



# Society News



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

Volume 15, Issue 7

February, 2018



The February meeting of the Johnson County Iris & Daylily Society will be held at the United Services Cooperative community room, 3309 N. Main St. in

Cleburne on February 10th, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Hope everyone will join us.

Don't forget to show your irises some love this Valentine's Day by

giving them a good feeding of fertilizer. Be sure to water the fertilizer in well after applying.



## Minutes of Special Board Meeting by Vicki Howard

During the January meeting, a motion was approved to host the 2018 AIS Region 17 Meeting.

January 18, 2018. Special Board Meeting called by President Vicki Howard, 10:00 a.m., Rm. 105 at the JN Long Cultural Arts Complex. In attendance were: President Vicki Howard, 1<sup>st</sup> VP Kathy Wade, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Anita Goodale, Treasurer Dan Cathey. Two board members were unable to attend due to recent surgeries. Also in attendance were Peggy Cathey and Bill Goodale. Purpose of the meeting: Planning the 2018 AIS Region 17 Annual Meeting.

After some discussion, it was decided to host the meeting August 3-4, 2018. Research into food services led to deciding to have Pizza and salad for the Friday night

meal catered by Poppa Johns Piz-za, Saturday lunch would be (make your own) sandwiches with fixings purchased from Sam's Club, and a Saturday night buffet fajita banquet catered by La Fiesta.

Registration was fixed at \$65 for early registrations and an increase of \$10 for registrations received after June 3. The registration fee would include the Judges Training.

After deciding on when the meeting would be held and what food we would serve, the meeting moved to the hotel.

The Hampton Inn & Suites on West Henderson will be the meeting headquarters. Room rates will be \$89 for King/Double Queen rooms and \$99 for King/Double Queen suites. There is a

meeting room where we will hold all the group functions-hospitality, boutique, meals, auctions and meetings. The cost of the room was negotiated to cost \$150 for each of the two days of use, based upon filling 20 rooms. If the rooms are not all booked, the meeting room price will go to \$300 per day of use. We must limit registrations to 64 attendees due to room size and rooms must be booked by July 4<sup>th</sup> to get the group rate.

Committees will need to be formed for: Goodie bags, centerpieces and table decorations, hospitality, ordering irises for the Region auction, organizing and gathering items for the boutique and plant sale. There will be many positions which will need volunteer participation.

## Officer and Committee Chair Reports

### President's Report

by Vicki Howard



ance of \$4,084.63 comprised of \$3,964.98 in checking, \$19.65 in PayPal and \$100.00 in petty cash. Checking disbursements were: CFCA annual membership dues of \$50.00, program fees of \$31.00, hospitality expenses of \$8.66, AHS membership for Diana Medrano of \$25.00, AIS membership for John & Bonnie Parks of \$35.00 and a transfer to PayPal of \$100.00. Monthly income was \$22.00 from raffle sales. Ending total account balance was \$3,956.97 including checking balance of \$3,737.32, PayPal of \$119.65 and petty cash of \$100.00.

**Membership:** Membership Chairman, Anita Goodale reported we had 23 members present.

**Secretary's Report:** There were no minutes reported as December's meeting was the Christmas Party.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's Report was provided in January's Newsletter and no revisions were made.

**Drawings:** AIS: Won by John and Bonnie Parks, AHS: Won by Diana Medrano, Youth Raffle: Won by Vicki Howard.

**Business:** Peggy Cathey reported that AIS Region 17 was in need of a host club for the 2018 Regional meeting and provided initial research information on cost, facility availability and potential speakers. Vicki Howard provided insights on cost impact to the club. Possible dates considered are the second weekend in August or last weekend in August.

A vote to host the 2018 Regional Meeting was proposed. Gailmae Suite was first to make a motion to accept; and a second followed by Anita Goodale. The motion passed. More information will be forthcoming and a report made for the next Region 17 Newsletter.

Laura Smargiasso distributed the City of Cleburne Volunteer Forms necessary for those members interested in working the Iris Garden at Winston Patrick McGregor Park. We must give the city notice of our intended work days and not work alone. Prospective work dates will be lined up and shared soon.

