



# Society News



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

Volume 16, Issue 1

August, 2018



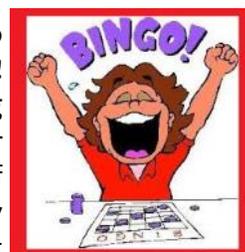
Another fun meeting is planned for August 11th, beginning at **NOON with a Potluck luncheon.** We will be at our usual meeting place, the United Cooperative



Services community room, 3309 N. Main Street in Cleburne and visitors are welcome. Everyone, please bring a covered dish or two to fill the tables.

Following lunch, we will have a short business meeting to let everyone know how the Regional Meeting went. Following that will be everyone's favorite meet-

ing: Bingo for plants! Please bring 3 irises or daylilies. If there are any plants left



over from the Regional Meeting sale, they will go in the Bingo, too.

## AIS Region 17 Meeting and IRIS SALE

Registrations are **FULL UP** for the 2018 AIS Region 17 Meeting our club will be hosting August 3-4 at the Hampton Inn in Cleburne. We will need as much help as we can get setting everything up on Friday. We will start at 10:00 Friday morning with getting the tables covered and decorated, and setting up the Silent Auction and Raffles—we have some really nice things for both. We also have the goodie bags to fill and get ready for the arrival of our guests, which should start arriving by 3:00. We also have a big plant sale to set up, plants sorted for the SALE, FRIDAY NIGHT BINGO, and for the GOODIE BAGS. We will have an exclusive sale for all our registered guests from 3:00—6:00 Friday afternoon, then Saturday morning, we will

have a **public sale** where everyone in the area is invited. This will be held from 9:00 to Noon (or until sold out). We are going to need help with everything from the sale to getting food ready and clean-up both days. We will have hospitality set up along with the registration desk from 3:00 until 6:00. Bingo plants will need to be set out for our games after the Pizza Party, and we will need help with clean-up to be ready to start the Judges Training at 8:00 Saturday morning.

The Region 17 Business Meeting will begin at 1:15 and everyone is invited to hear what other clubs in the Region are doing as well as a report from all the board members and any business that needs to be voted on from the Friday Board Meeting.

The Region 17 Auction will begin at 3:15 and we have 81 really nice irises to be auctioned off. Most are 2018 introductions. Come bid on your favorites.

The banquet is scheduled to begin at 7:00 and the room will have to be cleaned up prior to that. LaFiesta will be doing the catering, so that will be a big help there.

After the meal, we will hear Anna Cadd, from California, talk on Spuria irises but first, Region 17 will present it's first **Distinguished Service Award.**

The room will need to be cleaned up after the banquet is over. Sale, raffle and silent auction tables should already be gone. We don't have the room for Sunday, so everything must go.

## Officer and Committee Chair Reports

### President's Report

by Vicki Howard



The Region 17 Meeting is upon us. We need everyone's help. A schedule was sent out in the **July Extra**. Please look it over for best times you can work. We have a great meeting planned and we want all out guests to have fun while they are in Cleburne. Happy gardening to all!



Couples.....\$25  
Singles.....\$15  
Youth.....\$10

### Show Report

by Karen Singletary



The JN Long Cultural Arts Complex gym has been reserved for April 19-20, 2019 for our annual Iris Show. Goon news. The Gym now has air conditioning!!!

month was a little short so lets have a full table for August. Thank you to Ricky and Vicki for bringing the ice. Those of you who brought salads in July, please send your recipes to Peggy as there were a lot of compliments groin around on them. I have a bit of a sweet tooth, so thank you to Gisele for bringing the M&M's. Yummy. Also, a big thank you to those who were kind enough to sign up in the hospitality book. Sweets: Mary & Jerry Keeth, and Sue Ripley; non sweets: Sue Walker, Janet Goodman (her rolls are always good) and Diana Medrano. Wayne and I will bring coffee, coke, pasta and chips.

### Program Chair Report

by Mary Keeth



Please let me know what you would like to have in the way of programs this year and I will follow-up and see what I can do. I have a few ideas in mind but would like your input, also.

August is our annual Bingo Party. Bring 3 irises or daylilies and get ready for some fun.

### Treasury Report

by Dan Cathey



We began June with a total balance of 7,281.03 checking-\$6,676.20, PayPal - \$94.65 and Petty Cash-\$100. Expenses totaled \$865.00: newsletter printing - \$14.85, newsletter postage & shipping - \$64.00, Region 17 auction plants-\$395., Region meeting supplies-\$136.65, irises for region sale-200.00 hospitality-\$9.00, R-17 registration refund-\$65.00. Income was \$125.00 from dues, \$150.00 from Regional Registrations \$14.00 raffle, \$200.00 refund for R-17 auction plants, and \$376.00 from our Iris Auction for a total income of \$865.00. There was no activity during the month in PayPal or petty cash. Ending balances were: checking - \$7,066.38, PayPal - \$94.65 and petty cash - \$100.00 for grand total of \$7,261.03.

