

IRIS AUSTIN

FEBRUARY, 2015 --- VOLUME 23,
NUMBER 1

IRIS SOCIETY OF AUSTIN MEETING
Tuesday, February 10, 2015
6:45 p.m. (gates close at 7 p.m.)
Call 477-8672 ext 13 after 7 p.m.

*Austin Area Garden Center of Zilker
Botanical Garden at 2220 Barton Springs
Road, Austin, Texas 78746*

Officers:

President Pat Byrne 281-391-6190
VP Programs Ken Fuchs 254-773-5017
VP Membership Jaime Hadley
512-335-9812

Secretary Dara E. Smith 512-454-1430
Treasurer Marney Abel 512-330-9052
Historian Tracey Rogers 512-280-4856

UPCOMING EVENTS AT ZILKER
January 31 10 until noon Growing Fruit
in Your Home Garden by Joe Posern

February 7 10 until noon All About
Roses by Cher Groody

February 7 2 until 4 p.m. Faerie
Luminaries and February 9 -10 until
11a.m. Story Time: Faeries of the Forest

February 10 at 10 a.m. AAGC Board of
Directors Meeting in the Auditorium
Marney Abel, Club Representative



IRIS SHOW TO BE HELD APRIL 11

“Colors of the Rainbow” will provide a beautiful setting for the rainbow flowers that will be entered in the 26th accredited show for the Iris Society of Austin on Saturday, April 11, 2015 in the Austin Area Garden Center Auditorium in Zilker Botanical Garden, 2220 Barton Springs Road, Austin, TX 78746.

Pat Byrne, president and chairman of the show, looks forward to having the judges select the “Queen of the Show,” the best specimen grown and shown by a member.

Ken Fuchs has submitted the Show Schedule to Lois Rose of the American Iris Society. She praised his work and his remarkable skill in sending the schedule so early. He will now publish a booklet that will be used by the judges as well as by all of the members who will enter the divisions.

The Artistic Division will have Class 1- Novice, Colors of the Rainbow; Class 2- Small Design—A Little Bit of Color; Class 3-Double Rainbow for the Two Containers; Class 4- Designers Choice—A Blend of Colors; and Class 5- Table for Two—Dinner at the Rainbow Room.

Pat Freeman will encourage members to call her before the show and make arrangements for any of the classes so that the room can be arranged properly.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY
A TIME TO FEED IRISES!

YOUTH OPPORTUNITY

One of the requirements for earning an A.I.S. Youth Patch is to enter the Ackerman Essay Contest using 500-750 words or 2 pages describing an iris that you would want to be. Cash awards are presented to winners in two age groups: Senior-- age 13 and up and Junior-- age 12 and under.

Deadline for the entry "If you were an iris, which one would you be and why?" is March 31. Send the entry as an attachment to Carol Warner {draycott@ais.net} or mail to Carol at 16815 Falls Road, Upperco, MD 21155.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Don Freeman and the Nominating Committee will report in February a slate of officers that will serve for one year according to Article VII, Section 2.

JUDGES TRAINING IS HELD IN AUSTIN

Alverton A. Elliott provided Judges Training on "Before Awarding the First Ribbon" in Ross Hall of the Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church Saturday, January 24.

Dell Perry, Peggy Cathey, Jim Landers, Pat Byrne, Shelia Senghas, Dara E. Smith, Ellen Singleton, Laura Hampton, Shirley Friesen, Debora Boyle, Donna Little, Marney Abel, Nelda Moore, Tracey Rogers, Kathy Petheram, Susan Flanagan, Jaime Hadley, Ken Fuchs, and Laura Hampton attended the breakfast and school that is not only for judges but also for educating those interested in irises.

Mr. Elliott shared his knowledge as well as how he became interested in growing irises wherever he moved and how his mother influenced him in becoming a judge. He asked the attendees how they became iris growers. He answered questions about judging requirements, duties, and

responsibilities of judges, especially in getting to know other judges serving on the panel as well as an apprentice that might be among them. For the first time participants gained a deeper knowledge about how hybridizers find the names of colors for their hybrids and when they registered the iris that emerged from a Seedling Number to the year when it appeared in the R and I, where its pod parents are listed.

