



Newsletter

Waco Iris Society



Whose Ready to WIN?!

The next meeting of the Waco Iris Society will be held on November 18th beginning at 10:00 a.m. We meet at the Crestview Church of Christ, 7129 Delhi, in Waco (Sanger changes to Delhi past the hospital.)

This month we have some real fun in store for all members and guests. We will be playing **BINGO** for **IRISES!** Each member is asked to

bring at least three (3) named irises. They can be the same variety or all different. You can bring them as cleaned, bare-root plants or potted. If you have extras, please bring a few more for our newer members and guests. Everyone is welcome to come and play. We will all go home winners!!!



Great September Rhizome Sale!

Our Iris Rhizome Sale this past September was more than we had hoped for. The members brought hundreds of irises and the shoppers came to shop for their favorite irises.

Customers started to line up around 8:30 for the 9:00 start time. A special thanks to Lauren at GreenLife Nursery for the great video she posted on Facebook and Twitter about our sale. If you haven't seen it, check it out on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/WacoIrisSociety.

We broke all previous sales records thanks to all our members who donated irises for the sale. Our top seller was Linda Barnard, selling 373 irises and \$1,253 in sales. Whoop! The 2nd with high sales was B.J. and Frank Wheeler, selling 190 plants for \$957. Our total sales amounted to \$4,954.00. This money goes to fund our annual Iris Show in April and to purchase irises for our annual Iris Giveaway and Auction. If you would like to know how to qualify for a FREE new introduction iris, come to a meeting and find out.

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For those of you who write articles for a paper or publication of any type, even a letter to a friend or relative (Do people write those anymore?), I don’t have to tell you that the hardest part is coming up with that opening statement. It is much like mowing your lawn. Once you get the mower started, it is smooth sailing. That is the way it is with any article. Just get that first sentence out of the way, and the words will begin to flow. Such it is with this article. Perhaps that is why I kept procrastinating. I did not know what to say in that opening line. By now, I am sure I have violated some rules of journalism because, so far, I have said nothing related to the title. It rained! Isn’t it wonderful! It is amazing how this one blessing of nature can revive not only the trees, shrubs, grass, and flowers but it also revives our enthusiasm for gardening. I don’t believe any gardeners lost their passion for gardening during this terribly hot and dry summer, but our enthusiasm might have been “dampened” by the drought. Perhaps I should have said diminished. Anyway, I know we are all glad it rained, and according to the forecasts, we have more on the way. In our area, the Leon River is usually about a quarter mile wide, where it flows under the bridge on Highway 36 a few miles northwest of Temple on the way to Gatesville. The level of Belton Lake had dropped so much that the river had actually vanished several weeks ago. With the recent rains, there was a slight trickle of a stream last week. Perhaps now, with yesterday’s rain, the river will reappear under the bridge. The lake is critical to the Belton/Temple area for its water

source but also supplies water to many smaller outlying communities and towns, such as Gatesville. I know that some members who rely on lakes for their water supply have been on water restrictions for most of the summer. Unfortunately, some members have even lost rosebushes and other shrubs due to the lack of water. But it appears that this challenge is going to pass, and hopefully, we will have ample rainfall throughout the rest of our fall and through the winter.

This is the time of year when we all get busy with those fall gardening activities. Most of the people reading this article have been gardening for a long time, so I hardly have to remind you of a few things. But here are a couple of reminders. Fall is the best time to dig and divide any flowering perennials, regardless of the category of plant. However, this is especially true of irises. They can be divided at other times of the year, but fall is really the ideal time. There is not much activity in the upper part of the plant. The shorter days and cooler nights induce root growth. If you dug up any irises a few weeks ago, you might have noticed that new roots were just beginning to form on the bottom side of the rhizome. That is the reason this is such an ideal time to dig and divide. It is still not too late to do this, but it should be done very soon. This brings up the other reminder. I always think of Glenn Huddleston because he was emphatic about fertilizing. He provided a “holiday” reminder of when to fertilize irises: Valentine’s Day, Father’s Day, and Halloween. Remember to use a balanced fertilizer like 10-10-10 or 12-12-12. Just sprinkle it around the root system,

trying to keep it from landing directly on the rhizomes. Also, it is a good time to put out alfalfa pellets. They will provide a natural source of nitrogen plus the benefit of organic material. Another great product to use is worm castings. Worm castings are a bit expensive, but they go a long way and do wonders for your plants. If you look for worm castings at local feedstores or other gardening outlets, they are usually available in small bags of just a few pounds. If you need a large amount, go online and find a source that offers it in the size bag you prefer and the best price. Worm castings can be mixed into the soil as you replant rhizomes, or they can be worked into the soil around the rhizomes. Just remember, many of the roots are very shallow, so take care not to damage roots.

Our regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Saturday, November 18, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at the Crestview Church of Christ Community Center located at 7129 Delhi Road in Waco. We will be having our usual business meeting followed by our program. The program will be playing Bingo, and the prizes will be iris rhizomes or potted irises. Each member should bring three or more named irises, either potted or freshly dug and cleaned rhizomes. All members will have the opportunity to go home with three or more irises to add to their garden.

Finally, I just wanted to say thank you again to all the members who helped make our rhizome sale a success. We had many members participating in various ways. Thanks especially to Dan and Peggy Cathey for putting together all the bags with pictures,

President's Message (cont.)

to Linda Barnard for dealing with the pre-sale project, to Michael Lowe for picking up and returning the tables we rented, for members who arrived early to help set up the tables, to members who brought rhizomes for the sale, to members who helped with the sales table, and to members who kept tidying up the tables as bags were emptied. It

was so good to see so many of our members at the sale, and I appreciated seeing you interact with the customers, answering questions, and providing advice for the proper cultivation of irises. Our sale set a new record this year. We sold approximately \$1,100 more than our previous best year.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming meeting. Until then,

Happy Gardening!



Meeting Minutes-September 16, 2023 by Jacky Roberts, Secretary

The September meeting of the Waco Iris Society was called to order by President Ken Anderson. Sixteen members were present.

The minutes and treasurer report were discussed and accepted by Carol Lane and 2nd by Rob Startzman.

Next, we had drawings for A.I.S. memberships. April (show)- Linda Roper, Show Set-Up- Ken & Preston Floyd, May-Katrina Rieser, September-Carol Lane.

Old business: Show medals were handed out to Michael Lowe, who

received the Silver Medal for most blue ribbons and Mary Keeth, received the Bronze Medal for the second most blue ribbons in our show. Peggy and Dan Cathey received a certificate for Best in Show.

New business: The 2024 show date is set for April 13, Show Theme is *An Iris Show- Where the Wild Things Are*.

We then discussed the Rhizome Sale, preparations update, preparing and pricing rhizomes and the member pre-sale.

Business meeting adjourned for refreshments and a slide preview of the irises available for the giveaway and auction. Numbers were drawn and members got their choice of the 69 rhizomes available for the giveaway. All remaining irises were auctioned. Meeting adjourned a little after noon.

Additionally, the members at the Rhizomes Sale agreed that at our November meeting we would play Bingo for rhizomes. So if attending, bring 3 rhizomes to add to the prizes.

Treasurer's Report by Peggy Cathey

Beginning bal. 9-1-23	\$ 9,312.82	Expenses:	
Income:		Church donation	\$ (25.00)
Auction	\$ 1,148.00	Credit card fees	\$ (101.94)
Raffle	\$ 32.00	Member sales bonus	\$ (2,391.00)
Plant markers	\$ 167.00	AIS memberships	\$ (125.00)
Mem. Dues	\$ 190.00	Table rental	\$ (90.00)
Sale	\$ 4,949.00	Tee shirt	\$ (22.00)
Total income	\$ 6,486.00	Sept. program	\$ (25.00)
		Sept. newsletter	\$ (7.33)
		Postage	\$ (6.93)
		Printing	\$ (29.95)
		Facebook ad for sale	\$ (50.00)
		500 Plant Markers	\$ (200.00)
		Total expenses	\$ (3,074.15)
		Ending bal. 10-31-23	\$ 12,724.67



Society

An affiliate of the American Iris Society

President: Ken Anderson

Phone: 254-223-3161

Email: kenwanderson@hotmail.com

Membership dues \$10/yr.

Send payment to:

Waco Iris Society

115 HCR 1414

Covington, TX 75636

Newsletter Editor:

Peggy Cathey

Phone: 817-666-9002

Email: wacoiriss@gmail.com

We're on the Web!

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

Check it out—
recently updated

Wordsearch: Iris Names With the Words You Hear in November

TURKEY



PUZZLE

V H H L R
H A E E O A H C
C G V E Y T L R T G
O R F A E P E I V C P
R A E U K Q Z R D E B M S
N L N N A T R Q N G A A S Z C E
L U D S U U F D Q P N Y T X H V R
S A C M T M T H A N K S G I V I N G
F O A D N H O M E C O M I N G U
P M P P U M P K I N E Z X C Y R S S
C I P Q K A P W W I L O P H A K Y
C R A N B E R R I E S Z K R N N G V
U N L M J X N S A R M Z Z G I F
E K B Y Q E S Z M V H Y U
I R J M Q V J B M P
P H J A S
E H
L S

AUTUMN

CORNUCOPIA

CRANBERRIES

FALL

FEAST

GRANDMA

HARVEST

HOLIDAY

HOMECOMING

LEAVES

PIE

PUMPKIN

THANKSGIVING

TURKEY

VETERAN



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

2023 Iris Sale Highlights (photos by Ken Anderson)



Linda R., Robb S., and Linda B. getting the bags filled



Linda R., and Linda B. double checking the bags



Mitchell W. adding irises he brought for the sale



BJ & Frank W. making last minute check



BJ W. chatting with shoppers lined up for the 9:00 "whistle"



Lots of shoppers looking for the perfect irises to add to their garden