### Newsletter Report

by Peggy Cathey



Don't forget-this will be a **NOON meeting and POTLUCK lunch**. Everyone please bring a covered dish to contribute.

I am happy to report that we have a new writer for our club newsletter. Anita contributed a short article about her English Garden project in July and has agreed to write more short articles for future newsletters. Check out this month's "tip" on page 5.

### Membership Report

by Anita Goodale



The Johnson County Iris & Daylily Society met for their regular scheduled monthly meeting on July 14, 2018 in the conference room of the United Cooperative Services building in Cleburne, Texas. Twenty-eight members were in attendance. Guests included Clayton and Claire Goodman, grand children of Brian and Janet Goodman. The program consisted of the annual Iris Exchange, Giveaway and Auction."

Membership dues are now being accepted for the 2018 - 2019 club year.



### Hospitality Report

by Gailmae Suite



Hungry, Hungry Hippos...oops, we are going to be playing BINGO this month, but we need a full table to play. Last

I would love for more of you to participate by writing short articles for our newsletter. You won't be expected to write something every month, unless you just want to. Recipes will work, too.

Deadline for news articles is the 20th of each month.



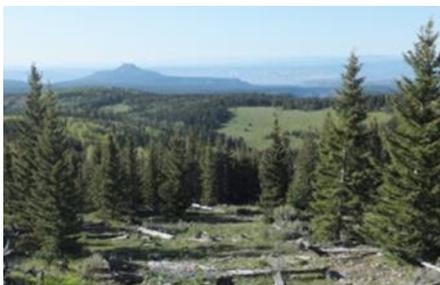
## Fertilizing Irises—Part 1 by Tom Waters

(This is part 1 of a reprint of article which appeared in the World Of Irises Blog of the American Iris Society on July 23, 2018. Part 2, **Fertilizer Advice for the 21st Century** will be included with the September Newsletter)

When I first began growing irises in the 1970s, the standard advice (and it was not new advice even then) was “fertilize with superphosphate and/or a balanced fertilizer low in nitrogen, such as 5-10-10, in spring before bloom and again in fall”. The advice was repeated everywhere, without reference to climate or soil. This was the heyday of the use of synthetic chemicals in the garden. Every problem, major or minor, had a solution that came out of a bag or cardboard box.

Much has been learned since then that should put a damper of our enthusiasm for synthetic fertilizers. Sadly, however, that knowledge seems to have not permeated very much into the culture of iris enthusiasts. Almost daily, I read the same advice I heard decades ago repeated on Facebook and other discussion fora, still without qualification or any evidence of caution or indeed reflection. People don't even seem to care whether their soil actually *needs* phosphorus; they just follow the advice without question.

Have you ever wondered how plant life has flourished on Earth



A walk in a nearby forest. Funny, these trees have gotten awfully large without superphosphate each spring and fall

for more than 400 million years before there were factories to synthesize superphosphate? Have you ever wondered how the great gardeners of Victorian England managed to grow irises without plastic bags of fertilizer granules?

In nature, the nutrients essential to plant growth are perpetually recycled. All plant and animal tissues contain nitrogen and phosphorus and the other essential elements, and as these tissues decompose, soil microbes process them through stages until the nutrients are once again accessible to the roots of growing plants. Recently, we have become more and more aware of the complex ecosystem of bacteria, fungi, and small plants and animals that exists in healthy soil, and the role they play in sustaining the larger plants and animals that live above ground. Plants on Earth have evolved in conjunction with soil life to make the most use of the natural processes by which nutrients are recycled. Have you heard of mycorrhizal fungi? These soil fungi exist in symbiosis with plant roots, extracting and processing soil nutrients for the plants in exchange for carbohydrate food which the plant produces by photosynthesis. They can increase the nutrients available to plants more than a hundredfold. This is but one example of the complex interaction between plants and the soil life that supports them. Soil organisms provide many other benefits to plants, such as reducing susceptibility to pathogens.

If nutrients were not recycled through living soil ecosystems in this way, every spot of Earth would become completely barren of life in a short period of time.



This handful of soil contains billions of microorganisms - more microscopic living creatures than there are human beings on Earth.

