

IRIS AUSTIN

Newsletter of the Iris Society of Austin October 2026, Vol. XXVI No. 8

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 ASAP



Next Meeting

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

Zilker Botanical Garden
2220 Barton Springs Rd
Austin TX 78746

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

Reminder:

**No Meeting for December
2026**



**2027 AIS Convention -
Oklahoma City**

<https://www.ais2027convention.org/>

April 27- May 1
Registration opened
5/23/2026

Convention hotel: Embassy
Suites OKC Northwest

ISA 2026 Meetings

The Iris Society of Austin (ISA) meeting locations were recently confirmed for 2026-2027 year. Tracey was not able to find a location for the October meeting but we will meet at Zilker for the November meeting. Please refer to page 3 of this newsletter for additional meeting dates.

As you may recall from September meeting, the city of Austin did not renew the contract for the conservancy and the conservancy board voted to dissolve the conservancy by the end of September 2026. PARD will take over the running of Zilker Botanical Garden (as they had done years ago before the conservancy was implemented).

ISA Flower Show

ISA members need to determine a show chairman and show date for 2027. Without a show date, Tracey has not been able to request judges and she has reported that available personnel are "booking up" fast. ISA submitted 4/10/27 as first requested date to PARD for the Zilker location, with 4/3/27 as the backup (or second requested date). Also, be aware that the national convention is the last week of April 2027 and most shows are planned during the first three weekends of the April. Tracey has reported that many AIS shows are planned for 4/10/27.

ISA needs to discuss and move forward on show information/logistics during our November meeting.

International Iris Societies

Did you know there are Iris Societies across the globe? Check out some of the societies listed below:

- Canadian Iris Society (<https://www.cdn-iris.ca/>)
- Iris Society of Australia (<https://www.irises.org.au/>)
- British Iris Society (<https://www.britishtirissociety.org.uk/>)
- Société Française des Iris et Plantes Bulbeuses (S.F.I.B.) (<https://www.iris-bulbeuses.org/>)
- Japan Iris Association (<https://japan-iris.org/>)

Notes regarding Iris Society of Austin Meeting – October 18, 2026

Tracey sent out the following *via email* October 15th, 2026

I was unable to find an affordable meeting spot for the October meeting. Many locations were booked. I was hoping to hear from one more site, but I have not received a response.

We will meet Sunday, November 15 in the auditorium at Zilker. Under the city's management, we have the room from 12 to 4. The meeting will start at 1pm.

I have received confirmation of the meeting schedule thru September 2027. We have all Sunday meeting dates with the exception of the March meeting which will be on a Tuesday evening.

I will send out the complete schedule. I'm still waiting on the show and sale date confirmations.

Ken-please post on the website

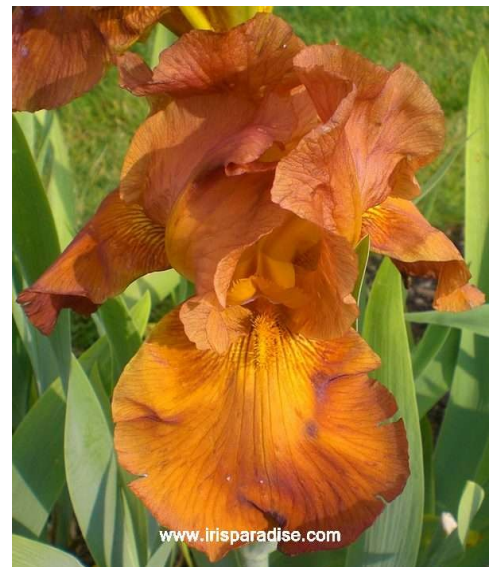
Thanks,

Tracey Rogers
President
Iris Society of Austin

Tall bearded iris 'October'
(Monty Byers, R. 1988) (below)
photo via AIS wi



Tall bearded iris 'October Ale'
(Schreiner, R. 1968) (right)
photo by Iris Paradise via AIS wiki



Notes about ISA meeting/show location & time for September 2026 - September 2027

Iris Society of Austin (ISA) meetings at Zilker Botanical Garden:

- **Iris Sale Date:**
 - Setup: Friday, September 11, 2026, 1-5pm
 - Sale: Saturday, September 12, 2026, 9am-3:30pm
- Sunday, September 20, 2026, 1-3pm [[*Zoom available](#)]
- Sunday afternoon, October 18, 2026, cancelled
- **Most Sunday dates for ISA meetings have been confirmed by AAGC/Zilker PARD and will be held at Zilker Auditorium. Show & Sale dates may not be confirmed at this time.**
 - Sunday afternoon, November 15, 2026, 1pm-3pm at **Zilker Auditorium** [[*Zoom available](#)]
 - Sunday afternoon, January 17, 2027 [[*Zoom available](#)]
 - Sunday afternoon, February 21, 2027 [[*Zoom available](#)]
 - Tuesday evening, March, 16, 2027 [[*Zoom available](#)]
- **Iris Show Date:**
 - Setup: Friday, ??TBD, 2027, 1-5pm
 - Show: Saturday, ??TBD, 2027, 9am-4pm
 - —includes the Auditorium and Greene Room for Judges
- Sunday afternoon, April 18, 2027 [[*Zoom available](#)]
- Sunday afternoon, May 16, 2027 [[*Zoom available](#)]
- **Iris Sale Date:**
 - Setup: Friday, September ??TBD, 2027, 1-5pm
 - Sale: Saturday, September ??TBD, 2027, 9am-3:30pm
- Sunday, September 19, 2027 [[*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?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*

Tall bearded iris 'October Dreaming'
(Barry Blyth, R. 2014) (right)
photo by Smokin Heights via AIS wiki



AIS National Convention 2027

Tracey provided a printed copy (see next page) of the online registration information for the 2027 AIS National Convention and included the following information:

- Most everyone should be able to register online but they can print the registration form from the website
- If you register before 1/31/27, you are entered in a drawing for 3 free hotel nights
- The Gardens - welcome Iris lovers from around the world to our city and to our beautiful gardens. Tour Garden information (snippets via convention website):
 - Oklahoma Iris Society Display Garden at Will Rogers Gardens
 - The historic Will Rogers Gardens is located within one of Oklahoma City's oldest parks. The jewel of the garden is the Ed Lyman Conservatory, a glass-enclosed Lord & Burnham greenhouse inspired by 19th-century Victorian architecture. The Oklahoma Iris Society display garden includes over 800 irises from miniature dwarf bearded to tall bearded.
 - Stout Gardens at Dancingtree in Hugh Stout, Oklahoma City
 - Hugh Stout is both an exhibition/garden judge with the American Iris Society as well as a past garden judge for the American Hemerocallis Society. He also served as president of the Tall Bearded Iris Society for three years and RVP for Region 22 of AIS. The gardens are an AIS Median Iris Society and Tall Bearded Iris Society Display Garden.
 - The Garden of Cookie Hill in Blanchard, OK
 - Throughout the garden, you'll encounter groupings that blend song titles and irises along with the hybridizers who brought them to life. You may recognize a few of your favorite tunes and irises. One example includes the lighthearted theme "Santa Baby," featuring irises such as Got Milk, Lookie Cookie, and Santa Was Here—just one of the gardens waiting to make you smile.
 - "Praise the Lord Iris Gardens" by Mike Bale in Perkins, OK
 - Mike retired from Oklahoma State University as the Director of Risk And Property Management in 2018 and in 2020 started opening the gardens to the public for free tours. The gardens were featured on Oklahoma Gardening in 2024.
 - Osborne Garden by Christy and Bill Osborne in Norman/Noble, OK
 - Since 2000, over 500 iris & 250 daylilies found a home in their garden. There's seldom a day passes where they don't spend time "playing in the yard". They enjoy getting to share the gardens with others.
 - Red Dirt Iris Garden by Jaymie Blatt in Oklahoma City
 - As Jaymie became more active in Oklahoma Iris Society, the iris collection grew and grew. Along the way, Jaymie joined the Dwarf Iris Society, the Aril International Society, and the Historic Iris Preservation Society. Recently, Jaymie began rearranging irises so there is a Historic Display Garden in the front of the garden and more modern ones in the back.
 - Wade Garden by Cynthia and Steve Wade in Oklahoma City
 - Current location started in 2001 with 0.4 of an acre to grow approximately 1000 different varieties of irises.
 - Moore Garden by Randy and Janet Moore in Oklahoma City
 - The Moore's are Oklahomans with a love for their community and for flora of all kinds, but with a special fondness for the Iris. Randy is a hybridizer with a focus on species and novelty iris. His goal is to push the boundaries a novelty iris can achieve.
 - The Poole Garden by Heather and Earl Poole
 - A colorful cottage garden nestled in a typical suburban neighborhood north of Oklahoma City. The garden pops using irises, native perennials, drought tolerant annuals, flowering shrubs, and trees. Organic garden practices are used to ensure a healthy habitat for pollinators, native insects, and wildlife.



