



# 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](http://www.kenfuchs42.net/isa_index.html)

## NEXT MEETING:

Sunday, **January 21, 2024** 1-3 P.M.  
Zilker Botanical Garden - Auditorium  
2220 Barton Springs Road  
Austin, TX 78746



Program – PHOTOGRAPHY, presented by Deanna Dossey. She is the club photographer for Violet Crown and judged our photos at the 2023 show.

## JUDGES TRAINING CLASS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 18, 2024

Hosted by: Iris Society of Austin  
Location:  
Zilker Botanical Garden Center  
2220 Barton Springs Rd  
Austin, Texas 78746  
Time: 1:00 – 3:00 PM  
Credit Hours: 2  
Cost: \$5.00  
Instructor: Dell Perry  
Training Topic: AIS Show Rules



What is involved in putting on a successful show, the different job positions' responsibilities, what to expect from the judges, what the judges expect from you, and what should and should not be part of your show schedule.

This is a required class for all Student/Candidates, and Apprentice judges before they can complete the Apprentice requirement of being either Show Chair or writing the Show Schedule for a show.

Recommended for all the members involved in putting on a show.

This is NOT a “preparing blooms for a show” class.

This JT Class has been approved.

Please contact Tracey Rogers if you plan to attend:

Tracey Rogers  
4608 Hoffman Dr  
Austin, Texas 78749  
Phone: 512-789-2015  
EMAIL: [Irissocietyaustinfo@gmail.com](mailto:Irissocietyaustinfo@gmail.com)



c. Comanche Acres Iris Gdns.  
'Missouri Gold Mine' - Hedgecock 2022 SPU



## UPDATE ON NEW IRIS/DAYLILY/ROSE BED

By Tracey Rogers



Iris beds, November 14, 2023

The original plan when we dug the irises in July from the original beds located at the front of the garden was that we would be replanting them in October. That was delayed due to various events scheduled at Zilker including the Surreal Garden display. The last information was that one of the two new beds still needed to have soil added in November.

The Daylily Society requires 100 plants so they can meet the requirements for a national American Daylily Society Display Garden. We don't have to meet any such requirement and as we prefer 3 plants per clump, our estimation is we will need 50 to 60 varieties, which if we can't complete from the rhizomes from the July dig, we as members can hopefully provide. As we had some duplication in the old beds, I don't see a problem in having some duplication as one clump might not make and we mainly want to show what grows well in Central Texas.

The suggestion is still out there that the daylilies and irises will be planted in February and March which is not a good time for either flower. Plus considering past couple of years, there is always a good chance we could be having freezing weather in February.



Louisiana and Spuria beds, November 14, 2023

As everyone knows, we were told it was urgent that we dig the irises up in July as they had plans for the old beds. We still don't know what the plan is and the beds haven't been touched since then. I checked out the beds in mid-November. Several of the Louisianas and Spurias are still thriving as the ground was too hard to dig most of them out. Thank you Dara for what you were able to salvage. Since the beds haven't been touched, I think it is safe to leave them there for now as they are thriving.

## SLI-SPURIA CONVENTION COMES TO DALLAS AREA



SPURIA IRIS SOCIETY



The Iris Society of Dallas will host the SLI-Spuria Convention April 26-28. This is the first ever joint Louisiana and Spuria iris Convention, but these bloomed at the same time during the national last year in Texas.

The registration deadline is March 25, 2024. Fairfield Inn and Suites by Marriott at 351 Market Center Drive in Terrell, which is east of Dallas, will serve as headquarters for this event that is surrounded by fast food restaurants like Chili's, Olive Garden, Texas Roadhouse, and Chuy's Mexican Food.

Registration will be acknowledged by email, and the packet with name tag, information, and tickets will be given to attendees at check-in time. The cost includes Friday lunch (sandwiches or vegetarian), dinner (taco bar or vegetarian plate), and Saturday lunch (baked potato and salad) and dinner (lasagna or vegetarian) for \$229 total. Make the check payable to "Iris Society of Dallas" and send reservations to Dell Perry, 800Pursell Drive, Plano, Texas 75025. Telephone (972) 816 3418

For room reservations ask for the Iris Society of Dallas Rate of \$115 per night when you call (972) 551 3200.

You will not want to miss this exciting convention with a bus on Friday, April 26, traveling to Rodney and



Cathy Barton's Garden at Hickory Creek, Judy Schneider's Garden in Whitesboro, and Kelly Patterson's in Dallas. This is followed by a Silent Auction and hybridizers answering any questions about Louisiana and Spuria irises.

On Saturday, April 27, the bus will travel to Hooker and Bonnie Nichols' Garden and then to Michael and Mary Ellen Reed's Garden and Farmers Branch Rose Garden and Dinner will be during the Awards Banquet.

On Sunday morning 2 gardens will have Judges Training classes.

## REGION 17

The 2024 Regional Meeting will be hosted by the East Texas Iris Society probably in Palestine. The 2025 regional is open for someone to step up to volunteer for this event to be the next wonderful iris event.

## SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO . . .

The family of Ramona Howard, who passed away in Lubbock September 2, 2023. You will remember her as a 50-year member of American Iris Society, serving as AIS Judge and Master Judge as well as Region 17 Vice President. She presented outstanding programs, seminars, and Judges Training.



