





Annual Iris Rhizome Sale Saturday, September 27, 2025, 9 a.m. to 12 noon GreenLife Nursery, 1312 N. New Road, Waco

We are all excited to be hosting another Annual Iris Rhizome Sale. This is an event all of us and all our loyal customers look forward to each year. GreenLife Nursery has been advertising for us in their monthly newsletter. If you get a chance to stop by there, be sure to thank them for their support.

If you are planning to bring irises to sell, please get your list to Peggy as soon as possible, and no later than September 24th so photos can be printed and ads can be placed daily on our https://www.facebook.com/WacoIrisSociety beginning Sunday, September 14th. If you are not following our Facebook page, give it a try.

Welcome to the 67th year of the *Waco Iris Society*! Our first meeting of the 2025-2026 club year will be September 20th at the Crestview Church of Christ Community Center, 7129 Delhi, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Please don't be late as we have a LOT to do. This will be our annual Gift Iris Giveaway to qualifying members, followed by an Iris Auction, which is open to all bidders.

Members who have attended at least 3 meetings in the past club year September, 2024 through May, 2025 and participated in the Fall Iris Rhizom Sale and/or the Spring Iris Show equalify. Here are our 17 lucky, qualifying members:

Ken Anderson Linda Barnard Dan Cathey Peggy Cathey Preston Floyd Dawn Holmes Mary Keeth Carol Lane Michael Lowe Dianne Reagan Diane Roberts Jacky Roberts Linda Roper B.J. Wheeler Frank Wheeler Mitchell Whitley

We have 84 irises to choose from. Both Mid-America Iris Gardens and Sutton's Iris Gardens were very generous with our orders. Included in this newsletter is a list of all the irises which will be offered in the giveaway/auction. Several are new 2025 introductions. There are a few Novelty iris-such as Space Age and Broken Color and several Medians like SDB's, IB', and BB's. It will be hard to choose a favorite among all the beautiful irises in a multitude of colors and patterns. (Dues must be current to receive your free iris, so don't forget to pay your dues.)

PRESIDENT'S President's Report By Ken Anderson

It is that time of the year when our thoughts turn to all the garden tasks being ushered in by the change of seasons. Thankfully, we have not had a terribly severe summer in terms of extreme heat. In fact, I can't remember a year when we have had so few 100-degree days in August. We have certainly had some hot weather, and quite likely, even the most dedicated gardeners have retreated to the comfort of air conditioning by early afternoon, if not even before lunch. In addition to that benefit, we have also been treated to some nice rains during the summer months. A few weeks ago, water was being released from Lake Belton to allow access to some of the recreational areas around the lake. It is so nice to see a full lake rather than a dry riverbed underneath the bridge on Highway 36, a few miles northwest of Temple. We are entering that season when one can step outside in the early morning and feel just a hint of fall. I noticed today that the evening was quite pleasant as I ventured out to take care of some last-minute chores. There was a different feel in the air associated with the arrival of fall. It is that time of year when we begin to anticipate a new cycle of iris gardening.

I always mention in my September article that this is the ideal time to take a walk in your garden. Consider yourself taking on the role of a doctor, making his (or her) morning rounds at the hospital to check on patients. Hopefully, when you are "making your rounds" through your garden, you will find that most of your irises (patients) have survived the summer. Those members who have been doing this for a while are all too familiar with the challenges of summer survival. Summer rains are beneficial for most plants, but for irises, excessive rain can lead to rot. And then there is the extreme heat with the directness of the sun. And of course, there can be grub damage to the rhizomes. I suppose tales of Iris woes are the focus of many conversations that can be overheard as we gather for our first meeting.

The walk through your garden in early September provides an excellent opportunity to begin deciding which clumps definitely need to be dug and divided. If you plan to bring rhizomes to the iris sale, it is not too early to start making a list of what you will be bringing, nor is it too early to begin the actual digging process. Here are some hints and tips to guide you through this process, especially if it is a new experience for you.

