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March 2019 — Vol. 28 #03



*Nelda Moore, Ken Fuchs, Editors*

A Monthly Newsletter of the Iris Society of Austin

# IRIS AUSTIN



## NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, March 12, 2019 6:30 P.M.

Auditorium

Austin Area Garden Center

Zilker Botanical Garden

2220 Barton Springs Road

Austin, TX 78746

Program - 2017 Iris Show Redux

Potluck

## Nominating Committee Report

President – Jaime Hadley

Second Vice President – Nelda Moore

Secretary – Dara E. Smith

Treasurer – Tracey Rogers

No nominations from the floor.

Call 512 327 0401 and leave a message if you are interested in providing or recommending programs.

The Newsletter is written by Nelda Moore and some members who provide information and photographs to be included in different issues.

The layout is completed by Ken Fuchs, who also writes interesting articles and takes superb photos. He maintains a website that provides useful information that all of us appreciate. He sends the newsletter to you via your computer. With this edition we have gone digital. Only a few members without email will receive a copy of this newsletter by mail.

## GROWING AND SHOWING IRISES

Horticultural division irises can be large blossoms as a result of the exhibitor's cleaning his garden of debris and dead foliage, fertilizing the irises at least twice per year (September and February) with bone meal for bearded, rose food for Spurias, and azalea food for Louisianas, and watering the plants as needed. Swamp irises do not have to stand in water, but in order for these Louisianas to bloom, they must be kept damp. They will not bloom if they remain dry for a long period of time.

Since the flowers for the show need to be fresh, the exhibitor should cut the bloom stalks early in the morning of the show or try to keep them in about 4 gallons of water with 1 cup of Karo syrup mixed in for 30 minutes. When cutting the bloomstalk, use a paper label with the name of the cultivar wrapped around the stem. After the cut close to the rhizome, turn it downward to allow water to drip from the bloom and possibly allow bugs, spiders, and other insects to drop to the ground. The foliage should not have aphids, holes, or damage. With a manicure scissors the leaf spot can be removed by cutting ¼ inch off. Follow the shape of the leaf as this is completed.

Transport these bloomstalks in a container that has cells for each cultivar.

Do not allow the blossoms to touch each other. Place the carrier between the seats of the vehicle, but do not try to watch them shake while driving.

Before the show examine the blossom to see that the iris has 3 standards and 3 falls. Using a brush or Q-tip

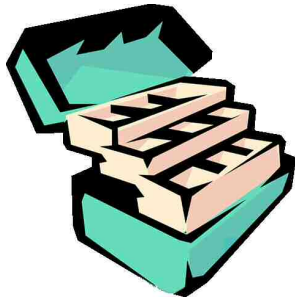


ISA Website: [http://www.kenfuchs42.net/isa\\_index.html](http://www.kenfuchs42.net/isa_index.html)



remove any dirt or bugs that cling to the bloom. Remove the fingerprints on the stem with a soft cloth. Do not replace the sheen with powder in this exhibit. Use a rubber band and place the completed entry tag around the lower part of the vase. Use some insulation to hold the bloomstalk securely with its perfect face forward over the entry tag.

#### ITEMS IN TACKLE BOX for Grooming Irises



- Sharp knife for cutting stalk near rhizome
- Q-tips
- Film canister
- Scissors
- Cosmetic or artists brush
- Loose facial powder for replacing sheen
- Soft cloth

#### ARTISTIC DIVISION OF THE SHOW

Tracey Rodgers is preparing the tables for the artistic flower arrangements since anyone who wishes to enter one of the categories can notify her as soon as possible. For the **small design** the same principles of a large design apply. The choice for showing irises can be in the form of a line arrangement in the Japanese styles, a mass arrangement, or any of the European designs. The Ikebana has very few irises in the heaven, man, and earth arrangement. The Line-mass arrangement has a clean, uncluttered look, with definite line, a well-defined mass, and plenty of open spaces. Contrast of texture, color, and line are important features. The mass arrangement has a thick, full-look, with a closed silhouette. Color is important in a mass arrangement. Round or mass shapes usually dominate, but spiky or linear forms are good for triangular arrangements.

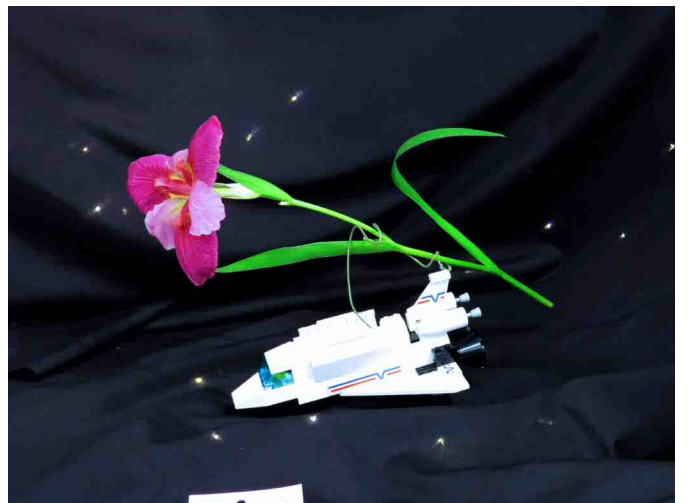
#### SOME SMALL DESIGNS FROM THE 2017 SHOW



'Irises Enhance the Moonscape' – Jim Landers



'Aliens on the Moon' – Tracey Rogers



'Space Shuttle' – D. Boyle





'Floating in Iris' – Donna Little



'Constellation ORION and Black Hole' --  
Dara Smith

### BY-LAWS REVISION

The Winter 2019 Bulletin of the American Iris Society provided a supplement containing the by-laws revision from the Board of Directors for members to vote on no later than March 15. Please send your ballot, which is included, to Michelle Snyder, AIS Secretary, 225 Sky Line Drive, Sedona, AZ 86336.

