

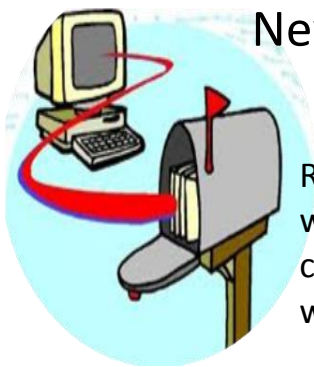
The American Iris Society

Region 17



Fall 2012/Winter 2013

Newsletter



Newsletter on the Web & To You by Email

Region 17 Newsletter Getting Up To Date

Region 17 of The American Iris Society is going “digital”. Like everyone we are trying to cut costs and increase awareness of iris. The combination Fall 2012/Winter 2013 Region 17 Newsletter is on our website and can be downloaded with Adobe--

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

The email endeavor will require action from each one of you. Currently hard copies will be mailed to all AIS members in Region 17. But with a copy on our webpage (www.aisregion17.org), *everyone* will have access to it. Please complete the form below and either mail it to me or email me the information. We are going to try to cut the cost and just email the newsletter to everyone that we can. Please consider your individual situation and if you would like to receive the newsletter only by email please let me know. Below are several advantages of getting the newsletter via email.

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

Please as soon as possible, complete the form below or type all the information in an email and send it to me with “R17 Newsletter information” in the subject line. Or mail to Debbie Strauss 2213 Hereford Blvd Midland TX 79707.

NAME

EMAIL

AIS Member (Yes or No)

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

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

___ I would like to receive the newsletter email only

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The American Iris Society Contact Info:

Web: <http://www.irises.org/>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/>

Twitter: @TweetAIS

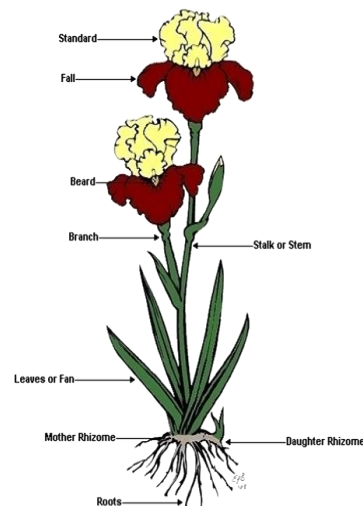
Region 17 is a 501(c)3 non-profit affiliate of AIS

<http://www.aisregion17.org/>

Deadline for Spring newsletter is Feb. 15

& Fall newsletter is Sept. 15 to

dkstraus@swbell.net



Region 17 Officers & Chairs for 2011-2013

RVP– Gordon Carver	448 Azle Hwy Weatherford TX 76085-8451 (817) 594-4537 (817) 304-3841 gcarver@flash.net
Ass't RVP– Dawn Boyer	1900 Daws Drive Amarillo TX 79124 (806) 354-8781 dawn.boyer@region16.net
Secretary– Dana Brown	1506 S Aspen Lubbock TX 79403 (806) 746-6002 ddbro@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer– Ramona Howard	3604 43rd Street Lubbock TX 79413 (806) 792-1878 rhoward3604@sbcglobal.net
Judges Training– Dell Perry	800 Purcell Drive Plano TX 75025-2521 (972) 517-7219 seandelirises@yahoo.com
Youth Advocate– Annette Brown	36 Alta Vista St Denison TX 75020 (903) 465-6364 jamesmabrown@graysoncable.com
Membership– Peggy Cathey	1115 HCR 1414 Covington TX 76636 (254) 854-2558 natvtxn1@windstream.net
Newsletter– Parliamentarian– Past RVP– Debbie Strauss	2213 Hereford Blvd Midland TX 79707 (432) 697-6340 dkstraus@swbell.net
Historian– Jim Landers	710 N 11 th Temple TX 76501-3016 (254) 773-5017 jimlanders43@hotmail.com



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) BETH YATES – PRESIDENT
4912 PAWNEE PATHWAY WICHITA FALLS TX 76310
jyates@sw.rr.com

FORT WORTH (IS) DELL PERRY – PRESIDENT
800 PURCELL DRIVE PLANO TX 75025-2521
972-816-3418 seandelirises@yahoo.com

IS OF AUSTIN (ISA) MARNEY ABEL PRESIDENT
8045 CHALK KNOLL DRIVE AUSTIN TX 78735-1706 512-330-9052
marneyabel@austin.rr.com

IS OF DALLAS (ISD) MICHAEL REED – PRESIDENT
3425 APPLE VALLEY DR FARMER'S BRANCH TX 75234 972-484-5449 mereed@drs-rsta.com

JOHNSON CO IRIS-DAYLILY (JCIDS) LAURA SMARGIASSO – PRESIDENT
4168 Saint Leger Dr Cleburne TX 76033 817-202-9808 817-846-5359 smarg1@aol.com

LONE STAR (LSIS) NAOMI NABORS – PRESIDENT
404 MUSTANG CRANFILLS GAP TX 76637 254-597-1183 howdynabors@yahoo.com

NORTH PLAINS (NPIS) DAWN BOYER – PRESIDENT
1900 DAWS DRIVE AMARILLO TX 79124 806-354-8781 dawn.boyer@region16.net

PERMIAN BASIN (PBIS) PAT JONES – PRESIDENT
12324 W PALOMINE Dr Odessa TX 79764 432-230-2484 nonnie142@yahoo.com

PINEY WOODS (PWIS) LISA TOLAND PRESIDENT
72 CR 2242 DANGERFIELD TX 75638 903-656-2707 mrsrick9761@outdrs.net

SOUTH PLAINS (SPIS) DANA BROWN – PRESIDENT
1506 S ASPEN LUBBOCK TX 79403 806-746-6002 ddbro@sbcglobal.net

TEXOMA RAINBOW (TRIS) ANNETTE BROWN – PRESIDENT
36 Alta Vista St Denison TX 75020 (903) 465-6364 jamesmabrown@graysoncable.com

WACO (WIS) PEGGY CATHEY – PRESIDENT
1115 HCR 1414 COVINGTON TX 76636 254-854-2558 natvtxn1@windstream.net

WEST TEXAS (WTIS) PEGGY WENNERLIND – PRESIDENT
3605 Sinclair Midland TX 79707 432-697-0557 dpwen8@yahoo.com

2012 AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY REGION 17 JUDGES & APPRENTICES

Emeritus

HOOKER NICHOLS	3365 Northaven Rd	Dallas TX 75229	214-352-2191	bjnhntn@aol.com
GORDON GREEN	1925 S Fannin Ave	Denison TX 75020	903-463-5468	johngord@cableone.net

Master

ELMER ADDINGTON	PO Box 3521	Lubbock TX 79452	806-785-5224	artadd@yahoo.com
ALENE ARNOLD	103 Range Trail	Amarillo TX 79108	809-383-6748	larnold@amaonline.com
DR L M BEGLEY	1930 Wilkinson Rd	Mesquite TX 75181	972-329-7800	lewgeo@aol.com
DANA BROWN	1506 S Aspen Ave	Lubbock TX 79403	806-746-6002	ddb@sbcbglobal.net
VERNON BROWN	1506 S. Aspen Ave	Lubbock TX 79403	806-746-6002	v@sbcbglobal.net
PAT BYRNE	1102 Aster Dr	Katy TX 77493	281-391-6190	patb1@CONSOLIDATED.net
RAMONA HOWARD	3604 43 rd St	Lubbock TX 79413	806-792-1878	rhoward3604@sbcbglobal.net
DAVID LAMB	714 Pebblecreek Dr	Garland TX 75040	972-495-5645	garlandlamb@verizon.net
PEGGY LAMB	714 Pebblecreek Dr	Garland TX 75040	972-495-5645	garlandlamb@verizon.net
BONNIE NICHOLS	3365 Northaven Rd	Dallas TX 75229	214-352-2191	bjnhntn@aol.com
KEITH A SMITH	7046 St. Augustine Dr	Frisco TX 75033	214-618-1800	masfw@flash.net
DEBRA STRAUSS	2213 Hereford Blvd	Midland TX 79707	432-697-6340	dkstrauss@swbell.net
MARY WILBER	4913 71 st St	Lubbock TX 79424	806-794-2512	randmwilber@att.net

