



Waco Iris Society News



2019 Dykes Medal Winner

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April, 2021



By Ken Anderson
Show Chairman

April has arrived and I am certain that all gardeners are happy to put this “once in a lifetime” winter behind us. As you all know, this last storm was a brutal one. In my hometown of Kenedy, about 200 miles south of here, people are still repairing plumbing. And of course, for us gardeners, the welfare of plants is always of concern. I have a friend in Rockport who tells me that the yards were devastated down in their area. Gardeners there are accustomed to growing tropical plants like plumeria, hibiscus, and bougainvillea out in their yards without needing to protect them during the winter. Those types of plants in their landscapes were wiped out. You might be wondering why I have rattled on about other areas and other plants when this is a

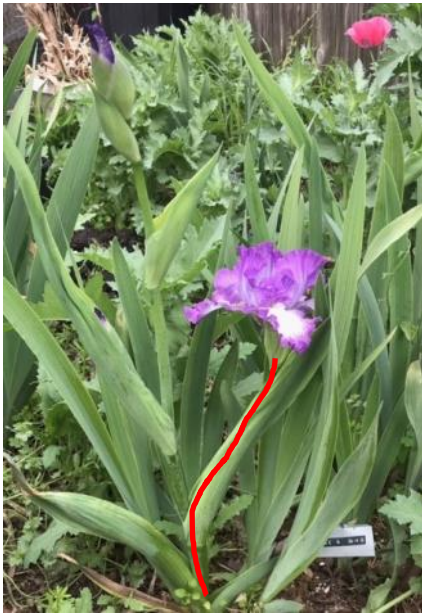
news article for our iris society newsletter. Well, I guess I felt I needed to share the thought that we are not alone in this loss. It is disappointing when an investment of time and energy yields very little. However, as gardeners, I suppose we are accustomed to having good and bad years with any type of plant. This just happened to be a bad year for almost everything except the weeds. I also know that as gardeners we never give up on our passion for plants. Spring has arrived and it still reminds us that life will return to our gardens. I hope your garden is looking better by now!

Most of the irises that I had potted last fall for this spring’s sale were lost. A portion that I had prepared the previous year made it through the freeze and will be brought to the

sale on Saturday. I hope all of you who have potted irises will have some available for our sale. Please remember to submit to Peggy the names of the irises that you intend to bring to the sale so pictures can be available.

I am encouraging everyone to bring entries to the show. I always remind everyone that even though it is the same iris you might have had in your yard for fifteen years, it might be a bloom that someone new to the world of irises has never seen. This year, especially, we need as much participation as ever. Personally, in my garden the “pickings” are going to be slim but I hope to be able to bring at least one or two. Remember, we need at least **five** exhibitors and at least **twenty** different cultivars entered in our show for it to be sanctioned by the American Iris Society. Those of us who have been planning this show are really counting on all of our members to participate by bringing at least one entry. This is apparently one of those years where the stalks on many plants are deformed. They might be extremely short or extremely crooked or both. If there is a good bloom on it and you can fit it into a bottle, please bring it to the show. The judges are aware of the weather conditions and the strange stalks that are being seen as a result of it. This is a factor they will take into account in their judging. I know everyone likes to win blue ribbons but this year it is critical that

It's Show Time (cont.)



Crooked and short stalks, most likely due to February's freezing weather.

we have a decent number of entries and several exhibitors. I promise to bring anything I have with a decent bloom. I hope you will do the same.

There are many open spots in the artistic division of our show. Please contact Linda Roper to add your name to her list so she will know how many entries we have. This will also help us prepare the exhibit area on Friday afternoon, the day before the show.

Arrangements have been made with the hotel where our show will be held. We will access to the room at any time on Friday. I plan to

arrive by 3:00 p.m. Tables should be set up by then. If things are not completely set up by then, arriving early will give you the opportunity to help with setting up. It would be best to wait until after 3:00 before beginning work on artistic designs. There might need to be adjustments to the table arrangement.

