



Newsletter

Waco Iris Society



End of Year

CELEBRATION

Please join us on May 16th to celebrate the close of another great year for the Waco Iris Society. We will gather at George's #2, 1201

George's #2

Hewitt Dr. in Waco at 11:00. We have limited time at the restaurant so please arrive on time.

The highlight of the meeting, besides some great food, is the presentation of the Iris Show awards. We had a beautiful show in April with many top award winners. Congratulations to everyone who entered, showing support for our club and for showing the general public the array of colors modern irises come in. The potted iris sale was a huge success, selling out in less than 20 minutes. We hope more of you will help support our club by potting some irises for next year's Potted Iris Sale during our annual Show. September is always the best time to do this, when digging irises for the September Rhizome Sale.

You just need to pot up the smaller plants that are too small for the rhizome sale, placing 2-3 rhizomes of the same variety in a pot (or one bigger rhizome with small increases on the sides). They don't require a lot of attention through the winter, just an occasional watering. Members who sell potted irises receive 75% of the sale price back to help pay for the pots, soil, and time spent taking care of them through the winter. That can make for a very nice pay check.

Our September meeting is scheduled earlier than usual. It will be held on the 1st Saturday of September instead of the 3rd (September 5th). This will be our Iris Giveaway and Auction, so you want to be sure to mark your calendar for this new date. This is one meeting you will not want to miss.



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It is hard to believe another month has passed since we had our wonderful spring iris show. I had intended to send a personal note or email to each member who participated in our show. Still, good intentions often get lost in the routine tasks of the day and other distractions that pull us away from what we hope to accomplish. Our end-of-year meeting will be held on May 16 at 11:00 a.m. at George's Restaurant, 1201 Hewitt Drive, in Waco. As usual, the main focus of the meeting will be to recognize various members with presentations of awards and certificates. It is a busy time of year, and there are always some members with other commitments who are unable to attend the event. However, I look forward to seeing as many of our members as possible for our annual "end-of-year" luncheon. This event is always fun because there is time for members to visit and share what is happening in their gardens and in their lives.

As you probably have heard, the Iris Circle of Friends lost Gordon Carver, past Region 17 RVP, who passed away on April 21, 2026. A memorial service will be held for him at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 16, at the First Methodist Church, Weatherford, Texas. Please keep Happy Carver and their family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Thank you all for your participation in the show. Every contribution, from preparing entries to helping set up or working at the sale table, shows how much we value each member's effort and strengthens our Society.

I also wanted to note that we were delighted to have Robert and Melissa Peugh, members of the Johnson County and Fort Worth Iris & Daylily Societies, participate in our show, bringing several entries. Some of their entries were among those recognized for awards at the head table.

On a personal note, I wanted to let everyone know that there was enough of a winter chill in San Antonio for some of my irises to bloom. I have limited space, but I did bring some of my favorite irises with me to San Antonio last fall.

Unfortunately, those planted in their new bed were not planted until early November. However, some of them did develop well enough to produce blooms. Even a couple of varieties growing in pots bloomed just recently, much later than they would normally have bloomed in Gatesville. I am hoping that having one more year for them to get established will provide a nice display of color. About half of the ones I am trying to maintain here are now classified as Historic, or will be within the next year or two. 'Pshaw' (Burseen, 1993) bloomed just a few days ago. It did not have a well-developed stalk, but I was delighted to see that it adapted to the change in environment and still produced blooms. I am a bit sentimental when it comes to plants. This iris was among about 25 varieties I brought home after my first visit to Michael Lowe's garden about 20 years ago. Over the years, most of those varieties have disappeared, but this one, along with just a few others, has survived.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the luncheon on Saturday as another iris season comes to an end. This year will be a year of change and just in case you are not able to be at the luncheon on Saturday, I wish to share with all of you that it has been a pleasure serving as president of the Waco Iris Society for the past few years and Show Chair for the past several years. I will continue to be as involved as much as possible in spite of my distance from Waco. I look forward to providing support to Carol Lane as she assumes the office of president and to Jacky Roberts as he continues to serve as show chair.



