

- *Annual Rhizome Sale*
- *Judges Training*
- *Louisiana Irises & Spurias*
- *Planting Spurias in the Garden*



Nelda Moore, Ken Fuchs, Editors

A Monthly Newsletter of the Iris Society of Austin

IRIS AUSTIN



Next Meeting

Tuesday, October 11 6:30 P.M.

Auditorium - Zilker Botanical Garden Center

Hospitality – Nelda Moore

Pot Luck

Program – 2016 AIS Convention in Newark, NJ: The Hildenbrandt & Boyce Guest Gardens

October 11 AAGC MEETING

October 22 Rhizome Sale

8 A.M. to 5 P.M.

Zilker Botanical Garden

Auditorium in Garden Center

November Meeting

Tuesday, November 8, 6:30 P.M.

Hospitality – Jaime Hadley & Dara Smith

Pot Luck

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

May 23-27, 2017 – 2017 AIS National Convention in Des Moines, IA

THE ANNUAL RHIZOME SALE A SUCCESS

by Tracey Rogers



One sale down, one more to go.

The Annual Rhizome Sale was held Saturday, September 10th at the Norris Conference Center. We had over 100 varieties of tall bearded, a couple of arilbred, around a dozen Louisianas and Spurias.

Before the Spurias were sold at the September meeting, Don Freeman selected the best and brightest to plant in the Zilker bed.

In addition to rhizomes from members, we ordered rhizomes from Mid-American Gardens and Blue J Iris. We were fortunate to receive some 2016 intros from Mid-America valued at \$55 and that sold for \$12. ‘Mayan Sunrise’ was one of the raffle prizes and was won by Joan Thompson and has been delivered to her. The other raffle prize was donated by Donna Little – a bucket tool cover which was won by our own Shirley Friesen. Donna loaned the club the bucket model. We collected \$50 from the raffles prizes

Our total sales were just over three thousand dollars with a profit of \$1374.52 after costs. It was a good sale. We have

some leftovers that Shirley, D. Boyle and Tracey are potting for future sales. Speaking of future sales, we will be participating in the Porcelain Arts Club's Fall Show and Sale along with a few other clubs including the Herb Society on Saturday, October 22nd at Zilker Botanical Gardens. If anyone you know of missed the September sale or wants some more irises, tell them to come over. There will be some "freshly" dug irises as well as potted irises.

Thanks to everyone who priced irises at the September meeting and everyone who helped setup Friday night and then showed up again on Saturday to work. Special thanks to Jaime Hadley and Ken Fuchs for tracking sales with Square. We couldn't do this without you and special thanks to those of who didn't resist and fed your iris habit by purchasing more irises.

Remember to tell your friends about the next iris rhizome sale in October.



ANYONE INTERESTED IN PURCHASING A JUDGES HANDBOOK PLEASE CONTACT TRACEY ROGERS BY E-MAIL rogers89@earthlink.net or by calling her at 512-280-4856. The price per handbook is \$19 from the American Iris

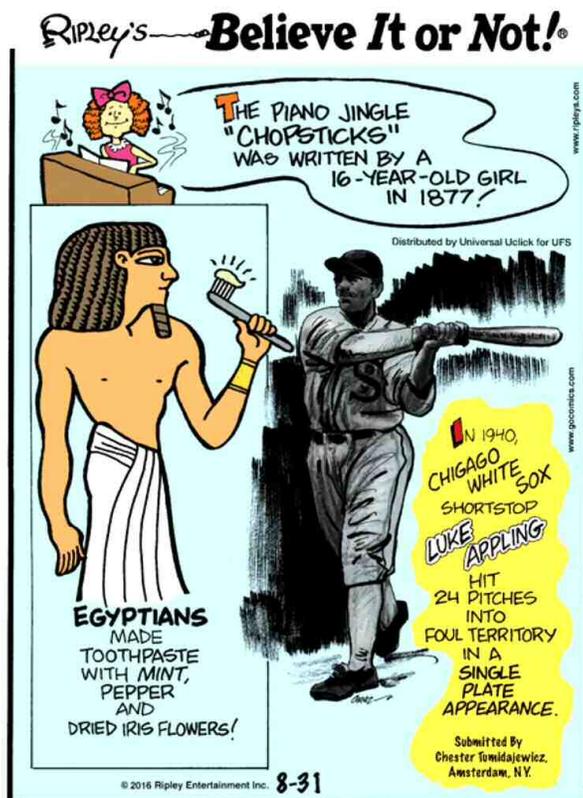
JUDGES TRAINING SET FOR JANUARY 14

Debra Strauss will conduct a three-hour course on Saturday, January 14, 2017, in the Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church, 7127 Bee Cave Road, Austin, TX 78746-5311. Registration will begin at 8:30 A.M.

