



# Waco Iris Society News

Website: [http://www.kenfuchs42.net/waco\\_index.html](http://www.kenfuchs42.net/waco_index.html) E-mail: [wacoiriss@gmail.com](mailto:wacoiriss@gmail.com)



2015 Dykes

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An affiliate of the American Iris Society

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## IRIS 101 by Peggy Cathey

The next meeting of the Waco Iris Society will be held November 21 at the Crestview Church of Christ Community Center, 7129 Delhi Rd. (Sanger Ave. changes to Delhi after crossing Hwy. 6.) The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m.

This month's program will be **IRIS 101**, presented by WIS member



Peggy Cathey. We have a lot of new members so this program will help with learning the different types of irises, the many color patterns and forms, and culture including when and how to plant, when to ferti-



lize and with what, and when and how to divide iris clumps for continued growth and vigor. The program will have lots



of color pictures to help explain all the terms as well as pictures of several irises you might want to take note of so you can add them to your collection.



### President's Message

By Glenn Huddleston

Hopefully by the time you read this article you will have fertilized your irises. A mid-to-late October fertilization is important for root development and the initiation and growth of new increases. Irises were in a stress mode most of the year and will need help to recover. In many cases the losses were so great that the bed will need to be replanted.

If you renovated beds and replanted rhizomes just remember the rhizomes will need moisture to establish a functioning root system that is capable of supporting top growth.

We all know that grass and weeds can take over a planting quickly and rob the rhizomes of vital nutrients. For new plantings I encourage the use of a pre-emergent herbicide such as **PREEN**. Now, here is where it gets tricky. These materials must be applied **BEFORE** the weed and grass seeds germinate. If seeds have sprouted, these materials will not work. It goes without saying these pre-emergent products must be applied to clean beds. Furthermore these products are not effective on any plant that comes up from a root, such as Bermuda grass and day flowers. Also, to make this decision more challenging, is the fact that micro-climates vary from garden to garden. This simply means we cannot all put the material out on the same day. Well, I have danced around the question long enough.

Fall rains will lead to the germination of weed and grass seeds. Therefore, I feel the dates of October 31 to November 15 are a safe bet. If it doesn't rain, these dates can be backed up. Always follow the directions on the label when applying these products. They are expensive and should not be wasted.



Happy Gardening!!!

### 2016 Region 17 Meeting Update

By Peggy Cathey

The club voted to sponsor the 2016 Region 17 Convention at our September meeting. Plans for the Convention are progressing. The date has been set for August 19-20 at the Hampton Inn South, near the Marketplace Mall in Waco. We also have our speaker booked—Perry Dyer of Oklahoma. He will also be our Judges Training instructor and the class will be about Median Irises. Something we need to decide soon is to determine a registration fee so we can get the details put on the R-17 website.



What I need is a R-17 Committee to help with the details. Please volunteer so I don't have to beg. I can't do it all myself. Four or five committee members (cont)



## 2016 Region 17 Convention (cont.)

should be plenty. Things we will need help with is a caterer for the Saturday evening meal. We can use anyone we want and most of you know more about what is good in Waco than I do. Bonnie and Hooker have volunteered to bring the Friday night meal of BBQ. We need a theme for the meeting and help with table decorations. We need a registrar to handle the registrations, someone to order irises for the R-17 auction and also irises for our club to sell and offer in a silent auction in the boutique plus members to donate items to sell in the bou-

tique. We will need help with setting up the boutique and someone

(s) to work it. We could also use some ideas for "goodie bags" to give to all in attendance.

The Iris Society of Dallas has very graciously offered to sponsor the hospitality room, so we won't have to be out any expense for that.

