



# 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)

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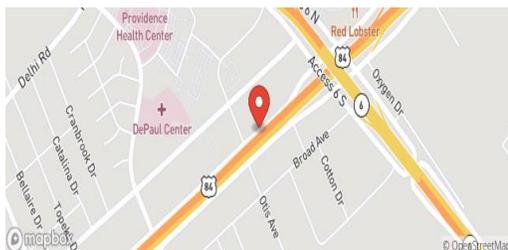
An affiliate of the American Iris Society

April, 2019

## Iris Show—April 13



This Newsletter Extra is all about the upcoming Waco Iris Society annual Iris Show. The Show will take place April 13, 2019, at the LaQuinta Inn & Suites Woodway-Waco South, 6300 Woodway Dr. (near Providence Hospital)



We want to invite everyone to enter and participate to make this the biggest and best show EVER! In this issue will be a list of each of the artistic design classes and will

show which ones are still open for entries. There will also be tips on how to make an artistic design. Also included in this EXTRA edition are tips and ideas on how to choose which irises will make the best show stalks. **Show Prep Begins in the Garden.** Start checking your “show stalks” 10 days before showtime.

Entries must be received at the show between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. on show day. Exhibitors are to display their entries in green glass containers (bottles or vases). Entry tags will be available at the show. All entries must have been grown and entered in person by the exhibitor whose name appears on the entry tag. You may enter as many horticultural varieties as desired but only one stalk of any given variety. The correct variety name must appear on the entry tag. You will also want to check your show stalks for finger prints, insects,

and dirt. Clean them off with a soft cloth, brush or cotton swab. For a full list of show rules, you may download a copy of the show schedule here:

<http://www.kenfuchs42.net/Waco/2019%20WIS%20Show%20Schedule.pdf>

Please list all entries on an entry sheet (<http://www.kenfuchs42.net/Waco/WIS%20Show%20Entries%20sheet.pdf>). This will be used by the entry clerk to check off your entries as they are brought in.

The show is open to all who wish to enter. There is no entry fee. Those just wanting to come to see all the beautiful flowers, the show will open to the public from 1-4 p.m., after the judging is complete.



At that time, we will also have potted irises for sale—\$10 per pot or 3/\$25. Come early for the sale plants—they go *FAST!*

*Members-call or e-mail your list of SALE plants to Peggy by Apr.10.*

### Spring Has Arrived by Ken Anderson, Show Chair

What an interesting spring we have had! Everything has turned to spring green but the thermometer today is trying to convince us that spring has not arrived. I hope everyone is seeing some of their

irises bloom by now. It creates a lot of excitement when they begin popping up. I don't want to sound like a broken record, but I encourage everyone to bring entries for the show, even if it is your first time or even if what you have is the same as

you have entered in the past shows. There will always be people attending the show who have never been to one before. The great variety of color and kinds of iris are always a pleasure for them, so do not hesitate to enter the show.



## Artistic Design Classes By Ken Anderson, Show Chair

This year's show theme is *Iris*es in All Kinds of Weather



There are still several places unfilled in the artistic design portion of our show. Please contact me at 254-223-3161 if you have questions about the artistic design division or if you wish to sign up for one or more of the classes. Having four

entries in each class would be great. Here is who we have so far:

### Class 1: *Winter Wonderland*

1. Linda Roper
2. Peggy Cathey
3. Ken Anderson
4. \_\_\_\_\_

### Class 2: *Stormy Weather*

1. Peggy Cathey
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

### Class 3: *When the Wind Blows* (Novice-never won a blue ribbon in Artistic Design)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

### Class 4: *Frosty Autumn Mornings*

1. Frances Peterson
2. Linda Roper
3. Dan Cathey
4. Ken Anderson

### Class 5: *Sizzling Summer* (Youth-under age 19)

1. Oliver Earl
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

Please do your part and help fill in the blanks.

