



Waco Iris Society News

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An affiliate of the American Iris Society

November, 2017

Fall Meeting by Peggy Cathey

The November meeting of the Waco Iris Society will be held November 18. The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. at the Crestview Church of Christ Community Center, 7129 Delhi Rd. (Sanger changes to Delhi past Providence Hospital).

We are happy to have Bonnie Nichols as our speaker. Bonnie is a member of several clubs including the *Waco Iris Society*. She has been growing irises since she was a young child due to her mother's influence. She has lived in Dallas all of her adult life and has a full-time banking career. She met her husband (Hooker) thru the iris societies and iris conventions. They have been married for over 25 years and have a commercial iris and daylily garden in Mesquite. They also maintain a home garden on Northaven Road in Dallas. Both Bonnie and Hooker are iris and daylily hybridizers.



Bonnie's taste tends to go toward the more unusual flowers and also those that have unusual color patterns. For this reason, she was one of the main organizers of the *Novelty Iris Society*. After several years of work, the *Novelty Iris Society* was voted an official AIS Section organization in 2015. Bonnie is the first and current President of the NIS. She has also been the past RVP of Region 17, as well as Treasurer of the American Iris Society. She has been a member of the Iris Society of Dallas for 30+ years and currently holds the office of Treasurer. She is an Emeritus Judge for the American Iris Society. She is a daylily exhibition judge and instructor as well as a daylily garden judge and instructor.

Bonnie won the *Lloyd Zurbrigg-Clarence Mahan Seedling Cup* with Seedling 2013-1 in



2016. This beautiful pink novelty iris will be introduced in 2018 as *Cha Cha Cha*.



For our November meeting, Bonnie will entertain us with stories of her and Hooker's trip in May of this year to France for the *French International Competition* held in the *Parc Floral de Paris* garden.



Hooker was one of the five international judges for the competition. Bonnie conducted judge's training classes on both Tall Bearded and Novelty irises. Since Bonnie is the president of the Novelty Iris Society, you can be sure she will also be showing us some of the newest Novelty Iris introductions.

Chachar

by Adenek Seidla
Winner of the 2017
International Competition



President's Message by Dan Cathey

In the "old news is good news" department, our Fall rhizome sale was a resounding success. Total sales for the event were just slightly over \$2,000.00. This is a major fundraiser for our Club so a sincere



"THANK YOU" to everyone who helped. Just a reminder, we will need potted iris for our sale in conjunction with our *Spring Iris Show* and Woodway's *Gardener's Gathering* next April. If you are doing any clump divisions or resetting plants, please pot some of your extra rhizomes for these events. If the rhizomes are small, please put two-three per pot. Attendees at our Shows are really enthused by seeing all the gorgeous blooms and sales have been very good.

Our annual iris giveaway, exchange

and auction is also in the history books. This event gives eligible members a great opportunity to add to their collection for (cont. pg. 2)





President's Message (continued from page 1)

FREE (*free is always good*) in the giveaway and the exchange and to purchase great introductions at very reasonable prices via the auction. Proceeds from the auction were \$993.00 which helps offset the cost of the plants making the giveaway not only possible, but better every year. Thanks to all our bidders. I hope you came away with the one(s) you REALLY wanted.

A final reminder - if you haven't fertilized your iris yet it is not too late. As always, stay away from high nitrogen blends (the first num-

ber is the nitrogen) and look for either a balanced mix such as 10-10-10 or one with nitrogen as the lower number such as 10-20-10. A heaping tablespoon sprinkled around the rhizome, but avoiding direct contact, is a good starting place. If the clump is large you may wish to double up on that amount. An organic mix is not critical as to analysis but one that has alfalfa as one of the ingredients is a good choice, although most any blend will work. I know our Fall rains have been spot-

ty with some of us getting a decent shower or two but most of us could still use a good "soaker". If you don't get at least a decent shower within a week or so of your fertilizer application you should water it in thoroughly.



September Meeting Minutes by Bill Calhoon

Waco Iris Society
Meeting Minutes - September 16, 2017

Annual Giveaway, Exchange and Auction - Held at the Crestview Church of Christ Community Center

President Dan Cathey called the meeting to order at 10:19 a.m. and welcomed attending members. Dan thanked Ken Anderson for leading the May meeting and also thanked Mitchell Whitley for placing the order for the Annual Giveaway and Auction irises. Dan then welcomed new club member, Damon Graham. Twenty-one members were in attendance.