The hotel has set up a website for us to make the hotel reservations easier. Here is the website:

[http://hamptoninn.hilton.com/en/hp/groups/personalized/A/ACTSOHX-WIS-20160819/index.jhtml?WT.mc\\_id=POG](http://hamptoninn.hilton.com/en/hp/groups/personalized/A/ACTSOHX-WIS-20160819/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG)

## Opportunities for Judges Training

There are two judges training classes scheduled (besides the 3 hour class we will have at our R-17 Convention). Everyone is always welcome to attend a judges training class. You don't have to be in the training program or a judge to attend. The classes provide a lot of good information that everyone could use.



On November 15, the Iris Society of Dallas will offer a 2 hour class on **Louisiana Irises.**

Cost: \$5.00

Instructor: Ron Killingsworth

Time: 1-3 p.m.

Place: North Haven Gardens  
7700 North Haven Rd.  
Dallas, TX

RSVP: Bonnie Nichols

214-676-9892

[bjnhtn@aol.com](mailto:bjnhtn@aol.com)

January 16, 2016, the Iris Society of Austin will offer a 4 hour class on **Space Agers.**

Cost: \$5.00

Instructor: Al Elliott

Time: 8:30-12:30

Place: Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church  
7127 Bee Caves Rd.  
Austin, TX

RSVP: Nelda Moore

512-327-0401

[neldamoore6947@att.net](mailto:neldamoore6947@att.net)

## Meeting Refreshments by Preston Floyd

I will be baking, so have that part covered. We will need other members to bring chips & dips, finger food and coffee. I will also have ice

and soda and all the paper goods and plastic ware we need.

Thanks for helping.



## Reblooming Iris Report by Peggy Cathey

Many of you should be seeing reblooming irises in your gardens this time of year. Please write down the name of the iris blooming in your

garden and send the names to the Reblooming Iris Society's Southern Area Director, Gailmae Suite, 817-477-4454 or [metex65@yahoo.com](mailto:metex65@yahoo.com)



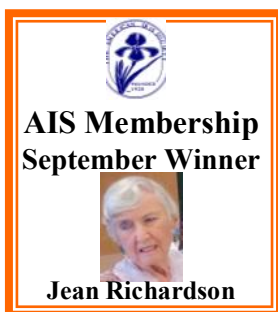
**Buckwheat,** Byers, 1989 blooming in Bill & Phil's garden.



## September Meeting Highlights by Bill Calhoon

In an exciting start to the new club year, members of the Waco Iris Society converged on the West Waco Library on a sunny September Saturday morning with rhizomes in hand. Eighteen members attended the annual Giveaway, Exchange and Auction meeting on September 19, including several of our newest members who were recognized at the start of the meeting by club President, Glenn Huddleston. Minutes were read by Secretary, Bill Calhoon, and Mitchell Whitley presented the Treasurer's Report, followed by the AIS Membership Drawing which was won by Jean Richardson. Glenn then took the opportunity to recognize Mitchell

on his accomplishment of being a member in good standing of the American Iris Society for 43 years. Con-



gratulations, Mitchell!

As part of an update on the August meeting of Region 17 of the American Iris Society held in Dallas, Peg-

gy Cathey, who serves as Membership Chair for Region 17, alerted members that the annual membership dues for AIS would increase on October 1st and offered to work with those who wanted to renew before the increase went into effect. Peggy, who also was nominated as RVP of Region 17 for the upcoming term of 2016-2019, asked the Waco club members if they would consider hosting the 2016 Region 17 Meeting. Following discussion of possible venues, costs and opportunities, motions were introduced for WIS to host the Region 17 Annual Meeting in 2016 and for Peggy to be authorized to work with the Hampton Inn as the host hotel, both of which carried unanimously.

In more ongoing business, the club voted to hold the 2016 Iris Show and Sale at the Holiday Inn Express.

Following a break for refreshments, the fun started with the annual rhizome exchange. Members were encouraged to bring an increase from irises received as part of the 2013 giveaway, or a comparable variety, for the exchange which is yet another opportunity for members to obtain recent introductions for their

gardens. Thanks to the generosity of several members who brought more than one increase, all members present at the meeting received a rhizome through the exchange. Next up was the giveaway. Members were able to choose one rhizome from an impressive selection of 100 rhizomes which had been ordered from Mid-America Gardens in Oregon and Superstition Iris Gardens in California. Both vendors sent good quality rhizomes, many with multiple increases, of varieties introduced as recently as 2015. All rhizomes were 2012 or newer introductions.

