

Volume 16, Issue 4

March, 2025



# Newsletter

Waco Iris Society



Please join us on May 17th when we end our 2024-2025 club year with a celebration at George's 2, 1201 Hewitt Dr. in Waco. We will begin at 11:00 a.m., so please arrive on time.

## George's #2

No only will we be celebrating a successful club year, we will also want to celebrate all of our Show winners. Mary Keeth was the big winner and was crowned Queen of Show for her entry of *User Friendly*.



All of the show winners and photos of their entries are included in the pages of this newsletter.

We will take the summer off and will begin our 67th year as the Waco Iris Society on September 20th with our annual *Iris Giveaway and Auction*, a meeting we all look forward to each year. Qualifying members (those who have attended three meetings during the club year and worked the show or sale) in attendance at the meeting will receive a free iris from those purchased by the club for the giveaway. All of the remaining irises will be auctioned. Everyone is welcome to come and bid on the irises in the auction.

The next big event will be our Iris Rhizome Sale September 27th at GreenLife Nursery, 1312 N. New Road. Members will dig and divide irises from our gardens and bring the extra plants to sell to all our eager customers. The line gets longer every year and we want to have plenty of irises to help beautify everyone's garden.



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Greetings to all of our club members. Another year of activities of the Waco Iris Society is coming to a close on May 17<sup>th</sup>. What a year it has been! The weeks and months have seemingly rushed on by, perhaps even faster this year. The bloom season this year was so very different from last year. I was going to begin this paragraph by saying it had been a very unusual year for growing irises. But then I briefly reviewed the message I wrote for the May newsletter last year and realized I would have been saying the same thing. I think we can all agree that both years were very unusual. Perhaps there is no such thing as a typical spring in central Texas. The weather indeed cannot be predicted by the calendar. The weather events during winter and early spring this year were the exact opposite of last year. Last year, we received significant amounts of rain and mild temperatures. This year, we had very little rain during that same period and freezing temperatures on more than one occasion, and for several mornings in a row, sometimes. Last year, we had prolific and early blooms with beautiful stalks. This year, we had late blooms and short stalks, and some varieties never bloomed. I suppose we could say both of these years were not normal, one in an excellent way and the other in a much less desirable way, regarding bloom season. The bloom season is so late this year that I see stalks forming on at least one variety, **Bluebird of Happiness** (Black, 2011), which is always late.

Despite the challenges we've faced this year, I remain optimistic about the future of our gardens. Two other varieties of irises bloomed relatively late this year. I have had one for many years and really enjoy **American Master**, (Kerr, 2006). Even though the stalks were very short, this iris's color always seems quite breathtaking. It is even more beautiful in



the garden than it is in pictures. It is one of my favorites. If you are like me, you have lots of favorites! A



more recent introduction, **Catch Phrase** (Johnson, 2023), was just added to my garden two years ago and has begun to form a nice little clump, but displays the stunted growth that many of us experienced in our gar-

dens this year. I look forward to a better year next year regarding stalk development. Despite our challenges this year, I'm optimistic about the future and the potential for a more favorable growing season. I believe that our shared experiences and the knowledge we've gained will help us overcome any obstacles that come our way. Here's to a brighter and more bountiful year ahead.

I look forward to the upcoming meeting, our last one of the year, which will be held on May 17, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at George's 2 Restaurant in Waco, located at 1201 Hewitt Drive. Participating in a meeting that provides more social time is always great. Of course, there will be a few items of business to address, in addition to the presentation of awards, but this is always regarded as a great time to sit and visit with other members, to share experiences, whether they be successes or failures, and to gain more insight into iris horticulture. There is always something new to learn, and I'm excited about the knowledge and experiences we'll all share. Our shared experiences, successes, and failures are invaluable learning opportunities to help us become better iris cultivators. I know this is a busy time of the year, but I certainly hope all of our members can attend this celebration of another year promoting the cultivation of irises. I look forward to seeing you there, enjoying a delicious meal, and having great conversation with all of you.