### Feed the Soil, Not the Plants

Synthetic fertilizers bypass this natural process of nutrient recycling in the soil, essentially giving the plants a direct injection of specific nutrients, such as nitrogen or phosphorus. This can be very effective in producing growth, especially if the amount of nutrients available naturally through the soil is small. The agricultural revolution of the twentieth century was made possible in large part by supplying additional nitrogen and phosphorus in this way, thus increasing agricultural yields even in poor soils. But is there no “down side”?

The first potential problem with synthetic fertilizer use is that it affects everything in the soil, not just the plants you grow. All the soil microorganisms now find themselves in a radically different chemical environment, one they are not evolved to deal with. The additional nutrients can cause a population explosion in the microorganisms, which then devour every bit of organic matter in the soil. With the organic matter (their food source) gone, the microorganisms die off, leaving a soil without organic matter and without much life. (cont. on page 4)

## July 14, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes by Vickie Rigby



Meeting was called to order by President Vicki Howard at approximately 10:00 a.m. at United Cooperative Services.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Treasurer's Report:** Published in the newsletter with no corrections.

**Secretary's Report:** Published in the newsletter with no corrections.

**Membership:** 26 members and 2 guests (Brian Goodman's grandchildren) were present.

**AIS Membership Drawing** won by Sue Walker.

**AHS Membership Drawing** won by Sue Ripley.

**Raffle:** Mary Keeth won the raffle.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

An introduction and thank you was given for the out-going officers, and a quick introduction and installation was given for the new officers.

New officers for 2018/2019 are:

President: Vicki Howard

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Mary Keeth

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Anita Goodale

3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President: Karen Singletary

Secretary: Ricky Howard

Treasurer: Dan Cathey

The next meeting will be at **NOON** at the United Cooperative Services building on August 11. Everyone will be looking forward to playing BINGO. Vicki reminded everyone that each player is to bring three (3) iris and/or daylilies for prizes, Food is POTLUCK.

Laura gave a report on the City's new director of parks and recreation, whom she has now met. She also reported on the status of the gardens at McGregor. It was decided and voted on to combine the current 2 iris gardens into 1 for more ease in caretaking for the Club.

Gailmae Suite commented on the occasional occurrence of buying or receiving a misnamed iris or daylily and the inability to contact the seller. This was discussed and she then made a motion that on all future auctions and/or sales wherein iris rhizomes or daylilies are purchased that the order number, date of order, hybridizer and company contact information be provided on the related sheets so that in the event of misnaming, it is possible to contact the seller and either correct or exchange.

The motion was seconded by Karen Singletary.

### **REGION 17 MEETING REPORT**

Peggy Cathey gave a brief update on the Regional Meeting sponsored by our Club, to be held the first weekend in August. Sixty-two are registered for the meeting. An e-mail will be sent out regarding digging iris at the McGregor garden to be cleaned up and be included in the goody bags for all attendees as well as be used at the BINGO games played as part of the weekend events.

### **SUNSHINE/CLOUDY:**

Well wishes are being sent to Bill and Susan Page and Bill Goodale.

On the cloudy side, we were informed by Randy Thomas that this will be his last meeting as he is moving to Terrell, Texas. He promised to show up periodically at our meetings and events. Best wishes from all on his new home.

The meeting was adjourned just at approximately 11:30 and the room cleaned up by all members.

Respectfully submitted, Vickie Rigby

## Fertilizing Irises—Part 1 by Tom Waters (continued from page 3)

The plants you grow have gotten their quick boost of nitrogen or phosphorus, and you can pat yourself on the back at how big and green they have become, but beneath your feet the web of life that supports them has been damaged or destroyed. As Tony Avent of Plant Delights Nursery [explained](#), "If all you ate were Snickers bars, would you get larger? Absolutely! No question! You

would get dramatically larger. But would you be healthy? That is the difference."

Once the soil ecosystem has been damaged or destroyed, the synthetic fertilizer "boost" becomes an addiction. Without a healthy soil ecosystem, the plants now **need** the regular application of synthetic nitrogen and phosphorus to provide what the soil

would otherwise provide naturally. The garden is now essentially an experiment in hydroponics, with the soil merely anchoring the plants in place as you wash solutions of chemicals past their roots.

