



IRIS AUSTIN

A Monthly Newsletter of the Iris Society of Austin



Nelda Moore, Ken Fuchs, Editors

January 2021 — Vol. XXI #1

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

Next Meeting:

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DUES TO AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY ARE DUE:

- Annual Single \$30 / Dual \$35
- Youth (under 19) without Bulletin \$8
- with Bulletin \$12
- Society for Louisiana Irises single \$17
- Reblooming Iris Society single \$12
- Tall Bearded Iris Society single \$12
- dual \$18

ISA Dues

All membership dues paid back in January 2020 will be extended as paid for 2021. Those members in good standing whose AIS memberships were paid by ISA for 2020 will now be paid for 2021.

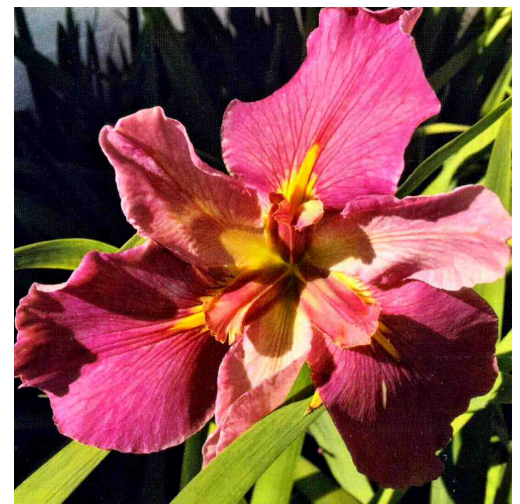
Officers of the Iris Society of Austin

- President - Ellen Singleton
- VP Programming - Nelda Moore
- VP Membership - Jaime Hadley
- Treasurer - Tracey Rogers
- Secretary - Dara E. Smith

INTERESTED IN HYBRIDIZING?

What is in a name? From Francine Cheswick who wrote about a dramatic beginning in the AIS Bulletin we learn about Seedling GM14LA1-3.

In 2017 when a wildfire approached Gary Miller's iris field, he discovered that the seedling was in full bloom. Since he lives near Goodwin, Arizona, he immediately named it 'Goodwin Fire.'



'Goodwin Fire' (Gary Miller 2019, LA)

In the Fall 2020 *IRISES* Don and Ginny Spoon have told the story of Winterberry Gardens and have a detailed account concerning hybridizing by intercrossing for desirable characteristics. They include information about the color of the spathes. Most bearded irises have two green valve-



The house at Winterberry



IRIS ENCHANTMENT
The 2021 AIS National Convention in Las Cruces, NM has been **postponed** until 2022.



valve-like spathes that enclose each flower bud, but sometimes the spathe turns brown or grey as the cells die when the flower begins to open. In a few MTBs and TBs like 'Opalescent Dream' the spathes stay alive and green. Do you look for the beauty of green spathes?



Opalescent Dream - Opal Brown by Paul Black 2003

The Royal Horticultural Society recognizes three standardized colors found in flowers: spectrum red (43A), yellow (12A) and blue (105B). The secondary colors are pectrum orange (24A), green (144A) and purple (77A). These hues can be lightened with white to form pastel tints or greyed with black. Three genes (loci) for carotenes Y1 Y2 and Y3 are present. Recessive tangerine factor or allele (t) must be four doses (tttt) to be expressed. The alpha-and beta-carotene yellow allele (Y) is dominant over recessive lycopene (t) that are at the same three gene loci. It is this type of chart that enables the hybridizer to get the color of the flower and to chart the color or colors on the beards. Sometimes the process that the hybridizer uses to make the crosses to his satisfaction take years—even 6 years.

Note that the fertilizer that the Spoons use can also affect the richness of color of the iris since they have acid rainfall of pH 4.5. This can also affect the increases on the rhizomes. Early in the spring they add a light addition of lawn starter fertilizer mixture with slow release nitrogen that has mineral elements for growth and production of their best flower color. When you purchase these rhizomes, the color of the iris can be rich and beautiful, but the color can be different the following years.

The hybridizer can also work to show white or pink glitter plus silver linings edging the petals.

IRIS IMAGES DUE WITH INTRODUCTION

The AIS Website at irises.org now has the procedure for submitting digital images with registration of an iris.

