



Texas Commercial Iris Gardens



Hillcrest Iris Gardens

3365 Northaven Road Dallas TX 75229 214-352-2191
bjnhn@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, day-lilies, 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. Hillcrest Gardens will be selling Tom Burseen's introductions and more. Check out their web site today.



Seandel Iris Gardens

800 Purcell Drive Plano TX 75025 972-816-3418
seandelirises@yahoo.com
<https://www.facebook.com/Seandel-Iris-Gardens>

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. Over 1500 varieties are growing on their corner city lot including tall bearded, border bearded, intermediate bearded, miniature tall bearded, miniature and standard dwarf bearded, spuria, Louisiana, Japanese,, species, aril and arilbred irises. Seandel Iris Gardens is a display garden for the Aril Society International and the Median Iris Society. Dell is currently a member of three local iris societies, an AIS judge, and editor of the AIS Region 17 Newsletter. Color emailed catalog in PDF format available upon request. Catalog and photos on Facebook page. Paypal accepted.

The Shady Spot

Judy Schneider 1778 CR 107 Whitesboro TX 76273
jlkapps@hotmail.com www.theshadyspotiris.com
<https://www.facebook.com/theshadyspot/>



The Shady Spot is the result of a lifelong passion for gardening, flowers and animals. We are a small Texas farm located about an hour north of the Dallas/Fort Worth metro area focused primarily on raising irises of many classes. We moved to this location in 2008 and have been designing, building, digging and planting ever since. Now the iris collection features nearly 3,000 varieties from the newest introductions to many old historic varieties, including many rarities. Our iris varieties are interspersed in beds planted with shrubs, perennials and annuals that are drought tolerant and Texas tough. We are proud to be a Display Garden for both the Tall Bearded Iris Society and the Historic Iris Preservation Society. Each year we typically add several hundred different varieties so the scenery is always changing! The Shady Spot will be selling Tom Burseen's introductions and more. Check out their web site today.

The garden is open to visitors during the iris bloom season, typically between April and mid May, or any other time of the year by appointment. Please phone 940-594-5557 for a visit.

Are you a R17 commercial garden? Send Dell a write-up and it will be added to this list.

The American Iris Society

Region 17



Spring 2018 Newsletter

This is YOUR Newsletter

Without Your Contributions,
There Is **Nothing** To Print.



Anyone can write something that can be included in OUR newsletter.

- Are you or your club working on any special projects?
- Have you attended a meeting and learned something you want to share with other iris lovers?
- Do you want to ask questions about problems in your garden?
- Are there irises you are looking for but can't find?
- Do you want to brag about your club, region or garden?
- Did you take photos of a guest speaker, your show, your sale, a judges training you sponsored? Send them.

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, please write it up and send it in. 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. PDF files must be retyped as they do not copy into Publisher, which is the program used for the newsletter.

The deadline for the Fall Edition is September 15.

Send articles and photos to your Editor at seandelirises@yahoo.com
You will never know how difficult it is to do a newsletter if you haven't worked on one, so please get your info sent in as early as you can!

There are some informational items needed each year from each club in Texas.:

- Name, Address, Phone # and email of local club Presidents. When new officers take office, please send this info to me.
- Each clubs' show and sale dates, locations, & contact information. These can be submitted Fall or Spring.

Also needed:

- Activity report from all the club presidents, region officers & chairs. These are needed for the Fall issue.
- Articles about anything iris, gardening or club related. Welcome for both Fall and Spring issues.

I'm not a hounder. If you want your information in the newsletter, get it to me by the deadline. I will not pester you to get it.

START WRITING.... IT IS FUN TO SEE YOUR NAME IN PRINT

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Region 17 Officers & Chairs

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Treasurer—Connie Ford	17391 Mary Martin Dr. Flint TX 75762 903-571-0777 conniecoo60@yahoo.com
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Membership—Bill Pittman	4211 S Washington Amarillo TX 79110 806-679-7351 bpit@suddenlink.net
Newsletter—Dell Perry	800 Purcell Dr. Plano, TX 75025 972-816-3418 seandelirises@yahoo.com
Historian—Jim Landers	710 N 11 th Temple, TX 76501-3016 254-773-5017 jimlanders43@hotmail.com
Web Page—Jaime Hadley	PO Box 143417 Austin, TX 78714-3417 512-731-4621 Jaime@hadleyspace.com
Past RVP—Parliamentarian Dawn Boyer	1900 Daws Dr. Amarillo, TX 79124 806-881-9775 dawn.boyer@yahoo.com



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

Newsletter Submission Deadline: Spring—February 15
Fall —September 15

AIS Region 17 Texas Local Affiliates

Belton (BIS)	Karen Woods – President 3306 E Munroe Ave. Temple, TX 76501 254-217-1750 gemhem@gmail.com
Benson (BIS)	Mary Rhoads – President 16012 FM 1954 Wichita Falls, TX 76310 Mary.rhoads1948@gmail.com
East Texas (ETIS)	Connie Ford – President 17391 Mary Martin Dr. Flint, TX 75762 903-571-0777 conniecoo60@yahoo.com
Fort Worth (FWIS)	Happy Carver – President 448 Azle Hwy Weatherford, TX 76085 817-946-8473 gcarver@flash.net
IS Of Austin (ISA)	Donna Little – President 1005 Shinnecock Hills Dr Georgetown TX 78628 512-869-0683 donna@littleshouse.net
IS Of Dallas (ISD)	Hooker Nichols – President 3365 Northaven Rd Dallas TX 75229 214-352-2191 bjhhtn@aol.com
Johnson Co Iris-Daylily (JCIDS)	Vicki Howard – President 3912 CR 1205 Cleburne, TX 76031 817-933-1057 vickihoward70@yahoo.com
Lone Star (LSIS)	Laura Smargiasso – President 4168 Saint Leger Dr. Cleburne, TX 76033 817-846-5359 smarg1@aol.com
North Plains (NPIS)	Dawn Boyer – President 1900 Daws Dr Amarillo TX 79124 806-881-9775 dawn.boyer@yahoo.com
Permian Basin (PBIS)	Debbie Strauss - President 2213 Hereford Blvd Midland TX 79707 432-352-5483 debbie@loveirises.com
Piney Woods (PWIS)	Jeana Christian – President 941 CR 1233 Omaha TX 75571 jeanachristian@yahoo.com
South Plains (SPIS)	Ramona Howard – President 3604 43 rd St Lubbock TX 79413 806-792-1878 rhoward3604@sbcglobal.net
Texoma Rainbow (TRIS)	Dell Perry – President 800 Purcell Dr. Plano, TX 75025 972-816-3418 seandelirises@yahoo.com
Waco (WIS)	Dan Cathey – President 1115 HCR 1414 Covington TX 76636 254-854-2558 wacoiriss@gmail.com
West Texas (WTIS)	Marie Pate – President 4709 Knights Place Midland TX 79705 432-553-5302 mpate4709@gmail.com

2018 Scheduled Iris Shows

- April 7, 2018** Iris Society of Dallas Holy Cross Lutheran Church
11425 Marsh Ln Dallas, TX
Fort Worth Iris Society FW Botanic Garden Center
Waco Iris Society "Iris and Childhood Memories"
La Quinta Inn & Suites, Waco
- April 14, 2018** East Texas Iris Society "Iris in Wonderland"
Tyler Rose Garden Center.
Benson Iris Society Trinity United Methodist Church
5800 SW Parkway Wichita Falls
- April 15, 2018** West Texas Iris Society "Iris Celebration"
Midland Park Mall Midland, TX
- April 21, 2018** Belton Iris Society
Iris Society of Dallas Holy Cross Lutheran Church
11425 Marsh Ln Dallas, TX
Johnson County Iris and Daylily Soc.– "The World's Fair of Irises"
Permian Basin Iris Society "Iris Timeline"
Music City Mall Odessa, TX
Texoma Rainbow Iris Society "Iris Melodies"
Sherman Senior Center
- April 22, 2018** Lone Star Iris Society "Hats Off To Irises"
Hico High School
901 Cedar St Hico, TX
- April 28, 2018** South Plains Iris Society Gardens and Arts Center
Lubbock, TX
- April 29, 2018** North Plains Iris Society "America the Beautiful
Through Irises"

The Iris Society of Austin has decided not to have a show in 2018 so that we can all go enjoy New Orleans and/or Las Cruces.

If you want your show listed in the Fall Newsletter, submit your information to the Newsletter Editor before SEPT. 15th.



2018 Scheduled Iris Sales

- March 10, 2018** Iris Society of Austin Zilker Botanical Garden
9am-2pm
- March 12, 2018** Lone Star Iris Society Potted iris
St. John's Lutheran Church
Hamilton, TX 9am-3 pm
- April** Piney Woods Iris Society
April 7, 2018 Iris Society of Dallas Potted bearded iris 1-4 pm
Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Fort Worth Iris Society Potted iris 9-am-4pm
FW Botanic Garden Center
Waco Iris Society Potted iris 1-4 pm
La Quinta Inn & Suites, Waco
- April 14, 2018** Benson Iris Society Potted iris
Trinity United Methodist Church
East Texas Iris Society Potted iris
Tyler Rose Garden Center
- April 21, 2018** Iris Society of Dallas Potted beardless iris 1-4 pm
Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Texoma Rainbow Iris Society Potted bearded iris
Sherman Senior Center 1-4 pm
- Aug 18, 2018** Iris Society of Dallas Holy Cross Lutheran Church
9am until sold out or noon
- Sept 1, 2018** Lone Star Iris Society
Sept 8, 2018 Johnson County Iris and Daylily Society 9am-2pm
JN Long Cultural Arts, Annex
Iris Society of Austin Norris Conference Ctr, 9am-3pm
- Sept 15, 2018** East Texas Iris Society Athens Farmers' Market
Iris Society of Dallas Holy Cross Lutheran Church
9am until sold out or noon
- Sept 22, 2018** Permian Basin Iris Society Music City Mall
Sept 29, 2018 East Texas Iris Society Athens Farmers' Market
Fort Worth Iris Society FW Botanic Garden Center
8am—4pm
Waco Iris Society Green Life Nursery,
New Road, Waco 9am-2pm

If you want your Sale(s) listed in the SPRING Newsletter, submit your information to the Newsletter Editor before FEBRUARY 15th.