Organic gardening uses an approach that seeks to enhance the natural nutrient cycling process, rather than bypass and cripple it. By building (continued on page 5)

## In the Garden With Anita by Anita Goodale

### *Fly Swatters-Not Just for Flies Anymore*



An age old issue for gardeners has been discovering the best way to control pests in the garden. My

greatest issue has always been dealing with the proverbial grasshopper. Year before last Bill and I had a “bumper crop” of these little critters. I was forever catching and feeding them to our chickens. Last summer and again this year, we’ve not seen as many, so perhaps I was on to something with this catching thing. There’s just one problem with this line of action: when one reaches, let’s just say, a certain age, one’s agility isn’t quite the same as in their younger days. So, thinking out of



the box, I came up with a solution and that is keeping an old fashioned fly swatter handy when out in the garden. Then when you are

weeding, watering or simply admiring the fruits of your labor and spot one of these pests partaking of the lush green foliage of your Irises, Daylilies or perhaps one of your companion plants, take a swat and by stunning it, will enable you to dispose as you see fit.

Another thought on this subject is natural predators. We are fortunate here at our home to have a rather large array of birds – all kinds and sizes. The other day I noticed a family of Chaparrals, also referred to as Roadrunners, in Bill’s vegetable garden running and jumping catching some sort of bugs.



For Bill and I, the use of commercial bug sprays are not an option. Of course, there is also the thought that Marigolds as companion plants, offer a natural repellent to the pest problem. While there is no scientific proof to the fact, my dad used to plant these colorful flowers in his

vegetable garden and believed it kept the bugs at bay. We have the *French Petite* in our Daylily Garden. This variety is perfect as a border to the daylilies and the bright orange/red color is gorgeous.

In conclusion, there are several methods to pest control and it is up to each gardener to find one that works best in his/her garden. As for me, I’m keeping the flyswatter handy..... just in case.



Happy Gardening!

## Fertilizing Irises—Part 1 by Tom Waters (continued from page 4)

your soil with compost or other organic matter, the soil life builds up in a sustainable way. The organic matter not only provides the nutrients needed by the plants and the soil life, but also provides that soil life with the carbon-rich organic matter that is its food source. You thus secure not just the short-term benefit of a nutrient injection, but the long term benefits of healthy, living soil.

### **Nutrient Pollution**

That might be enough to make a

thoughtful person reconsider reliance on synthetic fertilizer. But there is more. Waterways in the US and indeed all over the world are being destroyed by synthetic fertilizer use, through a process called eutrophication.

When excess phosphorous or nitrogen applied to farms, lawns, and gardens makes its way into streams and lakes, the nutrients create a population explosion of algae that quickly consume available food and block sunlight, de-

priving the water of oxygen choking out the other water life. (Sound familiar? It is not dissimilar to what happens to the soil life when you saturate them with nutrients.) About half our lakes now suffer from eutrophication. The situation has become so severe that eleven states have enacted bans on phosphorus fertilizers. These bans all have various exceptions, so you may not be restricted from spreading superphosphate on your irises, depending on where you live. (cont. on page 6)



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



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



June 6-9, 2018  
American Hemerocallis Society National Convention  
Myrtle Beach, SC



June 9, 2018  
In-Garden Daylily Garden Judging Class-9:00 a.m.  
PDC Gardens, Covington, TX (Dan & Peggy Cathey)



July 14, 2018  
Iris Giveaway, Exchange & Auction-10:00 a.m.  
United Cooperative Services Community Room



August 3-4, 2018  
AIS Region 17 Meeting  
Hampton Inn & Suites, Cleburne, TX



August 11, 2018  
Iris & Daylily BINGO-10:00 a.m.  
United Cooperative Services Community Room



September 8, 2018  
IRIS & DAYLILY PLANT SALE-9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.  
JN Long Cultural Arts Cafeteria

Check out our website:

<http://johnsoncountyirisanddaylilysociety.org/>

## Fertilizing Irises—Part 1 by Tom Waters (continued from page 5)

But it should give one pause for thought. If the environmental damage caused by phosphate fertilizers is becoming so severe that legislatures are trying to stop it, do we really need to be adding to the problem in our home gardens?

### Climate Change and Sustainability

Fossil fuels are essential to the production of synthetic fertilizers, nitrogen and phosphorus fertilizers both. We now know that the Earth is plummeting rapidly toward higher global temperatures, faster than ever before in the geologic record, and faster than life can adapt. The Permian extinction,

which eradicated 90% of life on Earth, was triggered by a global temperature increase of only about 5 degrees Celsius. We need to think of a better way of meeting our agricultural and horticultural needs, very soon.

The nitrogen for synthetic fertilizers comes from the atmosphere, but the phosphorus must be mined and extracted from minerals. This is a finite resource, and it is already under stress. We need to return to the natural process of recycling the phosphorus that is already incorporated in plant and animal tissues, rather than extract-

ing the last reserves from the ground and poisoning our lakes with excess run-off.

To be continued in the September newsletter.