## The "Art" of Artistic Design by Peggy Cathey

Following are tips I learned from our dear friend and member Hazel Haik. Hazel won more Artistic Design classes than most of us could ever imagine.

So let's get to it: First, you need to have an idea of the category or class you want to enter. As soon as you know the Design Classes, start looking for accessories that would fit the class you want to enter. That is half the fun. Go to garage sales, flea markets, antique stores, dollar stores, craft stores, any place that has trinkets and knick-knacks, always looking for that "perfect" accessory to tell your story. You will also need the proper size niche. Check your show schedule for the size. These can be found at Walmart and other places that carry school supplies. The niche should be covered with some kind of

fabric or background material that is neutral. You don't want something with a busy design that would distract from your work of art. It should be something that will make the colors of your irises "pop." Please iron your background material if it is wrinkled. Wrinkled fabric or fabric covered with lint does not make for a winning design.



Next, you need a container. This should be something big enough to hold your plant material, but not so big as to dominate your design. It should also be a color that will blend in. Shallow, dark-colored bowls which the heavy metal pin frogs can

be firmly attached, are my favorite. Sometimes, you can find a container which would go with your design theme (like a big sea shell for a beach theme). Oasis® "wet" foam can be used in most containers instead of the pin frog.

Now, it's time to check your garden, your neighbors garden, anywhere you can find line and filler material. Things that hold up well are Photinia, Sansevieria, Boxwood, Spuria Iris leaves, as do many others. Collect these the day before the show so they can be "conditioned." Put them in a bucket, standing upright, in lukewarm water. You can add some Seven-Up to the water to add a little sugar to nourish the plant material. Line and filler plant material can also be found at your local florist and some grocery stores. Also, start



## The “Art” of Artistic Design (cont.)

collecting your irises. Try and gather more than you need. When making your design, you want to have odd numbers, and they should all be the same – or at least in the same color family. You would not want to have a dark purple, a yellow and pink, for example. Also note—you do not have to grow any of the plant material or irises yourself for the Artistic Design Division.

Now to begin your design, start with your line material.



(We will be discussing a simple line design for our purpose here.) Three is a good number. Think of the three bears –

Papa (tall), Momma (medium), and Baby (short). These should go to the back of your container. You do not want any parts of your design taller than your niche. Nothing should touch the back or sides of the niche. Also, the sides of the niche should come straight out, not flared. Next, add your irises using the same three bear scenario. Start, if possible, with a good, closed bud (should be showing color). Next, add your just opened bud, followed by the largest flower at the bottom (Papa is actually the bud, and the Baby is the largest flower.) More than 3 flowers are OK, but try and keep them in odd numbers and not too busy. Keep in mind, you do not want your design to look top heavy, that is the reason for starting with a bud. You would also not want to use dark flowers on top and light flowers on the bottom. Again,

it is a matter of “weight”.

Now, fill in the gaps with your filler material. You don’t want big holes in your design. You also want to have smaller leaved plant material to hide your container and “mechanics” such as the pin frog. Please keep in mind – you are not making a florist type arrangement – you are creating an artistic design. It should be simple. Step back and look at it from a distance, then go remove something. We all tend to keep stuffing more and more in until we have a big blob of plant material.



Some people like to make their designs at home and bring them to the show complete. This is fine, just be careful during transport. Others like to create their design “on site.” It doesn’t take very long if you have all your materials with you. Once you have the flowers arranged as you want them, it’s time to add your accessory. It should be big enough to be seen, but not overpowering. Too small is just as bad as too big. If your accessory has a “face”, it should be looking into the design. The accessory should tell a story, not make people wonder why it is stuck in there. You



should also give your design a name and write a short story on a 3X5 card about what you are trying to say with your design.

We have 5 classes, so we should have 20 Artistic Design entries—4 in each class. You do not have to be a club member to enter. Please contact Ken Anderson (his number is on page 1) and let him know you would be glad to do your part and sign up for one of the design classes. It’s fun and maybe a little scary at first, but once you try it, you will be hooked. We all want you to succeed and don’t be afraid to ask for advice.