RVP Report

By Peggy Cathey

Happy Spring to all our Region 17 members. Winter seemed a little slow to get started here in North Central Texas, but once it got here, WOW! Weather reporters have said this has been the coldest winter we have had in over 20 years. I am always hearing that irises need a good cold spell to produce blooms. If that is correct, we should have a great bloom season. Easter is early this year, April 1, so hopefully, we will also have an early spring. I, for one, am ready for warmer weather and beautiful blooms.

As I have been helping our membership chair, Bill Pittman, with the club rosters and seeing how many of the members are also AIS members, I have been really encouraged by the hard work our 15 clubs have been putting into getting more of their club members registered with the AIS. Almost every club has shown an increase in AIS members. All of us should gladly support our Parent organization, the American Iris Society, if we are to continue to be society affiliates and affiliate members. AIS has many incentives for becoming a member and worlds of information about the different species and types of irises and their culture as well as how to become an exhibition/garden judge or how to host an iris show. All this may be found on the AIS website <http://irises.org/> and on the Iris Wiki <http://wiki.irises.org/>.

We are very happy to have the Johnson County Iris & Daylily Society agree to host this year's Region 17 Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held August 3-4 at the Hampton Inn & Suites in Cleburne, TX. More information and the registration form may be found later in this newsletter. We are limited to 64 guests, so be sure to send your registration in early. The deadline for the special group rate at the hotel is July 4th, so make those reser-

vaions now. The registration is "all inclusive", except for the hotel rooms. All meals (breakfast is included for hotel guests), meetings, and a 3 hour judges training are included with the registration fee. Please support the host club by booking your room at the host hotel and by mailing in your registration and check as soon as possible.

Region 17 must have an annual business meeting as stated in our by-laws. At present, we have no one committed to host in 2019 or beyond. Bonnie Nichols is our Region 17 Meeting Liaison and has a very informative PowerPoint program on **How to Host a Regional Meeting**. She will be more than happy to come to your club and talk to your members about this. Bonnie may be contacted at bjnhtn@aol.com or by phone at 214-676-9892. To help you get started, Region 17 will provide the host club with \$500 "seed money". In this newsletter is a list of all the clubs who have hosted a regional meeting and when. If it has been more than 8 years since your club last hosted, it is your turn. If you are a small club, talk to a near by club and join forces and resources to host a meeting. It doesn't have to be some big extravaganza, just iris people getting together for a business meeting and the ever popular Iris Auction to support the region. The Region will provide the host club with \$600 to purchase irises for the auction. We should have regional meetings booked at least 2 years in advance. It is better for the hosting club so they have more time to plan and prepare, and it is better for our members to know where the next meeting will be. Please implore your club to become more involved in our region and book this most important event.

Hope to see many of you in April at the AIS National Convention in New Orleans. If you love Louisiana Irises as I do, you are bound to see some beautiful gardens and blooms. It has been several years since I visited New Orleans and Dan and I are really looking forward to the trip.

HOSTING A REGIONAL MEETING



As Region 17 Meeting Liaison I would be happy to be invited to your Iris Society club meeting to discuss the possibility of hosting a future Region 17 meeting. I am offering to also conduct a Judges Training for members & guests of your club or an additional program while I'm there.

I have had the pleasure in 2017 to meet with several of our affiliated clubs and I look forward to more meetings in 2018. It is not too early to plan as a host for a regional meeting in 2019 or 2020. I am available by telephone, email, or in person to answer questions. I have been a part of planning for several regional meetings. Even the smallest of clubs can be very successful hosts. We come together for our love of the irises; however, we also come together to see our long-time friends and make new friends along the way.

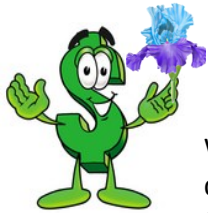
Contact me by mail, phone or email:

Bonnie J Nichols Region 17 Asst. RVP
 3365 Northaven Road
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Not sure when the last time your club hosted a Regional?

Club Name	City	#	Years Hosted
BELTON IRIS SOCIETY	Temple	3	1960, 1962, 1966
BENSON IRIS SOCIETY	Wichita Falls	3	1971, 1984, 1990
EAST TEXAS IRIS SOCIETY	Tyler	-	
FORT WORTH IRIS SOCIETY	Ft Worth	8	1961, 1965, 1972, 1980, 1987, 1998, 2005, 2013
IRIS SOCIETY OF AUSTIN	Austin	3	1996, 2004, 2012
IRIS SOCIETY OF DALLAS	Dallas	9	1959, 1963, 1968, 1981, 1993, 2000, 2006, 2015, 2017
JOHNSON COUNTY IRIS & DAYLILY SOCIETY	Cleburne	2	2011, 2018
LONE STAR IRIS SOCIETY	Hico	-	
NORTH PLAINS IRIS SOCIETY	Amarillo	5	1978, 1986, 1994, 2003, 2014
PERMIAN BASIN IRIS SOCIETY	Odessa	4	1988, 1991, 2002, 2008
PINEY WOODS IRIS SOCIETY	Mt. Pleasant	-	
SOUTH PLAINS IRIS SOCIETY	Lubbock	8	1967, 1970, 1974, 1982, 1989, 1995, 2001, 2010
TEXOMA RAINBOW IRIS SOCIETY	Sherman/ Denison	3	1985, 1997, 2007
WACO IRIS SOCIETY	Waco	5	1975, 1992, 1999, 2009, 2016
WEST TEXAS IRIS SOCIETY	Midland	4	1988, 1991, 2002, 2008
defunct	El Paso	2	1964, 1979
defunct (merged into Austin)	New Braunfels	4	1969, 1973, 1977, 1983



Region 17 AIS Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Connie Ford, Treasurer

Well folks, here we are again and I can tell we're doing pretty good with our expenses this past fall. I fully understand some of us are donating our own time and monies to help in our effort to defray major expenses and we are totally grateful. At the last regional meeting the officers met and thought it best to do better with our savings and put our 1 large and 1 smaller CD into smaller and ones with shorter terms. Thus on Aug 21, 2017 the day of the total eclipse, I ventured to Lubbock to take care of this matter. So now you will see through this report, we have accomplished our goal. Now we can see how things do with savings and with CD's and go from there. When memorials come in and not specified then we'll put them in savings for when we need them as intended.

REGION 17 AIS TREASURER'S REPORT as of Feb. 1, 2018

Savings Accounts	CD's at LNB	Savings at Chase	CD's at TSB	Notes
8/1/2017	\$15,992.12			as reported at Aug 5, 2017 Regional Meeting
8/21/2017	(\$15,966.10)			withdrawn from LNB
8/21/2017	(\$26.02)			service fee
8/22/2017		\$15,966.10		full deposit JPMorgan Chase Bank Bus.Savings
9/2017,10/2017,11/2017,12/2017		\$0.55		interest income 4 months
12/29/2017		(\$8,000.00)		withdrawal for 3 CD's deposit at Texas Security Bk
1/3/2018			\$8,000.00	TSB CDs \$2500/3mo, \$2500/6mo, \$3000/12mo
1/8/2018		\$125.00		4-2017 memorials transferred from TSB checking
1/8/2018		\$50.00		1-2018 memorial check Larsen from WTIS
1/31/2018		\$0.07		interest income
Checking Accounts				
			TSB	Notes
8/1/2017			\$3,052.40	as reported at Aug 5, 2017 Regional Meeting
8/3/2017			(\$200.00)	cash for change Regional Auction ck#1102
8/9/2017			\$200.00	cash back from Auction change
8/11/2017			\$2,379.00	credit card rhizome regional auction
8/14/2017			\$1,561.00	checks & cash from Auction rhizomes
9/11/2017			(\$37.82)	reimburse C Ford Lubbock part of trip ck#1103
10/23/2017			\$25.00	deposit Kessel memorial from FWIS
1/2/2018			(\$0.59)	ACH debit to JPMorgan Chase transfer
1/2/2018			\$0.59	ACH credit from JPMorgan Chase transfer
1/8/2018			(\$125.00)	4- 2017 memorials to savings ck#1104
1/31/2018			(\$536.54)	to Dell Perry Fall Newsletter ck#1105
Balances as of 2/1/18				
	\$8,141.72	\$8,000.00	\$6,354.58	



THE JUDGES CORNER

Al Elliott—R17 Judges Training Chair

This is my favorite time of the year. The irises are coming in bloom to show all the beauty the hybridizers could muster. The show bench is filled with all colors of the rainbow, tall bearded to medians, and horns to pom-poms.

The color of our garden is a sea of iris blowing gently in the Texas breeze (or gale winds in most areas).

This is also the most challenging time for the iris judges. We have been asked to judge in the exhibition shows to reward the exhibitor for his/her cultivation of the iris, their selection, conditioning, and grooming of the potential "Best Specimen of the Show." We watch the public come to the show and "Ooh" and "Ah" the majestic iris and question why or how the "Best in Show" was selected. Hopefully they make a list of their favorite iris and come to the annual sale to buy their "Queen" and some may even join the local affiliate. They second guess why an iris was awarded the red ribbon and not a blue. If we stay around too long, the iris we gave a red will continue the bloom process and four hours later would have been a blue, and we will be challenged as to why we only gave it a red. We are known to judge slow and get out of town fast.

We now receive the AIS official ballot and begin the process to select the best iris in the various classes and select, what we hope, is the Dykes winner. We have spent many hours in our garden, cultivating and observing the growth of our iris. Our vote is for the irises that we have grown or observed in our friends garden over the past two or three years.

