



# Society News



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

Volume 16, Issue 2

September, 2018



## Annual Iris & Daylily Sale September 8, 2018

Johnson County Iris & Daylily Society is excited to host our annual Iris and Daylily Plant Sale, Saturday, September 8, 2018 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. We will once again be in the air conditioned cafeteria of the J.N. Long Cultural Arts Complex, 425 Granbury, in Cleburne. We will be doing things a bit different this year. Instead of the picture boards and all the plants in trays, we plan to have each iris variety sorted into their

own paper sack. The sacks will have a photo attached so you know what you are looking at. The irises will be priced according to their size and how long they have been in cultivation. Older, historic irises will generally be priced at \$2 each while the newest varieties could be priced as much as \$10 or more. There will be irises and prices for everyone. This arrangement worked very well at our recent AIS Region 17

Annual Meeting held in August and we believe it will be an improvement over past sales. **Set up will be Friday, 3-5 p.m. and again Saturday at 8 a.m.**

Please go to pg.4 for How to Prepare Irises for Sale



### 2018 American Iris Society Awards by Peggy Cathey

Each year, AIS Garden/Exhibition judges perform their most important task—casting their ballot for the best irises. The results of the votes has recently been published. The winner of the 2018 Dykes Medal is **Haunted Heart**, by



Keith Keppel, introduced in 2010.

Any variety of iris has a chance to become a Dykes Medal Winner. It must first receive an Honorable Mention award. After 2 years, it is then eligible to earn an Award of Merit.

The next award must be the special award for whatever section it belongs to, for example, a Tall Bearded iris must win a Wister Award (TB's are the only class of irises which awards 3 section awards each year). We are proud of our friend, hybridizer and fellow JCI&DS member Tom Burseen for receiving a John C. Wister Medal for his 2010 introduction: **Notta Lemon**. Tom also received Award of Merit for his TB's-**Cow Patty, Dewuc Whatic, Gloriafied Glenn & Prissy Christy**. We also have another friend, hybridizer and fellow JCI&DS member who won an Award of Merit-

Hooker Nichols for his **Watermelon Wizard**. Tom received Honorable Mention awards for: **Go Berserka, Spring Starter, Al's Gal, Sweetwater Pie Burns, Frozen Margarita, Walk that Walk, Decked Out** and **Ruby Baby**. Hooker received an HM for his TB **Honky Tonk Rumble** and his **Heartbreak Warfare** Louisiana. Hooker also won the Franklin-Cook Cup for **Watermelon Wizard**, Best Out of Region Iris at the 2018 National Convention in New Orleans. Congratulations to these two great hybridizers. We are very proud to have them in our club and in Region 17.

## Officer and Committee Chair Reports

### President's Report

by Vicki Howard



Well, I hope everyone was lucky and got some of the much-needed rain. Be careful while you are out in your garden digging irises for the plant sale. I know we had to mow this week and the weeds are bad. Everyone try and stay cool. and watch for snakes as they are still out.

Bingo was a lot of fun at our last meeting and the pot luck luncheon was great. Thank you all for all your hard work.

### Program Chair Report

by Mary Keeth



I have 3 great programs lined up so far the members will benefit from. You will hear something new, something different and something simply forgotten. The daylilies have been ordered for our October Giveaway & Auction and we are all really looking forward to the September Sale.

### Membership Report

by Anita Goodale



The Johnson County Iris & Daylily Society met for their monthly meeting on Saturday, August 11, 2018 in the conference room of the United Cooperative Services building. Twenty-three members enjoyed fun, food and fellowship. The society welcomed new member, Steve Barber. Guests included Clayton and Claire Goodman, grandchildren of Janet and Brian Goodman; Carl and Kathy Cathey, son and daughter-in-law of Dan and Peggy Cathey. The program consisted of

playing BINGO for Iris plants. Winner of the AIS Membership was Sue Ripley and Allison Clemens won the AHS membership.

