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*Nelda Moore, Ken Fuchs, Editors*

A Monthly Newsletter of the Iris Society of Austin

# IRIS AUSTIN



## NO MEETINGS JUNE, JULY. AUGUST

### Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 4

GREEN ROOM  
ZILKER BOTANICAL GARDEN  
2220 BARTON SPRINGS ROAD  
AUSTIN, TX 78746  
POT LUCK  
Prep rhizomes for Sale

August 3-4 AIS/Region 17 Meeting  
Cleburne, TX

September 8 ISA Rhizome Sale 9A.M-3P.M.  
Norris Conference Center  
2525 West Anderson Lane  
Austin 78757

## AIS/REGION 17 MEETING AUGUST 3 AND 4

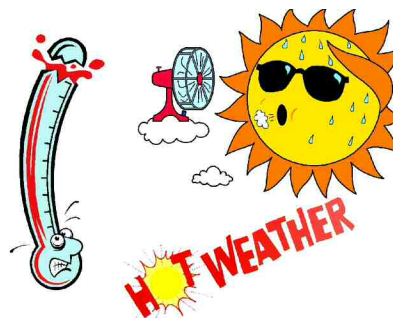


The American Iris Society 2018/Region 17 Meeting will be held August 3 and 4 in the Hampton Inn and Suites 1996 W. Henderson Street in Cleburne, TX 76033. Their telephone number is 817-641-7770.

The Johnson County Iris and Daylily Society will be sponsoring the event called "Irises Along the Chisholm Trail." Registration after June 4 will be \$75 for the Friday night pizza party, the Saturday lunch, the evening fajita buffet, and the 3-hour Judges Training Class by Anna Cadd. As she speaks about her journey in the American Iris Society and her love of Spurias, she hopes to convey her enthusiasm for the enchanted beauty and easy growth habits of these irises. The meeting room is limited to 64 people; therefore, if you wish to attend this delightful educational opportunity, please send your registration and payment to Dan Cathy, 1115 HCR 1414, Covington, TX 76636 as soon as possible.



'Carousel of Delight' SPU Cadd 2006



## ANNA CADD SPEAKER AND TEACHER



Anna Cadd, an accredited AIS Master Judge and vice president of the Spuria Iris Society, now owns Cadd's Beehive Iris Garden that is known for 101 iris varieties. She and her husband David have received 11 Awards of Merit, 31 Honorable Mention Awards, a William Mohr Medal, a John C. Wister Medal and two Eric Nies Medals. They also have 8 trophies from International Competition in Florence, Italy; two medals from Competition in Moscow, Russia; and other awards from Middle-European Iris Society; the Tecomah Competition in France and in Munich, Germany.

In addition Anna and David Cadd won the Santa Rosa Iris Society Best of Show at least 10 years in a row. Now she grows over 1500 iris varieties and owns the Healdsburg, California business since David died in 2015.

## RHIZOME SALE SEPTEMBER 8

Ellen Singleton and Tracey Rogers have announced that the rhizome sale will be in the Norris Conference Center, 2525 West Anderson Lane in Austin 78757 on September 8 from 9 until about 3 P.M.

Bearded varieties include the popular tall bearded cultivars that can be historic and rebloomers. Some medians and arilbreds may also appear in this sale. Medians should be watered more often while arilbreds love the hot Arizona climate that has drier soil.

Louisiana irises are native wild flowers that are water irises.

Spurias are the tallest irises that do not need to be moved or divided every 3-5 years. These rhizomes can grow over one another and still bloom if they receive rose food at least twice per year and enough water as soon as they emerge from dormancy. Otherwise, these irises can survive during the summer with very little

water from summer rains. The dead foliage can be cut to the ground during July. Usually the dormant plants emerge when cool weather comes in September or October, but some areas of the country grow evergreen varieties.

## OFFICERS INSTALLED MAY 8

James (Jaime) Hadley will lead the Iris Society of Austin during the 2018-2019 term with Vice Presidents Marney Abel and Donna Little selecting interesting programs. Dara E. Smith, secretary, and Nelda Moore, membership, will also serve on the team with Tracey Rogers, treasurer. Ken Fuchs and Nelda Moore will continue as editors of the Iris Austin Newsletter.



Don Freeman graciously accepted to install these officers to work in the best interest of the society, to obey the laws and regulations of the American Iris Society and the by-laws of this society, and to hold an iris show and iris rhizome sales to educate the public about planting and growing these fantastic flowers.