Show Chair Report by Ken Anderson

At the expense of sounding redundant, this was a strange year in terms of weather conditions that always impact the type of bloom season we will experience in our gardens. If that opening statement sounds somewhat familiar, it is because I think I have said something similar in the past two or three years while trying to craft an appropriate opening statement. I am sure all members will agree that the bloom season was impacted by the weather, in one way or another. Many Tall Bearded irises did not bloom at all. Some bloomed very late, and some bloomed with very short stalks. Some Louisiana and Spuria cultivars bloomed earlier than usual. Despite all those deviations from the norm, we had a very successful show. It was great to have Robert and Melissa Peugh, members of the Johnson County Iris and Daylily Society, participate by bringing several entries to our show. The total number of entries was 119. There were nine exhibitors.

Peggy and Dan Cathey won the Best Specimen (Queen of Show) with their entry of **'Rodeo Blue'** (B.



Peggy & Dan Cathey, Queen of Show winners with **'Rodeo Blue'**

Charles Jenkins 1994, SPU). Katrina Rieser won the Runner Up to Queen with her entry of **'Yosemite Nights'** (George Sutton 2004, TB).

The Silver Medal, awarded to the exhibitor receiving the most first-place (blue) ribbons, was won by



Mary Keeth.



Mary Keeth win Silver medal



The Bronze Medal, awarded to the exhibitor receiving the second-most first-place ribbons, was won by Katrina Rieser. There was a tie for the second-most first-place ribbons between Katrina Rieser and Robert and Melissa Peugh. The tie breaker (the second-place ribbons) resulted in the win for Katrina Rieser.

Other horticulture awards noted on the head table were the Best Tall Bearded, **'Yosemite Nights'** (George Sutton 2004, TB), shown by Katrina Rieser, Best Beardless, **'Rodeo Blue'** (B. Charles Jenkins 1994, SPU), shown by Peggy and Dan Cathey, Best Novelty, **'Catheys Can'** (Tom Burseen 2020, TB) shown by Peggy and Dan Cathey, Best Louisiana, **'Popsie'** (Janet Hutchinson 1995, LA), shown by Jacky Roberts, Best Species and Species X, **Iris orientalis** (Philip Miller 1731, SPEC), shown by Peggy and Dan Cathey, Best Spuria, **'Rodeo Blue'** (B. Charles Jenkins 1994, SPU), and Best Single Blossom, **'Black Magic Woman'** (Richard Tasco 2008, TB), shown by Robert and Melissa Peugh. The best Texas Hybridizer entry was awarded to **'Ozone Alert'** (Tom Burseen 1997 TB), shown by Robert and Melissa Peugh.

In the color classes the Best Amoena was **'Harley Jolly'** (Tom Burseen 2015, TB), shown by Linda Barnard, Best Banded was **'Get Social'** (Tom Burseen 2020, TB), shown by Mary Keeth, Best Bi-Color was **'Cry Me A River'** (Tom Burseen 2006, TB), shown by Mary Keeth, Best Bi-tone was **'Shout Out Loud'** (Thomas Johnson 2021, TB), shown by Katrina Rieser, Best Black was **'Yosemite Nights'** (George Sutton 2004, TB), shown by Katrina Rieser, Best Blend was **'Ozone Alert'** (Tom Burseen 1997, TB), shown by Robert and Melissa Peugh, Best Blue was **'Rodeo Blue'** (B. Charles Jenkins 1994, SPU), shown by Peggy and Dan Cathey, Best Brown was **'Brown Down'** (Tom Burseen 2018, TB) shown by Mary Keeth, Best Gray was **'Cow Patty'** (Tom Burseen 2014, TB), shown by Robert and Melissa Peugh, Best Orange was **'Bahama Mama'** (James McWhirter 1999, TB), shown by Michael Lowe, Best Pink was **'Popsie'** (Janet Hutchinson 1995, LA), shown by Jacky Roberts, Best Purple/Violet was

‘**Textronics**’ (Tom Burseen 1998, TB) shown by Peggy and Dan Cathey, Best Red was ‘**Blackberry Torte**’ (Michael Sutton 2020, TB), shown by Michael Lowe, Best Variegata was ‘**Repertoire**’ (Thomas Johnson 2011, TB), shown by Robert and Melissa

Peugh, Best White was ‘**Iris orientalis**’ (Philip Miller 1781, SPEC), shown by Peggy and Dan Cathey, and Best Yellow was ‘**That’s All Folks**’ (William Maryott 2005, TB), shown by Katrina Rieser.