Ross Hall has been selected for the exact location as of now, but this room assignment may change in January depending on other activities that will be scheduled to take place in the church, but the Iris Society of Austin is definitely on the church calendar. Any information about changes will be sent to Nelda Moore at joenell6947@gmail.com.

Al Elliott became the new Judges Training Chairman during the AIS/Region 17 Meeting held in Waco on August 20. He replaces Dana Brown, who has served for several years.

Pray for Donna Little and her family while she has knee surgery. Please pray for members who are traveling from other places as they reach home. Also remember Al Elliott as he and Barbara are spending the winter in Vermont.



HORTICULTURE

LOUISIANA IRISES

Louisianas are swamp irises and North American native wildflowers. They are the only irises that have a true red among them – Abbeville Reds from *I. fulva* and *I. nelsonii*.

Louisianas are in the Apogon subsection and series Hexagonae of Section Spathula.

These water irises must be kept moist; therefore, they may grow at the edge of a lake or bog, in a container, or in moist soil where they do not have to stand in water, but they must be moist. They also grow in a range of soil types with pH readings of 3.5 to 6, indicating acidity. A heavy layer of compost and cow manure can be added over the bed and then after a few months the soil can be turned over. The addition of camellia-azalea fertilizer is beneficial – 2.2 lbs. over 33 square feet. Do not use rich poultry manure (alkalinity) or pine bark since these are not recommended. The addition of peat moss is also useful in container culture.

During the summer and winter, mulch over the top can protect the rhizomes from severe cold or record heat.

Louisianas are divided after the bloom season, and they can be left in the same place for 2 seasons.

They can be planted 14 inches apart, but for an immediate clump effect, plant 3 or more of one variety in a circle with the leaf fans outward. Dig them when they have exceeded the boundaries of the bed. Always keep the identification markers close to the fans and move the stakes if the rhizome closes in on another cultivar.

By early autumn when the plants have been dug and cleaned, a container can have 2 or 3 rhizomes or

fewer in new soil. Examine the bucket to see that it is not cracked by a rhizome that is trying to escape. Take note of the cultivar or take the identification marker to the new container. Keep the bucket free of weeds and standing rain water. Either drill holes in the top of the closed container or use mosquito dunks that do not harm birds and animals.

SPURIA CULTURE

Spurias are the tallest irises with flowers that remind one of exotic Dutch irises (bulbs). Their wirey rhizomes do not have to be lifted every few years. They can remain in one area for several years. If they are not evergreen varieties, Spurias go dormant when the weather becomes hot. The brown foliage can be trimmed to the ground around July or August depending on the weather. By September when cooler days arrive, these smart rhizomes emerge as rain, watering, and rose food enable them to grow rapidly. This is when they can use watering again (but not when they are dormant since rains can provide all the moisture they need). Since these irises, like Louisianas, are heavy feeders, they need to be fed at least 3 or 4 times – Labor Day, Valentine's Day, and after they bloom.

Spurias will be planted in containers next to the Louisianas in the new iris garden located between Barton Springs Road and the Herb Garden. Don Freeman selected the best and brightest to plant in rose soil. The rhizomes will be covered with about an inch of soil or perhaps a little over an inch. Both Louisianas and Spurias are planted almost 2 inches deep. They need to be watered immediately.



I. fulva



I. nelsonii

SPURIA REPORT

Early in the morning on Saturday, September 24, David Kraemer pulled weeds and cleaned most of Bed 1 of the iris garden off Barton Springs Road while waiting for other members of the Iris Society of Austin. Nelda Moore arrived and told him that according to the e-mail, we were not going to plant spurias. Don Freeman arrived with shovel, planting tools, and a cooler filled with the spurias. After that, Mike Renfro and Donna Little and all of us started to open the trench. David dug a new spot for one of the spurias that needed to be planted in a sort of curve away from the Louisiana irises. With two shovels moving pecan shells and dirt, Nelda and Mike moved to the bearded irises and finished pulling weeds that P&R employee Michael hauled off in the cart. The workers filled the pots with rose soil and Donna mixed the soil with some fertilizer while others planted the spurias, two of each in the 8 pots. Then they were watered in with a little HastaGro, and we finished by noon.

