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A Monthly Newsletter of the Iris Society of Austin

IRIS AUSTIN



next ISA meeting >>>

Iris Society of Austin Meeting
Tuesday October 11, 2011
7:00 pm (gates open 6:30)

Zilker Garden Center
2220 Barton Springs Rd
Austin TX 78746

Potluck Supper

Business Meeting

Ken Fuchs, an extraordinary photographer, will transport us from hot, dry Austin, to cool, breezy Victoria, British Columbia, with a slide show of the 2011 AIS National Convention that took place there a few months ago.

next AAGC meeting >>>

Austin Area Garden Council Meeting
Tuesday October 11, 2011
10:00 am

Zilker Garden Center

Debora Boyle – ISA representative

upcoming events >>>

Nov 8 – 7:00pm
ISA Meeting and Thanksgiving
Potluck

Dec 2011 – No ISA Meeting

Apr 8, 2012 – Annual Iris Show

Austin Hosts in 2012

AIS Region 17 Convention

The Iris Society of Austin will host the American Iris Society Region 17 Regional Convention in August 2012. The dates are August 3-4, and the meetings will be held in the Omni Austin Hotel at Southpark, 4140 Governor's Row (near the intersection of Ben White and South IH-35). Nelda Moore and Pat Byrne have notified Keith Smith, Region 17

Convention Liaison, about the hotel accommodations. Publicity for next year's convention began last month when ISA members shared the dates and location at the 52nd Annual American Iris Society Region 17 Convention in Cleburne, where 85 iris lovers enjoyed the hospitality provided by the Johnson Co. Iris & Daylily Society, August 12-13, 2011.

Speaker Chosen

Mike Lockatell to Speak at Banquet

Mike Lockatell has been chosen as the featured speaker at the AIS Region 17 Convention Banquet in Austin, August 4, 2012. Mike is the proprietor of Roots & Blooms, Inc, LLC, a small specialty heirloom perennial plant producer located in Chesterfield County, VA, a suburb of Richmond. Mike's display garden features reblooming bearded irises developed by Lloyd Zurbrigg. He also grows single and Japanese herbaceous peonies as foils for the popular double flower forms. Mike says these perennial plants are ideal

for home landscapes because they are drought tolerant and deer resistant. He uses Integrated Pest Management techniques, and organic soil amendments.

Mike continues the legacy of his mentor, the late Dr. Zurbrigg, a pioneer in reblooming iris development. He works with surviving Zurbrigg breeding lines to improve color, flower form, and early fall flowering reliability. Two Lockatell seedlings have been registered with AIS and are being evaluated in display gardens across the US.

Reblooming Iris

Excerpts from an article written by Mike Lockett and published in the AIS Region 18 Fall 2010 Bulletin

The late Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg worked for decades to popularize reblooming or remontan bearded irises. The trait was originally traced to median breeding development. The big problem was obtaining both modern flower form and reliability in the class. The use of West Coast originations by Clarence Mahan, Earl Hall, Jane McKnew, Dr. Zurbrigg and others led to a number of reliable Eastern tall bearded rebloom introductions with improved flower form in the early nineties. The public and AIS judges would soon take notice.

‘Clarence’ (TB 91) was the best of Doc Zurbrigg’s early nineties

releases. Flowers featured white standards tinted violet. Falls were light blue violet with a white center and hafts. A sweet fragrance completed the package. Named for Clarence Mahan, a former AIS president, it was the first tall bearded reliable rebloomer to be a finalist for the Dykes Medal. The eastern remontan’s unknown parentage has been the subject of countless speculation over the years. One of its offspring, ‘Daughter of Stars’ (D. Spoon, 00) is currently a finalist for the Dykes Medal on the 2010 AIS National Ballot.

‘Matrix’ (TB, Hall, 91), ‘Rosalie Figge’ (TB, McKnew, 93) and



‘Renown’ (TB, Zurbrigg, 92) have West Coast lineage in them. Schreiner breeding for black, for instance, involved the use of Iris aphylla. Its presence in Dykes Medalist ‘Titan’s Glory’ (TB, Schreiner, 81) coupled with ‘Violet Miracle’ (TB, Zurbrigg, 79) created the McKnew tall bearded rebloomer with impeccable flower form and coloring. ‘Rosalie Figge’ is still the best reliable purple remontan on the market to date. The possible influence of I. aphylla in the parentage is also finally leading to work to trace its impact on rebloom.

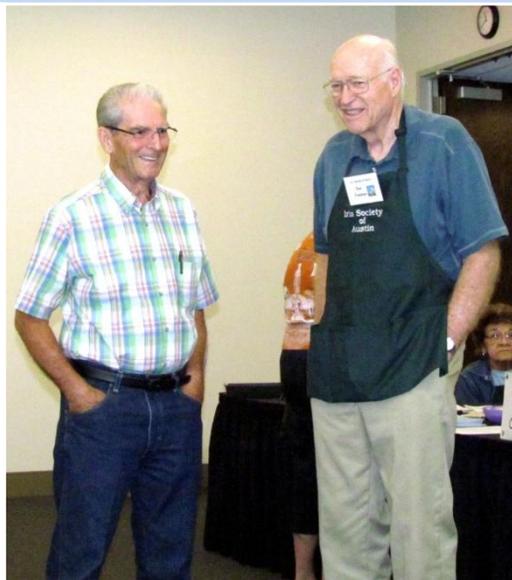
region 17 >>>

Fourteen affiliated clubs belong to Region 17 of the American Iris Society:

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Belton | Benson |
| Fort Worth | Austin |
| Dallas | Johnson County |
| Lone Star | North Plains |
| Permian Basin | Piney Woods |
| South Plains | Texoma Rainbow |
| Waco | West Texas |

Current Region 17 Officers include:

- Regional VP — Gordon Carver
- Past RVP — Debbie Strauss
- Assistant RVP — Dawn Boyer
- Secretary — Dana Brown
- Treasurer — Ramona Howard
- Historian — Jim Landers
- Judges Training — Dell Perry
- Youth Advocate — Annette Brown
- Membership — Peggy Cathey



above: Charlie Hensley and Don Freeman seem pretty happy with Annual Rhizome Sale.

