



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:

Sunday, **February 18, 2024** 12-3 P.M.
Zilker Botanical Garden - Auditorium
2220 Barton Springs Road
Austin, TX 78746

JUDGES TRAINING CLASS

On February 18 the Iris Society of Austin will offer a Judges Training class conducted by Dell Perry. The topic is "Putting on an Iris Show." The class begins at 12:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Austin Area Garden Center Zilker Botanical Garden. If you are taking this class for credit, the cost is \$5. Snacks will be provided, and tea and coffee will be available.

Please come to register by 12:30 P.M.

CONVENTIONS IN DALLAS

The Spuria Iris Society and Society for Louisiana Iris combined convention will be held in Dallas, April 26-28.

The deadline for registration is March 25 while room reservations for the Dallas rate of \$115 per night can be made by calling (972) 551-3200.

FEEDING TIME

On Valentines Day remember to love your irises and feed them for larger healthier blooms. For bearded ones use bone meal. Louisiana irises need azalea food or acid soil. Spurias require rose food. Do this and bring irises to the great show April 13.

DEANNA DOSSEY PRESENTS PROGRAM ON PHOTOGRAPHY



At our January 21, 2024 meeting, Deanna Dossey presented a program on entering photos in flower shows. Deana is the club photographer for the Violet Crown Garden Club. She judged the photography section for our 2023 iris show. Recently Deana had a design featured in the National Garden Club's 2024 Vision of Beauty calendar. Garden club designers from around the country submit photos of their designs to be selected. It's a great honor to have a design featured in the calendar.

It was recommended to take shots of animals at eye level. If a single flower is the focal point, make the background out of focus. Imagine a grid when taking photos or if your camera has the grid feature, use that to center your shot. Consider using a tripod, if you have problems keeping your camera steady.

Early morning is the best time to take garden photos. Overcast skies can be a good time to take outdoor photos. Consider taking pictures of your subject at different times during the day to determine your best shot. Different times also may help when it is a windy. For landscape shots, Deana recommended using a large F-stop.

Members had questions about where to have photos developed. Deana recommended using Shutterfly. Other recommendations from attendees were to order the photos online at Walgreen's. She recommended not waiting to the last minute to develop your photos so you have more time to edit.



Section A Single Bloom - Donna Little



Section B Multiple Bloom - Donna Little

Deanna included the winning entries from the 2023 show and invited the photographers that had entered the photos to give more information on what they were thinking and what they did to achieve their final photo. Due to the discussion, we have changed the photo category in the show schedule from "Irises in a natural setting" to "Creatures/animals in the iris garden."



Section C Irises in a Natural Setting - Dara Smith

Information on the American Iris Society photo contest was included. A special thank you to Deana for reminding us of the national contest. <https://www.irises.org/gardeners/photo-contest/> will give you the information needed to enter the national contest. Submissions will be accepted from May 1, 2024 thru August 1, 2024. You may enter as many as 6 photos in either one category or in different categories. There are 6 categories to choose from:

1. Irises in a landscape or garden. (Show the iris in the garden).
2. Irises in the wild. (Species in the wild, field or planting).
3. A person or people at iris events or tours.
4. Close up of an iris or irises. (Whole flower is showing.)
5. Iris photos – macro (close up of bloom segments.)
6. Photos of pets, wildlife or garden art with the irises.

2024 ISA SHOW CATEGORIES

Artistic Designs for April 13, 2024 Show
"Celebrating Zilker Botanical Garden"

Contact Tracey Rogers by April 6 if you want to enter either an artistic design or educational exhibit. Reservations are required for the artistic division and educational division to determine if we will have enough space.

The schedule with details on mounting photos will be handed out at the March meeting. Sign up sheets will also be available at the February and

March meetings. With the exception of the categories, the rules on artistic and photography entries haven't changed from last year's schedule.

Division IV Artistic Design Classes

Class 1: "Celebrating Zilker" Novice – open only to exhibitors who have never won a blue ribbon in a design Class at an Iris Society of Austin show

Class 2: "The Children's Garden" Small Design – no more than 15 inches in height

Class 3: "Taniguchi Japanese Garden" Tray – arrangement of plant material and dining components on a tray

Class 4: "Hartman Prehistoric Garden" Designer's Choice

DIVISION V – EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS – RULES

1. Each entry constitutes a separate class.
2. Any topic pertaining to iris, iris culture, or hybridizing is acceptable; and, the exhibit should include some tie in with the general show theme.
3. Up to 6 linear feet of standard tabletop will be assigned to each exhibit. Display should extend no more than 4 feet above the tabletop.

Division VII – Photography Division Sections

- A Single Bloom - A single iris bloom or part of an iris bloom
- B Multiple Blooms - More than one iris bloom either on a single stalk or multiple stalks
- C Creatures in a Garden – Insects/animals with an iris or irises
- D Non-Bloom - Any part of an iris other than the bloom

Contact Audrey Baker if you want to enter a photo.

PREPARING THE STALK FOR THE SHOW

Early in the morning on the day of the show find the irises that you want to enter. Cut the bloom stalk and place it in the vase with water.

Take a piece of paper and write the name of the cultivar such as TB 'Persian Berry.' When you reach the kitchen or garden room, take a small rag and carefully go over the stem to remove your fingerprints. Then take an iris bottle containing some water and place the bloom stalk in the bottle. The piece of material will hold the iris while the name card will be attached to the middle of the bottle that is provided for the show. Be careful to complete the card before attaching it to the bottle and then inserting the iris.

You must be quick in completing the information, which is accurate.

When taking the irises to the show. be sure that each bottle is held tightly in the box or frame or carrier that you have built. At the show take one look to note that the entry has its falls and standards. If you are driving the van, do not look back and watch the flowers shake.

Use the show schedule to complete the Show Tag. All of the information is provided and you may use an address label to save time.

If you use "T" this refers to the TEXAS HYBRIDIZER such as Tom Burseen or Hooker Nichols.



'Jean Cayeux' - Ferdinand Cayeux, 1931
(Debbie Hood, December 9, 2023)



GRACE STURTEVANT - THE GRAND LADY OF AMERICAN IRIS CULTURE

by Jean Richter



'Afterglow' - Grace Sturtevant, 1917
(Laura Moorman, January 1, 2024)



Grace Sturtevant was a singular figure in the early history of iris in the U.S. She was a hybridizer of considerable repute, and an early adopter of scientific methods towards iris breeding. In addition, she was instrumental in the founding of the American Iris Society.

Grace Sturtevant was born in Boston in 1865, the daughter of agriculturalist Edward Lewis Sturtevant. Her mother passed away when she was 10, and it fell to her to run the family household and look after her three younger siblings. She had considerable artistic talent, and illustrated her father's records (which were later published as "Sturtevant's Edible Plants" after his death). She hybridized her first iris in 1910, and became seriously interested in iris hybridizing in 1914. She opened a small nursery, Glen Road Iris Gardens, in 1917. Glen Road Iris Gardens was active until 1932, and in that time she introduced numerous iris, mostly tall bearded iris but also intermediate, miniature dwarf, and Siberian iris.

Several of her more notable 1918 introductions include 'Mme. Cheri,' 'Sherbert', and 'Sindjkha'. The latter iris is particularly widely distributed, and can be found in numerous gardens. My housemate Gesine Lohr had the experience of rescuing some un-named iris plants from a friend's newly-purchased home - iris that later turned out to be 'Sindjkha'.



'Sherbert' - Grace Sturtevant, 1918

(World of Irises - A.I.S. Website)



Mme. Cheri' - Grace Sturtevant, 1918



'Sindjkha' - Grace Sturtevant, 1918