

IRIS AUSTIN

Newsletter of the Iris Society of Austin

An Affiliated Society of the American Iris Society in Region 17

SEPTEMBER, 2009

Nelda Moore, Editor

VOL. XVIII, NO. 9

HOSPITALITY:

Join the group at 7 P.M.
The following members
will bring some of the
food, but plan to add to
these dishes—Deviled eggs
by Warren and Anna
Huckabee; Tossed Salad
from Ken Fuchs; Desserts
by Charlie and Sonja
Hensley and Tracey Rogers.

7:30 P.M. Business Meeting
2220 Barton Springs Road
Austin, Texas 78746

Next Meeting:

September 8

September 11th Set Up 3P.M.

September 12th Rhizome Sale
Baked Goods and More

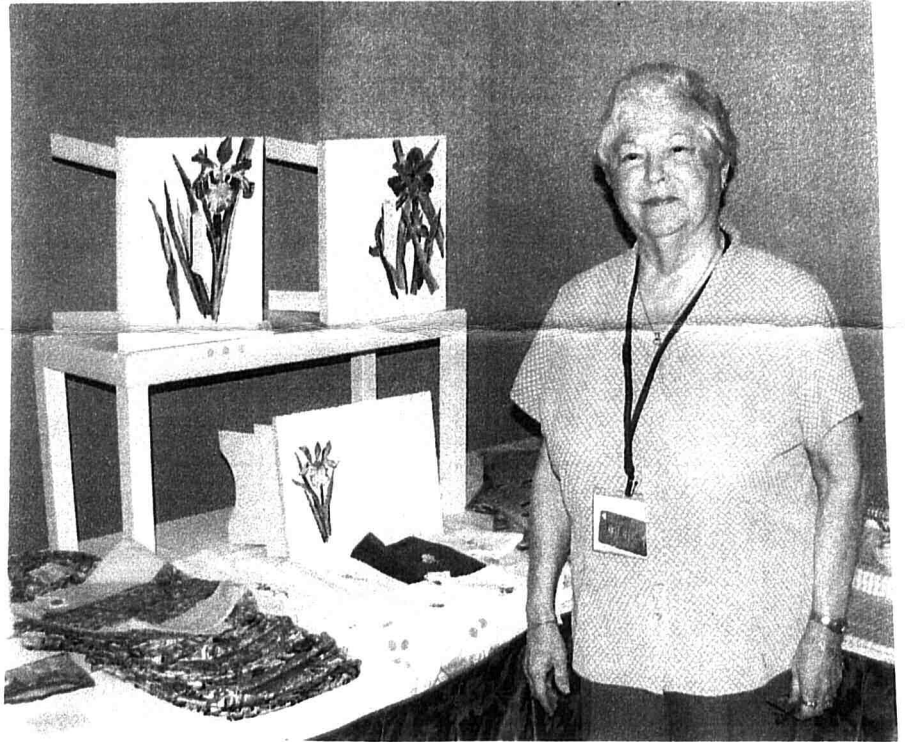
October 13th

November 10th

January 16th Judges' Training

American Iris Society Library
Tracy Plotner
Molalla, OR 97038
(503) 829-3102

PLANT SALE OMNI HOTEL
Southpark Saturday, August 29th
9 A.M. – 3 P.M. (Begonias)
FERN FESTIVAL AT ZILKER
August 28th and August 29th



PAT BYRNE IN BOUTIQUE

Pat Byrne, who attended the American Iris Society Convention in Kansas City, worked in her boutique and deposited \$142.20 in the Iris Society of Austin account as a result of the sales.

Ken Fuchs and Jim Landers transported some of the items since they drove to the event. Some of the pictures of the gardens appeared in a previous edition of the newsletter. In October Ken and Jim will present a convention program.

MARNEY ABEL TO PROMOTE RHIZOME SALE TO TV VIEWERS

Marney Abel, program chairman of the Iris Society of Austin and past president, will appear on KLRU-TV

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Austin Iris Society
Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2009

Tracey Rogers, president, called the meeting to order.

We approved the minutes of the previous meeting.

Don Freeman reported that the rules on use of the Zilker Garden Center for public events are changing. Starting in January 2010, if we have more than one event each year, we will have to pay \$100 per hour for use of the building for the second event (and any subsequent ones). We have been holding two events each year, the spring show and the fall sale. This means that next year we will have to pay for the use of the garden center for the sale, or hold the sale somewhere else, or possibly combine our sale with that of another club and share the expense. This does not affect this year's sale.

David Steed will ask about this policy at the next meeting of the Garden Council and report back to us.

Tracey reported that we now have to get a Nursery and Floral Certificate from the Texas Department of Agriculture in order to be allowed to conduct the sale. This policy is already in effect, and she is in process of getting the certificate.

We discussed the plans for the fall sale, which will be held on Saturday, September 12.

Tracey authorized Jim Landers to find an instructor for the judges' training seminar to be held on January 16 (location to be determined).

Tracey presented a silver medal to Don and Pat Freeman, who received the most blue ribbons at this spring's iris show, and a bronze medal to Jim Landers, who had the next most blue ribbons.

Pat Byrne gave the treasurer's report.

The meeting was adjourned.

Carolyn Wylie, Secretary



BOMBAY EYES
Nichols 2009 – SPACE AGE IRIS

36" Large bubbled ruffled & sculpted flowers are ice flax blue w/sapphire blue triangular area surrounding huge gold & white beards with end in sapphire blue HORNS. Well branched with 7+ buds. Fragrant!

