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Nelda Moore, Editor

March 2015 — Vol. 24 #2



A Monthly Newsletter of the Iris Society of Austin

IRIS AUSTIN

**IRIS SOCIETY OF AUSTIN MEETING**

Tuesday, March 10, 2015

6:45 P.M. (gates close at 7 P.M.)

Call 477-8672 ext 13 after 7 P.M.

Austin Area Garden Center

Zilker Botanical Garden

2220 Barton Springs Road

Austin, Texas 78746

**Pot Luck with Nelda Moore, Hostess
Program – Show Prep**

IRIS SHOW: "Colors of the Rainbow"

Saturday, April 11

Austin Area Garden Center Auditorium

Open to the public 1-4 P.M.

**Society for Louisiana Irises
April 8-11, 2015
Lafayette, Louisiana**

**Irises in Wonderland
May 18-23, 2015
Portland, Oregon
www.Redlion.com/jantzenbeach**

Events at Zilker:

March 1 Gardens closed for Kite Festival

March 7 Austin Organic Gardeners

Plant Sale 9 A.M.–2 P.M.

March 16 Woodland Faerie Trail opens

**March 21 and 22 Magically-lit Woodland
Faerie Trail open until 9 P.M.**

**March 21 and 22 First Austin African
Violet Society 46th Annual Show and Sale**

**March 28 and 29 ZILKER GARDEN
FESTIVAL 2015 Volunteer please!**

**JOIN THE NOVELTY IRIS SOCIETY
AS A CHARTER MEMBER**

The Novelty Iris Society has published and distributed its first newsletter. To become a charter member of this new society contact Bonnie J. Nichols in Dallas, TX, bjnhtn@aol.com.

Novelty Irises are space age, broken color, variegated foliage, flatties, multi-petaled, and other unusual form irises.

**IRIS SOCIETY OF AUSTIN TO SEND ITEMS TO
AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY "RAISIN' REGION
BASKET"**

"Raisin' Region Basket" is accepting donations for the 2015 Silent Auction for the A I S Convention. Items from Austin were shown during the February meeting.

If you plan to add to the Region 17 basket, please bring an item to the March 10 meeting. Debbie Strauss will receive an e-mail of items the Iris Society of Austin will be sending.

The items shown were purchased by Nelda Moore and Marney Abel, who had visited the Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library. Other donations came from the Zilker Botanical Garden Gift Shop.



Region 17 Basket at the 2013
Convention in Dallas

MINUTES OF THE IRIS SOCIETY OF AUSTIN FEBRUARY 10, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Nelda Moore. The minutes from the January 2015 meeting minutes were approved as read.

TREASURER'S REPORT: A copy of the monthly report was given to the Secretary to keep on file. The ending monthly balance for January 2015 was \$17,832.20. The current balance on February 10 is \$18,185.20.

AAGC COUNCIL REPORT: The preparations for implementing a Conservancy are ongoing. The current amount of AAGC dues for each ISA member is \$3 plus 2 tickets (\$6) to Zilker Garden Festival = \$9.00. This will increase to \$10 and will not include the ZGF tickets. This was presented to the membership and a motion to approve the changes in the annual dues to AAGC for each member of ISA of \$10 per member due June 1st, 2015 was passed.

Mark your calendars for the Annual Zilker Garden Festival March 28 and 29, 2015. Members are encouraged to volunteer for the event. A sign-up sheet was passed around for volunteers at water-selling stations. If you have entries for the flower show for ZGF, the entry date is Friday morning March 27, 2015 from 8:30 a–9:30 a.

AUSTIN IRIS CLUB BUSINESS: Anyone with a desire to help with or take over as much of the Newsletter responsibility is encouraged to volunteer! Jaime Hadley and Nelda Moore have been very generous with their time to present our club's news. But they are willing to share.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR THE SELECTION OF THE ISA OFFICERS PRESENTED THE FOLLOWING:

President – Pat Byrne
Programs – Donna Little
Membership – Jaime Hadley
Secretary – Dara E. Smith
Treasurer – Marney Abel
Historian – Tracey Rogers

ISA members at the 1994 AIS Convention in Portland, OR:
(standing) Clarice James, Don Freeman, Lew Begley, Jan Sherrill, Beth Alley, Jim Landers, Mel Landers; (seated) Pat Freeman, Pauline Guerrero, Debbie Anderson

IMPORTANT DATES:

Judges Training – Fort Worth Iris Society – April 4, 2015
Belton Iris Society Show – April 4, 2015
Iris Society of Austin Iris Show – Saturday, April 11, 2015
Waco Iris Society Show – April 11, 2015
Judges Training – Johnson County Iris and Daylily Society – April 16, 2015
Belton Iris Society Sale – April 16–18, 2015
Johnson County Iris and Daylily Society Show – April 18, 2015
Fort Worth Iris Society Show – April 18, 2015
Lone Star Iris Society Show (Hico) – April 19, 2015
Texoma Iris Society Show – April 25, 2015
West Texas Iris Society Show (Odessa) – April 25, 2015
Dallas Iris Society Show – April 26, 2015

