

The American Iris Society

Region 17



Fall 2015
Newsletter

Newsletter on the Web & To You by Email

Region 17 Newsletter Getting Up To Date



Region 17 of The American Iris Society is still working on going “digital”. Thank you to all of you who have already responded to this request. The rest of you please let me know your preference. Just like everyone else, we are trying to cut costs and increase awareness of iris. The Fall 2015 Region 17 Newsletter is on our website and can be downloaded with Adobe--

(www.adobe.com/support/flashplayer/downloads.html).

The email endeavor will require action from each one of you. Currently hard copies will be mailed to all AIS members in Region 17 who have not contacted me to request e-newsletter only. But with a copy on our R17 webpage at (www.aisregion17.org), **everyone** will have access to it. Please complete the form below and either mail it to me or email me the information. We are going to try to cut the cost and just email the newsletter to everyone that we can. Please consider your individual situation and if you would like to receive the newsletter only by email please let me know. Below are several advantages of getting the newsletter via email.

1. A beautiful color version of the newsletter with pictures of iris, people and events.
2. Eventually (with your help providing information and articles) the newsletter can be longer and contain more stories, forms and maybe even ads for our hybridizers and garden suppliers.
3. Newsletter stories and photographs can be added to your local newsletters or used for programs, and educational boards.
4. It can be copied and shared with clubs, friends and neighbors and used for good publicity when iris programs are presented.
5. Hopefully we will encourage new people to appreciate and love the iris thereby increasing our memberships.

If you have not already responded please complete the form below or type all the information in an email and send it to me with “R17 Newsletter information” in the subject line. Or mail to Debbie Strauss 2213 Hereford Blvd Midland TX 79707 or send me an email debbie@loveirises.com.

NAME

EMAIL

AIS Member (Yes or No)

I would like to receive the newsletter in the regular mail only (available to AIS or subscribed members only)

I would like to receive the newsletter email and regular mail (available for a limited time)

I would like to receive the newsletter email only

Mail to Debbie Strauss...2213 Hereford Blvd Midland TX 79707

or

Email debbie@loveirises.com

What's In Here?

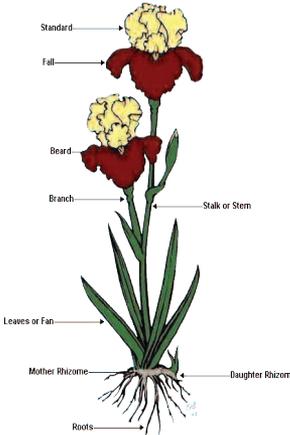
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The American Iris Society Contact Info:

Web: <http://www.irises.org/>
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/>
Twitter: @TweetAIS

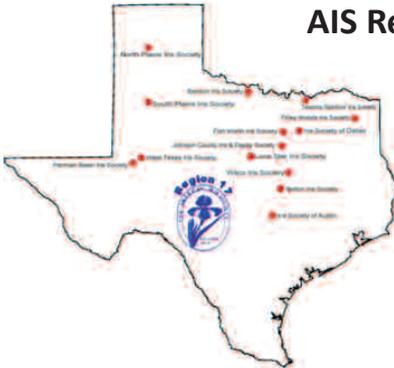
Region 17 is a 501(c)3 non-profit affiliate of AIS
<http://www.aisregion17.org/>

Deadline for Spring newsletter is February 15
& Fall newsletter is September 15 to
debbie@loveirises.com



Region 17 Officers & Chairs for 2013-2016

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2016 AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY REGION 17 JUDGES & APPRENTICES

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FUTURE NATIONAL AIS CONVENTION INFORMATION

May 23-28 2016 The American IS National Newark NJ Convention
Registration: Ken Fuchs 710 N 11th Street Temple TX 76501-3016 kenfuchs42@hotmail.com

AIS 2016 EXHIBITION COMMITTEE

SCHEDULES: Lois Rose PO Box 30 Partlow VA 22534 540-582-5799 lowy222@aol.com Lois will receive the draft show schedules, approve them, send out the certificates, the show supply order form, and the show report form.

SUPPLIES: Susan Boyce 5123 South 3500 West Roy UT 84067 801-985-0255 irisgal@hotmail.com Susan will receive the supply order forms and checks, maintain the show supplies inventory and ship out the orders.

SHOW REPORTS: Karen & Ray Jones 106 Harold Court Winchester VA 22602 540-542-1620 ramonwjones@comcast.net Karen and Ray will receive the show reports, verify the results, mail out the medals and Exhibition Certificates and prepare the annual exhibitions show report.

REGION 17 2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The following events were reported in time for this edition of the R17 Newsletter. Please send corrections or any other event dates ASAP before the Spring Newsletter deadline February 15, 2016

- Nov 15 **JUDGES TRAINING** "Louisiana Iris" Ron Killingsworth 2 hrs \$5 North Haven Gardens 7700 N Haven Rd Dallas Snacks 12:30 Class 1-3 pm Iris Society of Dallas Host Program on LA iris to follow Contact Bonnie Nichols bjnhtn@aol.com
- Mar 26 **JUDGES TRAINING** "Show Rules, Awards and Ballots" 3 hours TBA Host South Plains Iris Society Other info TBA
- Jan 16 **JUDGES TRAINING** "Space Agers" classroom 4 hours 8:30-12:30 Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church 7127 Bee Caves Rd Austin Contact Nelda Moore 512-327-0401 neldamoore6947@att.net
- April 9 **Waco IS** Clarion Inn 4th St at I-35 Waco Show Chair-Ken Anderson 254-223-3161 kenwanderson@hotmail.com "Iris In A World of Animals" A. Precious Pets B. Birds of a Feather C. Wild and Wonderful D. Creatures of the Sea
IS of Austin Zilker Park Garden 2202 Barton Springs Austin
- April 16 **Ft Worth IS** Ft Worth Botanic Garden Moncrief Garden Center 3220 Botanic Garden Blvd Ft. Worth Chair-Happy Carver 817-946-8473 gcarver@flash.net Horticulture only 12-5 pm
Johnson County I & D S JN Long Cultural Arts Complex 425 Granbury Street Cleburne Show Chair Bill Calhoon 254-253-0643 bill_bob_calhoon@yahoo.com Show Theme "Jewels of the Garden"
West Texas IS Midland Park Mall Midland TX Chair Peggy Wennerlind 432-697-0557 dpwen8@yahoo.com
- April 17 **Lone Star IS** Hico High School Show Chair- "The Show Must Go On"
- April 23 **Belton IS**
IS of Austin Zilker Park Garden 2202 Barton Springs Austin Chairs-Pat Byrne 281 391-6190 patb1@consolidated.net & Nelda Moore 512-327-0401 neldamoore6947@att.net "Iris Under the Big Top" Class 1. "Iris Under the Big Top" Novice Class 2. "Gospel Under the Tent" Religious Class 3. "Side Show" Use of 2 Containers Class 4. "Ring Master" Designer's Choice Class 5. "Two-Ring Circus" Table for Two
IS of Dallas Holy Cross Lutheran Church Show Chair-Hooker Nichols 214-352-2191 bjnhtn@aol.com
Permian Basin IS Music City Mall 42nd St. Show Chair Pat Jones (432) 230-2484 nonnie19426535@yahoo.com
Texoma Rainbow IS Van Alstyne Senior Center 148 S Main St Van Alstyne Show Chair Dell Perry 972-816-3418 seandelirises@yahoo.com
- April 30 **South Plains IS** Lubbock Garden & Arts Center 4215 University Ave Lubbock Show Chair-Dana Brown & Pam Lamb 806-300-7859 tplamb86@yahoo.com Theme "Gone To The Dogs"
- May 8 **North Plains IS** Amarillo Botanical Gardens Show Chair Bill Pittman 806-679-7351 bpit@suddenlink.net "The Iris Forecast" Design categories: Walking in a Winter Wonderland, Ice, Ice Baby, Stormy Weather, The Rain in Spain, Somewhere Over the Rainbow and Here Comes the Sun.
- May 23-28 **Going East in 2016** American Iris Society Convention Newark NJ <http://ais2016convention.com/>

American Iris Society Region 17

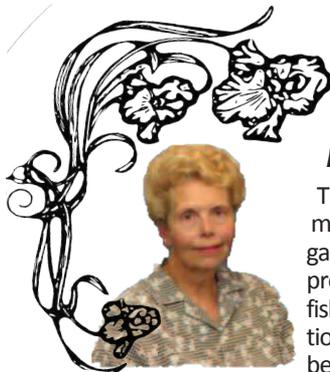
59th Annual Meeting
Hosted by Waco Iris Society
August 19-20, 2016

Hampton Inn South Waco 2501 Market Place Dr.
Room rate for Standard Rooms will be \$109 and includes free breakfast

MORE INFO IN THE SPRING NEWSLETTER

SAVE THE DATES!





RVP Corner

Dawn Boyer R17 RVP

This past six months have been packed with iris activities for me. The national AIS Convention in Portland was an extravaganza of blooming iris gardens. The weather was great; the pre-convention tours, featuring giant waterfalls, educational fish hatchery and humongous blooming plants, was educational and interactive. Voting for favorite irises was difficult because of the hundreds of varieties that bloomed in many

gardens.

The AIS Board voted unanimously to approve the Novelty Iris Society as a new section of AIS. You can join the Novelty Iris Society by contacting Bonnie Nichols at bjnhn@aol.com. And all you affiliates out there, think about adding a novelty exhibition category to your shows, if you don't already have one. Broken color, space age, flatties as well as beards, flounces and other beard extrusions all fall into the Novelty Section.

The Region 17 "Raisin Region Basket" in the AIS silent auction raised \$400 for AIS. This was hundreds more than any other region's basket brought in. WAY TO GO GANG! The 2016 convention basket from our region needs to be just as exciting and great! It will be taken to New Jersey by Debbie Strauss, so please send all your goodies to 2213 Hereford Midland TX 79707 as soon as you can! We want to WOW them again!

The Region 17 Convention in Dallas, August 14-15 was another winner, with judges training, auctions, lots of filling food in the hospitality room and banquets, iris freebees, etc. We always pack a lot into a short period of time. Thanks so much to the Iris Society of Dallas for making a wonderful and informative time for all who attended.