Iris Heaven in 2027
Oklahoma Iris Society
 April 27th-May 1st, 2027
 Oklahoma City, OK

Please fill out a registration form for each attendee
 For Registration Questions email 2027aisconvention@gmail.com

PRINT LEGIBLY!!!
PLEASE! One form per person.
 Convention Registration does NOT include
 hotel/lodging reservations. See hotel info
 on the conv. website
 Register ONLINE! ais2027convention.org

Name: _____ AIS Officer/Committee Chair/Regional Officer? (list title): _____	
Address: _____	
City, State: _____	Zip: _____ AIS Region: _____
Email: _____	Phone: () _____

Additional information can be found at ais2027convention.org

<u>Cancellation Policy</u> Full refund if notified by 11:59PM CT, April 6th, 2027 50% Refund if notified by 11:59PM CT, April 13th. No refund offered April 14th and later. You may swap your seat if you can't attend. Notify the registrar ASAP! Even if it is past the deadline, email us, someone may be able to take your spot and refund you! If paid online, you will receive the refund amount according to deadline minus the credit card fees (2.9% and 30 cents per transaction).	<u>REGISTRATION INCENTIVE!</u> REGISTER BY 1/31/2027 TO BE ENTERED TO WIN THREE FREE NIGHTS AT THE CONVENTION HOTEL FOR CONVENTION WEEK. STANDARD ROOM RATE AND TAXES COVERED ONLY. Registration confirmations- all mailed registrations will be emailed an acknowledgment. Registration cutoff is 11:59PM CT, April 14th, 2027. Registrations received after that will be accepted on a case-by-case basis.
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				LATE	Amount
Option 1	Full Registration- Incl. 3 days of garden tours with lunch, Welcome Banquet, Awards Banquet, Thursday evening dinner buffet to preview the live auction, access to the section programs and judges trainings offered throughout the convention.			Registration by April 9 th , 2027	Registration Amount
	Full Registration			\$399.00	
	Are you planning to take in-garden judges training?			Yes or No?	
	OPTIONAL TOUR-Wednesday, includes self-guided tour of the Myriad Gardens and Conservatory, lunch at Cattlemen's Steakhouse, guided tour of the First Americans Museum			\$82.00	
Option 2	A La Carte Registration + Add Ons			Early Bird Registration by March 15 th	Registration Amount
	Garden Tours- (Incl. 3 days, 3 lunches)			\$209.00	\$239.00
	Welcome Banquet-Wednesday evening			\$50.00	\$50.00
	Dinner before Live Auction-Thursday evening			\$50.00	\$50.00
	Awards Banquet-Saturday evening			\$50.00	\$50.00
				Indicate T-Shirt Size and quantity.	
	Convention T-Shirt (XS-4XL) \$23/each				
Youth	Youth Registration- Incl. 3 days of garden tours with lunch, Welcome Banquet, Awards Banquet			Registration Amount	Registration by April 9 th , 2027
	Youth registration will be reimbursed at the registration desk. The \$249 is to hold the youth's spot. Must be an AIS Youth Member by 4/1/27.				
	Full Youth Registration			\$249.00	\$249.00

Sum Your Total Registration Fees:

Convention Location
 Embassy Suites OKC Northwest
 3233 Northwest Expy, Oklahoma City, OK 73112
 Group Rate of \$154.00 (King), \$174 (2 Queen)
 per night with breakfast included.
 Reservations may be made by online or by
 phone 405-842-6633
<https://tinyurl.com/2j89yadm>

Mailing and Payment
 Make checks/money orders payable to Oklahoma Iris Society and mail to:
 Doug Hartzell, 2027 AIS
 Convention Registrar
 401 COUNTRY CLUB TERRACE
 MIDWEST CITY, OK
 73110
 Email: 2027aisconvention@gmail.com

Additional Hotel information located on convention website:
ais2027convention.org

Dietary/Accessibility Needs? List here or on back for more space. We will do our best to accommodate dietary restrictions. We will notify you if we are unable to satisfy your restrictions.

