

NEWSLETTER

Waco Iris Society-Volume 18, Issue 1



A New Club Year Begins with Iris Traditions

Waco Iris Society is delighted to begin our 67th year as an AIS Iris Club in Waco, Texas. With a strong and dedicated membership, we look forward to welcoming new members and growing together during the 2026-2027 club year. We are also pleased to welcome our new club president, Carol Lane, and look forward to the year ahead under her leadership.

Annual Iris Giveaway and Auction: We will kick off the new club year two weeks early, so be sure to mark your calendar for September 5th. This is always a special event, and you will not want to miss it. Qualifying members who have attended three meetings in the past year and assisted with the Iris Show or Sale will be able to choose from more than 50 new irises purchased especially for this occasion.

Annual Iris Sale: September is also the time for our annual Iris Sale. Now is a great time to walk through your garden and make a list of the irises that need to be divided. Since September is the best time to divide, we hope you will consider adding your extra rhizomes to our fall sale. Everyone's participation helps make this event a success. If you are new or do not have enough irises to divide this season, you can still lend a hand by arriving early for set-up and staying to assist our customers. We always have a wonderful turnout, and your help will make a meaningful difference.

American Iris Society Region 17 Annual Meeting

The Waco Iris Society is excited to prepare a Club Gift Basket for the Region 17 Silent Auction—and we would love your help making it truly special! We have purchased a wonderful garden cart, seat, and kneeling bench combo to use as our “basket,” and now we invite you to help fill it with generous donations of Waco-themed items, garden tools, garden décor, potting soil, soil amendments, fertilizer, and other gardening treasures. Together, we can create a standout basket that celebrates our club and becomes the one everyone hopes to take home! Please bring to the September 5th meeting, or no later than our September 26th iris sale. Thank you for your generous support.

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

Big Events Coming Soon ...



Black Bottom Brulee,
Sutton-M, 2026

2026 Iris Giveaway & Auction

September 5, 2026

10:00 a.m., Crestview Church of Christ,
7129 Delhi, Waco, TX



2026 Iris Rhizome Sale

September 26, 2026

9 a.m.-12 p.m., GreenLife Nursery
1312 N. New Road, Waco, TX



AIS Region 17 Annual Meeting

October 2-3, 2026, Cleburne
Conference Center

1501 W. Henderson St., Cleburne, TX

Growing Together with the Waco Iris Society, Blooming Into a New Club Year

by Carol Lang, President

I am honored and excited to serve as your president for the 2026-2027 term. I look forward to working with each of you as we celebrate our shared love of irises, exchange knowledge, welcome new members, and strengthen our society.

One day, about four years ago, I saw a Facebook post announcing that the Waco Iris Society was having a sale. Intrigued, I decided to go - not knowing that this small discovery would become the beginning of a much larger story.

My mother-in-law had grown irises, and she had some real beauties. Inspired by her garden, I decided to stop by the sale and purchase a few rhizomes of my own. Unfortunately, by the time I arrived at the hotel, they were completely sold out. That was my first lesson in buying irises: get there early!

Although I went home without any rhizomes, the trip was far from wasted. I began talking with two members of the Waco Iris Society, Jerry Keeth and Dan Cathey. They explained the basics of growing irises, then asked if I wanted to join the society. I became a member that very day, and that is where my new story began.

My excitement was high as I tried to determine the perfect place to plant my future irises. As with any new hobby, I had so many questions: Where should I plant them? What type of soil do they need? Which fertilizer should I use, and how often should I water them?

Three years later, I am still asking many of those same questions. I have learned that growing irises is an ongoing journey - one filled with curiosity, experimentation, and the anticipation of seeing each new bloom.

If you are new to our club, the best source of information is the members who have been growing irises for many years. Everyone is willing to share what they have learned and explain the methods that work for them.

One thing you quickly discover is that no two growers do everything exactly the same way. Each member has a personal approach to choosing fertilizers, setting watering schedules, cleaning beds, and dealing with insects and fungal diseases that can damage or even destroy irises. By listening to their experiences, asking questions, and trying different methods, new members can learn what works best in their own gardens.

Once again, we are dealing with blistering heat this year. Neither the local weather forecasts nor the Farmers' Almanac offers much hope for rain, and this extreme heat wave is expected to continue into early September.