We are excited to announce that the Waco Iris Society has volunteered to host the 2016 Region 17 Convention. It will be on August 19-20, 2016 at the Hampton Inn South in Waco, 2501 Market Place Drive. The room rate for standard rooms will be \$109 and includes free breakfast. We are so excited to be going to Waco next fall and appreciate the Waco Iris Society for hosting us! Look for more info and registration forms in the Spring R17 Newsletter.

I am looking forward to fall, so the weeds will stop growing! Amarillo is lush and green and instead of being the barren desert of the past three years, it is now the land of many lakes, like Minnesota, with sunflowers taking over my pasture, and plants coming up that I have never seen before. We already are at 31 inches for the first eight months of the year, whereas our average annual precipitation is 11 inches, so we don't know what to think! But my irises are just beautiful, shooting new foliage everywhere. Fantastic!

Region 17 only received 29 votes in the AIS 2015 Symposium. We now have the 2nd most number of AIS members in the country. I hope that you will all read this and promise yourself you will participate next year. It is easy and anyone that is an AIS member can vote. It is just a popularity vote...you vote for YOUR favorite iris. That means one iris or up to 25 of YOUR favorite irises from the list of 400 irises. The iris receiving the most votes in R17 in 2015 were:

- Gloriafied Glenn-17
- Glitter Gulch-15
- Queen's Circle-12
- Notta Lemon-11
- Beth's Blessings-10
- Casino Cruiser-10

Seems like Texans like Tom Burseen's iris! Look for the whole country's final results from the National AIS on their website soon.



"Iris in Wonderland 2015"

by Ken Fuchs

As anticipated, "Iris in Wonderland 2015," the 2015 AIS National Convention in Portland, Oregon, hosted by The Greater Portland Iris Society May 18-23, was an awesome event which provided an overdose of beautiful colors and forms of everything "Iris." Over 600 irisarians from nearly every state were there, and representatives from a number of other countries also attended, including Canada, England, Germany, the Netherlands, Ecuador, Australia, and most noticeably, New Zealand. About 23 "Kiwis" were ever-present and they added charm and humor on the bus tours. Iris Society of Austin members Tracey Rogers, Ellen Singleton, Carolyn Wylie, David Kraemer and his wife Susan, Al and Barbara Elliott, Pat Byrne, Donna Little and her husband Tim, Susan Flanagan and her husband Jack, Dara Smith, Jaime Hadley, Jim Landers, and Ken Fuchs attended and everyone brought back great memories and lots of pictures.

There were two optional bus tours available on Monday and Tuesday, the Columbia River Gorge tour and tours of The Oregon Garden and Keith Keppel's and Kevin Vaughn's gardens. Ellen and Carolyn took the River Gorge tour on different days. Jaime rented a van and he and Dara took their own Columbia River Gorge tour on Monday. Tracey, Ellen, Donna and Tim took the Other Gardens Tour. Tuesday evening several of us explored downtown Portland. We eagerly found Portland's Chinatown, where on Sunday Tracey had visited the Lu San Chinese Garden. However, we were disappointed by the many closed shops and restaurants and the dozens of homeless people who now occupy the entire historic Chinatown district. Luckily, we located the "new Chinatown" several miles away where we enjoyed a nice dinner at an authentic and busy Chinese restaurant. We were the only non-Chinese patrons there that evening, and the food was excellent (except for the barbecued pork bellies that were served in place of the barbecued ribs that we ordered).

On Tuesday, Jaime, Dara, and I drove to Astoria, Oregon, following the Columbia River on the Washington side of the river. All along the way we were overwhelmed by the towering Douglas Fir trees and the many flowering trees, unlike any seen in Texas. As we drove through the small towns, we saw rhododendron bushes in full bloom adding brilliant pink, lavender, and white colors to almost every yard. Wherever there was standing water in small pools and ditches along the roadway, pseudocorus added patches of bright yellow. At one point we stopped to take pictures, and as Dara got out of the van, she put her foot down on a snake, which rapidly slithered away into the tall grass. I'm not sure who was more startled.

As we approached the coastline near a long bridge that crossed over the Columbia to Astoria, we stopped at a rest area known as Dismal Nitch. It was located at the site of a camp where Lewis and Clark and their guide Sacagawea were stranded for a week by a dangerous storm in November 1805, before they finally reached the Pacific. We crossed the long bridge and entered the port city of Astoria, where we had lunch in an old brewery, built in 1924 on the grounds of the old Fort Astoria. After lunch we climbed the 300-step spiral staircase inside a large column decorated on the outside with a spiraling mural depicting fourteen significant events in the early history of Ore-

gon with a focus on Astoria's role including Captain Gray's discovery of the Columbia River in 1792 and the Lewis and Clark Expedition. From the top we had a spectacular view of Astoria, the long bridge, ships in the harbor, and the Columbia as it flowed into the Pacific.

We followed the coastal highway all the way down to Tillamook, stopping several times on the beaches at Surf Pines, Seaside, and Cannon Beach, where we recognized the enormous Haystack Rock which ISA members visited during the 1994 Convention. There were white specks all over Haystack Rock, and a sign stated that every spring a colony of Tufted Puffins return to Haystack Rock from their long winter at sea. One of the pictures I took with my camera lens zoomed in to the max reveals that those white specks were indeed puffins. As we drove through Cannon Beach, we noticed cute white, black, and orange/tan bunnies leisurely munching grass along people's driveways. They were wild, yet looked like colorful Easter bunnies. In Tillamook we arrived too late to visit the large cheese factory, which also produces excellent ice cream, but we found a charming country restaurant on the outskirts of town where we had dinner. I had perhaps the world's largest club sandwich that was at least four inches thick.

Following the traditional AIS schedule, there were Board meetings on Tuesday and Section meetings all day Wednesday at the Convention headquarters, the Red Lion Jantzen Beach Hotel, which had been fully renovated since the 2006 Convention and offered a very elegant and luxurious setting for the meetings and banquets. Jim Landers attended the Reblooming Iris Society Board meeting Tuesday morning and [consequently did not go with us to Astoria and Cannon Beach. He also attended the AIS Foundation Meeting Tuesday evening. Some of the Section meetings our ISA members attended included the SIGNA Program, "Species, Past, Present, and Future"; the Pacific Coast Native Irises program; "Rebloomers for Everyone" by Riley Probst; "Multi-Petaled Siberians" by John Coble; a two-hour TBIS panel discussion with Keith Keppel, Barry Blyth, and Joe Ghio; "Care and Culture of Spuria Irises" by Jim Hedgecock. Thursday meetings included "Historic Dwarf and Median Iris, a Microcosm of the Challenge of Iris Preservation" by Charles Carver and the Space Age/Novelty Section Meeting hosted by Bonnie Nichols. There were two Judges Training sessions, "Awards and Ballots" by Judy Keisling and "Are These Really Rules" by Dell Perry, and also a Silent Auction and a Boutique. Ellen Singleton and Donna and Tim Little attended the Geek Dinner and Auction Friday evening.

Wednesday evening was the traditional Welcome Dinner. The hotel staff managed to serve all 600+ attendees very efficiently, and the food was excellent. Convention Chair John Ludi welcomed everyone and following the dinner AIS President Jim Morris performed the roll call of all the twenty-four regions. Then we all stood and then took our seats according to the number of Conventions we had attended. Missouri hybridizer Dave Niswonger was attending his 46th Convention, and special recognition was given to Virginia Keyser from California. This was her 50th Convention. A woman from New Zealand spoke very highly of Virginia, who had made many visits to New Zealand and has fostered New Zealand-American friendship in the iris world.

In all there were eight buses to take us to the Guest Gardens Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Most of the ISA delegates traveled on the same bus and several lady "Kiwis" made the bus trips all the more fun. There was some confusion in the parking lots when we began gathering at 7 am to load the buses. Each day we took the same color coded bus (Green #10), but the buses were switched each day and arrived at

different times. Once we were allowed to board, the bus rides went smoothly. Ted Baker from the BCIS was our lead bus captain. There were drawings each day for prizes, including 2015 rhizomes, cups, note cards, iris-themed coasters, and knitted items created by Judy Nunn.

On Thursday, our bus took the South Route to Schreiner's Iris Gardens in Salem and Mid-America Garden in Brooks. Thunderstorms were predicted for Thursday, with more rain on Friday and Saturday. There was a brief shower during the drive to Salem, but then it stopped and we were enchanted by an enormous rainbow in the western sky. It was a good omen of things to come. It cleared off and we had brilliant sunshine the rest of the day. As we approached our first stop, our eyes were dazzled by acres and acres of irises in full bloom. Across the street from the entrance to Schreiner's were more acres of crimson clover. There was color everywhere. Steve Schreiner greeted us in the large 10-acre display garden which contained a master planting of 100 Beardless official guest irises and over 400 Bearded official guest irises. A variety of companion plants, especially very tall lupines, and different flowering trees added a myriad of colors to the gardens. Large clumps of single cultivars in the different pathways separated individual beds. One highlight was three beds which contained all of the Dykes Medal winners.

Leaving Schreiner's, we stopped at the nearby Adelman Peony Gardens and strolled through their delightful display garden filled with a vast array of many-colored peonies. We enjoyed boxed lunches in a large white tent set up next to the Adelman's parking lot.

Thomas Johnson greeted us when we arrived at Sebright Gardens, which adjoins the 17-acre Mid-America Garden on gently rolling hills. Here was another master planting in five or six acres of guest irises. Besides irises, Thomas Johnson and his partner Kirk Hansen have a large nursery that specializes in a wide variety of hostas. Three acres of display gardens containing rare and unusual trees and shrubs surround their house. Besides gardening, Thomas also breeds exotic bantam chickens and peacocks, which could be viewed below the house.

Friday's bus tours followed the North Route, taking us first to Chad Harris and Dale Grams' Mt. Pleasant Iris Farm, situated on a hillside overlooking the Columbia River near Washougal, Washington. It was cool and overcast, and there were brief, on-and-off-again light showers. The view from Chad and Dale's home was absolutely breathtaking, with the various garden beds and the master planting on the sloping hillside below the house and the Vista House atop a 600-foot cliff on the opposite side of the river in the distance.

Chad Harris is the current president of the Greater Portland Iris Society and he eagerly answered questions about hybridizing Pseudatas, Laevigatas, and bearded irises. Seven artesian springs on the farm provide an endless abundance of water which allows daily watering of the beardless iris beds.