Meeting minutes for the May 2017 meeting were published in the newsletter. After receiving no additions or corrections from the floor, June Hivnor moved to accept the minutes and the minutes stand approved as published. Mitchell Whitley then gave the Treasurer's Report. The account balance as of August 15, 2017, was \$8,796.11. Mitchell also announced that the Downtown branch of Bank of America has closed. Jean Tomlinson moved to accept the Treasurer's Report; the report stands approved as read.

Ken Anderson provided an update on the 2018 Iris Show and Sale to be

held April 7, 2018. Since the Hampton Inn was already booked for that weekend, Ken has made arrangements for the show to be held at the La Quinta Inn and Suites at 6003 Woodway Drive (Highway 84 south of Highway 6). Ken also circulated the list of Artistic Design categories and reported that judges for the Horticultural division have been scheduled.

Dan then opened the floor for any other old business. After no comments from the floor, Dan opened the floor to new business. Mitchell raised the issue that many WIS members had encountered severe cases of crown rot over the summer. He mentioned that products previously used to treat the disease were no longer available and asked that if any members ran across any information on how to treat crown rot in iris to share it with Club members. Dan then announced that Plant Markers were once again for sale (Club members can purchase a bundle of 25 markers for \$8). Also, the 2018 AIS calendars are available for purchase at \$7 each.

Peggy Cathey reported that Dell Perry will provide the Judge's Training on February 17, 2018 (this will be a separate event rather than fol-

lowing a regular Club meeting as previously considered). Training will be held at the Crestview Church of Christ Community Center. Details will follow and Peggy reminded club members that one does not have to be an AIS Judge to attend, and that the Judge's Training sessions can provide helpful information to all iris growers. The training will cover things that people think are Show Rules, but are not.

Dan then reminded members that their dues need to be paid in order to participate in the Giveaway. Bill Calhoon then conducted the AIS Membership Drawing which was won by Jean Tomlinson. The Iris Exchange was then conducted with 17 members participating.

Following a break for refreshments, numbered paddles for the annual Auction were distributed. The Annual Giveaway was then conducted, with 24 eligible club members making their choices. The remaining rhizomes were then auctioned with Glenn Huddleston as auctioneer.

The meeting was adjourned following conclusion of the Auction.

Submitted respectfully,

Bill Calhoon

Secretary, Waco Iris Society



Thoughts About the Spring Show, 2018 by Ken Anderson, WIS Show Chair

Greeting to all our members!

At this time of the year I begin wishing for several things and many of those wishes are focused on the irises in my yard and in your yard as well. I wish for cooler weather. It would be great to have a "month" of chilling temperatures to stimulate production of blooms. I also wish for some nice winter rains to provide the moisture that irises can use during this season. Of course, neither you nor I can make those wishes come true. However, there are two wishes that club members can help make come true. You can participate in the horticultural division of our spring show and bring some great specimens for judging or display. Also, you can consider participating in the artistic division of our show. We have several new members and those of us who have been in the club a while are delighted to have all of you and welcome your questions. Please never hesitate to ask another member if you have questions about growing and caring for your irises, questions about preparing your irises for the horticultural division, or questions about preparing a floral design for the artistic division of our show.

We did not have a very good bloom season this past year. Consequently,

we did not have as many entries in the horticultural division. At the 2017 show we had eight exhibitors. I would like to see if we could increase the number of exhibitors to ten or even twelve. We had 107 entries last year. I would like to be able to increase that number to at least 120 or 125. As usual, I repeat this statement, or one similar to it every year. Please remember the goal of our society is to promote the growth and appreciation of irises. Many gardeners attend the show to see color and beauty. They usually are not particularly interested in the year of introduction or the person who hybridized the iris. Nor are they interested in seeing a perfect specimen, even though you might not want to show anything less. So if you have something that you have shown a dozen times, don't hesitate to show it again. Remember, someone might be seeing it for the first time. If you have something which you think is slightly flawed, show it anyway if you think it adds color and interest to our show.

If you were not at our last meeting you will have another opportunity at the upcoming meeting to receive a copy of the artistic divisions handout.

Our theme is *Irises and Childhood Memories*.

Category I is *Children's Song's*,



Category II is *Fairy Tales*,



Category III is *Nursery Rhymes*



And Category IV is *Saturday Morning Cartoons* (Novice).



Plant Markers and 2018 AIS Iris Calendars will be available at the meeting. These would make great Christmas gifts. Markers 25/\$8.00 Calendars, \$7.00



wish Please help make my iris wishes come true!



AIS New Member Special by Bill Pittman, Region 17 Membership Chair

Region 17 of the American Iris Society is going to make a push to inform our area club members to become AIS members. We have been 2nd in the AIS for years we now have fallen behind with our memberships. Region 17 will be recognizing our clubs with 50% or more members in the AIS. I am enclosing a flyer for Region 17 to help inform our members of what the AIS has to offer everyone. Please use the flyer in your newsletters and handouts at

club meetings. We need our #2 spot back for Texas.

