

in this issue >>>

- September 2019 Iris Sales
- Region 22 (OK, AR) 2019 Meeting
- Zilker Garden Care
- Irises in Art

October 2019 — Vol. 28 #10



Nelda Moore, Ken Fuchs, Editors

A Monthly Newsletter of the Iris Society of Austin

IRIS AUSTIN

Next Meeting:

TUESDAY, October 8, 2019

7 P.M.

Greene Room

Zilker Botanical Garden

2220 Barton Springs Road

Austin, TX 78746

Pot Luck

Program – The 2019 A.I.S. National Convention in San Ramon, CA (video)

November 12, 2019 Meeting

No meeting in December

SEPTEMBER 2019 IRIS SALES



The Iris Society of Austin's Annual Rhizome Sale in the Norris Conference Center off Anderson Lane near Walmart. The ISA sale was rather slow this year. There was no large gathering taking place in the nearby conference room, which in past years brought heavy traffic to our sale room during conference breaks. However, even with a smaller number of sale customers, the ISA added \$2073 to its treasury. At the end of the sale only a few rhizomes remained and they were available for sale in pots during the Bamboo Festival in Zilker Botanical Garden Saturday and Sunday, September 21–22. Sales at the Bamboo Festival added another \$626 to the treasury.



2019 Region 22 Meeting

by Jim Landers

The first weekend of September I drove up to Muskogee, Oklahoma for the regional meeting of Oklahoma and Arkansas (Region 22). It was very similar to the Region 17 meetings except on a smaller scale. The guest speaker was Mike Locketell from Virginia and he spoke on reblooming irises. Friday evening he had a program of many different reblooming irises in almost every category of iris.



'Soda Fountain Shuffle' - Locketell 2015 RE

Saturday morning Mike had a two hour Judges Training class on rebloomers and then Robert Treadway did a one hour J T class on Louisianas. Both were very interesting and informative. After a lunch break there was the business meeting and then the iris auction. The large silent auction was ongoing during the day, and a highlight of my visit was discovering a beautiful potted 'Lady of Lometa' in the silent auction.



SDLG 21013 - Locketell RE



SDLG 21261 - Locketell RE



SDLG 20557 - Locketell



Saturday evening was the Awards Banquet which included a Region 22 high school student (who is webmaster of the Region 22 website) receiving the Clark Cosgrove Youth Award from the American Iris Society. After the delicious Mexican dinner buffet Mike Locketell did a program of his irises, introductions and seedlings and the opportunities and challenges of iris genetics. He encouraged everyone to plant iris seeds and see what happens.

Region 17 AIS Board Announced

RVP – Bonnie Nichols
ARVP – Michael Reed
Secretary – Jerri Cage
Treasurer – Debbie Strauss
Historian – Jim Landers

The ISA Welcomes New Members

Martha Mueck
Shirley Randolph
Clifton Speer

Keep In Mind

Sympathy is extended to Ellen Singleton whose mother-in-law passed away at the age of 101. Caring thoughts and prayers also go out to Donna Little and Stephanie Sheridan.

ZILKER GARDEN CARE

Don Freeman selected a new Spuria to plant in place of the one that died in the Iris Garden in Zilker Botanical Garden Conservancy. David Kraemer and Nelda Moore returned to the garden on Tuesday, September 11th, to rid the bearded irises of weeds and plant new Louisiana irises. The older bearded irises and some of the Louisianas needed water while the newer planted garden was too wet in an area near Barton Springs Road. The water system was not working due to irrigation repairs in Zilker Park.

GROWING IRISES

If your irises have stopped blooming in their 5-year - old clump, then dig them with a spading fork and replant in some amended soil. Trim healthy leaves into a fan or an upside down "V" for each of the bearded irises. Cut off the end of any rhizomes that need trimming due to rot or disease. Then plant each rhizome by pressing it in a mound of soil in the hole with the top of the iris almost at soil level. Fill in and firm the soil. You may have to water the hole or the area where you plant the rhizomes if you have not had any rain. Always water deeply and then let the bearded irises dry before watering again. These irises do not need much water. For these irises use bonemeal to feed them on Labor Day, Valentine's Day, and Mother's Day, or after they bloom when you remove the bloomstalks and clean your garden. For reblooming irises water them more often and feed them after they bloom in the spring and fall.

Louisiana Irises

For Louisiana irises plant the damp rhizomes in soil that retains runoff water from rains or at the edge of the pond. You may also plant in a bucket with no holes in the bottom. If you want to drill holes to prevent rain water to stand, drill at the top of the bucket just above the soil line. You may use mosquito dunks to prevent the insects from emerging. Insert the rhizome in the soil about 2 or 3 inches deep. Water them and use acid fertilizer to feed these irises at least 3 times per year.

Louisiana irises are swamp irises; therefore, keep them moist at all times or they will not bloom if they dry out for long periods of time.

SPURIAS

Spurias develop exotic blooms. Their foliage is long and thin without specks like pepper that Louisianas develop in wider foliage. This thin blade can be used in flower arrangements so use them to decorate. Remember that this iris can go dormant in the summer. Wait until July or whenever you clean your iris garden to cut the foliage down to the green near the wirely rhizome. During the summer these irises survive with the rain water that comes down, but some years a small amount of watering is necessary. During cool weather these plants begin to grow so water them and feed them with rose food. Spurias and Louisiana irises are heavy feeders.

These 3 types of irises do well in Central Texas. There are other rhizomes that need the cool weather of other parts of the United States. If you order other types, you will have to care for them in pots that you can move out of the hot sun.

SOME OUTSTANDING 2019 AIS AWARDS



'Bottle Rocket' - Sutton 2019 Dykes Winner

THE MARY SWORDS DEBAILLON MEDAL

A 3-way Tie:



'Dark Dude' - Ron Betzer LA



'Lemon Zest' - Kevin Vaughn LA



'Michigan Belle' - Jill Copland LA

IRISES PRESERVED IN ART

The cover art on our ISA 2019 Show Schedule featured a painting by Hyon O'Brien, wife of Returned Peace Corps Volunteer Tim O'Brien (K3 1967-1969). Hyon and Tim are world travelers, and Hyon keeps her eye out for images of irises to share with the ISA. They recently toured the Middle East and here are a couple of images she shared.



Hyon in Baku, Azerbaijan



A tile mosaic in a factory near Amman, Jordan



Wall painting in 18th century Khan Palace, 200 miles NW of Baku