AMOENA—white standards, colored falls

BICOLOR---standards and falls different colors

BITONE---standards and falls different shades of the same color

LUMINATA---related to plicatas. Falls have a brushed pattern, with paler veins and clear, unmarked area around beards. Plicata has stippled, dotted, or stitched petal edges on a lighter colored ground color.

NEGLECTA---light blue standards, darker colored falls.

REVERSE---any of the previous combinations with darker color in standards.

VARIEGATA---yellow standards, darker colored falls.



Dell Perry receives Special Award for winning four top show awards in Region 17 from Jim Landers.

Rhizome Sale September 12
From Front Page-----

SIX AUSTIN SOCIETY MEMBERS GAIN FROM REGION 17 FIFTIETH

Saturday, September 5, at noon and 4 P.M. and Sunday, September 6. If you miss this airing, she will talk about irises on KLRU Q September 8 at 6:30 P.M., September 9 at 7:30 A.M., and September 11 at 9:30 A.M. KLRN in San Antonio will have an 11 A.M. show September 5; KWBU in Waco on Sept. 5 at 3:30 P.M. and Sept. 10 at 12:30 P.M. Other stations are Killeen (Sept. 5 at 1:30 P.M. and Sept. 6 at 5:30 P.M.), Midland on Sept. 7, College Station, and Denver, Colorado.

Linda Lehmusvirta, who worked on publicity for the Zilker Garden Festival for many years, is the producer of Central Texas Gardener.

The Rhizome Sale will be from 9 A.M. until 4 P.M. September 12 in the Zilker Garden Auditorium at 2220 Barton Springs Road. Parking is free.

Baked goods and other items will also be sold.

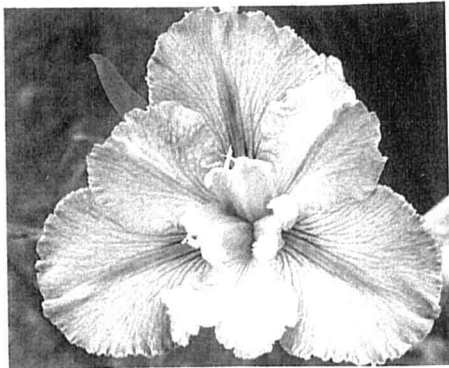
Marney Abel, Pat Byrne, Ken Fuchs, Mary Ann Holman, Jim Landers, and Tracey Rogers helped the Waco Iris Society celebrate the Region 17 Fiftieth Annual Meeting in Waco August 14 and 15. Peggy Cathey, who is president this year, is also a member of the Johnson County Iris and Daylily Society. Debra Strauss serves as Region 17 Vice President.

The next meeting will be held in Lubbock.

A 2009 Hooker Nichols' iris called Bombay Eyes greeted each attendee at the Saturday night western barbecue. Irises from Burseen were presented during the Friday banquet.

Judy Keisling conducted the Judges Training Schools Saturday morning on ethics and the history of various AIS awards.

A concern at the meeting was shrinking membership especially youth membership; therefore, attendees were encouraged to give memberships to their children and grandchildren. Alex Harding won the AIS youth award, and he and his sister are already doing iris crosses.



PREPARING RHIZOMES FOR PLANTING OR FOR THE IRIS SALE

Dig the spurias and Louisianas after Labor Day, wash, trim the foliage, wrap in a damp paper towel or a piece of wet newspaper and then place the root system in a plastic bag. Use a rubber band around the top of the bag to secure the rhizome in place. Staple to the bag the label with the name of the rhizome and other information plus the price. If the plants must be "held" for a longer period of time, store them in a refrigerator, not in the freezer, but be sure that wherever you store them the area does not contain fruit because any fruit will harm or affect bulbs and rhizomes.

For Bearded irises dig the clump, wash the rhizomes, and cut the foliage back into an inverted "V" about 4 or 5 inches above the fleshy root. Sometimes the old mother rhizome must be discarded. Cut off the increases to plant or donate to the Iris Society of Austin. About 3 to 4 years it is necessary to dig and replant the clumps in a new area or in amended soil.

When planting the bearded iris rhizome, trim the roots if they are long, but leave most of these roots dangling. Spread the root system downward over a hill of soil and cover the rhizome with one inch of soil. Firm the soil around each rhizome and water to settle the soil. Do not plant the bearded iris too deeply. Irises are generally planted 12 to 24 inches apart so that they will not have to be thinned often. If iris are allowed to

become too crowded, the bloom will suffer. Some varieties may crowd others out and disease problems may be aggravated.

Bearded iris enjoy well-drained soils that contain bone meal or superphosphate or a 6-10-10 fertilizer. A light application in the early spring and a second light application about a month after bloom will be necessary for good growth and bloom. Avoid high nitrogen. If the soil is heavy, coarse sand or humus may be used to improve drainage in a raised bed. Gypsum will improve clay soils. The ideal pH is 6.8. Test the pH and then add lime to acidic soils or sulfur to alkaline soils.

For Louisianas plant the rhizome in a container that does not have a hole in the bottom. Use landscapers mix and plant the rhizome using about 2 inches of the mix over the iris. Keep the soil moist at all times. If rainwater reaches the top of the container, drain some of it off or drill holes in the top of the bucket so that excess moisture will drain or use mosquito dunks in the water. During the summer months continue to add water and mulch over the rhizomes. These plants are heavy feeders; therefore, use acidic fertilizer at least 2 times a year. About a month before these plants bloom, add another feeding. Do not feed when you see bloomstalks.

