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May 2013 — vol 22 #5



A Monthly Newsletter of the Iris Society of Austin

IRIS AUSTIN



next ISA meeting >>>

Iris Society of Austin Meeting
Tuesday May 14, 2013
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
- **21st Century Fuchs** production of the 2013 National Convention

next AAGC meeting >>>

Austin Area Garden Council Meeting
Tuesday May 14, 2013
10:00 am
Zilker Garden Center
Nelda Moore – ISA representative

upcoming events >>>

June 11, 2013 – ISA Meeting

July 9, 2013 – ISA Meeting

August 13, 2013 – ISA Meeting

September 10, 2013 – ISA Meeting

September 14, 2013 – Rhizome Sale

New Officers

To be installed at May meeting

Your new slate of officers who will serve from June 1, 2013, through May 31, 2014 are:

President.....Pat Byrne patb1@consolidated.net.....281-391-6190
VP Programs Ken Fuchs..... kenfuchs42@hotmail.com....254-773-5017
VP Membership.....Jaime Hadleyjaime@hadleyspace.com.....512-335-9812
Secretary Dara Smith desmith@austin.rr.com512-454-1430
Treasurer Marney Abel..... marneyabel@austin.rr.com ...512-330-9052
Historian/Librarian Tracey Rogers rogers89@earthlink.net512-280-4856

Irisarians Gather

Nelda Moore Reflects on Nat'l Convention

As Dallas Convention Chair for both the American Iris Society and the Society for Louisiana Irises, Bonnie Nichols also worked as treasurer, coordinated transportation, arranged delicious meals for the tours, and served on the banquet committee. For their Nichols Garden tour she and Hooker baked many varieties of cookies and placed a cookie in the shape of an iris with pink icing and purple beards in a plastic bag tied with a purple ribbon for the banquet favors. This was in appreciation for visiting their Hillcrest Iris Garden, which was very wet as a result of an inch of rain that had fallen the night

before the tour near Lew Begley's home in Mesquite.

The town of Addison produced a robust group of guest irises on Friday at 7:15 am within walking distance of the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Bonnie and Hooker Nichols had approached Slade Strickland, Director of Parks, Recreation, for a garden space that the Iris Society of Dallas could create and maintain. Michael Reed became the head caretaker while Pat Norvell and Nick Stewart assisted the members in a successful

continued

Other Area Shows

Austin Iris Society Members entered several shows this season

With Easter falling on the weekend normally reserved for the Zilker Garden Festival, the Annual Austin Iris show was bumped to an early date of March 30, while the ZGF took our regular second weekend in April slot. The Zilker Garden Festival includes a flower show with divisions for all different kinds of cut flowers and foliage, growing plants, and artistic designs. If you have never made it out of the water sales booth and up to the Garden Center, you are missing a wonderful display of horticultural prowess and artistic vision. Don and Pat Freeman took advantage of the opportunity to show several of their irises, including Glitter Gulch and Casino Cruiser, and took home several blue ribbons for irises and other plants and arrangements.

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,

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. Of the entries Jim took to the Belton show, two ended up on the head table. Jim's 'Good Morning Beautiful' won Best Brown Iris, and his 'Some Day Schwab' was awarded Best Purple.

Don & Pat Freeman took a car-full of entries to the Belton show. They brought home a second silver medal of the season for the most blue ribbons in the Horticulture division, with three of those specimens making it to the head table. The Freemans won Best Louisiana with 'Rhett', Best Black with 'Smoldering Fire', and Best White with 'Acadian Mist'.

Tracey Rogers took four blooms, and was very proud to see her "Way Over There" honored as the Best Bi-

Tone iris at the Belton show.

Jaime Hadley took seven entries to Belton, four tall bearded, two Space-agers, and one historic, and brought home two blue ribbons. Both blue ribbon winners were placed on the head table, with 'Christmas Present' winning Best Violet Iris, and 'Ty Blue' honored as Best Space Age Iris as well as Best Specimen of Show.

Dara Smith and Jaime Hadley also took blooms to enter in the Dallas Iris Show which was held on April 17, during the AIS National Convention. Jaime took four blooms and won his second Best Violet award of the season, this time with a Louisiana Iris called 'Sinfonietta'.

Dara did even better, entering 8 blooms, and admiring her 'Clown Around' on the head table in the Runner Up to Best Specimen slot, with additional Best of Section Award in the Space Age category.



*left: Austin members at Dallas Arboretum
above: Austin members posing at the Awards Banquet*

More on Nat'l Convention

endeavor with bearded varieties, Louisiana iris, and Spurias. Many of the plants here were beautiful with great bloom stalks. Even some of the Louisianas were ready to open, and some were in bloom.

A boxed lunch consisting of a sandwich, potato chips, and a cookie sandwich, eaten inside a building at the Dallas Arboretum provided respite for conventioners who dashed from one garden of pansies, violas, and petunias to some Louisianas such as Jim Landers's 'Lady of Lometa' and a splattering of bearded irises, peonies, and hostas.

Near White Rock Lake, where the children can tour the small cabins, were big clumps of irises swaying in front of the climbing roses in the Texas Hybridizers' Garden. All of the visitors stopped in front of a mulberry to sample some of the ripe fruit from the laden branches that seemed to weep toward the earth. Some of the sixty-six acres will be covered with impatiens in pastel colors and the gift shop contained iris covered umbrellas and tee shirts, colorful pots, and a variety of garden related objects that attracted the crowds.

Although we lost Annette Brown on March 2, her legacy lived on near Lake Texoma in the Louisiana and Spuria collections surrounding her gazebo. Visitors noticed decorations of lizards, butterflies, and garden items if they looked up instead of concentrating on the table of food and drinks. Across the street her husband had used a tiller to create a

lovely landscape featuring bearded varieties including aril and arilbred guests such as 'Aztec Prince', 'Byzantine Ruby', 'Hot Buttered Rum', and 'Galilee Shores'!

