

- *Bonnie Nichols – Novelty Irises*
- *Youth Essay Competitions*
- *Greenbird flowers*



*Nelda Moore, Ken Fuchs, Editors*

A Monthly Newsletter of the Iris Society of Austin

# IRIS AUSTIN



## Next Meeting:

**Tuesday, November 12, 2019**

6:30 P.M.

Austin Area Garden Center Auditorium

Zilker Botanical Garden

2220 Barton Springs Road

Austin, Texas 78746

Pot Luck

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

No meeting in December

## JUDGES TRAINING

November 16, 2020

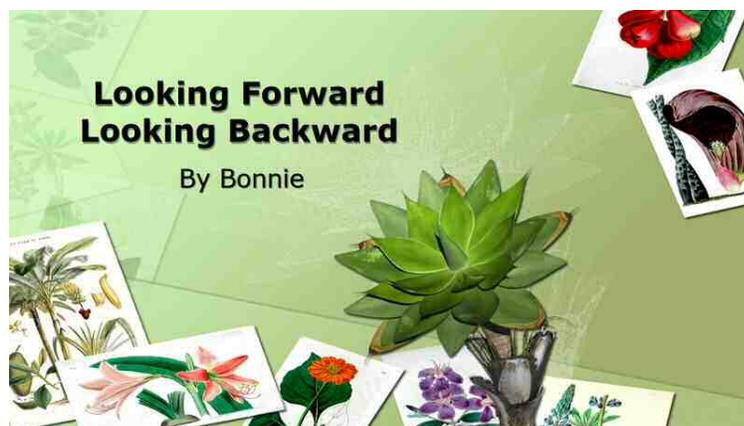
RILEY PROBST

3 hours \$10

Iris Society of Dallas

Reblooming/Median Irises

## BONNIE NICHOLS DISCUSSES HOSTING REGION 17 AIS MEETING AND NOVELTY IRISES



Bonnie Nichols, Region 17 AIS Vice President and president of the Novelty Iris Society, was the featured speaker during the October 8 meeting of the Iris Society of Austin.

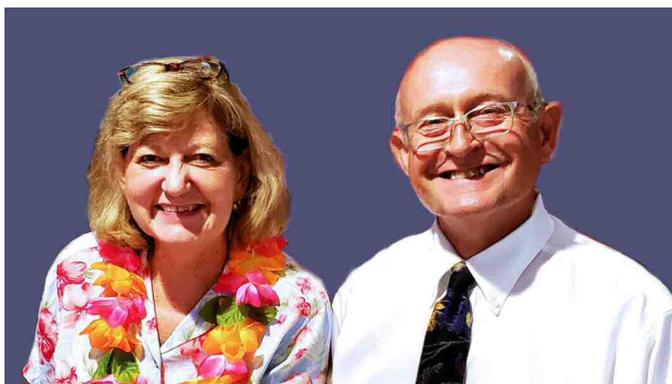
She gave an overview of hosting a Region 17 AIS Meeting to keep the cost down. When the speaker is selected and contacted about when they can arrive, then the hotel can be told the exact date in August that the event can take place Friday evening and all day Saturday. When the hotel is selected, questions concerning the rooms—how many persons can occupy a room if some of the attendees want to share a room, what amenities will be available to them in the rooms, such as free WiFi must be answered. The conference room should be able to accommodate the number—45 to 65—attending. Will the hotel allow the host society to cater meals? Will there be an extra charge for use of the conference room?

IRIS SOCIETY OF AUSTIN is one of 8 societies in Region 17 Affiliates who won the Bronze Medal Award with 71% of its membership belonging to A.I.S.

At least 2 weeks before the Regional Meeting, the membership chair sends the membership of the local society to the Regional Membership Chairman.

## CARES AND CONCERNS

Stephanie Sheridan underwent lung surgery in early October.



Bonnie and Hooker Nichols at the 2019 Region 17 Meeting in Weatherford

Bonnie is a busy leader and hybridizer who flew in and out of Austin in a matter of hours. She serves the American Iris Society as second vice president and Judges Training Chair.

She also worked on the Judges Handbook Revision Committee, and the new edition will be published soon. She has served as treasurer for the American Iris Society from 1995 to 1998.

During the 30 plus years that she has been a member of the Iris Society of Dallas she has chaired A I S National Conventions in 2000, 2013, and 2014. She has worked with the 2013 and 2017 conventions for Louisiana Irises. She and her husband, Hooker Nichols, own Hillcrest Iris and Daylily Gardens in Dallas. Bonnie has won the Distinguished Service Medal from Iris Society of Dallas as well as from Region 17 AIS when she served as RVP. She is also a member of Fort Worth Iris Society, Lone Star Iris Society, Waco Iris Society, and Johnson County Iris Society.

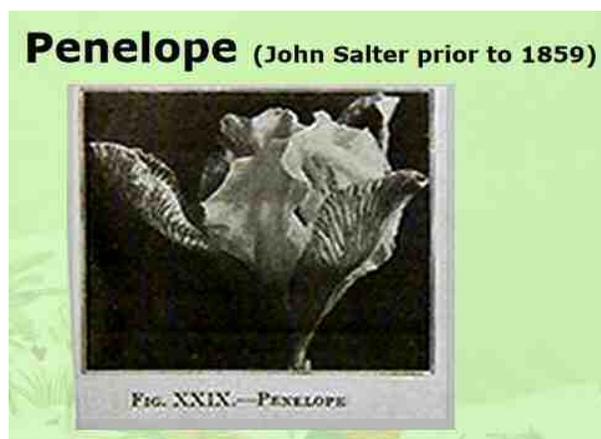


'Watermelon Wizard'

Hooker has been named Region 17 AIS Hybridizer of the Year. His 'Watermelon Wizard' Louisiana Iris of

2011 won the Award of Merit in 2018. His Beardless Iris Seedling entered in the seedling competition at the 2019 convention in San Ramon has been named 'Centennial Anniversary.' It will be growing in Newark, New Jersey during the 2020 AIS National Centennial Convention May 18-23, 2020.

