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January 2014 — vol 23 #1

A Monthly Newsletter of the Iris Society of Austin

# IRIS AUSTIN

## next ISA meeting >>>

Iris Society of Austin Meeting  
**Tuesday January 14, 2014**  
**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
- Program on Spuria Iris
- Bring your 2014 ISA dues!

## next AAGC meeting >>>

Austin Area Garden Council Meeting  
**Tuesday January 14, 2014**  
**10:00 am**

Zilker Garden Center

Marney Abel – ISA representative

## upcoming events >>>

Feb 11, 2014 – Regular Meeting

Mar 11, 2014 – Regular Meeting

Apr 5-10, 2014 – AIS Nat'l Conv,  
Dallas

Apr 12, 2014 – Annual Iris Show

## 2014 Judges Training

### One Here In Austin

Judges Training is a unique way of learning about irises from experienced dedicated judges, growers, and hybridizers who have studied constantly, have visited gardens throughout the country, and have grown a representative collection of irises. These accredited judges are the backbone of the American Iris Society judging program that select award winning irises each year. It is their voting that determines which irises receive awards, and therefore, which irises will be recommended to the public. In the Austin Society we have Master Judge Pat Byrne, and Garden Judges Jim Landers and Shelia Senghas.

But even if you are not training to be a judge, you will probably still be very interested in hearing from the

experts that are providing this year's judges training. In Austin we will have Hooker Nichols, AIS Emeritus Judge, present a 3-hour course on both in-garden and exhibition judging of Louisiana irises. You can learn how to win that Best of Show award by finding out what the judges are looking for in a Louisiana Iris.

Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup> - 8a to 12:30p  
Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church  
7127 Bee Cave Rd (Ross Hall)  
breakfast will be provided  
please bring your \$5 fee to our  
meeting Tuesday

The Dallas Iris Society is hosting a training session led by past president of the American Iris Society, Judy Keisling, on Saturday, January 18.

See page 4 for additional details

## #1 Show for 2014

Ken Fuchs, who prepared and submitted our club's 2014 Iris Show Schedule to the AIS Exhibition Schedule Coordinator, reports that we were the first to get our show schedule submitted this year. That means we will be show number 2014-001 for the 2014 show season. Thanks to Ken for his punctuality and for all he does for our society.

Read more about the 2014 Austin Iris Show later in this newsletter.

# AIS Youth Events

Congratulations to ISA Youth Members Catherine Abel and Nicolas Sadler who recently received \$3 cash prizes in the AIS Youth Coloring Contest. Catherine won 3<sup>rd</sup> Place for her age category and Nicolas received a Creativity Award.

## T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST

Vicki Howard, the new Youth Chairman for AIS Region 17, has announced a new contest for youths. She has a lime green T-shirt that needs an 8" x 10" picture on its front that must include an iris. Colored pencil, watercolor, crayon, or markers can be used as the medium on the 8x10 original artwork, which can then be scanned and sent by e-mail to [vickihoward70@yahoo.com](mailto:vickihoward70@yahoo.com).

Or it can be packed flat and carefully so that the piece will not bend in transit, and mailed to:

Vicki Howard  
PO Box 113  
Rio Vista, TX 76093-0113

The winner will receive a lime green T-shirt with the winning design, and a new iris introduction.

Deadline for this competition is January 31, 2014.

## ESSAY CONTEST

Youths 12 and under are invited to write an essay on the following topic: "Why, When, and Where I Became Interested in Iris." The young author can dictate the contents

to parents who can send the labor of love, but the essay must be entirely the work of the child.

A cash prize will be awarded to the winner whose thoughts and ideas are developed by giving specific examples and explanations in the contents which has an introduction and conclusion.

This essay may be e-mailed to [draycott@gis.net](mailto:draycott@gis.net) with the writer's name, address, and age. Or it can be mailed to:

Carol Warner  
16815 Falls Road  
Upperco, MD 21155

Deadline for this competition is March 1, 2014.

