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December 2011 — vol 20 #11



A Monthly Newsletter of the Iris Society of Austin

IRIS AUSTIN



next ISA meeting >>>

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER!

Iris Society of Austin Meeting
Tuesday January 10, 2012
7:00 pm (*gates close at 7:00*)

Late? call 477-8672 ext 13

Zilker Garden Center
2220 Barton Springs Rd
Austin TX 78746

- Potluck Supper
- Business Meeting
- Program to be announced
- Bring your 2012 ISA dues!

NOTE - *If Garden Center A/C repairs make the building too cold on Jan 10, the ISA meeting will be postponed until Jan 24 at 7pm*

next AAGC meeting >>>

Austin Area Garden Council Meeting
Tuesday December 13, 2011
10:00 am

Zilker Garden Center

Nelda Moore will attend in place of
Debora Boyle – ISA representative

upcoming events >>>

Feb 14, 2012 – Regular Meeting

Apr 8, 2012 – Annual Iris Show

2012 Theme Chosen

Start planning now for the 2012 Iris Show

Ken Fuchs will soon begin preparing the beautiful Show Schedule for the Iris Society of Austin's 2012 Iris Show, which is scheduled for April 8, 2012. At the show Ken will also manage the entry and classification process, as the Show Secretary and Awards Chairman.

Pat Freeman, Artistic Division Chair, will be encouraging you all to pre-register by April 3rd to exhibit in Division IV, Artistic Designs.

The theme selected for the 2012 show is "Dancing in an Iris Garden." In the Artistic Division, Class 1, novices, will share the overall show theme. Themes for the other Artistic Division classes will be: Class 2, religious design, "A Time To Dance," inspired by Ecclesiastes 3:4; Class 3, the use of two containers, "Two Left Feet;" Class 4, designer's choice, "Dancing in the Rain;" and Class 5, table design for a couple, "Dance Party for Two."

Show set-up will be Sat., April 7, from 3-5pm. Entries will be accepted from 7:30-9:45am Sunday

morning; and judging for this accredited show will begin at 10:15am. The show will be open to the public from 1-4pm Sunday, with no admission charged.

welcome new members >>

Please make sure to look for these folks at an upcoming meeting and welcome them to our club:

- Lori Anderson

time to renew dues >>>

Ken Fuchs will be collecting dues for the ISA 2012 membership year at our next regular meeting, January 10. Membership dues are \$12 for an individual and \$18 for a joint membership. If you wish to renew your membership early, you can send a check made out to Iris Society of Austin directly to one of these folks:

Ken Fuchs
710 N 11th St, Temple, TX, 76501-3016

Pat Byrne
1102 Aster, Katy, TX, 77493-1825

Audubon Names Louisiana Iris

John James Audubon was the first to use the term Louisiana iris in reference to a swamp flower he used as a background for a parula warbler, a small bluish bird with a yellow throat and breast and two conspicuous white wing-bars and a white eye-ring. A greenish patch is always present on the back, but only the male has a dark rusty band that crosses his yellow breast.

Louisiana irises belong to the subsection Apogon or beardless, series Hexagonae of the genus *Iris*. Walter first described *I. hexagona* in 1788, *I. fulva* and *I. brevicaulis* soon followed. *I. fulva* was described by Ker-Gawler in 1812; *I. brevicaulis*, the most cold hardy and the latest blooming of the species, was described by Rafinesque in 1817. *I. giganteaerulea*, the giant blue, was described by John K Small, the

curator of the New York Botanical Garden, who had seen the Louisiana iris from a train window as he traveled through the south marshy wet bottomlands of the gulf coast where the cypress trees and sweet bay magnolias dot the area that teams with alligators, snakes, and the rainbow of irises. Small collected these plants on several subsequent trips, described them, and created color plates of them for a New York Botanical Garden publication called *Addisonia*. It remained for L F Randolph to describe *I. nelsonii*, also known as Abbeville reds, yellows, or super fulvas, in 1966.