The *Farmers' Almanac* has advised us to watch for tropical storms toward the end of August. Well, September is almost here, so if a tropical storm plans to bring us some much-needed rain, it had better get on the ball!

In the Spring 2026 issue of *Irises: The Bulletin of the American Iris Society*, I came across an interesting article titled *Are the Irises in Your Garden Correctly Named, and Does It Matter?* The article, written by Harriot Robinson of Maine, immediately caught my attention because of an experience I had after our last iris sale.

At the sale, I purchased an iris labeled '**Salsa and Chips**' (Burseen, 2014) and gave the rhizome to my neighbor for his birthday. When it bloomed, it was magnificent! However, the flower looked nothing like the photographs of '**Salsa and Chips**' in the Iris Wikipedia. Although I was disappointed to discover that the iris had apparently been mislabeled, I entered a photograph of the bloom in the photography section of our iris show. It won first place!

This experience taught me that an iris can still be beautiful even when its identity is uncertain. However, correct names do matter, especially when rhizomes are sold, shared, entered in shows, or added to personal collections.

At our upcoming meeting on Saturday, September 5, 2026, we will discuss preparing rhizomes for our annual sale. The meeting will be held at Crestview Church of Christ, Community Center, 7129 Delhi Road, Waco.

Our iris sale is scheduled for Saturday, September 26, from 9:00 a.m. to noon at GreenLife Nursery, 1312 N. New Road. Members will receive information about preparing, labeling, and organizing rhizomes for the sale.

Other agenda items include the **Region 17 Meeting** in Cleburne on October 2 and 3, our group's contributions for the silent auction club 'Gift Wagon', aprons for members, and ideas for the theme of our iris show in

April. We have plenty to discuss, so please come ready to share your thoughts and help us prepare for these upcoming events.

After the business meeting, the excitement continues with our main event—the Iris Giveaway and Auction! We have received a wonderful selection of irises from Mid-America and Sutton's, and each qualifying member will have the opportunity to choose an iris when their name is called. Then the fun really begins as the remaining irises go up for auction. This is a great chance to add something special to your garden, enjoy a little friendly bidding, and support our club at the same time. The club invested \$800 to bring these beautiful irises to our members, so your generous bids will help rebuild our treasury and keep our future programs, sales, and events growing strong. Come ready to bid, have fun, and take home some beautiful new irises!

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our upcoming meeting. It is always wonderful to gather with fellow members, share our experiences, and enjoy our common love of irises. As your president, I will do my very best to serve our club with enthusiasm and dedication and to be someone you can all be proud of.

As we begin this new club year, I hope each of you will stay involved, ask questions, share your experiences, and encourage one another along the way. Whether you are a longtime iris grower or just beginning your journey, you are an important part of the Waco Iris Society. I look forward to learning, growing, and blooming together in the months ahead



Minutes of May 16, 2026 Meeting by Ken Anderson

The final meeting of the 2025-26 year was held at George's #2 on May 16, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. The meeting was called to order at 11:10.

Eight members were present: Ken Anderson, Linda Barnard, Carol Lane, Michael Lowe, Diane Reagan, Katrina Rieser, Linda Roper, and Mitch Whitley. No guests attended the meeting.

President Ken Anderson asked members to remember the family of Gordon Carver, as a memorial service was held for Gordon the morning of our luncheon.

It was noted that members had received copies of the minutes of the March meeting and a copy of the treasurer's report. No additions or corrections were made to the March meeting minutes. Carol Lane moved to accept the March meeting minutes. Linda Roper seconded the motion. All voted "for" the motion. The treasurer's report was reviewed briefly. There were no questions or corrections noted. The treasurer's report was filed as presented.

It was noted that the drawing for A.I.S. membership for April (the spring show), and for May (the luncheon), will be done by Peggy Cathey and will be announced at the meeting in September.

There was no old business addressed.

Under new business, Mitch Whitley reported on having placed a rhizome order, noting the amounts for

shipping and the actual amount for rhizomes. There was general consensus that the show venue was well-suited to our needs and would be sought for the April 2027 show. Members were reminded of the slate of officers for the 2026-27 year, as approved at the March meeting. Mitch Whitley also reported that the meeting place would not be available on the third Saturday of March 2027 because another function would be held at the Crestview Church of Christ Community Center. The group discussed moving the meeting to the second or fourth Saturday. Michael Lowe moved to move the meeting to the second Saturday. Linda Roper seconded the motion. All voted "for". Carol Lane reminded everyone of the Region 17 Meeting on October 2nd and 3rd in Cleburne. Other notations and reminders were listed on the agendas given to members. Members were reminded that our September meeting has been changed to the first Saturday (September 5) instead of the third Saturday as usual.