Hotel management has stated that as of today, Friday, April 2, 2021, anyone who is in a public area of the hotel is asked to wear a mask. Stay safe! See you at the show!

Entry Tags-Complete All Applicable Sections by Peggy Cathey

When entering an iris for exhibition, it is very important to have all the required information on your entry tag. Most important is putting your name on both the top and bottom sections of the tag. Below are the different classes of irises with their Section number. The only section with a "Group" designation is Section B-Median irises

Division I – Horticulture:

Section A: Tall Bearded, Single Stalk (TB)

Section B: Median, Single Stalk

Group 1: Border Bearded (BB)

Group 2: Miniature Tall Bearded (MTB)

Group 3: Intermediate Bearded (IB)

Group 4: Standard Dwarf Bearded (SDB)

Section C: Space Agers, Single Stalk. All Space Age varieties must be entered in this class.

Section D: Novelty Bearded, Single Stalk. Novelties may be of mul-

tiple petals, random color applications (broken color), flat shaped flowers (six petals, either six standards, six falls or three of each).

Section E: Any Other Bearded

Section F: Siberian (SIB)

Section G: Louisiana (LA)

Section H: Spuria (SPU)

Section I: Japanese (JI)




Section J: Any Other Beardless

Section K: Historic Irises

(introduced in 1991 and before).

Exhibitor has the option to enter the 30-plus year-old iris in the Historic or the Regular Section. Any type of iris may be Historic. The entry tag must clearly state the cultivar's year of introduction to enter as Historic. Entry tag information is the responsibility of the exhibitor.

*If the iris was introduced by a Texas hybridizer, put a T in the top right corner to be included in the "Best by Texas Hybridizer" club award.

* T			
		Division <u>I</u>	
		Section <u>A-K</u>	
		Group/Class <u>1-4</u>	
Variety <u>Registered Name of Iris</u>			
		(Optional-year of introduction)	
Exhibitor	 Your Name Street Address City, State Zip Code		
Address			
1st Award	2nd Award	3rd Award	Honorable Mention
1st Award	2nd Award	3rd Award	Honorable Mention
Entry No.		Section <u>A-K</u>	Group/Class <u>1-4</u>
Variety <u>Registered Name of Iris</u>			
Exhibitor	 Your Name Street Address City, State Zip Code		
Address ..			

March 20, 2021 Meeting Minutes by Ken Anderson

The Waco Iris Society held its regularly scheduled meeting on March 20, 2021 at the Crestview Church of Christ in Waco, Texas. The meeting was called to order at 10:05 by the president, Mitch Whitley.

Roll Call: Members present were Ken Anderson, Linda Barnard, Dan Cathey, Peggy Cathey, Ken Fuchs, Dr. Joyce Jones, Jerry Keeth, Mary Keeth, Jim Landers, Michael Lowe, Don Peterson, Frances Peterson, Linda Roper, Robb Startzman, and Mitch Whitley.

The club added 2 new members, Ron Wilson and Liz Dahl. We also had Liz's grandson as a visitor.

Secretary's Report: Ken Anderson stated that all members should have received a copy of the secretary's report by email or mail. There was one correction made to the report. It was noted that Dr. Joyce Jones was in attendance at the January meeting. She arrived briefly after roll call was taken and was inadvertently not included in members present for the January meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Mitch Whitley reported that the current balance in the checking account is \$10,499.05, noting that there are a few outstanding checks that will reduce that balance slightly.

Old Business: There was no old business to discuss.

New Business: Drawing for A.I.S. Membership: Since there was no drawing for A.I.S. membership at the January meeting, two drawings were held. Michael Lowe won the January drawing and Frances Peterson won the March drawing for a free one-year membership in the American Iris Society.