Leaving Mt. Pleasant Iris Farm, we drove back along the Columbia to Vancouver (located directly across the river from Portland) to historic Fort Vancouver, where we had lunch in the Artillery Barracks, built in 1904. Then we drove a couple of miles to Terry and Barbara Aitken's Salmon Creek Gardens, which he describes as "a five-acre filing cabinet with irises planted by category and alphabetically." Like Mid-America Garden, the Aitkens' gardens are also located on rolling hillsides, so a stroll through the grounds brought into view a whole new section of colorful beds not visible moments before. Beside the Aitkens' home is a greenhouse filled with a wide variety of

exotic orchids.

Saturday, our final day of Garden Tours, took us on the East Route. We drove for miles through heavy forest lands and saw “Christmas tree” farms everywhere on both sides of the road. It was very overcast, and the ponchos provided in our Convention packets came in handy when we reached Will Plotner’s Wildwood Gardens in Molalla. This garden was rather small in comparison with the other gardens, and there was not a lot of bloom. Because of the previous rains, we had to carefully stay on the walkways beside the gardens to avoid mud. The overall rural setting was relaxing and we enjoyed watching the dairy cows in the large pasture across the road.

Upon leaving Wildwood Gardens, we drove to Canby Grove Christian Center, a magnificent camp located in the midst of enormous fir trees in Canby. We had build-your-own grilled chicken sandwiches with green salad and cheesecake for dessert, all served homestyle by very polite young people. Outside the dining hall was a blazing firepit and we were offered freshly-made S’mores and some visitors roasted marshmallows. There was a very cozy camp atmosphere as everyone enjoyed the fire while waiting for the buses to depart.

Irises at our last stop were perhaps the most spectacular. Lynda and Roger Miller’s Manor Gardens in Canby had row after row of gigantic iris plants with enormous fans and blooms in the area facing the road. There were more guest gardens behind their home. They are also a commercial garden and their greenhouses and adjoining display-sale areas were filled with many varieties of potted plants and shrubs. Their own private gardens beside and behind the house provided inviting walkways decorated with more flowers and shrubs.

The 2015 Convention concluded Saturday evening with the Awards Banquet. While everyone was scrambling for tables, ISA members helped set out badges for the 2016 Convention in Newark, New Jersey, beside all of the 600+ table settings in the enormous dining room. After the dinner, Keith Keppel, Thomas Johnson, and Lynda Miller won numerous awards. Paul Gossett received a Lifetime Achievement Award for his ongoing service since 1982 as A.I.S. Liaison. He was not able to attend the Convention for health reasons, and Judy Keisling and Bonnie Nichols accepted on his behalf. Charles Bunnell received the 20141 Dykes Medal for his MTB ‘Dividing Line.’ For Iris Society of Austin members the highlight of the evening was the drawing for the Raffle Quilt, which was won by our own Dara Smith. For all who attended, the 2015 A.I.S. Convention will linger in our memories as a very special event filled with friendly people, breathtaking forests and scenery, fantastic gardens, countless irises.



Clark Cosgrove AIS National Outstanding Youth Award 2016



A Youth Achievement Award may be given annually at the Region 17 Annual meeting, along with a check in the amount of \$50.00. There was no one nominated this year for this Region award. However anyone can nominate any AIS youth for the AIS National 2016 Clarke Cosgrove Award which is the National AIS Youth Award. The winner of the Clarke Cosgrove Award receives free registration for the

2016 AIS Convention, a trophy and a cash prize that will be presented at the AIS Convention.

A youth may be nominated by more than one person, or by someone from another region. With the nomination, please include the youth's age, (DOB), AIS number or expiration date, and name of local club membership. Outline his/her activities following the guidelines below. If you need a list of the youth's activities, call a club officer, your club's Youth Advisor, a close relative, or the youth themselves.

Youth nominations are made in writing or emailed to the National Youth Chair. The letter not to exceed two pages and should set out the youth's qualifications, their activities in local and regional affairs and any special considerations that are your reasons for the nomination. Youth do not need to be active in ALL of the above activities to be nominated. Cosgrove Awards are \$550 for the winner, \$350 for the first runner up and \$250 for second runner up. There is also a "travel" stipend of \$100 to help the Cosgrove winner attend the convention. The nomination letter should include the personal attributes of the youth, using some of the following as guidelines:

- Growing a fine garden
- Actively hybridizing
- Writing for an iris publication
- Helping an iris organization through a committee or activity
- Visiting local iris gardens
- Attending regional-national tours
- Studying to be an AIS judge
- Promoting irises and/or AIS to others
- Signing up new AIS members
- Competing enthusiastically in iris shows
- Experimenting with irises
- Showing an interest in the various iris classes & sizes
- Demonstrating leadership skills



Deadline postmarked by **January 31, 2016**

Mail or email nomination letters to:

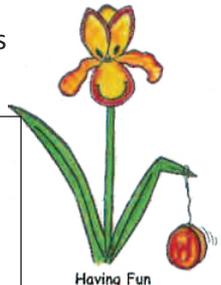
Cheryl Deaton

27218 Walnut Springs

Canyon Country, CA 91351

<mailto:region15kids@hotmail.com>

American Iris Society Youth





Going East in 2016
The American Iris Society
Convention Registration
May 23-28, 2016



Newark Liberty International
Airport Marriott Hotel
 Newark Liberty International Airport
 1 Hotel Road, Newark, NJ 07114
 Phone: 973-623-0006

Contact the Newark Liberty International Airport Marriott Hotel 1-800-MARRIOTT (1.800.627.7468) and ask for the "American Iris Society event" rate of \$114. Reservations must be made by Monday, May 2, 2016.

Hotel room reservations are separate from Convention Registrations!

Please complete and mail this form so that it arrives **no later than May 15, 2016**. Registrations will be acknowledged by e-mail. You will receive a packet with additional information, name tags, and event tickets at check-in.

PLEASE PRINT – Fill out one form per person attending.

Name to appear on name badge _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ E-mail _____ AIS Region _____

<u>IF POSTMARKED</u>	<u>BEFORE</u>	<u>BETWEEN</u>	<u>AFTER</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
	2/1/16	2/1 – 4/30	4/30/16	

Full Adult Registration _____ \$299 _____ \$310 _____ \$325 = _____

Includes Welcome Reception, Awards Banquet, Garden Tours, Judges Training & Convention Book

Garden Tours ONLY (May 26, 27 & 28) _____ \$180 _____ \$190 _____ \$200 = _____

Full Youth Registration (18 and under) _____ \$150 = _____

Dinners ONLY (No garden tour, judges training or convention book)

Welcome Reception (May 25) _____ \$40 = _____

Awards Banquet (May 28) _____ \$73 = _____

Please select from the following choices:

_____ **Sliced Tenderloin of Beef** _____ **Roasted Tuscan Chicken**

Optional Tour to the U. S. Independence National Historic Park & Morris Arboretum _____ \$60 (includes bus, admission and lunch) = _____

TOTAL Enclosed = _____

Payment Method: CHECK - Make Payable to **AIS Convention 2016**

Send Registration & Payment to:

Ken Fuchs 710 N 11TH Street Temple, TX 76501-3016 254-721-6217
 kenfuchs42@hotmail.com

NO CANCELLATIONS AFTER MAY 10, 2016

Unless there has been a death in the family.

Cancellations after May 1, 2016 but before May 10, 2016 are at the discretion of the Registrar

SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS: _____ Gluten Free _____ Lactose Intolerant
 _____ Diabetic Other: _____

GEEK DINNER: Registration for the Geek Dinner should be made to Joanne Prass-Jones, 35572 Linda Drive, Fremont CA 94536 joanne@usjobses.com



AIS Region 17 Judges Training Chair Report by Dana Brown

At the beginning of the 2014-2015 Judges' year, Region 17 had 36 people in the Judges program:

- 7 Candidates
- 3 Apprentice Judges
- 13 Garden / Exhibition Judges
- 10 Master Judges
- 3 Judge Emeritus

During the year:

- 2 Candidates have dropped from the program
- 2 Apprentices will qualify for advancement to Garden/Exhibition Judge on 1/1/2016
 - Kathy Wade
 - Laura Smargiasso
- 1 Garden / Exhibition judge moved in to Region 17
 - Janice Thompson
- 1 Emeritus Judge passed away
 - Gordon Green

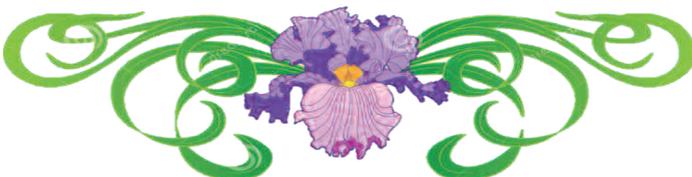
The next advancement to Master Judge will be Connie Ford on January 01, 2017 (January 1, 2016 qualifying advancements are included in the following counts) Going in to the 2015-2016 Judges' year, Region 17 will have 34 people in the Judges program:

- 5 Candidates
- 1 Apprentice
- 16 Garden / Exhibition Judges
- 10 Master Judges
- 2 Judge Emeritus

Region 17 hosted nine (9) judges training schools between August 1, 2014 & July 31, 2015

North Plains Iris Society	Collections, Seedlings, Bulbous Iris, Education Displays Medians & Arilbreds
Iris Society of Austin	Before Awarding the First Blue Ribbon
Fort Worth Iris Society	Back to Basics Medians in the Garden Arilbreds in the Garden
Johnson County I & DLS	Exhibition and Point Scoring In Garden and Point Scoring
Iris Society of Dallas	General Judges Training

Region 17's 34 judges and judges in training completed 253.5 hours of training not counting any hours they may have picked up at the National.



Region 17 Newsletter Report

By Debbie Strauss

First let me begin by giving my heartfelt thanks to Peggy Cathey for doing the Fall 2014 and Spring 2015 R17 Newsletters. Peggy did awesome newsletters. There were 320 Fall Newsletters printed and mailed. Second a big thank you to all the affiliates who sent her information and articles for the newsletters in a very timely manner.



Peggy would like to tell you that she is very grateful for all the cooperation she received from each of the affiliates and R17 officers in getting their reports and information to her for the two newsletters.