Dig one clump at a time. As you begin to break up the clump, write the name on the innermost leaf of the fan on every rhizome (or even on the rhizome itself if the leaves are tiny) before doing anything else. After all, unless you have a variety with purple foliage, all iris fans have a very similar appearance. Once the clump has been cleaned, it is time to divide it into three groups. The first group contains the ones to be kept for your own garden. The second group is well-developed and can be prepared for the sale. The third group consists of smaller plants that can be placed in pots with two or more rhizomes for the potted iris sale in the spring. Keep in mind that the smaller ones might look insignificant when planted, but with a minimal amount of care throughout the winter, they can sometimes produce rhizomes large enough to bloom the following For more specific information regarding trimming up and cleaning rhizomes, attaching price tags, determining price, etc., please refer to your yearbook. If you have questions, please ask any member who has been doing this for a while—one more hint for those of you who might be doing this for the first time. Pace yourself. Determine the total number of clumps you will be digging and then spread this work over several



days, doing one or two varieties each day or more, depending upon how many clumps you plan to divide and how much of your day you can devote to the task. It is a lot of work, but it is gratifying. I have begun digging up my clumps and have started the process of preparing some for the sale. I am sharing the picture on the previous page as proof of my efforts so far. I chose these particular fans for the photo because they seem to be in excellent shape. Of course, these fans came from a clump that received regular watering throughout the summer, so they represent the best of what I have to offer. Most of my irises don't look quite this good after the heat of summer.

I have spoken to a few members during the summer and shared some personal news that has a direct bearing on the activities of the Waco Iris Society. Preston and I have known each other for 16 years and have enjoyed many adventures, including spending several summers in the mountains of North Carolina. After many discussions, we concluded that it was time to give up our current homes and yards, combine our households, and relocate to San Antonio. We finally determined that we would be happier in a small home rather than an apartment complex. In June, we started making searches online. By July 1, we had connected with a realtor as we began a serious search for a home that would meet our needs. By the first week of August, we had become the owners of a home with a small yard, located in an established neighborhood, and also about a ten-minute drive from Preston's daughter and sonin-law's home. We had agreed that we needed some yard in which to putter around, but we also decided that our present yards had become more than we could manage, especially during the summer months. As we will be making our "new" home in San Antonio, we are entering a new phase of our lives. As you know, Preston is a veteran with some service-related health issues, so he makes frequent use of the Veterans Medical Center in Temple. I have dealt with heart issues for many years. So, as we grow older, our needs for medical care become a greater concern and quite often require more specialized care. The San Antonio Veterans Hospital and related facilities and clinics are considered to be among the best in the country. My medical needs will involve finding a new primary care doctor and other specialists to address my various ailments. On the bright side of making this move, Preston will be close to his daughter. I will be close to several relatives in San Antonio and also only an hour's drive from my sisterin-law in Kenedy, along with other friends from my hometown. The decision to move was not an easy one,

but Preston and I agreed that the time was now. Each of us has recognized that we have neither the energy nor the stamina to do all the work we once did. Making this move at this stage of our lives is monumental. We have found ourselves totally exhausted at the end of most days. The list of things that need to be done seems to be endless. Waiting another year to make this move would have made it even more difficult physically. Preston has completely moved and is living full-time in San Antonio. Currently, I am splitting my time between here and San Antonio, taking small loads of various items on my weekly trips.

My time serving as president for the last two to three years, as well as my tenure as show chair for many years, have been truly rewarding experiences. I know that this will be a year of transitioning away from those responsibilities. Jacky Roberts had already promised to be involved with assuming some of the show chair responsibilities. Much of that work is done online, so we will be working to make that transition. In terms of serving as president, I am hoping someone can assume the responsibilities of the president as our new year progresses. I plan to do all I can to help with this transition.