### Show Report

by Karen Singletary



The date is set for the 2019 Iris Show and 2 judges have been secured. More on the show later.

### Treasury Report

by Dan Cathey



We began August 2018 with account balances of: checking \$6,973.38, PayPal \$149.65, and petty cash \$100.00 for a total of \$7,226.03. Checking expenses for the month included: newsletter \$20.01, postage and shipping \$57.50, Regional Meeting costs (food, meeting room, speaker, etc.) \$2,856.97, transfer to PayPal \$110.95 and purchase of daylilies for the giveaway and auction \$483.00 totaling \$3,528.43. Income included \$60.00 in dues, \$26.00 from the youth raffle and \$2,668.00 from the Regional Meeting raffle, registrations, silent auction, the sale of iris, etc., totaling \$2,754.00.

PayPal expenses were \$85.00 for AIS & AHS memberships and \$110.95 for the purchase of daylilies for the giveaway & auction. There was no activity in the petty cash fund. Ending balances were: checking \$6,201.95, PayPal \$64.65 and petty cash \$100.00 for a total of \$6,366.60.

### Hospitality Report

by Gailmae Suite



During the September Plant Sale we will have both breakfast snacks and a light lunch

(starting around 10:30). For breakfast: donuts, muffins, Danish, etc. would work great. There is a refrigerator, so for lunch we can have sandwiches, salads, fruits, vegetables, etc. The coffee pot will be going all day and we will also have ice water available. The Goodale's and Amy Finck will be bringing sweets and Vickie Rigby, Sue Ripley, Sue Walker, Janet Goodman and Diana Medrano signed up to bring non-sweets.

### Rebloomer Report

by Gailmae Suite



Keep in mind our Reblooming Irises usually start in our area around September and October. Make a note to let me know what you have bloom, when, and where. Attached is the Reblooming Iris Society Symposium Ballot, you need not be a Reblooming Iris Society member to vote. Ballots are due by October 1st and are mailed to Riley Probst, 2701 Fine Ave., Modesto, CA 95335. More and more informed iris growers are asking about rebloomers, for information about Reblooming Iris or membership in RIS checkout [www.rebloomingiris.com](http://www.rebloomingiris.com) or, through the main AIS website, [www.irises.org](http://www.irises.org).

### Newsletter Report

by Peggy Cathey



Thank you to our newsletter contributors. What can you do to help make our newsletter better? What do you think other members would be interested in learning more about? What would you like to know more about? Do a little research and write something up. We all want to learn.

## August 11, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes by Ricky Howard



President Vicki Howard called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon. She began by thanking everyone who helped with the Region 17 meeting held the previous week. Brian Goodman lead the prayer and we had our pot luck luncheon. Following the luncheon, a brief business meeting was held.

### Officer/chair reports:

Membership: Anita Goodale reported 22 members and 4 guests were in attendance.

Programs: Mary Keeth reminded everyone of the plant sale on September 8. Show Chair Karen Singletary couldn't attend, but had asked Mary to let everyone know we needed more people to make artistic designs and we needed a

hands-on meeting to demonstrate how to make a design.

Peggy Cathey had handouts about how to prepare and sell our irises and about the club bonus program. Gailmae brought up that we hadn't voted on the last part of the handout where a member would have to sell \$50 of their irises to participate in the bonus program. Peggy explained the ideas were from another club she had forgotten it was there. She explained it should not be hard to sell \$50 in irises.

AIS membership was won by Sue Ripley, AHS membership was won by Allison Clemons, and the Youth Raffle was won by Anita Goodale.

Peggy Cathey discussed the Region 17 Meeting and had a printed list of a comparison of the meet-

ing budget, actual expenses and amount the club made from the iris sale, raffle and silent auction. She also wanted to send a big Thank You to Tom Burseen for his last minute donation of irises for the Region 17 Auction.

Gailmae Suite talked about the upcoming Rebloomer season and asked everyone to report any Rebloomers they had bloom in the coming months.

Business meeting adjourned and several lively games of Iris Bingo followed.