I am still trying to get more people to opt for email newsletters only. If the local iris societies would put a small line in their newsletters and ask AIS members to let me know if they would be willing to receive only emailed newsletters it would help.

Remember . . . It Is Your R17 Newsletter . . . Without Your Contributions, There Is Nothing To Print

Are you or your club members working on any interesting special projects? Have you attended a meeting and learned something you want to share with iris lovers? Do you just want to rant and rave about problems in your garden or anything related to iris? Do you want to brag about your club, your region or your garden? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, please send your thoughts. Any format, printed, faxed or e-mailed will do, but it would be easiest for Newsletter production if the article is sent either as an attached text, word processing file or in the body of an e-mail. Thank you for your contributions and for your consideration.

The deadline for the Spring Edition is February 15.

There are some items of information I must have for each club in Texas. They are:
Name, Address, Phone # & email of local club Presidents.

Each clubs' show date, theme, location, chair name & contact information.

Date, location, time, contact person, hours & Judge presenting any scheduled judge's trainings.

I also need:

Activity report from all the region officers and chairs. Everyone please email them to me at debbie@loveirises.com.

And I would love to have:

Articles about anything iris or club related.

If life becomes hard, soften it with random acts of kindness. Cherish every day. Yes, laugh, sing, play and remember to find time to pray. Enjoy the cool breeze or the rays of the sun. Smile and tell someone you love them. Yes, cherish every day before the days pass away.





THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY REGION 17 CONVENTION MINUTES ADDISON TEXAS AUGUST 15, 2015

Dawn Boyer, Region 17 Vice President, called the meeting to order at 1:30 P.M. by welcoming all members and thanking the Iris Society of Dallas for hosting this convention in the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Addison, Texas on August 15, 2015.

Nelda Moore, Secretary asked for any corrections to the minutes of the meeting held in Amarillo August 23, 2014. The minutes were accepted.

Ramona Howard, Treasurer presented a detailed report about the savings accounts with a renewal date of September 17, 2016, at .85 per cent for 24 months: \$2,943.64 and \$12,668.92 for a total of \$15678.53. She explained the deposit of 49 cents, which was withdrawn for Square, Inc., which billed each customer for its use or each transaction that was charged. The checking account from February 10 to August 10 is now at \$4208.65. Expenses were \$2197.71.

Dana Brown sent the Judges Training Chair Report to Dawn Boyer, who informed the board that 36 people were in the program: 7 candidates, 3 apprentice judges, 13 Garden Exhibition Judges, 10 master judges, and 3 judge emeritus. During the year 2 candidates have dropped from the program; 2 apprentices will qualify for advancement to Garden/Exhibition judge on January 1, 2016: Kathy Wade and Laura Smargiasso. One Garden/Exhibition judge moved in to Region 17—Janice Thompson. One Emeritus Judge passed away—Gordon Green. Connie Ford will become Master Judge on January 1, 2017. Region 17 will have 34 people in the Judges program on January 1, 2016: 5 candidates, 1 apprentice, 16 Garden/Exhibition Judges, 10 Master Judges, and 2 Judge Emeritus. Going into the 2015-16 Judges' year, Region 17 will have 34 people in the Judges program: 5 candidates, 1 apprentice, 16 garden/exhibition judges, 10 master judges, and 2 judge emeritus. Region 17 hosted 9 judges training schools between August 1, 2014 and July 31, 2015: North Plains Iris Society collections, seedlings, bulb irises, education displays, medians, and aril-breds; Iris Society of Austin before the first ribbon is awarded; Fort Worth Iris Society back to basics, medians in the garden, arilbreds in the garden; Johnson County Iris and Daylilies Society exhibition and point scoring and In garden and Point Scoring; Iris Society of Dallas general judges training. Region 17's 34 judges and judges in training completed 253.5 hours of training not counting any hours they may have picked up at the National.

Vicki Howard, Youth Chairman announced that 16 youth members are in Region 17 of the 21 youths last year. One moved and one became an adult. Since not one youth entered the logo contest, Vicki will try this subject one more time. She will write newsletters twice per year to keep the youth informed of all activities, but 4 youths have not submitted their e-mail addresses. Dues are only \$8 without the bulletin and \$12 with the A I S Bulletin.

Peggy Cathey, Membership Chairman, informed the members that Region 17 has 323 members, making this the 4th largest region in A I S, but in March and April the region had achieved 2nd place. By August 15 there were 354 members thus holding the region at 3rd place. Peggy sent out 129 renewal letters, then 18 "last chance" letters. Total renewals were 140 with 15 members reinstated, 47 new members, 21 members dropped, and 15 affiliates with one new affiliation: East Texas Iris Society, with 8 members. The cost of membership in A I S will increase as of October 1 from \$25 to \$30. The following A I S members were recognized for holding membership for more than 40 years: Alton Pyburn of Sweetwater for 41 years; Mitchell Whitley of Waco for 42 years; Hazel Haik of

Waco for 43 years; Hooker Nichols of Dallas holds life membership and has been a member since 1968—47 years; Ramona Howard of Lubbock holds a life membership and has been a member since 1966--49 years; Mrs. Dean Miller of Iowa Park for 50 years; and Mrs. Vernon Keesee of Lubbock holds a life membership and has been a member since 1963 for 52 years.

Jim Landers, Historian stated that the region had 11 shows with 148 exhibitors and 1099 entries, an increase over last year. The largest show was Iris Society of Austin with 156 entries and 21 exhibitors. The second largest was in Belton, with 100 entries judged by one person. Eight members won for the first time. Bill Pittman from Amarillo won in Lubbock while Pam Lamb from Lubbock won in Amarillo.

Debra Strauss, Newsletter Editor appreciated Peggy Cathey's work on the newsletters during her foot surgery. Debra emphasized that news is always needed about irises and gardening. The cost of the newsletter was \$472.40. She would like for more members to receive the newsletter electronically. By September 15 Debra needs show dates, contact persons, officers, judges training.

OLD BUSINESS

Debra Strauss read the Standing Rules Draft and some changes were made. The draft began with a definition of Standing Rules and how they relate to National A I S Bylaws and to each affiliate.

Standing rules are the specific conditions or rules a nonprofit chooses to impose upon itself within the scope of the official nonprofits bylaws. Standing rules cannot be in conflict with the National AIS Bylaws. While the bylaws give identity to and define each local affiliate or region and the relationship between them and the National AIS, standing rules give identity to and define each affiliate or region and important conditions they wish to impose on themselves, conditions which would, generally be permanent. The purpose and policies of AIS R17 are fixed by its bylaws, as adopted by the membership. Its programs and its methods of operation are directed by the National American Iris Society.

Standing rules are adopted by the membership because they (the standing rules) govern the entire region. They are founded on teamwork and voluntary cooperation for purposes mutually believed. Standing rules should be reviewed, updated (if necessary) and approved regularly.

Standing rules can be amended at any time. If the membership has been given notice prior to the date of the meeting of the intended change, then the change can be approved by a majority vote of the members present (if a quorum has been established.) If no notice was given prior to the meeting, a 2/3 vote of the members present is required (if a quorum has been established.)

The following Standing Rules were reviewed by the R17 Board and with a few changes will be attached to our current Bylaws if approved by the general membership.

Rule 1. YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT AWARD. A Youth Outstanding Achievement Award may be given annually at the Region 17 Annual Convention of each year, along with a check in the amount of \$50.00. Other financial help may be given for expenses to attend the AIS National Convention with funds not to exceed \$300 to be used at the discretion of the Executive Committee. The winner of the award will be nominated for the Clarke Cosgrove Award which is the National AIS Youth Award.

Rule 2. NEWSLETTER. There shall be two R17 newsletters per year. Deadline for information to be included for the spring newsletter will be February 15 and fall news-

letter will be September 15. The newsletter will be mailed to all AIS members, AIS Board members, and RVPs. Non-AIS members will pay \$7 a year to receive a mailed copy of the two newsletters. Each officer and committee chair is responsible for furnishing an article from their area to the newsletter chair.

Rule 3. REGIONAL CONVENTION. A Region 17 Convention shall be held each year. It will be hosted voluntarily by local affiliates. The hosting affiliate will set the date of the regional convention. The local host will schedule the convention to not conflict with the National AIS Convention and consider avoiding show dates in Texas.

Rule 4. FINANCIAL. There shall be two elected officers of Region 17 that are granted check writing and signature authority on the R17 accounts. The officers are the Treasurer and the RVP. The RVP will appoint a committee of three R17 members to audit the financial records every three years. No account signers may be on the committee. The region accepts donations from local affiliates in the name of deceased members. If an article is included, it will go into the next Region 17 newsletter. A thank you to the affiliate and an acknowledgement card to the family will be sent by the Treasurer.

Rule 5. TERMS OF OFFICE. All elected officers shall assume their duties following the confirmation of the RVP by the AIS Board at its fall board meeting. The term of office for elected officers is three years.

Rule 6. MEETINGS. Special meetings of the executive board may be called by the RVP or by a majority of the members of the board, with at least three (3) days notice being given. An executive board vote by phone, email, or other electronic means may be called by the RVP. A two-thirds vote of the entire board is required for passage, and the vote shall be ratified at the next R17 Convention general meeting.

Rule 7. OUTGOING RVP. If the outgoing RVP is not an AIS Life Member the region will contribute \$750 towards the cost of a life membership. The Past RVP will solicit donations from the local affiliates to fund the balance of the cost of an AIS Life Membership to honor the outgoing RVP.

Rule 8. JUDGES TRAINING. An affiliate hosting judges'-training class may set the fee for attending

MOTION: Debbie made the motion that the Standing Rules be approved as presented. The motion was seconded and passed.

YOUTH: MOTION: The Youth Chair, Vicki Howard made a motion that she make and send R17 Youth who are members of any local iris society two newsletters each year. Ramona Howard seconded the motion, which carried.

NEW BUSINESS: This is the second year of the current officers terms. The Nominating Committee will present a slate of officers at the next convention. Past RVP Gordon Carver, Ramona Howard and Jim Landers will serve as the appointed members along with 2 elected members—Bonnie Nichols and Kathy Wade. They were approved by acclamation.

A club or two will agree to host the next convention, but no one stepped forward during this meeting.

