



Waco Iris Society News

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Montmartre

2017 Dykes
Medal Winner

Volume 10, Issue 3

An affiliate of the American Iris Society

January, 2018

Tracking Your Garden

The Waco Iris Society's first meeting of the new year will take place on January 20, beginning at 10:00 a.m. We meet at the Crestview Church of Christ Community Center, 7129 Delhi Rd. (Sanger changes to Delhi past Providence Hospital). Everyone is invited to attend. Our guest speaker will be Dell Perry



speaking on ***Keeping Track of your Garden***. Dell says "The program is basically about the whys and hows of keeping garden records." She will cover manual as well as computer record keeping and labeling in the garden.

Dell was born in Connecticut and moved to Texas when she was 9. She was headed for a career as a veterinarian but Texas A&M would not allow women to enroll unless they transferred in from an A&M affiliate school. So, she attended Tarleton State College in Stephenville with the intent of transferring to A&M. While at Tarleton she met her husband, became a Berger, and

moved with him to Fairbanks, Alaska where he was stationed in the Army. They survived the Great Flood, a few earthquakes and 72 degrees below zero before moving back to Texas. She divorced in 1981, reverted back to being a Perry, and has never remarried. Dell and her son Seann started ***Seandel Iris Gardens*** in the early 1990's. She comes by digging in the dirt naturally, her Mother being from a Winters, Texas farm family. Although Seann no longer lives at home, Dell continues to run the commercial operation, maintain and expand the gardens and be a bane to the little grass left in her yard. She has over 1500 varieties of iris—including tall bearded, median, dwarf, aril, Arilbred, Louisiana, avania, spuria, species and a couple Japanese - growing on her corner city lot in Plano. 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 – thus the madness began. She retired in March 2012 from the City Of Plano where she had worked as a programmer/analyst for over 33 years and now spends her time painting, traveling, trying to keep orchids alive, giving garden club programs, judges training programs and doing "iris things".

Dell is currently a member of the American Iris Society, three local iris societies where she is newsletter editor to two, President of one,

and Past President of another; four AIS subsections – Aril Society, Median Society, Louisiana Society, and the Historic Iris Preservation Society (HIPS), a member of SIGNA – the Species Iris Group of North America, on the Board of Directors for the Aril Society International, where she is the Plant Sale Chair, and the Median Iris Society, where she is the Symposium Chair. She is an AIS Garden and Exhibition judge, is a past AIS Region 17 Judges Training Chairperson and is the current AIS Region 17 Newsletter Editor. Her garden is an Aril Society International and a Median Iris Society display garden, and was a tour garden on both the 2013 and 2014 American Iris Society National Conventions.

JUDGES TRAINING

Everyone is invited to attend a special event the Waco Iris Society is hosting on February 17 at the Crestview Church of Christ Community Room. A Judges Training Class on "Are These Really Rules?" will be presented with Dell Perry as Instructor. Come to learn --you don't have to be a judge to attend.



President's Message (continued from page 1)

Welcome to 2018! I want to wish everyone a sincere (although belated) Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and to hope for your best iris season ever.

Please mark your calendars - the Spring iris fertilization is rushing upon us and will be here in mid February. A great way to remember to do that is Valentine's Day; send your true love a card and treat your iris to a Spring feast. If you are using a chemical fertilizer, be sure to select a blend that is "lower" in nitrogen such as 10-20-10 or 13-13-13 N.P.K. (referring to



Nitrogen, Phosphorous and Potassium ratios of 1-2-1 or 1-1-1). All fertilizer labels present these nutrients in that order so it is easy to see what you are getting. Some brands offer additional ingredients known as trace elements, which will also be

listed on the label, and are mainly minerals in very small quantities. Since minerals are depleted over time in garden environments the addition of these trace elements may be beneficial and usually add very little to the cost of the product. It is good knowledge to understand what the N.P.K. numbers represent. They are the percent of **actual** ingredient per 100 lbs. of fertilizer. In other words, a 10-20-10 blend has 10 lbs. of nitrogen, 20 lbs. of phosphorus and 10 lbs. of potassium per 100 lbs. A good rule of thumb for application of chemical fertilizer to iris is 2 tablespoons of fertilizer per rhizome distributed evenly around each. Avoid direct fertilizer contact with the leaves and rhizome as much as possible.

If you use organic fertilizers almost any quality brand will suffice but try and select a product with an alfalfa base, one in which alfalfa is the first (major) ingredient as iris respond very well to alfalfa. An application rate of a "healthy handful" (about

1/3 cup) will work nicely but it is hard to over fertilize with organics. Alfalfa can also be supplied in the form of alfalfa pellets, this is a pure alfalfa formulation put into pellet form mainly for horse feed. DO NOT use rabbit feed which is mainly alfalfa but contains other ingredients such as salt which could be harmful to your iris. The other "kind" of rabbit pellets, rabbit manure, is a wonderful fertilizer!



Our speaker for the January meeting is Dell Perry. Dell has many years of experience growing iris and will be sharing her experience and knowledge about iris record keeping and garden mapping of your plantings which is critical to growing and showing your iris. This will be a very informative program. I am sure that Dell will be happy to answer any of your iris questions in addition to her program.

I look forward to seeing everyone in this new year!

November Meeting Minutes by Bill Calhoon



Saturday, 18 November 2017. Meeting held at Crestview Church of Christ Community Center

President Dan Cathey called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m. Twenty members and one guest were present at the meeting.

Secretary Bill Calhoon conducted Roll Call and the AIS Membership Drawing. Winner of the AIS Membership was Jean Richardson.

Minutes from the September meeting were published in the WIS Newsletter. With no additions or corrections from the floor, Dan declared the Minutes to be approved as published.

Treasurer Mitchell Whitley gave the Treasurer's Report. As of October 13, 2017, balance of the WIS account was \$10,991.49. After no comments, additions or corrections from the floor, Dan declared the Treasurer's Report accepted as pre-

sented.

Show Chair Ken Anderson reminded club members that the theme for the 2018 show is ***Iris & Childhood Memories***. Show date is scheduled for Saturday, April 7, 2018. Ken had copies of the map for the new hotel location (La Quinta Inn & Suites; 6003 Woodway Drive) and Artistic Design Categories available, as well as a sign-up sheet for the Artistic Designs. Ken clarified that where appropriate, "Children's Songs" (Category I) and "Nursery Rhymes" (Category III) could be interchangeable. Category IV, "Saturday Morning Cartoons" is the Novice category. Frances Peterson asked if there would be a category available for Youth; Ken will consider adding an Artistic Design category for Youth exhibitors. Ken also announced that a table would be available for Display Only irises (not entered for judging).

Dan then opened the floor to other

Old Business. Mitchell Whitley reported that he had discussed with Bonnie Nichols the issues that he and other members of the club had this year with various forms of rot. Bonnie reported that she had success in controlling both crown rot and soft rot with Fertilo-me's "Fire Blight Spray".



Dan then opened the floor to New Business. Peggy Cathey reported that the Region 17 Newsletter had been distributed and that future editions of the newsletter will be available via email. Peggy asked members to notify Dell Perry if they would like to receive the Region 17 Newsletter electronically (by email) or as a hard copy (via USPS mail) and circulated a sign-up sheet. Peggy also reminded club members that WIS will be sponsoring a Judge's Training session in February, and asked club members to (cont. pg. 3)



November Minutes (cont. from page 2)

help by bringing refreshments. Peggy encourage WIS members to attend; the Judge's Training is free to WIS Club Members.

Dan introduced a discussion regarding fees paid to program presenters. Previously, WIS had paid \$100 to presenters. Dan has researched program fees paid by other clubs and the going rate seems to be \$50. Dan asked if WIS wants to consider lowering the program fee rate to \$50 with the possibility of paying mileage if the presenter has to travel more than 100 miles. He also raised the possibility of providing an honorarium to WIS Club members who present a program. Following discussion on the topic, it was decided to table the topic to allow WIS

members to consider the options, then discuss and possibly take action at the next meeting.

Before breaking for refreshments, Dan thanked Preston for organizing the refreshments and also thanked Michael Lowe for bringing several stems of reblooming iris. Club members were reminded to notify Gailmae Suite, the Region 17 Reblooming Iris liaison, of reblooming iris in their gardens. Several members shared the names of varieties that had successfully rebloomed this year.

Following the Refreshment break, Dan introduced Bonnie Nichols, presenter of today's program. Bonnie presented a program on the trip

she and Hooker Nichols had taken to France to participate in the international iris competition held there in May 2017. Hooker had been invited to be one of the judges for the competition. Bonnie has been invited to judge the 2021 competition. Bonnie also presented a short program on some of the newest innovations and introductions in Novelty Irises.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Submitted respectfully,

Bill Calhoun
Secretary, Waco Iris Society



Some Wishes Do Come True by Ken Anderson, WIS Show Chair

Happy new year to all of our club members! Well, it is that time of the year again when we turn the corner from Christmas shopping, holiday parties, decorating and packing away the holiday decorations to thoughts of spring gardening. I hope your holidays were filled with lots of fun, fellowship with family and good health.

Do you remember what I wrote in the November newsletter about wishes? Not to worry! This is not a test. I wrote about four wishes I had for our club. First of all, I wished For cooler weather. Well, I think we can all agree that that wish I has been fulfilled. We have had many nights way below freezing and quite a few chilly days in comparison to last year. The coming week promis-

es to bring even more of that kind of weather. The rhizomes are definitely getting a better chilling this winter than last winter. Then there was the second wish. That wish was for some nice winter rain. Fortunately, many of us have received some nice rainfall. At least it has not been totally dry like it has been in some areas northwest of us. Now as you may recall the other two wishes have more to do with the decisions our club members make. Those two wishes are in regard to having many members participating in the horticultural division and having many members sign up for the artistic division. Will you help make my wishes come true?

I hope to see all of you at the meeting on Saturday.

Once again, our theme is ***Irises and Childhood Memories*** and here are the categories:



Category I- Children's Songs,

Category II-Fairy Tales,

Category III-Nursery Rhymes,

Category IV-Saturday Morning Cartoons (Novice).

Hospitality Report by Preston Floyd



Club members are asked to help with refreshments for Saturday's meeting. Finger foods, chips, dips and other yummy contributions would be appreciated. Coffee and drinks will be provided.

Plant Markers
25 for \$8.00
will be
available at
the meeting





An affiliate of the American Iris Society

And the Texas Garden Clubs, Inc.

**Meetings held 3rd Saturday of January,
March, May, September and November
at 10 a.m.**

**Crestview Church of Christ Community
Center, 7129 Delhi, Waco**

Dan Cathey, President

Peggy Cathey, Newsletter Editor

wacoiriss@gmail.com

Join WIS today!

Only \$10 per year. You may join at a
meeting, download membership form from
our website, or send a check with your
name, address, phone number and e-mail
address to:

Mitchell Whitley, Treasurer
812 Dayton
Waco, TX 76706



January 20, 2018 10 a.m.

***Keeping Track of Your Garden* by Dell Perry
Crestview Church of Christ Community Center**



February 17, 2018 10 a.m.

**AIS Judges Training—*Are These Really Rules?*
Crestview Church of Christ Community Center**



March 17, 2018 10 a.m.

***2017 AIS Convention Highlights*—Ken Fuchs
United Cooperative Services Community Room**



April 7, 2018

***Annual Iris Show*
LaQuinta Inn & Suites, 6003 Woodway**



April 9-14, 2018

***American Iris Society National Convention*
New Orleans, LA.**

Check out our website:

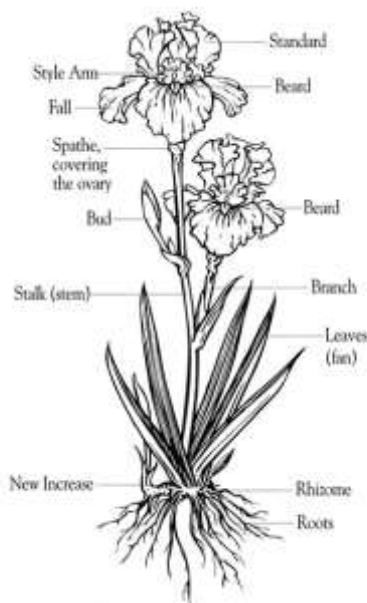
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top/?q=waco%20iris%20society](https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=waco%20iris%20society)**

Word Search: *Parts of an Iris* by Peggy Cathey

Beard
Branch
Bud
Clump
Fall
Fan
Increase
Leaf
Ovary
Rhizome
Roots
Seeds
Seedpod
Spathe
Stalk
Standard
Stem
Stylearm



Parts of a Bearded Iris

D F A N A Y M H L E A F I K E
H A E S A E R C N I N E E M S
Y I R P E I A J B S T O O R D
J F B S H S E Z U E X Z N F E
S J H T Q E L B D Q I S H Y E
U H V A L E Y B D H N G C R S
J V X N B D T E R H M X J A X
V C P D D P S O Q E H S B V V
S A F A I O N D O R J Z T O B
T P I R U D L H R Z T J C E R
A O A D T T D V C A R V Z W M
L Q S T F A L L L N E L B I X
K Y T R H E Z K O Z A B X N P
H A I E G E H V W Q E R R X E
N U O W P T C L U M P S B H X