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March 2013 — vol 22 #3

Nelda Moore, Editor

A Monthly Newsletter of the Iris Society of Austin

IRIS AUSTIN



next ISA meeting >>>

Iris Society of Austin Meeting
Tuesday March 12, 2013
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
- Business Meeting
- We will be covering everything you need to know about the Annual Show

next AAGC meeting >>>

Austin Area Garden Council Meeting
Tuesday March 12, 2013
10:00 am

Zilker Garden Center

Nelda Moore – ISA representative

upcoming events >>>

Mar 30, 2013 – Annual Iris Show

Apr 9, 2013 – ISA Meeting

Apr 15-20, 2013 – AIS Nat'l Conv

Apr 21-23, 2013 – LA Iris Conv

May 14, 2013 – ISA Meeting

June 11, 2013 – ISA Meeting

Meet Kelly Norris

Iris Grower and Writer

Kelly D. Norris is a 25-year-old horticulturist, plant breeder, and plantsman from Iowa. He is the award-winning author of three books including the Iowa Gardener's Travel Guide, the first travel guide to Iowa's public gardens and nurseries, and A Guide to Bearded Irises: Cultivating the Rainbow for Beginners and Enthusiasts just released from Timber Press. As a speaker he has garnered national acclaim for his high-energy, zealous presentations, leading many to call him one of the rising stars of American horticulture. On March 9 he joined our friends at the Tulsa Area Iris Society to deliver a Judges Training.

He currently manages Rainbow Iris Farm, a seven-acre nursery owned by his family, edits Irises: The Bulletin of the American Iris Society, and serves in several leadership capacities throughout the horticulture industry. Kelly is the youngest person to receive the Iowa State Horticultural Society's Presidential Citation, Award of Merit and Honor Award in the organization's 150 year

history, awards that exemplify service and contributions to horticulture in Iowa. In 2011, he was also honored by the Perennial Plant Association with the Young Professional Award, recognizing early contributions to the advancement of herbaceous perennials in American horticulture. Kelly's unique 10 years of experience in the industry began at age 14 when he talked his parents into buying a nursery. In that time he's become one of the few go-to experts on marketing horticulture to emerging demographics.

His love for exploration has taken him to southern and central Texas, the Ozarks, the Black Hills, and all over the Midwest in search of new plants for gardens. Kelly holds a bachelor's and master's degree in horticulture from Iowa State University. In his M.S. program he studied *Dirca*, a genus of rare shrubs commonly known as leatherwoods.

Follow Kelly's travels, commentary, and zealous praise of plants at www.kellydnorris.com

Artistic Design Division

What an enjoyable challenge it is to create an artistic arrangement for someone, especially the judges and the public!

Can you mix Louisiana iris and tall bearded irises in a single arrangement? You most certainly can! Remember the Fibonacci numbers--one, three, five, and seven. The bud of a tightly closed Louisiana iris can be used first, then take the line down with a tall bearded iris, and follow the heaven, earth, and man type of flower arrangement, keeping the line straight.

Foliage of spurias, Louisianas, and tall bearded irises can be incorporated in the bouquets. Greenery is important as well as some fillers using flowers or grass. Always think of the elements such as line, shape, space, value, color, and texture of items you use.

The line can be horizontal (especially in a small design), vertical, or diagonal. The shape can be naturalistic or geometric. The value can be light or dark. The color involves hue, intensity, and value. Refer to a Color Wheel. The texture can be rough, smooth, soft or hard.

Finally, think of the principles of design. Unity-- echoes of all elements relating; Harmony-- within each element and as a whole; Balance refers to the weights of the segments of each element; Rhythm is variety and repetition; Focal Point is the center of interest; Composition is creating a pattern by grouping; and Proportion is the correct relationship of elements of a design.

This year at our show we will

have a couple of new classes in the Artistic Design Division. For those of you who might be intimidated by the prospect of a 40 inch tall design, there is now a Small Design class that must be 15 inches or less. Maybe this is more your style.

For those of you who like lots of flowers in a more traditional arrangement, reserve an entry in the Mass/Traditional Design Class. These arrangements typically have the elements arranged as plants grow with stems down in a source of moisture. Typically large quantities of plant material are used in a closed space with a single fully developed focal area. When using iris in this type of design, be aware that their form may be compromised in a tight



an award-winning design from the 2011 show

compact arrangement of plant materials.