The AIS National Convention Basket in the silent auction from Region 17 brought \$400 in Portland, Oregon. All items were sent to Mr. Pittman, who checked about the cost of sending the basket and learned that it would be about \$300. Debra Strauss said that she was driving to New Jersey and Nelda Moore said that she had a basket. Each affli-

ate can send the items to Debra Strauss so that Region 17 will have a basket with cards, items from the location of the affiliate, and coupons for donations of rhizomes from our Texas hybridizers that the winner can mail in to receive the iris.

MOTION: Debbie Strauss noted that long time R17 member and AIS Emeritus Judge Gordon Green passed away. He was a Past R17 RVP as well as a very active Region 17 and National AIS participant. Debbie made a motion that Region 17 make a donation of \$50.00 to AIS in his memory. The motion was seconded and passed.

ROLL CALL

Belton Iris Society is a small club that worked with a rhizome sale in April in conjunction with Master Gardeners in Bell County Expo Center over a three day period and made over \$3000.



Benson No report

East Texas Iris Society is a new club with Connie Ford as president and a membership of 8. They will have a rhizome sale in Canton during Trade Days.

Fort Worth Iris Society had their club plant sale at Fort Worth Botanic Garden Center, where they meet. Al Elliott conducted judges training on Back to the Basics—Point Scoring and Arils, Arilbreds, Medians in Dell Perry's Garden in Plano.

Iris Society of Austin has 47 members, 2 youths, and 1 loss due to death. A rhizome sale will be held September 12 at the Norris Conference Center near Anderson Lane and on September 26 at Zilker Botanical Garden, 2220 Barton Springs Road. Don Freeman and a new member have been designing a new garden near the front bed and members are waiting to move the irises from the back garden. The next iris show will be April 9, 2016. Several members also exhibit in 3 different shows.

Iris Society of Dallas had an April Show, a two day bus tour to visit iris gardens, a picnic, a photo contest, and a perfect setting for their hosting the Region 17/AIS Convention or Meeting August 14 and 15 in the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Addison.

Johnson County Iris and Daylily Club has had health issues and the death of Gloria Huddleston only 3 weeks ago. They have 12 new members, including one new youth member. In April they sponsored an AIS Judges Training on point scoring irises in the garden at Winston Patrick McGregor Park. Then they moved into the McGregor House for a mock iris show and learned point scoring for the show table. They also had a mini clinic on how to prepare an artistic design. The members had 3 successful plant sales during the year, but their big one is always the 2nd Saturday of September in the Cleburne Cultural Arts Complex. Their Iris Show in April had 125 exhibits with 16 exhibitors. Peggy and Don Cathey won Best of Show with 'Inky Icon.' They won the silver medal and the Sweepstakes award. Vicki and Ricky Howard captured the Bronze medal. Three youths entered the Youth Division and 5 year-old Jacky Howard won Best of Show with 'Rustler,' which also got first runner-up overall, Best TB, and Best Brown. Jacky won Best Artistic Design in the Youth Division. Their meetings are held on the 2nd Saturday of every month at the United Services Cooperative in Cleburne at 10 AM. New Officers include Peggy Cathey, president; Janet Goodman, 1st VP (Programs); Anita Goodale, 2nd VP (Membership); Bill Calhoon 3rd VP (Show); Vicki Howard, Secretary; and Dan Cathey, Treasurer. [52 members, 4 youths]

Lone Star of Hico have about ½ of its members that are active. They meet in a cafeteria and sometimes meet in nearby towns.

North Plains Iris Society had a good show with great turnout on a Saturday at the botanical gardens in Amarillo. Their sale of rhizomes brought in over \$4200. They lost Billie Corbell, a charter member who lived with her sister in Oklahoma City, where she

passed away at about 90.

Permian Basin Iris Society in Odessa started out with nine faithful members but lost one to cancer. Kay Crumrine worked endless hours helping with the annual shows and sales. As a proud member she created outstanding designs. Then a charter member named Ellie Partridge lost her sight as well as getting a nonfunctioning hip that sidelined her. After that the secretary and 2015 show chair and her husband resigned and dropped out of the club. Pat Jones and Debbie Strauss prepared everything for the show with only 5 members and some help from a few iris friends from WTIS in Midland. The show created much interest and 5 new members joined the excitement in Music City Mall. The great sale will be September 26 at John's Corner Garden Center. To end the year they will have a picnic at one of the new member's homes to celebrate successes and friendships.

Piney Woods Iris Society No report

South Plains Iris Society have 3 new members and a total membership of 15. They had a great show with members earning many ribbons. They made \$2500 with their rhizome sale, and have some new rhizomes to sell in September. They are busy working and they keep going.

Texoma Iris Society has 15 members who enjoy programs, judges training, picnics, ice cream socials, and have fun holding a show in April, a mock show on Earth Day, and two sales in Sherman and Dennison.

Waco Iris Society with Glenn Huddleston as president had several members in the hospital and the Show Chair, Ken Anderson, lost his brother the day before the show. The club came together to help. There were 125 entries and 12 exhibitors. Peggy and Dan Cathey won Queen of Show with 'Amakiki.' In addition, they won 6 section ribbons and 5 color class ribbons as well as the silver medal and sweepstakes. Peggy won Best Artistic Design and Design Sweepstakes. One youth, Yebsera Pachelli, displayed an iris that went to the head table. The fall rhizome sale at GreenLife Nursery was a sellout during the last Saturday of September. They got one new member at the fall sale and 5 new members during the show. The club has 30 members. Meetings come on the 2nd Saturday of September, November, January, and March. The show will be the 2nd Saturday in April and the "End of Year" luncheon is held the 3rd Saturday of May. Meetings begin at 10 am at the West Waco Library.

West Texas Iris Society had a fantastic year in Midland with many new members along with the seasoned ones. Dell Perry presented "Everything Iris" to a very enthusiastic crowd. The show had 100 entries and many visitors in the Midland Park Mall, where they recruited 5 new members. The outdoor picnic in Carmen and Tom Wurster's beautiful backyard provided a great time and good food. The rhizome sale was at La Casa Verde Garden Center September 19.

Gordon Green passed away. He was a Past R17 RVP as well as a very active Region 17 and National AIS participant. Debbie made a motion that Region 17 make a donation of \$50.00 to AIS in his memory. The motion was seconded and passed.

The meeting adjourned after it was announced that food was in the hospitality room and the boutique still had items that could be purchased.

Respectfully submitted,
Nelda Moore, Secretary Region 17





Region 17 AIS Treasurer's Report

August 10, 2015

SAVINGS

February 10, 2015, in Lubbock National Bank, Lubbock, TX		
CD # 200007808	Renews on 09/17/2016 at .85% for 24 months	\$2,943.64
CD # 200007794	Renews on 09/17/2016 at .85% for 24 months	<u>\$12,668.92</u>
		\$15,612.56
Interest from 02/10/2015 to 07/17/2015 on CD # 200007808		\$12.44
Interest from 02/10/2015 to 07/17/2015 on CD # 200007794		<u>\$53.53</u>
		<u>\$65.97</u>

Total in Savings as of August 10, 2015 **\$15,678.53**

CHECKING	Credits	Debits	Balance
Balance on hand, February 10, 2015			\$6,355.26
Ck No			
02/28/15	Interest on Checking \$.25		\$6,355.51
03/03/15 1034		Iris Society of Dallas Auction irises for Regional \$400.00	\$5,955.51
03/03/15 1035	Peggy Cathey, Newsletter & postage plus membership \$816.48	\$5,139.03	
03/12/15			
	Permian Basin Iris Society, Kay Crumine, Memorial \$50.00		\$5,189.03
03/31/15	Interest on Checking \$.23		\$5,189.26
04/04/15 1036		Peggy Cathey, April Letters \$6.00	\$5,183.26
04/30/15	Interest on Checking \$.21		\$5,183.47
05/29/15	Interest on Checking \$.22		\$5,183.69
06/01/15 1037		Dawn Boyer, RVP, expenses For AIS convention \$839.54	\$4,344.15
06/04/15 1038		Peggy Cathey, May & June Letters \$10.89	\$4,333.26
06/30/15	Interest on Checking \$.19		\$4,333.45
07/03/15 1039		Peggy Cathey, July Letters \$3.86	\$4,329.59
07/27/15 1040		Dana Brown, Website Expense \$107.40	\$4,222.19
08/03/15 1041		Peggy Cathey, August Letters \$5.49	\$4,216.70
08/03/15 1042		Dana Brown, Website Expense \$7.56	\$4,209.14
08/04/15		Mistake on Last Treasurer's Report (Square, Inc. deposited .49 & withdrew .49) \$.49	\$4,208.65
Totals:	\$51.10	\$2,197.71	\$4,208.65

Balance on Hand, August 10, 2015 **\$4,208.65**

Respectfully submitted, Ramona Howard, Treasurer, Region 17 of AIS





Hello Region 17 Youth!

I hope each of you have had a great summer and are busy with the new school year. I have some information from AIS for you.



As you all know the AIS coloring contest is over. I hope more of you from Region 17 participated this year. We are going to have a new place for the R17 Youth to have their work displayed and ideas heard. It is the R17 Youth Newsletter. I am hoping we can have 2 newsletters a year. I would appreciate help from all of you. If you could write a small article for the newsletter. You could write about your garden, your interest in iris, or you could make crossword puzzles using the names of irises that you grow. Write or make up word games, or send photos or anything iris or garden you can think of. Send them to me (see info below).

We are going to try the Region 17 youth logo contest again. The rules are:

1. You must be a current Region 17 member and a member of one of the Region 17 clubs.
2. You must be under the age 19.
3. It must contain an iris. It can be formal or humorous or whimsical. Just remember we will use it for all Region 17 youth items such as the newsletters. And on the web.
4. The entries must be original art there can be no copyrights.
5. The deadline will be February 26, 2016.
6. The entries will be sent to a panel of judges who will select the winners. All entries sent to the judges will be anonymous.
7. **Submission by email is preferred but entries may be mailed (please don't fold or bend your entries).**
8. **All entries must be on a 8 ½ X 11" format and ready to print.**
9. **Email to reg17kids@yahoo.com or mail to Vicki Howard PO Box 113 Rio Vista, Texas 76093. Any question call me 817-933-1057.**

Also there is an photograph release form on the next page. If you send photos of yourself I will need to have your parents sign first.