The family of Shirley Randolph. Shirley lost her brother recently when he passed away and she asked for sympathy cards only.



The family of Alverton "Al" Alfred Elliott, Jr., who passed away on November 29, 2023 "of old age and stubbornness" at the young age of 81 in Georgetown, TX, where he resided with his wife, Barbara Merchant, whom he married in 2010. Both were members of

the Iris Society of Austin as well as the American Iris Society. Al was an American Iris Society Garden Judge in Region 17 and judged ISA shows in 2014 and 2016. He conducted Judges Training classes in Fort Worth and Amarillo, and in Austin in January 2020.



Al Elliott conducts a JT class in Austin on January 20, 2018



The family of Patricia "Pat" Freeman, whose husband Don died in December 2020. Pat was watching the Texas Longhorns game with family and loved ones December 2, 2023. They left to bring some food to eat together. When they returned, she had passed away.



Pat and Don worked for years in Zilker Botanical Garden with irises, roses, African violets, begonias, ferns, the Hartman Prehistoric Area, and much more. Pat was also known for her floral designs. They

organized the first iris society here, and between 1991 and 2016 won Silver or Bronze horticulture awards 18 times, and Best Specimen of Show 5 times. Both worked diligently and successfully for the festivals and brought along a son and daughter to assist them.



Pat Freeman at a meeting of the Violet Crown Garden Club

## IN THE NEWS

Bill Pittman was awarded the Region 17 Distinguished Service Award in 2023.

Gailmae Suite is Southwest Reblooming Iris Representative. [metex65@yahoo.com](mailto:metex65@yahoo.com)

Iris Show Schedules are now emailed to Olga Batalov [exhibition.schedules@gmail.com](mailto:exhibition.schedules@gmail.com) 2 months before the Iris Show. Her mailing address is 8715 Sparren Way, San Diego, CA 92129.

Jean Richter is A.I.S. membership secretary.

## MINUTES OF THE IRIS SOCIETY OF AUSTIN MEETING NOVEMBER 19TH, 2023

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

12 Members and 1 guest attended today's meeting.

As a method of publicity and advertisement for the Zilker Conservancy each member was given a bookmark.

This is the first Sunday afternoon regular meeting of the Iris Society of Austin!!

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Ellen Singleton in the absence of Tracey Rogers. The current balance on November 19th, 2023 is \$16,240.24. This includes recent expenses for photo display, membership dues and sale. The Treasurer's Report was approved.

The Minutes from the October 24th, 2023 meeting were approved as presented in the October 2023 Newsletter. Note that all the dates mentioned in the minutes were updated after the last meeting took place.

AAGC meeting updates: The AAGC voted to keep the dues for active members set at \$13.00 per year.

### ISA Business:

Meetings will no longer feature a potluck meal. Anyone wishing to bring light refreshments or snacks is welcome to continue that tradition.

ISA Dues are due in January.

Here are important dates for ISA during 2024:

1. MEETING: Sunday January 21st, 2024 (1p-3p)  
- hospitality: Carolyn Wylie (light snacks)  
(Proposed program for presentation on photography)
2. MEETING: Sunday February 18th 2024 (1p-3p)  
- host: Nelda Moore (Proposed Judges Training)
3. MEETING: Sunday March 17th 2024 (1p-3p)  
- host: Debbie Hood
4. SHOW: Setup Friday April 12th, 2024



5. SHOW: Saturday April 13th, 2024
6. MEETING: Sunday April 21st -2024 (1p-3p) (show is Saturday April 13th) - host: Dara Smith
7. MEETING: Tuesday May 14th, 2024 (6p - 9p) - host: Shirley
8. SALE: SEPTEMBER 7th, 2024
9. MEETING: Sunday September 15, 2024 (1p-3p)
10. MEETING: Sunday October 20, 2024 (1p-3p)
11. MEETING: Sunday November 17, 2024 (1p-3p)

Send items for the meeting agenda. items for discussion to Ellen Singleton.

#### Program:

Logistics of an Iris Show

Each year we host an Iris Show for horticulture, artistic designs, photography exhibits, and educational displays. And to interact with the general public and serve as hosts to the interesting hobby of Iris flower cultivation and celebration.

Let's get our show ready!!!

This year we have a volunteer for our Show Chair: Ellen Singleton

The Theme is: "Celebrating Zilker Garden"

Here is a list of some of the Responsibilities that we will be looking for volunteers from our membership to undertake:

Secretary and Awards Chair: Supplies and awards, exhibitions for seedlings.

Secretary - tallies results from judged entries and determines the awards, send Exhibition report(s)  
Show Chair reviews Staging and displays of awards table.

Classification: Horticulture entries, review the correct class, check the entry card for completeness (not responsible for verifying if the named variety is correct)

Volunteers for the 2024 show:

Horticulture: Marney Abel and Jaime Hadley

Secretary: Dara E Smith

Artistic Design: Tracey Rogers

Photography: Audrey Baker

Judges: Tracey

The meeting was adjourned.

Dara E. Smith, Secretary

Submitted for Approval on: January 21st, 2024



'Lines Form Here' - Hedgecock 2020 SPU



'One Hundredth Anniversary' - Hedgecock 2020 SPU