**Pleasure:** Dan and Cathey presented an informative and colorful power point on "Judging (cont. pg. 3) Daylilies in the Garden" that helped

### Program Chair Report

by Kathy Wade



### Membership Report

by Anita Goodale



The Johnson County Iris & Daylily Society met for their monthly meeting on January 13, 2018 at the United Cooperative Services conference room in Cleburne. Twenty-four members were in attendance and enjoyed fun, food and fellowship. The program was provided by Peggy and Dan Cathey and included a power point presentation on Garden Judging, A written test for those members interested in becoming judges was provided. The hands-on portion of the training is scheduled for June at the Cathey's garden.

### Hospitality Report

by Gailmae Suite



Thank you to Diana Medrano for signing up to bring a much needed bag of ice. As previously mentioned, this is an item that is needed every month. Randy Thomas brought a pot of delicious chicken noodle soup. Maybe we can get him to share the recipe and it can be put in the newsletter. Signed up to bring sweet are the Goodales and the Parks. Non-sweet are the Keeths, Sharon Smith, Sue Walker, Goodmans and Diana Medrano. Wayne and I will bring coffee, soda, chips and pasta.

### Secretary's Report

by Laura Smargiasso for Vickie Rigby



MEETING MINUTES

JCIDS Meeting  
January 13, 2018.

**Call To Order:** The meeting was held at United Cooperative Services and called to order at 10:00 a.m. by President Vicki Howard.

### Show Report

by Karen Singletary



### Treasury Report

by Dan Cathey



We began January 2018 with a total account bal-

## Minutes of Meeting (cont. from page 2)

teach all how to grow and evaluate daylilies in a new way. They explained the AHS awards, responsibilities of judges, and how to become an AHS Garden Judge. Some members stayed after the

presentation to take a written test as a step toward this accreditation.

Submitted by Laura Smargiasso on behalf of Vickie Rigby who is absent due to surgery. Please also



remember Karen Singletary who is also absent, having had surgery earlier this week.

## Where Is Tom Burseen by Tom Burseen

**Editors Note: Most of our members know and love Tom Burseen. He is a great Texas hybridizer of many of our favorite irises and our newest club member. I am so pleased he sent the following article to be included in our club newsletter.**



Ol Tom is still “around” but Father Time has kinda caught up with the Mad Scientist. For JCI&DS

members who may not know, Tom Burseen is a “mad scientist” by virtue of the unorthodox concepts and methods he employs in breeding the favorite flower of an iris society in his 2 acre garden. This garden is referred to as **The Lab** cuz laboratories are where Frankensteins do their thing. Since the Mad Scientist has been doing “his thing” for 38 years and is now a 72 year old “scientist”, Father Time has indeed caught up with Ol Tom. Coupled with a complete loss of hearing capacity the Mad Scientist does not get out much anymore and this includes attending social events such as iris functions. While this should explicate why members do not see Ol Tom anymore it should not signify experimenting is not still going on at The Lab. Such experimentation not only keeps the old mind active

but also provides plenty of exercise to keep the old body as vernal as possible. Actually, the hybridizing of tall bearded iris along with the associated assignments (chores) probably renders too much “exercise” (energy/time) for a 72 year old person. Thus the Mad Scientist is in the process of “cutting back”. Can’t imagine ever giving up the fascination of creating new and different irises but the rigors of introducing and selling plants has been handed down to something called the **OK TEXAS IRIS ALLIANCE**. The following excerpt is from the 2017 catalog from The Lab expounds such an “alliance”:

*Major changes are befalling The Lab (and the mad scientist) out of necessity. Mother Nature’s recent excessive and outrageous weather (blame “global warming”), and Father Time have both overtaken the mad scientist and CUTTING BACK is the only viable resolution. Breeding tall bearded irises here on the prairies of Texas will probably never cease but all the work and time involved in introducing and selling the resulting creations just had to be compromised! It simply is time to relinquish the time and work (and, benefits) of introducing and selling Texas bred plants to some young folks!!! An alliance of such persons from Oklahoma and Texas has been conceived and they*

*have accepted the responsibility to make such commitments. The OK TEXAS IRIS ALLIANCE includes Hugh Stout from Stout’s Gardens at Dancing Tree in Oklahoma, Hooker and Bonnie Nichols from Hillcrest Iris Gardens in Texas, and Judy Schneider from her Shady Spot Gardens in Texas and the “old man” here on the prairies of Texas. All these iris fanciers will be selling and introducing creations being produced on the prairies of Texas here at The Lab. An amelioration that can be reaped from such an alliance is the actuality that all of these young folks do much (most) of their proceedings electronically (on things called computers and inter-nets), something the mad scientist never (does not have) a hankering for.*