We are about to close another chapter in the life of the Waco Iris Society, and it's one we can all be proud of. The 2025 Iris Show was held at a new venue, the Holiday Inn Express and Suites Waco South. Despite a few glitches, some beyond the control of local members, it turned out to be a resounding success. The unusual weather this year has caused the bloom season to be delayed, or even non-existent for some varieties. However, we had a good show. Unfortunately, we were running behind schedule for the judging process. This had the domino effect of causing our show to open about a half hour late to the public. Despite a most unusual bloom season, we had a nice show with fewer entries than last year.

Just in case you missed it, there was a slight mishap on the part of your show chair. The judging had been completed, and we were about to admit the waiting public/customers for potted irises. A table needed to be moved, so I took on that task alone (big mistake). The mechanism that allows the table legs to be folded up for storage was very tight. I finally tried using my foot to get more muscle behind the action needed (second mistake). My foot slipped, I momentarily lost my balance, and reached to brace myself on the nearest thing I could see. That nearest thing just happened to be a table full of entries (third mistake). Of course, those tables with such narrow footing can be easily tipped over without too much force. Fortunately, I realized what had happened in time and could grab the table before it went completely over. Unfortunately, it tipped all the entries over, knocking some petals off. What an embarrassing experience! And to make matters worse, in my frustration and embarrassment, I just let the table drop in disgust. At that point, I suppose I needed to add a punctuation mark to the whole experience. A reliable source has told me that I said at least one word that slips out sometimes when things aren't going well. Yes, it was a four-letter word. "IRIS" is a four-letter word. That was NOT the word, but it does share a couple of letters. My apologies to all who witnessed that fiasco. I had been burning the candle at both ends the days

immediately preceding the show and dealing with unforeseen issues here and there throughout the show. The table incident was the "straw that broke the camel's back". My apologies for that display. The irony is that I taught anger management skills for eight years at the Woodman State Jail. Perhaps it is time for me to review my lessons. But all is well that ends well. The show was a great success.



Judges: Kathy Fladager, Photography Judge; Kenneth Fladager, Master Judge; Brenda Griffin, Exhibition Judge, and Tracey Rogers, Apprentice.



Horticulture entries all lined up and ready to be judged

Here are some of the details of the 2025 show, a testament to the unwavering dedication of our members. We had 11 exhibitors who presented 126 entries, showcasing 113 different cultivars. The variety was impressive, with Tall Bearded, Border Bearded, Intermediate Bearded, Arilbred, and Louisiana irises on display. Six cultivars were entered as Historic, and twelve were entered as Space Ager or Novelty. In addition to these entries, we had five Single Blossom entries, a testament to the diversity of our members' interests. These Single Blossom entries are not reported on the official report nor counted when determining the awards for Silver and Bronze medals, but they are a valuable part of our show.



Jacky Roberts, 1st Runner-Up with *Spiked*, and Mary Keeth with Queen of Show winner, *User Friendly*

Among the stunning entries from our exhibitors, Mary Keeth's *User Friendly* (Burseen, 2015) stood out, winning multiple awards including **Queen of Show**, **Best Tall Bearded**, **Best Cultivar by a Texas Hybridizer**, and **Best Bi-Color**. This was a true testament to Mary's dedication and the quality of her entry. Another exceptional entry was Jacky Roberts's *Spiked* (Sutton, 2007), which was named **First Runner-Up to Queen** and won **Best Median**, showcasing the high standard of entries at our show.

**Section Medal Certificates** are awarded for receiving the most blue ribbons in a Section when at least three exhibitors and five different cultivars/varieties are entered. In this year's show, two Sections met these qualifications. A **Section Medal Certificate** will be awarded to Mary Keeth for **Section A, Tall Bearded**, and to Peggy and Dan Cathey for **Section H, Historic**.

The following members won other **Color** and **Section** awards:

Linda Barnard's entries of *Insaniac*, **Best Amoena** and *Ozone Alert*, **Best Green**.



