



IRIS AUSTIN

A Newsletter of the Iris Society of Austin



Nelda Moore, Ken Fuchs, Editors

October 2023 — Vol. XXIII #8

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

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, **October 24, 2023** 6:30 P.M.
Zilker Botanical Garden - Auditorium
2220 Barton Springs Road
Austin, TX 78746

IRIS SHOW April 13, 2023
Ellen Singleton, Show Chairman

SOME RAIN AWAKENED SPURIAS



'Chocolate Rosette' - Dave Niswonger 2007



'Oregon Cream' - Lee Walker 2007

One late September day Spurias awakened from the intense heat and drought to find a better cooler world to emerge and gain rapid growth that establishes them as the tallest iris to grow in Central Texas. The amended soil and heavenly moisture brought them out of dormancy even though their foliage lay over their rhizome since it was never cut in July or August. Now it is time to feed them a balanced fertilizer that you use on roses so that they become green again and reward you with blooms for the show. Those thin sword-shaped leaves are useful in creating beautiful iris arrangements.



'Violet Fusion' - Lee Walker 2005



'Highline Lavender' - Eleanor McCown 1968

WHO ARE IRISARIANS?

Irisarians are special people who love irises, grow irises, amend the soil that irises worship, watch the climate, studies and records to form opinions of irises, and do not consider weeds to be companion plants for irises. In fact, irisarians work every day to maintain a picture perfect garden. Irisarians know their strengths and weaknesses and work to correct their weaknesses. They purchase new irises every year but remember their older varieties that are tried and true and able to resist climate change or survive fires. They keep up with other irisarians and carefully listen for newer trends concerning growing and showing irises. They are always happy when their family, friends, and loved ones win awards with their irises. As artists they can distinguish between an inferior iris and one of great form, bud count, and beauty of bloom. They know that irises constantly change and they can move to better soil as they develop into show stalks.

IRISES IN FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS

Ken Fuchs has presented a detailed ISA newsletter (July/August 2023) concerning floral arrangements using irises for past shows. Now please check out IRISES: THE BULLETIN OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY SPRING 2023 for "The Evolution of the AIS Artistic Design Certificate" by Dawn Boyer on page 34-37. Study some of the iris florals that are included. Older issues of the AIS Bulletin have similar articles by Carolyn Hawkins.

HORTICULTURE

As a gardener you have planted all of the irises that you have purchased. Those bearded varieties have green foliage now that you have watered and fed them bone meal. If they are reblooming irises, then they can use more water and food as spring approaches.

Louisiana irises can be planted in a separate area that remains wet or they can be grown in beautiful containers with no holes in the bottom although some tiny holes can be in the very top of the pot to allow rain water to escape to avoid mosquitoes hatching in your yard. These native wild flowers grow in acid soil; therefore, feed with azalea food. During severe winter (15 degrees) protect the plants by covering or turning them over and protecting the area so that they do not freeze. Before winter these

plants are mulched and the roots are established while the rhizome is covered.

Spurias can be planted behind the tall bearded irises or in a separate garden that has rose soil and extra rose food to nourish them for healthy leaves and blooms. These irises and their thin leaves do well in forming unusual flower arrangements for the April 13th flower show in the auditorium of Zilker Botanical Garden.

Texas sage, Empress Candlestick, lantana, and crepe myrtle are growing and blooming after the rain that brought hail to Round Rock, Georgetown, and Austin, but not West Lake Hills. After watering and cooler temperatures the gardens are beginning to grow—even weeds are emerging. The tiny rhizomes have green leaves and new growth daily in their huge pot referred to as their nursery. The soil is fertile and the irises are happy.

Enjoy your irises and keep the garden clean. Work happily when cutting away that autumn color from irises.

Some ISA Rhizome Sale Pictures By Tracey Rogers September 9, 2023



Potted plants mid-day after several sold



Marney Abel with a customer



Members Donna Little, Laura Moorman, Debbie Hood and Audrey's granddaughter, who turned into quite the sales assistant.

MINUTES OF THE IRIS SOCIETY OF AUSTIN MEETING SEPTEMBER 12TH, 2023

The meeting was called to order and presided over by Ellen Singleton.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Tracey Rogers. The current balance on September 12th, 2023 is \$15,986.17. This includes recent expenses and for Sutton order and Sale expenses.

AAGC meeting updates:

The demolition for the Green room will begin in October and planned remodel through March 2024. The Zilker Vision Plan has been postponed and is in re-development. There will be a vote from the ISA members on whether to increase our per-member dues to AAGC from \$13 to \$15.

ISA Business:

- ISA Show will be Saturday April 13th, 2024 at Zilker.
- Vote on the AAGC no dues changes. The dues are for \$13.00 per member (no increase). All in favor to not increase our AAGC dues per ISA member per year. Vote Passed.
- Thank you to everyone that came to dig the rhizomes out of the old beds in July.
- Delane Langton in Montana has LA irises for reasonable prices. Tracey is going to make an order. Please let her know if you would like to participate in the order.
- To plan our year long meetings here are the dates we would want a host and program for:
8 meetings - These dates are revised!!!!

1. Tuesday September 12th 6:30p
 2. Tuesday October 17th - host: Jaime/Dara 7pm - 9p
Program: Show 2023 Results and Awards Presentation
 3. Sunday November 19th (1p-3p) - host: Ellen (this is our first meeting at our new time on the 3rd Sunday of the month from 1p - 3p)
 4. Sunday January 21st (1p-3p) - host: Donna
 5. Sunday February 18th (1p-3p) - host: TBD
 6. Sunday March 17th (1p-3p) - host: TBD
 7. Sunday April 21st -(1p-3p) (show is Saturday April 20th) - host: TBD
 8. Tuesday May 14th (6p - 9p) - host: Audrey
- Send items for the meeting agenda items for discussion to Ellen Singleton.

Program:

Nelda has a program on various topics for iris.

What is an irisarian?

Someone who loves irises! It doesn't matter what colors they are. You go to gardens and look for irises. You read catalogs. Old irises and New irises, all of them have a beauty of their own.

Enjoy your time in the garden!

The meeting was adjourned.

Dara E. Smith, Secretary

Submitted for Approval on: October 17th, 2023



'Megatrend' - Ben Hager 1985 SPU