Garden

DAWN K BOYER	1900 Daws Dr	Amarillo TX 79124	806-354-8781	dawn.boyer@region16.net
ANNETTE BROWN	36 Alta Vista St	Denison TX 75020	903-465-6364	jamesmabrown@graysoncable.com
GORDON CARVER	448 Azle Hwy	Weatherford TX 76085	817-946-8473	gcarver@flash.net
HAPPY CARVER	448 Azle Hwy	Weatherford TX 76085	817-594-4537	gcarver@uwmil.com
PEGGY CATHEY	1115 HCR 1414	Covington TX 76636	254-854-2558	natvtxn1@alltel.net
AL ELLIOTT	4506 W Cuthbert	Midland TX 79703	432-694-5435	aselliott64@msn.com
CONNIE FORD	6348 Christopher Ln	Odessa TX 79762	432-362-1970	connie@basinabstract.com
ALEX HARDING	448 Azle Hwy	Weatherford TX 76085	817-594-4537	hardingaggies@aol.com
CLAIRE HARDING	448 Azle Hwy	Weatherford TX 76085	817-594-4537	hardingaggies@aol.com
JIM LANDERS	710 N 11th St	Temple TX 76501	254-773-5017	jimlanders43@hotmail.com
RICH MILLER	945 Goodwin	Plano TX 75023	972-423-4901	vmiller@hotmail.com
DELL PERRY	800 Purcell Dr	Plano TX 75025	972-517-7219	seandelirises@yahoo.com
SHELIA SENGHAS	PO Box 174	Concan TX 78838	830-232-5163	earthmother999@yahoo.com
JANICE THOMPSON	2970 Luella Rd	Sherman TX 75090	903-893-3719	ciris03@yahoo.com
DORIS WILKINSON	1174 Chicken Field Rd	Whitewright TX 75491	903-364-9908	doriswilkinson373@gmail.com

Apprentice

PAM LAMB	3610 Chickadee Rd	Levelland TX 79336	806-300-7859	tplamb86@yahoo.com
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GORDON GREEN, EMERITUS JUDGE

I am pleased to announce that Gordon Green, Region 17 Master Judge has been elevated by the American Iris Society (AIS) Board of Directors to the status of Emeritus Judge. Gordon has been an active member of the AIS for more than 33 years. He's been dedicated to his Texoma Rainbow Iris Society; the Iris Society of Dallas, serving both as president. His commitment to Region 17 led him to serve as RVP for three years, Treasurer for nine years and Judges' Training Chair for three years. He has worked successfully as a trainer of up and coming judges, and anyone else who expressed a keen interest in the iris culture. He deservedly joins a small group of irisarians who carry this distinction. *Gordon Carver, RVP*



Fort Worth Iris Society will host the 53rd Annual Region 17 Meeting in August of 2013. Plans are being finalized. Check the Region 17 website for updates and specifics date and location.

REGION 17 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUDGES TRAININGS

February 16, 2013 10:15 am 3 hours

Ethics and Awards and Ballots - Peggy Cathey

\$15 fee – includes lunch Hosted by Waco Iris Society

West Waco Library meeting room 5301 Bosque Blvd., Suite 275 Waco

Contact: Peggy Cathey 254-854-2558 natvtxn1@windstream.net

February 17, 2013 12:30 am - 2:30 pm 2 hours

Median Irises - Ginny Spoon

\$5 fee - includes a light lunch Hosted by Iris Society of Dallas

Northaven Gardens 7700 Northaven Rd Dallas, TX

Contact: Gordon Carver 817-304-38412 or 817-946-8473 gcarver@flash.net

JT followed at 3PM by The Iris Society of Dallas' February meeting and a Ginny Spoon program.

February 23, 2013 12 pm 2 hours

Tall Bearded - Bob Van Liere

\$10.00 fee Hosted by South Plains Iris Society

Home Plate Diner 7615 University Lubbock, TX

Contact: Dana Brown 806-746-6002 ddbro@sbcglobal.net

April 21 or 22, 2013 time to be announced 1 or 2 hours at 2013 SLI Convention in one of the tour gardens

In-garden Judging *Louisiana Irises* - instructor TBA Hosted by Iris Society of Dallas at the

Contact: Pat Norvell 214-352-5416 patsiris@sbcglobal.net

April 23, 2013 3:00 - 5:00 PM 2 hours

Exhibition Judging *Louisiana Irises* - instructor TBA Hosted by Iris Society of Dallas 2013 SLI Convention

Crowne Plaza Hotel - Addison, TX

Contact: Pat Norvell 214-352-5416 patsiris@sbcglobal.net

SHOWS

March 30 IS of Austin-Zilker Park Garden 2202 Barton Springs "Jewels of the Earth" Show Chair-Jaime Hadley 512-335-9812 jaime@hadleyspace.com

April 6 Waco IS Clarion Hotel 801 S 4th *Iris Across the USA* Show Chair-Ken Anderson 254-223-3161 kenwanderson@hotmail.com

The artistic design classes are as follows:

Class 1: National Parks, Landmarks, and Famous Sites

Class 2: American Inventions and Innovations

Class 3: American Heritage

Class 4: Symbols of Freedom

April 13 Ft Worth IS Ft Worth Botanic Garden 3220 Botanic Garden Blvd "A Floral Symphony" Chair-Linda Smyser 817-504-9831 lksmyser@charter.net

Permian Basin IS Music City Mall 42nd St "Reflections of Spring" Show Chair-Debbie Strauss 432-352-5483 dkstrauss@swbell.net

West Texas IS Midland Park Mall Show Chair-Al Elliott 432-694-5435 aselliott64@msn.com

Johnson County I & D S Cleburne Conf Center 1510 W Henderson *Irises on the Farm* Show

Chair-Vicki Howard 817-933-1057 vickihoward70@yahoo.com

Artistic Division Adult 1. (Novice) Farm Animals Youth 1. Old McDonald's Farm

2. Dairy Farm/Dairy Products

2. Chicken Run

3. Farm Buildings/Equipment

3. Charlotte's Web

4. Farm Crops

4. Babe

Texoma Rainbow IS Sherman Senior Center 1500 N. Broughton St. Sherman Show Chairs-Janice Thompson & Woodrow Keas ciris03@yahoo.com 903-771-1054

April 14 Belton IS Belton Senior Center 842 S Mitchell Show *Irises, Irises, Irises* Chair-Jim Landers 254-773-5017 jimlanders43@gmail.com

Lone Star IS Hico Community Center 1-4 pm 100 North Railroad Ave Hico "Wide Open Spaces"

Show Chair-Vi Bennett 254-968-8664

The artistic design classes are as follows:

A. Mountains C. Seashore - Novice

B. Prairies D. Valleys

April 17 IS of Dallas North Havens Gardens Crowne Plaza Hotel & Resort 14315 Midway Road Addison Show Chair-Hooker Nichols 214-352-2191 bjnhntn@aol.com

April 23 IS of Dallas LA Show North Havens Gardens Crowne Plaza Hotel & Resort 14315 Midway Rd Addison Show Chair-Hooker Nichols 214-352-2191 bjnhntn@aol.com

April 27 Benson IS Our Redeemer Lutheran 4605 Cypress Wichita Falls "Irises are Novel"

The artistic design classes are as follows:

Class 1 "Far from the Madding Crowd" Mass Arrangement

Class 2 "Shogun" Japanese Arrangement

Class 3 "Lonesome Dove" Line Arrangement

Class 4 "Gone With the Wind" Hogarth Curve

Class 5 "Secret Garden" Mass/Line

Class 6 Any Novel Designer's Choice

South Plains IS Lubbock Garden & Arts Center 4215 University "Name That Iris" Show Chair-Ramona Howard 806-792-1878 rhoward3604@sbcglobal.net

May 13 North Plains IS Amarillo Botanical Gardens "The Circle of Life Through Iris" Show Chair-Dawn Boyer 806-354-8781 dawn.boyer@region16.net



RVP Corner

To the members of the Iris Society of Austin: Thank you! Thank you for being gracious hosts for the Region 17 members attending the meeting. Thank you for providing a great raffle, and iris auction. Thank you for stepping up and providing great meals and beverages. A big THANKS to all who donated iris for the auction.

The Region should be pleased with the current group of apprentices who've completed the requirements to become garden/exhibition judges.

Folks, we have a real continuing need to have more Irisarians achieve their judge's status. We have a strong supportive program for the developing judge. Our continuing educational experiences help insure all our judges are current. Becoming a judge can only sharpen your knowledge base of the iris culture.