The members enjoyed a meal of their choice from the menu.

Iris Show awards and certificates were presented, and photos were taken of recipients.

Carol Lane was installed as the new president. She formally adjourned the meeting at 12:35.

Waco Iris Society Bylaws

ARTICLE XXII

GENERAL

Section V: All members present at the annual iris gift plant meeting who have attended at least three (3) meetings during the past club year and assisted in either the Iris Show or Rhizome Sale, will be eligible to receive a gift rhizome purchased by the Society, provided the member's dues are current. If a member has met the required attendance but is unable to attend the gift plant meeting due to illness or work, they may

designate someone to act on their behalf. This person may then choose for the absent member, but only after members present have chosen. Any new member who joins the Society after the last gift plant meeting, who is present, will be eligible to receive a gift plant. It will be determined at the May meeting, by member vote, where rhizomes will be ordered from and the amount to spend, including all shipping costs.

Who is Eligible?

2025-2026

AIS EXP	Name	Dues	AIS	Sep	Sale	Nov	Jan	Mar	Set-up	Show	May	Attend
Mar-27	Anderson, Ken	Pd		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8
	Bailey, Holly *	Pd								1		1
	Baize, Verlon *	Pd								1		1
Oct-26	Barnard, Linda	Pd		1	1	1	1	1		1	1	7
Apr-26	Cathey, Dan	Pd		1	1	1	1	1	1	1		7
LIFE	Cathey, Peggy	Pd		1	1	1	1	1	1	1		7
	Earl, Oliver *	Pd										0
Feb-27	Harder, Ann	Pd	Jan				1					1
Feb-27	Harder, Mike	Pd	Jan				1					1
	Holmes, Dawn	Pd		1	1					1		3
Apr-30	Keeth, Mary	Pd		1	1	1	1	1		1		6
Aug-27	Lane, Carol	Pd	Sep	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	7
Aug-30	Little, Donna	Pd										0
May-29	Lowe, Michael	Pd			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7
	McKay, Sheryl *	Pd								1		1
LIFE	Nichols, Bonnie	Pd										0
LIFE	Nichols, Hooker	Pd		1						1		2
	Peterson, Frances	Pd										0
	Reagan, Dianne	Pd				1				1	1	3
Jan-29	Rieser, Katrina	Pd		1	1	1		1	1	1	1	7
Aug-29	Roberts, Diane	Pd		1	1	1	1	1	1	1		7
Aug-29	Roberts, Jacky	Pd		1	1	1	1	1	1	1		7
May-27	Roper, Linda	Pd	Mar	1	1	1		1			1	5
LIFE	Singleton, Ellen	Pd										0
Dec-26	Washington, Nicholas	Pd	Nov		1	1	1			1		4
	Wheeler, B.J.	Pd		1	1							2
	Wheeler, Frank	Pd		1	1							2
Oct-27	Whitley, Mitchell	Pd		1	1	1	1	1		1	1	7
	Guests											0
19	26			15	16	14	13	12	7	18	8	103
	* New member											

*To see if you qualify, check the total number of meetings you attended (far right column) and check to see if you were at the sale or show. We will be in a new club year, so your 2026-2027 membership dues will need to be paid to qualify. *New members, who have been to 2 meetings, (including September) are eligible, but must be present at the meeting.*

Help Our Region 17 Garden Basket Grow by Peggy Cathey

As mentioned on the front page of this newsletter, the Waco Iris Society is putting together a wonderful gift basket for the Region 17 Meeting, and we would love your help making it something truly special! We voted to spend \$100 on a gift basket and bought a fantastic garden cart/rolling seat/kneeler to hold all the goodies our members donate.



Carol has been looking for items made in or representing Waco, such as Dr Pepper and Snickers bars,

so if you have fun local ideas, please let Carol know. I will also be adding an iris garden flag and a birdbath solar fountain—not made in Waco, but perfect for the garden! Other great donation ideas include Irises and other plants, garden tools, potting soil, fertilizer, soil amendments, pots, gloves, solar lighting, or any garden-themed items you think would make the basket shine. Let's work together to create a basket everyone will be excited to bid on. I already have the cart assembled and ready to go—no charge! It is sturdy, useful, and honestly, I wish I had seen this one before buying my little plastic one. Please consider donating an item to help support our club and our Region. Every contribution will make a difference!