**Hybridizer_seedling#_Name_class_year_
Photoby Person's Name**

The image should be at least 1 megabyte.

The AIS image coordinator Neil Houghton can help at images@irises.org or 585-301-8256 (voice or text).

YOUTH ESSAY CONTEST THEME

The AIS Foundation has announced that the 2021 Ackerman Youth Essay Contest theme is the following:

“Imagine that you have been asked to plan a special 100+1 AIS anniversary event for your hometown. How would you celebrate irises and AIS with your friends, family, and neighbors? What activities would you plan to share your love of irises with your community?”

The age groups are nine and under, 10-12 years old, and 13 years and up. Prizes are \$100 for 1st place, \$50 for 2nd place, and \$25 for 3rd place in each category. The money is courtesy of the American Iris Society Foundation.

Essays should be written in 500 words or less and sent to Debbie Strauss at 2213 Hereford Blvd., Midland TX 79707-5012

Deadline for the finished essay to be submitted is March 22, 2021. It may be sent by email at debbie@loveirises.com

SCARECROW FOR ZILKER BOTANICAL GARDEN TRAIL

Joe and Nelda Moore removed the Iris Scarecrow from the Garden Monday after Thanksgiving. The name of this display was SPACEAGER, THE BEARDED ONE. Kathy Petheram provided the name, but Tracey Rogers, Ellen Singleton, Jaime Hadley, and others emailed excellent names. Thank you for your interest. This year there were nineteen scarecrows in all.

“WE’VE LOST THE HEART OF OUR CLUB.”

Upon learning of the sudden passing of Don Freeman, one of the ISA’s most cherished founding members and our expert on all things “Iris,” Tracey Rogers made the above comment, adding, “The last time I spoke to him about a month ago, he wanted to know what I was doing in my iris beds.” Don cared for all ISA members, and he and Pat worked eagerly and tirelessly for the AAGC and for all ISA activities and functions ever since the ISA’s founding in 1983. Over the years together they won Best of Show in 1993, 1995, 2003, 2010, and 2013 at ISA iris shows and in 2012 and 2017 at Belton Iris Society iris show. They also won 21 silver medals at our shows and those of the Belton Iris Society.



Don had a keen interest in roses and other flowers. He was a Master Gardener 1993-2011. On their [website](#), the Texas Master Gardener Association states:

“Don Freeman was essential in the organization, development and success of the Travis County Master Gardener program. Don was one of the primary people who organized and incorporated the organization in 1993. Don Freeman was in the second TCMGA class in 1993. Once certified, he served as the first President. Don thought this new TCMGA organization could make a difference with many good projects in the community and immediately started volunteering through TCMGA at Zilker Botanical Garden.

“He was instrumental in planning and constructing the first Butterfly Garden for young children and school age groups to enjoy. His vast plant knowledge was quickly utilized in teaching bulb planting and then starting the Bulb Society of Travis

County. His knowledge on roses is widely recognized, leading to rose pruning classes that TCMGA held in the Zilker Rose Garden for over 15 years. He also taught citrus propagation classes for TCMGA for numerous years.

“Don organized the Iris Society to do their test trials through TCMGA. This brought iris growers from around the country to Austin in early 2000. He has given numerous talks and lectures on roses, iris and ferns around Travis County for our organization for over 15 years. He also assisted the Travis County Horticulturist in judging the youth exhibits at the Travis County Fair for several years.

“He was instrumental in the early process of researching, purchasing and the installation of the TCMGA greenhouse in November 2000. This was most vital in the progress of our organization. Don also worked on the first rainwater collection systems (3) at Zilker Botanical Garden and then at the TCMGA greenhouse. Both provide a major showcase for educational opportunities involving rainwater harvesting. He volunteered at the TCMGA greenhouse for over 10 years, providing much needed expertise in all stages and phases of its continued operation.

For many years, Don attended both State Master Gardener meetings in College Station and annual Master Gardener Conferences around the state. He also attended 5 Regional Conferences, representing Travis County Master Gardeners. He has been bestowed numerous awards throughout his many years of service to this organization, among those are ‘5,000+ Hours of Service to Travis County Master Gardeners’ in 2010.”