Note from AAGC Historian

Marion Alsup, AAGC Historian, sent note regarding adding Austin Area Garden Council (AAGC) & ISA information to the Austin History Center. She mentioned AAGC photo albums, scrapbooks & files of photos in the library include more than 80 albums and covered 70 years of AAGC history. Now AAGC has an opportunity to tell its story by adding information to the Austin History Center, located in the old downtown library. AAGC 80 plus volumes have been sorted and analyzed, page by page, by 2 interns who have education and experience in archival record keeping. The History Center does not have room for all of the material, so they have begun editing into 8-10 oversized photo albums, in three parts (the first will be the early years of AAGC, the second will be all about the garden center building, the third will be about the Taniguchi garden). Going through the old albums has been a real eye-opener. A few good photos can tell the story effectively.

Marion has indicated that each garden club will have a place in one of the albums and it our opportunity to tell the ISA story. The pages are 12" wide X 15" high. Each club should start with 1-2 pages that could include intro, mission and brief history along with a few photos of members doing something that will help you tell your story. Going on a field trip or touring someone's home garden or working at Zilker Garden Festival help to show how you're fulfilling your own club mission as well as the mission of AAGC and why our predecessors built the Garden Center. Group photos are great!

She suggested we use the already written information of club intro, mission & description of the club page of the ZBG website, and 3 articles (she provided copies) from *Down the Garden Path* newsletter (the articles include Nelda's "Growing Irises" from March 2014, from June 2014 *ISA Show and Awards* that Nelda reported, & from June 2010 "21st Judged Iris Show Winners" that Nelda reported), then add a few additional photos of iris shows with members and visitors to show off the club.

Once a club decides how to put it all together, Marion will need actual photos. She can make one sided copies of the *Down the Garden Path* articles about your clubs and also copies of the ZBG website items, if needed. The albums are to be completed by October. Feel free to email or call Marion with any questions.



The 2026 Dykes Medal Winner is
SPX 'Alabama Blue Fin'
(Jill Copeland, R. 2016) (left)
photo via AIS wiki



The 2026 John C Wister Medal
winner is TB 'Sunglasses Needed'
(Steve Kelly, R. 2018) (right)
photo by via AIS wiki

AAGC Volunteer Request

Tracey forwarded email from Austin Area Garden Council (AAGC)/Austin Parks and Recreation (APR) regarding Saturday volunteers. Below is a copy of the email text.

From: AAGC Reports <reports.aagc@gmail.com>

As you know, as of October 1, the Austin Parks and Recreation center is staffing the gate. The Garden reopened October 16 and a newly hired staff is welcoming people in. APR is asking if AAGC club members would like to volunteer on Saturdays from 11 to 1 and talk to visitors - show them maps of the garden, tell them what might be blooming in the garden, etc - a little more info so they enjoy the Garden, but it's provided away from the line so traffic doesn't back up so much.

*Interested? This will start the first weekend in November. Contact Fabiola Lopez
Fabiola.Lopez@austintexas.gov*

Sounds like fun and I'll let you know where to count this kind of volunteer work!
Karen <AAGC Reports>



Tall bearded iris 'October Sun'
(O. David Niswonger, R. 1977) (left)
photo by Iris Paradise via AIS wiki



Tall bearded iris 'October Sky'
(Larry Lauer, R. 1999) (right)
photo via AIS wiki



Intermediate bearded iris
'October Storm'
(George Sutton, R. 2001) (left)
photo via AIS wiki



Louisiana iris 'October Eve'
(T. J. Betts, R. 1997) (right)
photo via AIS wiki