



Waco Iris Society News

Website: http://www.kenfuchs42.net/waco_index.html E-mail: wacoiriss@gmail.com



That's All Folks
2013 Dykes Medal Winner

Volume 6, Issue 3

An affiliate of the American Iris Society

January 2014

President's Message by Glenn Huddleston

Happy New Year! Our first meeting of 2014 will be held Saturday, January 18 from 10:00-Noon. The meeting location is changed for this meeting only. **We will be at the South Waco Library, 2737 S. 18th.**

As an irisian, I live for January when new iris introductions begin to be listed on the internet and catalogues come in the mail. I will review 2014 introductions and most everything else offered over the past five years. It's no secret I like bold colors and over the top color patterns that shout "WOW!"

This is why I'm excited about the January meeting. Ken Fuchs has put together a PowerPoint presentation illustrating in full color recent iris introductions. I say bring extra note pads and two sharp pencils.

At our November meeting, we were pleasantly surprised as Charles Bohon rejoined our society. We all know that members are the live blood of our society and Charles' membership is certainly welcomed.



I am convinced the unexpected rain in September and October, 14 inches in our garden, came at the right time for the irises. We are seeing lots of new increases on most of our plants. Hope everyone else is as fortunate.



Happy Gardening.....

Judges Training

There are 2 opportunities this month for classes to become an AIS Judge. These are great learning opportunities and you do not have to register to be a judge to attend the classes.

January 18, 2014

1 hr. Ethics and 2 hrs. Median Irises. Judy Keisling, instructor.

Location: Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 11425 Marsh Ln., Dallas, cost \$10.

Please RSVP Bonnie Nichols, bjnhtn@aol.com

January 25, 2014

3 hrs. Louisiana Irises.

Hooker Nichols, Instructor.

Location: Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church, 7127 Bee Caves, Austin, cost \$5.00

Please RSVP Nelda Moore neldamoore6947@att.net



Texas Garden Clubs, Inc. District V, Zone II Fall Meeting

Two Waco garden clubs, Four Seasons Garden Club and Waco Brown Bag Garden Club, hosted the TGC District V, Zone II Fall meeting in November at the Carleen Bright Arboretum. Waco Iris Society was represented by 3 members—Bill Calhoun, Phil Nacke, and Peggy Cathey. We also had 4 guests—Mary Doebeling of Cleburne and Pat Birchard of Whitney, and Phil's cousin, Jerry Goeble and his wife Sandy from Elk Point, South Dakota who had stopped



L to R: Jerry, Sandy, Phil, Peggy, Mary, & Pat. Bill was taking the photo.

by for a visit before heading down to the Valley for the winter. Jerry even won one of the raffle prizes. We had a great time and met lots of "like minded" area gardeners. Each club got to introduce themselves and tell about their club, their activities, and up-coming events. Bill & Phil brought the Waco Iris Society education board and set up a table for anyone interested to sign up to receive the WIS Newsletter. The program was "Fairy Gardens", presented by Sandra Killough, owner of Bonnie's Greenhouse. It was a lot of fun watching her create a miniature garden with tiny accessories. We took some irises for the plant sale, and those were among the first plants to go. There was a lot of interest and we have several new readers for our Society Newsletter. WELCOME!



AIS MEMBERSHIP DRAWING

Winner for November
Charles Bohon





Reblooming Iris

The following reblooming irises have been reported for the 2013 season by members of the Waco Iris Society:



ANOTHER BRIDGE
Wilkerson, 2005
Reported by Jim Landers



MAGIC MEMORIES
Clark/Nichols, 1973
Reported by Jean Richardson



AUTUMN TRYST
Weiler, 1993
Reported by Glenn & Gloria Huddleston, and Dan & Peggy Cathey



MASTERWORK
Zurbrigg, 2001
Reported by Jim Landers



BLACK MAGIC
Waymon, 1935
Reported by Dan & Peggy Cathey



MATRIX
Hall/Zurbrigg, 2001
Reported by Jim Landers



CLARENCE
Zurbrigg, 1991
Reported by Jim Landers



MY FRIEND JONATHAN
Miller, 1994
Reported by Dan & Peggy Cathey



CONCERTINA
Sutton, 2000
Reported by Jean Richardson



ORANGE JUICE
Sutton, 2010
Reported by Jim Landers



DOUBLE PLATINUM
Ghio, 2011
Reported by Jim Landers



RADIANT BLISS
Wilkerson, 2005
Reported by Jim Landers



FEED BACK
Hager, 1983
Reported by Jean Richardson



RASPBERRY FROST
Sutton, 2001
Reported by Michael Lowe



HEAD GAMES
Lauer, 2009
Reported by Michael Lowe



ROSALIE FIGGE
McKnew, 1993
Reported by Jim Landers



LEST WE FORGET
Sutton, 2008
Reported by Jim Landers



STAR KISSES
Stanton
Reported by Jim Landers



LOW HO SILVER
Byers, 1989
Reported by Jean Richardson



STARRING ENCORE
Spoon, 2008
Reported by Jean Richardson



LUNAR WHITEWASH
Ernst, 2003
Reported by Dan & Peggy Cathey and Michael Lowe



SUNNY DISPOSITION
Zurbrigg, 1991
Reported by Jim Landers



2014 Iris Show

Ken Anderson is busily working on the show schedule for our April 5th Iris Show. He is still looking for people to commit to doing 1 or more designs for the Artistic Division. If you haven't signed up, please be ready to do so at our January meeting. It makes a much better show if all the slots are filled. Following is a list of the classes. There are still four open spots. Please consider signing up for one of the open positions.