Through the years, hybridization of these wild flowers have produced a diversity of forms. Some have upright standards. Others are semi-flaring to flat, pendant, umbrella pendant, recurved, open, full-overlapping, ruffled, and semi-double. Their stalks can be straight, gracefully curved, or zig-zag

These beautiful plants are ideal for water features or bog gardens where the soil is strongly acidic. If the soil pH level is above 6.5, apply sulfur or aluminum sulfate. If these irises are planted together, peat moss, manure, or compost can improve the quality of the soil provided that the area is kept moist. Azalea or camellia fertilizer applied during the growing season will keep the soil acidic and enable the irises to produce good bloom. Divide rhizomes only during late August or early September.

During hot dry summers soak the beds and apply a layer of mulch over the rhizomes to keep them cool during the summer and protect them from freezing in the winter.

Amazing displays of Louisiana irises can be seen at Mercer Arboretum near Houston, or at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden from April to May.

Marie Caillet and Joseph K Mertzweiller have edited a book that is a great resource for any gardener of Louisiana iris; *The Louisiana Iris: The History and Culture of Five Native American Species and their Hybrids*.

Two other books on this topic are, *The Louisiana Iris, The Taming of a Native American Wildflower*, and *Marie Caillet (1915-2010)*.

Books are available through the AIS Storefront. Send your order to:

John and Kay Ludi
P O Box 956
Sandy, OR 97055

(503)826-8808
AISStore@irises.org.

To join the Society of Louisiana Irises contact:

Ron Killingsworth
10329 Caddo Lake Rd
Mooringsport, LA 71060

retmiagt@dishmail.net



Meet Jonnye Rich

Lois Rich, a former Texas housewife, was known as "Jonnye." She lived on two acres of land in Roseville, a few miles north of Sacramento, California, with her husband, Rex. Rex would plan all the crosses and maintain all the paperwork, while Jonnye applied pollen from pollen boxes by opening the bloom and closing it after, then later tagged any pods with the proper data. Unfortunately, Jonnye lost her husband suddenly in 1987.

Jonnye created arilmeds, although most of her small irises had poor germination until she produced 'Loudmouth' (1970), an iris with large purple standards and smaller falls streaked with veins a shade darker. The huge beard and signal have some white in the middle that matches the white hafts.



Jonnye Rich's arilbred median iris 'Loudmouth'

'Loudmouth' was a cross of Lloyd Austin's oncocyclus hybrid (OH)

'Bagdad Beauty' with Jack Goett's Cook Douglas Medal winning Standard Dwarf Bearded 'Knotty Pine.'

It is a median with three readily recognizable aril characteristics and at least one-half or more aril content. 'Loudmouth' went on to win the Clarence G White Medal in 1976.

Three years before Jonnye died she was awarded the AIS Hybridizer's Medal in 1987.

Jonnye was also a hybridizer of Japanese Iris. According to the book *The Japanese Iris*, by Currier McEwen, "She ordered her first [Japanese] irises from Marx in 1955 and started her breeding program with two chance pods from those flowers. Subsequently, she was helped with advice and seedlings by Fred Maddocks. By 1988 she had introduced eleven cultivars including 'Center of Attention,' 'Enchanting Melody,' and 'Frostbound.' Her 'Star at Midnight' received the Payne Award in 1969 and 'Tuptim,' another universal favorite, in 1978. All of Jonnye Rich's plants... have been introduced by Melrose Gardens of Stockton, California..."



Jonnye Rich's Japanese iris 'Tuptim'

Iris Society of Austin Meeting Tuesday November 8, 2011

President Nelda Moore welcomed everyone after the scrumptious Thanksgiving meal of ham, roasted chickens, potatoes, salads, vegetables, and several kinds of desserts. One new member, Lori Anderson, and three wonderful guests were present.