This summer has been another scorcher! Trees have died; had to be felled; cut and stacked or burned. However, gardens continue to need weeding; grooming and watering (not-so-much, in water restricted areas). Please continue to be aware of weather changes: overheating is still possible on any warm clear day. In most cases irises prove their worth by bouncing back quickly. Even with modest care, they can normally be counted to survive now and thrive later. We are having some success with Clorox Cleanup as treatment for rot.

The AIS National Convention will be upon us before we know it! The Iris Society of Dallas is hosting the event. You will have nine gardens to visit during the three days of tours. **Region 17 needs to have a great basket for the AIS Silent Auction!** So if you haven't sent anything to me for the basket please do so. Anything unique to your area or anything pertaining to iris or gardening will do just great. Thanks for helping us and AIS out.

The "Cookie Queen" (Happy Carver) will be contacting each affiliate to help gather items for our garden refreshment needs. Paul Gossett, Convention Coordinator, conveyed, on average, each garden visitor consumed five items of food, not counting drinks at each garden...so...that converts to (based on 400 tour goers) approximately 2000 pieces of snacks (cookies, veggies, fruit, etc.) per garden/day. That is a lot of 'stuff' (iris folk do love to nibble...).

Happy wants to start gathering your club's cookie contributions during your January/February scheduled meetings. Please contact her directly to arrange your visitation date. Her cell: 817-946-8473 email: gcarver@flash.net

Hint: As you bake-up for the Christmas/Hanukkah season, consider adding 12 dozen or more extra eatables for the convention, freeze them and we'll pick up in January/February.

Clubs, please don't forget those unique items for our R17 AIS Basket.

Have a Great Year,
Gordon Carver



71st American Iris Society 2012 Tall Bearded Symposium Results

The symposium is an annual popularity poll of Tall Bearded (TB) iris conducted by the AIS. All AIS members may vote in this symposium. The top 100 Tall Bearded iris are then ranked and the results of the symposium each year are published in the official publication of the AIS, the AIS Bulletin, usually within the January issue. All AIS members receive this quarterly publication as part of their AIS membership.

The results are in!!! <http://www.irises.org/pdf/2012sympreport.pdf>.

Well, you say...What is this symposium, who votes in it, why, and what do you do with it when you are done? Read on and get your answers.

The list of tall bearded iris candidates in the symposium that you can vote for was completed by combining the following lists of outstanding varieties:

- The 100 top varieties in last year's Symposium
- The tall bearded irises eligible for 2013 Dykes Medal
- The tall bearded irises eligible for 2013 Wister Medal
- The tall bearded irises eligible for 2013 Awards of Merit
- The tall bearded irises that won 2012 Awards of Merit
- The tall bearded irises that won 2012 Honorable Mentions



Every member of The American Iris Society may participate in this balloting of the irises listed on the following pages. Each member is allowed twenty-five votes. Please follow the instructions below:

1. Voting may be accomplished in a variety of ways:
 - a. Mail your RVP a list of the iris you are voting for, either names & numbers, or just numbers.
 - b. You can download the list from the AIS web site www.irises.org, print it, mark it up, and mail it. (See the link to the ballot above)
 - c. Most RVP's have email, and so send any of the above formats.
2. No member may vote for more than twenty-five varieties. You may vote for fewer than twenty-five if you wish. Write-in votes are not allowed and will not be tabulated.
3. Your ballot must be mailed to and received by your RVP by September 1, 2013 in order to be counted. Sign your ballot and mail it first class. are in!!!

Iris Encyclopedia

What is the Iris Encyclopedia?

It is a website that has all types of information about Irises. As of December 26, 2012, Iris Wiki contains 75% or 52,663 cultivars and 36,348 images. The iris cultivars and species names have been defined with their registration information or botanical diagnosis. The ultimate goal is to have information and multiple images of every registered iris, about 80,000.

You are not only invited to use the encyclopedia, but also help add to it. At its initial release 138 knowledgeable Irisarians have created what is there. You can also be a part of this project by sharing your experience, research, and images.

The Iris Encyclopedia is a wiki like Wikipedia, but specifically designed to be for irises. Together we hope to build the ultimate Iris resource on the internet.

The Iris Encyclopedia is free to all and its creators span the entire globe. It is sponsored by the American Iris Society and if you enjoy this service we hope you will join the society. If you have interests in specific types (classifications) of irises, you can link to the various specialty Iris societies are presented in many places and we hope you will support your favorite group.

Anyone can access the encyclopedia but if you would like to help add additional information to this encyclopedia you must register as a user. As a user you are invited to add images and comments to existing pages. If you would like to be more creative you can request docent status. As a docent you can edit pages and develop topics. Instructions are found in the welcome sections of the encyclopedia.

If you would like a somewhat monthly update of wiki progress or if you have questions contact Robert Pries at:

robertpries@embargmail.com

Come and enjoy our encyclopedia and watch and help it develop into a world class resource. Go to <http://wiki.irises.org/>.



2013 National AIS Dallas

Iris Quilt



Tickets for a **SPECIAL RAFFLE** are available at \$5 each or 3 for \$10. Prizes include a beautiful king size quilt made by ISD member Annette Brown. Contact Bonnie Nichols at bjnhn@aol.com to purchase before the convention.

You do not need to be present to win.

The American Iris Society

**A \$25.00 VOUCHER
MAY BE YOURS!**

The Voucher Program is here for any new member of AIS, any new E-Member, or for any current member who upgrades membership; that is, upgrades from a single membership to a dual or to a triennial, or an E-Member who upgrades to multiple years of E-Membership.

The program works like this: each new or upgraded member will receive a voucher in the mail from Membership Secretary, Tom Gormley. Included with the voucher will be a listing of participating nurseries that accept the voucher with an order for irises. The listing will show what value each nursery places on the voucher and the minimum order each nursery requires. The list will also appear on the AIS website, www.irises.org

When you mail your order to one of the participating nurseries, include your voucher with the order. If you order online you must mail your original voucher to the nursery. Your voucher can be used only once and with the nursery of your choice. The voucher must be redeemed by December 31, 2013.

The voucher value does not count toward a minimum purchase amount. Most vendors do not treat this as a discount off the order, but rather will provide you with a plant of their choice at the value listed for the voucher. You will pay the shipping charge on your order as usual.

If you have any questions about this program please contact Susan Grigg, Public Relations and Marketing Committee, 105 Trotters Ridge Dr., Raleigh, NC 27614, irismom@nc.rr.com or Tom Gormley, Membership Secretary, PO Box 177, DeLeon Springs, FL 32130, aismemsec@irises.org

Voucher	
Voucher issued to:	
Number:	
Authorized by:	Expires 12/31/2013
This voucher has no monetary value for any other purpose.	
The American Iris Society	



FUTURE NATIONAL AIS CONVENTION INFORMATION

April 15-20 2013 The American IS National Dallas Bonnie Nichols -bjnhtn@aol.com
April 21-23 2013 Society of Louisiana Iris Dallas Bonnie Nichols -bjnhtn@aol.com
April 5-10 2014 The American IS National Dallas Bonnie Nichols -bjnhtn@aol.com
May 18-23 2015 The American IS National Portland OR 2015 Convention
Chair: John Ludi (503) 668-9230 kludi@juno.com

AIS 2012 Exhibition Committee

SCHEDULES: Lois Rose, P.O. Box 30, Partlow, VA 22534 540-582-5799
lowy222@aol.com

Lois will receive the draft show schedules, approve them, send out the certificates, the show supply order form, and the show report form.

SUPPLIES: Susan Boyce, 5123 South 3500 West, Roy, UT 84067 801-985-0255
irisgal@hotmail.com

Susan will receive the supply order forms and checks, maintain the show supplies inventory and ship out the orders.

SHOW REPORTS: Karen & Ray Jones, 106 Harold Court, Winchester, VA 22602
540-542-1620 ramonwjones@comcast.net

Karen and Ray will receive the show reports, verify the results, mail out the medals and Exhibition Certificates and prepare the annual exhibitions show report. (Please note that this is a new 2012 address)



Announcement

Joe and Donna Spears are pleased to announce that Argyle Acres has been purchased by Willow Creek Farm and Gardens of Wautoma, Wisconsin. Willow Creek, a family-owned small agribusiness, currently sells irises, day lilies, peonies, and trees. We will be working closely with Willow Creek personnel as they take over Argyle Acres and continue to provide high-quality irises. The Spears also have a new email address – argyleiris@verizon.com.