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editor – Nelda Moore
formatting – Jaime Hadley

rhizomes wanted >>>

Tracey Rogers needs three specific rhizomes and is willing to trade or purchase them. Please contact her if you have one of the following varieties:

- ‘Bargello’ (Nicholson, G & L. 2005) white standards, washed, speckled, rimmed purple; white falls, perfect purple plicata edge
- ‘Golden Russet’ (Hall, 1945) large golden russet blooms
- ‘American Sweetheart’ (Sexton 1983) golden standards; black falls with gold hafts; brown beard

If you have any of these, please contact Tracey at 512-280-4856 or rogers89@earthlink.net

AIS Changes Fees

News from the AIS Board Meeting

Gordon Carver, AIS Region 17 Vice President, who attended the AIS Board Meeting in Victoria, Canada, informed affiliate presidents of two new changes the Board instituted related to affiliate reporting.

1) Each affiliate organization will now be charged a \$25 fee each year, and the \$50 charge for not having the minimum AIS member to non-AIS member ratio has been eliminated. Brand new affiliate clubs will have their first year fee waived. The AIS membership requirement for the officers of each affiliate organization has not changed.

The funds raised by the fee change will provide an improved bulletin; a single source to go to for registering new irises worldwide; the electronic iris encyclopedia; plus one of the best iris judge training programs available.

2) Beginning in 2012, the annual affiliate's reporting period will run from January through December. This requires that all affiliates have their reports and fees to Gordon Carver by mid-November or no later than the date announced by the AIS Affiliates Chairman, Susan Boyce.

horticulture tips >>>

Plant Soon

Your purchase is a valuable investment; therefore, plant the bearded varieties as soon as possible. The weather is cooler than usual, so amend the soil with some bone meal, Hasta-Grow, or composted manure and plant the rhizome on top of a small mound of soil, spreading the roots downward. Barely cover the rhizome with the dirt in the raised bed, then water thoroughly and deeply. Wait until the soil dries before watering again. Do not overwater or try to keep the bed soaked because rhizomes kept too wet will rot.

If you purchased Louisiana irises, plant the rhizome a little deeper in the mixture of soil, sand, and compost. Then water and keep these

plants' feet wet all the time. Feed them with acid soil or Miracid that one would use on azaleas. Mulch these in preparation for winter. Never let the rhizome be exposed to the elements.

For the irises growing in the garden it is time to feed for bigger and heavier blooms. Cut the dried leaves and pull away any debris from the rhizome. Always keep the garden clean. Water these plants about every 2 weeks if it does not rain. A deep happy soaking and much praying make your gardening successful.

last meeting's minutes >>

Iris Society of Austin Meeting
Tuesday September 6, 2011

ISA President Nelda Moore called the meeting to order.

Nelda announced that next year's Region 17 meeting will be held in Austin on the first weekend of August.

We received thank you notes from Tracey Rogers and from the secretary of the Wesley Woods Memorial Tree fund for the ISA contribution to the fund for a memorial to Hicks Rogers, Tracey's father and from Pauline Guerrero, Chuck, and Matt for our contribution to the Janis Guerrero-Thompson Scholarship Fund.

Minutes of the May meeting were approved.

Pat Byrne presented the treasurer's report.

It was agreed that Marney Abel will arrange for a judges training session on January 14 or January 21 and will report back next month on the location and exact date.

Tracey Rogers explained the plans for our sale, and we spent the rest of the time pricing irises for the sale.

submitted by Carolyn Wylie, Secretary



2011 Rhizome Sale

*New Room, New Members...
and THANKS for all your hard work!*



Tracey Rogers would like to thank everyone who contributed rhizomes and their time and effort to make this year's sale a success! We were really lucky to have been moved to the larger room at Norris Conference Center; everyone seemed a bit more comfortable with the extra space.

Estimates are that we sold over 300 rhizomes. We had 80 or more different varieties of Tall Bearded Iris, and another dozen or so varieties of Louisiana Iris on offer. We did a great job selling them, and there were very few leftovers. The un-named rhizomes sold especially well this year. The popular colors this year seemed to be orange and bright yellow, whereas last year Austin gardeners seemed to be more interested in the purples. Also,

several people this year asked about rebloomers, so it might be a good idea next year to mark our remount varieties.

Preliminary figures from the show indicate 74 transactions, gross sales around \$2500.00, and a net profit after expenses of approximately \$1400.00. And more importantly, 7 new members joined and paid dues!

As they entered, all the shoppers were asked where they heard about our sale, and the vast majority responded that they had heard about it on the radio. Thanks so much to Don Freeman for making sure that we were mentioned on the morning programs of both John Dromgoole and Tom Spencer. Thanks to those gardeners for the great publicity!

welcome new members >>

One of the great successes of the Iris Society of Austin's 2011 Annual Rhizome Sale, was the fact that several new members took the opportunity at the sale to join our Society.

Please make sure to look for these folks at an upcoming meeting and welcome them to our club.

Welcome new members...

- Cathryn Harris
- Deborah Hornickel
- Bill Miller
- Rebecca Redwood
- Kathy Schwegmann
- Sondra & Bruce Waters



Donna Little and Marney Able discuss the best "unknowns"



A great display of Louisiana Iris for sale