This is our most difficult challenge. We do not care if the iris is from the Hillcrest Iris Gardens, Seandel Iris Gardens, The Shady Spot, The Lab or if it is a tall bearded or multi-colored or is the most beautiful space age. We dig out our page worn and dog eared AIS *Handbook for Judges and Show Officials* to ensure that the iris we are voting for meets the variety criteria. We do not take our ballot to the AIS convention and vote the ballot based on the convention gardens, unless we have viewed them over the past two or three years in those gardens. We review our documentation over the past years and with much deliberation, we vote. The public and hybridizers are relying on us to make that very conscious decision.

2018 AIS REGION 17 JUDGES & APPRENTICES

Emeritus Judges

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Master Judges

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Apprentice (apprentice judges cannot judge shows)

None

UPCOMING REGION 17 JUDGES TRAINING

March 26, 2018 Artistic Iris Arrangements—Classroom

Instructor: Dawn Boyer Credit: 1.5 hours Cost \$10
Time: 7:00 to 8:30 P.M.
Location: Red Zone Cafe
3602 Slide Road Suite 1.
Lubbock, TX 79414
Hosted by: South Plains Iris Society
Contact: Mary Wilber
4913 71st Street
Lubbock, TX 79424-1609
806-794-2512
randmwilber@att.net

August 5, 2018 Spuria Iris Classroom

Instructor: Anna Cadd
Time: morning—exact time to be determined
Location: Hampton Inn and Suites
Cleburne, TX
Hosted by: Johnson County Iris and Daylily Society
In conjunction with the AIS R17 Annual Meeting
Contact: Vicki Howard
3912 CR 1205
Cleburne, TX 76031
817-933-1057
vickihoward70@yahoo.com



Region 17 Membership Report

Bill Pittman, Membership Chair

As of Jan. 10 2018, Region 17 has 327 paid members. We are 31 members away from tying with Region 4 with 358. If each club gets 2 new AIS members, we can overtake California. I know North Plains has 2 members that have not been posted yet, and we are drawing for 3 more new members in my club. I also hope you have been promoting AIS membership in your clubs. I have been sending out emails and letters to our members with expired AIS membership encouraging them to rejoin. Region 17 is working on coming up with awards for each club that has 50% AIS membership or better.

We have lots of iris shows coming in April and many things coming in 2018 to do. Please attend the Regional Meeting and the iris classes (judges training) that are available in 2018.

See you soon at shows and training. Thanks for your support of AIS.



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 _____



Region 17 Youth Report

By Vicki Howard

Lots of Youth Activities are taking place. Check them out below and get more information by visiting the AIS Youth webpage at

<http://www.aisyouth.com/>

Hello Region 17 Youth,

Winter is about over and it is getting time to get ready for iris blooms.

Hope everyone has a great bloom season this year.

Our youth membership keeps dropping every year. If you have friends or other youth family members, try to get them involved. Also, let me know if you show your irises and how well you did or if you do any of the AIS contests.

Parents and club members, remember there is a Region 17 Youth Achievement Award. If you know of a youth, please nominate them. Go on the AIS Youth website <http://www.aisyouth.com/> to will find all the information about earning the Youth Patch, the requirements for the Clark Cosgrave Award, the Ackerman Essay Contest, and the coloring contest. The deadlines have past for the 2018 Cosgrove and Ackerman contests, but you can start getting ready for 2019. The Coloring Contest will be in the June issue of the youth newsletter The Iris Fan.



The Youth Patch

IRIS WORD SEARCH

answers on page 29

BEARDED	FLAG	PERENNIAL	SPRING
BLOOM	HYBRIDS	PETALS	TALL
BLUE	JAPANESE	POLLINATION	VARIETIES
BULB	LEAVES	PURPLE	WIDE RANGE
COLORS	LONG STEM	RHIZOMES	YELLOW
DWARF	OLD WORLD	ROOTS	





Region 17 Newsletter Report

Dell Perry

DEADLINE APPROACHING

This is the final issue of the newsletter that will be sent in hardcopy to all Region 17 members.

Starting with the NEXT issue (Fall 2018):

- Everyone with a valid email address on file with AIS or Region 17 will receive their newsletter BY E-MAIL ONLY, **UNLESS** they have submitted a request to continue receiving it in hardcopy by mail. It is your responsibility to keep the R17 Newsletter Editor and the AIS membership chair updated whenever your email address changes.
- Those without an email address will continue to receive a hardcopy by mail.
- Affiliate clubs will continue to receive a hardcopy mailed to their president.
- All AIS Board members & Directors and all AIS RVPs will receive the newsletter via email. (this is a separate copy from your individual copy).

An email address verification test email will go out before the Fall Newsletter. Those that are undeliverable will be placed on the hardcopy list.

You can change your delivery at any time by sending your request to the Newsletter Editor.

CLUB PRESIDENTS—please help make this easier on your members by polling those who are AIS members and any non AIS members who are paying the \$7 newsletter subscription fee to get their election of mail or email, and send that list to me. If they elect email, please get their email address so it can be updated if the one on file is not current. This will relieve everyone of having to let me know independently, thus saving time and postage. Members can let me know individually if they prefer.

Non-AIS members who elect email will no longer pay the \$7 fee.

DO YOU WANT YOUR NEWSLETTER IN HARDCOPY BY MAIL?

Are you on these lists? IF NOT, you need to let Dell Perry know ASAP

These members have elected to receive their newsletter by MAIL:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| E A Addington | Glenn Huddleston |
| Robert W. Alexander | Shirlyene Huntley |
| Tom Burseen | Jim Landers |
| Pearl Carter | Michael Lowe |
| Peggy & Dan Cathey | Frances Peterson |
| Brian & Janet Goodman | Jean Richardson |
| Kay Hall | Mitchell D Whitley |
| Mrs. Charles A Howard | Mary Wilber |

These members do not have an email address on file. They will receive their newsletters by MAIL unless they request otherwise.

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| John & Rosemary Cain | Karen McKinley |
| CLARK GARDENS | Mrs. Dean L Miller |
| Sarah Coomer | Jean Mills |
| Diane Dalby | Kay New |
| Hugh Blair Dow II | Bill & Susan Page |
| Kenneth Dunaway | Betsy T Pauzaskie |
| Barbara Dutton | Bobbie N Pierce |
| Craig Edwards | Raymond Pineau Jr |
| Joyce Evans | Rohan Reed |
| A Jean Evridge | Rose Reed |
| Carole Ann Taggart-Fagan | Wyveta P Reese |
| John T Gilbreath | Sue Ripley |
| Hazel & Becky Haik | Nicolas Sadler |
| CATHY HERRIN | Patricia Schultze |
| Mary Hildebrandt | Venita Scott |
| Leo A Holt | Mrs. Rex Shanks JR |
| Colleen Hughes | Shirlene H Shreckengaust |
| Jim Keefe | Lindsey & Donna Smith |
| Mrs. Vernon H Keesee | Sarah Speck |
| Mary & Jerry Keeth | Joan Stanley |
| Mrs. Wilfred Kleiber JR | Donna J Tassin |
| Russell Kohlert | TEXAS A & M UNIVERSITY |
| David Kraemer | Doris Threadgill |
| Tanya L Lamoreaux | Jean Tomlinson |
| Samara Levya | Jane Travis |
| Mary Lowe | Sue Walker |
| Gisele McCurdy | Roy & Gertie Willis |
| Lyndell McFadden | Sarah Wilson |

A.I.S. Region 17 Distinguished Service Award

Designated to publicly recognize and honor a member of A.I.S. Region 17 for outstanding service to A.I.S. and Region 17

Qualifications: To be eligible for this award, nominees shall, as a minimum, have the following qualifications:

- Be a member in good standing of AIS Region 17
- Have provided outstanding service to AIS and Region 17

Selection: The selection of the award recipient shall be in accordance with the following guidelines:

- Selection Committee: The award recipient shall be selected by a committee comprised of:
 - Present RVP – Committee Chairman
 - Immediate Past RVP
 - Most recent award recipient

Two members “at large” to be selected by vote of the regular Region meeting. The two at large members shall serve a term of one year only, and shall not be eligible for reappointment as “at large” members to the committee for three (3) years.

Current committee members shall not be eligible for nomination to receive this award during their term of service on this award committee.

Nominations: Nominations for this award may be made by the committee, or by an Iris Club/Society or any five members in Region 17. Nominations by such organizations must be made in writing with justification and qualifications for nominations, and must be received by the Selection Committee no later than March 15th of the current year.

Selection of Nominees: The committee shall review all nominations, justifications, and qualifications and determine if sufficient information is available to justify presentation of the award.

Should the committee decide that there is no qualified nominee, or the committee cannot agree on a single nominee, no award shall be presented for that year. To avoid decreasing the prestige and honor associated with this award, the committee should make every effort to ensure the recipient is duly qualified through his/her outstanding service.

Frequency: Only one award may be presented in any year.

Disclosure: No committee member shall in any way disclose or cause to be disclosed, the name, address, or local society of the individual selected to receive the award. This information shall remain secret until time for presentation at the annual banquet.

Location and time of presentation: The award shall be presented by the Region 17 RVP (Committee Chairman), or his/her duly authorized representative, during the banquet at the Region 17 annual meeting. In order to maintain the element of surprise, the name of the recipient shall not be disclosed until time for the presentation.

Award: The award shall be in the form of a uniquely designed award identifying the name of the award, as presented by Region 17. The name and year shall be engraved on the award. Once engraved the award shall be kept by the RVP in a secure location to prevent disclosure until presentation. The award is to be permanently retained by the recipient.



WHERE IS TOM BURSEEN

By Tom Burseen



Ol' Tom is still "around", but Father Time has kinda caught up with the Mad Scientist. For Region 17 members who may not know, Tom Burseen is a "mad scientist" by virtue of the unorthodox concepts and methods he employs in breeding the favorite flower of an iris society in his 2 acre garden.