Section Winners



(L-R) Queen of Show-SPU-Rodeo Blue, 1st Runner-up-TB-Yosemite Nights, Nov/SA-Catheys Can, LA-Popsie, Spec-Species orientalis, Single Blossom-Black Magic Woman, Texas Hybridizer-Ozone Alert

Color Class Winners



(Top to bottom, l-r) Amoena-Harley Jolly, Banded-Get Social, BiColor-Cry Me a River, BiTone-Shout Out Loud, Black-Yosemite Nights, Blend-Ozone Alert, Blue-Rodeo Blue, Brown-Brown Down, Gray-Cow Patty, Orange-Bahama Mama, Pink-Popsie, Purple-Textronics, Red-Blackberry Tort, Variegata-Repertoire, White-orientalis, Yellow-That’s All Folks.

The Best Artistic Design was won by Peggy Cathey with her entry in Class 4-*Seashores and Beaches*, with her design entitled “**Padre Island National Seashore**”.



Artistic Design entries—Class 4 -Seashores and Beaches winner “*Padre Island National Seashore*” entered by Peggy Cathey was also Best of Show.

Class 2-Desert Beauty winner “*Petrified Beauty*” was won by Ken Anderson and



There were not enough photography entries to award certificates for “Best of Section”. However, the judges awarded **Most Outstanding Photograph**

Overall to Dawn Holmes for her entry of “**Sunset on the Waves**”.

I hope you can be present as these awards and certificates are presented on Saturday at our luncheon. Remember, if you are a member of the Waco Iris Society, the club will cover the cost of your lunch. Guests are welcome, but they must pay for their own meal. Also, we would like to begin at 11:00 a.m., so please arrive on time to place our meal orders. I am looking forward to seeing everyone who can attend the luncheon.

On my drive home from the show on April 11, 2026, I could not resist stopping to take several pictures of the United States flag blowing in the wind against a stormy sky to the west of McGregor. I was reminded of what a great day we had with our friends, giving our time and energy to put on a great spring iris show for the Waco area. I was also reminded of how privileged we are to live in this country. These thoughts have little to do with our Iris Show, except that we will be celebrating our nation's 250th birthday on the 4th of July. Since some of you will not be at our luncheon, let this brief paragraph and this photo of our beautiful flag accompany my sincere thanks to all of you for your work on the show, especially Jacky Roberts, as he has undertaken responsibility for all the planning and preparations for the show. And may this picture of the flag remind you that you are wished a Happy Fourth of July! See you in September!



Treasurer's Report by Peggy Cathey

The Potted Iris Sale, held during the April Iris Show, was a resounding success, selling 166 pots with total sales of \$1,601. They went *FAST*. We desperately need more members to participate in the potted iris sale by potting up your extra irises when you divide. This is easily done when you 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 benefit 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.

We were also happy to recruit 3 new members during our show. Please join me in welcoming Holly Bailey and Sheryl McKay, both from Mexia, and Verlon Baize from Robinson. We welcome you and look forward to seeing you at our meetings. New members who join at our Iris Show and attend the May luncheon and September meeting will qualify to receive a new iris at the Giveaway. Your dues are also good through the 2026-2027 club year. WELCOME to the Waco Iris Society!

Don't forget to attend the End of Year Luncheon on Saturday at 11:00.

Income since March 1, 2026		Expenses from March 1 through April 30, 2026:	
Income:		Donation for meeting room	\$ (35.00)
March raffle ticket sales	\$ 41.00	Show Supplies	\$ (166.79)
Potted Iris Sale	\$ 1,601.00	Donation for Region 17 Meeting	\$ (250.00)
Club dues	\$ 30.00	Mid America Iris Order	\$ (400.00)
		Hotel room for show	\$ (315.00)
		Member sales commissions	\$ (1,215.00)
		Judges' honorariums	\$ (300.00)
		Credit Card fees	\$ (17.57)
Total income	\$ 1,672.00	Total expenses	\$ (2,699.36)



March 2026 Meeting Minutes by Jacky Roberts

The March meeting of the Waco Iris Society was called to order by President Ken Anderson. Roll was called by Dan Cathey with 12 members and no guests present.

