



IRIS AUSTIN



A Monthly Newsletter of the Iris Society of Austin

Nelda Moore, Ken Fuchs, Editors

August/September 2020 — Vol. 29 #8-9

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

Next Meeting:

Exact date still uncertain at this time



WEAR A MASK!

PANDEMIC RAGES!



REGION 17/AIS MEETING CANCELED

Bonnie Nichols, Region 17 Vice President, has announced after the June 28th meeting of the Dallas Iris Society, that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused cancellation of the 2020 Region 17/AIS Meeting July 31 and August 1 in Hillcrest Lutheran Church in Dallas. If you have sent a check to Dell Perry for registration, she will void the payment. The committee decided that the coronavirus outbreak now after Memorial Day and July 4th celebrations provides a greater risk in traveling and getting together safely even by wearing a mask.

Bonnie also mentioned that an editor for the Region 17 Newsletter is still needed even though most clubs have not met since February. Only two editions are needed--Fall and Spring.

All news for the fall should be sent by September 15th and news for spring should arrive by February 15. The editions are e-mailed to most members.

During these uncertain times most meetings are not being held, most officers are continuing to stay in place, and hospitality is store bought wrapped snacks and water or sodas in bottles or cans. Rhizome sales are done on-line with pick up at the site outside the building.

When the Johnson County Iris and Daylily Society met, attendees walked through the Cathey's garden to study irises and daylilies and then held a meeting in the carport, where they had water, sodas, and many snacks in closed packages. This will be the trend until times change -- either no virus outbreak or a vaccine that will be used to kill the virus all over the world.



'Fiery Echo' - Sutton 2013 TB RE



JARDIN D'IRIS

'Oklahoma Crude' - Black 1989 TB RE



Reblooming Iris

REBLOOMS IN GARDENS

With the lockdown due to COVID-19 the less traveled roads and streets provide cleaner air not only for humans but also for irises. Rains have been timely in most areas and cooler temperatures have provided an opportunity to enjoy weeding and walking in our gardens, where rebloomers continue to provide a show even in summer.

Tracey Rogers has an iris with a bud that tried to celebrate Independence Day. When it opens soon, she will take a picture of the cultivar, giving its true name as well as her name, and the date and exactly where it bloomed – city and state. She will e-mail this information to Gailmae Suite, Area Director for the Southern region metx@yahoo.com in Region 17.



'Low Ho Silver' - Byers 1989 IB RE (Tracey Rogers, 6-5-2020)

Another busy member who always reminds us to send the name of reblooming irises to him and to keep a journal was Jim Landers. He also tells members to purchase irises that bloom in the spring as well as the fall — More bloom for Your Money!

To join the Reblooming Iris Society send a check to
Rose Kinnard
1649 Madison 504
Fredericktown, MO 63645-8303
gardensister2@gmail.com.

Visit the website rebloomingiris.com.

Our own Jim Landers from Temple, Texas serves as president of the Reblooming Iris Society jimlanders43@hotmail.com.

Dues to the Reblooming Iris Society are the following: Single Annual \$12. Single Triennial \$30. Dual \$15 and Dual Triennial is \$40.

What reblooming iris did you have in 2020?



'Cornhusker' - Stanek 2005 TB RE



'Red Echo' - Rowlan 1984 LA RE

PREPARING IRISES FOR SALE

The irises that you have selected in your garden are marked for dividing the clumps in order for bigger and better blossoms. By the end of August you will dig the clump, wash the rhizomes in a mild solution of Clorox and water to free them from soil and insects, and then dry them in the sunshine for a period of time. Then write the name of the iris on a piece of paper and attach it to the rhizome or write with a permanent marker on a leaf near the rhizome. If you do not know the name of the cultivar, you can bring it to the sale as an unknown.

Use a pair of scissors to trim the fan shaped foliage so that the leaf in the middle is about 5 or 6 inches long. This cut is an upside down "V" and you still have the name of the iris. Then place the rhizome in a paper bag to bring to the area for pricing when the members can get together before the date of the sale September 12. Ellen Singleton and Tracey Rogers will announce how and where the public can purchase these local irises from the Iris Society of Austin. Usually this sale is held in the Northcross Mall near the Walmart on West Anderson Lane. More information will be given later about how this sale will be modified to keep all involved as safe as possible. Volunteers are needed for pricing, using the credit card, and providing information about iris rhizomes.