This garden is referred to as **The Lab** cuz laboratories are where Franksteins do their thing. Since the Mad Scientist has been doing "his thing" for 38 years and is now a 72 year old "scientist", Father Time has indeed caught up with Ol' Tom. Coupled with a complete loss of hearing capacity, the Mad Scientist does not get out much anymore and this includes attending social events such as iris functions. While this should explicate why members do not see Ol' Tom anymore, it should not signify experimenting is not still going on at The Lab. Such experimentation not only keeps the old mind active but also provides plenty of exercise to keep the old body as vernal as possible. Actually, the hybridizing of tall bearded iris, along with the associated assignments (chores), probably renders too much "exercise" (energy/time) for a 72 year old person. Thus the Mad Scientist is in the process of "cutting back". Can't imagine ever giving up the fascination of creating new and different irises, but the rigors of introducing and selling plants has been handed down to something called the **OK TEXAS IRIS ALLIANCE**. The following excerpt is from the 2017 catalog from The Lab expounds such an "alliance":

Major changes are befalling The Lab (and the mad scientist) out of necessity. Mother Nature's recent excessive and out-

rageous weather (blame "global warming"), and Father Time have both overtaken the mad scientist and CUTTING BACK is the only viable resolution. Breeding tall bearded irises here on the prairies of Texas will probably never cease but all the work and time involved in introducing and selling the resulting creations just had to be compromised! It simply is time to relinquish the time and work (and, benefits) of introducing and selling Texas bred plants to some young folks!!! An alliance of such persons from Oklahoma and Texas has been conceived and they have accepted the responsibility to make such commitments. The OK TEXAS IRIS ALLIANCE includes Hugh Stout from Stout's Gardens at Dancing Tree in Oklahoma, Hooker and Bonnie Nichols from Hillcrest Iris Gardens in Texas, and Judy Schneider from her Shady Spot Gardens in Texas and the "old man" here on the prairies of Texas. All these iris fanciers will be selling and introducing creations being produced on the prairies of Texas here at The Lab. An amelioration that can be reaped from such an alliance is the actuality that all of these young folks do much (most) of their proceedings electronically (on things called computers and internets), something the mad scientist never (does not have) a hankering for.

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

The only justification for producing and distributing this catalog is to introduce such creations as specified by the American Iris Society. By now most folks should be aware Burseen creations are being sold and introduced by something called the OK Texas Iris Alliance. This "alliance" is comprised of 4 members: Hugh Stout and his STOUTS'S GARDENS AT DANCING TREE in Oklahoma City, OK, Hooker & Bonnie Nichols and their HILLCREST GARDENS in Dallas,

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

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



The Lab

A LABORATORY PARABLE – A.K.A. SPURGEVILLE

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

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

The summer of 2017 in Grand Prairie, TX was very extraordinary being very damp and moist (humid) with double the precipitation, which is normally 4 inches. Even though such conditions resulted in actual temperatures below "normal" the humidity created heat indexes that were well over 100 degrees all summer into the fall months. Even though such conditions suffocated homo sapiens and iris plants (can one say "rot"?), spurge plants thrived!

The Mad Scientist took a (unusual) summer vacation in 2017. When he returned spurge had literally taken over

Irises Along the Chisholm Trail 2018 AIS Region 17 Annual Meeting

Johnson County Iris & Daylily Society is proud to host the 2018 Region 17 Annual Meeting “Irises Along the Chisholm Trail” in Cleburne, TX on August 3-4. We have a fun weekend planned for you with a very special guest speaker and Judge’s Trainer, Anna Cadd from Healdsburg, CA. She is an AIS Master Judge and current Vice President of the Spuria Iris Society. She will be instructing a three hour class on Spurias Saturday morning as well as talk to us about the “Enchanted Beauty of Spuria Irises” after the Saturday evening banquet. We have planned a Pizza Party for Friday evening along with fun and games. A free hot breakfast is provided as part of your room reservation with the Hampton Inn. For the noon meal, there will be sandwiches and snacks, and a fajita buffet for the Saturday evening meal. The meeting registration, including all meals AND the 3 hour judges training, is \$65 if paid by June 4. After June 4, registration will increase to \$75. Registration form is on page 35.

The Hampton Inn & Suites, 1996 W. Henderson (Tx. Hwy 67) will be our headquarters. We have a small block of rooms reserved and the rates are very competitive. A standard king or 2 queens will be \$89 and a king or 2 queen suite will be \$99. Please book your room by July 4th, using group code AIS, to get the special rates. Also, the city fire code limits the meeting room to only 64, so we will have to cut off the registrations when we reach this number. Any registrations coming in after we reach the limit will be put on a waiting list.

The Hampton Inn is located on the west side of Cleburne near Lake Pat Cleburne, which can be seen from the hotel. Just across the lake/Nolan River bridge is Cleburne’s Chisholm Trail Outdoor Museum that includes the 1st courthouse in Johnson County which has been accepted as the oldest log courthouse in Texas.

Hope you will join us in Cleburne, Texas for this year’s annual meeting of the American Iris Society, Region 17-TEXAS.

Meet Our Fall Regional Guest Speaker Anna Cadd



Anna Cadd was born and raised in Poland during the “ancient times”, when *Iris pseudacorus* was growing in every pond, the gardens were devoted to producing food (meaning fruits and vegetables) and “Beverly Sills” (Hager, 1979) was the most magnificent achievement in the iris world. Strangely enough, Anna was the proud owner of one rhizome of this beauty!

She was aiming high to become a medical doctor, but her inability to kill the rats, frogs, and rabbits make her change her mind so she switched to botany, as the plants don’t scream so loud. She managed somehow to get a Master’s Degree (MD) in Biology and a Doctor’s Degree (PhD) in Plant Ecology. Next step for her was the stint in the Plant Breeding and Acclimatization Station, where she was crossing wheat and rye together and successfully was the author of several introduced lines and varieties of Triticale. (ED. Note: Triticale is a wheat X rye hybrid used mainly for fodder)

Due to the difficult political climate at that time, Anna decided to enrich her experiences and came to visit her aunt and uncle in Santa Rosa, California, USA. After she married David Cadd— she settled in Healdsburg, California in the home built by David’s grandparents. Now everything was simple – she worked full time, and together with David, managed a big home garden and their commercial Cadd’s Beehive Iris Garden which introduced 101 iris varieties: 68 Bearded (49 TB, 16 BB, 1 IB, 1 SDB, 1 AB) and 31 Beardless (32 Spuria and 1 PCN). They received from the American Iris Society - 11 Awards of Merit, 31 Honorable Mention Awards, William Mohr Medal, John C. Wister Medal and

twice the Eric Nies Medal. They also received 8 trophies from International Competition in Florence, Italy; 2 medals from Competition in Moscow, Russia; 2 Trophies from Middle-European Iris Society in Poland, Slovakia and Czech Republic; Trophy from Tecomah Competition in France and 2 Medals in Competition in Munich, Germany. They won the Santa Rosa Iris Society Best of Show at least 10 years in a row, managing to enter close to 100 varieties each year. Anna built countless flower arrangements during the Shows and meetings and she is an accredited AIS Master Judge.

After David passed away in 2015, she is the sole proprietor of Cadd's Beehive Iris Garden, growing well over 1500 iris varieties.

Anna is very excited to visit AIS Region 17 and her friends in Texas and will be speaking about one of her favorite irises, the Spuria. She is a very proud member and current vice-president of the Spuria Iris Society. Anna tells us that Spuria irises are very easy to grow, beautiful in the garden, offered to extend the bloom season and are very valuable in the floral industry.

Strangely enough, they are not very popular and recognized in the iris world, with a limited number of commercial gardens offering them for sale and with only a handful of Spuria iris hybridizers around the world. The number of introductions of Spurias is less than 1% of all introduced irises annually.

Anna thinks there is a great need to train AIS Judges to recognize and properly evaluate Spuria irises in the garden and on the Show benches and also to infuse her enthusiasm and love for Spurias to everybody who is willing to listen. She will give 3 hours of classroom Judges Training on August 4, 2018 and, later during the dinner, she will speak about her journey in AIS and developing her love for Spurias – ***The Enchanted Beauty of Spuria Irises.***

She hopes to gain new enthusiasts and Spuria lovers in Texas!

A Few David and Anna Cadd Introductions

Standard Dwarf
"Fairy Berry"



Intermediate
"Foxy Magic"



Arilbred (OGB-)
"Hakuna Matata"



Border

"Bermuda Triangle"



"Red Thumbprints"



"Laced Handkerchief"

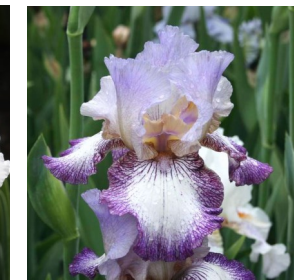


Tall Bearded

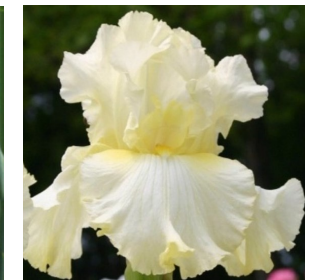
"Arctic Unicorn"



"Princess of Paradise"



"Italian Ice"



"Polish Princess"



"Black Mercury"



"Innocent Devil"



David and Anna Cadd Spurias

“Breezy Day”

“Carousel of Delight”

“Golden Ducat”



“Kiss of Caramel”

“Lemon Chiffon Pie”

“Lemon Suntea”



“Sparkling Cider”

“Speeding Star”

“Star Rider”

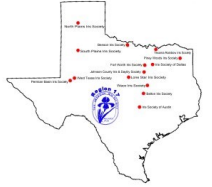


Please Join Us in Cleburne, Texas

For the American Iris Society

2018 Region 17 Meeting, August 3-4, 2018

Sponsored by the Johnson County Iris & Daylily Society



Registration Form

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

817-641-7770

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

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

Complimentary Deluxe Continental Breakfast, WiFi and Free Parking included.

