



Society News



An affiliate of the American Iris Society and the American Hemerocallis Society

Volume 15, Issue 1

August, 2017

NOON Potluck Luncheon

Thank you to everyone who participated in last month's Iris Auction. It was a huge success. The auction brought in over \$1,000!



The next meeting of the Johnson County Iris & Daylily Society will be August 12, 2017 at the United

Cooperative Services community room, 3309 N. Main St. in Cleburne. The meeting will begin at **NOON** with a potluck luncheon. The announcement at our June meeting that we would have our Daylily Giveaway, Exchange and Auction in August was made in error. The Daylily meeting will be held in October, once the weather cools a bit. On August 12th, we will be kicking off the 2017-2018 club year with our annual NOON Potluck Luncheon. Immediately following



lunch the real party begins. We will be playing everyone's favorite—Iris & Daylily BINGO. Please plan to arrive by 12:00 and bring a covered dish for the potluck lunch and for our games, bring at least 3 irises and/or daylilies for our game prizes. Everyone is invited to play. If you are a guest or a new member and haven't had a chance to add to your iris and daylily collections, here is



Fall Gardening with Irises by Peggy Cathey

The following article was written for the Georgetown Williamson County Sun newspaper and will be published in August.

There are many different types and growing conditions of irises, but the most common iris grown in our area is the Tall Bearded Iris which will be the subject of our discussion today. As our hot Texas summer starts to wind down, nights become a bit cooler and we begin to see a little more rain, it is time to start thinking about dividing your irises. This is the time of year irises begin to wake up from their summer dormancy and begin



putting on new babies or "increases" along the sides of the rhizomes and late September through mid-October is the absolute best time to divide irises in Central Texas. A lot of books will say to do this in July and August, but the irises are like me and don't want to be messed with during the brutal heat of Texas summers.

Before you start to dig and divide your irises in the early fall, think about what you are going to do with them once they are divided. If you need to make a new bed, this should be done in advance to allow the soil time to settle and give the soil microbes time to break down the organic material

you have added. After removing all the grass and weeds from your new bed, till in as much compost as you can. Once you have amended your soil, tilled and raked the bed smooth it is time to water the area well to activate your amendments. Let this sit for at least a month before planting.

OK. Your new bed is ready and it's time to divide your irises. Clump division should be done every 3 years or as your irises become over crowded resulting in fewer blooms. It is easiest to dig the entire clump, shake off the soil and break apart the rhizomes that have a leaf fan. The rhizomes in the middle with no (cont. on pg 5)



Officer and Committee Chair Reports

President's Report

by Vicki Howard



We have had an unusual amount of rain and milder temperatures early this summer, but now it is starting to get really



HOT. Please be careful in the heat and drink plenty of water to stay hydrated.

Our July Iris Giveaway and Auction meeting was a huge success. Thanks to all who came and participated.

The August meeting will be our annual Potluck luncheon and Bingo. Hope to see everyone there.

We need to discuss a time to work in the iris gardens at Winston Patrick McGregor Park. In this heat, I don't think we should be doing it after a meeting. Be thinking about a time-early in the morning-that you will be available to come and work.

Hope to see many of you at our AIS Region 17 meeting on August 4-5 in Dallas. The meetings are really fun and you meet a lot of nice "Iris" people there.



As I have been working in my garden, I am finding a lot of rot. Hope you are not having a similar problem.



If caught early enough and cleaned up, you are sometimes able to save

the plant. Hope no one else is having that problem (see page 3 for how to treat soft rot in irises). It looks like my weeds are going to

win the battle this year. We have loved the rains, but so have the weeds.



Happy gardening.

Program Chair Report

by Kathy Wade



This month Bingo, next month Plant Sale & Daylilies in Oct.

Membership Report

by Anita Goodale



The Johnson County Iris & Daylily Society met for the monthly

meeting and annual Iris Giveaway, Exchange and Auction on July 8, 2017 in the community room of the United Cooperative Services in Cleburne. Twenty eight members enjoyed fun, food and fellowship. The society welcomed new members Sharon Smith and Sue Walker. Guests included Stephen Goodale and Steve Barter.

Show Report

by Karen Singletary



Show dates have been reserved with JN Long. Iris Show will be April 21, 2018 and the Daylily Show will be June 9, 2018.

