



IRIS AUSTIN

A Newsletter of the Iris Society of Austin



Nelda Moore, Ken Fuchs, Editors

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

NEXT MEETING:

TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2025

6 pm

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

FUTURE MEETING TIMES

Tuesday, May 13 6pm

Tuesday, September 9 6pm

Hybridizer Tom Johnson conducts Judges



Training in OKC March 1st, 2025. ISA members Jacky and Diane Roberts and Tracey Rogers in attendance.

BONNIE NICHOLS SPREADS HER LOVE FOR IRISES DURING JUDGES TRAINING

Bonnie Nichols, newly elected president of the American Iris Society, has begun her year as of November 2, 2024, with meetings, activities, visits to sections, as well as providing Judges Training about Novelties, especially plicatas or unusual bearded irises with speckled petals or appendages protruding from the beard such as spoons, horns, carnations or flounces. Her mother Dorothy Devenport instilled in Bonnie the love of flowers, banking skills, and interest in education. Most of all she passed down the traits of honesty and caring that Bonnie continues to uphold throughout life.

Bonnie and her husband Hooker operate Hillcrest Iris and Daylily Gardens near Dallas, Texas, where as a hybridizer Bonnie has produced beautiful plicatas.



'Advance Guard' - Sydney Mitchell 1945 TB

Space Age Irises arrived during the War Years and brought the wave of the future when Lloyd Austin used plicata seedlings that had flounces, spoons, and double appendages to hybridize in the 1940s. Sydney B. Mitchell had 'Advance Guard' (1945) and other irises such as 'Little Freak,' 'Unfurled Flag,' 'Pink Magnolia,' and 'Unicorn' made their appearance alongside variegated irises as well as flatties (1901) looking like tulips.



'Little Freak' - John Steel 1999 BB



'Fiasco' - Blyth 2018 TB Flattie



'Unfurled Flag' - Hager 1982 TB

Today the spotlight is on new hybridizers like Brad Collins and 'Ease Your Mind' and 'Cherry on Top.' Ben Schreiner relies on his family as well as Salem area hybridizers Kepple, Thomas Johnson, and Kevin Vaughan as he creates new irises.



'Ease Your Mind' - Brad Collins 2023 TB



'Pink Magnolia' - Opal Brown 1968 TB



'Cherry on Top' - Brad Collins 2023 TB



'Unicorn' - Lloyd Austin 1952 TB

'LADY OF LOMETA' WINS BEST SPECIMEN IN AUSTIN AND WACO SHOWS IN '24

Dara Smith won Best Specimen of Show with 'Lady of Lometa', the Louisiana Iris, which earned for Jim Landers the J Arthur Nelson Award that in 1966 was called Queen of the Show Award.

“Lady of Lometa’ was hybridized by Jim Landers and introduced in 2013 and in 2024 this beautiful iris was Best Specimen in two different shows on the same date in the same state. The Exhibition Report by Adam Cordes is in Volume 106, No. 1 of Irises AIS Winter.

JAPANESE IRISES IN PORTLAND, OREGON

Dara Smith and Jaime Hadley attended the Japanese Iris Convention in 2024 and their photographs were used for two programs for the iris Society of Austin. These unusual irises as winners receive the W. A. Payne Medal, a glass award mounted on a wood base. Bob Bauer made the line drawing from a slide of ‘The Great Mogul’ hybridized by W. Arlie Payne, a photographer, a landscaper, a nurseryman, and an iris hybridizer from Indiana who continued working with these irises even though most of the Japanese irises fell out of favor in the United States during World War II. All Japanese irises are from a single species, Iris Ensata, and were developed over centuries in Japan. In 1932 Payne used 6 Edo (Tokyo) cultivars in his breeding program. After having worked with Japanese irises for over 35 years, he raised 100,000 seedlings and registered 170



Hybridizer William Arlie Payne (1881-1971)
new cultivars.

In 1950 Payne registered 10 Japanese irises. In 1964 he was awarded AIS Hybridizer Medal. This comes after first receiving Honorable Mention and then Award of Merit. Then a Japanese iris becomes eligible for the Payne Medal the second year after winning the AM, and eligibility continues up to 3 years. The Payne Medal has been awarded to 35 Japanese irises by 14 different hybridizers. In 1996, 1997, 2003 there were ties with 2 irises winning the Payne Medal in those years. Double awards were

given in 2021, the year after the pandemic. Two irises received both a Payne Award and a Payne Medal. These were ‘Oriental Eyes’ and ‘Caprician Butterfly.’



'Oriental Eyes' -Adolph Vogt 1984 JI



'Caprician Butterfly' - Walter Marx 1985 JI

MINUTES OF THE IRIS SOCIETY OF AUSTIN MEETING - JANUARY 19, 2025

Agenda

- Welcome and introduce any new members - no one
- Are there any members we need to be thinking of or caring for? - none mentioned
 - Minutes from Oct & Nov meetings printed in the Jan newsletter. Any comments or corrections? Vote to accept - no opposition
 - Treasurer’s report. Vote to accept - Donna not in attendance. Marney announced that she will be paying AIS dues for 12 members, and listed them - 5 of 7 members in attendance will be covered
 - AAGC Report - Tracey not in attendance and no meeting this month
 - Any reports on the Irises moved to their new location in Rose Garden? No one in attendance had looked
 - Dues for 2025 are due if you haven't paid already (many folks paid at Rhizome Sale) - everyone in attendance had paid
 - National Convention Mo 6/2 - Sa 6/7, Billings MT
 - Still doing Judge Training at Feb meeting - Bonnie

Should we charge? \$5, \$10 - No opposition to making it free

- Spring Show

Review new date options from ZBG - Kite fest has been moved to 4/5/25

Keep Sat 4/5 - many road closures, we must park & enter from Stratford, public admission waived

Sat 4/19 - Easter weekend, must be cleaned and out by 4p, wedding rental at 4:30p

March 8 or May 3 in ZBG

Ask if any Sundays are available (4/6, 4/13, 4/20) (I remember the first show I ever entered was on Easter Sunday)

Find another location for 4/5, 4/12 or 4/19

Cancel

Determine theme, if we need one

- 1 vote for Sat 4/5 - 3 votes for Sun 4/6 - 3 folks had no preference
- No opposition to going without a theme and we decided to have only one class, photography will be just multiple & other - Jaime will chair
- Nominating Committee - Anyone want to be an officer for next year - Marney willing to continue with membership - no one volunteered to be nominating, we said it may be time for that to disappear
- Any new business?
- Next Meeting Sunday Feb 16, 1pm - Bonnie Nichols Judge Training
- Storage Are we paying \$55, what is already stored there - should we bring in Feb others - what are we going to do for the show this year - people may be OK with bring your own - The storage unit was emptied and we are all still holding vases and supplies.

Maybe a zoom call for business on a different day for the Feb meeting.