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September 2016 — Vol. 25 #9



Nelda Moore, Ken Fuchs, Editors A Monthly Newsletter of the Iris Society of Austin

IRIS AUSTIN



NEXT MEETING

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2016,
6:30P.M. until 9:30 P.M.**

Greene Room

Pot Luck

Pricing & Cleaning rhizomes – Preparing
for **SALE** at

Norris Conference Center

on **SEPTEMBER 10, 9 A.M. - 3 P.M.**

September 13 – **AAGC MEETING**

September 17 – **Texas Bamboo Society Show
and Sale**

September 24 **9 A.M. – 4 P.M.**

55th Annual Iris Sale

North Texas Daylily Society

Fort Worth Botanic Garden Center

October 11 **AAGC MEETING**

October 11 **ISA Meeting, 6:15-9:30 P.M.**

Auditorium

2220 Barton Springs Road

October 22, **8 A.M. until 6 P.M.**

Iris Sale in Auditorium

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ANNUAL IRIS SALE SEPT. 10

The Iris Society of Austin will hold an iris rhizome sale at 9 A.M. until 3 P.M. or until all rhizomes are sold in the Norris Conference Center located at 2525 West Anderson Lane in Building 3, Austin, 78757.

The building is near Wal-Mart off Loop 1 in the Northcross Mall. There will be plenty of parking spaces near the building, but shop early for the best selections of bearded, Louisianas, and spuria rhizomes.

Ellen Singleton and Tracey Rogers will have many locally-grown as well as some of the newer irises for sale. Both members are enthusiastic about this fund-raiser for the society, and they look forward to assisting customers with any questions they might have about growing the drought resistant bearded varieties, the native water irises, and the tallest of irises, the spurias.

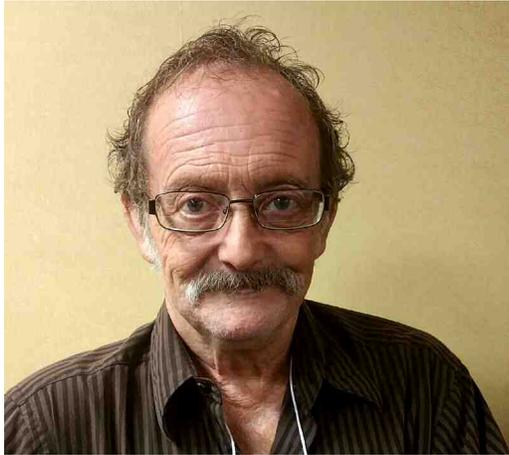
On October 22 Ellen and Tracey will have a sale in the auditorium located in Zilker Botanical Garden. This will be a small number of irises or plants including some aril or arilbreds that prefer sandy soil and the hot desert-like climate of Central Texas.



ISA Website: http://www.kenfuchs42.net/isa_index.html

AIS/REGION 17 IRIS MEETING HELD IN WACO

The Iris Society of Waco assisted by The Dallas Iris Society presented an exciting and educational meeting in the Hampton Inn and Suites Waco South located off I-35 in Waco August 19 and 20.



Perry Dyer, an Oklahoma hybridizer, was the instructor for the Judges Training School Saturday morning in the Bluebonnet Room. Mr. Dyer discussed Median Irises with some of the 80 attendees, who took the test for the 3 hour training. By calling on volunteers to assist him, he had each person holding 3 colorful cards with huge letters giving size of stalk, number of branches, and bud count for each variety of median. He began with the earliest bloomer, Median Dwarf Bearded, then the Intermediate Bearded, followed by Miniature Tall Bearded or table iris, Standard Dwarf Bearded, Miniature Dwarf Bearded and those that are part aril or arilbred.

Size and proportion are very important in these varieties where the length of the stem or bunching and size of flower can be distractions. Distinctiveness is a major feature which includes poise, personality, proportion, charm, color breaks, and exotic patterns. The *I. pumila* is an important species in the background of modern miniature dwarf bearded irises. One of the first Space Age or Novelty Iris was created by Hooker Nichols. The ideal bloom season of a 3 year clump of SDBs is 10-15 days. The miniature dwarf bearded irises are up to 8 inches in height with stems usually unbranched. These are the earliest blooming of all bearded irises. They are derived from tetraploid tall or border bearded irises. There is a Paul Black 2017 AB-Med named 'Perry Dyer.' Paul had lived near Perry in Oklahoma, where Perry sometimes had to save himself and his cats by trying to drive away from a tornado. In all, Perry has 40 introductions, 4 medals, 10 Awards of Merit, and 22 Honorable Mentions for his irises.

Attendees were well-fed by the breakfast in the hotel each morning, the barbecue Friday night, the hospitality room with sandwiches, dips, chips, cookies, and cakes, and the Italian food, salad, and 6 different desserts from the Olive Garden. The convention bag held snacks, pens, and other important information, but the return address labels compliments of Waco Iris Society and Dan and Peggy Cathey were the welcome surprise gift since these colorful labels included photos of irises introduced by AIS Region 17 hybridizers: Bonnie and Hooker Nichols, Tom Burseen, Joe Spears, Jim Landers, Kirk Strawn, Alton Pyburn, Vincent Christopherson, Steve Place, and Vernon and Dana Brown.

New Officers elected during the board meeting include the following: Regional Vice President Peggy Cathey, Assistant RVP Bonnie Nichols, Secretary Jerrie Cage, Treasurer Connie Ford, Past RVP Dawn Boyer, Judges Training Al Elliott, Youth Advocate Vicki Howard, Historian Jim Landers, Membership Chairman Bill Pittman, Newsletter Editor Dell Perry, and Webmaster Jaime Hadley.



