

# the Texas Rainbow NEWSFLYER



volume II number 4      April      1987  
Bulletin Editor      L. Dragon

## IRIS SOCIETY of AUSTIN OFFICERS:

President	Joe Fisner
1st Vice-Pres.	Harvey Wilson
Secretary	Lorraine Dragon
Treasurer	Pauline Guerrero



HI FOLKS ,  
I have been  
asked to bring  
y'all the big  
news for April .

Well as you know we have a fun day  
the very first day of the month .  
Don't believe everything you hear on  
April Fool's Day ; but do try to take  
it all in a jovial spirit .

Of course this is a serious month  
for most people. We have Palm Sunday  
on the 12th ; <sup>BEGIN</sup>Passover on the 14th ;  
April 17 is Good Friday and then the  
BIG day is April 19th . Of course you  
all know the real meaning of Easter.  
I exist for the child in everyone and  
I come out on this day to "hide" all  
kinds of goodies for all children "big"  
and small to find . My eggs are

## NEW BRAUNFELS IRIS SOCIETY OFFICERS :

President	Rose Marie Dean
1st Vice-Pres.	Dr. Clyde Ikins
2nd Vice-Pres.	Beatrice McMahan
Secretary	Bobbie Allen
Treasurer	Grace Schaefer



symbolic of re-birth . But I also like  
to think of all the laughter and fun  
that everyone has when they "hunt"  
and find these eggs.

And guess what ? April 22nd is  
Secretaries Day . So if you have one ,  
don't forget 'em .

Now for the most important news  
( for IRIS lovers and /or growers )  
this is going to be a very busy  
month . If you can tear yourself  
away from all those beautiful IRIS  
blooming in your garden ,you will  
find that there are 2 IRIS meetings  
( I S A and N B I S ) plus the BIG ONE ,  
A I S NATIONAL CONVENTION in Phoenix  
Ariz ., April 14th thru April 19 th.  
I S A is planning on another " exi -  
bition only " this year . The date is  
pending . N B I S will have their BIG  
Day on the 25th of April . So long .

# Neva Sexton

Neva Sexton was the only American woman to have won 2 Dykes Medals ; PACIFIC PANORAMA , ruffled sea blue , in 1965 and NEW MOON , yellow , in 1973.

She was born in 1906 ; raised on an Arkadelphia , Arkansas farm . She grew up with a special feeling for the soil and all plants and animals .

She married at sixteen , and soon afterward left with 3 small children to care for and raise , she moved to her grandfather's farm .

To try and make a better life for herself and her children, she decided to move to California . She eventually settled in Wasco . There she met a transplanted Texan named Harvey Sexton and they were married .

Neva always did love flowers and was enchanted with the IRISES she saw at the Bakersfield spring flower show in 1952 . Charlie Salzer invited her to see his garden . Neva quickly decided that she would grow IRISES , and grow the best, making them even better by hybridizing them . She " chopped cotton " - hoed weeds in the cotton fields - for \$1.00 an hour in order to purchase what she wanted . It took 20 hours of work to earn money for the \$20 Limelight , and 30 hours for Toast An' Honey .

In the span from 1959 to 1983 she registered 56 irises : 54 of these were introduced and 41 of the 54 were voted HONORABLE MENTION by A I S Judges . Seven of the 41 went on to win AWARDS OF MERIT . And of course 2 won the DYKES MEDAL . In 1973 the A I S BOARD OF DIRECTORS chose to

honor her by awarding her the coveted HYBRIDIZER'S MEDAL .

Neva began putting out a small list of irises and introduced her own irises after 1960 .

Her iris activities soon outgrew her small home garden , and she purchased 2 city lots so the iris plantings could expand . She was proud that she had been able to pay for the lots with money saved from the sale of irises she had bred .

Neva worked with her beloved iris , even tho in poor health , up to one year before her death in 1985 .

If there's an IRIS HEAVEN , then surely Neva is there , hybridizer's apron wrapped around her and toothpick in hand as she scraps the pollen from an iris anther so she can make the cross to add a little more ruffling , heavier substance , wider petals , a newer color . . . . .

Taken from :

A I S Bulletin # 259

Oct. 1985







We have no  
birthdays listed

for the month of April  
In case someone forgot  
to list their birthday , I  
would like to wish a  
**HAPPY BIRTHDAY to you**



## IRRESISTIBLE I R I S

It's iris time in our garden ,  
The loveliest time of the year .  
These beautiful , colorful blossoms  
Seem to whisper, God's presense is near

Early morning out in the garden  
I wander and wonder just how ,  
These delightful , charming Iris  
Know their time for blooming is now.

For every year during Springtime ,  
These heavenly flowers appear.  
Bringing soul satisfying loveliness ,  
And tidings of hope and good cheer.