One of the first gardens on tour on the first day of travels April 18 was Tom Burseen's Iris Lab. In front of his abode and behind a fence where his acreage stretched out as far as the eye could see, were views of huge clumps, tall sword-like verdant leaves, and an abundance of huge blossoms which covered the land divided into clean rows. His garage held tables of food and hot coffee—not just cookies, but sausage-cheese balls for more hardy fare. Besides the great variety of food, visitors were warmed by the hugs, warm conversations, and friendly hostesses on this bitter cold rainy morning.

Clark Gardens, a 35 acre botanical adventure at 567 Maddux Road in Weatherford, greeted the busses just before a delicious lunch. Fried chicken, mashed potatoes, seasoned Kentucky green beans, biscuits, banana cream pie or apple pie were served under a white tent opened on one side, but slightly heated by a few stoves. The bitter cold was now enhanced by a brutal wind that pierced the layers of clothing. The 800 irises seemed to be planted in the northern area near the gift shop. The pasture in front did not hold back the winds, but one could keep walking to tour the gardens, where a parterre and brick walls could provide some protection. Islands surrounded by water held swans, whistling ducks, Canada geese,

last meeting's minutes >>

Iris Society of Austin Meeting
Tuesday April 3, 2012

The meeting was called to order by President, Marney Abel. The minutes from the March 2013 meeting were read and approved. Welcome to visitors from the Orchid and Daylily Societies. There was no Treasurer's report this month.

Nelda Moore reported that the AAGC officers have been announced. The African Violet Show will be at the Renaissance hotel May 31 – June 1, entrance fee is \$5.00. The Begonia Society Show will be at the Holiday Inn on Town Lake May 29 – June 1. The Daylily Show will be May 25th at the Zilker Garden Center. Be sure to turn in your volunteer hours.

Don Freeman suggested that after the blooming season it is time to fertilize. The first of May is a good time to fertilize rhizomes to encourage increases for the next season. October, February, and May – the three times of year to fertilize. It is also a good idea to trim the old bloom stalks as a preventative for rot.

Jaime Hadley, show chairman, gave the 2013 show report. Silver and Bronze Awards were announced and all the fabulous statistics were shared. Congratulations to Don and Pat Freeman for taking home the Silver Certificate!

The Nominating Committee presented nominations for the board which are listed elsewhere in this newsletter. A motion to approve the slate of officers

continued on next page

Convention Summary Continued...

mallards, and some vegetation including Louisiana irises as well as Siberians. Azaleas were planted in attractive pots, with other plants providing a showcase. Many paths held native plantings. Unusual trees lined the driveways. Roses not yet in bloom were used in the landscape behind the wedding tent equipped with chandeliers. A video telling the history of the gardens played in the chapel, which provided a haven from the chilly wind. This oasis in the mesquite and oak covered land is brilliant in color any time of the year.

From these exquisite gardens the drivers parked along Azel Highway with the sheriff close behind with flashing lights to warn the drivers to slow their vehicles when passing Iris Hill belonging to Gordon and Happy Carver. The slight climb proved worthwhile when the raised beds came into view with much bloom even from the arils and arilbreds near their beautiful home. Their Louisianas and some vegetables were growing in tubs. After eating berry cobbler and drinking water many of the attendees hovered in the barn where baby chicks happily lived under a light and mother rabbits protected their young in warm fur. The rabbits were satins, Flemish Giants, and Californian Market.

When the busses drove into Martha's Iris Garden, 1400 County Road 366 in Anna, attendees were given a map showing the location of historical irises, Dykes Medal winning irises, guest and landscape irises, medians, Louisiana irises and Spurias. A lilac bush was in bloom near the circle

where the busses stopped. Martha McDowell was thanked in appreciation for the breakfast sausage sandwiches, wraps, cookies, hot coffee, juice, and the pick-up truck filled with bags of pecans dipped and seasoned, plus \$10 bags of shelled pecans from her neighbor.

Earlier introductions like 'Acrobat' (Williamson), 'Baboon Bottom' (Kasperek), 'Raptor Red' (Schreiners), 'Raspberry Jewelry' (Cadd), 'Doctor No' (Sutton), 'Orange Pop' (Lauer), 'Ruffled Goddess' (Tasco) captured one's attention as well as the guest irises like 'Uvalde' and 'Bottled Sunshine.'

On the Thompson Angel Farm at 2970 Luella Road in Sherman, the soil did not need to be amended. It looked so fertile. This was a windy day and the breeze whipped over the catfish pond and shook the oak trees in the wooded area where the 2014 irises were planted with some of them in bloom. Guest irises in bloom included 'Dorothy Devenport' and 'Judy Nunn.'

Dell Perry was working in her landscaped garden on a corner lot when the bus turned left off a side street to reach Perry's Seandel Iris Garden. Everything was in place, and many moved from the front of her garden to the beautiful back gardens to view Louisianas and arils. Her yard will be on tour next year, but she revealed that the front beds will be moved to new soil and the back will feature a water garden.

minutes continued >>

by proclamation was passed unanimously, and those officers will be installed at the May meeting.

This month's program was a fabulous Media Presentation of the Austin and Belton Shows.

submitted by Dara E Smith, Secretary

Apparently Déjà vu will not refer to the landscapes of the gardens, but it will refer to the next National Convention in 2014.



*Jim loves 'Lady of Lometa' at Dallas Arboretum
Dara loves 'Clown Around' winning Runner Up
at the Dallas Show
Ellen loves a good rhizome auction*