

- 2015 AIS Convention
- Rhizome Sale Report
- Sept & Oct Meeting Minutes
- Region 17 Convention Recap



Nelda Moore, Editor

A Monthly Newsletter of the Iris Society of Austin

IRIS AUSTIN



next ISA meeting >>>

Iris Society of Austin Meeting
Tuesday November 11, 2014
6:45 pm (gates close at 7:00)

Late? call 477-8672 ext 13
Zilker Garden Center
2220 Barton Springs Rd
Austin TX 78746

- Special Thanksgiving Potluck Supper
(Club will provide ham, chicken & dressing. Members should bring a holiday side dish to the feast.)
- Business Meeting

next AAGC meeting >>>

Austin Area Garden Council Meeting
Tuesday November 11, 2014
10:00 am
Zilker Garden Center
Marney Abel – ISA representative

upcoming events >>>

Dec 2014 – No ISA Meeting

Jan 13, 2015 – Regular Meeting

Jan 24, 2015 – Judges Training

Feb 10, 2015 – Regular Meeting

Mar 10, 2015 – Regular Meeting

Apr 11, 2015 – Annual Iris Show

May 18-23, 2015 – AIS Nat'l Conv
Portland, OR

2015 AIS Convention and other important news

IRIS IN WONDERLAND 2015

The 2015 Nat'l convention hosted by the Greater Portland Iris Society will be held at the Red Lion Hotel on the River - Jantzen Beach in Portland, Oregon May 18-23.

John Ludi is Convention Chairman while Judy Nunn serves as the registrar. Her address is 4728 Jade St NE, Salem, OR 97305-3138, nunnjk@gmail.com, 503-390-3816.

Six gardens will be on tour: Aiken's Salmon Creek Garden, Mid America Garden, Miller's Manor Gardens, Mt Pleasant Iris Farm, Schreiner's Iris Gardens, and Wildwood Gardens.

Two optional tours are available for an additional cost: Columbia River Gorge and Mt Hood and Oregon Garden, Keppel-Remare Garden, Kevin Vaughn Garden. Debra Strauss and Nick Stewart are asking for any silent auction iris items or donations to be sent by USPS to John Ludi, PO Box 956, Sandy, OR 97055.

DONATIONS FOR BASKET

The Iris Society of Austin has

participated in Raizin' Region Baskets by donating unique local gifts or products such as Texas Beans by HEB, chili mixes, salsa, jelly, or cutting boards portraying Austin scenes, Texas Christmas ornaments, or any iris item such as hand towels or hand tools. The 2014 Region 17 Basket raised \$150 for the American Iris Society.

Region 17 Vice President Dawn Boyer is asking again for items that will be used for the 2015 AIS Silent Auction in Portland, Oregon. Send them to her at 1900 Daws Dr, Amarillo, TX 79124 and she will assemble the basket and take it.

PRAYERS FOR BOB

Continue to keep Bob and Esther Stone in your thoughts and prayers. Bob fell from a ladder back in February and broke his L1 vertebra. Treatments led to infection and a long hospital stay. Bob is still slowly recovering with the help of Esther and his doctors, and they hope to see us at a meeting again before too long.

all sold out >>>

Annual Rhizome Sale and More!

There was a low turnout this year at the annual Rhizome Sale, but we still got great results from the radio and email blasts. We collected two dozen emails for next year's sale.

Total sales the day of the sale were \$2950.31. We made over \$1000 after paying expenses and we've had over \$700 in additional sales since the main event.

Club members Tracey Rogers, Ellen Singleton, Kathy Petheram, Shirley Friesen, D Boyle, Donna Little, Jaime Hadley and Nelda Moore all volunteered at the Plant Sale held as part the AAGC's 50th Anniversary Celebration on October 18 - 19. We are now sold out of rhizomes, most of them being snapped up on Saturday. We made \$529.58 over the two days of that event, and thanks to wonderful weather, we also had a great time outside in the gardens! We hope AAGC found the

event successful and will do it again next year.

Thanks to the growers from whom we purchased rhizomes this year - Nola's Iris Gardens, San Jose CA; Blue J Iris, Alliance NE; Don & Ginny Spoon's Winterberry Gardens, Cross Junction VA; and Mike Lockett's Roots & Blooms, N Chesterfield VA. All the growers were most generous with what they sent us.

'Pixie Magic' (Spoon, D 2013), this year's raffle prize, came from Winterberry Gardens. It's described as having standards & style arms with a solid blend of burgundy and reddish maroon while the falls are the same color with sunburst of yellow orange veins being creamy white around beards and dark mahogany 1/16 inch midline. Fortunately we will be able to get reports of its progress since it was

won by our very own Tiffany Sheridan, one of the hardest workers at the sale.