Motion to accept previous Secretary Report was made by Mary Keeth, second by Carol Lane. Treasurer's Report was given by Peggy Cathey.

Drawing for A.I.S. Membership was won by Linda Roper.

Everyone who purchased a raffle ticket won something to take home.

Old Business: Mitch Whitley to reserve room for our September meeting.

New Business

A. The new officers are President: Carol Lane, Vice President: Linda Roper, Secretary: Jacky Roberts, and Treasurer: Peggy Cathey. Everything else will stay the same with exception of Ken Anderson being the new Parliamentarian. Motion to vote on nominations was by Mitch Whitley, second by Mary Keeth. Vote was unanimous.

B: "End of Year" luncheon was discussed and decided to meet at George's. Motion by Mary Keeth, Second by Linda Barnard.

C: Distribution of Show Schedules, Entry Cards and Entry Sheets.

D: Clarify duties and provide handouts for members assigned duties for Show.

E: Discuss who will order rhizomes for auction/giveaway. Mitch Whitley and Peggy Cathey will order from Mid-America and Sutton spending \$400 at each. Motion by Mitch Whitley, second by Mary Keeth, vote was unanimous.

F: Discuss donations for regional meeting. \$100 for gift basket and \$250 was decided. Motion by Jacky Roberts, second by Peggy Cathey. Vote was unanimous.

Several members shared their secrets on show preparation and grooming.

Meeting Adjourned

Photos From the Iris Show



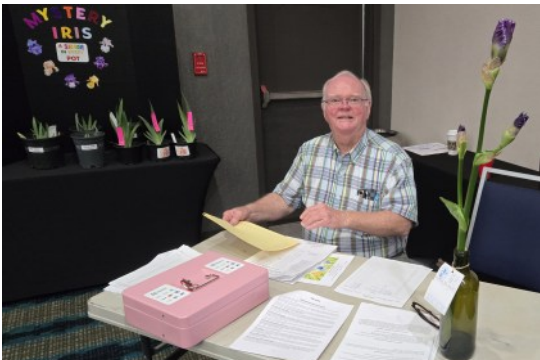
Clerks Nicholas Washington and Linda Barnard, Judges Tracey Rogers & Hooker Nichols, and clerk Diane Roberts



Judging in progress



Show Chair Jacky Roberts



Ken Anderson—the Tally Man



Open to the public



Iris Names beginning with May

May Delight (Scheriner', 1966)

Waco Iris Society

An affiliate of the American Iris Society

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Membership dues \$10/yr.

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Waco Iris Society

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We're on the Web!

http://www.kenfuchs42.net/waco_index.html

Website has been updated—
Check it out!

I	P	W	B	B	F	A	O	C	A	G	S	N	W	R	V	V	H	Q	Y	C	W	X	S	T
B	S	P	A	A	R	T	O	H	W	H	B	P	T	M	H	V	O	M	C	R	M	Q	Q	R
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F	F	I	Y	R	L	M	E	R	B	E	S	R	X	C	F	Y	Y	J	O	B	D	X	B	G
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T	O	J	D	N	M	N	P	Y	Y	L	O	S	J	E	I	C	F	W	Z	T	M	S	A	E
A	J	W	A	C	E	D	P	N	H	R	M	T	A	D	D	I	E	K	H	P	X	U	L	L
O	Z	I	P	E	L	A	A	F	P	H	Z	P	C	D	E	W	D	S	Q	L	A	M	T	I
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<https://www.facebook.com/WacoIrisSociety>

Word Bank

1. Apple
2. Bee
3. Blossom
4. Breeze
5. Bride
6. Charm
7. Dancer
8. Dawn
9. Day
10. Debut
11. Delight
12. Flower
13. Frills
14. Madness
15. Melody
16. Morning
17. Music
18. Night
19. Orchid
20. Princess
21. Queen
22. Romance
23. Rose
24. Sky
25. Sky
26. Snow
27. Troll
28. View
29. Wedding
30. Wine