



IRIS AUSTIN

Newsletter of the Iris Society of Austin January 2026, Vol. XXVI No. 1

Website: http://www.kenfuchs42.net/isa_index.html

an Affiliated Society of the American Iris Society in Region 17 (Texas)

<https://www.irises.org/>

www.aisregion17.org

submittals to the newsletter should be emailed within eight days following the ISA monthly meeting



Next Meeting

Sunday, February 15, 2026,
1pm-3pm meeting/program
at Auditorium

Zilker Botanical Garden Center
2220 Barton Springs Rd
Austin TX 78746

<http://www.zilker garden.org/>

Hospitality: Audrey Baker
Program: TBD

2026 American Iris Society National Convention

<https://ais2026convention.org/>
May 18-23 New Jersey &
New York

2027 AIS Convention -
Oklahoma City
April 27- May 1 (tentative)

Christmas Tree at Zilker Botanical Garden

Nelda and Tracey decorated the Iris Society of Austin (ISA) Christmas tree at Zilker 12/1/25. Viewing of the various club trees occurred during the first week in December in the Green Room. Due to rental events, the trees were not viewable all month.



Nelda in front of the ISA
Christmas Tree at
Zilker Botanical Garden (left)

Iris Society of Austin (ISA)
Christmas Tree (bottom right)

Photos by Tracey Rogers



Iris Society of Austin Meeting Minutes - January 18, 2026

submitted by Dara Smith

The meeting was called to order by Jaime Hadley. There were 12 members present (including 1 youth member) and one guest that will be joining. This Sunday afternoon meeting was held at Zilker Botanical Garden.

At this meeting today the renovations on the Green Room have been completed. The doors from the large meeting room into the adjoining office spaces have now been paneled over and there is new wood flooring instead of vinyl tiles throughout the entire space!

- We gathered today with a “snacking” pot luck in celebration of the New Year!
- The Minutes from the November 16, 2025 meeting were approved as printed in the December 2025 newsletter.
- Treasurer’s report given by Donna Little. There are no changes in the current balance from the last report in November.
- Tracey has been sending emails to keep everyone informed of the plans that Zilker is coordinating to relocate the iris plantings. There are currently irises planted with day-lilies in the rose garden. The interest in the members participating in this job is very minimal as the membership has dug up and replanted the irises several times in the past 3 years.
- Shirley Smith reviewed the information from AAGC about the Shelter-In-Place and evacuations plans of Zilker gardens. Remember to make your own emergency plans and be prepared for fires and inclement weather events.
- Iris Society of Austin annual Dues are due in the month of January. Please make your payment to Marney Abel or Donna Little for “Iris Society of Austin”. AIS sends renewal notices in December/January and some ISA members have their dues to AIS paid for by ISA. Reminder: for old and new members that attending 5 meetings or events in a year makes you eligible for Iris Society of Austin to pay your annual membership dues to the American Iris Society!
- Donna Little, Show Chair, provided updates for the ISA Spring 2026 Show “Iris Rainbows”. Entrance to Zilker is still unclear. We are targeting 8:45am, but may be able to get in the gates earlier, so stay tuned for more info. The judging will start at 10:30am and doors open to the public at 1pm. Everyone was asked to continue in their positions that they participated in last year. We will all need to share the role for Hospitality with Shirley Smith coordinating. Need food for judges and members for snacks and lunches.
 - List of show leaders:
 - ◆ Tracey Rogers - Judge Coordinator
 - ◆ David Kramer – Placement
 - ◆ Dara E Smith & Jaime Hadley - Classification and Awards
 - ◆ Audrey Baker – Photography
 - ◆ **Needed** - publicity (Chronicle, Social Media, FB and Instagram accounts if we still have access to these for ISA, also can be posted to the Region 17 accounts. Submit to AAGC to get on the Calendar of Events (Sally Dickenson, Nicki DeLeon - 2 weeks ahead of the end of the month) cc: publicity.aagc@gmail.com
 - ◆ Tracey Rogers - show schedule with approval of Show Chair

Iris Society of Austin Meeting Minutes - January 18, 2026 (continued)

