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November 2016 — Vol. 25 #11

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

IRIS AUSTIN



Daylight Savings Time Ends on Sunday,
November 6

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, November 8, 2016

Austin Area Garden Council
Conservancy 9:30 A.M.

Iris Society of Austin 6:30 P.M.

Thanksgiving Dinner in the Auditorium

Jaime Hadley, Dara Smith – Hosts

Ham; please bring a salad, vegetable,
casserole, or dessert

Veteran's Day – November 11

Thanksgiving Day – November 24

Happy Thanksgiving!

No December Meeting

Merry Christmas and have a Happy Safe
Holiday

Next Newsletter will be in January, 2017

Happy New Year !

THE FALL PLANT SALE

The Fall Plant Sale and Porcelain Arts Club on Saturday, October 22, combined their beautiful work in growing and showing for the public at Zilker Botanical Garden their herbs, begonias, irises, violets, and porcelain — one of a kind objects of art such as hand painted plates, jewelry, vases, and landscapes. All members were enthusiastic and eager to educate customers about growing plants and caring for them during the winter. The herb society included many plants that would bloom and produce vegetables during the winter as well as early spring.

The Iris Society of Austin had net sales of \$564.80 while the Austin Area Begonia Society Branch made \$81 with all plants grown by Doug Byrom and Nelda Moore. Vickey Cole worked all during the event with sales.

According to Tracey Rogers the total sale of irises was \$692 with the greatest number of sales in the early morning. In addition to rhizomes and potted irises the members sold plant markers, culture books, magnifying glasses, marking pencils, calendars, and starter bags filled with rhizomes, bone meal, and instructions for planting and growing successfully for spring blossoms. Other members who worked during the successful sale included Shirley Friesen, Ellen Singleton, Donna Little, James Hadley, and Kathy Petheram, Don and Pat Freeman and Dara Smith also visited briefly.

The iris sale as well as the event itself was advertised in *The Austin-American Statesman* with Cindy Klemmer, PARD Site Manager at Zilker Botanical Garden, praising the sale that was held in the Greene Room and the auditorium.

The calendar for the clubs and societies can be found by going to the website —

<https://teamup.com/ksc8f9cbc02119dd79> .



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

HORTICULTURE TIP

Now is the time to plant the rhizomes before the first freeze. Form a small hill for the bearded variety and spread the roots over the mound of soil. Then barely cover the rhizome or fleshy root that contains all of the necessary food to produce foliage and flowers. Water thoroughly and deeply since the garden has not received rain. Then let the iris dry before watering again in a week or so depending on the weather. They do not need mulch, but they need to be kept free of dead leaves and debris that may cover the rhizome that can rot. Remember that bearded irises like soil that is slightly acidic, but too much nitrogen in a lawn fertilizer can also affect the production of blossoms.

After planting any of the irises, check on them for at least the first few days to see that any critters have not dug or pulled out the rhizomes. Sometimes they need to be replanted, and all of the Central Texas irises need sunlight for most of the day.

Louisianas need acidic soil and plenty of moisture so keep them wet in a bog, pond, or large white container.

Spurias do well in rose soil with rose food. These wiry rhizomes can remain in the same garden space for years. They produce a tall rather narrow leaf without pepper dots when held up in the light and can be used in flower arrangements. Remember that these plants will disappear or go dormant when summer arrives. They can be cut down in July or August, but they will begin growing in September or a little later when cold weather arrives. These are heavy feeders that need to be watered when new growth comes.



IRISES IN HONDO

by Shelia Senghas

Tuesday, August 27:

I went to the garden club meeting in Hondo yesterday. They were so excited to meet someone who knew about Irises and they were all eager to learn and to have them in their gardens. They are very happy that I will be their speaker in October.. The oldest member is 95 and she is extremely active and publishes their club booklet. There are two other members that are over 90 years old. There are about 90 members and about 50 were there. They are very civic minded and do a lot of work in their community. It is a club of invitation only to join and once invited you are on 3 month probation and are obligated to 5 hours each week in the thrift store and that is where they make all their money to do all their civic projects and I will also have take part in one of their many committees. I was invited to join and so I have to decide if I am willing and able to fulfill the required commitments. It is a 45 minute drive from my house. I really want to get Irises introduced in the area and maybe I can help to get an iris club there.

Monday, October 17:

I gave the talk to the garden club. It went very well. The lady next to me in the photo is Mindy Coyne. She is Vice President of the Hondo Garden club. There were 30 people there and they were excited and happy about the irises I gave out as door prizes.



WEED OR PEST?

Sold as a shade-loving groundcover especially for space under trees and shrubs, horseherb (*Calyptocarpus vialis*) is a pest when it grows in an iris garden where its seeds can sprout near rhizomes or inside clumps of irises. Its miniature yellow flowers can have 5 petals, but sometimes this count can be 6 or instead of all petals, it can have 2 spikes or 2 thin blades.

This plant is in the daisy family and apparently it came from South and Latin America. Another name for this plant is straggler daisy.

When this drought-loving groundcover is used instead of Bermuda grass for a lawn, it can be mowed and the blooms near the ground go to seed and quickly take hold of huge areas including the neighbor's land. During the winter it disappears, but it comes back in the spring with a vengeance.