## JUDGES TRAINING PLANNED FOR JAN. 19

Marney Abel has announced that a Judges Training School will be held on Saturday, January 19, 2019, in Ross Hall of the Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church located at 7127 Bee Caves Road in Austin, 78746-4102.

Registration and breakfast will start at 9 A.M.

Other details will follow soon.

## FROM TRACEY

We sold 62 of the 80 unknown potted Zilker historic irises at the Master Gardener Sale on March 10th. One customer bought 12 pots. While we can provide a list of what was originally planted in the bed in 1997, we can't identify any of the irises until they bloom.

## PETAL POWER: GROUP WORKS TO PRESERVE WILD LOUISIANA IRISES

By Janet McConnaughey, Associated Press  
New Orleans – May 10, 2018



Vast stands of wild Louisiana irises — vibrant purple, blue, red, yellow and orange flowers that thrive in the wet, swampy state — have been replaced by roads and buildings, leading to concerns that they are running out of habitat. A small group of enthusiasts is doing its best to make sure that the widely varied group of plants doesn't go the way of the passenger pigeon.

The Society for Louisiana Irises launched the Louisiana Iris Species Preservation Project three years ago to create repositories in at least seven different locations for a large number of wild iris varieties, which also have been threatened by farming, flood management, oil work, illegal dumping and natural disasters.

"That's part of the reason for establishing those collections now," said Charles Perilloux of Baton Rouge, who heads the preservation effort that started in 2015.

Hurricanes and saltwater intrusion in the marshlands already have wiped out some varieties in the wild, though they have survived in gardens, Perilloux said.

Four repositories have been established so far. The biggest, under the care of the Greater New Orleans Iris Society, is in New Orleans' City Park. Perilloux tends a repository in Baton Rouge. The other two are in Livingston, Louisiana, and Cleveland, Tennessee.

A woman in Ohio, where one species is native, has agreed to take on stewardship of a fifth collection in Rushsylvania, about 45 miles (70 kilometers) northwest of Columbus, Perilloux said. He is trying to find at least two more stewards, preferably one in

Texas and another in Florida or South Carolina.

In New Orleans the plants are in 7-gallon (25-liter) plastic pots grouped in 10-to-20-foot-long (3-to-6-meter-long) timber-and-plastic retaining ponds so their roots stay moist. Several plants often grow in one pot. One species, *Iris gigantacerulea* — Louisiana's state wildflower — is so big, each variety is in a separate kiddie pool. The Baton Rouge location is in Perilloux's yard, where floating docks hold scores of pots with their bases in a half-acre pond.

Since irises spread through underground stems called rhizomes, they're in labeled pots to keep them separate. "If you have them in the ground, the rhizomes will spread and you lose track of which variety is where," Perilloux said.

There are about 280 species of iris in the world, 28 of them native to the United States, according to the U.S. Forest Service.

The five species known as Louisiana irises — four of them native to Louisiana — can hybridize with each other but not with any other



species, Perilloux said. Two of those five species can be found in more than a dozen other states, and one of them grows as far north as southern Ontario, Canada. The fifth species once grew in Alabama, Florida, Georgia and South Carolina, but is increasingly rare and may now exist only in Florida, Perilloux said.

Within the five species, more than 100 varieties have been found in the wild. Many are so different from each other that a renowned botanist of the 1930s thought there were more than 100 species, at a time when only 18 species of iris were known to exist in North America.

One species that is particularly in danger is the "Abbeville red," which also comes in yellows and oranges. It has been found in the wild only in one small cypress swamp that has fared poorly since its discovery in 1938. Problems there include herbicides from nearby farms and rice hulls being dumped into the swamp, Perilloux said.

The preservation project is winning praise from other conservationists. Peter Raven, president emeritus of the Missouri Botanical Garden, called it unusual and magnificent.

"We've all urged private individuals and private groups to do this sort of thing," he said.

FROM OUR GARDENS



'Elizabethan Age'  
Tracey Rogers 05-05-2018



'Nancy's Lace'  
Tracey Rogers 03-29-2018



'Low Ho Silver'  
Tracey Rogers 04-02-2018

JUST FOR LAUGHS (But Seriously?)

CRANKSHAFT

Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis



CRANKSHAFT

Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis



'Persian Berry'  
Debbie Hood 03-28-2018