I am sure everyone is looking forward to our first meeting as we kick off a new year. Our first meeting, which is the "give away" and auction, will be on Saturday, September 20, at the Crestview Church of Christ, 7129 Delhi Road in Waco. Our rhizome sale will take place the following Saturday, September 27, at the GreenLife Nursery, located at 1312 N. New Road in Waco.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our first meeting. It is always great to see everyone, and the "give away" and auction is always a special time, creating excitement about the new iris season. In addition to our first meeting, I am looking forward to our rhizome sale the following Saturday. I know that some members will have many rhizomes to bring, and there will undoubtedly be a great variety from which to choose.

Until then, happy gardening. Stay healthy and safe!



I. 'Royston Rubies' (Cordes-A, 2017)

2025 Dykes Medal Winner



Meeting Minutes of Meeting Minutes May 17, 2025

By Ken Anderson for Jacky Roberts, Secretry

Waco Iris Society Minutes, May 17, 2025 Meeting/Luncheon

The Waco Iris Society held its final meeting of the 2024-25 year on May 17, 2025, at George's Restaurant in Waco, Texas. Members gathered at the restaurant at 11:00 a.m. and the meeting was called to order at 11:10. The wait staff took drink orders after the meeting was called to order. Initial items were addressed. Members were allowed time to review the menu and decide on their choice of meal. After the meal orders had been placed, the remaining items of business were covered before the meal was served.

There were eight members present: Ken Anderson, Linda Barnard, Dawn Holmes, Mary Keeth, Carol Lane, Michael Lowe, Dianne Reagan, and Mitchell Whitley.

There was one guest, Mrs. Lytle, mother of Dawn Holmes.





Top, 1-r: Linda Barnard, Carol Lane, Michael Lowe, Dawn Holmes, Mrs. Lytle, Mitchell Whitley, Dianne Reagan, & Mary Keeth Bottom, 1-r: Mitchell Whitley, Linda Barnard, Carol Lane, Michael Lowe, Dawn Holmes, Mrs. Lytle, not pictured, Ken Anderson, photographer

It was noted that the minutes of the previous meeting were not included in the newsletter. but will be included in the final newsletter of the year.

The treasurer's from report the newsletter there noted significant no changes from the May 11, 2025 newsletter, that the expenses related to the show, thought to be approximately \$1,000, had not

yet been submitted. The other major expenditure of the vear would be for the luncheon.

It was noted that the drawing for A.I.S. membership for April (those members attending the show) and May (members attending the luncheon) will be conducted by Peggy Cathey and announced at the September meeting.

There was no old business.

Under new business:

- a. It was noted there will be no A.I.S. symposium this year and members of A.I.S. were asked to refer to the president's article on page 9, paragraph 3.
- b. It was also noted that rhizomes have been ordered by Peggy Cathey and by Mitchell Whitley for the September Iris Give Away/Auction.
- c. There was brief discussion regarding a donation to the Big Country iris Society in Abilene, as they will be hosting the Fall Region 17 meeting. A motion was made by Carol Lane to send \$300 to BCIS. It was seconded by Mary Keeth. All members present voted for the motion.
- d. It was noted that Jacky Roberts has agreed to "shadow" Ken Anderson as Show Chair and will begin assuming a number of responsibilities for the 2026 show, April 11, 2026, in preparation for taking over as show chair for the 2027 year.
- e. The theme, "National Parks", was suggested by Mitchell Whitley for the 2026 show. There was a general consensus among members that this be chosen as our theme. Ken Anderson said he would begin working on creating the "classes" for the artistic design portion of the show.
- f. The show venue for this year was discussed. There was a general consensus that the venue met the needs of our show and that the show chair should reserve the same venue for the 2026 show.

The meal was served following the business meeting. All members enjoyed the opportunity to visit and enjoy great food. Following the meal, the Iris Show certificates and awards were presented and photos were taken of recipients. The meeting adjourned at 12:30.

NEWSLETTER

TREASURER'S Treasurer's Report By Peggy Cathey

I am excited to get to see everyone again at our September 20th meeting. Since I missed the May luncheon, it was the April Iris Show that I last saw most of you at.