DON'T FORGET! Get your cameras busy and shoot pictures of iris, people working with iris or critters and iris. Take these anywhere and everywhere...in the garden, at the show, at a sale or in a park. Enter your photos in the Annual American Iris Society Photography Contest. Check out the rules and see this year's and previous youth winners at www.irises.org.

There will be other contests throughout the year that I will keep you informed about. If you have not got your newsletter for the summer please let me know so I can get you a copy of it.

American Iris Society Region 17

PHOTO RELEASE FORM FOR MINOR CHILDREN

I hereby authorize AIS Region 17 to publish photographs taken of me and/or the undersigned minor children and our names, for use in the Region 17 Youth Newsletter publications that will be distributed to our Affiliate Region 17 youth and members.

I release AIS Region 17 officers and chairs as well as AIS affiliates from any expectation of confidentiality for the undersigned minor children and myself and attest that I am the parent or legal guardian of the children listed below and that I have the authority to authorize AIS Region 17 to use their photographs and names.

I acknowledge that since participation in publications produced by AIS Region 17 confers no rights of ownership whatsoever. I release the AIS Region 17 from liability for any claims by me or any third party in connection with my participation or the participation of the undersigned minor children.

Print Name of Parent or Legal Guardian _____
Signature _____ Date _____
Street Address _____ City-State-Zip _____
Phone _____ E-mail _____

Names and Ages of Minor Children:

Name _____ Age _____
Name _____ Age _____
Name _____ Age _____
Name _____ Age _____



Calling All Local Clubs

Raizin' Region Baskets

Hello to all the Iris Societies in Texas! *Thank you all so much for your unique, lovely and delicious items for our 2015 Region 17 Basket!!* It was amazing and raised \$400 for AIS! Most AIS Regions in the USA donated a special basket to the AIS Silent Auction. Again we are asking for your donations and want the Texas basket to be another unique bragging basket from all across the enormous beautiful state. Please send items made in your area or that show what a special place your city is. Also send any iris related items or things that any iris gardener would like. We hope to have our Texas Hybridizers donate iris coupons again for our great contribution. Send your items as soon as you can to: Debbie Strauss 2213 Hereford Blvd Midland TX 79707.





REGION 17 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Peggy Cathey, Membership Chair

In August, 2014, Region 17 had 323 members, making us the 4th largest region in AIS. Since the beginning of 2015, we have moved up in rank to 3rd place and were even 2nd place during March and April. We now have 354 members and are holding on to our 3rd place rank.

As Region 17 Membership Chair, it has been my duty to send out renewal notices to all our members whose membership is about to expire. In the past year, I have mailed 129 renewal letters. This past April, I started mailing additional letters to anyone who was about to be dropped. From those 18 “last chance” letters, 7 have renewed. For the year, we have had 140 renewals, 15 members reinstated, **47 NEW members** and 21 members dropped. Also, in 2015, we gained a new affiliation the **East Texas Iris Society** making 15 Region 17 affiliates.

As announced in the latest AIS Irises magazine, the cost of membership went up as of October 1, making a single annual membership \$30 instead of \$25. This now makes it even more economical to join as a triannual member. To become a member go to the AIS website http://irises.org/About_AIS/Membership_Info/AIS_Membership.html and you can easily pay your dues using PayPal.

I would like to recognize some of our members who have been AIS members for more than 40 years. They are:

- Alton Pyburn** of Sweetwater has been an AIS member since 1974 – 41 years
- Mitchell Whitley** of Waco has been a member since 1973 – 42 years
- Hazel Haik** of Waco has been a member since 1972 – 43 years
- Hooker Nichols** of Dallas holds a life membership & has been a member since 1968 – 47 years
- Ramona Howard** of Lubbock holds a life membership & has been a member since 1966 – 49 years
- Mrs. Dean Miller** of Iowa Park has been a member since 1965 – 50 years
- Mrs. Vernon Keesee** of Lubbock holds a life membership & has been a member since 1963 – 52 years.

Waco Iris Society Club Report

By Peggy Cathey



Club president, Glenn Huddleston asked me to make the club report for him. Glenn lost his wife of 51 years just last month. We are all grieving over the sudden death of Gloria Huddleston on July 28, 2015.

Several members have spent time in the hospital, and our Show Chair, Ken Anderson, lost his brother the day before our show. The club came together to help and we had a very nice show with 125 entries and 12 exhibitors. Peggy and Dan Cathey received Queen of Show honors with **Amakiki**. They also won 6 section ribbons and 5 color class ribbons as well as the silver medal and sweepstakes. Other winners were Michael Lowe with 1 section and 6 color class ribbons along with the bronze medal. Mitchell Whitley had 5 color class wins and Dolores Avram got her first head table wins with 1 Section and 3 color class ribbons. Also making it to the head





table were Jean Richardson and our youth member, Yebsera Pachelli. Peggy Cathey won Best Artistic Design and the Design Sweepstakes.

Our Fall Sale was quite successful and was a sellout. The key to our success is always having the sale in the same place – Green-Life Nursery, and always the same time – last Saturday of September. We try to provide photos of every iris we offer for sale. We have started selling potted irises at our iris shows and those are always sellouts.

We got one new member at our Fall Sale and 5 at our Iris Show. We are very excited to have these new members. Sadly, our only youth member has moved to Spokane, WA, but plans to stay involved with a local club there.

We have had some great programs this past year from Rodney Barton on Species Irises, Al Elliott on Our Infatuation with Iris and Bonnie Nichols on Novelty Irises to name a few.

All officers from last year have agreed to serve another year. Waco Iris Society meets the 3rd Saturday of September, November, January, and March. Our Show is the 2nd Saturday of April and our “End of Year” luncheon is held the 3rd Saturday of May. We take the summer off. Meetings begin at 10:00 a.m. at the West



Waco Library unless otherwise noted in our newsletter. We currently have 30 members. Our website is:

http://www.kenfuchs42.net/waco_index.html. Please “Like” is on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/WacoIrisSociety?ref=bookmarks>



Johnson County Iris & Daylily Society Club Report By Peggy Cathey

This past year has been trying. We have had several members in the hospital and we are all still in shock over the sudden loss of one of our dear members and friend, Gloria Huddleston, on July 28, 2015.

In the past year we have added 15 new members including 1



new youth member. It is nice to see so many of our new members getting involved. So many times they pay their membership dues and we never see them again.

This past April, JCI&DS sponsored an AIS Judges Training on Point Scoring Irises in the Garden at Winston Patrick McGregor Park which was a Convention tour garden in 2013. We then moved into the McGregor House for a mock iris show and learned Point Scoring for the Show Bench. Afterwards, there was a mini clinic on how to prepare an artistic design.

We had 3 very successful plant sales this year. We sell lots of potted irises during our Spring Iris Show and irises are also offered for sale during our June Daylily Show. Our big plant sale and fund raiser is always the 2nd Saturday of September. The sale is held indoors at the Cleburne Cultural Arts Complex. Everyone loves the new venue, especially the A/C. We have 2 Iris Gardens planted at the Complex. One is a Children's Garden planted by our youth members in 2012. In 2013, The Huddleston's and Cathey's planted another iris garden along the entry walk to the building. We dedicated the garden as the Gloria Huddleston Memorial Iris Garden in a ceremony Friday evening before the Saturday Sale with Glenn Huddleston placing the memorial plaque. A Planting of Gloriafied Glenn was planted next to the plaque. The following quote was read at the dedication ceremony because it best describes Gloria. Many people enter our lives just for a little while, others Pause and Plant Flowers in our Hearts that Continue to Bloom Forever.



The following quote was read at the dedication ceremony because it best describes Gloria. Many people enter our lives just for a little while, others Pause and Plant Flowers in our Hearts that Continue to Bloom Forever.



We had a great Iris Show in April. Sixteen exhibitors



entered 125 exhibits. Tom Burseen's space age iris Inky Icon, exhibited by Peggy & Dan Cathey, won Best of Show. The Cathey's also received the silver medal and Sweepstakes award. Other members who had exhibits on the head table were Vicki and Ricky Howard with 3, plus the Bronze Medal, Mary Keeth (4), Gailmae and Wayne Suite (2), Randy Thomas (1), Anita and Bill Goodale (1) and Janet and Brian Goodman (1). Three young irisarians entered the Youth Division and 5 year old Jacky Howard won Youth Best of Show with Rustler, which also got 1st runner-up overall, Best TB, and Best Brown. Jacky also won Best Artistic Design in the Youth Division.

JCI&DS meets every month on the 2nd Saturday at the United Services Cooperative in Cleburne. Meetings begin at 10:00 in the morning. We start at Noon with a Pot Luck luncheon in July and December. Each month we have some kind of program. We play Bingo for plants, have an annual iris and daylily giveaway to qualifying members along with an exchange and auction and we have interesting speakers. There is always lots of great food on the refreshment tables.

New officers were installed at the July meeting. They are:

- President-Peggy Cathey
- 1st VP (Programs)- Janet Goodman
- 2nd VP (Membership)-Anita Goodale
- 3rd VP (Show)-Bill Calhoon
- Secretary – Vicki Howard
- Treasurer – Dan Cathey



JCI&DS currently has 55 members. We publish a monthly newsletter that can be found on our website <http://cleburnearea.com/irisdaylily/> and can also be found on our Facebook page. Please "Like" us on Facebook [https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/johnsoncountyirisanddaylilysociety?ref=bookmarks)



TEXOMA RAINBOW IRIS SOCIETY

JANICE THOMPSON – President
2952 Luella Road Sherman, Tx 75090
Ph. 903-327-5101 ciris03@yahoo.com
1st VP (Programs) – Judy Schneider
2nd VP (Membership) – Maguerite Ballard
3rd VP (Show) – Dell Perry

Meetings are held on the 4th Sunday of the month at Grandys, 3201 Texoma Parkway in Sherman. We meet at 1 pm to enjoy food and talk. The business meeting starts at 2 pm with the exception of April, June, July and November. We have a picnic in May, an ice cream social in July, a Christmas Party in December. There is also a spring show and at least one sale in the fall.