Please bring your donations to our first meeting of the new club year on September 5—please note this is two weeks earlier than our usual meeting date. This will also be our iris giveaway and auction, always a well-anticipated event, so it is the perfect time to bring your items! We will also accept donations at our Fall Rhizome Sale on September 26, but time is short—the Region 17 Meeting is the following weekend, so we need donations in hand as soon as possible to finish the basket and make it a success. Have you registered yet? Please do not wait! Registration increases to \$90 on September 1, and the final registration deadline is September 18th. Let's turn in our donations and complete our registrations before the deadlines so Waco Iris Society is well represented and ready to shine!

Fall Iris Sale: Let's Make It Bloom! by Peggy Cathey

Our fall iris sale is Sept. 26, and we hope everyone will take part! This is our club's main fundraiser and supports our shows, member plant giveaways, and year-round programs. Whether you bring plants, help with setup, assist shoppers, bid in auctions, or shop when the doors open, your participation makes the sale a success.

Please mark each iris for sale with the NAME and PRICE in black Sharpie on a CENTER leaf. If you are participating in the "money back" program, staple a 1" x 4" paper tag to a leaf on each fan with the price and your initials. Participants will receive 50% of the sale price of their plants. The pricing guide is on page 13 of the attached 2026-2027 Yearbook, but you may price your plants as you choose.

We will use large paper grocery bags with iris photos

again to help shoppers identify varieties. To be fair to customers waiting in line, please begin member shopping when the sale opens to the public at 9:00. Before the day gets too hot, walk through your garden and note which irises you can share. **Deadline: Please email your plant list to Peggy by replying to this email by Sept. 21 so we can prepare photos and Facebook advertising.** Thank you for helping make this sale a success!

Let's dig in, share our favorite irises, and make this year's sale our best one yet!



Let's Suit Up for the Sale: Waco Iris Society Aprons

We're getting ready for the September 26 sale, and one fun idea on the table is ordering Waco Iris Society aprons for our members. The aprons would have our club logo embroidered on them, which would make it easy for visitors to spot us when they have questions or need a little help. They would also give us a neat, friendly, pulled-together look while we're working the sale.



They're practical, too. Each apron is made from sturdy, machine-washable 7-oz 65/35 polyester/cotton twill and has three roomy front pockets—perfect for notepads, pens, membership applications, cell phones, or anything else we need to keep handy on sale day. The extra-long ties can be worn tied in the back or wrapped around to the front, so they should work well for everyone.

If we order 24 aprons, the cost will be less than \$20 each, and we'll save the \$35 logo setup fee. I've ordered a sample apron to bring to the September 5 meeting so everyone can take a look, and I also have a 10% off coupon for our first order, bringing the total for 24 aprons to about \$400. While 24 aprons is a few more than we need right now, a few extras would be great to have as we welcome new members. We have 8 different colors to choose from (all must match). I hope you'll consider purchasing an apron so we can share the cost, show our Waco Iris Society pride, and be ready for the sale together!

Thanks for helping us get ready for a great sale!

Last Chance: Register NOW for the 2026 AIS Region 17 Meeting

Don't wait—registration for the 2026 AIS Region 17 Meeting in Cleburne, Texas, on October 2-3 is closing soon. Register by September 1 to secure the early rate of

\$75 before the price increases to \$90. Final registration closes September 20, so take action now and reserve your spot today. (link below)

Guest Speakers

Robert Treadway
Cynthia Wade
Stephanie Myers
Michael Kowalchyk

PLUS:

- Region 17 Business Meeting
- Live Auction Benefiting Region 17
- Iris Sale
- Bingo for Irises
- Raffles
- Club Baskets
- Silent Auctions



Judges Training

- 2 Hours-Louisiana Iris-Robert Treadway, Instructor
- 2 Hours-Tall Bearded Iris-Cynthia Wade, Instructor
- How to Hybridize Irises & Grow From Seed
- Hybridizing Panel Discussion
- AIS 2027 National Convention Preview
- 1 Lunch and 2 Dinners Included

<https://www.aisregion17.org/>

Starting Over, One Iris at a Time by Ken Anderson

Greetings, members of the Waco Iris Society. As September approaches, I find myself thinking about how strange—and surprisingly meaningful—it is to begin a new gardening season in a new place. After 23 years of tending irises in Gatesville, I still miss that old garden, even with its stubborn black clay soil and all the challenges it presented. A garden becomes more than a patch of ground over time; it becomes a record of seasons, experiments, disappointments, and small victories. Now, life has brought me to San Antonio, where I am learning a very different garden one bed, one rhizome, and one lesson at a time.