“Our hearts are heavy with sadness and loss for our gardening community. Don will always be planting seeds of love. Prayers go out to Pat and all our Zilker Family.” – Donna Little



HAZEL HAIK, MASTER JUDGE



Hazel Marie (Jones) Haik, 93, a long-time resident of Waco, passed away on Thursday night (Thanksgiving), November 26, 2020.

Hazel was born August 13th, 1927 in Kirk, Texas, to parents Paul Herndon Jones and Gurley Mae (Azbell) Jones.

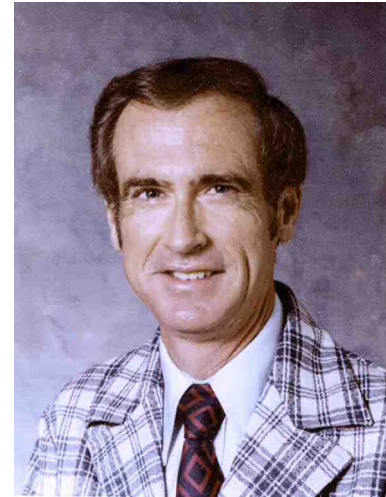
In her younger years, Hazel worked at the Owens-Illinois glass plant in Waco. After she retired, she sold tomatoes and various other consumable produce in her neighborhood from her garage. Hazel enjoyed league bowling, fishing, and gardening.

She was deeply involved in the Waco Chapter of the American Iris Society for many, many years. She was a Master Judge and judged our Austin shows in 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003, and 2007. Hazel won Best of Show ten times and received 23 Silver Medals and 3 Bronze Medals. She was particularly interested in floral design and won the Best Design and Design Sweepstakes each 9 times.

Hazel enjoyed telling iris stories, especially about the time when she asked her husband to help take her irises to the show. He gladly did so and put all of her blooms in his pickup. To her dismay, she later discovered that none of them had survived the ride in the back of his pickup. She never asked him to help again.

THANK YOU, WALTER MOORES

As many of you may know, Jim Landers' first irises were given to him by Ken Fuchs' uncle Rudi Fuchs of Denton in 1983. Rudi had an extensive garden, and following his funeral on June 12, 1985, friends and family gathered at his home. As we walked through the garden, Rudi's close friend Walter Moores took Jim aside and said, "Jim, these are some nice irises that you should have." When we left, Jim had several dozen choice iris plants to bring home.



Walter A. Moores, 83, passed away in Oxford, MS, on Monday, November 2, 2020. After obtaining his Master's Degree, Walter Moores taught school in Fort Worth, Texas. After teaching there for 30 years, he went on to be a librarian at Mississippi State University and at the Yalobusha County Library in Oakland, Mississippi, where he lived. He enjoyed gardening, with irises being his favorite flower. Walter was also a devoted owner to his two dogs, which he loved dearly. During his free time, he often enjoyed watching old movies and drinking his coffee. He will be dearly missed by his family and friends.



Walter and Jim in Rudi's garden, June 12, 1985



Walter points out choice irises in Rudi's garden.



'Violet Shimmer' 1998 TB HM



Walter and Jim chat with others after Rudi's funeral.