TRIS has had an increase in membership the past couple years and we are putting FUN back into our Club. There are now 20 members. At the regular meetings we have educational programs, group question/answer sessions, and speakers. We had a sale in Denison on the 3rd of October at the Denison Fall Festival.

There is a monthly newsletter – contact: Dell Perry at seandelirises@yahoo.com
And visit our Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/texomarainbowirissociety>



BENSON IRIS SOCIETY REPORT

Mary Rhoads – President
16012 FM 1954, Wichita Falls, TX 76310
Mary.rhoads1948@gmail.com

The Benson Iris Society meets four times a year in the months of January, March, June and November the first Saturday of that month. We have a noon luncheon and meeting, and time permitting we will have an educational program. Lots of door prizes are a custom. At our November meeting, Karen Lawler will give a report and photo show of her trip to the AIS national convention in Oregon. Our iris show is generally the last weekend in April.

Our rhizome sales were in July at the Farmer's Market Downtown Wichita Falls, and we had a great turnout. We lost one of our dear members last year, and her husband donated hundreds of their iris for our sale. Members went to his farm several times and dug many good irises. A memorial donation was sent to AIS in Peggy Shepherd's name.

We also have our Vice President Annetta Reusch in a rehabilitation facility near Dallas after a life-threatening illness. We are praying for her complete recovery. With several of our members out of commission this year, we only had seven exhibitors at our show, but still had 72 horticulture entries.

We have gained four new members this year and they all seem very excited about iris. That brings our total membership to 20, including one youth.





2015 Historian Report by Jim Landers

As I say every year, the historian collects papers and stuff about iris activities in the Region. So send me your newsletters, Yearbooks, Show Schedules, Show Results. Anything iris related.

2015 Show Report:

11 Shows, 148 Exhibitors, 1099 Entries

Largest show and most exhibitors was Austin with 156 entries by 21 exhibitors.

Special Winners

Winning Four Top Awards :

Dan and Peggy Cathey – Two Best of Show, Two Silver Medals
Dell Perry – One Best of Show, Two Silver Medals & One Bronze Medal

Winning Two Top Awards:

One Best of Show & One Silver Medal: Dawn Boyer, Pat Jones,
Peggy Wennerlind

One Silver Medal and One Bronze Medal: Jaime Hadley

Two Bronze Medals: Debra Strauss

This year with 11 shows there were about 25 persons winning the top show awards.

First Time Winners:

This year there were 8 people winning a top award for the first time.

Four winning Best of Show were:

Ellen Singleton in Austin
D Boyle in Belton
Terry Troutz in Fort Worth
Craig Edwards in Lubbock

And four winning a Bronze Award were:

Vicki and Ricky Howard in Cleburne
Janet Jemelka in Fort Worth
Woody Keas in Van Alstyne

Region 17 Trivia:

Bill Pittman, from Amarillo, entered the Lubbock Show & won the Bronze Award.

Pam Lamb, from Lubbock, entered the Amarillo Show & won the Bronze Award.

In 2005 there were 15 shows in Region 17 with 202 exhibitors & 1618 entries.

In 2005 and 2015 Dawn Boyer & Pat Jones both won Best of Show.

In 2005 and 2015 Don and Pat Freeman, Dan and Peggy Cathey, Pat Jones, Dawn Boyer, and Hooker and Bonnie Nichols all won either Silver or Bronze Awards.

In 2005 and 2015 Dawn Boyer, Pat Freeman, Debra Strauss won top Design Awards.

In 2005 Debbie Strauss' daughter Stephanie won Youth Awards. In 2015 her grandson Aiden won Youth Awards.



2015 Show Reports

Location	Best of Show	Entered By
Amarillo	Heart of Africa	Dawn Boyer
Austin	Al's Gal	Ellen Singleton
Belton	Devil David	D Boyle
Cleburne	Inky Icon	Peggy & Dan Cathey
Dallas	Watermelon Wizard (LA)	Pat Norvell
Fort Worth	Tuscan Summer	Terry Troutz
Lubbock	Drama Queen	Craig Edwards
Midland	Murano Amber	Pat Jones
Odessa	Glorified Glenn	Peggy Wennerlind
Van Alstyne	Rodeo Blue (SPU)	Dell Perry
Waco	Amakiki	Peggy & Dan Cathey

Location	Silver Award	Bronze Award
Amarillo	Dawn Boyer	Pam Lamb
Austin	Don & Pat Freeman	Jaime Hadley
Belton	Jaime Hadley	Gary Whitis
Cleburne	Peggy & Dan Cathey	Vicki & Ricky Howard
Dallas	Hooker & Bonnie Nichols	Dell Perry
Fort Worth	Dell Perry	Janet Jemelka
Lubbock	Mary Wilber	Bill Pittman
Midland	Peggy Wennerlind	Debra Strauss
Odessa	Pat Jones	Debra Strauss
Van Alstyne	Dell Perry	Woody Keas
Waco	Peggy & Dan Cathey	Michael Lowe

Location	Exhibitors	Entries
Amarillo	16	106
Austin	21	156
Belton	16	116
Cleburne	13	104



AIS Region 17
2015 Nominating Committee Report
10/29/2015

The following list contains the nominees for the Region 17 slate of officers prepared by the nominating committee comprised of: Committee Chair, Gordon Carver (past RVP), Ramona Howard, Jim Landers, Vicki Howard and Bonnie Nichols.

RVP	Peggy Cathey 1115 HCR 1414 Covington TX 76636 254-854-2558 natvtxn1@windstream.net
Assistant RVP	Bonnie Nichols 3365 Northaven Rd Dallas TX 75229-2545 214-352-2191 bjnhtn@aol.com
Treasurer	Connie Ford 17391 Mary Martin Dr Flint TX 75762-9626 432-413-9978 conniecoo60@yahoo.com
Secretary	Jerrie Cage 2522 County Rd 622 Hamilton TX 76531 972-624-8501 jerriecage@gmail.com

As per the Region 17 Bylaws: Additional nominations may be made by petition of the general AIS membership. Any forty (40) AIS members, of who not more than fifteen (15) may be located in any one area, may submit a petition nominating one or more consenting candidates whose names with those submitted by the nominating committee shall be included in a ballot. These petitions must be received by the RVP on or before **July 1, (2016)** preceding the election. Officers shall be elected after the names submitted by the nominating committee and by petition have been submitted to the Regional AIS Membership. Ballots shall be published in the Fall Newsletter or otherwise distributed to the membership during August. Ballots must be returned as directed on or before September 15. If only one nominee is received for each office, no election shall be held, and the nominees will be declared duly elected. In the case of the RVP, the selected nominee will be recommended to the AIS Board of Directors for approval and appointment.



NOVELTY IRIS SOCIETY

Announcement – June 2015

In Portland, Oregon, at the American Iris Society convention last month, the Board of Directors of the AIS unanimously approved the Novelty Iris Society (the “Society”) as a section of the AIS. Prior to AIS approval, the Society was

incorporated as a domestic non-profit corporation and received its EIN from the IRS. At the Novelty Iris Society meeting held May 22, 2015, bylaws were approved as published in the April 2015 Society newsletter. Officers and three of the directors of the Society were also approved.



The officers approved include:

- President - Bonnie J Nichols** bjnhn@aol.com
- Vice President - Don Rude** don.rude@comcast.net
- Secretary - Shirley Trio-Probst** shirleytrio@gmail.com
- Treasurer - Debra Bilberry** treasurersnoveltyiris@yahoo.com
- Vicki Howard - Historian** vickihoward70@yahoo.com
- Kathy Wade** - Newsletter Editor. nisnewsletter@yahoo.com

Directors approved were:

- Northwest (Regions 11, 12, 13, 20)**
Steve Spreight smspeights@q.com
- Southwest (Regions 14, 15, 23)**
Riley Probst rprobst02@earthlink.net
- South Central (Regions, 10, 17, 18, 22)**
Mary Ellen Reed mereed@drs-rsta.com

Directors for the following regions will be open until the next general membership meeting:

- Northeast (Regions 1, 2, 3)**
- Southeast (Regions 4, 5, 7, 24)**
- North Central (Regions 6, 8, 9, 21)**

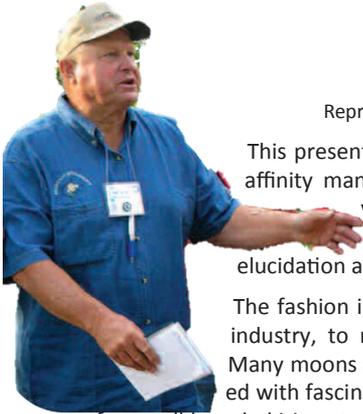
Note: Persons interested in more information about the role of a director for The Novelty Iris Society can contact Bonnie J Nichols at bjnhn@aol.com.

One committee chairman was approved at the meeting. **Don Rude** will chair the committee to review and recommend updates to the AIS Judges Training program. Other committees under consideration include:

- Display gardens
- Photography
- Fund Raisers
- Logo
- Electronic communications (website and Facebook)

Our first fundraiser was a live auction during our Society meeting. A big thanks to **Cheryl Deaton** and **Hooker Nichols** for donating space-age and flattie irises for our fundraiser. For more info and to join contact Debra Bilberry: treasurersnoveltyiris@yahoo.com .





Let's Have Fun

By Tom Burseen

Reprinted from Novelty Iris Society Fall 2015 Newsletter

This presentation is basically for plausible explanations for the affinity many iris folks maintain for novelty to be irises. The very nature of human beings craves anything that is new and different. Could such tendencies be an elucidation and explication for fondness of different irises also?

The fashion industry and the automotive industry and even the industry, to name a couple, are founded by such hankering. Many moons ago the author of this "this essay became infatuated with fascinations of what one may get when one places pollen of one tall bearded iris onto the stigma of another tall bearded iris. Yes, I know, one "gets" seed pods? But....what kind of plants and flowers emerge from those seeds when they germinate and make plants? One never really knows for sure! The curiosity of it all became a life-long commitment to hybridizing tall bearded irises. "Curiosity" in this context is nothing more than a hankering for something different and such "hankering" became so preoccupied that unusual and uncommon crosses are conjured up to emanate flowers that are unconventional,, if not strange, if not startling. What this signifies is the person who wrote this article fancies different looking irises as much as anyone!