Photo by Dara Smith

The centerpieces were original and beautiful. The Friday barbecue had a western theme with Texas boots, haystacks, candy, and ropes while the Saturday banquet had a brown plate loaded with a suspension bridge with irises on the railing as well as on the bridge floor over water created by a fabric that imitated running water over rocks. The grassy banks held tiny flowers of spring bulbs.

This annual meeting moved along quickly and provided the excitement of the irises, Dykes winners, Silent Auction, newer irises, baskets of regional items, and friendships from the past as well as meeting new friends.

An appeal was made for someone come forward to host the next ANNUAL MEETING!

HORTICULTURE

With 10 inches of rain falling in the area during the last 2 weeks the gardens have had plenty of foreign seeds sprouting and growing where bearded irises are trying to survive. It is a good idea to walk outside when the sun makes a brief appearance and remove dead foliage and other debris that has fallen over the rhizomes. Then feed the irises with bone meal and then let soft rain wash it into the ground. For the new iris you have amended soil that is too soggy for planting, but dry weather will soon allow for digging and forming the tiny hill for spreading the rhizome roots over the mound and pushing the soil around the plant so that it will stand secure in the gentle breeze. When the winter winds come, the roots should anchor the plant. In February some Hasta Gro or Tiger Bloom can be used to fertilize the garden. The directions for Tiger Bloom indicates that 2 teaspoons can be used per gallon of water. If you have a lawn, do not fertilize with a high nitrogen product that can reach your irises.

For any rot in the iris garden mix a small amount of antibacterial dishwashing soap in water to pour around the rhizome. This may also prevent brown spot in the summer, but use this only when it is not raining. Whatever chemical it contains, it is entering the drinking water supply. Continue to take good care of the irises for showing on April 8th. Louisiana irises are fed acid fertilizer while spurias need rose food.



February Birth Flower: Iris

(Iris sp.) These showy flowers grow in three categories: bearded, beardless, and crested, which can be identified by the fall: fall with adornment, smooth fall, and fall with comblike ridge, respectively.

2017

March 25-27, 2017 – 60th Zilker Garden Festival

April 8, 2017 – Iris Show in Austin Area Garden Center
2220 Barton Springs Road

April 20-22 – Iris Society of Dallas hosts Society for Louisiana Iris Convention
www.irises-dallas.org

online calendar for Zilker Botanical Garden
<https://teamup.com/ksc8f9cbc02119dd79>

THREE ISA MEMBERS WILL SERVE AIS / REGION 17

The Iris Society of Austin will have three members who will serve in Region 17. Jim Landers will continue to be Historian, Al Elliott will be the Judges Training Chairman, and Jaime Hadley will become the new Web master.

ISA Meeting Hosts

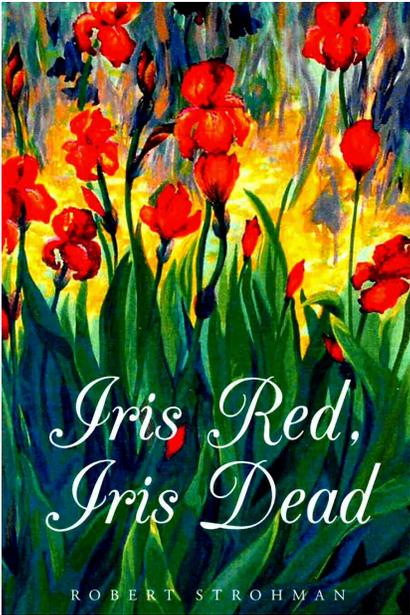
The following members have signed up to host the fall Iris Society of Austin meetings. The club will provide the plates, napkins, cups and utensils. We also have plenty of tablecloths so they can let Tracey know if they have a theme in mind, and we can provide. The hosts just need to arrive a little earlier to set up the tables and start the coffee.

Flowers That Symbolize Your Birth Month

Southern Living, August 11, 2016

January	Carnation
February	Iris
March	Daffodil
April	Daisy
May	Lily-of-the-Valley
June	Rose
July	Larkspur
August	Gladiolus
September	Aster
October	Marigold
November	Chrysanthemum
December	Poinsettia

Iris Red, Iris Dead



Before Perry Dyer began his Judges Training session with an interactive dramatization of the history of median irises, ISA member Al Elliott, one of the volunteers held up a book and gave a glowing review of a new mystery novel he had recently read.

Broadwayworld.com/bwwbooks says, “Robert Strohman, a US Coast Guard veteran and retired teacher, has completed his new book *Iris Red, Iris Dead*: a compelling and absorbing murder mystery set in the beautiful touring gardens of the United States Iris Society Convention.

“After retiring from teaching and the US Coast Guard Reserve, Mr. Strohman says that he finally, ‘...has time to pursue (my) iris hobby and

to write books like this one, proving one can bloom, so to speak, at any age.’

“Published by New York City-based Page Publishing, Robert Strohman's compelling and exciting tale takes place in beautiful Louisville, Kentucky. On the eve of the United States Iris Society's annual convention, hundreds of Irisarians flock to witness untold beauty of the touring gardens.

“No one realizes that they will have the once in a lifetime opportunity to see a true red iris, a botanic phenomenon that has never been seen before. However, by convention's end, some of the unsuspecting will encounter a fatal danger lurking in the gardens.”



Irises in Turkey (Facebook)



Perry Dyer prepares to hand out flashcards on median irises to volunteer role players.