Respectfully submitted  
Ricky Howard,  
Secretary



## In the Garden With Anita by Anita Goodale

### Yard Art

Three years ago Bill and I attended our first daylily regional meeting and had a wonderful time visiting seven gardens in the Pearland/Houston area. One thing I noticed at once was the use of garden art among the blooming Daylilies. I became hooked immediately! Since then we've added several nice pieces to our own garden. Back in June when we hosted our first come and go garden



event, we were gifted a colorful piece of art made from a blue glass wine bottle by Dan and Peggy Cathey. Its color enhances



that portion of the garden. In addition, Jerry and Mary Keeth gifted us a potted perennial and an

### Iris Plaque.

On July 4<sup>th</sup> my younger brother, Mark, spent the day with us and brought a white wrought iron chair and small table plus a birdbath that had belonged to our mother. He is in the process of relocating and thought I would like them for our garden. We're looking forward to placing these pieces in their permanent home as we continue our garden develop-



ment.

Garden Art is an expression of one's individuality. The sky is the limit and the costs don't have to be enormous. Great buys may be found at garage sales, estate sales, resale shops or making purchases out of season. Don't forget Craig's List; but remember it's best to use the buddy system when buying from an unknown person. Happy Gardening!



## How to Prepare Irises for Sale by Peggy Cathey

One of the best things about growing irises is sharing them with others. We do this in our club many times throughout the year with club auctions, iris shows, sales, and bingo, just to name a few. We all love to share the beauty of irises. When the time rolls around for our September sale, we want to share the best rhizomes we can with our friends, both old and new.

Up to two weeks before the sale, walk your garden and choose which irises need to be divided. Usually after three years, most clumps will be due. They start to become over crowded and won't bloom as well when the rhizomes start to crowd and crawl all over each other.

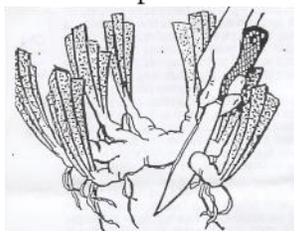


When you are ready to dig, take your list, a marker and some plastic bags into the garden and get busy. You may choose to dig just from the edges so as not to disturb the entire clump, or you may want to move the clump, therefore deciding to dig it all. Lift the rhizomes gently with a spading fork or shovel, being sure you are digging irises from the clump you want. Sometimes, it can be difficult, but if the clumps are crowded, follow the rhizome back to the main "mother" rhizome if possible. Be sure to immediately write the name of the variety on a cen-



ter leaf and put all into a plastic bag. Keep each variety in separate bags. Once they are all dug, find a shady spot and working with only one variety at a time, break the rhizomes apart so each one has a nice size fan. Next, start

- Break or cut apart increases



to trim the leaves into an inverted V to about 6 inches. Grab the roots under the rhizome and trim them below your fist. Write the **name of the variety on a CENTER leaf**. Please do not write on an outside leaf or across multiple leaves. If you know the hybridizer and the year introduced, you may write that on a leaf as well. Be sure to **price each rhizome**. A pricing guide is attached. Remember, this is only a guide and is suggested for "bloom size" rhizomes. If you have a small rhizome, ask yourself "How much would I pay for this rhizome?" and price accordingly.

Once all your rhizomes are trimmed and labeled, mix up some water and bleach in a big tub. Use a 10% bleach to water ratio (1 c. bleach to 1 gal. water). Put a squirt of dish soap in as well. Let the rhizomes soak for about 10 minutes, then use a brush to scrub them up good and make them look pretty. Put into another tub of clear water to rinse them off, then spread them out in a shady spot to dry.



Once all the rhizomes are good and dry, you may bag each variety separately or just put all the A's, B's, C's, etc. together. Please remember we are doing the sale different this year and each variety will be in it's own paper bag with a photo attached, so make this easy on yourself.