Use Group Code AIS to make reservations. Please reserve your room by July 3 to receive the group rate.

(Please print)

Name: _____

Additional Registrants: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

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

Registration

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

Total Enclosed: _____

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

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

CC# _____ MM/YY _____ CVV _____

Please list dietary restrictions, if any: _____

Send Registration & Payment to:

Dan Cathey, 1115 HCR 1414, Covington, TX 76636, dannvdavle@yahoo.com

E-mail iris.daylily@gmail.com if you have any questions

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



UPCOMING AIS and AIS Section Events

- April 6-7, 2018** **ASI—Arl Society International Aril Trek - Las Cruces NM**
Chair: Howie Dash 575-652-7550 howiedash@aol.com
Hosted by Mesilla Valley Iris Society
- April 8-13, 2018** **AIS 2018 Convention—New Orleans LA**
Chair: Paul Gossett 918-853-6204
pwgossett@juno.com
- April 11-14, 2018** **SLI 2018 Convention—New Orleans LA**
Chair: Joe Musacchia 985-209-2917
1cajunjoe@att.net
- May 11-13, 2018** **Tall Bearded Iris Society Spring Meeting—Salem, OR**
Chair: Susan Schouten 503-989-5226
sschouten@canby.com
- May 25-26, 2018** **Society for Siberian Irises / The Species Iris Group
of North America Convention - Hunt Valley, MD**
Chair: Carol Warner 410-374-4788
draycott@qis.net

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The American Iris Society Contact Info:
Web: <http://www.irises.org/>
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/>
Twitter: @TweetAIS

ARIL TREK 2018

LAS CRUCES, NM

April 6-7



The Mesilla Valley Iris Society will be the host club for the Aril Society International's 2018 Aril Trek, to be held in Las Cruces, New Mexico on April 6-7, 2018. This will be the first Aril Trek in many years. The convention will end before the AIS National Convention begins in New Orleans, giving you plenty of time to get from New Mexico to Louisiana.



The Trek hotel is the historic luxury Hotel Encanto de Las Cruces, offering luxury hotel accommodations at economy hotel rates.

Friday evening will feature a panel discussion on "Growing Arilbreds" and a fun game of Aril Bingo.

Saturday will be a tour of 4 gardens each featuring 100-200 aril and arilbred irises, many of which are Sharon McAllister introductions donated/rescued from Dana Brown's now defunct Malevil Iris Gardens. There will also be an optional in-garden judges training. The Saturday evening banquet's keynote speaker will be Pete McGrath, a noted hybridizer of aril and arilbred irises from Albuquerque, NM.



Full Of Surprises
McAllister 2007
OGB+

For more information contact Cynthia or Wes Wilson at 303-910-7765 OR email ArilTrek@gmail.com



ARIL TREK 2018 Registration

April 6-7, 2018

Hotel Encanto de Las Cruces

705 South Telshor Boulevard, Las Cruces, NM 88011

Hotel room reservations are separate from Conference Registration!

Hotel Encanto - 575-522-4300 or toll free at 866-383-0443

Ask for the "Aril Trek" room rates.

Conference Rates are not guaranteed after March 23, 2018

Please complete and mail this form so that it arrives no later than March 20, 2018. Registrations will be acknowledged by email, unless no email is supplied. You will receive a packet with additional information, name tags, and tickets at check-in.

PLEASE PRINT - Fill out one form for each person attending.

Name to appear on Name Badge: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____ Email: _____

SELECT YOUR ACTIVITIES

	PRICE	TOTAL
Aril Trek Registration Fee	\$25 =	\$25
FRIDAY 6-9PM Registration and ARIL BINGO	Cash Bar	
SATURDAY Garden Tour - with Con.Breakfast & Lunch	\$25 =	
	Tour Bus	
SATURDAY In-garden Judges Training (1hr) PLEASE CHECK YES/NO	NO CHARGE =	YES / NO
SATURDAY 5-7 PM Social Hour	Cash Bar	
SATURDAY 7-10 PM Banquet (Choose Your Dinner)	\$45 =	
<input type="checkbox"/> Spanish Marinated Pork Loin	<input type="checkbox"/> Chicken Relleno	
<input type="checkbox"/> Grilled Pacific Salmon	<input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian	
LATE CHARGE if postmarked after 03/01/2018	\$15 =	
Credit Card Service Fee (MASTER CARD OR VISA)	\$4 =	
	GRAND TOTAL	_____

Payment Method:

CREDIT CARD (Please PRINT the required information)

____ MASTER CARD Card holder's name (as it appears on the card) _____

____ Card Number _____

____ VISA Expiration Date _____ Security Code _____ Billing Zip Code _____

____ CHECK - Make Payable to "Mesilla Valley Iris Society"

Refunds for cancellations requested on or after March 15, 2018 will be made at the discretion of the Convention Committee.

Special dietary or accomodation needs - Please describe here:

Please Send Aril Trek Registrations and Payments to:
Dell Perry, 800 Purcell Dr, Plano, TX 75025 (972-816-3418) or seandelirises@yahoo.com

2018 AIS/SLI CONVENTION

NEW ORLEANS—April 8-14, 2018

You are ALL invited to attend the 2018 Convention in New Orleans April 8, 2018 through Saturday, April 14, 2018. Go to the 2018 convention website for all of the information www.2018irisconvention.org.

We will be visiting 6 beautiful and distinctively different gardens.

Wednesday:

“The Island” in City Park where the Greater New Orleans Iris Society grows and propagates irises as part of SLI’s Species Preservation Project.



Longue Vue House & Garden has a large planting of Louisiana Iris Species and a mix of older and modern irises. You will also be able to roam the property and see many different other flowering plants, shrubs, and trees.



Sydney & Walda Besthoff Sculpture Garden in City Park. You will view beautiful and new sculptures along with the Louisiana Irises.

Thursday:



“A Louisiana Pond” in Madisonville, LA. The pond is located in a subdivision detention pond. Not only will you see Louisiana Irises growing but, you will see native plants and wildlife.

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Hammond Research Station of the LSU AgCenter in Hammond, LA. The Ag Center focuses on landscape horticulture rather than agricultural crops. The 150 acres nestled among pines is the setting for the evaluation of more than 500 ornamental plants. There will be plenty to see including large beds of Louisiana Irises.

Friday:



Burden Museum & Gardens is a multi-purpose 440 acre LSU facility where you will see primarily species and older Louisiana Irises and many other things.

The Baton Rouge Botanic Garden focuses on the irises with both guest plants and other cultivars, many hybrids of the late Joe Mertzweiler.

The convention hotel is located directly across from the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport. The hotel offers 24 hour shuttle service to and from the airport. We have arranged for Complimentary Parking, Complimentary WIFI in your guest room and meeting rooms.



**Your Invitation to Attend the
2018 AIS/SLI Conventions
in New Orleans.**



**Votre Invitation à Assister
Aux Conventions AIS / SLI
de 2018 à New Orleans**

AIS—April 8-13

SLI—April 11-14

The American Iris Society, The Greater New Orleans Iris Society, and The Society For Louisiana Irises are glad to be the hosts for the 2018 AIS/SLI Conventions in New Orleans, LA. New Orleans “The Big Easy” is the largest city in Louisiana. It was established by French colonists and strongly influenced by their European culture.

Attendees will have the opportunity to tour 6 beautiful gardens for three days. Wednesday we will tour Longue Vue House & Gardens, and NOMA Sydney and Walda Besthoff Sculpture Garden. Thursday travel to and tour “A Louisiana Pond” in Madisonville and Hammond Research Station of the LSU Ag Center. Friday travel to Baton Rouge to tour Burden Museum & Gardens and The Baton Rouge Botanic Gardens.

The Hilton New Orleans Airport Hotel located in Kenner, LA with free shuttle service to and from the airport. Also, the hotel is offering our attendees ‘Complimentary’ Free Parking as well as ‘Complimentary’ WIFI in the guest rooms and meeting rooms.

Watch for more information on the AIS web site as well as in upcoming issues of “IRISES” and “News and Notes”.

You are invited to Come to New Orleans and enjoy two wonderful conventions and see the city of New Orleans.

Paul W. Gossett, 2018 Convention Co-Chair
Joe Musacchia, 2018 Convention Co-Chair

**Check out the Conventions’ Website
www.2018irisconvention.org**





Fleur-de-Gras
 AIS and SLI National Conventions • New Orleans 2018
 AIS: Sunday, April 8 – Friday, April 13
 SLI: Wednesday, April 11 – Saturday, April 14

REGISTRATION "A LA CARTE" – You select the events you wish to attend!

How the registration form (on page 2) works:

- A – Choose your Basic Registration Fee (everyone attending is required to choose A1 or A2). Total A
- B – Add Tours; choose the tours you wish to take. Total B
- C – Add Meals; choose the meal you prefer at the dinners you want to attend. Total C.

Total A1 or A2, B, and C. That's what you pay. Include that amount via a check, or pay by credit card.

Note: **The Basic Registration Fee** includes the convention booklet and admission to all the classes, JTs, and to many other activities during the entire week. It does not include bus rides, meals, or the Geek Dinner.

The Youth Registration Fee includes the convention booklet and admission to all the classes, JTs, bus rides, meals and to many other activities. It does not include the Geek Dinner.

Please complete and mail the **REGISTRATION FORM** on page 2 so that it arrives **no later than March 31, 2018**. Registrations will be acknowledged by e-mail. You will receive a packet with additional information, name tags, and event tickets at check-in.

