



Waco Iris Society News

Website: http://www.kenfuchs42.net/waco_index.html E-mail: wacoiriss@gmail.com



2016 Dykes Medal Winner

Volume 9, Issue 4

An affiliate of the American Iris Society

March, 2017

March WIS Meeting

The next meeting of the Waco Iris Society will be held Saturday, March 18 at the Crestview Church of Christ Community Center, 7129 Delhi Rd. (Sanger Ave. becomes Delhi after it crosses Hwy. 6, past Providence Hospital). The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. For this month's program, members are asked to bring their Iris Show questions regarding pre-show prepara-

tions, cutting stalks for entry, grooming, completing entry tags, how to understand the Show Schedule or any other questions about showing your irises. There will also be a quick demo of putting together an Artistic Display for all our new members. Be ready to sign up for at least one of the Artistic Design categories when Show Chair Ken Anderson asks. There are 4 classes,

and we need 4 entries in each class. Here are the classes:

1. Flaming Red and Orange
2. Glittering Gold and Yellow
3. Anything Goes with Green (Novice-anyone who has not won a blue ribbon in Artistic Design)
4. Brilliant Blue and Passionate Purple

Texas All Star Iris By Dan Cathey

Our search for the "Texas All-Star Iris" has concluded. To recap, members from three of our area Iris Club (JDI&DS, Waco Iris Society and Lone Star Iris Society) submitted their choice of up to five cultivars each which they considered the "best" for our area. Factors for selection included: grown in "your garden", vigor, dependability of bloom, number of blossoms, disease resistance, ability to increase and a "WOW" factor.

I am happy to report that 27 members contributed, listing a total of 91 different cultivars, so we should have a good basis from which to help us pick additional irises to add to our individual gardens. I had promised to report at least the top 25 so here goes:

Top Pick – 6 votes – *That's All Folks*

5 votes – *Thornbird*

4 votes – *Sharp Dressed Man*

3 votes ea.– *Bottled Sunshine*,
Glitter Gulch,
Gloriafied Glenn,



And the winner is:

That's All Folks, Maryott, 2005

Ida Red,
Jesse's Song,
Summer Shadow.

2 votes ea. – *Autumn Tryst*,
Casino Cruiser,
Dorothy Devenport,
Lady Friend,
Lo Ho Silver,
Making Time,
Night Bird,
Oso Good,
Pleasant Peasant,
Queen's Circle,
Royal Storm,
Skating Party,

Spun Gold,
Texas Tradition,
Tuscan Summer,
Watchable,
Wings of Peace.

1 vote ea. – 65 various cultivars.

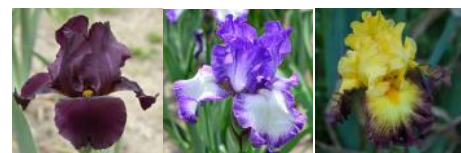
There were some old, some new and lots in between! My Thanks to all those who took time to respond. I hope everyone can use this as a reference for acquiring iris for our area.



Thornbird, Sharp Dressed Man



Bottled Sunshine, Glitter Gulch, Gloriafied Glenn



Ida Red, Jesse's Song, Summer Shadow



President's Message by Dan Cathey

Our upcoming March meeting will be a “don’t miss” especially for all you newer members. Our own Peggy Cathey will lead an open discussion on preparing and showing your iris and the inside scoop on “What’s it all about” Iris Show wise. If you have any questions or special “tips” you would like to share, please bring them and participate in the discussion. Peggy will also give a demo on making an artistic display to dispel some of your fears about this valuable part of our Iris Show.

If you haven’t fertilized your iris yet (remember Valentine’s Day?) please go ahead and do so as quickly as possible and if we don’t catch a rain consider watering it in since it

won’t start working until there is moisture to activate and get it into the root zone.

It looks like Spring is going to spring whether we are ready or not so, here again if you haven’t gotten to it, start getting those beds cleaned up now. Fortunately, our Show is early this year, April 8th, since we may be looking at an earlier than normal bloom season. We have had a couple of iris already bloom in our garden as of this writing and I am seeing several bloom stalks making an appearance.

I am going to give a short talk at the beginning of our meeting about how to keep track of your iris, both in

terms of plant markers and garden mapping. These are not difficult things to do and will add much to your enjoyment of your plantings. We have received our supply of plant markers and I will have some at the meeting for you to purchase. We are buying these in lots of 1000 to get the very best price available and are selling them to our members at cost so believe me, this a great deal at 25 for \$8.00.