The most important thing about the whole process is to call or e-mail Peggy with a list of what irises you will have for the sale. If there is no paper bag and photo of your irises, they probably will not sell. You may call your list in to 254-854-2558 or e-mail:

[iris.daylilies@gmail.com](mailto:iris.daylilies@gmail.com)



## Fertilizing Irises—Part 2 by Tom Waters

(Continued from August Newsletter, Part 2 reprint of article which appeared in the World Of Irises Blog of the American Iris Society on July 23, 2018.)

### Fertilizer Advice for the 21st Century

So if the advice from fifty years ago is so problematic, what is one to do? Here is how I answer the question of how to fertilizer irises.

**1. Build your soil.** Add lots of organic matter. Compost is the form closest to what the plants can use, but even partially decomposed organic matter will benefit the soil. Not only will you be providing nutrients and encouraging your soil life, but you will be improving the soil's structure, too. Soil with organic matter mixed in holds both air and water better, and has improved texture. This is a win all around. Keep this up.

**2. Observe your plants.** If you've been building your soil for several years, chances are your plants will be healthy and getting what they need. You'll have Earthworms and insects enjoying your soil too. Now go have a lemonade. Most gardeners will never have to proceed to the following steps.

**3. Identify the problem.** If there is a problem, figure out what it is. If your plants still seem sickly or fail to thrive, have your soil tested. Don't just guess and dump things on your soil, because an advertisement or someone on the internet says a particular product will work miracles. This can do more harm than good.

**4. Research solutions.** If your soil really is deficient in a particular nutrient, despite all your soil building work, investigate the options for addressing the deficiency. There are organic sources for most nutrients, and those are to be preferred.

#### And Finally...

These are messages that not everyone is receptive to. I understand. I started gardening in a time when following that old advice just meant you were a good gardener. Now, it has come under criticism, and some of those criticisms seem to carry moralizing overtones.

I, like many other advocates of organic gardening methods, have a certain passion about the subject. But that does not mean I expect everyone who reads this to have some kind of religious conversion and abandon their evil ways. Rather, my goal is more modest. I'd just like to see all iris growers study a bit. Learn a bit about soil. Learn a bit about fertilizer pollution. Learn a bit about organic methods. Then follow up with making a few new choices you are comfortable with, and try them out. Then see what your irises have to say.



**Yes, they do bloom.** This bed was planted eight years ago. No synthetic fertilizers have ever been used.

## AIS Region 17 Meeting Youth Birdhouse Contest by Peggy Cathey

JCI&DS had the first AIS Region 17 Youth Birdhouse Contest. There were 9 birdhouses entered and 7 of those came from JCI&DS youth members and member's grandchildren. The youngsters painted and decorated birdhouses and the houses were put into a special raffle during the Region 17 Meeting held the 1st weekend of August. The birdhouse with the most raffle tickets was declared the winner. Aiden Strauss of the West Texas Iris Society and grand-

son of Debbie & Dale Strauss, won with his birdhouse painted with irises around the base. Aiden won a 2016 Burseen introduction **Big City Kitty** and \$20. All our youth did an excellent job with their decorating. Thank you to Youth members Isabella & Victoria and their little brother, Adrian, the Howard grandchildren-Savana, Abbie & Jacky, and the Keeth's great

granddaughter Lacie for participating. We hope this can become an annual project to help get our youth involved.





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**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  
PO Box 2424  
Cleburne, TX 76033



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

**Iris Names That Begin With SUMMER**

- |           |            |
|-----------|------------|
| Break     | Holidays   |
| Breeze    | Lightening |
| Butterfly | Love       |
| Camp      | Magic      |
| Candy     | Nights     |
| Carnival  | Olympics   |
| Charm     | Rain       |
| Cloud     | Romance    |
| Dawn      | Shadow     |
| Dreams    | Storm      |
| Eclipse   | Sunset     |
| Evening   | Sunshine   |
| Fantasy   | Tsunami    |
| Fashion   |            |
| Festival  |            |
| Fruit     |            |
| Glory     |            |

**IMPORTANT DATES**

-  **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/>