The irises for the Giveaway/Auction are here, and we have some real beauties to choose from. I hope you will all pick your very favorite iris in the Giveaway, then help the club pay for what we got by bidding in the auction. We have some that are very inexpensive so that everyone can participate in the bidding. The auction is open to everyone, so guests are invited to attend and get in on the action. Remember, the auction, along with our Fall Iris Rhizome Sale, is crucial in helping us pay for our April Iris Show and other club activities. Please remember to pay your 2025-2026 club year dues. Due to the numerous activities scheduled for this meeting, we will not be holding the raffle. Please hold your raffle prizes until our Bingo meeting in November.

Treasurer's Report

We have had no income since May 1st.

Expendatures:

Total expenditures	\$ 1,867.60
May Club luncheon	\$ 161.09
Host club	\$ 300.00
Donation to Region 17	
Postage	\$ 4.81
Show supplies	\$ 103.00
Rental of a room for the show	\$ 630.00
Printing of show schedules	\$ 135.00
Lunch for judges	\$ 77.72
Show awards	\$ 94.00
Hotel for Judges	\$ 361.98
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Newsletter Editor's Report By Peggy Cathey

I am back again as your Newsletter Editor. This will be my 18th year as Editor, and I am running out of things to write about. This is YOUR newsletter, and it should include articles written by YOU. There must be something you are interested in, things you have learned and want to pass along, or have questions you would like to have answered. What about coming up with a recurring feature like In the Garden with _, where you share a short story about what has

been going on in your garden since the last newsletter or what were your favorite blooms. When the irises aren't blooming, what is your favorite companion plant? Another idea would be Featured Iris of the *Month*, where you share a photo and information about one of your favorite irises, and why it is your favorite. More than one member can share their favorite irises or even their favorite companion plant. Do you have a favorite fertilizer or soil amendment you'd like to share? Did you discover a "cure" for iris rot, or how to keep the bunnies out of your garden? Please consider some of these ideas or come up with one of your own.

Do a little research on a topic you are interested in and report it to the club. We are ALL interested.



To submit your article or photo, simply email it to me at wacoiriss@gmail.com. Our next meeting will be on November 15th. Please get your article to me before November 1 so I can have time to put it in the newsletter. Photos are always a good idea. We love seeing pictures of beautiful flowers. If a nemesis has attacked your garden, send photos of the culprit or what you did to help resolve the situation. You can send your articles to me anytime. I will put them in a file until it's time to compile the newsletter. Come on – I need all the help I can get.

Membership Chair Report time to

By Dan Cathey

As the Membership Chair, I extend a warm welcome to each of you for another exciting year with the Waco Iris Society. Our new club year kicks off in September, when all membership dues are due. We will be collecting your \$10 yearly dues before we start our annual Iris Giveaway and Auction. Remember, being an active member has its perks. By attending at least three meetings and participating in our events, you are eligible to receive a free iris bought exclusively for our

September Giveaway and Auction. By being a member and attending meetings and special events you not only contribute to the success of our society but also get the chance to learn from experienced members and expand your iris collection. This year, we have some exceptionally high-quality rhizomes available for the Giveaway/Auction, most of which come with LOTS of increases for an instant clump! We're sure you'll be excited about these irises.



Programs

We have some fun planned for this year. Bur, first, we would like to thank Jacky and Diane Roberts, as well as Donna Little, for inviting us to visit their gardens in April. If you didn't make it, you really missed out on a real treat—an extra thank you to Jacky and Diane for providing lunch for us. Are there any volunteers who would like to host a garden visit next year? Hosting a visit is a great way to share your love for irises with fellow members and showcase your gardening skills.

