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August 2012 — vol 21 #8



A Monthly Newsletter of the Iris Society of Austin

IRIS AUSTIN



next ISA meeting >>>

No August 2012 meeting!

Iris Society of Austin Meeting
Tuesday September 4, 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

next AAGC meeting >>>

Austin Area Garden Council Meeting

**No regular meetings in June, July
or August**

upcoming events >>>

August 3-4 – Region 17 Convention
Omni Hotel Southpark
4140 Governor's Row, 78744
Near Ben White and IH-35

September 4 – Regular Meeting

September 8 – Rhizome Sale
Norris Conference Center
2525 W Anderson Ln, 78757
South side of Northcross Mall

October 9 – Regular Meeting

November 13 – Regular Meeting

AAGC Open House

Friday, September 28, 10am – 1pm

All clubs that are members of the Austin Area Garden Council have been invited to participate in an Open House in the auditorium of the Garden Center at Zilker Botanical Gardens on Friday, September 28, from 10am to 1pm (set-up at 9am).

Clubs can participate by decorating a table that will tempt the visitors to visit their meetings, to become members, or just to understand the club's goals.

The event will strive to share with the public the importance of gardening, and the fun of living in friendly Austin. Catered food will be served, and it will be a great opportunity to meet newcomers to Austin, newly retired individuals, and current neighbors, all of whom wish to meet and work with other gardeners.

If you are interested, please notify one of your officers

horticulture tips >>>

Weeding and Feeding

By now the iris gardens are cleaned of any dead leaves and debris. The irises looked just like they were when you cleaned them and the only water the garden received came from the garden hose. Then finally the storms came, giving a total of 5 or 6 inches of rain in July within a short period of time to your garden! The irises perked up, greened up, and grew up. But, when the soil dries, the tiny green plants will have to be removed before they can be identified as weeds or horse herb or some type of grass.

Then, after Labor Day and the Annual ISA Iris Rhizome Sale, the garden can be fed bone meal, super phosphate, super bloom, or whatever supplement you prefer for your bearded irises. Remember to add mosquito dunks to the standing water in the Louisiana irises, and feed the plants with an acid food such as azalea fertilizer. Louisiana irises also benefit from mulch over the rhizomes to keep the heat or cold from affecting them.

Have pleasant stress-free days in an iris garden today!

Edwin Rundlett

Organizes Reblooming Iris Society

Edwin Rundlett, who was born in 1896, was one of the main forces behind the reblooming iris movement in America, according to Jim Morris. He was a division director of the AIS table iris (later MTBs) robins, keeping in touch with many hybridizers such as Mary Williamson, Jean Witt, and Alice White. When the Median Iris Society was formed in 1957 he became vice president and chairman of Inter-club relations. He co-edited the newsletter, Volume 1, Number 4 in 1960.

This New Yorker mailed iris pollen to achieve tangerine beards on pumila tall bearded and was one of the founders of the Reblooming Iris Society. He also served as the first editor of its newsletter and continued this work from 1967-71. As Superintendent of Parks for the Borough of Staten Island, he wrote a weekly garden column for Staten Island Advance. Although he registered 25 irises, he did not receive an award from the AIS judges for any of them. In 1969 he was awarded the AIS Distinguished Service Medal, mainly for his writing and encouragement of others.

Californian John Weiler continued a discussion of reblooming irises from Gerard's *Herbal*, to Thomas Ware's introduction of 'Gracchus' (1884 TB), to 'Crimson King' (1893 IB), to the dwarf irises of Charles Andre, and to the Sass brothers of Nebraska with 'Autumn King' (1924 TB),

'Eleanor Roosevelt' (1933 IB), and 'Sangreal' (1935 IB).

After this came champions such as Tom Craig, Lloyd Austin, Jim Gibson, H E Weed, G Percy Brown, Dr. Raymond G Smith, and Lloyd Zurbrigg, who is known for 'Baby Blessed' (79 SDB) that won the Cook-Douglas Medal. The challenge continued to spread with Earl Hall hybridizing 'Jewel Baby' (84 SDB, AM 1989) and 'Little Showoff' (89 SDB, Cook-Douglas Medal 1998), and Frank Jones with 'Blessed Again' (76 IB), and 'Lady Emma' (86 MTB).

Others include Dave Niswonger's 'Honey Glazed' (83 IB), Ben Hagar, John Weiler with 'Auroralita' (90 SDB), 'Little Blue Eyes' (93 SDB, AM 98, Cook-Douglas Medal 2002), and 'Thrice Blessed' (82 SDB, AM 87), Monty Byers 'Lo Ho Silver' (89 IB), Chuck Chapman 'Forever Blue' (97 SDB), Lowell Baumunk 'Midsummer Night's Dream' (99 IB), and George Sutton.

Hybridizers continue this marvelous work to bring these magnificent flowers to bloom the year round, to provide different colors, or at least 3 different colors, in the beards, and to improve the plants for the benefit of the growers who want them to survive neglect or drought.

last meeting's minutes >>

Iris Society of Austin Meeting
Tuesday July 10, 2012

The meeting was called to order by President, Marney Abel. The minutes from the June meeting were read and amended to say the Friday August 3, dinner will be held at the Omni hotel.

The Treasurer's Report was read and approved.

Don Freeman suggested we pull the weeds, look for small increases and treat any rot with antibacterial soap.

Nelda Moore reported that AAGC dues of \$3.00 per active member are due, as is our 2013 meeting schedule

All members should let Tracey Rogers know by August 25th what irises you will contribute for the sale. Also send in any ideas for advertising. The time of the sale was set to be 9am – 2pm.

A Zilker workday was proposed and left to members to co-ordinate.

The Region 17 Convention planning committee requested donations for the silent auction. The schedule has not been finalized, but there is a need for volunteers to assist in the Hospitality Room on Friday 2p - 5:30p and to setup for the Silent Auction. The Hospitality Room will also need volunteers on Saturday 7a – 8:30a. Saturday 8am begins the registration for Judge's training which is scheduled for 9a to 11a. There will be a 1.5 hours for lunch on your own. Ken will post the Schedule of Events on the club website when the details are final.

submitted by Dara Smith