- Artistic Design will have 3 Classes - Novice - Favorite Rainbow Color, Small 15" high - 2 to 3 colors, Designer's Choice - Full Spectrum colors, line design
- Photography will have 4 Sections - Single flower, Multiple flowers, Irises Etc. (photos of animals, yard art, etc with irises), Non-bloom - any part of the iris NOT the bloom.
- The Show Schedule is due for submission and approval by AIS at the end of January 2026.
- Next scheduled ISA Meeting is at Zilker auditorium:
 - Sunday, February 15, 2026 @ 1pm
- Region 17 is seeking someone to be the Region 17 Youth Chair.
- The February 2026 ISA meeting will not be a Judge's training session. We will host a regular meeting.
- Iris related events to plan in your calendars for next year!
 1. Iris Society of Austin Spring Show SETUP - Friday April 3, 2026 (afternoon TBD)
 2. Iris Society of Austin Spring Show - Saturday April 4, 2026 (8am or 8:30am?)
 3. American Iris Society National Convention in New York - May 19 -23, 2026. Registration is now open!
Hotel: Newark Liberty International Airport Marriott Hotel1 Hotel Road, Newark, New Jersey 07114
(973) 623-006
Convention website: <https://ais2026convention.org/>
 4. Region 17 Fall meeting - October 2 - 3, 2026 (Cleburne, TX). **Please note the dates have recently changed** for this meeting. Registration is open! Please see the information on the AIS Region 17 Facebook group or on the Region 17 Website. [<https://forms.gle/qDi3a6MtvCJgku7i8>]
- Today's program was one from the AIS You Tube Webinar library. "AIS Webinar #11 - Managing Pests and Weeds in the Iris Patch" by Bob Hollingsworth. [AIS Webinar #11 "Managing Pests and Weeds in the Iris Patch" by Bob Hollingsworth](#)
 - We also viewed a Facebook post from a young Influencer visiting Hybridizer Lynda Miller's Iris seedling beds. <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1Ap3fNm7bL/>
 - The video shows some of Lynda's examples of hybrids with pom-poms and flounces as she has coined the terms "Bowl of Fluff" varieties. We had some issues with the audio portion of this during the meeting. Enjoy watching this young man share his enthusiasm for the work that goes into Lynda's new hybrids!!
- Next Meetings:
 - Sunday, February 15, 2026 @ 1:00pm (Zilker)
 - Tuesday, March 10, 2026 @ 6:00pm (Zilker)
 - Tuesday April 14, 2026 @ 6:00pm (Zilker)
 - Tuesday May 12, 2026 @ 6:00pm (Zilker)

Iris Society of Austin Meeting Minutes - January 18, 2026 (continued)

- ZOOM meeting information will be included in the Newsletter. We will commit to setting up the Audio/Visual components in the meeting room and start the call from someone in attendance at Zilker that has a computer setup to access the Zoom application and initiate the call. We are hoping that members not able to attend in-person will join the meeting. Today's meeting was hosted in-person and on Zoom. There were no attendees on the call for today's meeting.

Notes about ISA meeting/show location & time for September 2025 - September 2026 with *zoom info

Tracey confirmed Iris Society of Austin (ISA) meetings, show, & sale at Zilker Botanical Garden:

- Tuesday evening, September 9, 2025 starting at 6:30 pm
- Sunday afternoon, October 19, 2025, 12-4pm (meeting time 1pm-3pm)
- Sunday afternoon, November 16, 2025, 12-4pm (meeting time 1pm-3pm)
- Sunday afternoon, January 18, 2026, 12-3pm (meeting time 1pm-3pm) [*Zoom available]
- Sunday afternoon, February 15, 2026, 12-3pm (meeting time 1pm-3pm) [*Zoom available]
- Tuesday, March 10, 2026, 6-8:30pm [*Zoom available]
- Iris Show Date:
 - Setup: Friday, April 3, 2026, 1-5pm
 - Show: Saturday, April 4, 2026, 9am-5pm
 - includes the Auditorium and Greene Room for Judges
 - Zilker gates open at 8am for the show
- Tuesday, April 14, 2026, 6-8:30pm [*Zoom available]
- Tuesday, May 12, 2026, 6-8:30pm [*Zoom available]
- Iris Sale Date:
 - Setup: Friday, September 11, 2026, 1-5pm
 - Sale: Saturday, September 12, 2026, 9am-3:30pm
- Sunday, September 20, 2026, 12-3pm [*Zoom available]

For Club Members -- ***Join Zoom Meeting:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82096469078?pwd=yBaGnlv9pW8K5iZRbJHaWbmym2bsJ.1>

Meeting ID: 820 9646 9078

Passcode: 051827

One tap mobile – for call in audio only

+13462487799,,82096469078# US (Houston)

Join **instructions**

https://us02web.zoom.us/join/82096469078/invitations?signature=6D_Ouh-iZ84IfiL3ITbf0kXsRmNiO-r364yFBol4Rtc