Class I

Winter Turns to Spring:

1. Jean Richardson
2. Bill Calhoon
3. Dan (or Peggy) Cathey
4. _____



Class II

The Colors of Spring:

1. Bill Calhoon
2. Dan (or Peggy) Cathey
3. Hazel Haik
4. _____



Class III

Summer:

1. Jim Landers
2. Peggy Cathey
3. _____
4. _____



Category IV

The Holiday Season:

1. Ken Anderson
2. Preston Floyd
3. Ken Fuchs
4. Peggy Cathey



Iris Questions and Answers By Jim & Janet Wilson, LaGrange, KY



Why do my irises grow fine and not bloom?

The most common cause of decreased bloom is an overcrowded clump in need of division. Bloom will have decreased steadily for a few years, probably most clearly in the middle of the clump. Another possibility is insufficient sunlight. Finally, the nutrient balance may be wrong--lawn fertilizers, for example, can cause heavy foliage growth but do little to promote bloom.

If a rhizome has only been planted for a year or two and not bloomed, especially if it had been stressed (maybe by overcrowding) beforehand, it may take that much time to be established before blooming again. Time is the best remedy for that, but be sure the plant gets adequate nutrients.

Can irises be made to bloom longer?

Several approaches are possible to extending iris bloom. First, most modern varieties have a high bud count--more blooms per stalk--than many of their ancestors. Consequently, each of their stalks will be in bloom longer. Some have as

many as three buds in each socket. Second, some bearded irises are classed as rebloomers--they will bloom a second time in the summer or fall if grown well (sometimes with watering and feeding after spring bloom). More irises fit this category in areas with longer growing seasons, but two that are reliable most places are SDB Baby Blessed and TB Immortality.

My tall bearded irises sometimes fall over. What can I do?

This is one of the possible problems with TBs. The main things that lead to it are the variety, the weather while the stalks are growing, and the weather when the flowers bloom to catch the rain and the wind. Some people say that the nutrients in the soil, especially the potassium, are a factor too. Clumps at their peak do tend to produce taller stalks and more and larger flowers, which together can outpace the increase in stalk strength. Finally, shade on one side can cause a plant to lean, which can contribute to the problem.

One thing that hybridizers strive for are stalks that will stand up. This isn't always successful--there is one recent top award winner, Victoria Falls, which is a fantastic iris in

many respects, but when you mention its name to an experienced grower, you are likely to hear "Yes, she does" in response. These irises, and maybe yours, are best grown in protected areas or by people willing to stake them. Or cut the fallen ones quickly before anyone sees.

I like to grow some of the shorter TBs and other bearded irises of intermediate height (16-27"): Intermediate Bearded (IB), which bloom just before the TBs, and Border Bearded (BB), which bloom with the TBs. And I especially like the Miniature Tall Bearded (MTB), or Table Irises, which have slender, flexuous stalks and small flowers. These shorter ones are good for even moderately windy locations.

There are lots of moderate height TBs that will generally stand up well, though. Even a few of the big, large-flowered ones are built with strong stalks--my favorite in that category is Dusky Challenger. Many of the beardless irises stand up real well too.

Are any special soil additives, such as alfalfa, helpful?

Most important is to choose a location with the proper sun and aeration. Good

Continued on pg. 4

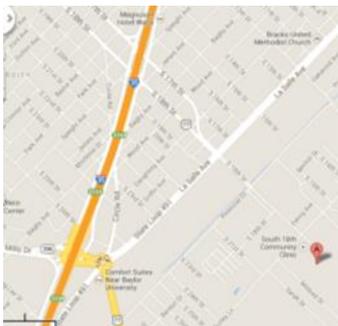
Waco Iris Society

An affiliate of the American Iris Society

And the Texas Garden Clubs, Inc.

Meetings held 3rd Saturday of
January, March, May, September
and November at 10 a.m.

South Waco Library
2738 S. 18th



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Start making plans now to attend the 2014 American
Iris Society National Convention in Dallas, April 5-10
<http://www.irises-dallas.org/2014-ais-convention.aspx>

We're on the Web:

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



Iris Questions and Answers By Jim & Janet Wilson, LaGrange, KY (cont. from pg. 3)

drainage and aeration is especially important for bearded irises. Adding organic matter is helpful to most soils.

Soil should be in the proper pH range for the type of irises you are growing. Add limestone to raise the pH (making the soil more alkaline); add elemental sulfur or ferrous sulfate to lower the pH (making the soil more acid). Keep in mind that other factors will also influence soil pH--rainwater, proximity to concrete, peat moss, pine needles or oak leaves.

Food is often thought of in terms of the big three--nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium--with proportions expressed numerically on fertilizer labels, such as 5-10-10, 27-3-6, or

30-15-30. Nitrogen promotes growth, especially leaf growth, and can in some irises encourage rot if present in too large amounts. Small amounts of 5-10-10 or 6-24-24 are good choices in these situations. Most new irises need little or no food their first year if planted in good soil. One plan that works in many areas is a fall feeding of a slow release fertilizer, and a light feeding of a chemical fertilizer like Miracle-Gro a month before bloom time. It is best to feed around the rhizomes, not on them. Do consult your local growers on what works best in your soil and climate.

Alfalfa has shown some promising preliminary results as a growth stimulant. It contains several trace

vitamins and minerals and tri-acontanol, thought to stimulate growth. It contains some of the big three, maybe about 5-1-4, but should be used with a well-fed soil, not instead of it. It has been used in the forms of pellets, meal, and as a prepared "tea" mixture, all with good results, both mixed into the planting soil and sprinkled/spread on top of it. Do get plain alfalfa, not feed that contains additives such as corn or salt.