Bonnie, who helped organize the Novelty Iris Society, serves as president and does much research about these interesting unusual irises. In her program "Looking Forward Looking Backward," she provided the history of the fluctuations and freaks in irises such as 'Penelope' in 1859 or 'Dorothea' in



'Dorothea' - Caparne 1901 IB

1901. Child's catalog of 1926 showed a group of these special irises for sale at 35 cents per rhizome. Even tulip type with all standards and no falls came before 'Nth Degree' by Burseen with carnation-like appendages or 'Blue Tulip' a tulip iris by Knocke of El Paso, or 'Pink Magnolia' by Brown 1970 that is a tall



bearded Space Age Iris. Many with broken color such as 'Joseph's Coat' or 'Batik' have no two blossoms alike. Some of them have names that describe their uniqueness like 'Minnesota Mixed Up Kid,' 'Bewilderbeast,' 'Fine Mess' random color, 'Wizard of Odds' by Paul Black 2009, 'Splitter Splatter' LA, and 'Circus Act' by Black.

## Multiple Petals Flowers



Sometimes foliage can be white and green or yellow and green thus giving the novelty to their cultivar.

During the time that man experimented with the atom bomb there were many bearded irises with

appendages extending from their beards. They became known as Space Age Irises.

These cultivars are in existence today because of the work of Lloyd Austin, who noticed plicata seedlings in Sydney B. Mitchell's garden with little growths at the end of their beards. Austin interbred these plants to get horns, spoons, flounces, and double appendages.



## YOUTH

Nominations for the Clarke Cosgrove Award must be submitted to Cheryl Deaton, 27218 Walnut Springs, Canyon Country, California 91351 by January 31, 2020.

Winner receives \$550, first runner up \$350, and second runner up \$250. One hundred dollars also goes to the winner for travel to the New Jersey Convention. The letter can be e-mailed as an attachment [region15kids@hotmail.com](mailto:region15kids@hotmail.com)

The Ackerman Essay Contest is sponsored by the AIS Foundation. This letter of 500 words or less is sent to Debbie Strauss, 2213 Hereford Blvd, Midland, Texas 79707-5012. [debbie@loveirises.com](mailto:debbie@loveirises.com)

Each division has 3 awards.

Elementary Division for 9 and under

Junior Division 10 -12

Senior Division Ages 13-18

Region 17 AIS Youth Achievement Award has an April 30, 2020 deadline for someone to nominate a youth from their club that works with adults to serve, to write, to hybridize and study irises. Send the person's name to Vicki Howard, 3912 CR 1205, Cleburne, Texas 76031.

Fort Worth Iris Society member Joel Vanderveer received the award this year and is eligible to win the Clarke Cosgrove Award.

## Minutes of the Iris Society of Austin

September 3, 2019

In absence of the Secretary and President, there are no minutes recorded for this meeting.

Important Dates:

- ISA Sale - Saturday September 7, 2019

Program: Preparing Rhizomes for the Sale.

Submitted for Approval on: November 12th, 2019.

October 8, 2019

The meeting was called to order and presided by President, Jaime Hadley.

Welcome to our visitor Victor who helped prepare tonight's pop luck dinner!! THANK YOU, Shirley Randolph and Martha Mueck! We had a delicious chicken and brisket BBQ dinner, potato salad, coleslaw, beans and sweet tea tonight served by our hospitality crew!

There were no reports from last month's meeting – minutes, Treasurer, AAGC Meeting or Sale Report. This was to make time for our program with our guest Bonnie Nichols who had flown in from Dallas this evening and had to be back at the airport for the return trip home! Thank you, Bonnie for making the quick trip and taking the time to come and visit with our club.

ISA Business:

To Honor the life and passing of long time ISA member Pat Byrne a Motion was entertained that ISA will donate \$50.00 to the Region 17 Youth Program for Scholarship and another \$50.00 to the American Iris Society for Youth Program for Scholarship in her honor. The Motion Passed.

ISA News:

Thoughts are with Stephanie Sheridan as she recovers from surgery and we hope she is back in action soon.

David and Susan Kraemer, Nelda Moore and Don and Pat Freeman have been hard at work cleaning, weeding, planting (new spuria!) and watering the front iris beds. There will be a Garden Workday for ISA members to come and attend to the irises that have survived the brutal heat and drought.

Saturday October 19, 2019 9am - noon.

Important Dates:

- Zilker Iris Bed Workday - Saturday October 19, 2019 - 9:00am to noon-ish.
- November Meeting - Tuesday November 12, 2019. 7p-9p (pot luck at 6:30p bring the sides for Thanksgiving Meal. Turkey / Ham provided by ISA).
- ISA Show Saturday April 11, 2020.
- American Iris Society National Convention 2020 New York - "The Centennial Celebration of The American Iris Society"
- Region 17 Meeting - August 2020 Hosted by Iris Society of Dallas

Program:

"Looking Forward Looking Backward" – Novelty Irises Then and Now.

Invitation from the Region 17 RVP to ISA to consider hosting the 2021 Region 17 Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

Dara E. Smith, Secretary

Submitted for Approval on: November 12th, 2019.

**Not an Iris but . . .**



Greenbird flower (*Crotalaria cunninghamii*), a perennial shrub that grows to about 1–3 m in height native to, and widespread, in inland northern Australia