The Time is Growing Near By Ken Anderson, Show Chair

It is hard to believe that March has arrived and our spring show is just a few weeks away. I hope you have been out in your garden enjoying whatever is blooming in your yard. Certainly some of you have some iris blooming. I saw my first bloom stalk pushing up yesterday. And I am sure many of you have noticed the old standards, growing by old homesteads and along property and fence lines, already in full bloom. I guess the white ones are the most common, but I have also seen some yellow and some purple ones blooming, too. Pick any town and drive through the older sections, particularly if you can find some well-kept neighborhoods, and you are likely to see some old varieties tucked away in a corner, along a fence, or by a porch somewhere around the house. There are a num-

ber of places like that here in Gatesville. For some reason it always heightens my anticipation of the arrival of blooms in my garden.

Please try to be at our next meeting, especially if you are new member. Once we get the business out of the way, we will have a very good program presented by Peggy Cathey. This will be especially helpful to those who are new to creating a design entry for our artistic division. Don’t feel intimidated by this process. Following some basic principles that Peggy will explain will make it possible for you to create a great design entry, even if you have never done anything like this.

It is now time to “put on your thinking caps”. Yes, some of you are old enough to have had teachers who told you that back in elementary school. I was curious about the

origin of that expression. One source said that judges back in the seventeenth century put on a “considering cap” while thinking about how to respond to a case before them. So be thinking about horticultural entries and be thinking about design entries. I hope you will get those caps on and consider entering the artistic part of our show.

Also, be thinking about where you might leave a flyer announcing our show. There will be flyers available for distribution. Some local restaurants, nurseries, feed and seed stores, hardware stores, etc. have places to post upcoming events and are happy to accommodate us in promoting our event.

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting. Until then, have a great time in your garden.

Hospitality Report By Preston Floyd



Thank you to everyone who always chips in to help fill our Refreshment

Table for our meetings. This month, the request will be the same as always. We need members to bring finger foods, chips, dips, etc. Dan

will bring the coffee and I will be doing some baking. I will also bring drinks and the plates, cups, napkins, etc.



January Meeting Highlights by Bill Calhoon, Secretary

Waco Iris Society members were treated to an inspiring visual treat at the first club meeting of 2017.

To start the January 21 meeting, club president Dan Cathey called the meeting to order and welcomed the seventeen members in attendance. After conducting the Roll Call, secretary Bill Calhoon read the minutes of the November 2016 meeting which were approved as read. Treasurer Mitchell Whitley then presented the Treasurer's Report which was also approved as read. Phil Nacke was winner of the AIS Membership Drawing.

Dan then provided an update on the "Popularity Poll" introduced at the November 2016 meeting, commenting that there had been a good response so far and that submissions would be compiled and the results shared with members in March.

Ken Anderson distributed copies of the 2017 Iris Show Schedule which has been approved by AIS. Ken also distributed copies of the Artistic Display categories, encouraging members to sign up to participate. Earlier in the meeting, Mitchell Whitley had commented on the incorrect show location information in the Region 17 newsletter. This year's show will be held at the Hampton Inn & Suites on Marketplace Drive in Waco.

In new business, Region 17 RVP Peggy Cathey announced that the 2017 Region 17 Annual Meeting will be hosted by the Iris Society of Dallas. The meeting will be held the first weekend of August at the Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Dallas. WIS club members commented how the Iris Society of Dallas had been especially supportive when Waco hosted the 2016 meeting. Following discussion, a motion was introduced that the WIS donate \$200 to ISD to help with costs of hosting the 2017.

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

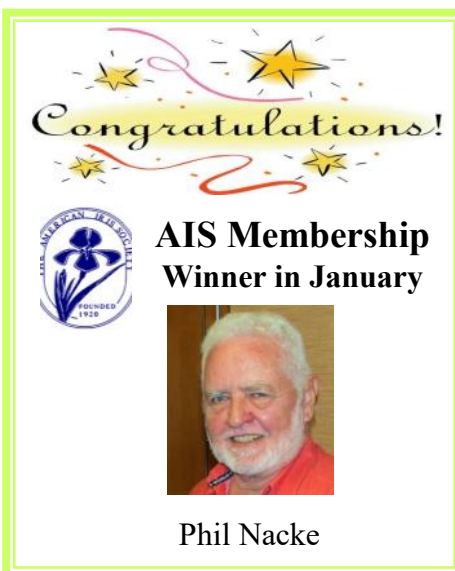
As the club's Hospitality Chair, Preston Floyd asked for feedback and direction from the Club regarding the location of our annual May luncheon. There was general agreement that Vegas Buffet, the location of last year's luncheon, proved popular. Dan opened the floor to any other suggestions and when none were forthcoming, it was decided to hold the 2017 luncheon at Vegas Buffet.