This concept of selling and introducing irises is an unprecedented occurrence in the world of irises but was well accepted by most iris folks as per another excerpt from the 2018 catalog coming from The Lab, this extract also further illuminates the Mad Scientist’s situation and state of affairs:

*The only justification for producing and distributing this catalog is to introduce such creations as specified by the American Iris Society. By now most folks should be aware Burseen creations are being sold and introduced by something called the OK Texas Iris Alliance. This*



“alliance” is comprised of 4 members: Hugh Stout and his STOUTS’S GARDENS AT DANCING TREE in Oklahoma City, OK, Hooker & Bonnie Nichols and their HILLCREST GARDENS in Dallas, TX, Judy Schneider and her SHADY SPOT in Whitesboro, TX, ...and the Mad Scientist. You may not, however, be aware that the only incentive that compels the Mad Scientist to continue to introduce plants stems from the fact other Alliance members do not care to introduce such plants because they may be too extreme for their discrimination or may not meet acceptable criteria for performance as standardized by the American Iris Society and its judges--characteristics such as bud counts, branching, closed standards, good growth, consistent bloom habits, ETC. The Mad Scientist’s primary criterion for introducing new creations has always been founded on the fact that they be original if not different than what is already “out there”. It must be disclosed that “acceptable Performance criterion” is often ignored when selecting and introducing such “weirdos”. The Mad Scientist must also confess that selling and introducing irises is not a favorite “pastime” and acceptable stock (quantities) of introductions is often quite limited. Also new introductions may not be grown and increased (offered) for more than a couple of years...sooooo... if one wants such unusual and different flowers in one’s garden knowing full well they may not be good garden subjects or win ribbons at shows GET ‘EM WHILE THEY LAST (are available)...but...if one wants nice and pretty Burseen creations that are good garden performers and may even become a queen of a show one should obtain the Burseen creations being offered

by other Alliance members.

Another excerpt from the 2018 catalog may be kinda amusing to club members but it describes another profound “change” in conducting gardening and business in Ol Tom’s backyard:

#### **A LABORATORY PARABLE – A.K.A. SPURGEVILLE**

Not sure how familiar all you gardeners out there may be with the weed called “spurge” but for 20 years the Mad Scientist has consequently been trying to eradicate (control) such a plant in his garden (the Lab). It is a prolific, rapid growing, prostrate weed that produces profuse amounts of seeds, seemingly from the day it germinates. A week does not pass and rarely does a day go by that the Mad Scientist does not de-weed the garden spraying herbicides but mostly hoeing and physically removing every spurge plant so all those seeds on those d--- plants cannot germinate but it almost seems as if the more one hoes the more they grow. It is not an exaggeration that the Mad Scientist probably spends 20% of his garden time weeding!

Someone advised the Mad Scientist he plants billions (infinite amounts) of spurge when he adds mulches, composts, potting soil, and other organic materials to the soil and many such products are indeed applied annually. Experience has proven such advice is true coupled with the fact: spurge seeds can remain viable for many years, the Mad Scientist, whose only garden GOAL is really to have a weed free garden, is subjugating such a goal by adding all that spurge laden organic stuff to the garden.

The summer of 2017 in Grand Prairie, TX was very extraordinary be-

ing very damp and moist (humid) with double the precipitation which is normally 4 inches. Even though such conditions resulted in actual temperatures below “normal” the humidity created heat indexes that were well over 100 degrees all summer into the fall months. Even though such conditions suffocated homo sapiens and iris plants (can one say “rot”?) spurge plants thrived!

The Mad Scientist took a (unusual) summer vacation in 2017. When he returned spurge had literally taken over (over run) the whole garden. Such a situation made “weeding” a waste of time so the Mad Scientist has surrendered the long battle to control spurge. Admitting defeat is a hard pill to swallow. The “goal” of a weed free garden will never be realized.

A sage old Texas iris person once said he liked weeds in his iris beds because they provide shade for the iris in the summertime and retain soil moisture during those dog days of summer. Another sage iris person even went so far as to identify a weed she liked in her garden as my friend spurge because it was a dense ground cover that prevented soil erosion, retained soil moisture, and shaded out other kinds of weeds. Because spurge is now unfettered it has enshrouded just about everything at The Lab. Hopefully those old iris sages know what they were talking about because The Lab could become the spurge capital of the world, hence, SPURGEVILLE!!!