Did you ever plant Mexican Feather Grass? The seeds can travel and become another groundcover like horseherb.



REBLOOMING IN AUSTIN:



'My Friend Jonathan' – Miller 1996
(Photo from Dave's Garden website)

'Echo Of Spring' (Price 2013 TB RE) reblooming in Austin TX, zone 8. Also have 'My Friend Jonathan' reblooming, but no pic. – Ellen Singleton, October 31, 2016

MINUTES OF THE IRIS SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

October 11, 2016

Marney Abel called the meeting to order in the absence of the President. Best wishes to Donna Little as she recovers from knee surgery.

In the absence of the Secretary, Jaime Hadley announced that there were no minutes from the September meeting since we had spent the meeting eating, and grooming and pricing iris rhizomes.

Marney delivered an abbreviated Treasurer's Report with a current account balance of \$15,680.38.

There are not yet any specific numbers to report from the Rhizome Sale.

Ellen Singleton, Sale Chair, did report that the sale was very successful and that only a few rhizomes were left. On Oct 22, we will participate in a fall Porcelain and Plant Sale in the Zilker Garden Center, from 10a to 4p. Workers can arrive between 8a and 9a. Bring in more rhizomes if you are still digging. The 2017 Rhizome Sale will be on Saturday Sept 9, and Ellen will book the Norris Conference Center. We will have our monthly meeting a week early on Sept 5, 2017.

Ellen also presented the AAGV Report. A new Executive Director has been hired. Don't forget to log all volunteer hours so we can show the city how

much of work is done by the garden clubs. The Violet Crown Garden Club will have a Fall Flower Show Oct 15 & 16 – bring cut flower entries to Zilker Garden Center Oct 15 by 9:30am. Oct 29 there will be a Docents meeting on the history of Zilker Gardens.

Five other ISA members joined Don Freeman on Saturday, Sept 24 to plant Spuria Iris in Zilker Gardens. There are eight new pots and all are growing well.

Saturday Oct 15 there will be a workday to clean up the back iris garden. Please arrive at Zilker Gardens at 9a. Bring forks and shovels, as well as pens and scissors.

Happy 90th Birthday to Pauline Guerrero this week, and also Happy Birthday to Dennis Hartford.

Ken Fuchs presented a video-slide show of two of the guest gardens at the 2016 AIS National Convention in Newark, New Jersey. The two gardens were located nearby in Pennsylvania.

Respectfully submitted,
Jaime Hadley
VP Membership, in the absence of the Secretary



Tracey Rogers, Ellen Singleton, Nelda Moore & Kathy Petheram at the Fall Plant Sale, October 11.



“Black Irises” – A Painting by Max Beckmann

Max Beckmann (1884–1950) was a German painter, draftsman, printmaker, sculptor, and writer. Although he is classified as an Expressionist artist, he rejected both the term and the movement. – wikipedia.org

Art Critic Stephan Lackner writes:

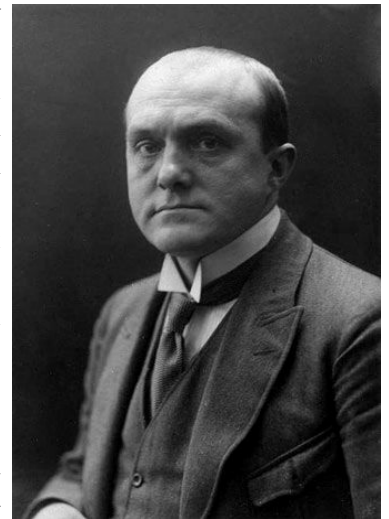
“At first glance this seems a very simple still life: four flowers in a vase, two or three on the table as if waiting to be rearranged, some sheets of music, the round back of a chair, wallpaper, and a curtain: nothing much, really. And yet, what a wealth of extremely sensitive gradations within the few chosen colors!

the few chosen colors!

“Green and black, both velvety and richly saturated, form the basic harmony. The crosses on the wallpaper appear, by contrast, more reddish than they actually are. These crosses lean to the right, the curtain rim is slanting to the left; each line is in correspondence with every other line. If the wallpaper motif is a reminiscence of Cezanne, the unified composition owes even more to the French master.

“Black irises: we feel Beckmann’s wonder and astonishment that they really exist, that some botanist or gardener succeeded in breeding this almost unnatural phenomenon. The painter savors the black, from its gray shades up to the whitish reflection on the lighted side. Beckmann always insisted that black is a color, not the absence of all colors, and with the substantial black pigment in this painting he proved his point artistically, if not scientifically. Admittedly, then, black is a color when Beckmann uses it.

“This artist, relentlessly driven by the demons of his times and of his own temperament, relaxed when he painted flowers. Often his harshest figure compositions, his most unworldly triptychs, are brightened unexpectedly in some corner by a bouquet. Blossoms give him the most unproblematic painterly delight, and — a rarity with Beckmann — they speak for themselves only, without standing for a deeper philosophical idea. His “terrible furor of the senses” becomes tender and gentle when dealing with blooming plants.



“Beckmann loved the innocence and gratuitous sheen of flowers that ask nothing from us except to be loved.”

<http://www.artchive.com/artchive/B/beckmann/irises.jpg.html>