Treasury Report

by Dan Cathey



Beginning balances for July were: checking - \$3,137.75; PayPal - \$106.45; Petty Cash - \$100.00. Checking expenses were \$48.60 for printed checks & deposit slips. Expenses for PayPal were: AHS memberships totaling \$35.00 for Diana and Club sponsored

Youth memberships for Isabella and Victoria and AIS memberships totaling \$51.00 for Pages (dual) and Club sponsored Youth memberships for Isabella and Victoria. Income for the month included plant markers sales of \$80.00, raffle income of 37.00, membership dues of \$310.00, Iris auctions sales of \$1,107.00 and Club Bucks discounts of -\$365.00 for a total of \$1,174.00. Our ending balances were: checking - \$4,258.15; PayPal - \$20.45 and Petty Cash - \$100.00 for a total of \$4,378.60.

Secretary's Report

by Vickie Rigby



Minutes for the July & August meetings will be in the next newsletter.

Hospitality Report

by Gailmae Suite



It's going to be a busy meeting with a potluck luncheon and Bingo, so please bring a dish or two to share. If you can, it's a big help if everyone signs in the hospitality book when it gets passed around. Thanks to those that did sign up: Non-sweet-Mary & Jerry Keeth, Glenn Huddleston, Hooker & Bonnie Nichols, Karen Singletary and Sue Walker. Bill and Susan Pate will bring drinks. Wayne and I will bring coffee, pasta and chips. A couple of desserts would be nice, too.

Newsletter submission deadline is the 20th of each month.

AUGUST 2017

30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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27	28	29	30	31		



Companion Planting With Daylilies by Peggy Cathey

Dan and I still have daylilies blooming and they have been going non-stop since March. I think we can credit our mild winter/early spring, not to mention some timely precipitation, for the abundance of flowers.

Adding companion plantings can help you keep your daylily garden looking great year round as well as adding interest during the bloom season. When Dan and I attended both the Region 6 Meeting and garden tours in Austin in May and the Region 11 Meeting and garden tours in Oklahoma City back in June, we were most impressed with the multitude of flowers and foliage plants growing alongside the daylilies.

Not every daylily is a rebloomer, so keep interest in the garden all year by planting a few annuals and perennials among your daylily plants. Try to choose plants with similar sun and water requirements. We have found the small,



'Profusion' zinnias to be very nice mixed in with the daylilies. If you get the smaller, shorter types of zinnias, they make a beautiful mound of color and are not fussy about soil or water conditions. Other flowers and plants that attract hummingbirds and butterflies are also great companion plants. We love the Bat Face Cuphea for it's cute little "bat faces" and the hummingbirds love it too. It can grow quite large in one season, so give it plenty of room. Mexican Milkweed gets a little tall, but the orange and yellow

flowers are a butterfly favorite and a larva plant for the Monarch Butterfly.

Coneflowers in a variety of colors, Coreopsis, and Rudbeckia or Brown Eyed Susans all put a splash of color and bring in the butterflies. Remember to include interesting foliage as well. We have small grasses planted among

the daylilies like the airy Mexican Feather Grass and small clumps of Blue Fescue for a fine texture and change of color from all the green of the daylily leaves. Even herbs can be used. Bronze fennel has a different color and texture and attracts the beautiful Black Swallowtail butterflies which use the plant to lay their eggs on. In the winter, you can fill in the spaces with Pansies and Violas for color all winter and into the early spring. The daylilies do not seem to resent the additional plantings in the slightest and are growing and increasing with vigor.

Controlling Rhizome Rot in Bearded Iris by Peggy Cathey

Schreiner's Iris Garden website states that excessive moisture can sometimes lead to outbreaks of bacterial rot. It is imperative that you remove the rotting tissue as soon as possible. Remove the soil



from around the rhizome, leaving the roots

anchoring the plant. Using an old spoon, carefully scoop out all the mushy tissue. If necessary, dig up the entire plant and remove the rotten tissue. After removing the tissue, drench the wounds with a 10% bleach solution (1 cup bleach per gallon of water) and allow them to dry for several days before covering with soil again.

Some people will dig the effected rhizomes, scrape out the rot and

coat the open area with Comet Cleanser (with bleach). This will help dry up the tissue so it can be replanted after a few day of drying. Dan and I have been successful coating the effected area with agricultural lime. It will dry the wound up quickly. After a week or two, the rhizomes can be covered or replanted. Be very careful when weeding around your irises. Rot usually begins when the rhizome is wounded in some way.

