



March 21 2020

**Hong Kong 163 Cheney Dr. West, Twin Falls, Idaho
11:30AM-2:30PM (across from Walmart)**

Program: Sutton's Iris Gardens with Mike Sutton

Luncheon, Show, Judging sessions, door prizes, Dell Perry and Memorial Weekend

IRIS MEMBERS

Thank you to our officers for the year of 2020: President-Linda Aufderheide, Vice-President-Sandra Ruebel, Secretary and Sunshine Lady-Jessie Clifford, Treasurer-Jeanette Graham.

I am looking for to spring as it is my favorite time of year with the irises blooming. I hope you will be able to visit iris gardens, I always learn and see irises that I haven't seen before. Mike Sutton from Sutton's Iris Garden will be talking about his new irises and iris trends at our March meeting.

MVIS has big plans for May 23 2020 with our show, show bench training and May 24 garden training on arils. Everyone is welcome to attend to learn about our favorite plant - the iris. Dell Perry 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. She has over 1500 varieties of iris – including tall bearded, median, dwarf, aril, arilbred, Louisiana, evansia, spuria, species, Japanese, and a few Siberians – growing on her corner city lot in Plano. Her garden is an Aril Society International and a Median Iris Society display garden. 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 and now spends her time traveling, trying to keep orchids alive, giving garden club programs, judges training programs and doing “iris things”. She is currently a member of the American Iris Society, multiple local iris societies and AIS subsections, on the Boards of Directors for the Aril Society International and the Median Iris Society, and is the current Region 17 Newsletter Editor.

TREASURER REPORT

Checkbook: \$2,796.31 Dues: \$80.00
Savings: \$30.00 Member prize: \$10.00
CD: \$2,291.90 %2.48 Due: 5-9-2020
CD: \$3,397.55 %2.67 Due: 5-6-2021

BILLS:

Printing for the November newsletter: \$14.46
Stamps for Newsletter (Costco) : \$54.75
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Kruse gift (entry holders): \$20.00
Webpage master Frank Stone: \$200.00
Bulletins for officers and youth: \$180.00
Speaker for November (John Alleman) \$50.00
Meal for speaker and wife: \$22.00
1 and 1 Internet for three years 2019-2022: \$215.64
AIS Affiliation: \$30.00
Square docking chargers: \$98.58

CULTURE CORNER

We should be close to getting our exercise by cleaning up our flower beds. As soon as you can please spray your irises beds with a copper fungicide to prevent rot. I like to weed and trim the leaves with a scissors because most of the time the old leaves do not pull off from the plant. If the iris has rotted I pull the plant and soil out and put it in the garage can. I sprinkle Ajax on the soil and let the sun cook the area, then add more drainage soil or coarse sand. I put on an iron product because we have alkaline soil and it doesn't hurt to add sulfur. When the iris plant leaves reach eight inches in height or six weeks before bloom time, you can fertilize. The products I use are Lily Miller 5-10-10, Sulfur from D and B and the iron. There is many companies that are selling iron. I feel they are slow reacting. For great new ideas check out Garden Answer on YouTube. She has 684 thousand subscribers, Spring: A Gardener's Christmas Morning.

I've always had my hands in the dirt. The feeling of the fine, gritty texture has always been therapeutic for me. I can remember being in my grandparent's garden, making mud pies, back when I thought we were actually making them for a purpose. But now, I realize it was their way of introducing me to a huge passion of mine, gardening. When I tell you my grandma is a master gardener, I am saying she has every inch of her garden looking exquisite. Not to mention the neat, perfectly spaced rows of tall bearded iris with individual name tags. Showcasing the hundreds of beautiful delicate individuality of each and every flower.

My grandma had me become a part of the Magic Valley Iris Society at a young age and though then, I may have thought of it as something to "feminine", now I couldn't be more thankful. It has taught me the beauty of life, the natural art that nature can grow. Flowers, something to plant, to nurture, something to look forward to. The hope of tomorrow, the hope of beauty, the hope of bringing joy to every living thing that may come in contact with it.

Now 24 years old and in graduate school at Life Chiropractic College West, I am the student gardener. I get to plant what I want, create a meditation space, and grow vegetables for the school's food bank. I love walking outside, seeing the space I've been able to create and see the local bee's, finches and hummingbirds utilizing the food source provided for them and be apart of the food chain.

Yes, I am that male that everywhere he goes, is picking flowers and fillers to make a little arrangement. Every time I see a flower it brings me great joy and makes me think of my grandma. It will always be a part of my life and I couldn't be more thankful for the opportunity that my grandma has provided me. So get out there, put your hands in the dirt, pick a flower for a friend, invite a friend to garden with you, introduce your grandkids to garden with you. I truly believe a life without flowers is one without peace, joy, happiness and love.

Written by Clint Clifford about his Grandmother Jessie Clifford, longtime member of MVIS. Clint was a youth member and Grandmother Jessie always helped him plant his club iris.



Meteorite Mike Sutton 2016 HM 2018



Tropical Mood Amego 2017