



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 14, 2024** 6:30 - 9 P.M.
Zilker Botanical Garden - Auditorium
2220 Barton Springs Road
Austin, TX 78746

NEW HORIZONS



'Beni Huyou' - Nagai Yoshiko 2021 JI

The Greater Portland Iris Society will host 'New Horizons,' the 2024 American Iris Society National/Japanese/Species Convention June 26-29 in Portland, Oregon at the Holiday Inn Portland - Columbia Riverfront, 909 N Hayden Island Drive Portland, Oregon 97217.

Convention highlights include two days of garden tours visiting five gardens of which three are master plantings of the guest plants sent, three in-classroom Judges' Training classes, Boutique, silent auction, and programs from AIS Sections.



'Blushing Snowmaiden' - Chad Harris 2000 JI



'Summer Echoes' - Chad Harris 2023 JI

The primary focus of the convention is *Iris ensata*, known for its graceful foliage, large blooms of many colors, and sometimes

bold patterns. The plant generally grows 36" to 42" tall with some as small as 18" and others reaching over 5' tall. Blooms can be 3" across to more than 10".



'Natsusugata' - Ito Toichi 1953, 2021 JI

KEVIN VAUGHAN'S BOOKS

Kevin Vaughan has written two books: *Beardless Irises, A Plant for Every Garden Situation* and *Dwarf and Median Bearded Irises, Jewels of the World*.

When you read one of these books, please write a review for this newsletter or present a review to the society. Each book is \$32.

John and Kay Ludi accept Pay Pal and regular credit/debit card payments for the AIS Storefront.

SLI/SPURIA CONVENTION APRIL 25-28, 2024

By Tracey Rogers

(All photos by Tracey Rogers)

The convention kicked off Thursday evening with a hamburger cookout at the Bonnie and Hooker Nichols garden in Terrell, TX. It was a good thing the attendees got to check out their garden before the rains came. There was still a good bit blooming when the bus went there Friday morning, but the rain from Friday did beat down a few blooms.

'Nebula Wind' (Cadd, A. 2022) captured my attention as soon as I entered Cathy and Rodney Barton's garden in Lake Dallas (Hickory Creek) TX on Friday morning. It was a huge clump of blazing yellow Spuria irises. Anna Cadd said the clump at her home was taller than her. It was no surprise that it won The Dave Niswonger Award which is for the favorite Spuria introduced between 2014-2023. The Dave Niswonger award is only given during Spuria



'Nebula Wind' - Anna Cadd 2022 SPU



'Red War Clouds' - Lee Walker 2017 SPU

selected by popular vote. 2017 was the first and last time it was awarded. 'Red War Clouds' (Walker, Lee 2017) was the first and only winner until this year. From the Barton garden we went over to Carolyn & Keith Hayward's garden. Carolyn is an active member of the Dallas Iris Society and a landscaper. Her garden was a lovely combination of roses and irises. The rain got a little heavy.

Due to low bloom at Kelly Patterson's garden, the tour was diverted to Dell Perry's garden where several attendees braved the pouring rain and toured her garden. Fortunately the rain broke, and everyone

was able to enjoy the tour. At Dell Perry's garden, we saw 'Alien Encounter' (Nichols, H 2021) which would go on to win the Marie Caillet Cup which is awarded to the favorite Louisiana iris seen on garden tours. Anyone attending an SLI convention may vote.



'Alien Encounter' - Hooker Nichols 2021 LA



'Angelic Choir' - Chad Harris 2006 JI

While the focus of the tour was on Louisianas and Spurias, it was nice to see Japanese Iris 'Angelic Choir' (Harris 2006) in Dell's garden.

After the Friday tours, everyone enjoyed dinner from Chuy's with some lovely additions from club members. Patrick O'Connor spoke on "Broad Trends in Louisiana Cultivars: From Dorothea to Dallas" covering the history of Louisianas including the over-identification of Louisiana species in early years. One point made was the change from the original forms to

the more modern forms that tend to look more like bearded irises such as the frills.