We only meet in September, November, January, March, and May. Additionally, we host two special events each year – the September Fall Rhizome Sale and the April Iris Show. Here is what is lined up for this year:

- September 20th, Crestview Church of Christ Community Center, 10 a.m. – Iris Giveaway and Auction. Membership dues are now due.
- September 27th, GreenLife Nursery, 8 a.m.- Setup for Fall Iris Rhizome Sale. The sale opens to the public from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.
- November 15th, Crestview Church of Christ

- Community Center, 10 a.m. BINGO! Please bring three iris rhizomes to use as prizes for our games. If you do not have any increases to bring, you may bring other plants or garden gifts as prizes.
- January 17th, Crestview Church of Christ Community Center, 10 a.m. – 2025 AIS National Convention Highlights, Jacky Roberts
- March 14th, Crestview Church of Christ Community Center, 10 a.m. - Show Prep Please note the meeting will be a week early due to a scheduling conflict with the Church.
- April 10th, Holiday Inn & Suites Waco South, 5 p.m. -Set up for the show
- April 11th, Holiday Inn & Suites Waco South, 8 a.m. – Entries arrive between 8:00 and 9:45 a.m., judging begins at 10:15 a.m. The show is open to the public from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
- May 16th, May Luncheon place and time to be determined.



Fall Iris Rhizome Sale

Another reminder: please send your list to Peggy at wacoiriss@gmail.com or call 817-666-9002 by September 23rd. Facebook advertising will begin on September 14th. Sale irises will be featured each day, so the earlier you send your list, the earlier your irises will be featured. If you know the number of rhizomes for each named iris, please send that, too. On Thursday or Friday, before the Saturday sale, a list plus photos of each sale iris will be emailed and posted on Facebook to all our followers. Remember, if you don't send your list to Peggy, there won't be any

photo of your irises. PHOTOS help sell. No photo, it is unlikely they will sell.

Please ensure your rhizomes are named and priced BEFORE you arrive at the sale. Bag them by name separately, if possible, to make putting them into the sale bags easier. If you have very small rhizomes, leave them at home and pot them for our potted iris sale in April. The same goes for rhizomes you only have 1 of. This preparation will ensure a smooth and successful sale for everyone involved.

Presentation of Show Awards



Mary Keeth received the Waco Iris Society Founder's Award

During the May Luncheon, Show awards were presented by Show Chair, Ken Anderson. Mary Keeth was presented the *Waco Iris Society's Founder's Award* for her Queen of Show winner *I.* 'User Friendly', which also won the Best Section-Tall Bearded, Best by a Texas Hybridizer, and Best Bi-Color. Mary also received the Bronze Medal for the second most blue ribbons. Her other awards included Best Blend and Best Gray.

Michael Lowe won the Sweepstakes in the Horticulture Division and was awarded the Silver Medal and certificate for the most blue ribbons received during the show. He also won Best Section-Novelty, and color classes:



Linda Barnard received Color Class Certificates

Best Banded, Bi-Tone, Neglecta, Gold, Pink, Purple, White, and Yellow.

Linda Barnard received two color class awards-Best Amoena and Best Green

For the Artistic Design Division, Ken Anderson received the *Hazel*



Michael Lowe received the Silver Medal and Certificate for the Most Blue Ribbons



Carol Lane received the certificate for **Best** of **Show**-Photography Division



Dawn Holmes receives certificate for **Best Macro** in the Photography Division

Haik Best Design of Show award for his Class 2: Rock & Roll entry Blue Suede Shoes. Ken was also awarded the Artistic Design Sweepstakes for winning the most blue ribbons in the Division.

In the Photography Division, Carol Lane won top honors with her *Most Outstanding Photo Overall* - *I*. 'Ichi Alien'.

Dawn Holmes received a certificate for the **Best of Section 3, 'Macro'** photo titled **Flounces are Fun.**

Region 17 Meeting

August 1-2, 2025, Abilene, TX

The Waco Iris Society was well represented at this year's **Region 17 Meeting**, a vibrant and engaging event. The Meeting, held in August, was hosted by the Region's newest club, the *Big Country Iris Society* in Abilene, TX. Attending this year's event were members Jacky & Diane Roberts, Mary Keeth, and Bonnie & Hooker Nichols. All reported having a great time, filled with learning, networking, and fun. *Waco Iris Society* can now boast that we have among our members, Bonnie Nichols, the *American Iris Society*'s President, Hooker Nichols, the newly elected Region 17 Regional Vice President (RVP), and Jacky Roberts, the newly elected Assistant RVP.