Show Preparations: There was a discussion of various issues related to preparation for the show. The issue with Covid 19 was not a major

concern as most members have received their vaccinations or will have received their vaccinations by the day of the show. Club members will continue to wear masks and practice social distancing as much as possible during the show. The main issue of concern was the damage to irises experienced to some degree by all members. However, after some discussion it was determined that there would be enough blooms to provide a nice show. Entry cards, show schedules, and flyers were made available. Entry sheets were given to members who do not receive email. All other members will receive a copy of the entry sheet from Peggy Cathey in an email. The artistic division portion of the show will be held, although it is possible we might not have as much participation. Members were encouraged to participate in this division. Members were asked to submit to Peggy Cathey the names of the irises they will be bringing to the potted iris sale. Sale prices will be the same as they have been in the past. Single pots will be sold for \$10 or customers can buy 3 for \$25.

Peggy Cathey reminded everyone of the Region 17 regional meeting in Dallas. The following information from the Region 17 newsletter is being included as part of the minutes as it sums up the information provided by Peggy at the meeting.

SAVE THE DATE! The Iris Society of Dallas will be hosting the annual Region 17 meeting August 6-7, 2021. Meeting facility will be Holy Cross Lutheran Church 11425 Marsh Lane in Dallas. Region 17 Assistant RVP Michael Reed will be securing our guest speaker and judges trainer. There will be more information later this spring. Please save the date on your calendar.

Refreshments: Refreshments supplied by various members were

enjoyed as a brief break was taken between the business portion of the meeting and the program.

Program: Peggy Cathey gave the program.

Part one of her program included demonstrations of techniques and tips to present horticultural entries at their best. It included proper length for cutting, proportion of entry to size of the container, finger print removal, bug removal, anchoring in container, redirecting stems, placement of entry card and other related issues.

Part two of the program dealt with taking better pictures using your mobile phone. She emphasized that although different phones will have different looking icons, most current phones have very sophisticated cameras and that one just needs to play with the different settings and see what works best under various circumstances. Many examples of what to do were provided alongside examples of what not to do.

Before the meeting adjourned, the president brought up an issue that was not discussed under old or new business. There was the question of what to do about the May meeting. Under normal circumstances the club has met at a local restaurant for lunch and for the presentation of show awards and certificates. However, with restaurants just now beginning to return to more normal operation, it is still not clear what would be allowed for large groups. No motion was made regarding a plan, however, it was suggested that we could just meet at the Crest View Church of Christ as we do for our regular meetings. No vote was taken but it seemed to be the consensus of the group that meeting at the church to distribute awards and certificates would be acceptable.

The meeting adjourned at 11:53.

Artistic Design by Peggy Cathey

Getting volunteers to make Artistic Designs for our Iris Shows is always the hardest thing the Iris Show Chair has to do. Everyone is terrified to do one. I hope I can show you just how quick and easy this can be and everyone can do it!

Supplies: Gather all your supplies in the week(s) prior to the show.

1. Container—flat is better than tall and vertical. No too big, not too small.
2. Niche—**Be sure to purchase the size designated in the show schedule.** You can now find them in many different colors. You may also cover the back section with cloth. You want the color to show off your flowers, not over-power them.
3. Some way to hold your flowers in the container—wetable foam (like Oasis®) (do not get dry foam for artificial flowers) or a pin frog.
4. Florist clay or Stickum® to hold the pin frog in place.
5. Figurine to help tell your “story” (not too big and not too small)



Plant material: Gather your line and filler material the day before and “condition” by soaking in a bucket of luke-warm water overnight.