Thanks for your help.

Bill Pittman



Please use the flyer on the following page (or the online link) to sign up for an AIS Membership. If you have never been

an AIS member before, your \$30 membership will reward you with \$79+ in benefits. If you are already a member, upgrades from a single membership to a triennial or to a dual, or an E-Member who upgrades to multiple years of E-Membership will qualify for the \$25 Free Iris Voucher Program. Please follow this link to read the full program details and a listing of participating nurseries: AIS Voucher Program.

Get Ready Now For the Spring Growing Season by Peggy Cathey

Starting this time of year, I like to take a stroll through my gardens at least once a week just to see what chores need doing so I'm not overwhelmed later. Any annuals that have stopped blooming can be removed. If these were potted, I clean the pots and put them away until spring. I try to remove plant debris in the garden to reduce disease and insect infestations. Foliage that is diseased is bagged and put with the garbage, not added to the compost pile.

This is a good time to divide spring blooming plants such as iris and dianthus, and those that bloom later, like daylilies, coneflowers and yarrow. Fall is also a safe time to plant

or transplant trees and shrubs. Spring blooming bulbs and lilies can be planted soon too. Any seeds you want to save should be harvested now. Keep on top of removing weeds from the gardens before they drop their seeds and make more work for next year. After a hard frost the remaining perennials should be cut back. Run over the fallen leaves with a mulching mower. If you have a bagger on your mower, even better as the bags of leaves can be dumped in the gardens for added protection from the cold weather ahead.

Many people like to leave their garden "as is" for the winter; the dying plants provide a natural mulch. The

grasses and seed heads offer winter interest and also provide food for birds and small animals. If you enjoy feeding wildlife, leave any native plants standing since these are likely to be the most edible for them.

And last, I thoroughly clean the walkways, paths, pots, containers and tools. I also sharpen my tools, so in the spring they are ready to go when I am. No messes to clean up, I just go out and begin a fresh new gardening year.

Cleaning a garden in the fall is just a matter of personal preference.



Don't Forget to Feed the Birds by Peggy Cathey

Following is a recipe for "No-Melt" Suet you can make for your Feathered Friends.

- 1 cup crunchy peanut butter
 - 2 cups "quick cook" oatmeal
 - 2 cups cornmeal
 - 1 1/2 cups lard
 - 1 cup white flour
 - 1/3 cup sugar
1. Melt the peanut butter and lard together in a pan over low heat, then mix in the remaining ingredients (while still on low heat).
 2. Press the mixture into a square or rectangular cake pan so that

the mix is about 1 inch thick (or the thickness of your suet feeder).

3. Freeze for an hour, then cut into squares that will fit your feeder.

Recipe Notes:

- * Store extra suet squares in the freezer (separated by wax paper) until ready to use.
- * Add sunflower seed, wild bird seed, raisins, dried fruit and or nuts to the mix.
- * Suet mix may be rolled into balls and wrapped in mesh bags oranges and other citrus comes in and hung from tree branches.





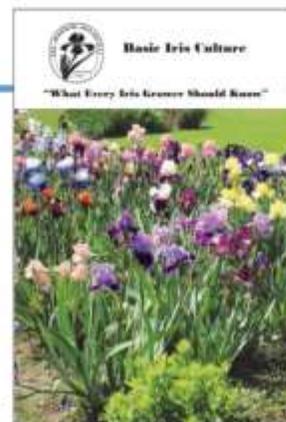
The American Iris Society New Member Special

Receive 4 issues of the quarterly
AIS Bulletin **IRISES**
(Newsstand price: \$40)



\$25 worth of **FREE** irises with voucher from your choice of our best nurseries.

FREE Beginners guide; *Basic Iris Culture*
(Retail price: \$7)



FREE *News & Notes* Monthly
e-newsletter, for breaking Iris News, Rare Iris
seed & plant exchanges and AIS activities.

FREE 2 yearly Region 17 newsletters giving
information about Irises and Iris events in your
area. (Non-member price: \$7)



New Member's Special is a \$79 value for only \$30.

***Your membership works to preserve biodiversity, build better gardens
and plants and celebrates the beauty of the Genus Iris.***

Go to <http://irises.org/newmembers/> click link to join with credit card or PayPal
Or mail this flyer with your check to AIS Membership, P.O. Box 177, DeLeon
Springs, Florida 32130-0177 with:

Name _____ Address _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____