



Waco Iris Society News

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Dividing Line

2014 Dykes Medal Winner

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An affiliate of the American Iris Society

January, 2015

Happy New Year!

The first 2015 Waco Iris Society meeting will be January 17th at the West Waco Library, 5301 Bosque. Doors open at 10:00 and meeting will begin as soon as we can get the room set up.

Our guest speaker will be Al Elliott from Georgetown. His presentation is titled ***Our Infatuation With Iris***: Why we are infatuated with the Iris and how society, you and me have expressed this via the arts, stamps, poetry, iris silent auctions, ceramics, photography, etc.



Al says he got addicted to the love of iris after joining the Santa Fe Iris Society in 1993 to become a life member of the American Iris Society, Median Iris Society and a member of the Tall Bearded Iris Society and Historical Iris Society. He is

currently a member of the Iris Society of Austin and he is in his second term as the secretary for the TBIS. He served as president of the Santa Fe Iris Society, Show chair numerous times, chaired the Region 23 Conventions, Assistant Regional VP for Region 23 (New Mexico) and the West Texas Iris Society Exhibition chair/co-chair. He began judges training in 2002 and had the honor to judge shows in NM, AZ, CO,NE, and TX. He is currently on the AIS Judges Handbook Rewrite Committee to rewrite the English Box and Education Display Sections. He has presented programs and judges training to iris clubs in NM, TX, and CA on subjects such as English boxes, De-Mything the R&I, Dykes, and "English Box" training at the 2014 AIS Convention in Dallas, and "Other Than Tall Bearded or Not Eligible for The

Best Specimen Show (Collections, Seedlings, Bulbous Iris and Education Displays" at the 2014 Region 17 Convention. He served out a term on the AIS Board of Directors.



Al and his wife Barbara, grew 600+ irises in 2010-2013 while living in West Texas. They have had to downsize to 100 irises after moving to a 55+ retirement community. He is a retired USAF colonel with 23 years' experience and 17 years at Los Alamos National Laboratory in charge of the nuclear safety compliance program.

There are two flowers in the world – Iris and weeds.



President's Message by Glenn Huddleston

As we begin a new year, it is not unusual for iris lovers to become complacent and ignore their iris plantings. While irises are forgiving when it comes to lapses in cultural practices, if you are anticipating a beautiful display of blooms in the spring, key management techniques need to start now.

It may be wintertime, however winter weeds and grasses can quickly take over a garden site. These problem plants rob irises of available moisture and nutrients. Mechanical control will be your best control

now since most herbicides do not perform as needed with low temperatures. Also as we clean the garden, we need to take care to remove dead iris leaves, fallen tree leaves, and any other debris which could provide an over-wintering site for insects and disease spores.

Hopefully you remembered to fertilize your irises in the Fall. Irises will need additional



Love your irises? Show them how much this Valentine's Day.

nutrients about thirty days before bloom. The date of February 14 (give or take) is recognized as a good target date. Try to fertilize your irises just ahead of a good slow rain.

If fire ants are present in your landscape it will only be a matter of time before they have mounds in your iris plantings. They enjoy using iris clumps to support their mounds. Fire ants should be treated as soon as found to avoid





President's Message, cont.

problems for yourself and your guests at bloom time. A light mound dusting with Acephate (*Orthene*) has proven effective.

Take time now to ensure that all iris varieties are properly labeled. If plants are labeled it will make checking for variety correctness much easier at bloom time.



The weather people continue to remind us that we are 12 to 14

inches below normal rainfall. Every location is different so check newly planted rhizomes to insure they have adequate moisture for root growth and fan development.

Last, but not least, be prepared to cope with disease and insect problems prior to and during the bloom season. Looking forward for a great Iris Show on April 11.

Happy Gardening!!!



Need labels for your iris? Plant markers may be purchased from Dan at cost— 25 markers for \$7.50. He has pots for sale, also.

The size is 6" X 4 1/4" and 1.37 qt. Perfect for potting iris rhizomes. Not as deep as a gallon pot, so takes less soil.

Let him know in advance if you would like some and how many you need. You may call him at 254-854-2558 or reach him by e-mail: dannydayle@yahoo.com.

Winter-Spring 2015 Judges Training

Garden and Exhibitions judges are a very important part of the American Iris Society. Without them, we wouldn't be able to determine a Queen of Show or a Dykes Medal winner.

To become an accredited AIS Garden and Exhibition judge, you must go through years of training, and continue that training for as long as you are a judge. To provide this training, iris societies in Region 17 and other regions across the country host Judges Training Classes. Classes are open to anyone—you don't have to be a judge or in training to become a judge to attend. The classes are for learning.

To learn more about becoming a judge, see the Region 17 website:

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

Currently, there are 4 classes scheduled:

1. January 24, 2015

Topic: **Before The First Ribbon Is Awarded**

Instructor: **Al Elliott**

Classroom Credit Hours: **3**

Cost: **\$5.00**

Location: **Ross Hall**

Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church, 7127 Bee Caves Road, Austin, TX

Time: **Registration 8:30, Class 9:00 – 12:00**

Hosted by: **Iris Society of Austin**

Please RSVP to: **Nelda Moore**

Address: **607 West Lake Drive**

West Lake Hills,

TX 78746-5311

Phone: **512-327-0401**

EMAIL: neldamoore6947@att.net

2. February 7, 2015

Topic: **Back to Basics – Point Scoring**

Instructor: **Al Elliott**

Classroom Credit Hours: **1.5**

Cost: **\$10.00**

Location: **Fort Worth Botanic Garden**

Time: **9:00 am**

Hosted by: **Fort Worth Iris Society**

Please RSVP to: **Happy Carver**

Address: **448 Azle Hwy, Weatherford, TX 76085**

Phone: **817-946-8473**

EMAIL: gcarver@flash.net

3. February 21, 2015

Topic: **Novelty Irises**

Instructor: **Bonnie Nichols**

Classroom Credit Hours: **3**

Cost: **\$5.00**

Location: **Grandy's, 3201 Texoma Pkwy, Sherman, TX**

Time: **9 am – 12 pm**

Hosted by: **Texoma Rainbow Iris Society**

Please RSVP to: **Judy Schneider**

Address: **1778 CR 107**

Whitesboro, TX 76273

Phone: **940-594-5557**

EMAIL: jlkapps@hotmail.com

4. April 4, 2015

Topic: **Aril & Arilbred Iris and Medians**

Instructors: **Dell Perry**

Happy Carver

In Garden Credit Hours: **1/1**

Cost: **\$10.00**

Location: **Home of Dell Perry**

Address: **800 Purcell Dr, Plano, TX 75025**

Time: **9:00 – 10:00**

10:15 – 11:15

Hosted by: **Fort Worth Iris Society**

Please RSVP to so that you can be notified if the date must be moved

Name: **Happy Carver**

Address: **448 Azle Hwy, Weatherford, TX 76085**

Phone: **817-946-8473**

EMAIL: gcarver@flash.net



**AIS Membership
November Winner**



Mitchell Whitley