Separate drawings were held for the Friday and Saturday volunteers with rhizomes donated by Nola's Iris Gardens. The winner of Friday's drawing was Pat Freeman who received 'Alice Davis' (Methany 1995). Saturday's winner was Audrey Baker who received 'Lavender Icicle' (Meininger 1999), a space ager. With her collection of historic irises, Audrey thought it was time to try a space ager.

We will be having the sale at Norris again next year on September 12, 2015, but we will be in the front room, so customers can't miss us. If you have any suggestions for next year's sale or if you would like to be more involved in pre-sale preparations, please contact Ellen Singleton, the new Sales Chair.

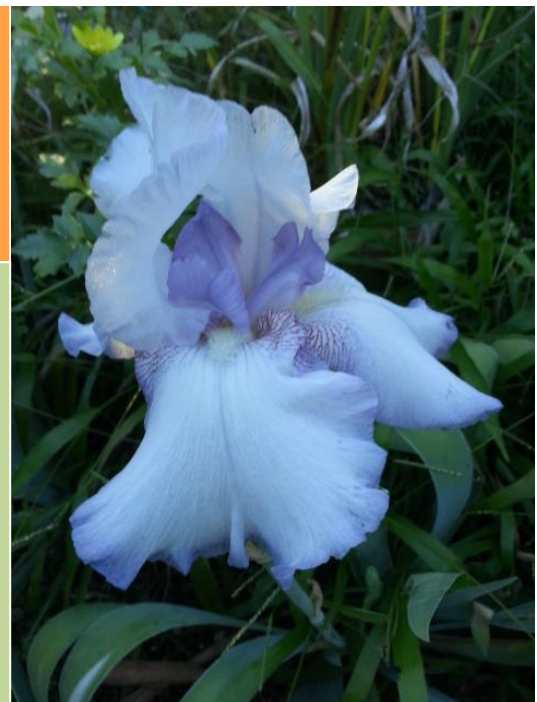
fall rebloom >>>

Remember to report any fall rebloom in your garden to the AIS Region 17 liaison to the Reblooming Iris Society. Our own Jim Landers has recently been replaced in this position, so you should now send messages to report any rebloom in your garden to Gailmae Suite at metex65@yahoo.com Gailmae shares information about all rebloomers in Texas with the RIS and they compile reports of rebloom across the entire country.

September rains in Austin should make this a great year for fall iris blooms.



left 'Harvest of Memories'
right 'Over and Over'
both blooming in Austin in October



training in january >>>

A Judges Training will be hosted by the Iris Society of Austin on Saturday January 24, 2015, at 8:30am, at Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church, 7127 Bee Caves Rd in Austin. All are welcome, you do not need to be working toward judge certification, and you don't even need to be a member of our club.

2014 Region 17 Conv.

by Ken Fuchs

This year's annual American Iris Society Region 17 meeting was an awesome event. The first challenge was simply getting there, since the meeting was held in Amarillo, Aug 22-23. Jaime Hadley and Dara Smith, joined Jim Landers and me in Lometa early Friday morning for the long drive to the Texas Panhandle, with great views of giant wind farms and a quick stop in Snyder for a photo op at the White Buffalo monument on the Scurry County Courthouse square.

We arrived in Amarillo 4:30p, to be greeted by intense dry heat. The Holiday Inn Amarillo West Medical Center was an excellent location for the meeting. It was spacious and elegant with lots of Western art and decorations. The bar stools were shaped like saddles and black metal tissue boxes in the bathrooms had cowboy cutouts on them.

The North Plains and South Plains Iris Societies hosted the meeting. RVP Dawn Boyer and Debra Strauss were there to greet us. Attractive silent auction items covered tables on three walls of the meeting room. The Friday evening Welcome Dinner was a buffet featuring chicken fried steak, a green salad, and mixed vegetables. Following the dinner we had a fun time playing Dawn Boyer's game "Name That Iris." Six teams competed as we scanned three pages of lists of iris names as Dawn called out clues to identify the irises.

After an excellent breakfast buffet Saturday morning, we gathered for Judges Training. Al Elliott presented a very interesting program on Exhibition Judging of Collections, English Boxes, and Bulbous. He and his wife Barbara gave out a number of door prizes. We then formed a caravan to the Amarillo Botanical Gardens located just a few blocks from the hotel. A beautiful

wrought-iron gate with iris cutouts was the first attraction. The gardens are terraced and the pathways led us past a butterfly garden and a multitude of flowering plants. One bed has newly planted irises. A Palo Duro Canyon garden is set against a magnificent mosaic mural as a backdrop. The Japanese Garden evokes peace and meditation. The real masterpiece of the Gardens is the Conservatory, a large diamond-shaped glass enclosure which contains a miniature rain forest. Besides the many unusual flowers, bunches of bananas and papayas caught our attention.

