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May 2012 — vol 21 #5

A Monthly Newsletter of the Iris Society of Austin

IRIS AUSTIN



next ISA meeting >>>

Iris Society of Austin Meeting
Tuesday May 8, 2012
6:45 pm (gates close at 7:00)

Late? call 477-8672 ext 13

Zilker Garden Center
2220 Barton Springs Rd
Austin TX 78746

- Potluck Supper
- Business Meeting
- New Officers Installed
- Planning for August
Convention and September Sale

next AAGC meeting >>>

Austin Area Garden Council Meeting
Tuesday May 8, 2012
10:00 am

Zilker Garden Center
Debora Boyle – ISA representative

upcoming events >>>

June 12 – Convention Prep Meeting

July 10 – Convention Prep Meeting

August 3-4 – Reg 17 Convention

September 4 – Regular Meeting

September 8 – Rhizome Sale

Freemans Win Silver

Another Great ISA Iris Show on April 8

Don & Pat Freeman won the AIS Silver Medal for earning the most blue ribbons with their horticultural entries in the Iris Society of Austin's 2012 Iris Show entitled "Dancing in an Iris Garden." Don and Pat Freeman achieved the highest award in this American Iris Society sanctioned event on Easter Sunday. Charlie and Sonja Hensley won the Bronze Medal for earning the second highest number of first place winning irises in Division I, Horticulture.

Tony Sheridan and his daughter Tiffany showed the Best Specimen of the show, an iris named 'Thornbird,' which was also named Best Blend, Best Tall-Bearded, and Best Space Age Iris.

The Runner-Up was 'Dandelite,' a Spuria — the Best Yellow Iris and Best Spuria Iris in the show — grown by Don and Pat Freeman.

'Dark Watch' shown by Katherine Abel, a Youth Member of the Iris Society of Austin was named the Best Purple Iris.

The Best Violet was 'Henry Rowland,' a Louisiana grown by Pat

Byrne.

Donna Little produced the Best White with 'Alabaster Unicorn,' while the Best Black, 'Crimson Lights,' was grown by Charlie and Sonja Hensley.

Jim Landers, who entered the Best Seedling with a blue Louisiana, also won a blue ribbon for the Best Brown named 'Spice World.' The Best Louisiana was 'Dossier' grown by James Hadley. 'Passion Play,' the Best Pink, bloomed on time for Marney Abel while 'Rebecca Anne,' the Best Blue, opened up for Charlie and Sonja Hensley, whose garden also produced the Best Orange, 'Orange Flirt,' and the Best Plicata, 'Floor Show.' The Best Bi-Color was 'Glamour Pants' grown by Tony Sheridan and daughter Tiffany.

In Division IV, Artistic Design, Pat Freeman achieved the Best Design Award while Nelda Moore captured Artistic Sweepstakes by entering three classes: Religious, "A Time To Dance;" Use of two containers, "Two Left Feet;" and Table for Two, "Dance Party for Two."

continued

Other Area Shows

Austin Iris Society Members entered several shows this season

With our warm winter this year, many Austin area gardens were bursting with blossoms well before the April 8th date of our annual Iris Show. The Annual Zilker Garden Festival, which includes a flower show, was a perfect opportunity to take some of those early blooms and show them off to the adoring crowds on March 31 and April 1.

Don & Pat Freeman exhibited nine exquisite Tall Bearded Iris stalks, while Dara Smith showed 2 TBs and a Dutch Iris. Angie Smith, who is not a member of the Austin Iris Society, but purchased rhizomes from our sale last fall, showed a Tall Bearded named 'Roper's Revenge'. Other varieties on display at the show were: 'Nah', 'Casino Cruiser', 'Not a Lemon', 'Braggin' Rights', 'Stand in Awe', 'Dracula's Kiss', 'Tobacco Chew', and 'Fire and Brimstone'.

There are several Iris Societies that have shows within a few hours' drive of Austin every Spring, and all AIS sanctioned shows are open to all iris

growers. With this in mind, a few of the members of the Austin Iris Society took some of their beautiful, after-Easter blooms to our neighbors' shows, and brought home ribbons.

The show nearest us was hosted by the Belton iris Society on Saturday, April 14. Ken Fuchs attended, as did Jim Landers, who is also a member and officer of the Belton Iris Society. Jim took a total of nine entries to the Belton show: five TBs, one Space-ager and three Louisianas, and he brought home a total of three blue ribbons. One of those blue ribbon specimens, Jim's Louisiana Iris 'Wood Violet', made it to the head table, winning Runner-Up to the Best Specimen of Show.

Don & Pat Freeman took a total of twelve entries to the Belton show, five TBs, three Space-agers, three Louisianas and a Spuria. They brought home a total of nine blue ribbons, with five of those specimens making it to the head table. The Freemans won Best Orange with 'Mango Passion', Best Spuria with

'Empathy', Best Louisiana with 'Vermilion Treasure', and Best Space-ager with 'Braggin Rights'. Their exceptional specimen of Baditude, with three open blooms, won Best Bi-Tone, Best Tall Bearded, and Best Specimen of Show.

Jaime Hadley took four entries to Belton, two tall bearded, one Space-ager, and one historic, and brought home two blue ribbons.

