



Waco Iris

Society News

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

Volume 15, Issue 4

An affiliate of the American Iris Society

March, 2023

It's Getting Closer to...



If you have ever thought you might like to enter an Iris Show, make it happen in 2023. Start making plans now to attend the Waco Iris Society Meeting, March 18th, beginning at 10:00. Meetings are held at the Crestview Church of Christ Community Center, 7129 Delhi, in Waco. Mary Keeth will be showing us a few grooming tricks for getting our irises ready for the

show bench. Remember, they must be shown in green bottles or vases. Wine bottles work the best for the tall bearded, Spuria and Louisiana irises because they are heavy and won't topple over.

Peggy Cathey has a slide show prepared for the Artistic Design Division of the show and will also put together a simple design demonstration. Both Grooming and Artis-

tic Designs are better with live plants, so if you have a few irises blooming you can bring for the demonstrations, that would help a lot. Reports have been coming in that blooming irises and bloomstalks are showing up in member's gardens. There will also be handouts for those in attendance to help you remember what you hear in the meeting.

President's Message *by Ken Anderson*

Spring is just around the corner. If you don't have a smile on your face or at least a gleam of pleasure in your eye, you might not be a gardener. Fruit trees, redbuds, wild plum trees, spirea shrubs, and undoubtedly others are blooming now, so we know spring is upon us. This is the time of year that gardeners

greatly anticipate, hoping all their efforts of digging, amending soil, planting bulbs, and rhizomes will finally reward them with a bounty of color.

I hope you are seeing positive signs of growth with your irises. I have noticed many in my yard recently putting on quite a bit of new

growth and an increase in rhizomes. The fans are growing taller while the rhizomes are expanding and sluffing off old leaves. I am anticipating that we will have a nice bloom season. No doubt we have had adequate winter chill. I assume that everyone has had some amount of rain. Depending upon where you live, you might have had just a little,



President's Message (cont.)



Frozen Pansies and freeze-damaged spuria irises



The spuria irises looked even worse a few days after the freeze.



On March 9, the pansies have recovered, and the spurias look fantastic

or you might have had quite a lot.

I want to remind you of my message from January. Remember the bleak picture in my article regarding the hard freeze in December? Well, I will again include a different view from the last one. I had planted some pansies in front of a bed of spuria irises. The freeze hit the irises hard, and the pansies looked like they might have been wiped out completely. However, this was not the case. Nature is so amazing. Delicate-looking plants can be much tougher than might be expected. I am including a picture of the pansies

right after the hard freeze in December. Then there is another picture of how they appeared today, March 9, as I was preparing to write this article. I share these pictures and marvel at the ability of plants to recover. If nothing else, I hope these pictures and this message are a positive reminder that we should never give up on plants. Sometimes they will surprise us. What I did notice about these pansies, especially the blue variety, was that the hard freeze seemed to kill some or most of the top foliage. However, it appears that this damage caused the plants to

produce even more stems and formed a neat mound of flowers. So, what I initially thought was total devastation turned out to be a blessing in terms of an abundance of color. I am hoping the hard freeze in December and the ice in February served to benefit your gardening efforts.

January 21, 2023 Meeting Minutes by Jacky Roberts, Secretary



The January meeting of the Waco Iris Society was called to order by President Ken Anderson. We went straight to the guest speaker Jeanette Kelly, a master gardener for McClellon County. She spoke about garden pests and ways of dealing with them, mostly organically.

After the program we took a break for refreshments. The minutes and the treasurer's report were received online or by mail. Linda Roper accepted them and Robb Startzman seconded.

Diane Roberts was recognized as

a new member.

A.I.S. Drawing winner was Linda Barnard. Club raffle was next and everyone that bought a ticket received something.

Old business: Linda Roper was nominated as Vice President and Jacky Roberts was nominated as secretary. Members will vote to accept new officers at March meeting.

The venue for spring show changed to the Hampton Inn & Suites Waco South, 2501 Marketplace Drive, Waco. Old business accepted by Carol Lane, seconded by Linda Barnard.

New business: Existing officers

agreed to serve through 2023-24, vote will be in March. Show committee will stay the same as last year with the exception of the show clerks. They are Michael Lowe, Jacky Roberts and Katrina Reiser. Other discussion was about combining novelties and space age categories at the spring show. This will be discussed further at the March meeting.