Send Registration & Payment to: Ken Fuchs
 710 N 11th Street
 Temple, TX 76501-3016
 (254) 721-6217
kenfuchs42@gmail.com

NO CANCELLATIONS AFTER APRIL 1, 2018 unless there are reasonable extenuating circumstances. Cancellations after March 21, 2018 but before April 1, 2018 are at the discretion of the Convention Committee.

CONVENTION HOTEL RESERVATION

Hilton New Orleans Airport Hotel
 901 Airline Drive
 Kenner, LA 70062
 Phone: 504-469-5000

Reservations can be made online: <http://group.hilton.com/American-Iris-Society>
 or by calling 1-800-872-5914 Extension 1.

Use the group code **AIS**.

Hotel cut-off date is Saturday, March 17, 2018.

Hotel room reservations are separate from Convention Registrations!

GEEK DINNER: Registration for the Geek Dinner on Wednesday, April 11, should be made to Joanne Prass-Jones, 35572 Linda Drive, Fremont, CA 94536. joanne@usjoneses.com

Visit the AIS-SLI Convention website for more information: <http://www.2018irisconvention.org>



REGISTRATION FORM

PLEASE PRINT – Fill out one form per person attending.



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

2018 AIS-SLI Convention Registration Form		Price		
A. BASIC CONVENTION REGISTRATION FEE		By	Feb 1 -	AFTER
The Convention Registration Fee is Required. Please choose one.		Jan 31	Mar 17	Mar 17
A1: Adult Both AIS and SLI (Sun-Sat)		\$45	\$55	\$65 =
A2: Youth (Sun-Sat)		\$120	\$140	\$160 =
B. TOURS (Wed, Thurs & Fri Tours include lunch.)				
Wed Garden Tour (City Park, Sculpture Garden, Longue Vue Garden)		\$48 =		
Choose your sandwich:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Smoked Ham				
<input type="checkbox"/> Smoked Turkey				
<input type="checkbox"/> Tomato with Mozzarella Cheese				
<input type="checkbox"/> Vegan Salad				
Thurs Garden Tour ("A Louisiana Pond," LSU Hammond Research Ctr.)		\$48 =		
Fri Garden Tour (Baton Rouge Bot. Gard, Burden Museum & Gard.)		\$48 =		
B. TOTAL FOR TOURS:				
C. MEALS				
Tuesday AIS Welcome Dinner - Choose one:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Andouille Chicken Roulade		\$46 =		
<input type="checkbox"/> Mardi Gras Pasta		\$46 =		
<input type="checkbox"/> Bone-In Pork Chop		\$46 =		
Thursday SLI Welcome Mixer (included in Registration Fee; check the box to the right if attending.)		<input type="checkbox"/>		
Friday AIS Awards/SLI Hybridizers Show Dinner - Choose one:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Chicken Piccata		\$46 =		
<input type="checkbox"/> Cajun-style Stuffed Pork Loin		\$46 =		
<input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian		\$46 =		
Saturday SLI Awards Dinner - Choose one:				
<input type="checkbox"/> London Broil		\$46 =		
<input type="checkbox"/> Sautéed Fresh Catfish Almondine		\$46 =		
<input type="checkbox"/> Pasta Primavera (Vegetarian)		\$46 =		
C. TOTAL FOR MEALS:				
GRAND TOTAL = Registration Fee (A) + Total for Tours (B) + Total for Meals (C)				

SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS:

_____ Gluten Free _____ Lactose Intolerant _____ Diabetic _____ Vegan
 Other: _____

Payment Method: CHECK - Make Payable to **AIS-SLI Convention 2018**
 CREDIT CARD (VISA, MasterCard, Discover, American Express)
 CC# _____ MM/YY _____ CVV _____

Send Registration & Payment to:

Ken Fuchs, 710 N 11th Street, Temple, TX 76501-3016, (254) 721-6217, kenfuchs42@gmail.com

Region 17 AIS Membership Club Recognition Program

This program recognizes our clubs where 50% or more of their membership are also AIS members. Qualification is evaluated twice a year before each newsletter. To qualify, send a copy of your club membership roster to the Region 17 Membership chair on February 1st and September 1st for comparison to the AIS Region 17 membership roster. Once verified, if your club has 50% AIS membership or better, you will be recognized as a Region 17 AIS Membership Award winning club. Your club level will appear in the Region 17 Newsletters and on the Region 17 website. Let's make Region 17 number 1 in the nation. With your help we can do it!

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Region 17 Platinum Medal Club
100% of members must be AIS members



Region 17 Gold Medal Club
90% of members must be AIS members



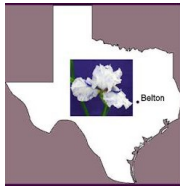
Region 17 Silver Medal Club
75% of members must be AIS members



Region 17 Bronze Medal Club
60% of members must be AIS members



Region 17 Pewter Medal Club
50% of members must be AIS members



Belton Iris Society

Karen Woods, President



Region 17 Pewter Medal Club

50% of members are AIS members

No report received



Benson Iris Society

Mary Rhodes, President



Region 17 Pewter Medal Club

50% of members are AIS members

The Benson Iris Society is busy getting ready for our annual show scheduled for Saturday, April 14, 2018, at the Trinity United Methodist Church, 5800 Southwest Parkway, Wichita Falls, TX. Show Staging will be from 6:00 am – 10:45 am; Judging will be from 11:00 am – 12:30 pm; Show Open to Public free of charge from 1:30 pm – 5:00 pm. The theme this year is Iris in the Lone Star State.

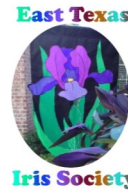
Judges will be Vicki Howard of Cleburne, Texas; Pam Lamb of Leveland, Texas; and Rich Miller of Plano, Texas, for the Horticulture Division and Anne Marie Payne of Wichita Falls for the Artistic Division. We are so grateful to them for giving of their time and expertise.

Non members of the Benson Iris Society are welcome to show in the Horticulture Division, but only Benson Iris Society members may show in the Artistic Division. There is no entry fee for either division. Horticulture entries are limited to 15 per exhibitor; artistic entries are limited to 5 entries in differing classes per exhibitor and divided into Amateur (less than 5 career blue ribbons) and Advanced (5 or more career blue ribbons).

We will be conducting a potted iris sale in conjunction with our show; this sale and one other are the fund raisers for our show.

We are looking forward to a great show, especially given the number of new members (total of 36 over the last two years) we have. We will be having a show tutorial at our meeting on March 3 at Jason's Deli in Parker Square in Wichita Falls. The meeting is a buy-your-own lunch, followed by a short business meeting on show business and the program. At this meeting we will be scheduling our Artistic seminar given by our artistic judge. She is very kind to go over the classes and design requirements of each and to teach arrangement skills and pointers and is willing to work with us in scheduling a time most convenient for the most members.

The next meeting after the March 3 meeting will be June 9, 2018, at Jason's Deli also. Nick Stewart, a judge from Lawton, OK, will be giving our program on "After the Show."



East Texas Iris Society

Connie Ford, President



Region 17 Silver Medal Club

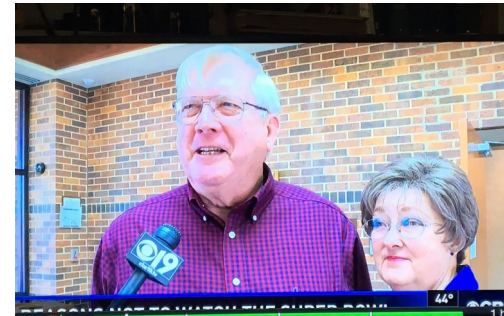
75% of members are AIS members

Our January meeting became very exciting.

KYTV—CBS 19 made an unscheduled visit to report on our club and help boost our April 14th iris show. What an unexpected surprise and wonderful free advertising!

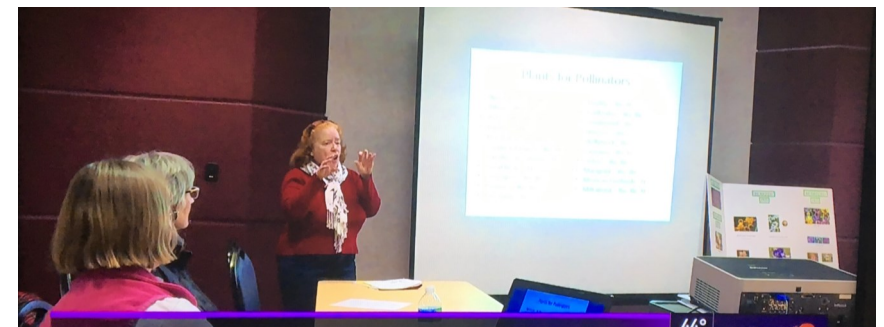
"TYLER - The East Texas Iris Society's 3rd annual Iris Show is April 14th at the Tyler Rose Garden Center.

To learn more about the East Texas Iris Society and show please visit them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ETirisan/>"



Lindsey Smith with wife and ETIS treasurer Donna Smith tells reporter he'd much rather be outside working in the garden instead of watching TV.

Andie Rathbone, Smith County Master Gardener, gave a power point presentation on pollinators (bees butterflies and birds).





