



# Waco Iris Society



Website: [http://www.kenfuchs42.net/waco\\_index.html](http://www.kenfuchs42.net/waco_index.html) E-mail: [wacoiriss@gmail.com](mailto:wacoiriss@gmail.com)

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An affiliate of the American Iris Society

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## President's Message by Glenn Huddleston

**We are back at the West Waco Library, 5301 Bosque Blvd. this month. Meeting will begin at 10:15, March 15.**

Well, that rodent in Pennsylvania got it right again, even if he was dropped on his head this year. As I jot down my thoughts on the third day of March, the temperature is 17 degrees. Our average last killing freeze is on March 13; and most of us can remember last year on March 26 a late freeze destroyed most standing iris bloom stalks. Are we still having fun?

Our March meeting will have a little something for everyone. I will present an awareness program highlighting what I have been able to determine concerning "Iris Scorch". Some growers feel the problem is so random and effects so few plants, then why be concerned?



For Gloria and me it has become a real concern when we watch a valuable variety clump wither and die knowing we cannot do anything to save it. Members are encouraged to share their thoughts and experiences concerning this little known iris disease.

As usual at this time of the year, we are preparing for our annual Iris Show. Ken has done an outstanding

job giving leadership to the show. We will allow time for artistic design tips as well as suggestions on grooming iris show stalks. Our iris show allows us to bring the world of irises front and center to the general public. Hopefully, the weather will allow for an abundance of bloom stalks at the show.

I know everyone was pleased when Lynn and her daughter, Yebsera, became our newest members at the January meeting. Now, let us keep the ball rolling as membership growth is the life blood of our Society. I suggest we all take advantage of the opportunity our show presents to talk up irises and hopefully we can secure additional members.



Happy Gardening.....

### Iris Show 2014 by Ken Anderson

Well, all we need now is some warm weather to get the iris stalks growing. Members should be prepared to have any questions answered regarding the show. I will have show information and entry material ready to give out at the meeting.

### Grooming Iris Show Horticultural Exhibits

All iris show exhibitors hope to have that one special specimen that will win them *Queen of Show*. Judges are looking for *cultural perfection* when

judging each individual entry. The number of points awarded for cultural perfection is 75 which takes into account the **Flower**—color-15 points, size-5 points, substance-10 points and form-15 points. For the **Stalk**, number of open blooms is a maximum of 15 points and Branch Balance and Bud Placement are worth another 15 points. The last 25 points are for **Condition and Grooming**. This is how well you have prepared your specimen for the show bench. The *AIS Handbook for Judges and Show Officials* has the following to say about Condition and Grooming: "Here the judge is evaluating the skills of the exhibitor in preparing the stalk for entry. Condition refers to the degree of visible improvement in the appearance of the specimen stalk as a result of grooming. Grooming involves those finishing touches the exhibitor makes so that the entry presents its best possible appearance.

**Stalk Height:** It is generally recommended that a stalk be exhibited at an appropriate height that is proportional. Indeed, proportion is an individual perception, and the suggestion here is only to avoid extremes. Stalks can behave unpredictably in strange weather or differing climates, so very few points can be subtracted under such circumstances.

**Foliage:** Was all diseased foliage neatly removed or trimmed? Trimming is necessary when there is faint dis-



# 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.

West Waco Library  
5301 Bosque Blvd., Suite 275



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## MARK THESE DATES



April 5, 2014  
Waco Iris Society Iris Show  
Clarion Hotel, Waco, TX



April 5-10  
AIS National Convention  
Dallas, TX



August 22-23  
AIS Region 17 Regional Meeting  
Amarillo, TX



We're on the Web:

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



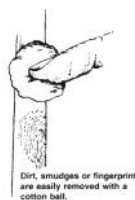
## Iris Questions and Answers By Jim & Janet Wilson, LaGrange, KY (cont. from pg. 3)

coloration, disease or injury to leaf edges. Such procedure should remove less than one-fourth inch of foliage and should follow the natural contour of the leaf in its entirety. Blunt edges or massive trimming is totally unacceptable.

**Spathes:** If a flower has been removed, ascertain that the spathe has not been damaged and is intact. Detectable trimming of the spathe is unacceptable.

**Branches:** A branch can be removed where a leaf conceals its connection to the stalk, but the stalk and foliage should not display any visible damage.

**Cleanliness:** The stalk, flower and blossoms should be clean with no dirt, dust or spray residues. Slight smudges or fingerprints on the stalks demand little penalty and are easily removed when the exhibitor gently wipes the stalk with soft tissue.



**Insects:** The presence of one or two aphids or other insects is no cause for alarm, as these creatures can travel from stalk to stalk during or after entry. Infestations, however, is obviously a totally unacceptable condition.



**Position in Container:** The bottom branch should be exhibited above the container's opening. If a stalk is leaning badly, the judge should check to see if it was originally wedged properly by the exhibitor. If that is the case, the judge should ask the clerk to reposition the stalk, realizing that it could have been jarred by a placement clerk."

### AIS MEMBERSHIP DRAWING

Winner for January  
Bob Alexander