Summer Reblooming Irises by Gailmae Suite

Please keep reporting your reblooming irises to me. It's very helpful to know what irises will rebloom in general, but it's especially useful to our club to know what irises will rebloom in our local area. Thanks to all who reported their reblooming irises at our July meeting. All the extra rainfall the past few months has made this a great summer for rebloomers. It made me so happy to hear many have rebloomed.

Following are Rebloom reports from our members:

Glenn Huddleston: Autumn Tryst
 Mary & Jerry Keeth: Master Works, Above the Rim, Autumn Tryst, Poppa John, and Blatant

Peggy & Dan Cathey: Eleanor Roosevelt, Crimson King, Autumn Tryst and Next In Line.

Susan & Bill Page: Autumn Tryst and Priscilla of Corinth

Diana Medrano: Pleasant Peasant

Vickie Rigby: Immortality, Victoria Falls, Billionaire and Living Legacy
 Laura Smargiasso: Hakuna Matata, Subtle Beauty, Eleanor Roosevelt, Tessie the Tease, Autumn Wine, My Friend Jonathan, Tic Tac Toe, Season Ticket, Fall Décor, Maui Sunrise, Ginny Mitchell, Sugar Maple, and Bountiful Harvest

Gailmae & Wayne Suite: Feedback, Love Goes On, Corn Harvest, Edge of the World, Double Your Fun, Ocean Pacific and Echo Location.

Alden Nellis has reported the following rebloomers in the *Micki Nellis Memorial Garden* at JN Long Cultural Arts Complex: Autumn Echo, My Generation, Chartered Course, And Away We Go, Second Show, and Toltec Talisman.



Pleasant Peasant



Toltec Talisman



My Generation



Hakuna Matata



Eleanor Roosevelt



Poppa John



Echo Location



Chartered Course



Crimson King



Double Your Fun



Love Goes On



Autumn Tryst



Blatant



Priscilla of Corinth

Jim Hedgecock of *Comanche Acres Iris Garden* in Missouri had the following comments regarding reblooming irises in his 2017 Newsletter #7 published July 11, 2017:

When you purchase reblooming irises, try to purchase those that you know have bloomed in your growing zone. If your reblooming irises haven't rebloomed after 3 years the problem may be cultural. Jim states "If you do not give reblooming irises extra fertilizer and water through the summer months, you probably won't get rebloom. Reblooming irises produce 2 sets of rhizomes a year. One for the spring, and one for the summer or fall months. With this in mind, you need to give them extra fertilizer. We fertilize all irises in the spring and fall. Here in the Midwest we fertilize in March and October. If you want Rebloom, a third application should be about 45 to 60 days after spring bloom. The other factor is water. If the plants are to make 2 sets of rhizomes they need extra water through all summer months. You don't need to water every day, just be sure that the soil does not dry to a hard baked condition. One other caution, regular once blooming irises should not be watered or fertilized in the summer on a regular basis. So with this in mind, do not plant your once blooming irises with the rebloomers."

"Now for one final fact about reblooming irises. Even if you have completed every suggestion I have made, they may not rebloom every year. Reblooming irises sometimes just don't produce fall bloom."



Fall Gardening with Irises (cont.)

leaves may be discarded because they will not bloom again. Now is the only time you should ever trim back the leaves of your irises. Trim the leaves or "fan" to about 6 inches into an inverted V or point. It is also OK to trim back the roots to make replanting easier by grabbing the roots below the rhizome and trim off anything below your fist. I like to soak my irises in a weak bleach solution using 1 cup of bleach per gallon of water with a teaspoon of dishwashing liquid to kill any insects, fungus or other unwanted guests hiding among the foliage and roots. After soaking, scrub the rhizomes to remove any loose dirt, rinse them in clear water and lay them out to dry. Put them in the shade if the temperatures are still above 85 degrees. Irises can be out of the ground for an amazingly long period of time. The wounds from where you broke the rhizomes apart need to callus over 3-5 days before being replanted. You will have a lot of new plants after dividing your irises so plan to share them with friends and family.