Fort Worth Iris Society

Happy Carver, President



Region 17 Pewter Medal Club

50% of members are AIS members

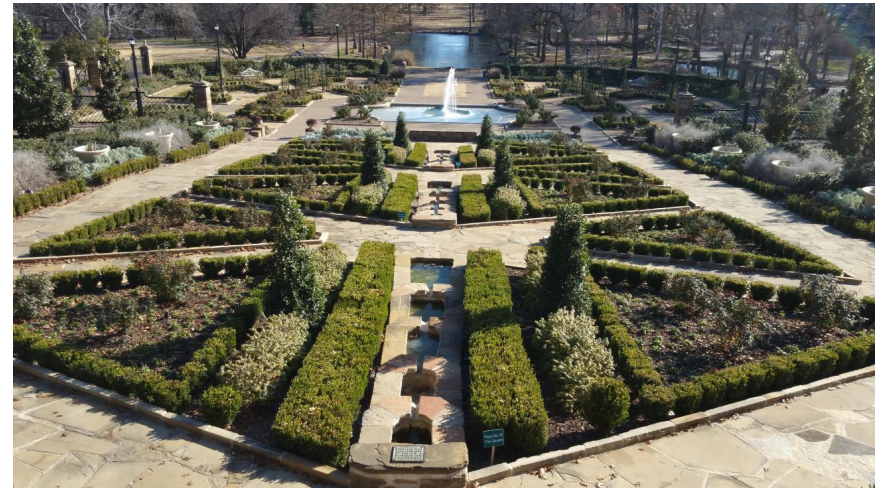
A Chilly Stroll to the Iris Plantings at the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens

The Fort Worth Botanical Gardens is “home” for the Fort Worth Iris Society. Many of our members are directly involved with the going-ons of the FWBG. If you are in Fort Worth, be sure to drop by—this is an amazing and beautiful spot in the middle of the cultural center of downtown Fort Worth. The zoo is just down the street, so make a day of it.

The Ft Worth iris Society has three Iris Plantings at the Ft. Worth Botanic Gardens. These photos were taken on a very cold day this winter, the day after our first arctic blast of the season, while I was checking to see how the plantings were handling the chilly weather.



It was a beautiful day in spite of the frigid temperatures of the previous night and the still cold morning. Brrrr, thankful for the sun.



Making my way to our iris plantings. Umm, yeah, it’s pretty cold.



Not much further now.



Two of the beds are mostly Tall Bearded iris ,with a few shorter ones along the edges.



One is by the corner of the Japanese Garden parking lot.



The other is at the entrance to the Four Seasons Section of the garden.



The third planting is in the "Texas" area of the walkway leading to the Rose Garden. This planting is integrated with many other perennials and all the iris are Medians.

We even 'snuck' a few Arilbreds into the Cactus Garden area!



A portion of our planting—all snuggled in, doing fine and handling the cold well.

Just wait until spring. WOW!



Iris Society of Austin

Donna Little, President



Region 17 Bronze Medal Club

60% of members are AIS members

We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of most months from September through May at 6:30pm at the Zilker Garden Center. We currently have 37 members, 23 of whom are also members of AIS.

Officers through May 2018 are Donna Little, President; Pat Byrne, VP Programs; Jaime Hadley, VP Membership; Dara E Smith, Secretary; Marney Abel, Treasurer; Tracey Rogers, Librarian and Historian; Ellen Singleton, Sale Chair.

The membership has voted to not sponsor an Iris Show in 2018 so that members are all free to enjoy the AIS/SLI National Convention in New Orleans and the Aril Trek in Las Cruces on the weekends we would normally host a show.

We will join the other Austin garden clubs for a combined plant sale at Zilker Gardens (2220 Barton Springs Rd, Austin) on March 10, 2018 from 9am to 2pm.

And we will host our Annual Fall Rhizome Sale at Norris Conference Center (2525 W. Anderson Lane, Suite 365) on Saturday, Sept 8, 2018 from 9am to 3pm.

ISA would like to thank Al Elliott for the Median Iris judges training he presented in Austin on January 20, 2018.



Iris Society of Dallas

Hooker Nichols, President

Region 17 Pewter Medal Club

50% of members are AIS members

The Iris Society of Dallas began the year 2018 with a program on basic iris culture by Bonnie Nichols. The February 18th program will feature Michael Reed guiding us through what we should be doing to prepare our iris gardens for spring bloom. On March 18th Bonnie Nichols will demonstrate how to transport irises to the show and prepare them for entry. The ISD voted to have two iris shows in 2018. The early show will be Saturday, April 7th. The late show (featuring Louisiana and Spuria irises) will be Saturday April 21st. There will be potted irises for sale at both shows. Iris meetings and iris shows are held at Holy Cross Lutheran Church 11425 Marsh Lane in Dallas.

On Monday-Tuesday, April 16th and 17th, the ISD will host its annual Iris Trek. By bus, guests will tour the gardens of Ron Burseen, Tom Burseen, Nichols' home garden on Northaven, Michael/Mary Ellen Reed, Judy Schneider, Dell Perry, and Rodney Barton. Garden judges training will be conducted by Michael Reed. Lunch will be provided both days. There are a few open seats for the bus trip. Cost is \$75 per person for both days of tours and lunches. Please contact Bonnie Nichols @ (214) 676 -9892 if you are interested in the Iris Trek. This year the ISD has added two iris awards. Iris Trek attendees will vote for the best iris clump seen on the two days of tours. They will also vote for their favorite iris hybridized by a Texas hybridizer. Awards will be given for both winners. After the second day of tours concludes, all those interested in learning how to hybridize irises will be invited to the Addison Iris Display Garden to make and tag iris crosses. In late summer the seed pods will be collected and planted in the fall at the Display Garden.

The annual election of ISD officers will take place in May at a member's home. The June 17th and July 15th meetings will be held at Holy Cross Lutheran Church. Iris sales are planned for Saturday, August 18th and Saturday, September 15th. Sales will take place at Holy Cross Lutheran Church.





Johnson County Iris & Daylily Society

Vicki Howard President



Region 17 Silver Medal Club
75% of members are AIS members

The Johnson County Iris and Daylily Society has about 40 members this year. We meet the second Saturday of each month at 10.am, except for August and December, those meetings are our pot luck meetings, and they start at noon.

Our show date will be April 21, 2018 at the JN Long Cultural Arts Complex in the Annex Building in Cleburne, TX.

Our July meeting is an iris giveaway, exchange, and auction . August we play Bingo. These are just a few ways to get new irises for your garden.

Our plant sale is September 8, 2018. at the JN Long Cultural Arts Complex in the Annex Building from 9 am until sold out.

We have 5 youth members. They hold a raffle each month to pay for their AIS membership.

We have an AIS membership drawing each month for our members .

We will be hosting the Region 17 meeting this year. It will be August 3rd and 4th.

Vicki Howard, President



Lone Star Iris Society

Jerrie Cage, President



Region 17 Bronze Medal Club
60% of members are AIS members

The Lone Star Iris Society welcomes in the New Year 2018 with a **new line up** of officers and chairs:



President – Laura Smargiasso Vice President – Jerrie Cage
Secretary – Frances Peterson Treasurer – Donnett Waight
Programs, Newsletter & Publicity – Naomi Nabors
Membership – Jean Tomlinson Hospitality – Donna Pruitt
Parliamentarian – Peggy Tolboom Raffle – Gailmae Suite
Historians – Mary Huggins and June Hivnor

...a **new meeting place**:

The Hico Community Center
101 N. Railroad, Hico, TX 76457
Just across town from our previous location.

And a **new meeting time**: Noon – 2:00 p.m. on the *same* first Saturday of the month.

We do not hold regular meetings in the months of January, July, and September.

March 12, 2018. We will have potted iris for sale at an educational booth at the Hamilton Extension Education Association annual "Spring Fling" from 9 am-3 pm at St. John's Lutheran Church in Hamilton.

April 22, 2018 is our show date, "Hats Off to Irises" our theme; co-chaired by June Hivnor and Naomi Nabors. Potted iris will be available for purchase. If you have late bloomers and beardless irises still performing in the garden, bring them on over for a chance at awards and great fellowship! It will be held at Hico High School, 901 Cedar St., Hico, Texas.

September 1, 2018 is our main sale date, though we will be exploring other options to share our iris with the public so be sure to check us out on Facebook for current spring and fall collecting opportunities.

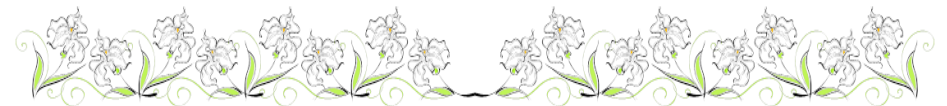


Our faithful members maintain three public display iris beds in Hico, Hamilton and Dublin with improvements to come in this new year.

At Christmas we are honored to present financial gifts to the Volunteer Fire Departments of Hico, Hamilton and Dublin, Texas.



We enjoy learning about and sharing our love for iris but more importantly we enjoy each other, coming together for support in difficult times and rejoicing in our fellowship and friendships in the good times.



2018 DYKES MEDAL

MONTMARTRE

Hybridized by [Keith Keppel](#), this Tall Bearded Iris also captured the Wister Medal in 2014, an Award of Merit in 2012, and an Honorable Mention in 2010.

Photo: Aitken's Salmon Creek Garden



North Plains Iris Society

Dawn Boyer, President



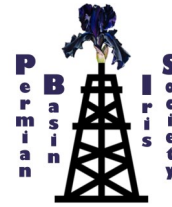
Region 17 Pewter Medal Club

50% of members are AIS members

The NPIS is becoming more active in trying to do community outreach. The Amarillo Botanical Gardens had it's Festival of Lights during December, and the NPIS members and their spouses worked two of the nights, watching and guiding visitors in the gardens, as well as selling raffle tickets and other goodies. The gardens are decked out with over 300,000 lights each year, and it takes over two months to string them all with volunteers and staff doing the work, and it is free to the public. On Jan. 6, we invited Bonnie Nichols to speak to anyone interested in gardening on the topic of "Novelty Irises". We had about 30 people, representing the garden clubs in the area, Master Gardeners, the Amarillo Globe Garden section editor, Amarillo Botanical Gardens personnel, the Amarillo Woman of the Year for 2018 who is an avid irisarian, and interested citizens, as well as society members. We also got a new member, from Borger, who decided he wanted to become more active in growing irises and then learning how to show them.

We figured out what we want to present at each month's meeting and picked our show theme for 2018 in November and had a Christmas Party in December. 2018 show theme will be "America the Beautiful Through Irises". The song will have a design class for each line. This will be a different fun theme for us, as we are trying to get better at and more involved in iris design. The show will be, as always, the last one in the state, April 29th.