Bonnie Nichols, Hooker Nichols, Mary Keeth, Jacky Roberts, and Diane Roberts

Jim Landers, who has held the position of Region 17 Historian for the past 23 years, has presented a Special Award to the top Iris Show winner in the Region each year. Our own Mary Keeth was the deserving winner this year, a reflection of her dedication and love for irises. During the event, Mary was presented with a *Special Award* for winning the most **Top Show Awards** this year. Mary received four Top Awards, including one *Best of Show* (won at our show in April), two *Silver Medal* Awards (most blue ribbons), and one *Bronze Medal* Award (second most blue ribbons). Jim reported that Mary also won the top award in 2021, with <u>five</u> Top Show Awards, including two *Best of Show* Awards and



Jim Landers and Mary Keeth

three *Silver Medal* Awards. In the ten years Mary has been entering shows, she has won five *Best of Show* Awards, eleven *Silver Medal* Awards, and seven *Bronze Medal* Awards. We congratulate Mary, and we are so proud of all her hard work.

Jim is retiring as the Region 17 Historian this year. We want to express our deep gratitude for the fantastic job he has done over the years, keeping track of all the show winners and providing his yearly historical reports on current and past Iris Show winners. His service to our Region has been invaluable.

You are invited and encouraged to attend the 2026 Region 17 Meeting, which will be held in Cleburne, TX, hosted by the *Johnson County Iris & Daylily Society*. Plans are well underway to make it a very special Meeting. Hope to see you there.



Find the Iris names that begin with



Words can be forward, backward, across or diagional



Waco Iris Society

An affiliate of the American Iris Society

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Membership dues \$10/yr. Send payment to: Waco Iris Society 1115 HCR 1414 Covington, TX 75636

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We're on the Web! http://www.kenfuchs42.net/ waco_index.html

Website has been updated— Check it out!







Word Bank

 bouquet 2. buttercup butterfly 4. charm chereau contrast 7. cream 8. dawn frost gleam **12.** moon **13.** morn pastel 15. replay **11.** gold 16. sailor **17.** seas 18. serenade 19. skies 20. song 21. sparkler sunshine

2025 Waco Iris Society Giveaway/Auction List

Above it All	Gossamer Veil	Sum Total	
Alaia	Gracious Smile	Sunday's Best Dress	
Antique Treasure	Here Comes Trouble	Thought So	
Arms of Love	Hysteria	Time Bomb	
Auburn Tigress	Ignite the Light	Top Line	
Belle Fille	Just Between Us	Under Pressure	
Berry Scary	Keep An Eye Out	Vivid Sunset	
Blame it on Rio	Keep In Mind	Waves of Blue	
Blueberry Trail	Kilimanjaro Sunrise	We Are Magic	
Bodacious Beard	Left an Imprint	Whoa Nelly	
Bottled Lightening	Lemon Blues	Wild About You	
Break the Barrier	Light Switch	Winning Streak	
Bubble Bubble	Line Drive		
Caramel Craving	Lingering Lilac		
Caribbean Sunset	Looking Cute		
Castle Peak	Love You More		
Celebrity Dream	Lucky One		
Coastal Blues	Maid of Gold		
Color Mash	Major News		
Cozy Kitty	Mark My Words		
Dare to be Different	Maroon Bells Glow		
Day of Reckoning	Maroon Majesty		
Daylight Savings	Midnight Sharp		
Edged Out	Naked Beauty		
Electric	Night Whispers		
Fizzed Out	On the Horizon		
Flip a Coin	Pistols at Dawn		
Follow Love	Playful Tune		
Fortunate Son	Power of Suggestion		
Found a Love	Prom Dress		
French Lavender	Rooted in Tradition		
Funky Town	Runner Girl		
Goddess of the Rainbow	Running in Circles		
Gold Jewelry	Shivers		
Golden Mantel	Stare Into My Eyes		
Gone Viral	Stellar Wind		