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June 2012 — vol 21 #7

A Monthly Newsletter of the Iris Society of Austin

IRIS AUSTIN



next ISA meeting >>>

Iris Society of Austin Meeting
Tuesday July 10, 2012
6:45 pm (gates close at 7:00)

Late? call 477-8672 ext 13

Zilker Garden Center
 2220 Barton Springs Rd
 Austin TX 78746

- Potluck Supper
- Planning for September Sale
- Planning for August Convention
- Bring additional Silent Auction items

next AAGC meeting >>>

Austin Area Garden Council Meeting

No regular meetings in June, July or August

upcoming events >>>

July 10 – Convention Prep Meeting

August 3-4 – Reg 17 Convention

September 4 – Regular Meeting

September 8 – Rhizome Sale

Convention Update

More food and fun planned

The Iris Society of Austin is excited to host the Region 17 American Iris Society Convention at the Omni Hotel Southpark on August 3 and 4.

The registrations so far look like a fun group! Remember that the cut-off date for getting special group rates at the hotel is July 13 at 4pm.

The Executive Board of the Iris Society of Austin has voted to provide a Friday evening meal at the Omni Hotel as well as snacks in the Hospitality Room. The choices are fettuccini alfredo with grilled chicken and sautéed summer squash

or baked cornmeal and dijon catfish with herb roasted potatoes, glazed carrots, and Cajun remoulade.

Nelda Moore expresses her appreciation to the members who bagged up all the items for the convention at the June meeting.

The many exquisite treasures brought in for the silent auction will ensure the bidding is fierce! Have you picked out your favorite things?

Most of us can hardly wait for August to get here.

Region 17 Officers

Your officers for 2012 for Region 17 of the American Iris Society are listed below. Meet them at the Region 17 Convention in Austin August 3 & 4!

| | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|--|
| Regional VP | Gordon Carver | 448 Azle Hwy, Weatherford, 76085 |
| Asst RVP | Dawn Boyer | 1900 Daws Dr, Amarillo, 79124 |
| Past RVP | Debbie Strauss | 2213 Hereford Blvd, Midland, 79707 |
| Secretary | Dana Brown | 1506 S Aspen, Lubbock, 79403 |
| Treasurer | Ramona Howard | 3604 43rd St, Lubbock, 79413 |
| Judge Training Chair | Dell Perry | 800 Purcell Dr, Plano, 75025 |
| Youth Adv Chair | Annette Brown | 36 Alta Vista St, Denison, 75020 |
| Membership Chair | Peggy Cathey | 1115 HCR 1414, Covington, 76636 |
| Historian/Librarian | Jim Landers | 710 N 11 th , Temple, 76501 |

Name That Historic Iris

Blue Lake becomes Blue Rhythm

When Penny Whiting brought a box of irises for one of the sales many years ago, she gave Nelda Moore several of the left-over rhizomes that came from her church garden after re-working an iris bed. Nelda planted the historic iris at her own church, and as it produced increases, she brought it as an unknown to another iris sale.

Jaime purchased the iris that bloomed for him this year, but he wanted the name of this pale blue beauty. Nelda and Penny called it 'Blue Lake' or 'Blue Lakes.' Jaime knew that this was not his iris so he pursued the search until finally Nelda gave him the grower's name.

When Jaime talked to Penny, she explained how she had brought it to a show with the name that she called it. She would do some research of her own, giving a website for the Whiting Memorial Iris Bed, Fisher-Whiting Memorial Library of Mapleton, which has a north-south bed with some of Charles and Agnes Whiting's own hybrids.

The couple were known all over the world for their irises for more than fifty years beginning in 1918. By the 1930's these iris specialists of more than 100 hybrids were internationally known for winning many awards. Thousands of visitors enjoyed their Maple Valley Iris Gardens. In 1940 they introduced 'Golden Spike.' Then in 1950 they were awarded the Dykes Medal for 'Blue Rhythm,' the historic iris that was named 'Blue Lake' here in Austin.

Other hybrids were named after their two children: 'Flight Leader' for son Jim, a squadron leader in WW II and 'Flora Whiting' for their daughter.

Agnes Whiting died July 6, 1966. Encouraged by Evelyn Horner to continue hybridizing irises, Charles Whiting worked until he died on August 4, 1984.

In 1986 the Fisher-Whiting Memorial Library Board of Trustees authorized the establishment of the memorial bed on the library grounds to honor these two great irisarians.

Help Needed for Sale

At the June meeting Tracey Rogers showed some pictures of irises that will be offered at our Annual Rhizome Sale September 8. She provided information about the retail gardens that she has selected for getting rhizomes that will grow well in Central Texas.

The sale will be in the Norris Conference Center near Anderson Lane and Burnet Rd. Plenty of publicity and signage will bring the public to the entrance, but Tracey needs help... Do not forget to sign the sheet that will be at the July and August meetings. If you have any rhizomes that you want to offer at the sale, please bring them August 14 or September 4.

last meeting's minutes >>

Iris Society of Austin Meeting
Tuesday June 12, 2012

The meeting was called to order by Marney Abel. New members were welcomed and everyone enjoyed a nice pot luck supper.

There was no treasurers' report.

There was an update from Don Freeman on the future plans for Zilker Gardens and Garden Center. All members are encouraged to email the City Council with ideas, or support for the AAGC and its member societies.

The planning for the Fall Rhizome Sale is going well and we have placed our orders for rhizomes. Tracey Rogers is asking for help from members with advertising for the sale.

A motion passed unanimously (with 1 abstention) allowing a \$360 budget to host a dinner Friday, August 3, at the Zilker Garden Center for attendees of the Region 17 Convention.

There was also a motion passed with only 1 vote against to change the Regional Convention registration fee for youth members from \$65 to \$35. Silent Auction items contributed by the members were collected by Pat Byrne.

Volunteers are needed to help with the hospitality duties for our monthly meetings and a committee will be formed to start looking for alternative meeting locations just in case we lose any of our club privileges as a result of management changes at Zilker Gardens.

submitted by Dara Smith