Dr. Charles Perilloux spoke on "Preservation of Native Louisiana Species" which included the discovery of native Louisianas growing wild in Southeast Texas.

Dr. Brian Shamblin followed him with "Iris Hexagona: One of America's Rarest Irises?" which highlighted some of the outstanding taxonomic uncertainties in the group and rediscovery of Iris hexagona on the Georgia coast in 2022 after many failed searches. It is still to be determined if this is a new species or just the original in an more easterly location than previously noted.

Saturday morning, the tour resumed with another visit to the Nichols' garden. It was a little wetter after serious storms in the area, but everyone was able to walk around. A tree had fallen near the road.

From there, the bus took everyone to the Farmers Branch Pavillion for loaded baked potatoes and salads for lunch. Afterwards, everyone was able to tour Mary Ellen and Mike Reed's garden where they were dazzled by the combination of Anna Cadd's 'Golden Ducat' and the daylily 'Sweet Patootie.'



'Golden Ducat' - Anna & David Cadd 2004 SPU

The skies were clear and everyone enjoyed the Reed's garden. In addition to Spurias and Louisianas, there were a few flatties in full bloom.

An early return to the hotel to turn in ballots for the favorite Louisiana and the favorite Spuria was next. The afternoon included Spuria presentations from Anna Cadd on basic Spuria information and Jim Hedgecock from Comanche Acres on his hybridizing

program. Hedgecock is offering to help Spuria hybridizers if they will commit to 10 years. Spurias were quite prominent from the 1960's thru the 1970's. Dinner was from Olive Garden and there was plenty of chocolate cheesecake and cupcakes to be enjoyed for dessert.



'Full Disclosure' - Tom Johnson 2013 TB



'Scaredy Cat' - Schreiner 2020 TB

A landmark heading back from the Nichols' Garden to the hotel was the Bumblebee transformer character in full size at the corner gas station.



The Bumblebee transformer character



At the Bartons' garden





Louisianas in Dell Perry's garden



'Paper Parasol' - Robert Treadway 2024 LA



'Rooster' - Ron Betzer 2013 LA



'Oregon Cream' - Lee Walker 2008 SPU



'Missouri Copper Mine' - Jesse Emmons 2010 SPU

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 21ST, 2024 IRIS SOCIETY OF AUSTIN MEETING

by Dara E. Smith

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

10 Members attended today's meeting.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Tracey Rogers. The current balance on April 21st, 2024 is \$13,548.89. The Treasurer's Report was approved. Last month's audit discrepancies were identified and accepted.

The Minutes from the January 21, March 17 and April 21, 2024 meetings will be published in a separate Newsletter for review and approval.

ISA Business:

Here are important dates for ISA during 2024:

1. MEETING: Tuesday May 14th, 2024 (6:30p - 9p) - host: Shirley
2. SALE: SEPTEMBER 7th, 2024

3. MEETING: Sunday September 15, 2024 (1p-3p)

4. Region 17 Meeting in South Tyler: October 4 -5

5. MEETING: Sunday October 20, 2024 (1p-3p)

6. MEETING: Sunday November 17, 2024 (1p-3p)

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

The grower selected for the purchase of sale iris plants is Tina & Her Daughters for historic and reblooming varieties.

Debbie Hood proposed a motion that ISA should have centralized storage of all the ISA club artifacts and supplies. The motion was entertained for discussion. ISA could share a space with another club. AAGC can be asked what the plans are for the future to replace the Bev Shed and provide a place for Zilker clubs to store their belongings. Ellen Singleton has volunteered to investigate the AAGC options. Debbie Hood volunteered to call around to various storage facilities for prices and locations on storage lockers. We will table this motion until the next meeting.

Program:

2024 ISA Show Results. Jaime Hadley provided a report of the ISA 2024 Iris Show results and Presentation of Awards.

The meeting was adjourned.

Dara E. Smith, Secretary

Submitted for Approval on: May 14th, 2024

Approved on: