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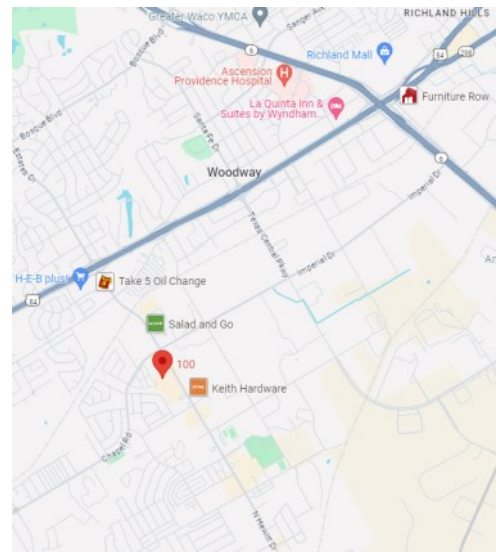
Newsletter

Waco Iris Society



The Waco Iris Society will celebrate the end of our 65th year in Waco on May 18th at 11:00 a.m. To celebrate, the club is buying lunch for all our members. Guests are welcome but will need to pay for their meals. There will be a brief business meeting while the meal is being prepared, followed by the presentation of the Iris Show awards.

We will meet in the Party Room of George's 2, 1201 Hewitt Dr. This is not the original George's location, so please follow the map on the right. Our year-end luncheon is just one of the many "perks" of being a Waco Iris Society member. Another "perk" is when we start our new club year in September, we will begin with our annual Iris Giveaway. Each member present at the meeting chooses from the many irises the club has purchased for this event. To qualify for the free plant, members must attend three club year meetings and help with the show or sale. New members who joined the club between Septem-



ber and April will also qualify for free iris, provided they attend the September meeting. Another "perk" is the drawing, at each meeting, for a free membership in the American Iris Society, automatically making you a member of the AIS Region 17, which includes all of Texas. AIS members receive the AIS Iris Bulletins, with information from all across the country, and the AIS Region 17 Newsletters with happenings from across the Lone Star State.

Have a great summer!

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President's Message, May 9th by Ken Anderson

Wow! Another "iris Spring," not "Irish Spring," has come and gone. I said farewell to my last bloom just a few days ago. It was "Bluebird of Happiness," Paul Black, 2011, one of my favorites, and it seemed to continue blooming a little longer than most other varieties in my garden.



I am sure everyone will agree this was a really wonderful bloom season. The stalks were very tall and straight, or at least most were. I even saw five blooms open on a stalk of "Dodge City," Larry Lauer, 1995. That has never happened in my garden. If you want something reliable and tolerating the worst of soils, this is an excellent variety to include in your garden. I have had it for seventeen or eighteen years. It was one of the first irises I planted and was in the group of about 27 varieties I planted in a flower bed devoted to irises. Since it was introduced in 1995, it can be shown in the "Historic" section next year.



This was also a very unusual spring in other ways. For one thing, we got more rain than usual. And for another, the temperatures stayed pretty mild, probably slightly lower than average for most days through March and April. That was a real blessing for the irises and working in the garden. A third thing that made this year different was the early bloom of many varieties. I have some spuria irises that were given to me many years ago, and they never bloomed before our show. However, this year, both varieties were full of blooms. Spurias work well for creating artistic

designs. It seemed to be a common experience for all club members, regardless of location, to have early bloom, an abundance of blooms, and superior quality of blooms. More will be said about that in the show report article.

As we approach the end of this year, I am eagerly looking forward to our annual luncheon, a special event where we come together to celebrate our shared passion for irises. This year, it will be held at George's Restaurant #2 at 1201 Hewitt Drive in Waco at 11:00 a.m.. I understand that some of you may have other commitments, but I genuinely hope to see as many of our club members as possible. It will be an excellent opportunity to sit and visit, congratulate the winners, and enjoy a delicious meal together, all while reflecting on this year's successes.

I have enjoyed this year as president and hope to be able to continue serving in the position, at least for one more year. It is great to establish friendships, to see new people join our club, to watch them become active members, and to learn from each other as the years pass by. There is much to learn from trial and error and simple observation. Even for people who have been doing this for many years, there always seems to be a bit of new information or insight regarding good growing practices. Sometimes, some of this information comes from those growing irises for only a short period. For all of you members who have joined our club in the last two or three years, your interest in gardening, enthusiasm for growing irises, and desire to learn and share what you are learning all serve to make our club successful. Keep up the good work.

I hope to see you at the luncheon on Saturday, May 18, 2024.

AIS 2024 TB Symposium

If you are a member of AIS, you should have already received your Spring issue of *IRISES* which included the green **2024 TB Symposium** ballot. Please VOTE! Mark up to 25 of your favorite irises from the list of 527 and bring it to the luncheon on May 18, and Ken

will send them to Region 17 RVP Michael Reed. You may also email just the numbers to Mike at 4mikereed@tx.rr.com. The symposium is open to everyone. If you did not receive a ballot, you may download a .pdf <https://bit.ly/AISSymposium>.

2024 Iris Show Report by Ken Anderson, Show Chair



This year, we had quite an unusual bloom season. Many varieties began blooming quite early. Some were finished before the show, and there was some concern that we might have a limited number of entries. However, that assumption proved to be false. We had quite the opposite. Many varieties that typically bloom after our show were at their peak. The participation by members was fantastic. The number of exhibitors and cultivars far exceeded those we have had for several years. It was wonderful to see the amount of participation and the number of blooms that were exhibited. Only one worry came to mind on the day of the show, and that was having enough space to place all the entries. We added a new section, Single Blossom, to our horticultural division. The interest and participation in this section was incredible. What a delightful surprise to see such involvement. In addition to that change in our show schedule, we added a photography division. Photography is a local option and does not fall under any AIS rules. The participation in this category was significant, too.

Here are some details of the 2024 show. We had 138 entries, with 120 different cultivars entered. We had Tall Bearded, Other Bearded, such as Border Bearded and Intermediate Bearded, Standard Dwarf Bearded, Beardless, which included Louisiana and Spuria, Historic, and Single Blossom irises, entered our show. Eleven exhibitors were in the horticulture division, and five were in the artistic design division. Among the many impressive entries, *Lady of Lometa*



Best of Show winners Dan and Peggy Cathey, with Louisiana Iris, *Lady of Lometa*

Dan and Peggy Cathey, which was named First Runner-Up to Queen and awarded Best Historic and Best Blend. These achievements are a testament to the dedication and skill of our members.

Katrina Reiser won the Silver Medal (exhibitor with the most blue ribbons) with nine blue ribbons. Mary Keeth won the Bronze Medal (exhibitor with the second most blue ribbons) with eight blue ribbons.



Silver Medal winner
Katrina Reiser

Section Medal Certificates are awarded when at least three exhibitors and at least five different varieties/cultivars are entered in a section. In this year's show, four sections met these standards. Section Medal Certificates will be awarded to Katrina Reiser for Section A, Tall Bearded; Dan and Peggy Cathey for Section C, Beardless; to Michael Lowe for Section D,

(Landers, 2013), shown by Dan and Peggy Cathey, stood out, earning the titles of Queen of Show, Best Beardless, and Best Cultivar by a Texas Hybridizer. Another standout was *Afternoon Delight*, (Ernst, 1983), also shown by

2024 IRIS SHOW (cont.)

Space Age & Novelty; and to Dan and Peggy Cathey for Section J, Single Blossom.

The following members won other color and sections awards: Linda Barnard's entry of *Lavender Whirl* (Johnson, 2019) Best Banded; Dan and Peggy Cathey's entry of *Wintery Sky* (Keppel, 2002) Best Single Blossom; Mary Keeth's entries of *Oil Painting* (Ghio, 2012), Best Bi-Tone, *You Good* (Burseen, 2021), Best Pink, *Respect*, (Johnson, 2019), Best Tall Bearded and Best Plicata; Michael Lowe's entries of *Dance With Dragons* (Blyth, 2014), Best Bi-Color and Best Gray, *Blinded By the Light* (2017) Best Orange, *Mamasito* (Burseen, 2020), Best Red, *Aztec Art* (Johnson, 2009), Best Variegata; Katrina Reiser's entries of *Hard to Resist* (Johnson, 2016), Best Amoena, *Black Lipstick* (Keppel, 2016) Best Black, *Enrico Fonti Gabici* (Montanari, 2018), Best Purple/Violet, *Boss of the House*, (Burseen, 2020), Best Yellow; Jacky Roberts' entry of *Ty Blue* (Burseen, 2000), Best Space Age; and Michell Whitley's entry of *Swing Dancer* (Johnson, 2018), Best Neglecta.

Our Artistic Design Division theme this year was *Where the Wild Things Are*. We had five exhibitors and six entries. In Class 1, *Out of Africa*, Ken Anderson won first place & Best of Show, Peggy Cathey won second place, and Katrina Reiser won third place. In Class 2, *The Wild and Woolly West*, Dan Cathey was awarded first place. Peggy



Best Artistic Design winner, Ken Anderson

Cathey was awarded first place in Class 3, *An Out-back Party*. Mary Keeth was awarded second place in Class 4, *Into the Woods*.

There were 19 entries in the photography division. In Class A, **Single Iris**, Diane Reagan won Best of Section and Best of Show with her

entry titled *Such a Royal Beauty*. Katrina Reiser won first place in Section B, **Iris Clump**, with her entry of *Banker Dave*. Michael Lowe won first place in Section C, **Iris Garden**, with his entry of *My Garden*.

There were approximately 180 pots of irises for the sale. The sale began at 1:00 p.m. and was completely sold out by 1:40 p.m.



SELL OUT! Potted irises for the sale provided by Ken Anderson, Dan & Peggy Cathey, Bobbie & Frank Wheeler and Jacky & Diane Roberts

The show was well attended and appreciated, as noted by club members who received positive feedback from those attending the show. Despite the time and effort needed to plan, execute, and complete paperwork for a show, there is great satisfaction in knowing that the show was a huge success. Thanks to everyone who helped with all the details of hosting a show.



Judges Bonnie and Hooker Nichols and judges training candidate and club member Jacky Roberts, with show clerks Michael Lowe and Mary Keeth.



Best of Photo winner, Diane Reagan

Section Winners



Lady of Lometa
 Queen of Show
 Best Beardless
 Best by Texas Hybridizer
 Dan & Peggy Cathey



Afternoon Delight
 1st Runner-up
 Best Historic
 Best by Blend
 Dan & Peggy Cathey



Ty Blue
 Best Space Age
 Best Blue
 Jacky & Diane
 Roberts



Respect
 Best Tall Bearded
 Plicata
 Mary Keeth



Wintry Sky
 Best Single Blossom
 Dan & Peggy Cathey

Color Class Winners



Hard to Resist
 Best Amoena
 Katrina Reiser



Lavender Whirl
 Best Banded
 Linda Barnard



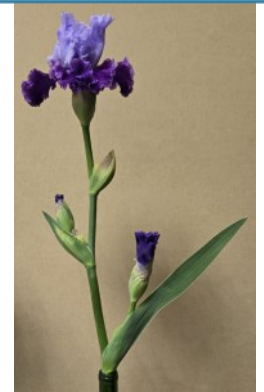
Dance With Dragons
 Best Bi-color &
 Best Gray
 Michael Lowe



Oil Painting
 Best Bi-tone
 Mary Keeth



Black Lipstick
 Best Black
 Katrina Reiser



Swing Dancer
 Best Neglecta
 Michael Lowe



Blinded by the Light
 Best Orange
 Michael Lowe



You Good
 Best Pink
 Mary Keeth



Enrique Fonti Gabici
 Best Purple/Violet
 Katrina Reiser



Mamasito
 Best Red
 Michael Lowe



Aztec Art
 Best Variegata
 Michael Lowe



Boss of the House
 Best Yellow
 Katrina Reiser

Artistic Designs—Where the Wild Things Are

Class 1: Out of Africa



First Place and Best of Show
Ken Anderson



Second Place
Peggy Cathey



Third Place
Katrina Rieser

Class 2: Wild and Woolly West

Class 3: Outback Party

Class 4: Into the Woods



First Place
Dan Cathey



First Place
Peggy Cathey



Second Place
Mary Keeth

Photography Section



1st place and Best of Show—Diane Reagan



Class 1 Single Blossom



Class 2 Iris Clump
1st place—Katrina Riser



Class 3 Iris Garden
1st Place—Michael Lowe



Single Blossom Entries



Tabulations—Peggy Cathey



Beautiful Iris—Beautiful Show



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We're on the Web!

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

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

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

Website has been updated—Check it out!



Iris Names beginning with SUMMER

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



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

Azure
Breeze
Butterfly
Camp
Carnival
Charm

Darkness
Dawn
Drought
Echoes
Eclipse
Evening

Fantasy
Fashion
Festival
Fiesta
Frolic
Frost

Fun
Gown
Haze
Holidays
Idyl
Inspiration

Lightning
Melody
Paleface
Princess
Radiance
Shadow

Treasurer's Report by Peggy Cathey

Beginning bal. 4-1-24	\$ 11,492.36	Expenses:	
Income:		Sale bonuses	\$ (1,327.50)
Iris Show Sales	\$ 1,780.00	Judges honorarium	\$ (200.00)
Plant marker sales	\$ 48.00	Credit card fee	\$ (22.06)
	\$ 1,828.00	Iris giveaway shipping	\$ (80.00)
		Total expenses	\$ (1,629.56)
		Ending bal. 4-30-24	\$ 11,690.80