Remember that one or more iris blooms must be used in each design, but the iris or other plant material does not have to have been grown by the designer. You can use Dutch Iris from your grocery store if that is what moves you!

zilker garden festival >>>

Volunteers Needed

Because The Iris Society of Austin is one of the member societies of the Austin Area Garden Council, all ISA members should plan to volunteer at least 4 hours during the upcoming Zilker Garden Festival. This is a great way for us to help meet our club's quota of volunteer hours for the year. The festival is April 6 and 7 in Zilker Park, and below is a list of contact people for the different areas that are still needing folks to sign up to help.

After your 4-hour shift, shop with over 50 vendors selling plants and gardening supplies, enjoy live music in the Rose Garden, and get a

bite to eat in The Oaks. Bring your kids to enjoy balloons, face painting and many types of crafts in the Kids Corner.

Two tickets per member of ISA were passed out at our February Meeting, and additional tickets can be purchased at the gate for \$7 for adults, and \$3 for children.

If you can volunteer to work a shift selling water at the festival, please contact Nelda Moore.

If you have iris blooms left after our show and don't want to drive to Waco or Belton, enter them in the Zilker Festival flower show. See Pat Freeman for details.

Fertilize Now

and enjoy the irises at Zilker

Irises are now fed with your favorite selected food for success in producing huge blue ribbon winning flowers for the show March 30, the day before Easter.

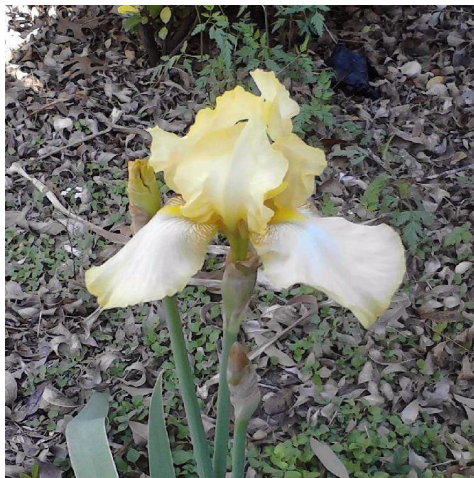
The cool misty weather has awakened the iris plants that were hugging the soil so that they now are becoming as green and healthy as a field of Colorado growers.

In the beds at Zilker Gardens, many of the irises are in bloom. Admire the Barton Springs Road Garden by the daylilies. Spring has come to Austin!

Have any of you visited the iris garden near the roses? Nelda and her husband did not visit that bed much in February since they have gone down the Escarpment Trail to see the faerie homes that have been assembled by the children involved

with the events leading up to March 9th. Five AAGC clubs had their two-foot by two-foot dream houses ready to landscape on that date. Thanks to Nelda Moore, the Iris Society of Austin will have one constructed from plywood with a faerie holding an iris inside the structure.

For faerie news from Zilker, go to www.zilker garden.org/faerie/



TB 'Jaunty Texan' (C Denman, 1973)
blooming in February for Ellen Singleton

ais convention >>>

Two for One

Please do not forget to register for the American Iris Society 2013 Convention hosted by the Iris Society of Dallas April 15-20, 2013. Registration is \$349 in March and it will be \$399 after April 1. Section meetings, iris boutique, judges training, and an iris show will provide pleasure and educational opportunities.

A Welcome Banquet will be April 17 while tours will begin April 18 with visits to Tom Burseen in Grand Prairie, Gordon Carver in Weatherford, and the Clark Garden

in Mineral Wells. On April 19 the tour begins in Addison, then goes to the Nichols' Mesquite Garden, the Dallas Arboretum, and Dell Perry's Garden in Plano. Tours on Saturday will include Sherman and Denison plus Martha McDowell's Garden in Anna just before the evening awards banquet.

