

# IRIS AUSTIN

## NEWSLETTER OF THE IRIS SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

An affiliated Society of the American Iris Society in Region 17

JUNE, 2011

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### NO MEETING IN JUNE

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### 52<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL AIS REGION 17 CONVENTION AUGUST 12 AND 13

Bonnie and Hooker Nichols, Texas hybridizers from Hillcrest Gardens in Dallas, will be the guest speakers at the 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual AIS 2011 Region 17 Convention sponsored by the Johnson County Iris and Daylily Society of Cleburne on August 12 and 13.

The headquarters are located at 205 South Caddo in downtown Cleburne's Liberty Hotel (817) 645-5660. Iris meeting rates are \$79.90 for a king or \$75.65 for a queen bed excluding tax before July 29. A continental breakfast is included in the registration.

Registration for the convention is \$65.00 per person and includes both Friday and Saturday night buffets. The Saturday Judges Training provided by Bonnie Nichols is \$5.00 per person.

The Hospitality Suite and Judges Training will be held in the hotel meeting rooms. The banquet, boutique, and Region 17 business meeting and auction will be in the Cleburne Conference Center, 1501 W. Henderson, Cleburne, 76033.

Checks for the registration fee of \$65 plus \$5 for the Judges Training per person can be sent to the following address by July 29:

JCI & DS

c/o JOHN PARKS

P.O. BOX 3563

CLEBURNE, TX 76033-3563



## Shelia Senghas Gets Involved with “Median Heaven in 2011” Convention

Shelia Senghas felt privileged to hobnob around the gardens during the Median Iris Convention in Oklahoma April 14-16 with Perry Dyer, Paul Black, Hugh Stout, Debra Strauss, Judy Keisling, and her iris friends. Region 17 Past R.V.P. Debra Strauss was in charge of the auctions, and her informative posters in the lobby of the Clarion Hotel introduced the iris seedlings for bidding online on the Facebook page. At the welcome dinner Thursday evening Shelia enjoyed the presentation of guest irises growing in the gardens on tour and then as she recounts, “Friday morning the weather had changed to a cold windy chill; however, it did not deter the irisarians for they were eager to begin their garden journey. By the time the bus unloaded at the Hugh and Jennifer Stout Garden at Dancing Tree the wind gusts had increased to 40-50 mph and the cold seeped through to the bones. The Stout Gardens were quite extensive and there was a great deal to see. The gorgeous garden areas were surrounded by woods, pastures, ponds, and paths that led in, around, and among the flora. Whimsical yard art abounded in interesting garden settings showing Jennifer’s creativity and artistic abilities. All of that, along with the exquisite colorful beauty of the irises in bloom, filled one’s senses with pure nature at its finest. The quality of bloom, color, bud count, and stalk height in the garden was greatly impacted by the drought in Oklahoma City; yet, the peak bloom of the guest arilbreds and arilbred medians, along with the four classes of medians, provided a wonderful representation for viewing. Sadly, very few of us were able to tolerate the cold wind, and,

though a catered lunch had planned to be served outside under a gazebo. Jennifer invited everyone inside to eat an hour and a half earlier than planned....”

After this the bus headed to the Cowboy Hall of Fame. Saturday the bus traveled to the gardens of Louise Carson, Judith Andrews, Will Rogers Garden Center, and once again to the Stout Garden, where the groups gathered for garden judging.

“Upon arriving at the hotel the attendees dropped off their ballots, and Perry Dyer, Mona French, and Shelia counted the votes two hours before the banquet, when awards were given to Paul Black for ‘Dazzling’ a 2008 IB; Mona French for ‘Florence French’ the name of Mona’s mother; Nearpass by Spoon for ‘Moon and Stars;’ Chuck Chapman for an SDB named ‘Limesicle;’ Pete McGrath for an AB called ‘Hannah’s Prayer;’ and Paul Black’s Seedling ‘Q59B,’ an IB.”

“Shelia said that she was thrilled that her best friend and iris mentor, Mona French, had carved her name into the hybridizing world and received one of the ‘Best’ Awards.”



**DAZZLING (Black 08)**



**LOVESICK BLUES (Lauer)**



**VIVALDI (Baumunk 07)**

Iris Society of Austin  
Meeting Minutes  
May 10, 2011

ISA President Nelda Moore called the meeting to order.

Minutes of the April meeting were approved.

Nelda Moore presented the treasurer's report on behalf of Pat Byrne, who was not present.

Ken Fuchs presented an excellent slideshow with music of last month's iris show, Music in the Garden, followed by a shorter one from Cleburne advertising the forthcoming Region 17 meeting to be held in Cleburne on August 12-13.

Don Freeman reported that our sponsored iris bed at Zilker needs attention and asked for volunteers to weed the bed and cut off bloomstalks.

Don described the use of antibacterial handwashing soap to prevent rot in irises. He recommends one tablespoon of the soap to one gallon of water.

If rot has already occurred, it should be cut off. Marney Abel suggested the use of Chlorox wipes to clean the knife between cuts. (Use a new wipe each time.) Sonja Hensley suggested using disposable tongue depressors to remove rot, using each one only once.

Don said this is a good time to fertilize lightly, since new rhizome tissue is forming.

Officers for the coming year were officially installed.

Nelda reported that new Austin Garden Council officers were installed at the monthly AGC meeting this morning.

We voted to send \$50.00 for a memorial tree for Tracey Rogers' father, who died recently.

Jim Landers distributed irises that he had bought at an estate auction in San Angelo. Many historic varieties and Dykes winners were included, and we were all delighted at the opportunity to add some of them to our gardens. Jim's generosity is much appreciated.

The meeting was adjourned. This was the last ISA meeting until September.

Carolyn Wylie, Secretary





The Oklahoma City Zoo and Botanical Garden had this 'Zebra' iris and many varieties of Louisiana irises in bloom during the Begonia Tour. Oklahoma State University had Siberian iris in clumps in a wetland with runoff from a building. Surrounding this were raised beds showing a garden with plants that did not require much water.

Bustani Plant Farm had *Pardanthopsis dichotoma* or Vesper Iris, a perennial that has been crossed with *Belamcanda* or Blackberry Lily to create *Pandancanda*, the hybrid Candy Lily.

Welcome New Member:

Donna Little 1005 Shinnecock Hills Georgetown, TX 78628

Address changes to the Membership List:

Carol Canfield 6311 Oleander Tr. Austin, TX 78735

Please correct Debora Boyle's name.

Jim Landers will soon enjoy a free one--night stay in the Fairmont Empress May 29-June 3 as he experiences the beauty and excitement of the American Iris Society Victoria, British Columbia, Canada Convention.

Ken Fuchs will send pictures for members to enjoy in the July edition of the newsletter. Thank you for being the best photographer for the society.

James Hadley has printed the envelopes for the newsletter, using irises. Last month's envelope featured 'Thornbird' which won Best of Show April 10<sup>th</sup>. (Are you saving the envelope as well as the newsletter now?) Thank you so much for your beautiful work! We really appreciate all that you are doing for the local society.