The by-laws of the Austin Area Garden Council Conservancy were e-mailed to members of the garden clubs and societies. Please read them carefully. They were sent to Jaime Hadley by Ellen Singleton, who is Iris Council Representative.

### TEXAS LEAFCUTTER ANTS

Television can bring clear pictures of *Atta texana* also known as town ant, parasol ant, fungus ant, and



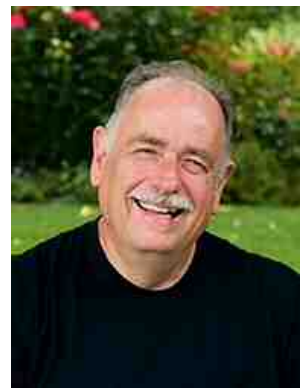
night ant. They are in Central Texas gardens, where they live in great colonies of millions that harvest weeds, grasses, and forage crops—including iris foliage—by carrying pieces of material to their

fungus garden underneath the mound. They can damage fruit trees, berry bushes, and pine trees while building their food source. These ants have 3 pairs of prominent spines on their thorax and one pair of spines on the back of their head.

Usually Amdro Ant Block, Sevin Dust, or Orthene can be applied to them during foraging. Always read the label and follow directions carefully.

### KEVIN VAUGHN TO SPEAK IN TEXAS AUGUST 9 and 10

Kevin Vaughn from Salem, Oregon will be the speaker when the Fort Worth Iris Society will host the Region 17 Annual Meeting in the Best Western Plus located at 210 Alford Drive in Weatherford August 9 and 10.



Rooms are guaranteed for \$95 plus tax, which includes a hot breakfast, if reservations are made by July 9.

Registration for the meeting will be \$60 for adults and \$45 for youth members. This price is good until July 31, when the fee will increase by \$10. Kevin Vaughn will provide Judges Training on median irises Saturday, August 10. The cost is \$10 per person.

Wear your colorful Hawaiian shirts to this "Luau-Texas Style" event and join this fun packed meeting.

MINUTES OF THE IRIS SOCIETY OF AUSTIN  
February 12, 2019

The meeting was called to order and presided by President Jaime Hadley. We had a special welcome for guests at this evening's meeting. A motion to approve the minutes from the January 2019 meeting as written in the February 2019 Newsletter was passed pending the correction of misspellings for the Taniguchi Garden.

Treasurer's Report from Tracey Rogers:

January balance \$15,680.36 with transactions for membership renewals and dues, judges training and expenses and affiliation fees. A motion was accepted and passed to approve the balance.

AAGC Report from Ellen Singleton:

New By-laws are being reviewed. Many Spring events are planned and some include: 2/16 - Rose Society training, 2/23-24 orchid show and sale, 3/2 Organic Gardener's plant sale, 3/9 Violet Crown flower show, 4/11 Starlight Social.

Update on contact information for Imre Eifert.

Please contact via email [iefort@utexas.edu](mailto:iefort@utexas.edu) and on Facebook Imre Eifert.

Newsletter Update from Ken Fuchs:

With the increased costs in handling and mailing of the printed copies of newsletters, we discussed and voted on options for ending hard copy deliveries of the monthly ISA newsletter.

If a member has a means to receive the newsletter electronically in digital format, then a hard copy will not be mailed to them.

A motion was made by Marney Able to not send hard copies of the newsletter to people that have email addresses. The motion was seconded and

approved unanimously.

Nelda Moore update from the Nominating Committee:

Nelda has spoken to everyone that has expressed an interest in holding an office for the ISA in the upcoming year. Here are the proposed nominees for the slate of officers:

- President - Jaime Hadley
- VP Programs - open
- Membership - Nelda Moore
- Treasurer - Tracey Rogers
- Secretary - Dara E. Smith

Update on the ISA 2019 Iris Show, Saturday April 13, 2019 - "Irises In Art"

If you prepare an entry in the design classifications, it will be allowed to display a picture of the artwork that inspired the design.

Please let Tracey know if you want to reserve a space for an entry for an artistic design.

Depending on the number of entries we have for Photography, Marney will decide how best to have these exhibits judged. Please let her know how many entries you will have.

Important Dates:

- Next ISA Meeting - Tuesday March 12th, 2019
- Tuesday April 9, 2019 - Show Ready tips for grooming and tag labeling.
- ISA Show - Saturday April 13, 2019
- AIS National Convention April 23 - 27, 2019 San Ramon, CA

Program: "RIZOM" - An Iris terminology BINGO game! Thank you, Marney!!

The meeting was adjourned.

Dara E. Smith, Secretary

Submitted for Approval on: March 12, 2019.

From  
Our  
Gardens



Left, 'Hico Huggins' - Susan Flanagan  
03-03-2019

Right, SOCK IT TO `EM: Dara Smith  
combats the freezing temps  
03-04-2019