1. Line material—use odd num-

bers. Should come close to 1” from the top of your niche. (If too short, you could use a riser to lift the container from the base of the niche.) Think about the 3 bears—Poppa bear (tallest) Momma bear (middle) and Baby bear (shortest)

2. Iris—use odd numbers of blooms. Could all be on 1 stalk or on multiple stalks. Three is a good number. (Use same 3 bear idea as above) Don’t over do. For proper balance, have your **smallest flower at the top** (could even be a bud) and your **largest flower near the bottom**. Also, don’t mix colors if possible. They don’t all have to be the same, but should be harmonious. **Lightest flower on top, darkest on bottom** to give balance.
3. Filler—use to complete your design. You need to cover your “mechanics” (the pin frog or foam) and some to fill in open spaces in your design.
4. Add your figurine. If it has a face, it should be looking into your design to make it a part of it, not just something stuck in. You should only use 1 figurine. You are not building a “scene”, you are making an artistic design and your figurine should be part of the design. Use a 3X5 index card with the title of your

design and a brief description of what you are trying to convey to the judges.

In our Iris Show, the Artistic Designs are judged by Iris Show Judges who have very little training in judging Artistic Designs. The majority of Iris Societies use National Flower Show judges to judge their shows. What they look for are simple designs, not an FTD® like flower arrangement. Don’t over do. (I am bad to keep adding more and more filler—don’t do that). I was told to step back and look at your design. Check for balance (nothing leaning that shouldn’t be), all fresh material (nothing limp or folding), and before you are done, remove something. Keep it simple.

For a more in depth tutorial on Artistic Design, please go to the AIS website http://irises.org/Member_Services/ais-toolbox-design-tutorial.html



Waco Iris Society Potted Iris Sale April 10, 2021
 (This is just a small sampling of what will be available at our sale)



Ample Charm, Burseen 1995



Blackata, Filardi 2014



Bombay Eyes, Nichols 2009-SA



Bright Spirit, Robinson 1981



Burst of Light, Nichols 2007



Cat's Eye, Black 2002-SDB



Celebration Song, Schreiner 1993
DM 2003



Colortart, Innerst 1983



Cow Palace, Burseen 2013



Eagle Control, Sutton, G. 1999-
SA



Fairy Berry, Cadd 2000-SDB



Full Tide, Brown 1972



Gen Gen, Burseen 2014



Glitter Gulch, Burseen, 2009 SA



Golly Gee Whiz, Burseen 2003



Harvest of Memories, Zurbrigg
1985 Re



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**

**Mitchell Whitley, President
Peggy Cathey, Newsletter Editor
wacoiriss@gmail.com**

Join WIS 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:
Mitchell Whitley, Treasurer
812 Dayton, Waco, TX 76706

IMPORTANT DATES



April 10 2021

Waco Iris Show-La Quinta Inn Woodway-Waco South
6003 Woodway Dr. (off of US-84 and W Loop 340 (Hwy 6))
Hours-1-3 p.m.



May 15, 2021

End of Year Luncheon and Show Awards Presentation (details to be announced in May Newsletter).

Check out our website:

www.kenfuchs42.net/waco_index.html



<https://www.facebook.com/search/wacoirissociety>

Word Search—Iris names beginning with SHOW

Words may be across, backwards or diagonal.

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Ample Charm | Jesse's Song |
| Blackata | Kiing's Speech |
| Bluebird of Happiness | Lavender Park |
| Bombay Eyes | Leaps and Bounds |
| Bright Spirit | Lilac Treat |
| Burst of Light | Love of Life |
| Casino Cruiser | Lullaby of Broadway |
| Cat's Eye | Luxor Gold |
| Celebration Song | Open Your Eyes |
| Colortart | Pacific Destiny |
| Cow Palace | Pagan Pink |
| Eagle Control | River Romance |
| Fairy Berry | Roper's Revenge |
| Full Tide | Rosy Wings |
| Gen Gen | Stairway to Heaven |
| Glitter Gulch | Subtle Beauty |
| Golly Gee Whiz | Summer Shadow |
| Harvest of Memories | That's All Folks |
| Heidi Alaena | Thornbird |
| Holiday in Mexico | Toltec Talisman |
| If Not For You | Truly Yours |
| I'm So Confused | William A Setchell |
| Inspired | |

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