Mr. Elliott's pictures of introductions were compared to some of the irises that were exhibited in a show to prove that some of them were not named correctly. Attending a convention, growing new irises, and studying catalogues as well as visiting other gardens is so important to a judge.





Judges Training Session 2015



How did you know that
today's my birthday?

We are ready to be trained!



Thank you, Nelda,
for organizing the
delicious breakfast.

Happy Birthday, Shelia!



Dues? That will be \$18, please.



What do you mean, we have to take a test??

SPECIES IRISES ON PARADE

Species Irises provide a delicate beauty to the world of irises since they are primarily beardless or apogon irises, but they can be bearded irises such as *Iris pumila*, which is in the miniature dwarf bearded category.

The American Iris Society encourages the registration and introduction of named, selected varieties of iris species and they have always been eligible for iris show awards with valid scientific name or cultivar name.

One of the best known species is the American native crested iris called *Iris cristata*, which is classed within the subsection *Evansia*. It is a low growing wild iris found in moist woods of Appalachian and Ozark Mountains. It is distinguished by the frilly crests on its falls. The name was given to this group in 1812 in honor of Thomas Evans, who introduced *Iris japonica* to the British gardens.

Iris confusa is a vigorous, clumping iris with many short-lived white flowers with yellow or purple spots encircling their yellow crests and signals. It grows in partial shade in rich, moist soil in the southern states. W.R. Dykes obtained seeds in 1911 from Western China.

Iris tectorum also known as Japan's roof iris is a hardy blue or white specimen that can be used as edging for flowering borders in semishade. It has a rhizome like a bearded iris and foliage fans of broad but thin textured leaves. It grows well in hot dry areas in good soil with compost and humus. It must have water during its growth. In Japan the rhizomes are dried and used for face powder. In China there is an ancient superstition that if this iris is planted on straw roofs, the people

in the house or barn will be protected from storms and typhoons.

Limniris or apogon irises include crested irises or *Lophiris* and pond irises or *Limniris*. Pond irises include Siberian, Pacific Coast, Louisiana, spuria, Japanese and many species irises according to Barbara Perry Lawton.

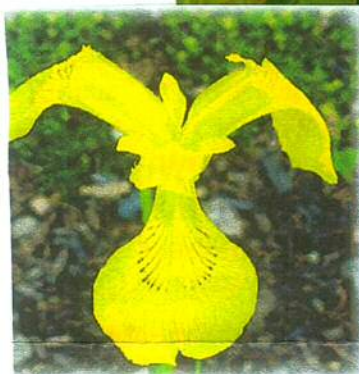
Pumilas are small irises usually grown near vertical rocks in a garden where they have some protection from climatic extremes. They sometimes grow without much water, without much fertilizer, without disturbance, and without much love. Too much care at the wrong times can mean certain death.

Iris versicolor or blue flag is a native that grows in wet soil in eastern North America from Canada to Texas. It is between 1 and 3 feet in height with shades of blue, purple, and even reddish purple flowers although there is a white form. It is an iris with $2n$ being 108 or the highest chromosome count. It is a natural hybrid from *I. virginica* and *I. setosa* var. *interior* ($2n=38$).

Iris prismatica is also a native North American species that grows on the eastern coast northward to Nova Scotia. A variety named *austriana* grows in swamps in Georgia and Tennessee.

Iris unguicularis and its cousins are well-known irises from the Mediterranean region. The best known garden form for the south comes from Algeria and Tunisia, according to botanist Brian Mathew.

Much of the world's habitat for wild irises is under threat of construction and slash-and-burn agriculture, but these beautiful wild irises need to be saved from extinction.



MZCHETICA



I. LAZICA



I. LINGULARIS-SPECIES



FOETIDISSIMA