In Gatesville, most of my irises grew in the backyard, with only a few tucked along the east and west sides of the house. Here, my iris garden is much smaller: a single narrow bed running beside the fence on the northwest side of our home. The side yard is long but tight, and the privacy fence casts a good amount of shade by midafternoon. At first, I saw that as another limitation. Now, I suspect that afternoon shade may be one of the reasons the irises are holding their own in this new setting.

A narrow bed makes every gardening decision feel important. There is limited room for companion plants, and summer watering has to be handled carefully. As most iris growers know, too much moisture at the wrong time can invite rot, and this July brought a substantial amount of rain. On top of that, our automatic sprinkler

system runs once a week to keep the small lawn alive, and some of the sprinkler heads are positioned right along the fence—the very place I wanted to plant irises. The neighboring trees add another layer to the puzzle. They offer welcome shade, but their roots are more than happy to take advantage of the weekly watering, and their canopies limit the full sun that many flowering plants prefer.

And yet, in spite of all these less-than-perfect conditions, the irises have surprised me. Some of the older varieties in particular have performed better than expected. The soil here is a reddish-brown clay with a little sand mixed in, and I have tried to improve it with gypsum, sand, sandy loam, and organic matter. Ironically, the irises have outperformed nearly every other plant I have tried so far. I did lose a couple of varieties to rot this summer, but overall, the bed has given me reason to be optimistic. With a bit of patience and a willingness to adjust, I believe several of these irises may reward me with bloom next spring.

Starting over in a garden is humbling. It reminds us that every location has its own personality, and every season asks us to observe, adapt, and try again. I look forward to seeing everyone at our first meeting and hearing how your own gardens have come through the heat of July and August. May your irises be tough, your losses few, and your hopes for spring already taking root.



Word Search

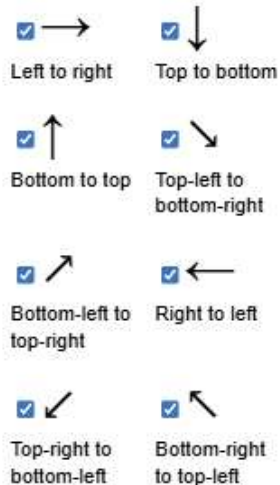


'September Frost'
Sutton-G, 1998

Iris Names Beginning with September

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

Word Placement



1. bouquet 2. buttercup 3. butterfly 4. charm 5. chereau 6. contrast 7. cream
8. dawn 9. frost 10. gleam 11. gold 12. moon 13. morn 14. pastel 15. replay
16. sailor 17. seas 18. serenade 19. skies 20. song 21. sparkler 22. sunshine

Important Club Dates For Members

Please mark your calendars for the club's key dates and activities for the year. Additional details, including any changes to meeting locations or schedules, will be shared in the club newsletters.

- **Club Meetings:** The club year runs September through May, with no meetings during the summer. Meetings are typically held on the third Saturday in September, November, January, March, and May unless otherwise noted.

- **Annual Iris Sale:** The sale is held on the last Saturday of September at GreenLife Nursery, 1312 N. New Road in Waco, from 9:00 a.m. to noon, or until sold out. Member setup begins at 7:30 a.m.; shopping begins when the sale opens at 9:00 a.m.

- **Iris Show:** The show is held on the second Saturday of April, with the location announced in the newsletter. A potted iris sale is held in conjunction with the show.

- **End-of-Year Luncheon:** The May meeting includes a luncheon to celebrate the close of the club year. Location details will be announced in the newsletter.

- **Welcome Back Iris Giveaway and Auction:** This takes place at the September meeting. Eligible members may receive a free iris purchased by the club.

Thank you for staying involved and supporting the club's meetings, sales, show, and member activities throughout the year.