'Dawn Candle' - Ferguson 1965 SPU

Louisiana irises and Spurias are dug in early September and wrapped in wet newspaper or paper towels before being placed in a plastic bag tied with a name tag and the rubber band. Louisiana irises are

the native wildflowers of America that were hybridized for ruffled flowers and unusual larger blossoms for the public to admire in a swamp or pond. Spurias are exotic wiry rhizomes that also need to be kept moist before planting. Their leaves are slim compared to the Louisiana iris, but they are used in flower arrangements. The Louisiana leaf when held to the light has pepper flakes so that it is easily recognized since it comes from the hot pepper sauce state.



'Cinnamon Stick' - Niswonger 1983 SPU



'Nutcote' - Pryor 1999 LA RE

PLANTING BEARDED IRISES, LOUISIANA IRISES, AND SPURIAS



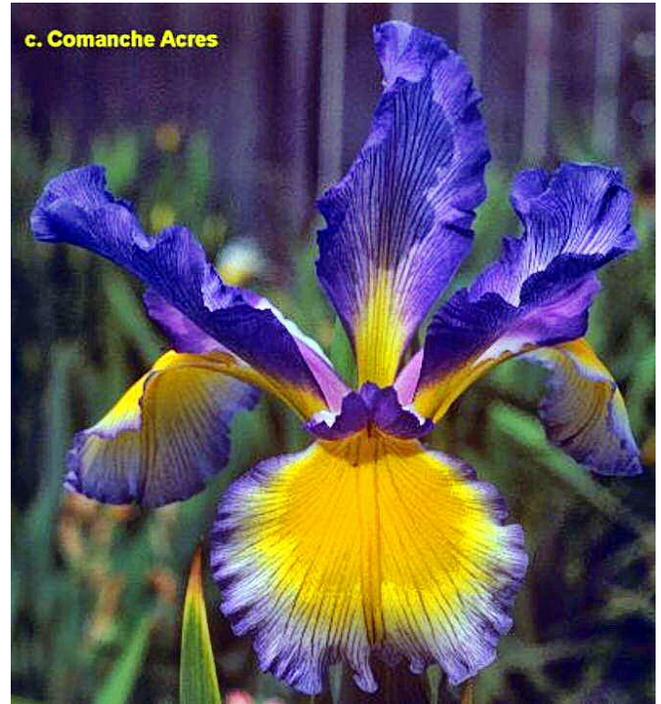
'Chili Pepper' - Holk 1997 TB RE

Bearded irises, usually tall or intermediate or dwarf, are planted in amended soil in Central Texas in September or before the first frost for greater bloom. For them to be established before a freeze, prepare a small mound of soil and take the rhizome and pull the roots over the soil. Then see that the iris is planted by watering deeply. If the soil gets really dry, then water deeply again if it does not rain. The new roots should take hold and grow. These rhizomes do not need much water or they will rot. Never sprinkle them. Feed them with bone meal at least two times per year—in February or Valentine's Day and after they bloom. When you amend the soil before planting, you probably used bone meal or you tested the soil. The reblooming irises need more fertilizer and a little more water. Median irises can also take more water.

Louisiana irises are planted in a container without holes in the bottom, in a pond, or in a low place in the garden that holds water. Use acid soil or feed them 3 times per year with azalea chemical fertilizer. These are planted two inches deep and should remain wet. They do not have to stand in water; therefore, if they are in a pot, drill holes in the top so that rain water can drain to keep mosquitoes from hatching. Use cedar mulch over the rhizome to keep it from freezing weather and the hot summer sun. Do not allow the bloomstalk to develop seed pods.

Spurias are planted in a separate garden behind

the front plants since these are the tallest irises. Feed them with rose soil. Like Louisianas they are heavy feeders. Remember that these irises will have dry leaves that can be cut in July or August. Then wait for the cooler weather for them to grow again and provide beautiful flowers. Water them when they start growing, but in the summer dormancy let the rain be sufficient.



'Dress Circle' - Hager 1985 SPU

With fall coming bulbs can bring a beautiful spring. It is time to add some Dutch irises to your garden. These bulbs have the wonder of nature sleeping inside. Bring the flowers to the show in April.



'Eggnog' - Byers 1990 TB RE