## Texas Basket

Do you remember the Texas Basket at the 2013 AIS National Convention in Dallas? It brought \$150 to the American Iris Society. This year Gordon Carver, past RVP, is asking the Iris Society to donate once again any item from Austin or the surrounding area for another basket to be used as a fundraiser. Send the food or other local items to:

Gordon Carver  
448 Azle Highway  
Weatherford, TX 76085

If you attended the last National Convention you may remember visiting that address. Gordon and wife Happy served biscuits and gravy and the blackberry cobbler in their garden and you saw the rabbits and chickens on that bitter cold day.

## AAGC News

The Austin Area Garden Council Gift Shop has many unique gifts for adults as well as for children, and remember that you receive a 20% discount because you are a member of AAGC.

This year's Iris Society Christmas Tree for AAGC was decorated by Tracey Rogers. Hopefully you all had a chance to visit the exhibit.

Greenlights for Non Profits will assist Ed Parken, Marion Alsup, and Mary Ann Neely, who represent AAGC, with their plans to implement the fundraising needed to maintain the Zilker Botanical Garden according to the Master Plan that was developed as a guide for future expansion. Greenlights is training

representatives to create long term financial and business plans for the gardens. The gardens will most likely have an experienced interim Executive Director for fundraising to make some of the Master Plan improvements a reality.

A fundraiser that has always helped the gardens is the Zilker Garden Festival that will be held March 29 & 30. Nelda Moore will coordinate bottled water sales and will help at the back gate. To volunteer to work in either of these areas, contact Nelda at 512-327-0401.

And don't forget to read the AAGC newsletter. A link to the winter issue is available on the ISA website.

[www.kenfuchs42.net/isa\\_index.html](http://www.kenfuchs42.net/isa_index.html)

# Volunteer Hours

D Boyle, Donna Little, and Nelda Moore have worked in the Iris Garden near Barton Springs Rd. and Tracey Rogers has worked on the plant labels. When you see these hard working irisarians, please thank them for diligently destroying the weeds that have come up each time we have had a rain.

If you mulch around your rhizome at home to prevent weeds from growing, then be sure that you do not cover the exposed rhizome and hopefully you have not planted these iris too deep in the soil. This will prevent the iris from blooming and might cause rot in the garden. D found some rot and doctored the rhizome by cutting off the rot and using a bleach solution. It is our hope that we gardeners can work in

the iris garden near the roses soon. The weeds should not be plentiful, but the elm trees and some grasses may be growing. Not long ago the bed was cleared of dead leaves and limbs and weeds.

If you wish to work in any of these areas, please sign the paper inserted in the clipboard in the library when you arrive. After you have worked in the gardens, please return to the library to sign out, noting the time. In this way the Austin Iris Society gets credit for the hours you worked.

Other volunteer hours that can be reported to the council include:

- cooking or baking for the council meetings
- trimming the Zilker Christmas trees
- educating the public by speaking to garden clubs
- writing iris articles for publications

## Iris Show Prep *Preparing for the Artistic Division*

It is a good time to use any creative skills while arranging fresh flowers for the holidays. Practice now and during Valentine's Day to enjoy live blossoms, perhaps even an iris or two.

Add some sea shells, weathered wood, or dried plant material to see how some of these items will enhance the design. The background might need muted colors to suggest an outdoor scene.

With all this in your imagination, then examine the scene with a critical eye. Does the scene enhance the design or is it so overpowering that your eye is drawn to the

background, and not the flower design?

On a 3"x5" card explain briefly your interpretation of this design. Can you give the name of the iris included in the arrangement? This is important. Did you include a Louisiana with a bud before you created the line with bearded irises? Is this a triangle or Japanese creation representing Heaven, Man, and Earth? Have you consulted the Show Schedule to check the points for conformance to schedule, design, color use, creativity, and distinction?

## cares and concerns >>

Continued wishes for recovery to both Pat and Bob Byrne

Catherine Robertson is recovering from recent surgery, as is Bob Stone.

Russell Kohlert was briefly hospitalized but is now back to work.