Dara Smith and Jaime Hadley also attended the show hosted by the Fort Worth Iris Society at the beautiful Fort Worth Botanic Gardens on April 21. Before Dara filled up the car with new daylilies and citrus trees from the Botanic Garden's annual plant sale which was also happening that day, Jaime was able to enter four tall bearded iris in the show. He came home with two blue ribbons which also made it to the head table. Jaime's 'Autumn Circus' won Best Plicata Iris of the Fort Worth show, and his 'Fall Rerun' won best Lavender/ Violet Iris.



left: ISA Youth Member Katherine Abel, granddaughter of Marney and Roger Abel, with Best Purple Iris, 'Dark Watch' **above:** Sonja and Charlie Hensley with Best Blue and Best Orange



above: Judges Angie Smith, Julie Johnson, MaryAnn Holman, Gordon Carver, Happy Carver, Alex Harding

Cali-Zona Gold

Ken Fuchs Reflects on Nat'l Convention

Landing at the Ontario Airport, Jim Landers and I were welcomed by long stretches of pencil-thin but very tall, graceful palm trees which lined the roadways leading to the Hotel and Convention Center just a few blocks away. The hotel itself was a sprawling complex of buildings, and as we wearily dragged our luggage through the first courtyard by the pool, we were overwhelmed by a small guest iris garden with spurias standing as tall as I am (over 6'), myriads of snapdragons, bird of paradise, flowering vines, and more still palm trees.

Iris Society of Austin members Pat Byrne, Carolyn Wylie, David and Susan Kraemer, Debbie Hood, as well as Jim and I all attended the Convention. Following the A.I.S. convention schedule, there were section meetings on Wednesday, and more meetings were held in the afternoons and evenings on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday after the tour buses returned to the hotel.

Once again, most of the Texas delegates filled the blue buses. On Thursday we visited The Stanton Iris Gardens near Escondido, owned by Alex and Kitty Stanton. One of the two Guest Iris Master Plantings, the Stanton Gardens are located on hillsides and stretch as far as the eye can see. We were about a week early for the full-bloom season, but there were still lots of irises in bloom. Walking along the iris beds was somewhat precarious because of the sloping ground, and we had to watch

out for gopher holes, which were everywhere.

On Friday we visited two gardens. Our first destination was Mystic Lake Gardens at Nuevo, CA, owned by Carole and Paul Buchheim. Carole is Alex Stanton's sister. To get there, we drove past luscious orange groves filled with trees sagging with ripe oranges. Mystic Lake Gardens was truly a Master Planting. Located on level ground in a valley showcased by eucalyptus trees and by snow-capped mountains in the distance. The Buchheims had specially treated their soil, and row after row of guest irises and seedlings bursting with color had the heartiest, broadest foliage I have ever seen in any garden. A small koi pond was the highlight of the garden next to the Guest Iris beds.

After an enjoyable buffet lunch at the Sizzler Restaurant in Perris, CA, we continued on to the Herb and Sara Folk Memorial Garden, located in the Jurupa Mt. Discovery Center. As we entered the Discovery Center, we were greeted by a pair of dinosaurs made of scrap metal. The iris gardens were in raised beds lined with stone slabs laid out in geometric patterns. We wandered around these beds, enjoying the blooms, while local club members cheerfully walked around handing out bottles of water to us.

Be sure to read next month's newsletter to hear more about our trip to Cali-Zona Gold!

--Ken Fuchs

last meeting's minutes >>

Iris Society of Austin Meeting

Tuesday April 3, 2012

Minutes of the March meeting were approved.

Pat Byrne presented the treasurer's report.

Don Freeman provided a horticultural tip showing examples of an iris disease called Scorch, which appears in the garden as brown tips on foliage which slowly moves downward toward the rhizome, turning the entire plant a scorched brown color. You will also see roots dying from the tips inward to the rhizome. Though little is known about this malady, Don suggested that the plant should be removed from the bed as soon as possible. One solution is to simply discard the whole plant, but if it is one of your favorites, you can try trimming leaves and letting rhizomes dry for several days or even weeks in Texas summer heat, and then re-planting any rhizomes that appear firm and viable.

Marney Abel gave a presentation on how to prepare your irises for the show. Experienced members helped newer members through a hands-on demonstration, grooming some of the irises brought to the meeting, and then a mock judging was held to point out some of the.

submitted by Dara Smith



2012 Show Summary Continued...

Shelia Senghas won a blue ribbon with an attractive black and white table design. Charlie and Sonja Hensley easily captured a blue ribbon for a religious design showing spuria irises and columbines with an angel in the background. Dara Smith placed first in "Dancing in an Iris Garden."

Other members whose imagination and cleverness brought sunshine to creativity were Lori Anderson, Ken Fuchs, Donna Little, and Tracey Rogers.

Pat Byrne was show chairman for this twenty-third accredited iris show in Austin where all judges' decisions were final. This beautiful show held in the auditorium in the Austin Area Garden Center opened to the public from 1pm to 4pm. Many visitors celebrated Easter by enjoying the beautiful blossoms.

Other show committee members were: Ken Fuchs, who

created the attractive Show Schedule, worked on entries and classifications, and served as secretary and awards chair; David Kraemer, who was in charge of placement; Pat Freeman, who encouraged members to enter their Artistic Designs; Pat Byrne, who also selected the clerks and judges; and Marney Abel and Nelda Moore, who worked with hospitality.

For more pictures from the show visit the club's website at www.kenfuchs42.net/isa_index.html and click the link for the 2012 Iris Show.

welcome new members >>

Please make sure to look for this new member at an upcoming meeting and welcome her to our club.

- Kathy Petheram

in memoriam >>>

The Iris Society of Austin extends deepest sympathy to Mike Renfro, whose mother-in-law passed away after some years of illness.

prayer request >>>

Please keep Sheila Senghas and her family in your thoughts and prayers as she travels to Las Vegas to visit with her ailing father.

Clockwise from top center:

Lori Anderson with her artistic entry, Dance of the Iris Garden Butterflies;

Deborah Boyle's artistic entry in the Two Left Feet category;

Donna Little with her artistic entry in the Dancing in an Iris Garden category;

Tony Sheridan and daughter Tiffany with Queen of Show 'Thornbird'