Report Your Rebloomers!

By Jim Landers

Irises that bloom in the fall are special treats to everyone who loves irises. They double the pleasure we find in our favorite flowers. Many people want to know which irises do bloom in the fall, so the Reblooming Iris Society keeps records of those that bloom in the fall. The only way the Reblooming Iris Society knows which ones bloom in the fall is for the growers of those irises to notify someone about the fall blooms. In our Southern area of the United States that person to notify about the reblooming irises is our own Jim Landers. Jim makes a report of the information he receives and sends it to the Reblooming Iris Society (RIS) for their newsletter, which comes out twice a year and is full of the names, pictures and information of the irises that rebloom in all parts of the country. If you have had any irises bloom in the fall, please send that information to Jim so it may be shared. jimlanders43@hotmail.com.



Region 17 General Meeting Minutes

August 4, 2012

The meeting was called to order by Gordon Carver at 12:42 in Austin TX.

The motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as published. The motion carried.

Ramona Howard passed out copies of the Treasurer's Report. Our current checking account balance is \$3629.44 with a total balance of 18,915.73. The Treasurer's Report was filed for audit.

Standing Committees:

Judges Training – Dell Perry reported that Pat Byrne and David Lamb advanced to Master Judge and Hooker Nichols was elected as an Emeritus Judge. We have 8 Candidates, 1 Apprentice, 15 Garden Judges, 14 Master Judges and 1 Judge Emeritus. All of the judges met their training requirements. There were 10 Judges Training classes this year.

Youth Report – Annette Brown reported that there were no nominations for the Clarke Cosgrove award. There are a total of 7 new youth members.

Membership Chair – Peggy Cathey reported that we have a total of 319 members making us # 4 in all of the regions of AIS!

Historian – Jim Landers reported that there are 14 clubs with 9 shows this year. Jim reported that 10 years ago we had 10 shows and 20 years ago we had 14 shows. Top winners for the year are the iris HopTolt, which won Best In Show at two different shows with the same stalk. Don and Pat Freeman won one Best in Show and two Silvers and Barbara Elliott won one Best In Show, one Silver and one Bronze. There were 6 people that appeared on the winners list for a major award for the first time this year. On the list of winners for 1992, 2002, and 2012 the only people on all three lists were: Dana and Vernon Brown, and Jim Landers. Jim asked again for show reports, show schedules, and yearbooks. Gordon reminded us that we are in need of a library and librarian. Anyone interested please contact Gordon or Jim.

Newsletter – Debbie Strauss reported that the Newsletter deadline is September 15. The electronic version will be available on the website. The electronic version will have more pictures than the mailed out version and the pictures will be in color. Debra requested articles from our members! She needs articles!!

Website – Dana Brown reported that she had gotten good feedback and information from the members allowing us to update the website and keep it current.

Old Business:

There were no memorial donations received this year. Gordon reminded us that a donation to the Region and a write up in the newsletter would be a nice memorial to members who have passed.

New Business:

Fort Worth will be hosting the 2013 Region 17 Annual Meeting. **We need a volunteer to host the 2014 meeting.**

Gordon Carver has Symposium Ballots for those that need them and they are online as well.

Bonnie Nichols updated us on the 2013 National Convention in Dallas. They are also hosting the 2013 SLI Convention and the 2014 National Convention. She confirmed that the Convention will start on April 15. There will be garden Judges Training as well as Judges Training in the evenings. Garden Tours start on Thursday with the gardens of the Carvers and Tom Burseen, with lunch at the Clark Garden. Friday starts with Hooker Nichols Garden, lunch at the Arboretum, which is where the Texas Hybridizers iris are planted, Dell Perry's garden, and the Addison Garden. Saturday is Annette Brown's garden, the Thompson garden and the McDowell garden. The SLI convention will follow immediately after the AIS National Convention. Bonnie reminded us they need bus captains and cookie donations.

Gordon Carver has written a letter that can be used to introduce you to possible donors for items for the regional. Please contact Gordon or Happy for a copy of the letter. Gordon went on to tell us that Region 17 is responsible for putting together a basket with items from our region. If every affiliate would find something that is "of their area" such as Popcorn from Plainview, or wine from one of the Lubbock wineries and send it to Happy Carver she will put this all together for us.

Nominating Committee – Debbie Strauss, Dana Brown, and Ramona Howard were the 3 appointees. Nelda Moore and Al Elliott were nominated from the floor completing the committee of five.

Gordon Carver reminded everyone that officer changes, or address changes need to be reported to the Region so their records can be updated.

Affiliates Roll Call:

Belton Iris Society – Jim Landers reported that Belton had a very nice, small show this spring. Their sale was in coordination with the Master Gardener's Sale and it was very successful.

Benson Iris Society – No one present

Fort Worth Iris Society – Dell Perry reported they meet the 1st Thursday of every month and have about 60 members. They give a percentage of the proceeds back to the person who brought the iris to encourage folks to bring good iris for the sale. They had a good show, held during the National Convention.

Iris Society of Dallas – Michael Reed reported that they held their show in April and Carolyn Duff won Best In Show with *Hoptoit* for her first big win! Their sale will be September 15 at Northhaven Gardens and then they will have Christmas in September at the Nichols Garden.

Johnson County Iris and Daylily Society – Laura Smargiasso reported they meet the second Saturday of each year. They have 4 new youth members and several new adult members. They have 47 members and over 75% of them are AIS members. They had 108 horticulture entries and even a Youth Design division and a photography section. They had 1 member become an iris judge and 2 members become daylily judges.

Lone Star Iris Society – Peggy Cathey read a statement prepared by President Naomi Neighbors. They have a total of 36 members including 7 new adult members and 4 new youth members this year. They had a successful show and two sales as well as educational booths.

North Plains Iris Society–Dawn Boyer told us that they have about 7 members and have gained 3 new members this year. Their show, which is traditionally on Mother's Day, at the Amarillo Botanical Gardens, had to be cancelled this year because 2 weeks before the show everything was bloomed out. Their sale was very good and sold out by noon!

Permian Basin Iris Society–Debbie Strauss announced that they have about 20 members. They had a small but good show and also did a photography section. They have a professional photographer coming to do a program in February to give their members pointers for this section. They did something new for their sale this year, they held a sale in a members garden when it was blooming.

Piney Woods Iris Society – no one present

South Plains Iris Society–Pam Lamb reported that we had a small show, there were almost more designs than horticulture entries! We are creating a hand out for our members that will explain what is to be expected at each event and what the duties are. We are purchasing a storage building to put all of our show supplies in since we have lost our storage space at the Garden & Arts Center. We meet the 4th Monday of the month February through October.

Texoma Rainbow Iris Society–Annette Brown reported that they cancelled their iris show for the second year in a row but has already scheduled their next show. They have 10-12 members, four of whom will have gardens on tour at the 2013 National Convention.

Waco Iris Society–Peggy Cathey will be 52 years old and will be giving each of their members a free iris to celebrate. Their sale is September 29th at the Green Life Nursery. They have 21 members with 3 new members. They had to cancel their show this year because of early bloom. They meet the 3rd Saturday of September, November, March and a luncheon in May.

West Texas Iris Society–Al Elliott reported that they have 24 members. Their show was small but they had 3 English Boxes this year and Al volunteered to teach a class on the English Boxes to anyone interested.

Austin Iris Society–Marney Abel reported that they have 49 members, 25 of which are active. They have a new Master Judge, Pat Byrne, and 3 new youth as well as 3 new adult members. They meet the 2nd Tuesday at the Zilker Botanical Gardens. Hooker and Bonnie Nichols gave a Judges Training for them in January. Their show was in April and their sale is at the Norris Conference Center on September 8.

Gordon Carver noted that over half of the clubs have gained members this year. He encouraged societies to bring in more youth members.

Pat Byrne announced that the Silent Auction will close at 5:30. The Raffle will be held after dinner. She also announced that there were tote bags left and they are available for \$8.00.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15.



Hello to all the Iris Societies in Texas! Each AIS Region in the USA will be donating a special basket to the AIS Silent Auction each year. We want the Texas basket to be a unique bragging basket from all across the enormous beautiful state. Region 17 is requesting that each society make donations for our Texas Basket. Send items made in your area or that show what a special place your city is. Also send any iris related items or things that any iris gardener would like. We hope to have our Texas Hybridizers donate iris coupons for our great contribution. Send your items as soon as you can to: Gordon Carver at



Region 17 AIS Treasurer's Report

August 2, 2012

Submitted by Treasurer, Ramona Howard

Savings, February 13, 2012

CD # 1290171	Renewed 03/07/11 at .80% for 18 months	\$ 2,870.64
CD # 1290170	Renewed 03/07/11 at .80% for 18 months	<u>12,354.68</u>
		\$15,225.32

CD #1290171	Interest 03/07/12	\$ 5.71	
	Interest 06/07/12	<u>5.78</u>	
		\$ 11.49	\$ 2,882.13

CD #1290170	Interest 03/07/12	\$ 24.59	
	Interest 06/07/12	<u>24.89</u>	
		\$ 49.48	\$12,404.16

Total in Savings: August 2, 2012 **\$15,286.29**

Checking			Debits	Credits	Balance
Balance On Hand, February 13, 2012					\$ 5,839.04
	<u>Ck#</u>				
02/25/12	574	Iris Society of Austin Auction Irises	\$400.00		5,439.04
02/28/12		Interest on checking		\$.33	5,439.37
03/23/12	575	Peggy Cathey,	4.99		5,434.38
03/29/12		Benson Iris Society		30.00	5,464.38
03/31/12		Interest on checking		.33	5,464.71
04/02/12	576	Rainbow Press, Inc 330 Newsletters	590.00		4,874.71
04/18/12	577	Permian Presort Service	153.79		4,720.92
04/30/12		Interest on checking		.28	4,721.20
05/17/12	578	Gordon Carver RVP RVP Expenses	1,082.56		3,638.64
05/17/12	579	Peggy Cathey Membership letters	1.65		3,636.99
05/30/12		Interest on checking		.28	3,637.27
06/27/12	580	Gordon Carver RVP Ck 578 Void Lost in mail	1,082.56		3,637.27
06/30/12		Interest on checking		.27	3,637.54
07/03/12	581	Peggy Cathey	4.25		3,633.29
08/02/12	582	Peggy Cathey	3.85		3,629.44
Balance In Checking Account:			\$2,241.09	\$31.49	\$3,629.44

Total In Checking and Savings August 2, 2012 **\$18,915.73**

AIS Region 17 2012 Nominating Committee Report 8/21/2012

The following list contains the nominees for the Region 17 slate of officers prepared by the nominating committee comprised of: Committee Chair, Debra Strauss, past RVP; Dana Brown, Ramona Howard, Nelda Moore and Al Elliott.

RVP	Dawn Boyer 1900 Daws Dr Amarillo TX 79124 806-354-8781 dawn.boyer@region16.net
Assistant RVP	Peggy Cathey 1115 HCR 1414 Covington TX 76636 254-854-2558 natvtxn1@windstream.net
Treasurer	Ramona Howard 3604 43rd St Lubbock TX 79413 806-792-1878 rhoward3604@sbcglobal.net
Secretary	Nelda Moore 607 Westlake Dr West Lake Hills TX 78746-5311 512-327-0401 neldamoore6947@att.net



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

The Flower of Inspiration - the Iris

by Al Elliott

All of God's plants have a purpose. Some are for direct use as a food source – apple, grapes, or carrots. Some are a food source that requires some skill or talent to prepare - grain to bread, or sap to syrup. Some are an indirect source of food – grains to milk via cows or grains to meat via turkeys. Some are important for our standard for living – trees provide wood for homes or paper for the AIS bulletin. Some are a source of medical treatment – pain and fever control or cancer treatment. Plants recycle gases into the oxygen that we breathe as well as erosion control, wind breaks, havens for birds, or shelter from the heat. An Iris is not famed for these, but rather the purpose of the Iris, according to Al Elliott, is "Inspiration."

Arts and Crafts: The Iris is used as a source of inspiration for the canvas as demonstrated by van Gogh and O'Keefe. It is a source of inspiration in textile – quilts, flags, or sweaters. The Iris is an inspiration to display on ceramics or porcelain – vases, plates, cups, etc. It is a source of inspiration for the photographer. (How many of you have photos of your Iris).

Garden: The Iris is an inspiration to get dirt under the finger nail. It is an inspiration for us to give back to nature as we prepare the soil, plant that \$50 rhizome, care and feed, and pull a few weeds just so that we can enjoy that Iris blooms. The Iris is the inspiration to enhance your garden landscape with the options of all sizes and colors and the greatly varied blooming season in the spring to early summer and reblooming in the late summer or fall. Look at the Iris in your garden, your affiliate member gardens, as well as your friends for the multitude of ways the Iris can be used to enhance the beauty of a home.

Science: The Iris is inspiration for the hybridizers to unleash the genetic potential of the ultimate flower for us to enjoy as demonstrated by the 900+ new introductions each year. The development of horns and spoons, the color combinations within the flower, the separation of the colors in the hafts, falls, beards, and rims, the physical shapes of the flower, rebloomers, altering the season of bloom, fragrance, etc. These all show the inspiration of these people of science.

Our talents: The Iris is an inspiration for us to show our talents for growing and grooming of the Iris at the Horticulture Division of 'The Iris Show.' These always draw the ahhs and ooohs. The Artistic Division provides an outlet for your creative expression. The diversity of Iris bloom is used for creating breath taking floral arrangements. The flexibility and beauty of the Iris fan is used in many floral arrangements to help bring out the overall beauty of the design.

Fellowship: The Iris is an inspiration to allow us to participate in the common fellowship of Iris lovers via the American Iris Society, and its' associated Sections, Cooperating Societies and local affiliates. We are a unique and passionate group and if you don't believe it – attend the AIS convention or regional convention or any local Iris Society meeting.

Inner Soul: And for me personally and most importantly, the Iris is an inspiration that is good for my soul and my inner spirit. It allows me time to step back and appreciate another of God's talents. It is a time of peace and quiet to walk the Iris garden away from the noise of the TV, phone, and other distractions. There is nothing more soothing 'to the soul' than a fresh cup of coffee for an early morning stroll in the garden or a late afternoon 'close the day' tour with a glass of wine among the sound of the birds, the cracking of another sunrise/sunset and the colors of the Iris kissed with the early morning dew or the late afternoon shadows. The flower of inspiration - the Iris.



Iris & Youth

Region 17 Youth Chair is **Annette Brown** at:
jamesmabrown@graysoncable.com

The only way to stay an outstanding viable group is to encourage young people to love gardening and iris. It is very important for our societies to have youth members.

The 2012 Youth Ackerman Essay Contest topic was "What's So Great About An Iris". There were two top prizes of \$100 each; one for 12 & under, and one for 13 & over. The winner of the 12 & under was Glory

Winzer from Region 18 and the 13 & over winner was Colin Campbell from Region 4. The 2013 Contest topic is "What Makes Irises An Outstanding Garden Plant and Why Do You Like Growing Them". Deadline is March 15, 2013. Region 17 also received wonderful news, as Claire Harding from Weatherford was awarded the 2012 Clarke Cosgrove Memorial Youth Achievement Award. Congratulations to her! All of Texas is proud of you! We are honored to have such an outstanding young lady involved with iris in Texas and the Nation.

Everyone look around and find a son, daughter, grandchild, neighbor or friend's child and get them interested in the great outdoor sport of gardening by sharing all your knowledge about iris with them. The show is a perfect place to get them excited with the design section or the educational section or perhaps even a photography section. Help keep iris alive and enjoyed!

Region 17 is looking for a youth to honor with the 2013 Region 17 Outstanding Youth Award. Below are the guidelines and requirements.



Region 17 Outstanding Youth

A Youth Achievement Award may be given annually at the Region 17 Annual meeting of each year, along with a check in the amount of \$50.00. The winner of this year's award will be nominated for the 2014 Clarke Cosgrove Award which is the National AIS Youth Award. The winner of the Clarke Cosgrove Award receives free registration for the 2014 AIS Convention, a trophy and a cash prize that will be presented at the AIS Convention.

The Region 17 Youth Achievement Award committee is composed of the RVP, the Newsletter Editor, and the Region 17 Youth Director. Any AIS member may nominate any AIS youth member.

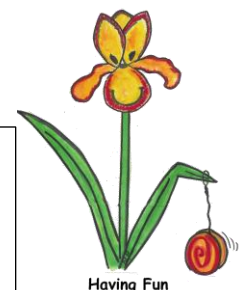
A youth may be nominated by more than one person, or by someone from another region. With the nomination, please include the youth's age, (DOB), AIS number or expiration date, and name of local club membership. Outline his/her activities following the guidelines below. If you need a list of the youth's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

Youth nominations are made in writing to the Youth Chair for Region, the letter not to exceed two pages, setting out the youth's qualifications, his activities in local and regional affairs, and any special considerations that are your reason for the nomination. From these nominations the committee will select the winner for the year. The nomination letter should include the personal attributes of the youth, using some of the following as guidelines:

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

Deadline postmarked by July 15, 2013. Mail or email nomination letters to: Region 17 Youth Advocate—Annette Brown 36 Alta Vista St Denison TX 75020
jamesmabrown@graysoncable.com

American Iris Society Youth





IRIS SOCIETY OF DALLAS

The American Iris Society National Convention *April 15-20, 2013*

As I write this convention update, I can't believe in 3 months we will be welcoming guests from all over the United States plus overseas guests to the 2013 American Iris Society Convention! It seems like only yesterday that the Iris Society of Dallas members voted to extend an invitation to the AIS board.

If you have not visited the Iris Society of Dallas website, please do. You can find convention information on the site www.irises-dallas.org Thanks to Dell Perry, our Convention Registrar we have information about the gardens and registration forms posted on the site. We will be updating the site as we move toward the convention.

Many thanks to Iris Society of Dallas member Paul Gossett for all his help working with the hotel and planning meetings for all our sections and AIS board. We have the agenda for the convention posted on the website.

We hope you join us for the convention. If this is your first convention or your fiftieth—you will enjoy Dallas. The first few days of the convention there will be section meetings to attend, shopping at the iris boutique, judges training, and a wonderful iris show. On Wednesday evening (Apr17) there will be a Welcome Banquet. We will recognize all the AIS regions, foreign guests, and youth attending the convention. Bright and early on Thursday morning (Apr 18) we will board busses and head west of Dallas to Tom Burseen's garden in Grand Prairie, the Carver's garden in Weatherford and the Clark Garden in Mineral Wells. We will have lunch in the Clark Garden. Babe's Chicken will be catering the lunch. If you have not had Babe's food – you are in for a treat!

On Friday morning (Apr 19) we will stay local and tour the Addison garden near the hotel, Nichols' Mesquite Garden, and the Dallas Arboretum. We will have lunch at the Arboretum. We have added Dell Perry's home garden in Plano to our Friday garden tours. While Dell does not have any 2013 convention guest plants, she grows a wide assortment of irises and companion plants. She will also be on tour for the 2014 AIS convention.

The last day of tours on Saturday April 20, we will head north to the Sherman/Denison area. The Brown and Thompson gardens will be on tour. We will have Mexican food for lunch and complete the day with a tour of another new garden we have added for the 2014 convention. The garden of Martha McDowell in Anna does not have any guest plants for 2013. She also grows a large variety of irises and will have 2014 convention plants. Guests will have one more opportunity to see the Addison garden before voting their ballots.

The AIS convention will conclude on Saturday evening with an Awards Banquet recognizing hybridizers and irises.

However, the fun doesn't stop here.....We hope you attend the Society of Louisiana irises convention April 21-23. If you love irises, and who doesn't, this is the perfect opportunity to see MORE gardens, attend more judges training, and participate in another beautiful iris show.



Bright and early on Sunday morning (Apr 21) we will travel back north to the Brown Garden in Sherman/Denison area, Plano to Dell Perry's garden, and the Town of Addison garden. We will have a BBQ lunch in Farmers Branch.

Monday morning (Apr 22) we will travel south to Red Oak to the Mason garden and back to Farmers Branch to the Reed garden and also the Nichols' Northaven Garden. We will have Mexican food at Victoria's Restaurant in Farmers Branch.

All gardens have a wide assortment of named Louisiana irises as well as seedlings from various hybridizers.

Tuesday (Apr 23) there will be a Louisiana iris show at the convention hotel.

We will be posting an agenda for the Louisiana convention because I have only highlighted some of the goodies you can expect by attending the Society for Louisiana irises convention.

Several of us have been fortunate enough to travel to the various AIS regions to talk about the convention. We hope you will join us in Dallas. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I would love to hear from you.

Bonnie J Nichols AIS 2013/2014 convention chairman 2013 SLI convention chairman





American Iris Society Convention Registration

April 15-20, 2013

Crowne Plaza Hotel

14315 Midway Road Addison, TX 75001

Hotel room reservations are separate from Convention Registration!

Contact the Crowne Plaza - 972-980-8877 - ask for the "IS3" room rates.



Please complete and mail this form so that it **arrives no later than April 1, 2013**. Registrations will be acknowledged by email, unless no email is supplied. You will receive a packet with additional information, name tags, and event tickets at check-in.

PLEASE PRINT - Fill out one form per person attending.

Name to appear on name badge: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

	By 2/1	By 3/1	After 4/1		TOTAL
Full Adult Registration	\$299	\$349	\$399	=	
Includes Welcome and Awards banquets, Garden Tours, Judges Training and convention book					
Full Youth Registration (18 and under)	\$150	\$200	\$250	=	
Garden Tours ONLY (April 18, 19 and 20)	\$200	\$250	\$300	=	
Includes bus, lunches, in-garden Judges Training and convention book					
Banquets ONLY (No garden tour, judges training or convention book)					
Welcome Banquet	\$50	\$50	\$60	=	
Awards Banquet	\$50	\$50	\$60	=	
TOTAL Enclosed					

Payment Method:

☐ CHECK - Make Payable to "Iris Society of Dallas"

☐ CREDIT CARD: ☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD Card Number _____ Exp Mo _____ Year _____

Card Holder's name as it appears on the card: _____

Refunds for cancellations requested on or after April 1, 2013 will be made at the discretion of the Convention Committee

MEALS Please select from the following choices:

Welcome Banquet - April 17

☐ Chicken Florentine ☐ Smoked Brisket ☐ Vegetarian

Awards Banquet - April 20

☐ Pesto Chicken ☐ Sirloin Steak ☐ Vegetarian

SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS: ☐ Gluten Free ☐ Lactose intolerant ☐ Diabetic

☐ Other - please describe here: _____

SPECIAL NEEDS: If special accommodations are needed for disabilities, please describe here:

GEEK DINNER: Reservations are made separately.

Contact: John & Joanne Prass-Jones (510) 795-9723 aiselectronicsvcs@irises.org

Send Registration & Payment to: Dell Perry 800 Purcell Dr. Plano, TX 75025 972-816-3418 seandelirises@yahoo.com

Visit the AIS Convention website for more information.

<http://www.irises-dallas.org/2013-AIS-Convention.aspx>



Maximize your trip - Stay for the Society for Louisiana Iris Convention - April 21-23, 2013

Same hotel. Same room rate. Separate registration required.

Visit the SLI Convention website for more information.

<http://www.irises-dallas.org/2013-SLI-Convention.aspx>

REMEMBERING NEBRASKA'S SASS BROTHERS

by Dawn K. Boyer

I was asked the other day why I love to grow irises and keep knocking myself out growing more and more different varieties. That brought back memories of my childhood and the relationship I had with two of the well-known iris hybridizers from Nebraska, Jacob and Hans Sass. My great grandmother, Katherine Wicht Framm,

was a cousin of the Sass brothers and she grew several of their varieties in her large garden along with my grandmother, in Yutan, Nebraska. An iris, **Katie Wicht**, was named after her, but I don't think it was ever introduced. I was only two years old when Hans passed away, but his nephew, Henry, was carrying on with the hybridizing as I grew up. My great grandmother and I visited Henry several times, and I grew to love the Sass iris, as just beautiful flowers. In the 1960's, Henry sold much of the Sass stock to Schriener's Gardens. Now, I still have a few of the original rhizomes that I received from Henry and from my great grandmother and mother, who received them from Hans and Jacob, and have collected several more through other hybridizers. They are much hardier than many of the newer irises in my garden, and I feel blessed to have had the Sass brothers in my family tree. So I would like to tell you about these two inventive/creative hybridizers, as I have learned to appreciate all that they did for the world of irises and those of us who love them.

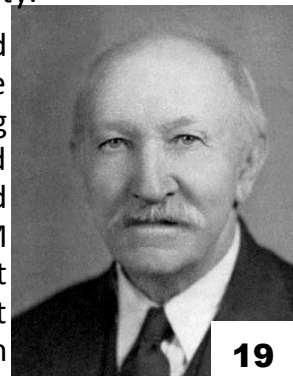


Jacob Sass was born in 1872 and Hans Sass was born in 1868, in Alt Duvestedt, Germany. Before coming to America, Hans studied botany, and then the two boys came to Bennington, Nebraska around in 1884. They began growing irises around 1901. They both bought farms close to Omaha, Nebraska in 1903. Jacob followed the writings of C.S. Harrison, another Nebraskan who popularized irises in the Midwest. Jacob bought all the iris varieties he could find at the time. Hans started growing peonies, lilies, lilacs and irises and first hybridized peonies. Jacob kept careful records as he hybridized, and was proud to have a blue iris that no one else had by 1909. While most of his seedlings came from careful planting, a few were pollinated by bees.

What was important to Jacob and Hans was color and hardiness, not so much height, because on the windswept prairie, a height of 36 to 38 inches was a plus. But, a bright color of a medium flower on a medium stalk was most preferred. Since blues were the norm, the Sass brothers began producing ruffled plicatas and blends to be different. Introductions favored names from German royalty, Nebraska settings, mythology, and personal names, such as **King Karl**, **City of Lincoln** and **Aksarben** (Nebraska spelled backwards), **Prairie Sunset**, **King Tut** and **Caroline Stringer**.

By 1919, when the American Iris Society was formed, Jacob had all the collections that had been introduced, and the brothers became charter members of the Society.

Hans' first introduction was Midwest in 1923, and by then Jacob had introduced several TB's. During these years, Jacob would always praise Hans's irises and Hans would always give the most credit to Jacob, being loving brothers who both loved irises. Hans worked more with dwarfs and intermediates through the years, and hoped through this process, he could develop a magnificent yellow tall bearded. **Baldwin**, which received an HM in 1926, was considered by the leaders in the field to be the best iris out there based on color. But **Ola Kala**, his brilliant yellow, was the one that received the Dykes Medal. **Eleanor Roosevelt**, a rich burgundy IB, which also reblooms, was also a prize winner.



Reblooming was something new to the iris world at that time. Hans' seedling, **King Tut**, was the parent of dozens of yellow and red blends. **Ramses**, a blend, also won a Dykes medal. Hans was one of the first to cross pumila with tall bearded to get IB's, and for which he is best known. Another outstanding introduction by Hans was a dwarf, **Jungle Shadows**, which to this day is totally unique blend and unlike any other iris, small or large.

Jacob was determined to produce a real red iris. He wrote, in a letter, dated February 23, 1927, "I don't believe we will ever have a real red rose color, but I do believe we will get some nearer red than we have now, as each year is getting better." **The Red Douglas**, **Cardinal**, **Red Wing**, and several red introductions show this striving for a real red iris. By 1927, the sixth generations of seedlings were blooming, producing over 50,000 seedlings. By 1929, 6000 to 7,000 of them were red.



Next on the Sass brothers' list were the search for whites and pinks. In 1928, 40 pink seedlings were created, many fine, such as **Pink Opal** and **Pink Satin**. Jacob's children began taking over the management of the farm, so Jake could devote more and more time to irises. His sons surely thought he was totally possessed with irises. Because his friends said how well the pinks were blooming in their gardens, with splendid form and lots of blooms, Jacob was forced to introduce some. But, a very hardy white iris, which is still a greater grower today, **Wambliska**, not only was a true white with good substance, but it produced a number of plicatas, one of which was **Dore'**, a large yellow ground plicata. With the renewed interest in plicatas and blends, **Prairie Sunset** finally won the Dykes in 1943. Hans also was successful in hybridizing the darkest seedling of the time, and tall bearded named **The Black Douglas**.

Field mice ruined about 70% of the seedlings during the winter of 1931-32, so there were no new seedlings for the next year, and in the drought of 1935-36 about 75% were lost, but 1938 was a banner year, and several new seedlings were introduced. But 1939 was another bad year, weather wise, and two of Jacob's sons went off to the army in 1941, which left only Henry, Jacob's other son to run the farm and try to help Dad, since Jacob's health was failing. But, with Henry's and Hans' help, twelve more of Jacob's varieties were introduced, three receiving AM awards after Jacob's death. Jacob passed away in 1945 at the age of 73.

Hans continued his work with irises and other flowers. In 1941, he received the Gold Medal for Hybridizing from the AIS, and the Foster Memorial Plaque, given by the Iris Society of England. The President of the English society, Geoffrey L. Pilkington, visited Hans' garden and presented Hans with the award, and later Hans named an iris after President Pilkington. Hans stayed active until a few weeks before his death, enjoying the 1949 iris season, and actually pollinating a new pink one at the time of his death. He passes away in September, 1949, at the age of 81.

During the Sass years of hybridizing, Jacob introduced 81 and Hans introduced 111 varieties of irises (as best as can be determined).

As you probably already know, the American Iris Society honored the brothers several years ago for their hybridizing contributions of intermediates, by awarding the Hans and Jacob Medal each year to the best IB.





REGION 17 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Peggy Cathey

The American Iris Society has a total of 23 Regions and Region 17 ranks #4 in total memberships.

This past year, AIS announced a new membership service which is only \$15 per year – the Electronic AIS E-membership which is separate from the normal AIS membership. E-members will not receive printed copies of the AIS Bulletins. Instead, they have access to online AIS Bulletins. E-members also have access to

irisregister.com, which is the online database of iris registrations and introductions which is a really fast search tool and certainly makes an e-membership worth the money. Additional services may be made available in the future.

Our Region 17 membership total is 319, which is an increase of 3 from this time last year. This includes 293 members, 14 Affiliates and 16 E-Memberships. There are 22 youth members!

As Region 17 Membership Chair, I mailed 133 membership renewal letters this past year resulting in 83 renewals, 31 members were dropped, and 19 who we are still waiting to hear from. We gained 25 new members, 9 members were reinstated, and there were 10 new E-memberships for a total of 44 new memberships this year.

I hope each affiliate will encourage their members to become AIS members. If you have ideas to increase membership, please share them with the rest of the region.

June Hivnor - Best of Show *Mother Earth*
& Runner-up



LONE STAR IRIS SOCIETY REPORT

New Youth- Emily &
Best Historic Spun Gold

The Lone Star Iris Society, now in their 4th year has a total of 38 members. This includes 9 new adult members and 4 new youth members this year. Our members are very enthusiastic and working together on various activities. Even with poor timing, we managed



to have a successful show with numerous entries and lots of visitors and a good plant sale. We had a successful yearly sale in September, this time in two locations of Hico and Hamilton, Texas as well as a successful sale and informational booth in the Spring Fling, an annual event in Hamilton, Texas. We have participated in festivals in the other local communities by providing a booth to educate the public about irises and our society. We also had a very successful Judges Training in the spring. We are maintaining two iris beds separately in Hico and Hamilton, Texas. We also utilize social media such as Facebook to stay connected as a group and communicate with each other. As the LSIS continues to grow, we are looking forward to identifying other opportunities to promote and share the iris experience with the communities around us and to recruit even more members especially youth members.





WACO IRIS SOCIETY REPORT

The Waco Iris Society began its 53rd year in February of this year. We had three new members join the organization this past year, bringing our membership to 20. We were saddened by the loss of one long time member this year with the passing of "Mac" McLaran.

We meet every other month, with the exception of the summer months, when there are no meetings. The club year begins with our September meeting and goes through our May luncheon. Our annual plant sale is always held on the last Saturday of September at the GreenLife Nursery on the corner of Bosque Blvd. and New Road in Waco. We always have very successful sales and our customers always look forward to coming to the sale. Our spring iris show is generally held on the third Saturday of April, but we had to cancel the show this year because of the exceptionally early bloom season. We have enjoyed programs presented by our members on the 2011 AIS Convention in Canada, "Bloomin' Rainbows"- new iris color patterns, and Bonnie Nichols will be presenting a program to get us excited about the upcoming 2013 and 2014 AIS Conventions to be held in Dallas. Our first meeting of each new club year is held in September with each member receiving a free iris followed by an auction. This year, our supplying iris growers have been very generous and each member received a 2012 introduction.

The Waco Society is fortunate to have a lot of very knowledgeable members. Four of our members are AIS Iris Judges and we have two who are retired AIS Judges.



2012-2013 **Johnson County Iris & Daylily Society** Officers & Committee Chairs. L to R, Back Row: Gloria Huddleston, Hospitality Chair; Glenn Huddleston, 1st VP & Program Chair; Gisele McCurdy, Parliamentarian; Dan Cathey, 2nd VP & Membership Chair; John Parks, Treasurer, Beth Griffith, Secretary; Laura Smargiasso, President, 2nd Row: Josh Howard, Raffle Chair, Bonnie Parks, Sunshine Chair; Janice Green, Hospitality Committee; Vicki Howard, 3rd VP, Show Chair; front row: Savana Howard, Raffle Committee. Not pictured, Chelsea Curlee, Hospitality Committee; and Kathy Wade, Historian.



The American Iris Society



Youth News by Peggy Cathey

Imagine my surprise and delight when I pulled up the AIS homepage on the internet and the first thing I see is a beautiful photograph of Batik, and the photographer listed was our very own youth member, Chelsea Curlee. Congratulations Chelsea! We are very proud of her and so excited to see her participate on the national level of the AIS. Since becoming a JCI&DS Youth member, she has placed in the AIS Youth Coloring Contest, she was the winner of the 2011 Ackerman Essay Contest for her age division, and now she has won an Honorable Mention in the 2012 Youth Photography contest.

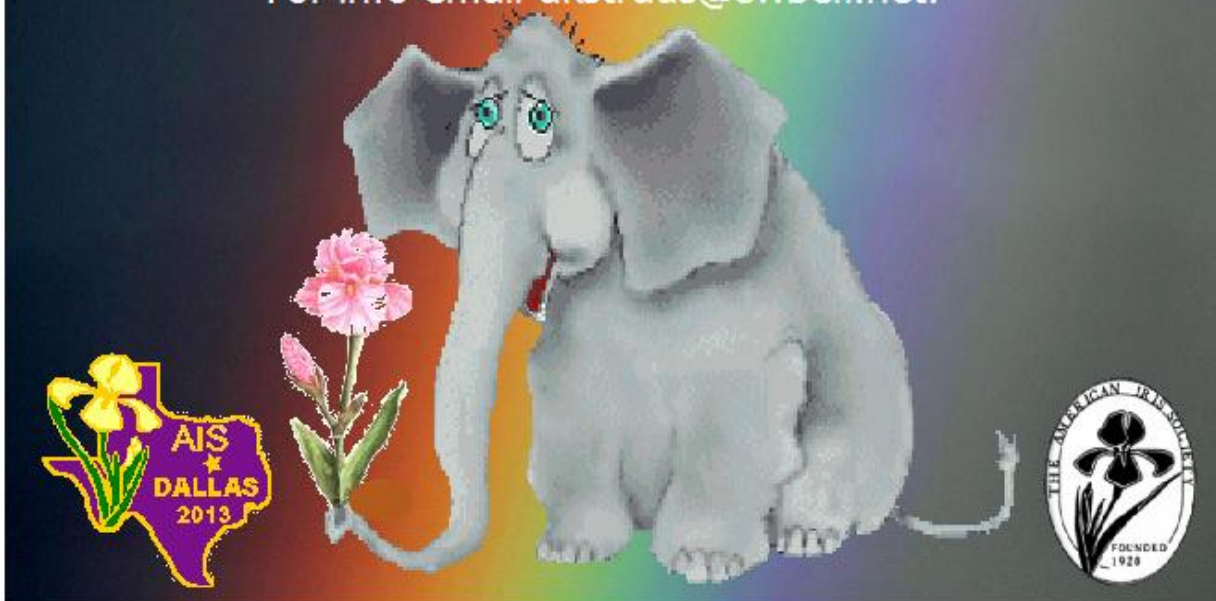
We are very proud of all of our youth members and hope to see a lot more winners in the future. Young members thrive on our support and encouragement, so please help support them in all their club activities.



AIS NEEDS YOU!

Such a small thing but a giant benefit for AIS!
Clean your closets and donate to the Silent Auction
for the 2013 National AIS Convention in Dallas TX.
Bring them with you, or mail to 2213 Hereford Blvd
Midland TX 79707 as soon as you can.

For info email dkstraus@swbell.net.



REGION 17 NEEDS A GREAT CLUB LIKE YOURS!

In the fall of 2014 Region 17 will have its big 55th Annual Meeting. We need a very special, Texas Iris Society to host it. We are trying to stay a year ahead on the planning so everyone on their calendar and the turnout will be outstanding. Below is a list of which club hosted each year since 1959. Please look it over and rally your club to host this great year's meeting. We have a folder with all the info you could possibly need to know to host and there are many of us that would be very happy to help. So look at the statistics and please let Gordon know as soon as you can.

1959 - Dallas	1978 - Amarillo	1997 - Sherman
1960 - Temple	1979 - El Paso	1998 - Fort Worth
1961 - Fort Worth	1980 - Fort Worth	1999 - Waco
1962 - Temple	1981 - Dallas	2000 - Dallas
1963 - Dallas	1982 - Lubbock	2001 - Lubbock
1964 - El Paso	1983 - New Braunfels	2002 - Odessa
1965 - Fort Worth	1984 - Wichita Falls	2003 - Amarillo
1966 - Belton-Temple	1985 - Denison	2004 - Austin
1967 - Lubbock	1986 - Amarillo	2005 - Fort Worth
1968 - Dallas	1987 - Fort Worth	2006 - Dallas
1969 - New Braunfels	1988 - Midland	2007 - Denison
1970 - Lubbock	1989 - Lubbock	2008 - Midland
1971 - Wichita Falls	1990 - Wichita Falls	2009 - Waco
1972 - Fort Worth	1991 - Odessa	2010 - Lubbock
1973 - New Braunfels	1992 - Waco	2011 - Cleburne
1974 - Lubbock	1993 - Dallas	2012 - Austin
1975 - Waco	1994 - Amarillo	2013 - Fort Worth
1976 -	1995 - Lubbock	
1977 - New Braunfels	1996 - Austin	

Amarillo – 1978, 1986, 1994, 2003

Austin – 1996, 2004, 2012

Belton – 1966

Cleburne – 2011

Dallas – 1959, 1963, 1968, 1981, 1993, 2000, 2006

El Paso – 1964, 1979

Fort Worth – 1961, 1963, 1972, 1980, 1987, 1998, 2005, 2013

Lubbock – 1967, 1970, 1974, 1982, 1989, 1995, 2001, 2010

Midland/Odessa – 1988, 1991, 2002, 2008

New Braunfels – 1969, 1973, 1977, 1983

Sherman/Denison – 1985, 1997, 2007

Temple – 1960, 1962, 1966

Waco – 1975, 1992, 1999, 2009

Wichita Falls – 1971, 1984, 1990





Commercial Iris Gardens



Accent Iris Garden

Vincent Christopherson 3301 Hanover Dr. Arlington TX 76014 817-992-7695

vciris@sbcglobal.net www.toolsbydesign.com/vciris/default.asp

Accent Iris Garden is the culmination of Vincent's hybridizing work which started back in 1991. His first introductions (2001 through 2004) were released by Argyle Acres. Accent Iris Garden will be the outlet for Vincent's signature series of iris cultivars starting in 2005. Past Christopherson introductions & a selection from other hybridizers are also available.

Angel Iris Farm

Janice Thompson Sherman TX 903-771-6785

ciris03@yahoo.com www.lonestar.50megs.com/iris/index.html

Don & Janice (with the help of friends) moved an entire collection of iris July 4, 2006. Currently here are about 700 (130 historic) varieties planted. We personally dig every order and mail them the next day, or you can pick them up here at house. We guarantee each Iris rhizome to be healthy and true to name.

Hillcrest Iris Gardens

3365 Northaven Road Dallas TX 75229 214-352-2191

bjnhtn@aol.com www.hillcrestiris.com/



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



Seandel Iris Gardens

800 Purcell Drive Plano TX 75025 972-517-7219

seandelirises@yahoo.com

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



TB's Place

1513 Ernie Lane Grand Prairie TX 75052 214-262-5331

www.interstellargarden.com

Tom Burseen, is a Vietnam War veteran and hybridizer of tall bearded irises at T.B.'s Place in Grand Prairie. He has 32 years' experience in hybridizing Tall Bearded Irises. This year he has 48 new introductions. Three are "red" iris, 18 are Space Age Tall Bearded Irises, 27 are Tall Bearded Irises. Tom has a group of six iris that he calls "Beyond Curiosity", irises that have preposterous peculiarities. These are not always show bench material, but they will dominate the garden bench in your garden year in, year out.