



# 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, **September 15, 2024** 2 P.M.  
Zilker Botanical Garden - Auditorium  
2220 Barton Springs Road  
Austin, TX 78746

## I.S.A. OFFICERS FOR 2024-2025

President – Jaime Hadley  
VP-Programming – Ellen Singleton  
VP-Membership – Marney Able  
Treasurer – Donna Little  
Secretary – Dara Smith

## IRIS SOCIETY RHIZOME SALE

Saturday, September 7  
Norris Conference Center, next to  
Walmart off West Anderson Lane in  
Austin, Red Oak Ballroom

## IRISES FOR CENTRAL TEXAS



'Stairway to Heaven' - Lauer 1992 TB

In this area three kinds of irises grow easily for many years with some care: Bearded irises including some medians, Spurias, and Louisianas.

Bearded irises are tall while the medians are the shorter irises enabling the owner to landscape the area, using the dwarf or shorter ones first and gradually moving toward the back. These irises use bone meal and little water when established. They love the sunshine since they show their rhizome when growing tall. They bloom in the spring and can be divided every 3 to 5 years. Some of the medians need more water and fertilizer to bloom.

Keep spurias in an area where they can grow tall and beautiful as the years pass. They are the tallest irises with flowers that remind you of Dutch irises. Florists work with the blossoms as well as the foliage. These irises need water and rose food

Louisiana irises need some acid soil or azalea food and much water. Never allow these rhizomes to become dry. Plant them by a pond or plant them in a container with holes punched at the rim at the top so that rain water can escape to prevent



'Persian Berry' - Gaultier 1976 TB



'Mary Frances' - Gaulter 1971 TB

mosquitoes. These irises do better if they have 6 to 8 hours per day of sunlight.

Avoid fresh grass clippings and fresh sawdust, wood chips and fresh manure when preparing the soil for Louisianas. These irises do not like high alkalinity or excessive acidity, even if wet. For developing bigger blossoms, the ideal pH range is 6.5 to 7.2, slight acidity to slight alkalinity.

Louisiana irises are shipped bare root; therefore, unwrap them and they can be held in a shallow pan of water for a few days or overnight. Do not submerge the whole plant such as the leaves or foliage. This harms the iris. When you plant the Louisiana iris in a container, be sure to keep the foliage above the water line.

Louisiana irises are heavy feeders. For fall fertilization base this on the first freeze for your area. Stop fertilizing 3 to 4 weeks prior to this date. New plantings can be lightly fertilized once before winter sets in after new growth has begun. Use low nitrogen, low phosphorus, low potash.



'Dover Beach' - Nearpass 1970 TB

Spurias, hardy beardless irises, are the last to bloom in spring. Remember that these go dormant -- not dead, but cut down in July — unless they are evergreen. These irises require full sun, rich soil, and excellent drainage. Do not water them during the summer months. Plant them 1 to 2 inches deep and three feet apart. They will continue to grow and take much space.



'Hush Money' - Dunn 1998 LA

The rhizome should be about an inch in the soil.



'Monkeying Around' - B. Nichols 2001 IB

Remember that irises have names such as 'Persian Berry,' 'Dover Beach,' 'Mary Frances,'



'Stairway to Heaven,' and 'Hush Money.' For example 'Hush Money' was introduced in 1996 by Mary Dunn as a bluet and cream ruffled Louisiana iris. 'Monkeying Around' was registered by Bonnie Nichols in 2001 as an early bloom intermediate bearded honey-blended brown with yellow highlights, about 22 inches.

### **RHIZOME SALE INSTRUCTIONS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS FROM YOUR GARDEN**

For the rhizome sale please bring any irises that you wish to remove from your garden so that new irises that you purchase can take their places after you amend the soil. Wash the plants and dry them. Then label each iris cultivar and place it in a bag for the sale after you have cut the leaves in an upside down "V" or fan shape leaving about 4 or 5 inches of the foliage over the rhizome.

#### **Planting the rhizome**

After you have amended the soil for this new garden, it is time to plant the rhizomes about 12 inches apart. Place the iris over a small mound of soil and spread the roots over the soil. Then move the soil around the rhizome, barely covering the fleshy root. When you have finished, water deeply and check that the irises are planted so that each can grow attaching their roots to the dirt. Remember that reblooming irises can use more water and fertilizer to develop bloomstalks. Do not overwater this garden or the rhizomes can rot.

### **REBLOOMERS ANYONE? AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY REGION 17 ANNUAL MEETING**

October 4-5, 2024  
Hampton Inn and Suites South  
8962 S. Broadway Avenue  
Tyler, Texas  
903-630-7272  
Deadline September 15, 2024  
Download the [Reservation form](#).  
Send Reservations to  
Connie Ford  
122 Spruce Trail  
Gun Barrel City, TX 75156

Shirley with Jim Landers at the RIS table at the 2018 AIS NOLA Convention

### **REMEMBERING SHIRLEY TRIO**



RIS Co-President Shirley Trio-Probst died in her sleep at home on Thursday May 16th, 2024, after a long battle with cancer.

Shirley's passion for irises began when she purchased her first irises in the mid-1970s. Later she operated her own commercial garden, The Iris Lady's Garden. Her love for irises led her to join the American Iris Society in the late 1980s and subsequently many local iris societies. While attending the 1995 AIS Convention, Shirley met Riley Probst and later moved to Kirkwood, MO to be near him. She was the Registrar for the 2005 AIS Convention in St. Louis. Shirley and Riley were very active in 6 iris societies while living in the St. Louis area.

Shirley and Riley moved to Modesto in 2009 and ultimately joined seven iris societies in Region 14. She held numerous leadership positions in these clubs, including her acting as chairwoman of the 2019 AIS National Convention in San Ramon. In 2023 Shirley was presented with the prestigious Larry Gaulter Region 14 Lifetime Achievement Award.



**MINUTES OF THE IRIS SOCIETY OF AUSTIN  
MEETING MAY 14, 2024**

The meeting was called to order by President Ellen Singleton at 7:29 pm

The swearing in ceremony for new officers was postponed as 3 members of the 5 officers were unable to be at the meeting.

Three visitors were welcomed by the president:

Elsya Watts  
Scott Hickman  
Rene Israel.

The Treasurer's report was given by Tracey Rogers.

Acceptance of the treasurer's report was moved by Audrey Baker and seconded by Donna Little.

The Fall Sale will be September 7, 2024 at the Norris Conference Center.

Tracey Rogers gave a report on the AAGC meeting held this morning. The main focus was the remembrance ceremony honoring members of AAGC that passed away in the last year. The ceremony included a memoriam for Pat Freeman given by Ellen Singleton.

Tracey asked if the members were interested in ordering AIS calendars for 2025 and the consensus was no.

The program was a plant swap and the visitors were given first pick of 2 plants.

The meeting was adjourned at 8 pm.

Minutes taken by Audrey Baker in Dara Smith's absence