*Insaniac*



*Ozone Alert*

Peggy and Dan Cathey's entries of *How Now Brown Cow* **Best Brown**, *Irish Butter* **Best Historic**, *Ida Red*, **Best Red**.



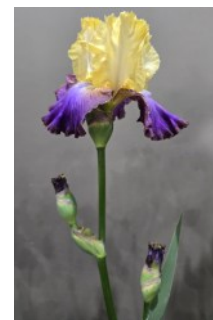
*How Now Brown Cow*, *Irish Butter* and *Ida Red*

Mary Keeth's entries of *Molokini*, **Best Blend**, *Pixel Hue*, **Best Gray**, *User Friendly*, **Best Tall Bearded** and **Best Bi-Color**.



*Molokini*, *Pixel Hue* and *User Friendly*

Michael Lowe's entries of *Strawberry Freeze*, **Best Banded**, *Daring Deception*, **Best Bi-Tone**, *Adventurous*, **Best Neglecta**, *Go Berserka*, **Best Novelty**



*Strawberry Freeze*, *Daring Deception* and *Adventurous*



*Go Berserka*, *Tango in the Night*, *Don't Doubt Dalton* and *That's All Folks*



and Best Gold, *Picture Book*, Best Pink (no photo) *Tango in the Night*, Best Purple, *Don't Doubt Dalton*, Best White, *That's All Folks* Best Yellow.

Katrina Rieser's entries of *Sassy Sister*, Best Bi-Tone, *Smoldering Fire*, Best Black, *Blinded by the Light* Best Orange, *Raspberry Frost*, Best Plicata.



*Sassy Sister, Smoldering Fire, Blinded By the Light and Raspberry Frost*

Jacky Roberts' entries of *Perry Dyer*, Best Arilbred, *Lemon Sorbet*, Best Louisiana, and *Spiked*, Best Median.



*Perry Dyer, Lemon Sorbet and Spiked*



*Berry Ripple*

Carol Lane's entry of *Berry Ripple*, Best Single Blossom



The theme for the Artistic Division (photos on page 7) was *Music in the Iris Garden*. There were four exhibitors with six entries. In Class 1, *Classical*, Ken Anderson won first place and **Best of Section**, and Peggy Cathey won second. In Class 2, *Rock and Roll*, Ken Anderson won first place, **Best of Section**, and **Best of Show**, Carol Lane won second place, and Dan Cathey was awarded third place. There were no entries in Class 3, *Rhythm and Blues/Jazz*. In Class 4 *Country Western* (Novice), Carol Lane won first place and **Best of Section**. Ken Anderson won the **Artistic Design Sweepstakes** for the most blue ribbons.

There were eight entries in the Photography Division. In **Section A, Single Iris**, there were four entries. Dawn Holmes had entries entitled *Blushing Beauty* and *Spring Has Sprung*. Carol Lane had entries entitled *What a Beauty* and *Ichi Alien*. All four entries were awarded blue ribbons. Carol Lane won **Best of Section A** with *What a Beauty* and **Most Outstanding Photo Overall** with *Ichi Alien*. In **Section B, Iris Clump**, Dawn Holmes' entry of *Graceful Show*, was awarded **Best of Section**, and Carol Lane's *Jennifer's Garden* was the runner-up. There was a single entry in **Section C, Iris Garden**, for which Dawn Holmes was awarded **Best of Section** with *Melody of Spring*. There was also only one entry in **Section E, Macro Iris**. *Flounces Are Fun*, by Dawn Holmes, was awarded **Best of Section**.

There were 205 potted irises for sale. We had 160 named varieties, while 45 were labeled "Mystery" irises. The sale began at about 1:30 and only some "mystery" irises were left at 2:30.

Making all the arrangements, making phone calls, and exchanging emails with various people in the planning stages of hosting an iris show requires help from many members. The reward for our labor is felt when we witness so many people wanting to view all the irises and wishing to make purchases of potted irises for their gardens. Thanks to all the members who interacted with the visitors, provided answers to



The **Silver Medal** (exhibitor receiving the most blue ribbons) was awarded to Michael Lowe with 13 blue ribbons.



