

Minutes of SA Iris Society Meeting
June 24th 2008
Goodwood Community Centre at 7.30pm

Welcome: 7.30

Apologies: Colleen Modra , Betty Parsons, Peg Lane, Gwen Alexandrou.

Minutes of previous meeting:

Moved/Rhonda Burg, Sec/John Pongrac. Accepted

Business arising from minutes:

Judging Manual for floral arrangements has been purchased by John Turner and is to be kept in library-Cost: \$25.00

Treasurers Report:

Moved that they be accepted/Marg Jenkins, Sec/ Joy Maxwell. Accepted

Moved that accounts to be paid/John Turner. Sec/Nancye Kopunic

Correspondence:

IN

NSW newsletter

WA newsletter

NZ iris bulletin 2008

WA region newsletter

Garden Clubs of Australia-AGM notice, Awards nominations, Register Information

Australian Year Book 2007

Inland region

Aril Soc plant sale

OUT

Moved that correspondence be received/Rosemary Turner. Sec/Nancye Kopunic.Rec

Business arising from correspondence:

None

Show Committee Report:

5 picture frames bought for show to display winning certificates.

Report from Executive:

Meeting to be on 26th June.

Any Other Business: None

Trial Garden Rules.

Moved that they be accepted/Sue Stribley.Sec/Nancye Kopunic. Accepted

Storage of past records-discussion

Cost of storing in Mortlock Library- To be investigated.

Contact Bob Gregory for more info from Rose Society.

First of all work out what we want to keep, then decide on method of storage.

John Turner moved that a sub committee of 3 members be elected to decide. Volunteers to be called for in newsletter. Passed

Announcement of 2007 winners of show bench cuts and floral arrangements (apologies for lateness but judging book had been lost!). Congratulations to.....

Cut flowers-1st-Marg Jenkins(46), 2nd-John Turner(43), 3rd-John Pongrac(27)

Floral arrangement-1st-Edna Pongrac(22), 2nd-John Turner

Discussion about purchasing a data projector for use by guest speakers.

Geoff Stribley to investigate prices. Budget approximately \$1000.

5 minute Culture Talk:

Marg Jenkins-Japanese Iris

Judging results of cut flowers:

Stem of Bearded Iris-1st-Sue Stribley *Wearing Rubies*

Stem of Species Iris-2nd-John Turner-*Algerian Iris*; **3rd**-John Turner-*Iris Stylosa-Starkers Pink*

Cut Bloom Multiple Head-1st - John Turner-*Nerine*; **2nd**-John Turner-*Miniature Rose-Lutin*; **3rd** - John Turner-*Miniature Rose*

Cut Garden Bloom Single Flower -1st –John Pongrac-*Camellia-Sporty Macarthur*; **2nd** –Joy Maxwell-*Marguerite Daisy*; **3rd** –John Pongrac-*Camellia-Aspasia Macarthur*

Floret of Bearded Iris-1st- Sue Stribley-*Popstar*

Judging of Floral arrangement- Theme- *Green Magic*-**1st**-Edna Pongrac; **2nd**-Joy Maxwell; **3rd**-Edna Pongrac

Novice-Rhonda Burg

Signing of attendance sheet and payment of \$1:

Birthdays: Rosemary Turner, Rhonda Burg

Show and Tell: John Turner-picture frame, table rug from Norway

Raffle and Trading Table: Thanks for helpers

Next month's guest speaker: Smiths-*Gardens in Japan*

Next month's floral design: *Oriental Beauty*

July Judges: Cuts-Marg Jenkins, Belinda Meredith; Floral Art-Joy Maxwell, Trish Langdon

Hosts for next month: Sue and Geoff Stribley

Meeting Closed: 8.15

Culture notes-Japanese Iris- Marg Jenkins

Japanese Iris require little effort and are well worth growing. They flower in December. Stand the pots in 2 inches of rain water all year round as they do not like salt in the water. Grow in the shade and do not fuss over them. Give them a dose of Sudden Impact for Roses when they are sending up new growth. Put some horse manure in a pot and top with a good quality potting mixture.

Guest Speaker-David Harrison from the Rare Fruits and Nuts Society

David began by explaining the origins of the society from the Avocado society which then became a Sub-tropical Fruit Society before becoming the Rare Fruits and Nuts Society.

Some of the advice he gave us is summarized as follows:

Most fruit trees in Adelaide need water. Utilise run off from paths, or drains or sub-soil moisture.

Sub surface watering or irrigation is 30-40% more efficient.

Deficit Irrigation is also an efficient method to use. Water on 2 sides of the plant in 2-4 week cycles. This way, one side is always stressed so it doesn't waste energy sending up water shoots.

Stone fruits are best for our climate and won't need too much extra water.

Espaliered trees are economical of space and can extend the season but apricots don't espalier well.

Suggested trees are Wampee, Custard Fruit, Springcrest Peach.

Pears and apples also do well-Red Sensation pears and Lady William apples whose flavour improves on the shelf, for example. In the mid third of fruiting time, do not water as much. Establish a micro climate on the shaded side of your property. Look at slope and run-off and utilize where possible. A chill factor is required for apples and pears. Golden Noble apples are delicious and a good cooking apple. Nashi fruit are pears and can be left on the tree or shelf for a long time.

Consider growing grapes too eg Red Globe Grape, as they are not heavy on water or fertilizer.

Figs aren't water efficient. Red Conandria Fig is a good one but forms a very large tree.

Rainbow or White Capote (ice-cream fruit) are uncommon but should be grown as they are very successful. They are tough and fruit quickly but need a pollinator. Cut back hard as they grow rapidly.

Other suitable trees are: Queen Giant nectarine, Gold Mine Nectarine, Plum cots, Nectar Red Peacharine, Nupricot (apricot with edible almond on inside), Mammoth Quince, Malaysian Guava (not suitable for the hills), Berries (especially Logan berries, Goji Berries, blueberries). Yellow Cherry Guava is tough and will grow from seeds in hot western situations. It is suitable for hedging. Take cuttings a month before flowering. Red Cherry Guava also has a good flavour. Kiwi fruit need heavy support. Japanese and European plums also do well. Angelina Burdette is a good one. European Plums need a cross pollinator.

Jujubes are water wise and should be grown in Adelaide. Also the Chinese Date.

Tzu persimmons (astringent and soft) and Fuyu persimmons (hard and not as flavoursome) also grow well. They are also beautiful in autumn.

Consider also chestnuts and Cherimoya (custard apples) which can be grown from seed but need a cross pollinator (use a brush). They have a better flavour than custard apples bought from the shop.

Thanks David for an interesting talk.