Jeanette Steadman has now moved to Buckner Villas, where she has a sister-in-law, as well as another founding member of the Iris and Begonia Societies, Clarice James.

## time to renew dues >>>

Membership VP, Jaime Hadley will be collecting dues for the ISA 2013 membership year at our next regular meeting, January 14. Membership dues are \$12 for an individual and \$18 for a joint membership. If you wish to renew your membership early, you can send a check made out to Iris Society of Austin to:

Jaime Hadley  
PO Box 143417, Austin TX 78714-3417

Below: 2013 Iris Society of Austin Christmas Tree on display at Zilker Garden Center



# Judges Training

Each club is encouraged to conduct Judges Training each year, and many of the Region 17 clubs do it in Winter and Spring. Dana Brown, our Region 17 Judges Training Chair, says, "These classes are an excellent way for club members to broaden their knowledge about irises: different varieties, what makes a 'good' iris, what judges look for in a show, etc., as well as help our AIS judges obtain and/or maintain their judgeships."

The **Iris Society of Dallas** presents a combination class on "**Ethics**" and "**Median Irises**" led by Judy Keisling

**January 18, 2014** 12:30pm – 2:30pm \$10

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 11425 Marsh Lane, Dallas, TX

Contact: Hooker or Bonnie Nichols, 214-676-9892 or 214-352-2191

The **IS of Austin** presents a class on "**Louisiana Irises**" led by Hooker Nichols

**January 25, 2014** 12:30pm – 2:30pm \$5

Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church (Ross Hall), 7127 Bee Cave Rd., Austin, TX

Contact: Nelda Moore, 512-327-0401 or neldamoore6947@att.net

The South Plains Iris Society in Lubbock may be scheduling training for this spring as well... more details to come.

## April Show Info

### *Under the Big Top*

The 25th Iris Society of Austin Annual Spring Iris Show will be held in the Auditorium of Zilker Botanical Gardens on April 12, 2014. The theme selected for the show this year is "Irises Under the Big Top." As always, the show will be judged under the auspices of and according to the rules of the American Iris Society.

You can help with set up Friday, April 11 from 3 to 5pm.

On Saturday, Horticulture and Artistic entries are received from 7:30 to 9:45am; Judging will be from 10:15a to Noon; and the show will be open to the public free of charge from 1 to 4pm.

Make sure horticultural specimens

are free of insects and debris before placing them in the containers provided at the show. The best side of the blossom should be taken into consideration before hanging the tag under the specimen.

Artistic classes will be as follows:

Novice – Iris Under the Big Top

Religious – Gospel Under the Tent

Two Containers – Side Show

Designer's Choice – Ring Master

Table for Two – Two-Ring Circus

Reservations for the Artistic Division must be made by calling Pat Freeman at 512-836-4679.

The show includes a Youth Division, but the youth must have worked in the garden, and must be the one to place the iris in the container that morning at the show.

## November minutes >>

### Iris Society of Austin Meeting

Tuesday November 12, 2013

The meeting was called to order by Nelda Moore in absence of President, Pat Byrne. Welcome to new members and our visitor from Oklahoma, hybridizer Mona French. We had a wonderful Thanksgiving Feast pot luck. The minutes from the last meeting were approved.

A copy of the monthly Treasurer's Report was given to the Secretary to keep on file. The ending monthly balance for September was \$18,545.05.

Nelda Moore reported from AAGC that preparations are under way for the 2014 Zilker Garden Festival March 29 and 30. ISA members are encouraged to volunteer and in the past years have attended the water sales and the front gate. November 18 is the Holiday Tree display. Look for the full report in this month's AACG newsletter "Down the Garden Path".

The theme for the April 12, 2014 Austin Iris Show is "Iris Under the Big Top".

Pat Byrne has AIS calendars for \$4.00, names and money were collected and given to Nelda.

2014 AIS National Convention will be April 5-10 in Dallas, TX

2014 Society for Louisiana Irises Convention will be April 3-5 in New Orleans, LA

This month's program presented by Ken Fuchs was "Surfing for Irises".

*submitted by Dara E Smith*