaf should be retained.



ENGLISH BOX

The purpose of the English Box is to provide a holder for the collection of single flowers without stem, foliage, or presence of buds. The covering of the box is a non-reflective material and neutral in color so as not to clash with flower color. These flowers can be 3, 5 or 7 — all Tall Bearded, all Spuria, all Standard Dwarf Bearded, but flowers must be all different cultivars that are correctly named. A 3 X 5 index card with the names of the irises in their correct positions must be mounted outside the box. No flowers should be leaning or touching the surface of the box. These blossoms are inserted in flower picks or placed in containers of sand under the box where they are not visible.

Minutes of the Iris Society of Austin

January 14, 2020 Meeting

The meeting was called to order and presided by President, Jaime Hadley.

The Minutes from November 2019 were approved as published in the January 2020 Newsletter. The Treasurer's Report was also approved with review of the current balance \$15,689.63. Recent transactions for November food, hospitality, remembrances, and membership dues.

We have some news of Stephanie Sheridan and our thoughts are with her family. We celebrate her love of Irises and her award of the Bronze Medal from our 2019 show.

ISA Business:

- Dues for 2020 are due in January! \$12.00 Individual and \$18.00 Couple/Family and \$6.00 Youth.
- Judges Training will be Saturday January 18, 2020 for \$10.00 per person. Dell Perry will present "Show Rules" and "Tall Bearded Exhibition".
- Update on hosting the Region 17 meeting in 2021 - There was no update on this action.
- Nominating Committee - Tracey Rogers.
- Preparations for the Spring Show. Selection of Show Chair, Show Theme, review and/or adoption of any proposed Schedule changes. The Show Chair is Nelda Moore. "Anniversary Celebration" was selected as

the show theme.

A proposal to change the Functional Tray to be an Exhibition Table "freestyle place setting" was approved.

Jim Landers will contact horticulture judges.

Other Show Committee Chairs are

Clerk coordinator, Placement - Marney Abel

Secretary/Classification - Dara Smith

Awards - Ken Fuchs

Photography - Audrey Baker

Artistic Design - Tracey Rogers

Hospitality (breakfast and paid/catered lunch order and pick-up) -

Shirley Randolph, Shirley Friesen

Publicity - Tracey Roger

Clean-Up - All Members.

Important Dates:

- February Meeting - Tuesday February 11, 2020.
- ISA Show Saturday April 11, 2020.
- Temple/Belton Iris Show Saturday April 18, 2020.
- American Iris Society Convention 2020 New York - "The Centennial Celebration of The American Iris Society"
- Region 17 Meeting - August 2020 Hosted by Iris Society of Dallas

Program:

Selection of Show Chair and Committee.
Planning for the Show.

The meeting was adjourned.

Dara E. Smith, Secretary

Some Rebloomers in Our Gardens



'Daughter of Stars'
(Tracey 12-28-2019)



'Jaunty Texan'
(Ellen 1-10-2020)



'Over and Over'
(Tracey 12-28-2019)



'Lo Ho Silver'
(Tracey 12-18-2019)