When ready to plant, dig a wide,



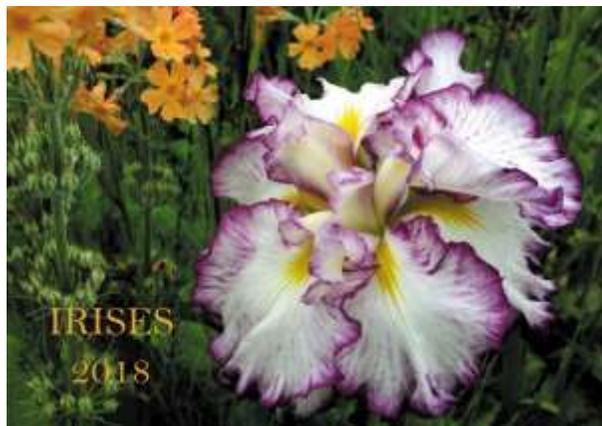
shallow hole and mound soil in the center. Set your rhizome on top of the mound in the direction you want it to grow (plants will grow in the direction of the fan), spread the roots out over the mound and cover with soil. Pack the soil well to anchor the rhizome. Please keep in mind, irises are not bulbs. They are grown from a rhizome which is a modified stem, therefore, please do not bury the rhizome like you would a bulb. If you do I can almost guarantee it will rot. The top of the rhizome should remain even with the surface of the soil or slightly above. Water the newly planted rhizomes thoroughly and keep the soil slightly damp, but not soggy, for a week to get your new plants off to a good start, then water as needed. Bearded Irises do

not like a lot of water and over watering could cause the rhizome to rot.

Fertilize your irises in the spring using a low nitrogen fertilizer such as 10-20-10 or any organic fertilizer. They should be fertilized about 30 days prior to bloom season so Valentine's Day, February 14th, is the perfect time to fertilize in Central Texas. You may fertilize again about 30 days after bloom season, usually around Father's Day, and again 30 days before a freeze or sometime around Halloween. Irises usually go dormant during the summer, so the second fertilization is generally up to you. If you happen to have reblooming irises, those which are capable of blooming more than once in a growing season, these will need extra fertilizer and water to prevent them from going dormant during the summer and to help them develop flower stalks for their fall bloom season.

2018 Irises Calendars by Dan Cathey

We have AIS 2018 Calendars for sale. The calendars are listed on the AIS Storefront for \$8.00 each. We were able to place an early order and get them at a reduced rate of \$7.00 each. They are in limited supply, so be at the August meeting to get one before the supply runs out.



July Drawing Winners

AIS MEMBERSHIP



Bill & Susan Page
AIS Winners

AHS MEMBERSHIP



Diana Medrano
AHS Winner

RAFFLE



Bonnie Nichols
Raffle Winner



An affiliate of the American Iris Society

And the American Hemerocallis Society

Meetings held 2nd Saturdays at 10 a.m.

**United Cooperative Services
Community Room (in rear of bldg.)
3309 N. Main St., Cleburne, TX**

Vicki Howard, President

Peggy Cathey, Newsletter Editor

iris.daylilies@gmail.com

Join JCI&DS today!

Only \$15 per year (\$25 per couple, \$10 for youth). You may join at a meeting, download membership form from our website, or send a check with your name, address, phone number and e-mail address to:

JCI&DS Membership
425 Granbury St.
Cleburne, TX 76033



August 4-5, 2017
AIS Region 17 Meeting, Dallas, TX



August 12, 2017 NOON
Iris & Daylily BINGO and Potluck Luncheon
United Cooperative Services Community Room



September 1, 2017
Deadline for voting the AIS TB Symposium Ballot and
AHS Region 6 Popularity Poll Ballot



September 9, 2017 9 a.m. — 2 p.m.
ANNUAL IRIS & DAYLILY SALE
JN Long Cultural Arts Complex cafeteria.



October 14, 2017 10 a.m.
Daylily Exchange, Giveaway and Auction
United Cooperative Services Community Room



November 11, 2017 10 a.m.
Program to be announced
United Cooperative Services Community Room

Check out our website:

[http://
johnsoncountyirisanddaylilyso-
ciety.org/](http://johnsoncountyirisanddaylily-society.org/)



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JCI&DS Member Word Search Puzzle by Peggy Cathey



JCI&DS members' names are hidden in the puzzle. How fast can you find your name?

Words may be forward, backward, up, down, or diagonal.

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