PROGRAM: The meeting program was divided between a presentation by Ken Fuchs of "Iris Mania — Early Years" and our guest speaker Rodney Barton representing the Species Iris Group of North America (SIGNA). Rodney gave an outline of the many different iris species. He is the membership chairman of SIGNA and encouraged anyone with an interest to contact him about joining. He also handed out some tectorum and other varieties of seeds for members to experiment with their own species propagation. Contact him at rbartontx@yahoo.com and see all the information the species group has at www.signa.org. The meeting was adjourned. — Respectfully submitted, Dara E. Smith, Secretary Feb. 16, 2015



RANDY BARTON SHOWS SPECIES



Randy Barton, hybridizer from the Iris Society of Dallas, presented an interesting educational show of species irises —the wildflowers of the world that have been discovered and named. From pictures of bulbous to rhizomatous irises, attendees were awed by *Iris xiphium* or Spanish irises as well as *I. fulva*, *brevicaulis*, *hexagona*, *giganticaerulea*, and *nelsonii* —Louisiana irises, known as the wildflowers of North America. Mr. Barton pointed out those that he has grown successfully in Texas as well as those species that bloomed and disappeared.

AIS MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

An American Iris Society Membership campaign enables an individual or group to win prizes by submitting a list of names of new members to the Public Relations and Marketing Committee by April 15, 2015. The contest period is from the convention to the month before the next convention.
irismom@nc.rr.com

IRIS SOCIETY OF AUSTIN TO HOST AUSTIN AREA GARDEN COUNCIL

The Iris Society of Austin has chosen March 8, 2016, to host the Austin Area Garden Council with members of the Yaupon Garden Club.



Jim Landers prepares an entry card for the first ISA Show (not judged), April 10 1988.

IRIS SOCIETY OF AUSTIN TO SELL BOTTLED WATER DURING FESTIVAL MARCH 28 AND 29

Several members of the Iris Society will sell bottled water during the Zilker Garden Festival: **Rachel Matthews, Sally Harris, Donna Little, David Kraemer, Kathy Petheram, Pauline Guerrero, Audrey Baker, Nelda Moore, Marney Abel, Jaime Hadley, Dara E. Smith, and Tracey Rogers.**

BLOOMSTALK FOR THE SHOW

Early in the morning or late in the evening before the iris show, cut the bloomstalk at a slant and turn it upside down to release any liquid or insects and spiders.

Place the iris in a vase that you will use in a carrier, being careful that the blossoms do not touch each other while you are walking or while you are transporting the blooms to the show.

At the show prepare the clean vase with enough water so that the stalk can be inserted for water intake. Using a rubber band attach the completed show tag to the vase. Carefully insert the stalk in the foam that will hold it securely with the best side forward and above the front of the tag.

Then examine very carefully the iris for cleanliness once again. Use a make-up brush, Q-tip, or cotton ball to dab any critter or piece of dirt or pollen that might be on the falls or standards. Check the foliage to see that your fingerprints are not showing. Use a clean soft cloth to remove the sheen and fingerprints on the foliage or if you want the sheen, then use a small amount of powder to sprinkle on the fingerprints.

Finally, take the specimen to the entry room with your show papers completely filled out. You may use address labels at the top and the bottom of the Entry Tag, but it must be completed like the ones in the Show Schedule, which is the law of the show.

Remember that the judges have the final word or decision about any of the irises.



April 10, 1988:
91 TB entries
12 Dutch iris and species entries
“Most Beautiful Iris”:
1st – ‘Earl of Essex’ – Jim Landers
2nd – ‘Flaming Victory’ – Jim Landers
Approximately 400 visitors viewed the show.

FLORAL DESIGN

Selecting and organizing irises and foliage is an art using the principles of design in order to attain a pleasing and interesting design using color, light, space, line, form, texture, size, unity, harmony, and rhythm.

COLOR: Reds, oranges, and yellows are bright and stimulating, and are considered warm colors. Warm colors tend to be advancing colors to the eye and have more visual weight than cool colors. Blues, greens and violets are usually tranquil, peaceful, and restful and are considered cool colors and tend to be receding and have less visual weight than warm colors.

LIGHT affects the design in many ways by changing apparent colors of materials, enhancing form, texture, or depth.

SPACE describes the open area in and around the design by use of plant materials.

LINE creates a visual path for the eye to follow through a design. It is the skeleton of a design — short, straight, curved, weak, strong.

FORM describes the three-dimensional aspect of a design: closed, compact, massed, with few open spaces. Form applies to the shape of individual components of a design.

TEXTURE refers to the surface quality of plant material — fuzzy, glossy, smooth, and rough.

SIZE of material is important. Use buds and small flowers at the top and edges; leaves or fully opened flowers are placed low in the arrangement. Often the large element is the focal point.

HARMONY is the principle that produces a feeling of unity throughout the composition or that the components have something in common either in size, shape, texture, idea, time of flowering, or color. Repeat shapes, hues, line direction.

RHYTHM refers to movement, especially the dominant visual path, so that the eye is first attracted to the focal point and then carried throughout the entire arrangement. Repeat shapes, hues, line direction.

