



IRIS AUSTIN

A Monthly Newsletter of the Iris Society of Austin



Nelda Moore, Ken Fuchs, Editors

April-May 2021 — Vol. XXI #4-5

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

Next Meeting:

??????



'Chihuahuan Desert' (Howie Dash 2015), entered by Tracey Rogers at the 2021 Waco Iris Show on Saturday, April 10. Blue Ribbon

IRIS SOCIETY OF AUSTIN TO SELL IRISES SEPT. 11



The Iris Society of Austin will have a rhizome sale September 11 in the Norris Conference Center, 2525 West Anderson Lane, Austin, 78757.



2019 Iris Sale

Ellen Singleton serves as president of the local society and there will be plenty of bearded varieties, a few Louisiana irises, and some spurias. Tracey Rogers, treasurer, will assist her, and members will gladly answer any questions about these beautiful drought resistant flowers.

SUCCESS RATE? OF PREVIOUS SALE RHIZOMES

by Tracey Rogers

During my days without power, I caught up on filing pictures from past rhizome sales. In reviewing the pictures, I became curious about how some irises have done in our gardens. While I don't know who bought what, I wondered if any of you could give a report on any of the following. I don't recall seeing any of them at a show or sale since.



'Isadora Belle' - Jedlicka 2008

I'm especially curious about any of the Jedlicka introductions we received from Blue J Iris. I know Stephanie Sheridan and I both had good luck with 'Isadora Belle' and Stephanie also grew 'Happenstance.' 'Isadora Belle' is still a good bloomer for me. It is usually one of my last irises to bloom in May.



'Big Bang Theory' - Jedlicka 2008 BB

A few other Jedlicka's we have sold include 'Bashful Ballerina,' 'Big Bang Theory' (BB), 'Chantilly Bride' and 'Glitter Repink.' 'Big Bang Theory' was mentioned as a promising BB at a judges' training I

attended.



'Boisterous' - Black 1998

Paul Black's BB 'Boisterous' is one I've considered reordering, but if no one had any luck with it, it might be best to skip it. A few rebloomers that we've sold in the past include 'Brimstone' (Tompkins 71), 'Cloudless Sunrise' (Niswonger 84) and 'Garden Club Delight' (Zurbrigg 97). Keppel's IB 'Garnet Slippers' and — last but not least — Tom Burseen's 'Kingdom Come' and 'Pseudo Lewdo.'



'Cloudless Sunrise' - Niswonger 1983



'Kingdom Come' - Burseen 1999



'Pseudo Lewdo' - Burseen 1990

Feel free to respond to me at rogers89@earthlink.net.

AIS REGION 17 NEWS

Region 17 will have the North Plains Iris Show on May 1, and this is the last one held for this time of the year. Lois Rose of the American Iris Society approved 30 show schedules. The Iris Society of Austin submitted its schedule last year, but by March the pandemic closed nearly everything. We have been locked down until the governor opened the gate for limited numbers of people to enter places of business.

Some of the shows presented demonstrations or teaching sessions that were helpful to those interested in iris culture. The American Iris Society had Webinars and judging training by computer and continues with special programs throughout 2021.

Region 17 will also have a meeting in August. Officers include the following:

RVP

Bonnie Nichols
bjnhtn@aol.com

Assistant RVP

Michael Reed
4mikereed@tx.rr.com

Secretary

Jerrie Cage
jerriecage@gmail.com

Treasurer

Debbie Strauss
debbie@loveirises.com

Judges Training

Dell Perry
seandelirises@yahoo.com

Membership

Kerry McKennon
kdouglas0@yahoo.com

Historian

Jim Landers
jimlanders43@gmail.com

Parliamentarian

Peggy Cathey
natvtxn1@windstream.net



JUDGES

Jim Landers, who hybridized 'Lady of Lometa,' a Louisiana Iris, is a master judge in Region 17. Others include Dawn Boyer, Connie Ford, Ramona Howard, Mary Wilber, and Dell Perry. Emeritus Judges are Bonnie Nichols, Hooker Nichols, and Debbie Strauss. There are 8 Garden Judges.

HOWIE DASH TO VISIT WEST TEXAS IRIS SOCIETY AUGUST 8

Howie Dash, a hybridizer from New Mexico, will speak to the West Texas Iris Society on August 8. He is also one of the many American Iris Society members who will have a garden on tour when the Iris Enchant-

ment National Convention will be held in Las Cruces, New Mexico in 2022. The West Texas Iris Society meets in Midland. Their Iris Sale will be held Saturday, September 18, at La Casa Verde.

HORTICULTURE

After the freeze the irises spent their energy growing tall, but some bloomed in March in Central Texas. The best bloom came in the middle of April and a few are still blooming. Now three Louisianas and spurias are showing some blossoms. The water irises have really suffered as a result of the 5-day Arctic Express that ruined the rhizomes. Those that are in bloom were in the ground or seemed somewhat protected by other landscape. The flowers are tiny and few in number. By the beginning of April the insects arrived to inspect the irises and take a bite out of the flowers. Even the 80 degree days wilted the show stalks that usually had 5 buds to a stalk. Nevertheless, we iris lovers visited the garden daily to see who was in bloom.

If you are not the hybridizer for the iris with the seed pods, you probably want to cut the bloom stalks to tidy the garden. Some grass and wildflowers are still trying to grow among the iris foliage so pull them before they drop dry seeds.

This is the time to look for Louisiana irises that lost their rhizomes during the freeze. This reporter has about 8 or 12 different cultivars that are growing, but not blooming very well.

These water irises did not like being covered with ice and snow for 5 days. After all, in past years they always bloomed so well with large bright flowers. I really miss them.

THE WACO IRIS SHOW

By Tracey Rogers

On Saturday, April 10, I went to the Waco Iris Show. I've always wanted to go, but their show is always the same weekend as ours so I've never been able to attend. I'm glad I went. It was the first flower show I had been to in over a year and I saw several irises I had never seen before plus I don't recall seeing so many plicatas in one show before.

I entered 5 irises total including 'Chihuahuan Desert' (Howie Dash 2015), which had one of the tallest stalks I've seen in years, plus it was a first time bloomer for me. Two others I entered were also first time bloomers: 'Miss Nellie' BB (Burch 1979) and

'Imperial Orator' (Burseen 2018), which was entered in the SA class. All in all, I entered 3 TBs, 1 BB and 1 SA. 'Chihuahuan Desert' won a blue, 'Imperial Orator' won a blue, 'Miss Nellie' won 2nd with only 3 in the class. Tall Bearded 'Do Wa Diddy' (Burseen 97) won a third as did 'Morning Mood' (Keppel 97). I didn't get any on the table, but I didn't care. There were lots of striking irises on the head table.



'Raspberry Lemonade' - Sutton 2016, photo by Jim Landers

Several irises struck my fancy that I wasn't familiar with, including the Best Blend 'Raspberry Lemonade' (Sutton 2016) and another Sutton iris 'Top Shot' (2013). It really stands out.



'Top Shot' - Sutton 2013

I enjoyed seeing iris people and irises. The theme was "Texas Celebrates 101 years of the American Iris Society. It was a celebration in more than one way as the fact that there was a show. There was a good turnout of people viewing the show and of course buying potted irises. I bought 'Cry Me A River,' 'Roper's Revenge' and 'Burst of Light.'