## SHOW SET-UP

We will be able to get into the hotel for set up on Friday evening. Please plan to be there between 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. to help. We will need help getting tables arranged and covered, head table set up, etc. You may bring your sale plants Friday as well as getting your artistic designs put together. The more we can get accomplished on Friday, the easier Saturday morning will be.



# Show Prep Begins in the Garden by Glenn Huddleston



When you hear the term “show prep”, you generally think of the night before the show and the time spent grooming the bloom stalk and positioning it in a container. Based on past experiences, I would say “show prep” begins in the garden ten days before the show. Actually, it starts earlier than that when you consider weeding, fertilizing, etc., but that’s another article.

This article will focus on the ten days leading up to the show.

10 Days before the Show: Begin with a prayer for warm weather and light winds. Now go into your garden and write down the names and locations of irises that have bloom stalks 12” tall or taller. These are the only irises that will have time to mature and bloom for the show. Also note things like straightness of the stalks and branching.



Day 9—Daily, check on identified stalks. At the base of selected stalks, use an insecticide approved for chewing insects, if cutworms are suspected.



Day 8—Daily check: Carefully inspect stalks, leaves, buds, and branching for insects, cracking, etc.



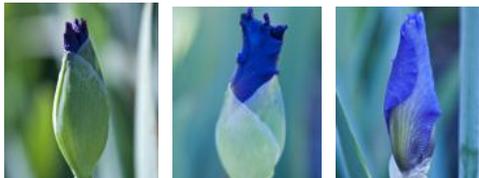
Day 7—Daily check: If a stalk has a slight curve, you

might try a stake attached to the stalk to correct the problem. Use padding between the stake and the stalk. Stalks are brittle and will snap if forced too much.



Day 6—Daily check: Look at branching and bud angle. Styrofoam wedges can be used to widen narrow angles. Bud color should be evident in irises with taller stalks.

Day 5—Daily check: Start recording color in the bud, tip color, 1/2 bud color, and full bud color with tight buds. Full bud opening will generally occur 3 to 4 days after tip color.



Day 4—Daily check: By now, get serious and eliminate from consideration bloom stalks not worthy of show competition.



Day 3—Daily check: From this point forward it is up to you to make the call on cutting the irises since bright sunny days and warm nights will speed bud development. Fully developed buds can be cut early, however refrigeration is a must to slow the flowering process.

Day 2—Daily check: Cut stalks that show promise, place stalks of all cut irises in fresh, clean water and hold at room temperature. Place a temporary variety label on each cut stalk. Bud openings should begin soon. Slow opening

buds can be placed in a warm environment without direct heat to speed up the opening process. At 10:00 a.m. today, show judging is 24 hours away. Tonight you will go through the final show prep of your entries.



Day 1—SHOW DAY. Be careful how you transport your entries, try your best to eliminate movement of the stalks and never let the blooms touch. Have patience and good luck at the show.







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.

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<https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=waco%20iris%20society>

## Word Search: Iris Names that Begin with SHOW by Peggy Cathey

Words may be Forward, Backward,  
Diagonal, Up or Down

Baby	Queen
Biz	Royale
Circuit	Stopper
Dress	Time
Finale	Boat
Girl	Case
Glow	Down
Miss	Off
Piece	



April 12, 2019  
Show Set Up, 5-7 p.m.

La Quinta Inn & Suites, Woodway-Waco South



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April 23-27, 2019  
2019 AIS National Convention  
San Ramon, CA.



May 18, 2019  
Waco Iris Society Year End Luncheon  
Location and time to be announced



August 9-10  
2019 AIS Region 17 Meeting  
Weatherford, TX

Check out our website:

[www.kenfuchs42.net/waco\\_index.html](http://www.kenfuchs42.net/waco_index.html)