All of this stuff should explain “where Tom Burseen is at” nowadays!



Cow Palace  
Burseen 2013



Please Join Us in Cleburne, Texas

For the American Iris Society

## 2018 Region 17 Meeting, August 3-4, 2018

Sponsored by the Johnson County Iris & Daylily Society



**Hampton Inn & Suites , 1996 W. Henderson St., Cleburne, TX 76033**

Room rates: 2 Queen or 1 King Standard—\$89 per night,

King or 2 Queen Studio Suite—\$99 *per night (plus tax)*

***Complimentary Deluxe Continental Breakfast, WiFi and Free Parking included.***

### Registration Form

(Please print)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Registrants: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration includes Friday night Pizza, Saturday light lunch, Saturday night buffet and Judges Training.

#### Registration

IF POSTMARKED Before June 4, 2018 \_\_\_\_\_ X \$65 After June 4, \_\_\_\_\_ X \$75

Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Method: **Check**—Make payable to **JCI&DS**

**Credit Card** - (VISA, MasterCard, Discover, American Express)

CC# \_\_\_\_\_ MM/YY \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_

Please list dietary restrictions, if any: \_\_\_\_\_

Send Registration & Payment to:

Dan Cathey, 1115 HCR 1414, Covington, TX 76636, [dannvdayle@yahoo.com](mailto:dannvdayle@yahoo.com)

E-mail [iris.daylily@gmail.com](mailto:iris.daylily@gmail.com) if you have any questions

**Registration is limited to 64 guests. Please register early to save your spot.**





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](mailto:iris.daylilies@gmail.com)  
254-854-2558

**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



- February 10, 2018 10 a.m.  
Program to be announced  
United Cooperative Services Community Room
- March 10, 2018 10 a.m.  
Iris and Design Preparation  
United Cooperative Services Community Room
- April 9-14, 2018  
American Iris Society National Convention  
New Orleans, LA.
- April 21, 2018  
Annual Iris Show  
JN Long Cultural Arts Complex
- May 12, 2018  
Program to be announced  
United Cooperative Services Community Room
- May 17-19, 2018  
AHS Region 6 Annual Meeting & Garden Tours  
Lake Jackson, TX
- June 6-9, 2018  
American Hemerocallis Society National Convention  
Myrtle Beach, SC

Check out our website:

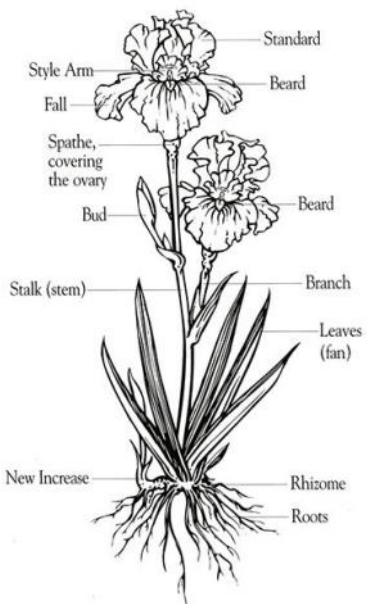
<http://johnsoncountyirisanddaylilysociety.org/>



<https://www.facebook.com/johnsoncountyirisanddaylilysociety>

**Word Search: Parts of a Bearded Iris** by Peggy Cathey

- Beard
- Branch
- Bud
- Fall
- Fan
- Increase
- Leaves
- Ovary
- Rhizome
- Roots
- Spathe
- Stalk



U I J W B N S T V C W Q X F J  
M M N M A T K L Y J C Q D I F  
T N D K D P D E B W M T R Z Y  
X C M K T W U A P L O B A G L  
S P A T H E W V T S P L D N R  
I N C R E A S E M T H F N J L  
L E B X M H A S J Y S K A P B  
E L L G C I N N F L S K T O A  
K H U H C N A R B E L X S K N  
Y L D U C E D S H A H K Q E Y  
X R B R V U B J T I X O S H I  
C P A E B F A S A O Z G F A N  
O V U V A E A O R N O O C G G  
G Y B B O R L L M M C R M A E  
A J Q G I F D F L M A Z D E L