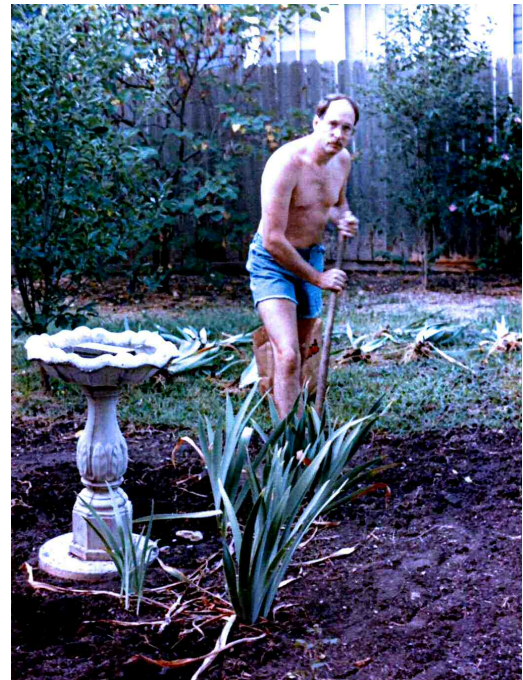


'Lemon Chess' 1996 TB AM

Walter Moores was a life member of AIS and was a master judge since 1992. He registered/introduced 6 Arilbreds, 7 BBs, 3 IBs, 1 Species, 1 Species Hybrid, and about 65 TBs. Walter's BBs 'Miss Scarlett', 'Peach Reprise', 'Pinch Of Spice', 'Top Stitch' and TB 'Violet Shimmer' received Honorable Mentions (HM) and his TB 'Lemon Chess' received an Award of Merit (AM).



'Peach Reprise' 1981 BB HM



June 20, 1985 – Ken helps dig up the irises given by Uncle Rudi in 1983.



Jim tills the new bed, June 20, 1985



'Thick and Creamy' - Weiler 1978



Jim plants the new irises that Walter picked out.



March 1986 - The first bloom



Preparing for the first ISA iris show (non-AIS sanctioned), March 1988





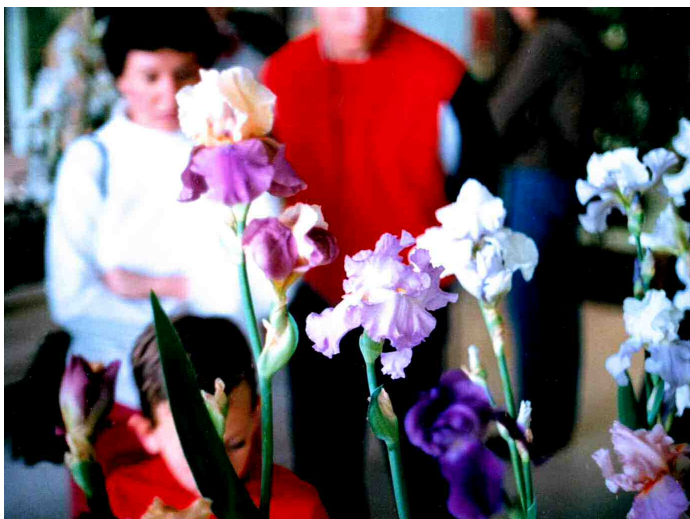
The first Iris Society of Austin Iris Show, in March 1988 with 29 entries, was a popular success with the visiting public.

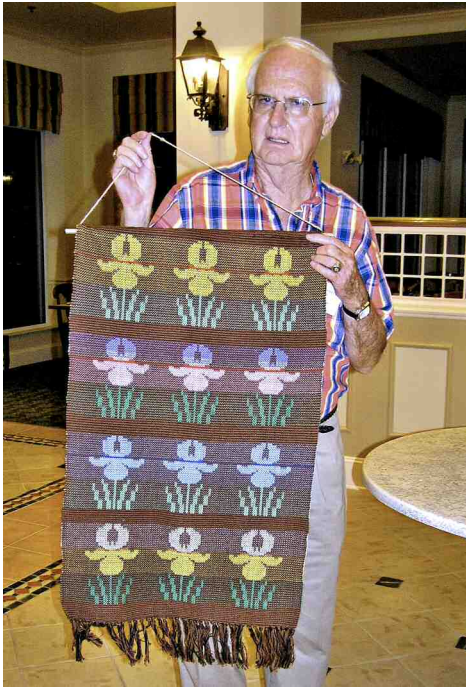


Blair Dow, Fort Worth Iris Society, helps Jim get his entries ready for the show.



Jim, Walter, and Paul Gossett at the AIS-Region17 Meeting in Fort Worth, August 19, 2005





Walter displays an iris wall hanging woven by Ken's uncle Rudi Fuchs.



'Rudi' 1984 TB Named in honor of Rudi Fuchs



Once again, thank you, Walter Moores, for all of your many contributions to the iris world!

FROM OUR GARDENS



Walter chats with Dell Perry at the AIS-Region 17 Meeting in Waco, August 14, 2009.



'Miss Scarlet' 1979 BB HM



'Autumn Explosion' – Rick Tasco 2013 TB RE (Ellen Singleton, November 17, 2020)