The **Bronze Medal** (exhibitor with the second most blue ribbons) was awarded to Mary Keeth with 11 blue ribbons.

## 2025 Iris Show *cont.*

questions, and encouraged others to become involved with growing irises. Also, thanks to all the members who helped set up for the show, bringing potted irises for the sale, assisting with various responsibilities throughout the day, and bringing entries for our

show's horticulture, design, and photography sections. It takes the efforts of many to experience the satisfaction of providing a meaningful show for the public. Thanks to all who helped in so many ways.

### Treasurer's Report *by Peggy Cathey*

The Potted Iris Sale, held during the April Iris Show, was a resounding success, with total sales of \$2,270.00! All the named iris varieties sold out fast. However, we need more members to pot up irises this fall when you divide and dig for the September sale. Your participation is crucial in ensuring the success of our future shows and sales. We have more and more people attending our shows and sales, and we want to make them happy so they will return each year. So, take a walk through your garden and list those iris clumps that are getting big and in need of division. Dig them this September and bring all your extras to the

September Rhizome Sale. Smaller rhizomes should be potted-2 to 3 per pot-for our April Potted Iris Sale. You shouldn't have to worry about the pots being left out in the winter if they are sitting on the ground and not elevated. They should go through the winter just fine, with occasional watering. Our club Iris Sales benefits the club by allowing us to buy new irises for our giveaway and auction, and to pay for judges, ribbons, awards, and other expenses associated with putting on an Iris Show. Thank you for your support of our Waco Iris Society.

Income since March 1, 2025		Expenses from March 1 through April 30, 2025:	
<b>Income:</b>		Donation for meeting room	\$ (35.00)
March raffle ticket sales	\$ 60.00	AIS Membership	\$ (30.00)
Potted Iris Sale	\$ 2,260.00	Sutton Iris Order	\$ (399.40)
Club dues	\$ 20.00	Mid America Iris Order	\$ (400.00)
Plant markers	\$ 22.00	Shipping	\$ (120.00)
		Member sales commissions	\$ (1,687.50)
		Judges' honorariums	\$ (250.00)
		Credit Card fees	\$ (34.25)
<b>Total income</b>	<b>\$ 2,372.00</b>	<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$ (2,956.15)</b>





## Music in the Iris Garden– Artistic Designs & Photos



Class 1-Classical-*Swan Lake*  
1st place-Ken Anderson



Class 1-Classical-*Brahm's Lullaby*  
2nd place-Peggy Cathey



Class 4-Country Western-*Willie Nelson*  
1st place-Carol Lane



Class 2-Rock and Roll-*Blue Suede Shoes*  
1st place-Ken Anderson  
**Best of Show**



Class 2-Rock and Roll-*Elvis*  
2nd place-Carol Lane



Class 2-Rock and Roll-*Deep Purple*  
3rd place-Dan Cathey



Sect. A- Single Iris  
*Ichi Alien*  
Best of Show-Carol Lane



Sect. A- Single Iris  
*What A Beauty*  
Best of Section-Carol Lane



Sect. C. Iris Garden  
*Melody of Spring*  
Best of Section-Dawn Holmes



Sect. B. Iris Clump  
*Graceful Show*  
Best of Section-Dawn Holmes



Sect. E. Macro  
*Flounces are Fun*  
Best of Section-Dawn Holmes



## Show Photos submitted by Club Members







**Mandarin Music**

Billyth, 2008

## Waco Iris Society

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**We're on the Web!**

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

Website has been updated—  
Check it out!



## Iris Names ending with May

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

## Word Bank

1. apple 2. blossom 3. breeze 4. bride 5. carol 6. charm 7. cloud 8. dancer
9. dawn 10. day 11. debut 12. delight 13. flower 14. frills 15. frost 16. glory
17. greeting 18. happiness 19. magic 20. melody 21. morning 22. princess
23. queen 24. romance 25. sky 26. snow 27. troll 28. view 29. wedding
30. wine



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