Mitchell Whitley then raised a question on Texas hybridizers, asking if Tom Burseen was still hybridizing since he was not listed in the latest Region 17 Newsletter. Peggy clarified that Tom will have a small catalog this year, but that he is transitioning out of the retail aspect so that he can focus on hybridizing. Starting in 2017, three retailers will be selling Tom's "originations": Stout Gardens at Dancing Tree (Hugh Stout), Hillcrest Gardens (Bonnie & Hooker Nichols) and The Shady Spot (Judy Schneider).

Following a break for refreshments at which members enjoyed tasty treats, Dan introduced Ken Fuchs who shared several visual treats with the group. Ken first shared a "visual Christmas Card" from Craig Edwards, a hybridizer who was guest speaker at the 2015 Region 17 Meeting held in Amarillo. The short presentation included striking photographs of numerous seedlings hybridized by Mr. Edwards. Ken then shared two presentations he had compiled from photographs he took at the host gardens on display for the 2016 AIS Convention, which was held in Newark, New Jersey. The first, set to music by George Gershwin, contained stunning images of the iris blooms at Presby Memorial Iris Gardens. Located in

Montclair, New Jersey, this garden was founded as a memorial to Frank Presby who was a co-founder of the American Iris Society. In addition to recent introductions in the convention guest beds, Presby has a large collection of historic iris, many of which Ken captured in his photographs. Ken and Jim Landers both commented that the garden was in peak bloom for the event. Ken then shared another short program, "Going East in 2016" which featured photographs of iris at the Hildenbrandt and Glenara gardens which are located in Pennsylvania. A big "Thank You!" to Ken for sharing this visual feast with the Club.

Before adjourning, Dan reminded members of the importance of fertilizing our irises in February (around Valentine's Day). Lastly a question was raised about the availability of metal labels for purchase. Following discussion, it was decided that WIS will purchase labels that will be available for purchase by Club members and will also be made available at the iris show boutique and annual rhizome sale. The meeting was adjourned at 11:48 a.m.



Phil Nacke

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.

Crestview Church of Christ
Community Center
7129 Delhi, Waco

Dan Cathey, President
wacoiriss@gmail.com
Peggy Cathey, Newsletter Editor
natvtxn1@windstream.net
Ken Fuchs, Webmaster
kenfuchs42@hotmail.com

MARK THESE DATES



 **March 18, 2017**
WIS Meeting
Crestview Church of Christ
Community Center

 **April 8, 2017**
WIS Iris Show
Hampton Inn & Suites, South

 **April 9, 2017**
Gardener's Gathering
Carleen Bright Arboretum

 **May 20, 2017**
WIS Annual "Picnic"
Vegas Buffett (Valley Mills @ Waco Dr.)

 **May 23-27, 2017**
AIS National Convention
Des Moines, IA

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

 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)



Iris Class Opportunities

Judges Training Classes are not just for Judges or "wannabe" Judges. They are for anyone with a willingness to learn more about irises—of all kinds.

There are 4 classes currently scheduled. If you are able to attend any or all, you won't be disappointed.



There will be 2 classes in conjunction with the Society

for Louisiana Irises Convention being held in Dallas April 20-22.

April 20, 2:00-3:00 p.m., In Garden, Louisiana Irises. Instructor: Perry Dyer, Location: 3365 Northhaven Rd., Dallas. Fee: \$10 unless registered for the SLI Convention.

April 22, 3:30-4:30 p.m., Classroom, Exhibition judging Louisiana Irises. Instructor: Perry Dyer, Location: Crown Plaza Hotel, 14315 Midway Rd., Addison. Fee: \$10 unless registered for the SLI Convention. RSVP for either of the above classes to Bonnie Nichols, 214-676-9892 or e-mail: bjnhtn@aol.com

May 6, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Spuria Irises in the Garden. Instructors: Ramona Howard & Elmer Addington, Location: 2408 28th St., Lubbock. Fee: \$5. RSVP: Mary Wilber, 808-794-2512 or e-mail: randmwilber@att.net

October 21, 9:00 a.m.-Noon, Classroom, Median Iris, Garden & Exhibition. Instructor: Lynda Miller, Location: Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 11425 Marsh Lane, Dallas. Fee: \$10. RSVP: Bonnie Nichols, 214-676-9892 or e-mail: bjnhtn@aol.com