And for those of you who prefer to keep your rhizomes soggy, the same hotel will host the Society of Louisiana Irises Convention April 21-23, 2013. Do not miss all of these irises that are so close to home.

last meeting's minutes >>

Iris Society of Austin Meeting
Tuesday February 19, 2013

The meeting was called to order by President, Marney Abel. The minutes from the January meeting were not read aloud but approved as presented in the Newsletter. Welcome to our visitors Elaine Allen and Audrey's sister Beverly.

Pat Byrne presented a detailed treasurer's report.

Zilker Garden Festival tickets were handed out to members present. If you would like to sell your tickets for \$3.00 ea. the proceeds can be given to the Iris Society. Nelda Moore passed around a sign-up sheet for volunteers to work the water sales stations at the festival April 6 and 7.

Thank you, Lori and Shelia for the hospitality at the February meeting.

Jaime Hadley reports that the Show Schedule is almost ready! Our theme is "Jewels of the Earth". This year we will have a new Design show entry category for small arrangement (less than 15"). Backdrops for artistic designs are now optional, and you can use pre-made tri-fold foam boards. We will continue to have the wooden tri-folds for anyone that would like to use one. The Artistic Design categories are: Novice, Mass/Traditional, Designer's Choice, Small Design, and Table for Two. All are strongly encouraged to try to put together a collection of 3 stems of the same variety. We need volunteers for clean up after the show, and to help set up for breakfast and lunch.

New Officers

Jim Landers, Nelda Moore, and Stephanie Sheridan have been working on the Nominating Committee to secure officers for 2013-2014.

According to Article V, Sections 2 and 3 of the Society's Bylaws, the term of office shall be for one year; and no person shall hold the same office for more than two consecutive terms, with the exception of the treasurer, who shall not hold office more than five consecutive terms.

So far the Nominating Committee has come up with the following slate of candidates, and others can be nominated from the floor at the meeting:

President Pat Byrne
Vice President (Programs)..... Ken Fuchs
Vice President (Membership) James Hadley
Secretary Dara E. Smith
Treasurer..... Marney Abel
Librarian and Historian Tracey Rogers

Please consider this list that will be voted on at the March meeting and installed at the May meeting, to serve from June 1 through May 31.

iris websites >>>

Several of our members have done very well in the Austin area with spuria iris. They don't need to be divided and replanted as often as the bearded varieties. Learn more on the Spuria Iris Society website at www.spuriairis.com

For information on historic irises, visit or join the Historic Iris Preservation Society at www.hips-roots.com

For only \$6 a year you can sign up to receive the semi-annual newsletter from SIGNA, the Species Iris Group of North America. These are the REAL historic irises! Go to www.signa.org

The Society for Louisiana Irises will have their national convention April 21-23 in Dallas, TX. For more information, go to www.louisianas.org

The Society for Siberian Irises will have their national convention June 6-8 in Lansing, MI. For more information, go to www.socsib.org

Oncocyclus... Regelia... ¾ of one and ½ of another... WHAT? To learn more about Aril and Arilbred iris that are native to desert areas, visit or join the Aril Society International at www.arilsociety.org

If you like tall bearded iris you are not alone. Join friends and strangers who share a love of the TBs at www.tbisonline.com

meeting minutes cont'd >>

Jim Landers has been asked to provide a "Road Book" for the AIS Nat'l Convention. A motion passed for the ISA to donate \$200.00 to help cover the cost of the book.

American Iris Society National Convention will be April 15 – 20 in Dallas. AIS is asking for donations of a gift basket from each Society that will be part of the fund raising auctions. Also, everyone is asked to bake/bring cookies that will be used as snacks for the touring conventioners.

It was great to see Imre Eifert! We have missed you!

This month's program was a talk from Hybridizer Bob Van Liere from Iris4U. We got to see how they use lawn mowers to clean iris gardens in Denver – where they also have no bugs! Bob has some beautiful introductions and looks forward to seeing everyone in Dallas for the convention. A raffle of several of Bob's introductions followed the presentation.

submitted by Dara Smith, Secretary

other nearby iris shows>>

Do your best blooms appear after our show is over? Take one to visit a neighbor!

Belton Iris Society April 6
Waco Iris Society April 6
Johnson Co. Iris Society April 13
Fort Worth Iris Society.... April 13&14
Lone Star Iris Soc. (Hico)..... April 14
Iris Society of Dallas April 17