The March program will be Mary Keeth on horticulture and Peggy Cathey on artistic design, all to help new members prepare for the show.

The January meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m. with a total of 13 members present.



It's Soon Time for Another Show! by Ken Anderson, Show Chair

The time is getting very close for our show. The March meeting is always a time of preparation, making sure all arrangements have been made and also being sure that everyone has the information needed to prepare for the show. As usual, there will be several items available for every member. Show schedules will have been printed by the time this message comes out, and they will be available for each member at our meeting. Also, there will be flyers to help promote attendance for the show and potted iris sale. All members who will be bringing entries will be able to pick up entry cards and entry sheets so these can be prepared before the day of the show.

Those members who have been involved in making these shows a successful event will be asking new members to become involved in various ways. We are looking forward to a great program at our next meeting. Mary Keeth will be providing instructions on preparing horticulture entries for the show. Peggy Cathey will be giving a presentation on creating a design for the artistic division. For members who are new to all of this, please do not be intimidated by the details. It seems like there is a lot to learn, but every member was "new" at one time. Do not hesitate to ask questions, and do not hesitate to ask for help with your entries, whether it be with the preparation of your entry or filling out entry cards and entry sheets.

If you are bringing potted irises to the show, it would be helpful if you could provide a broadly estimated number that you think you will have ready. By that, I mean something like 10 or less, 10 to 20, 20 to 30, 30 to 40, or something of that nature.

This will help those individuals assigned to setting up tables to accommodate all the pots. There will be specific directions regarding labels for pots.

I truly believe this is going to be a good year for our show. Hopefully, we will continue having spring-like weather and no damaging storms for the next few weeks. Once again, I encourage everyone who has some-

thing to cut for the show to please bring it and enter it in the horticulture division. Remember, many people come to see the color, variety, and beauty of all the flowers. Whether it gets a blue ribbon, red ribbon, pink or white is really unimportant to the attendees. Let's try to have as many varieties as possible and as many entries as possible and make this a memorable show!



2021 Waco Iris Show-largest show in the Region that year

Treasurer's Report by Peggy Cathey

Checking Account	
Beginning bank balance January 1, 2023	\$ 11,876.17
Income	
Plant markers	\$ 18.00
Raffle	\$ 40.00
AIS dues (Jacky)	\$ 30.00
Total Income:	\$ 88.00
Expenses	
Sutton Iris Garden (Sept. Auction)	\$ (398.60)
AIS memberships	\$ (65.00)
Meeting room donation	\$ (35.00)
Total Expenses	\$ (498.60)
Ending bank balance February 28, 2023	\$ 11,465.57
Petty Cash	
Total Petty Cash	\$ 100.00
Total club funds February 28, 2023	\$ 11,465.57



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

Ken Anderson, President
kenwanderson@hotmail.com

Peggy Cathey, Newsletter Editor
wacoiriss@gmail.com

817-666-9002

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:

Peggy Cathey, Treasurer
1115 HCR 1414, Covington, TX 76636



<https://www.facebook.com/WacoIrisSociety>



March 18, 2023
Crestview Church of Christ Community Center, 10a.m.
Program TBD

April 8, 2023
Annual Iris Show and Potted Iris Sale
Location to be announced

April 12-16, 2023
American Iris Society Annual Convention
Grapevine, TX, hosted by the Iris Society of Dallas

May 20, 2023
End of Club Year Luncheon
Location to be announced

August 4-5, 2023
AIS Region 17 Annual Meeting
Weatherford, TX

Check out our website:

www.kenfuchs42.net/waco_index.html

Word Search-Iris Names Beginning With SPRING, by Peggy Cathey

Words may be up, down, across, diagonal forward or backwards

- | | |
|--------------|----------|
| AGAIN | LAUGHTER |
| ANNOUNCEMENT | MADNESS |
| AROMA | MORNING |
| AWAKENING | PEEPER |
| BALLET | PROM |
| BEAUTY | RAINBOWS |
| BUTTERFLY | ROBIN |
| CELEBRATION | SHOW |
| CHEER | SOCIAL |
| DANCER | STARTER |
| DELIGHT | TONIC |
| ECHO | VIOLET |
| FAIRY | WALTZ |
| FEVER | WATERS |
| FLING | ZEPHYR |
| GLORY | |
| GREETING | |
| HARVEST | |
| JEWEL | |
| KISS | |



Spring Starter
Burseen, 2016