Minutes of October 11, were approved as published in the newsletter.

Pat Byrne gave a detailed treasurer's report. Nelda Moore, who reconciled the books, presented the financial statement from January 12, 2011, through September 26, when the balance was transferred to Prosperity Bank. Details of income included rhizome sales, calendars, membership dues, and judges training revenue. Expenses were for the Norris Conference Center, judges for the show and judges training, Zilker Garden Festival tickets, program, cost of rhizomes, newsletter, credit card machine, show supplies, Texas Department of Agriculture Certificate, and Austin Area Garden Council dues.

Debora Boyle gave an excellent report from the Austin Area Garden Council, covering: the work on the ponds and the fern garden (grant money), the repairs to the buildings (bond money), the Christmas tree decorating, and the closing of the entrance and exit gates to Zilker 7pm on meeting nights. If you arrive after the gate is locked, call 477-8672 ext 13 and an attendant will open the gate after checking messages.

continued on next page

Your Officers

Officers are elected each March and serve a one-year term from June 1 through May 31. The nomination process begins in January, so if you are interested in serving as an officer of the Iris Society of Austin, please let the nominating committee know at the January meeting.

You current slate of officers who are serving through May 2012 are:

President Nelda Moore neldamoore6947@att.net.....512-327-0401
VP Programs Marney Abel marneyabel@austin.rr.com ...512-330-9052
VP Membership Ken Fuchs kenfuchs42@hotmail.com....254-773-5017
Secretary Carolyn Wylie cwylie13@att.net.....512-453-2556
Treasurer Pat Byrne patb1@consolidated.net.....281-391-6190
Historian/Librarian Tracey Rogers rogers89@earthlink.net.....512-280-4856

Report Your Rebloomers!

Irises that bloom in the fall are special treats to everyone who loves irises. They double the pleasure we find in our favorite flowers. Many people want to know which irises do bloom in the fall, so the Reblooming Iris Society keeps records of those that bloom in the fall. The only way the Reblooming Iris Society knows which ones bloom in the fall is for the growers of those irises to notify someone about the fall blooms. In our Southern area of the United States that person to notify about the reblooming irises is our own Jim Landers. Jim makes a report of the information he receives and sends it to the Reblooming Iris Society (RIS) for their newsletter, which comes out twice a year and is full of the names, pictures and information of the irises that rebloom in all parts of the country. If you have had any irises bloom in the fall, please send that information to Jim so it may be shared.

jimlanders43@hotmail.com.



*Above and Left:
The holiday potluck is
always a feast!*

*Right:
Magician Jack Gallardo
asks, "Is your card the
seven of diamonds?"*



minutes continued >>>

The Adopt-A-Garden Agreement has been signed with reviews scheduled for Feb 2, May 2, and Aug 2.

Marney Abel encouraged all members to come to Judges Training on bearded irises Jan. 14, in Ross Hall of the Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church. She then asked Shelia Senghas to introduce her famous nephew, a Las Vegas magician, whose magic with cards and iris left all of us astonished and spellbound.

Pat Byrne, Show Chair, has announced the following committee members for the 2012 ISA Iris Show:

- Ken Fuchs, schedule, entries, secretary and awards;
- Don Freeman and Mike Renfro, staging and properties;
- David Kraemer, placement;
- Pat Freeman, artistic design;
- Pat Byrne, clerks and judges;
- Nelda and Marney, hospitality;
- Nelda, publicity

Nelda Moore spoke about the AIS Region 17 Convention Aug. 3-4, in the Omni Hotel, Southpark. The hotel deposit is due by Jan. 3, with a review of guest room pickup and adjustments from May 3-July 3. Cut-off date for accepting reservations into the room block is July 13. Pat Byrne is sewing bags and a few other members will assist her. All food items will be in the hospitality room and any gift iris rhizomes will be on a separate table, not on banquet tables.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

submitted by Nelda Moore, Sec'y pro-tem