After lunch on our own, we returned to the hotel for the Region 17 Business Meeting, and then Gordon Carver served as auctioneer for the Rhizome Auction. Following the auction, several of us drove a few miles west to see one of Amarillo's most popular tourist attractions — Cadillac Ranch and Helium Monument.

That evening the Banquet was casual yet elegant. A small white paper sack at each place setting celebrated 55 years of Region 17, and held a rhizome from one of those 55 years for the lucky guest. The entree for the dinner was Italian chicken breast wrapped in prosciutto followed by molten chocolate cake. There were door prizes for everyone. At the roll call, eleven Region 17 Societies were represented with forty-seven members present. The guest speaker was Craig Edwards from the Lubbock society. He represented Blue J Iris Gardens and showed beautiful slides illustrating the topic "Space Age Innovations and More." Jim Landers presented Dell Perry a Special Award "in recognition for winning five top show awards in Region 17 in 2014." Afterward attendees picked up and paid for their Silent Auction items.

Iris Society of Austin Meeting Tuesday September 9, 2014

The meeting was called to order by President, Pat Byrne. The minutes from the last meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Welcome new members:

- Veena Sukumar
- Al Elliot
- Barbara Elliot

A copy of the monthly Treasurer's Report was given to the Secretary to keep on file. The ending monthly balance for August 2014 was \$15,865.66.

In Lieu of the AAGC Report, there was a presentation and discussion about the future of the Botanical Gardens to be maintained by a Conservancy. There is a feasibility study in the works and there has been a preliminary survey from the participating garden clubs. There is a plan to structure a 501(c)3 Corporation. AAGC will hire a Consultant that will offer a Memorandum of Understanding. There was a motion from Don Freeman for the Iris Society of Austin to give our support of the AACG activities towards the Conservancy. The motion passed with 1 vote voiced in opposition.

We are able to get a guest speaker from Signa and there are 2 choices for presentation.

There was a motion to hold a Judges Training session January 24, 2015. This motion passed and the program topic will be determined.

continued on next page

october meeting minutes >>>

ISA Meeting Oct 14, 2014

The meeting was called to order by President, Pat Byrne. The September minutes were not available, but will be published in the Nov newsletter and approved at the next meeting.

Welcome new member, Laura Hampton, and visitor Kathy Dillard.

Marney presented the Treasurer's Report with a current balance of \$17,887.00

Members voted to move forward with placing a down-payment on the Norris Conference Center for next year's Rhizome Sale.

Nelda warned that beginning with the time change in November, Zilker Garden gates will close at 5:30p, and will not re-open until 6:30p for our meeting, so do not arrive too early!

Tracey passed around a sign-up sheet for volunteers to work the Zilker 50th Anniversary festival October 18-19. ISA will be allowed to keep all proceeds, but members voted to donate \$50 to AAGC for the use of the golf carts. The event will be canceled in the event of inclement weather.

The annual decorating of the Iris Society Christmas Tree for Zilker Garden Center will happen Nov 21, from 1p to 4:30p. Everyone is welcome to come and help.

We were reminded to always log all our volunteer hours, including travel time. It is very important that Zilker have a record of any education or

other volunteer hours spent in the gardens or promoting the Gardens in the community.

AAGC warned at its meeting this morning that plants grown by Greenleaf Nurseries use a systemic insecticide that is depleting the area butterfly population, and it was suggested that ISA members avoid purchasing their plants.

The Trail of Lights will go on this year in Zilker Park beginning in early December.

Nelda suggested that we consider at a future meeting voting to give a donation of approximately \$100 to help sponsor live music at the 2015 Zilker Spring Garden Festival.

The ISA November Meeting is scheduled for November 11, 2014. The Club will provide a holiday ham, and members should bring sides appropriate for a holiday feast.

Ken presented a fabulous program called "This Bud's For You!" that showed highlights of the 2005 AIS National Convention in St Louis, Missouri. It was followed by a few spooky Halloween music videos starring the members of our club in ghoulish attire!

submitted by Jaime Hadley



sept minutes cont'd >>>

Anyone with a desire to help with or take over any of the Newsletter responsibility is encouraged to volunteer!! Jaime Hadley and Nelda Moore have been very generous with their time to present our club's news. But they are willing to share.

Judges Training Sat. January 24, 2015
Topic TBD

2015 Iris Show Sat. April 11, 2015

The program presented was "Region 17 2014 Meeting – Amarillo, TX"
Thanks, Ken!

submitted by Dara E Smith