May we learn from the lovely Iris ,  
There's a time and a place that we  
Should exhibit some human loveliness  
Wherever we chance to be .

Grace Merrick Williams  
Bulletin of The American  
Iris Society - July 1966



## A B i g T h a n k s

On the behalf of the Iris Society of Austin I would like to thank Dr. and Mrs. W. Clyde Ikins for driving such a long distance to be with us on Mar. 10th . We all enjoyed the very interesting talk about Reblooming iris that Dr. Ikins gave to our Society. And the Reblooming iris they brought from their garden were just beautiful . The list of his tried and true rebloomers will prove very helpful to our members. I know that I plan to use it to select a few iris to increase my reblooming collection.

Again thanks nice folks and a bouquet of IRIS ( of course ) to both of you .



## WORD TO THE WISE...

OUR  
WISE  
OLD  
OWL  
SAYS:

Listerine can extend the life of cut flowers . A solution of 2 oz. Listerine in a gallon of water will help cut flowers last longer.

Also a mixture of half SPRITE ( the soft drink ) and half water will aid in extending the freshness of your cut flowers.

( Thanks to Region 17 - March 1985 - Newsletter for this information )

## For Your Information

THE FORT WORTH IRIS SOCIETY plans to publish a COOKBOOK entitled "FAVORITE RECIPES OF REGION 17". They are asking members of other Societies within the region to submit their favorite recipes. If you have a favorite, that you would like to share with others, then write it down and send it to :

DOROTHY McELHANNON  
3436 BRANDON LANE  
FORT WORTH , TEXAS  
7 6 1 1 6 - 6 2 1 6

THEY PLAN TO HAVE THE COOKBOOK READY FOR THE REGION 17 MEETING TO BE HELD IN FORT WORTH ON OCT. 2 , 3 , 1987 . SO THEY NEED THE RECIPES ASAP.



## HOW TO PHOTOGRAPH

I tried writing an article about this and somehow I finally decided that I didn't know what I was talking about. So the only advice that I can give at this time is to read your manual that came with your camera . Get a good quality tripod ( one that is sturdy ) if you are planning on taking close up shots of your iris . Some type of close-up lens would also be needed . I would imagine that someone working at a camera shop would be the best source of information as to one for your specific camera . As I have said in past flyers - it sure is nice to have a "photo " record of our beautiful iris . So if you do not already take pictures of your iris - give it a try this year .

## April I r i s Events :

IRIS SOCIETY OF AUSTIN WILL MEET 7:30pm at ZILKER GARDEN CENTER ON APRIL 14 , 1987.

PROGRAM WILL BE GIVEN BY IMRI EIFERT of HUNGARY ; MR. EIFERT IS A U.T. GRADUATE STUDENT OF BOTANY. HE WILL TALK ABOUT " I R I S I HAVE KNOWN " .

I. S. of A. WILL HAVE AN IRIS EXHIBIT AT ZILKER GARDEN CENTER ON APRIL 12 , 1987 . WE WILL SET-UP FROM 1pm to 2pm AND ACCEPT BLOOMS AT THIS TIME. OUR EXHIBIT WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FROM 2pm UNTIL 5pm . WE " TEAR DOWN " FROM 5pm TO 6pm.



APRIL

1987

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
12		14				
		21				25



THE NEW BRAUNFELS IRIS SOCIETY MEETS 7:30pm AT THE FIRST FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN OFFICE BLDG. ON APRIL 21 , 1987. PROGRAM WILL COVER SHOW PREPARATION/COMMITTEE REPORTS.

N.B.I.S. SHOW WILL BE HELD ON APRIL 25, AT THE ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN NEW BRAUNFELS .



# POLLEN

The best way to make sure the pollen you plan to use is usable, is to take the bud into the house the evening before you want to collect it and let the bud open in the house.

Dry pollen can be used for several days if kept in an envelope. If kept dry in the refrigerator, it will keep for several weeks and frozen dry, for a year.

Pollen is ruined when it gets wet. It explodes each grain.

Pollen can be stored in gelatin capsules bought from the druggist. Buy capsules small enough to hold one anther. The capsules can be placed in a jar with a tight fitting lid. Add some silica gel to keep the air dry. Print the name of the pollen parent on the capsule and place sealed jar in the freezer. This way you only need remove the capsule that you are going to

use for hybridizing and the rest of the pollen will stay usable for as long as you need it.

Thanks to :

Beverly Dapke

Phoenix, Ariz.

A. I. S. Bulletin

April 1986



## CONGRATULATIONS

MASTER JUDGE ROSE MARIE DEAN

AND

MASTER JUDGE JOHNNIE SKINNER

