



IRIS AUSTIN

A Newsletter of the Iris Society of Austin



Nelda Moore, Ken Fuchs, Editors

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

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, May 9 2023 6:30 P.M.
Zilker Botanical Garden - Auditorium
2220 Barton Springs Road
Austin, TX 78746
POT LUCK

DONNA LITTLE WINS BEST OF SHOW

On April 22, 2023, in the first Iris Society of Austin Show held in 3 years, Donna Little captured Queen of the Show with 'Haunted Heart,' the Best Tall Bearded and the Best Blend. Runner-Up was 'Ride for Dixie,' the Best Louisiana and the Best Orange, grown by ISA president Ellen Singleton.



Queen of the Show
Photo by Gordon Carver



Other irises on the head table:

Best Red – 'Cranapple' – Donna Little
Best Pink – 'Peggy Sue' – Tracey Rogers
Best Purple – 'Inn Keeper,' a Louisiana – Dara Smith
Best Blue – 'Ty Blue,' also named the Best Specimen by a Texas Hybridizer – Dara Smith
Best Black – 'Dracula's Kiss' – Dara Smith
Best Yellow – 'Ruby Moon' – Shirley Friesen
Best Violet – 'Festival Banner,' a Louisiana – Ellen Singleton
Best Gold – 'Forty Carats,' a Spuria – Dara Smith
Best Amoena – 'Pumpkin Cheesecake' – Audrey Baker
Best Multi-color – 'Bewilderbeast' – Dara Smith
Best Bi-tone – 'Walk That Walk' – Ellen Singleton

Division IV — Artistic Design:

Laura Moorman won a blue ribbon in Class 1: "Clean Energy" (Novice Class). There was a globe of the Earth to represent the theme of the show — "Celebrate Earth Day with Irises."

Class 2: "Clean Water" Shirley Smith won first place. Others who exhibited in Class 2 were Donna Little and Dara Smith.





"Clean Energy" - Laura Moorman



"Save the Earth" - Kathy Petheram

Class 3: "Irises and Bees" Ellen Singleton achieved first place. Others who exhibited in Class 3 were Shirley Smith, Tracey Rogers, and Nelda Moore.



"Irises and Bees" - Ellen Singleton

Class 4: "Save the Earth" Kathy Petheram showed a grand display with a path to a house showing a variety of ways to save this planet. Dara Smith had the best design in Class 4.

Division V — Educational Exhibits:

Nelda Moore's Educational Display had the Earth Day 2023 Seal with "Reuse, Recycle, Conserve Water Grow Bearded Iris," which do not need much water to flourish in Central Texas.

Division VII — Photography:

Section A: Single Bloom — Dara Smith, Donna Little, Shirley Smith, and Kathy Petheram, Best of Section - Donna Little

Section B: Multiple Bloom — Dara Smith, Shirley



Nelda Moore's Educational Display

Smith, Kathy Petheram, and Audrey Baker. Best of Section — Donna Little

Section C: Irises in Natural Setting — Dara Smith

Section D: Non-Bloom — Audrey Baker and Dara Smith. Best of Section — Dara Smith



Irises in Natural Setting — Dara Smith

THE SHOW HAD FOUR OUTSTANDING JUDGES

Although the show was small compared to other shows in the past, we had four judges who worked really hard. Gordon and Happy Carver and Dell Perry were observing irises in the horticulture section and the artistic division while Deanna Dossey judged four sections of photography. It was wonderful that the judges invited members in the Greene Room to come into the auditorium to hear what was said about the irises that were being judged. Audrey Baker helped the photography judge at the new set up that the Iris Society of Austin purchased.

For this show we used only two rooms — the auditorium and the Greene Room. In the library we tried to prepare the horticulture specimens in a tight area that was used for storage.

Many visitors visited the iris show and took pictures and asked questions. All in all it was a good show that happened this year of drought, freezing weather followed by summer days and then cold weather with very little rain.

HORTICULTURE

During the first week in April irises began to bloom: 'Daybreak,' 'Iron Eagle,' and most Louisianas. By April 21 most of the irises had bloomed and some Louisianas had seed pods as a result of the bees. Some of the late Louisianas that had not bloomed, but survived the blast from the past, began to send a short bloomstalk from the center of the foliage. I did not send these to the show, but I intend to sell Louisiana irises in the sale in September. They had been fed acid fertilizer, but they seem too thick.

Many of the bearded irises need to join the sale because despite having bone meal, they did not bloom, and one of the causes is crowding, not during the summer when some disappeared, but when cooler weather and rain brought the irises to life. As Dell Perry said in a bulletin, I held off on watering during the summer heat because the rhizomes could rot. That was a smart thing to do. I felt sorry for them and they rotted.

Do we need some super phosphate instead of bone meal for the bearded irises? A few irises had show stalks, but they fell to the ground this year.

THE 2023 IRIS SOCIETY OF AUSTIN SHOW

NOTE: All photos in this newsletter were taken by Jim Landers, unless otherwise identified.





Queen of Show - 'Haunted Heart'



Runner-Up - 'Ride for Dixie'



Best Red - 'Cranapple'



Best Pink - 'Peggy Sue'



Best Purple - 'Inn Keeper'



Best Blue - 'Ty Blue'



Best Black - 'Dracula's Kiss'



Best Yellow - 'Ruby Moon'



Best Violet - 'Festival Banner'



Best Gold – 'Forty Carats'



Best Amoena – 'Pumpkin Cheesecake'



Best Multi-color – 'Bewilderbeast'



Best Bi-tone – 'Walk That Walk'



"Clean Water" – Shirley Smith



"Clean Water" - Dara Smith



"Clean Water" - Donna Little



"Save the Earth" - Nelda Moore



"Save the Earth" - Dara Smith



Etcetera

Donna Little visited the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston. (Photo by Donna Little)

Dara Smith has a new Spuria seedling. (Photo by Dara Smith)