Zilker Garden's regular operating hours are:

- September through May: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
- June through August: 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
- Admissions close 30 minutes before the Garden closes

January miscellaneous

1. Tracey mentioned that Audrey is the hostess for February. She is still looking for hosts for March, April, & May.
2. Tracey mentioned that the by-laws indicate need for a nominating chair, which is appointed by ISA President. This is the one committee that the President cannot serve. The nominating chair can then form a committee and present a slate of officers at the February meeting.
3. Audrey will try to work with Marney for February program. It may be another AIS program, but hopefully shorter than the January video.
4. Shirley is collecting volunteer hours. If you have hours for Q4 2025, please let her know.
5. Tracey emailed the ISA show schedule to Donna L., Ken F., Dara S., & Jaime H. for review. She would like feedback/corrections by the 1/27/26 so she can update and submit to AIS by the January deadline.
6. Tracey mentioned that she plans to email or print copies of an article she found in National Garden Club's newsletter regarding the difference between design and a floral arrangement. She thought it might help anyone who hasn't previously submitted a design entry for a show.
7. The Sydney B. Mitchell Iris Society hosted a two hour online judges' training on awards and honors at 1:00 p.m. Pacific time on Saturday, January 24, 2026.
8. The next annual meeting of Society for Louisiana Irises (SLI) will be held on Friday April 10th, 2026, at the Ira Nelson Horticulture Center in Lafayette, Louisiana. Check The American Iris Society newsletter for additional information.
9. Mt. Diablo Iris Society is looking for six judges to judge specific sections of the 2026 Virtual Iris Show, specifically sections in which you are NOT entering iris pictures. The MDIS Virtual Show will run through midnight on August 31, 2026. Judging will begin on September 1, 2026 by email. Check The American Iris Society newsletter for additional information.



Tall bearded iris 'New Snow'
(Orville Fay, R. 1945) (left)
Highest ranking pure white in the
1952 Symposium
photo via AIS wiki



Tall bearded iris 'Coconut Snow'
(John Painter, R. 2016) (right)
Honorable Mention 2018
photo via AIS wiki



Louisiana iris 'Louisiana Snow'
(Kent Benton/Patrick O'Connor, R. 2019) (left)
Rare white color variation for iris brevicaulis
photo via AIS wiki



Tall bearded iris 'Snow Passenger'
(Robert Piątek, R. 2023) (right)
photo by Robert Piątek via AIS wiki

ZBGC Safety Protocol

During the AAGC board meeting 11/11/25, there was presentation regarding safety protocols & plans for people at the Zilker Gardens. After-Hours information include again below.

After-Hour Meetings and Radios

- Night clubs will be getting a two-way radio to receive any notices from the Night Attendant on duty.
- The first person to arrive from the club should pick up the radio from the Night Attendant who will provide instructions on how to use it. The radio may be left in the Auditorium or returned to the Night Attendant at the end of the meeting.
- Radios should remain on and audible throughout meetings.
- Daytime clubs will not receive radios. They will continue receiving notifications via the Gift Shop or the Manager-on-Duty, and AAGC/ZBGC will continue exploring whether a more direct notification method is feasible.

After-Hours Meeting Safety Notes

- First arrival checks in with Night Attendant and picks up walkie-talkie.
- Keep radio on and audible.
- Report injuries, concerns, or missing persons immediately
- Leave together; no one walks out alone after dark.
- Gate typically closes by 7:30 PM
- All participants must exit by 9:30 PM.

Emergency Contacts

Night Attendant: On-site during after-hours meetings

If on-site, Gift Shop attendant can alert manager-on-duty.

On-site Phone Number: 512-477-8672 ext. 2

PARD:

Anna Bradley — Anna.bradley@austintexas.gov

Amanda Ross — Amanda.ross@austintexas.gov

ZBGC:

Heather De La Garza — operations@zbgconservancy.org

Holly Hawk — director@zbgconservancy.org

After-Hours Club Meetings

- Public hours end 5:00 PM (4:00 PM in summer).
- Front gate typically closes at 7:30 PM.
- Meetings end by 9:00 PM; all participants out by 9:30 PM.
- First arrival checks in with Night Attendant and picks up a walkie-talkie.
- Radio remains with the group and stays audible.

While On Site:

- Report concerns or injuries immediately via radio.
- Leave together — no one walks out alone after dark.
- No alcohol, smoking, open flames, or exploring beyond reserved meeting spaces.

Emergency Situations:

- Night Attendant can reach staff and emergency responders
- Alert Night Attendant for medical emergencies or missing persons