In February, we will learn more about the Iris Encyclopedia and how to use it more to our advantage, and the March meeting we will each bring an iris design, using silk irises, and judge them, for practice and to get ready for the April show. In April, we will polish up on our knowledge as to how to win blue ribbons in the horticulture section of the show. That busy month may also find us helping with ABG's Garden Fest. Bill Pittman will present information about hybridizing in May. The topic of xeroscaping will be presented in June; the sale will take place in July; Stephanie Sullivan, one of our members, will show us how to paint irises in watercolor in August; and we will share rhizomes, elect officers, and pick a show theme in September and October; and then we will rest!



Permian Basin Iris Society

Debbie Strauss, President



Region 17 Bronze Medal Club

60% of members are AIS members

Permian Basin Iris Society recently sent their affiliation paperwork in and the show schedule for our 30th Annual Iris Show on April 21 at the Music City Mall in Odessa TX. The theme is "Iris Timeline" and everyone from everywhere is invited to enter!! Our design categories are **Group 1. The Egyptians-use sand or water** **Group 2. Chinese Dynasty-oriental design** **Group 3. The Renaissance-designer's choice** **Group 4. The Industrial Revolution -use some type of mechanics or tools** **Group 5. Space Age-use a novelty iris.** For more information call 432-352-5483.

Permian Basin Iris Society had a very successful show and sale last year thanks to the help of its small group of members. We are hoping to entice more people in the community to grow iris and then join our club to learn more about iris with programs about how to grow, fertilize, plant and enjoy all aspects of iris.

Announcing wonderful news!

Our 9-year-old youth member Aiden Strauss won first place in two categories of The American Iris Society's 2017 Photo Contest. He received the first places in Category 1 which was Irises



in a Landscaped Garden, with a photo of his Grandfather working in his Grandmother's iris beds titled *Grandpa In Our Garden*.



He also received a first in the Art Effects or Macro category with a photo of the beard on a Tom Burseen iris titled *Stick Out Your Tongue!* Congratulations to him.



His Grandfather Dale Strauss, one of our long-time members also received an honorable mention with his Art Effects or Macro titled *Intoxicating Insides*.

Our sale this year will be in the Music City Mall inside the Burlington Courtyard on September 22. We will then follow up with sales at the Midland Farmer's Market every Saturday until the end of October. Y'all Come!

Piney Woods Iris Society

Piney Woods Iris Society

Jeana Christian, President



President—Jeana Christian

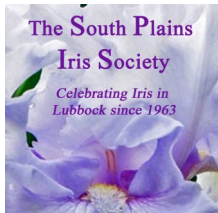
Vice President—Brinda Mandella

Secretary/Treasurer—Kathy Thompson

Meetings are held the third Monday of each month. We meet at 6:30 p.m. at the Titus County AgriLife Extension Office, 1708 Industrial Rd., Mt. Pleasant, TX. 75455. We do not meet the months of July and August. Our Meetings begin with snacks and socializing. At present we have 21 members. Dues are only \$5.00 per year.

At the regular meetings we have educational programs that have ranged from “hands on” propagation, to How to Grow Daylilies Professionally. In October we have a member's Iris and Daylily sale, and in December we have our annual potluck and Bingo Christmas Party.

We have our big plant sale in April. Normally we share the date with the Master Gardeners' plant sale, but this year will have a separate sale. We currently have irises planted at the Extension Office, along with the Master Gardeners' Superstar gardens.



South Plains Iris Society

Ramona Howard, President



Region 17 Pewter Medal Club

50% of members are AIS members

The South Plains Iris Society meets on Monday evenings at the Red Zone Cafe in Lubbock, located at 3602 Slide Rd, Suite 1. We meet at 7:00 p.m. during the months of February through October and all guests are welcome.

We have 22 members and several of our members are new from last year. Some of them have already been put to work and are willing to help in any way they can.

Our programs for the year include one on “Rebloomers”, presented by Edna Rice; Artistic Iris Arrangements by Dawn Boyer from Amarillo, which is an AIS approved Judges Training Class for 1 and ½ hours of credit; Preparing for the Spring Iris Show, titled “At The Museum”, presented by Val Walker; Attracting Birds and Butterflies”, presented by Lilla Jones, Master Gardener; “Hybridizing 4 Beginners”, an AIS digital program; a discussion of the members on how we keep our gardens organized; our Surprise Package for members and Blue Ribbon winners; Membership swap night bringing irises from 2012 to 2017; and giving out our Spring Iris Show awards and medals, along with the installation of new officers.

Our Spring Iris Show will be held at the Garden & Arts Center at 42nd and University Ave. on April 28, 2018. The title of our show is “At The Museum”. Design classes will reflect art found in museums and our Show Chairman is Val Walker.

Our annual sale will also be held at the Garden & Arts Center in connection with the Fall Fiesta, on September 8th from 9 to 5 p.m. and we will have four booths filled with iris rhizomes and pictures of most. Our sale chairman is Edna Rice and this will be her third year to chair the event.

Our officers for the year 2018-2019 are President, Ramona Howard; Vice President, Jennifer Zarate; Secretary, Mary Caffey; and Treasurer, Val Walker.

We have 15 AIS members and hope to have the new members join this year. We look forward to a wonderful bloom season this spring and a fantastic iris show to educate the public and show our beautiful specimens.



Texoma Rainbow Iris Society

Dell Perry, President



Region 17 Pewter Medal Club

50% of members are AIS members

TRIS has been blessed with 11 new members in the past year, almost doubling the membership. They are excited and active members, and many are younger folks. To think that just a few years ago we were seriously contemplating disbanding because of lack of interest, but decided to give it one more go. So what happened for this to happen? I will attribute much of the impetus to, at that time, new member Judy Schneider. Younger people have such energy and positivity, and it was contagious.

We improved our sales booth to look more professional and organized, getting big color vinyl banners and nice looking bins for the irises instead of the bags and cardboard boxes previously used. We have color photographs of all the irises for sale; last year we went to a formatted 3x5 card so they looked uniform. We encouraged customers to sign up for our monthly email newsletters – the source of most of our new members, so it works.

With so many new members, we did a hands-on show prep and artistic design program, and one on preparing iris for a sale—digging, trimming, labeling and washing.. There is an Iris Question Box at the meetings where people can drop off any inquires they have. These are answered at the next meeting as part of the regular format or in the “Iris Minute” – a short instructional bite covering subjects like the parts of an iris flower, classes of irises, color patterns, how to read an iris description – often with handouts they can put in their yearbook

I am confident our club will be in good hands when all us old timers step down.

This year we have our show on April 21st, a picnic in May, our Ice Cream Social in July, and our sales in the Fall. A garden tour is also being organized. We meet monthly at 3:00 PM at the Grandy’s restaurant in Sherman..



Waco Iris Society

Dan Cathey, President



Region 17 Silver Medal Club

75% of members are AIS members

The Waco Iris Society is now in its 58th year. We currently have 36 members in good standing of which 29 are current AIS members.

Officers for the 2017-2018 club year are Dan Cathey, president, Ken Anderson Vice President and Show Chair, Bill Calhoon Secretary and Mitchell Whitley Treasurer. Ken Fuchs is our webmaster and our website address is: <http://kenfuchs42.net/waco-index.html>. Peggy Cathey is our newsletter editor and current and back issues may be found on our website and also on our Facebook page: <https://facebook.com/WacoIrisSociety/>.

We currently meet at the Crestview Church of Christ Community Center in Woodway at 10 a.m. the third Saturday of the months of January, March, May, September and November. We had a judges training in February entitled "Are These Really Rules" presented by Ms Dell Perry. Our annual Iris Show will be held on April 7th at the LaQuinta Inn and Suites, Waco. Our theme will be "Irises and Childhood Memories". Any changes in meeting or show locations and times will be available on the website.

We offer potted iris for sale at our Show. Our annual rhizome sale is very popular with the people of Waco and all the surrounding communities. It is always the last Saturday in September beginning at 9 a.m. until sold out or 2 p.m. at the Green Life Nursery on New Road in Waco.



The West Texas Iris Society

Marie Pate



Region 17 Pewter Medal Club

50% of members are AIS members

West Texas Iris Society hit the ground running by completing their affiliation paperwork and sending in their show schedule for their 40th Annual Iris Show on April 15 at the Midland Park Mall in Midland TX. The theme is "Iris Celebration". The past couple of years we were lucky to have iris lovers from Amarillo, Lubbock, Odessa, and Las Cruces bring iris to enter in our show. We really love the extra excitement and beauty their entries bring. So please if you need a place to enter your beautiful iris come on down to Midland's WTIS or Odessa's PBIS. For more information call 432-352-5483.

West Texas Iris Society lost a charter member early this year. Barbara Larson, 90, of Midland, passed away on December 14, 2017. Barbara was an elementary school teacher in Iowa. She moved to Midland in the 50s and raised five children with her husband Bill. She was an avid dedicated volunteer at the Petroleum Museum, Museum of the Southwest, Trinity Towers, Manor Park, Friends of the Library, Midland Public Library, Recording Library for the Blind, and of course the West Texas Iris Society. Her iris designs always won blue ribbons and often the Best Design of the Show. She had her favorite colors of iris, but she worked hard helping us all love iris. Barbara was the next to last charter member of the West Texas Iris Society and she left many iris lovers in her wake. WTIS donated to Region 17 in her honor and donated to the 2020 100th Anniversary Fund in The American Iris Society.

WTIS is very proud to have a youth member, Aiden Strauss whose photography won first place in two categories of The American Iris Society 2017 Photo Contest. Also, one of his Grandfather's Dale Strauss's photos also received an honorable mention. Congratulations to both of you! See their photos in the current issue of *IRISES*. [ED: photos also in the Permian Basin Iris Society Report in this newsletter.]