Those rhizomes remaining after the Giveaway were then auctioned with Glenn as auctioneer. Even with heated bidding on a number of rhizomes, members were able to acquire some great bargains, all while supporting the Club. In all, the auction added \$1,028 to the Club's coffers. Special thanks to those members who helped at the meeting as well as those who did all the work "behind the scenes" to make this year's Exchange, Giveaway and Auction such a success.

## Time to Think About The Show Theme by Ken Anderson

It is hard to believe we are approaching the middle of November but time waits for no one. I have talked to a number of members of our club and some are discouraged about the condition and loss of iris. Our summer seems to have really done a number of many of our plants. Some of us have lost a lot of iris because of too much rain, or so it seems. Anyway, I was out in my yard and was encouraged by signs of new growth around some clumps

that looked really terrible two weeks ago. It was also encouraging to see that some of the potted iris I had fared better than many of those growing in a bed. Anyway, I hope everyone will have some good specimens to exhibit at our show in the spring and I also hope that many of you are planning to participate in the artistic division this year.

Our show theme this year is *Iris in a World of Animals*. One of the biggest challenges for the show

chairman is coming up with a theme. After do a lot of daydreaming and looking around outside at nature I came up with this theme because I know it is one that everyone can relate to in one way or another. In addition to that, the theme is very broad and the individuals themes also include a wide range of possibilities.

Category I, *Precious Pets*



This category will include the use of materials and accessories (cont.)

# Waco Iris Society

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.

West Waco Library (Unless stated  
otherwise in newsletter)

Glenn Huddleston, President  
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Join Waco Iris Society 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:

Waco Iris Society Membership  
P. O. Box 21921,  
Waco, TX 76702-1931

## MARK THESE DATES



 November 21, 10:00  
WIS Meeting  
Crestview Church of Christ Community Center,  
7129 Delhi Rd., Waco

 January 16, 2016, 10:00  
WIS Meeting  
West Waco Library

 March 19, 2016, 10:00  
WIS Meeting  
West Waco Library

 April 9, 2016, 10:00  
WIS Meeting  
West Waco Library

 Like us on Facebook  
<https://www.facebook.com/WacoIrisSociety>

We're on the Web:  
[http://www.kenfuchs42.net/  
waco\\_index.html](http://www.kenfuchs42.net/waco_index.html)



## Show Theme (cont)

related to pets. Dogs and cats obviously come to mind but this category will include other creatures often chosen for pets.

### Category II, *Birds of a Feather*



Entries in this category may include anything related to birds. Consider the wild birds seen in backyards, water fowl, birds of prey even those associated with the farm.

### Category III, *Wild and Wonderful*



This category is very broad and can include any animal found in the woods, the desert, the mountains, or the jungle. Accessories

may include items that are related to or suggestive of the environment in which the animal is found in addition to using the animal itself.

### Category IV, *Creatures of the Sea*



Exhibits in this category will use accessories related to fish, sea-horses, shellfish, etc. Consider the use of shells and coral along with colors associated with sand and sea.

Please consider signing up for in one of more of the categories for the artistic division. I am anticipating some wonderful entries for the artistic division. I hope to see everyone at our next meeting and will try to

answer any questions you have about the upcoming show in April.

## WIS Calendars

We will have club calendars available for purchase at Saturday's meeting. The cost per calendar will be \$8 due to the binding cost. If you would like to reserve a calendar, please let Peggy know (817-666-9002 or [wacoiriss@gmail.com](mailto:wacoiriss@gmail.com)). Calendars have club dates highlighted as well as AIS Regional and National meeting and convention dates. Pictures are from the artistic design division of the 2015 Iris Show.