The explanation and justification for this particular person's affinity for different looking irises is derived from the fact he is a left brain action oriented investigator. But this deduction cannot explain why all persons who adore novelty irises hanker after 'em. There just cannot be that many left brain action oriented investigators out there!

Can vanity be a motive for desires to own different and unique (novel) irises. Such a notion definitely impels the fashion and automobile industries! "Look what I am wearing" and "did you see what I am driving"! Maybe the desire to own (grow) irises that few other folks grow can cause folks to purchase novel irises?

Another hypothesis for "love affairs" with (for) novelty irises may stem from the inherent and innate characteristics most Homo sapiens possess to be wanted and accepted. Folks just want to/need to be like what societies dictate and expect. As different and unique irises become more and more popular and accepted, maybe folks just "want to be like the Joneses" and grow novelty irises? Such rationale just has to be the only logical reason so many male Homo sapiens nowadays don't care to shave.

Trying to ascertain "what makes individuals tick" can be challenging even for professional psychologists, so let's just conclude that many iris folks want irises that have "undergone a sudden variation in some inheritable characteristic as distinguished from a variation resulting from generations of gradual change:, for "whatever reasons". The description above is a definition of a mutation by Webster's and indeed, most novelty irises are mutants. Irises can evolve but most novelty have undergone sudden changes either by chance or as planned by hybridizers. Too often desirable attributes "go by the wayside". What makes a novelty a novelty are changes in color and/or form. Do iris folks acquire novelty (mutated) irises to win awards and ribbons at shows? Naught!! Are novelty irises sought after to create colorful displays in gardens? Not in the least! Are novelty irises popular because they are outstanding performers (good growth,

good bloom habits, etc.)? Nil!! Do novelty irises present modern flowers with ruffles, substance, lace, width and fullness? Are you kidding!! Just what do folks realize from novelty irises? Different color and color patterns, appendages protruding from beards, flat petals, six falls and no standards, and none of the attributes mentioned above! These lost (uninherited) attributes prevent many (most) novelty iris from accolades. This lack of acceptance does nothing to encourage iris hybridizers to breed, much less introduce strange and different irises and indeed few make crosses on purpose to create such irises.

The iris hybridizer who created iris dissertation is one of the handful of hybridizers who does pursue irises that “march to the beat of their own drummer”. He is not known as the “Mad Scientist” for no reason at all! His breeding program is geared to CREATE mutations. It wasn’t that long ago this wasn’t the case. He is very much aware and needful of what is acceptable by the American Iris Society, and it’s judges. Such cognizance and mindfulness explains why for many years “different seedlings” weren’t even saved. In retrospect, considering the popularity nowadays of novelty irises it is regretful such seedlings were not bred either.

Most iris hybridizers are even more attentive to the contents and principles defined by the American Iris Society’s Judge’s Handbook because they want to be recognized and bestowed awards for their endeavors and creations. One of the most renowned iris hybridizers today, who has multiple Dykes medals in his trophy cabinet, once said a really different seedling that showed up in his seedling patch would never be introduced because it lacked good branching and acceptable bud counts. He went on to say he was working to add better characteristics to this seedling in future generations while trying to maintain the distinguishing coloring and pattern. What happens to such coloring and pattern if such a goal is never realized? Can one say: “Gone Forever”? Yours truly was downtrodden because the genes of such a breakthrough could never be incorporated into his breeding program thinking: “Gawlee, I sure would like to purchase a plant of that turkey!” One could imagine folks who like different flowers in their gardens would like to have such a plant too, even with its flaws and imperfections. That hybridizer’s deportment cannot be scrutinized and chastised thought because such disposition could be responsible for all those Dykes Medals. So be it!

But consideration and affrication must be given to hybridizers like Lloyd Austin who took seedlings that had appendages attached to their beards and introduced them, and Monty Byers who took those type of plants and made them popular in the 80’s and 90’s and Alan Ensminger who took flowers that were splashed and splotched dark colors and provided them to the world of irises beginning what are called color breakers, and Brad Kasperek who nowadays takes these type of flowers to another level and makes them fun with his zoological nomenclature.



Speaking of “fun”, while awards can be serious (and controversial) “business”, a very good reason novel irises are so popular nowadays is because they are FUN, so much fun and so popular there is now a society for novelties. The acceptance of this neophyte society by the American Iris Society could very well indicate the AIS is no longer just all about awards. Maybe, just maybe the AIS wants to have fun also?!?



JUST A LITTLE REMINDER...

A fantastic event will occur on May 23-28 in Newark, New Jersey. It is the 2016 National AIS Convention! The Silent Auction needs you to help us be as unique as the gardens will be! We need your contributions for a wonderful silent auction.



EVERYONE please send us treasures of any kind!

HYBRIDIZERS please send iris donations! We love you all and thank you in advance for your generosity!

Mark the outside of your box—

2016 AIS CONVENTION SILENT AUCTION DONATION

Mail your donations either FedEx or UPS (please don't use USPS due to problems receiving mail) to:

Presby Memorial Iris Gardens
% Nancy Skjei-Lawes
474 Upper Mountain Avenue
Montclair NJ 07043

For more info or questions contact: Nick Stewart at nicolstew7@yahoo.com and Debbie Strauss (new email address) debbie@loveirises.com



...OR TWO

Hey there all Region 17 Iris Societies! A little reminder for you too! Now is the time to ask your members for Texasy items unique to their area for our "Raisin' Region 17 Basket" for the 2016 AIS Silent Auction. The Region baskets are a real treat for the attendees at the AIS Convention. AIS really appreciates the hard work and dedication that it takes as a Region get this basket all together for the silent auction. Our R17 basket has always been the biggest and the bestest!! And it brings in the most bids and money! Thanks to all the local iris societies who donate unique and exciting items. Everyone enjoys perusing the contents and learning about our part of this great country. Debbie and her husband Dale, will be driving to New Jersey, so start sending those non-perishable items to Debbie Strauss our Newsletter Chair now. Then when it gets closer to May 2016 you can send the more perishable items! Be sure to put a note inside the box and let Debbie know what you are sending. Also please email debbie@loveirises.com pictures of affiliates or local attractions or iris gardens for the beautiful posters **AIS makes** to display behind our basket.



A WONDERFUL EXCITING OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUR LOCAL IRIS CLUB!



CALLING ALL AIS AFFILIATES!

DON'T WAIT! Here is a great opportunity to help MIS and your club! It is an interesting way to receive two exotic 2016, Paul Black, median iris introductions! Who knows what they will be, but you can't go wrong with anything that Paul introduces. Your club can use them as door prizes, in raffles, iris auctions, awards, sales or anything else they would like! HOW? Well, make a \$100.00 donation to the Median Iris Society **by June 1, 2016** your club will receive from Paul, **TWO 2016 MEDIAN IRIS** (postage free). Send your \$100 donation, along with your affiliate name and address (where to send the iris) to Debra Strauss, 2213 Hereford Blvd Midland TX 79707 by **June 1, 2016**. For more info please email debbie@loveirises.com today. Remember MIS is having a **Mini Convention May 18-20** in Lafayette, Indiana right before the National AIS Convention May 23-27 in Iowa. We hope to be graced with your attendance at the **Median Iris Rule Supreme convention in 2017!**



GOING EAST IN 2016

THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY CONVENTION
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY — MAY 23-28, 2016

FULL REGISTRATION INCLUDES:

- * Bus transportation to the gardens.
- * Lunch on garden tours.
- * Dinner - Welcome Reception and Awards Banquet.
- * Convention bag and book.
- * Register by Feb 1, 2016, for discounted full registration rate of \$299.00
- * From Feb 1, 2016, through April 30, 2016, full registration rate is \$310.00
- * After April 30, 2016, full registration is \$325.00
- * Youth registration is \$150
- * Details and motel information go to <http://ais2016convention.com/>



Texas Commercial Iris Gardens



Hillcrest Iris Gardens

3365 Northaven Road Dallas TX 75229 214-352-2191
bjnhtn@aol.com www.hillcrestiris.com

Bonnie and Hooker Nichols hybridize many outstanding iris and introduce exceptional new iris every year. Louisiana, Spuria, and Bonnie's space age rebloomers along with miniature tall bearded grace a garden location that is spaced out so visitors have a chance to walk among the plants with ample space between the rows. Each row being over 200 feet long gives each person quite a workout when viewing the plantings. The Mesquite large garden has over 5,000 irises and over 1,000 new irises grow in the home garden at 3365 Northaven Road in Dallas. A journey to far northwest Dallas will find the home garden. The beautifully landscaped garden uses most of the lot to grow over 1,200 bearded and beardless irises, daylilies, roses, and various other types of flowers. Here you can evaluate the reselected Louisiana seedlings hybridized by Hooker Nichols. Through tried and true growing methods, the Nichols' have successfully bloomed nearly 100% of their annual Louisiana seedling crop.



Seandel Iris Gardens

800 Purcell Drive Plano TX 75025 972-816-3418
seandelirises@yahoo.com

Dell and Seann are growing a variety of interesting iris at their home in Plano. They started Seandel Iris Gardens in the early 1990's. Dell has over 1000 varieties growing on her corner city lot including tall bearded, border bearded, intermediate bearded, standard dwarf bearded, spuria, Louisiana, species, and aril and arilbred irises. Seandel Iris Gardens is an Aril Society International display garden for aril and arilbred irises." irises Her love for irises started in Connecticut, when at age 6, she saw some cast-offs growing along a stream, dug them up and took them home. She is currently a member of three local iris societies, an AIS judge, and is the Region 17 Judges training Chairperson.

Burseen Iris Garden

1513 Ernie Lane Grand Prairie TX 75052

Tom Burseen, is a Vietnam War veteran and hybridizer of tall bearded irises at The Laboratory in Grand Prairie. He has 33 years of experience in hybridizing Tall Bearded Iris. "Tom is deaf, so he no longer uses a phone. Please correspond with him in writing. T.B.'s Place has lots of Tall Bearded iris. So does "T.B." stand for "Tall Bearded" or "Tom Burseen"? Well, whatever, each year Tom has many new introductions of his own fancy hybrids. T.B.'s catalog shows pictures of his new introductions. His catalog also has many other recent introductions.



If anyone knows of other iris gardens that sell to the public, please give me the information and I will include it here for all our iris lovers!