



Waco Iris Society News



2014 Dykes Medal Winner

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An affiliate of the American Iris Society

November, 2014

Back to the West Waco Library

The next meeting of the Waco Iris Society will be held November 15th at the West Waco Library, 5301 Bosque Blvd., beginning at 10:15a.m.

We will have a very special guest speaker this month—Rodney Barton. The subject will be: *Iridaceae—The Iris Family*.

Rodney is Membership Secretary and Editor for SIGNA, the Species Iris Group of North America, which is a section of the American Iris Society. He lives and gardens in Hickory Creek, just north of Dallas. He is retired from the UNT Health Science Center in Fort Worth where he worked in the Safety Office.



Iris sprengeri, by abdullah lafey

Rodney caught the iris bug in the late 1980s and joined SIGNA and the AIS soon thereafter. He also belongs to several other AIS sections and the Iris Society of Dallas. Although he grows many different irises, his main interests are beardless irises and species irises. His other gardening interests include vegetables and native plants.



Pardancanda x norisii, photo by Laetitia Munro

The SIGNA website <http://www.signa.org/>, lists over 415 iris species and has over 1900 photos.

President's Message

by Glenn Huddleston

Earlier in my 2013-2014 term, I challenged society members to do whatever they could to increase our membership. I am pleased to report that since November, 2013, we have gained eight (8) new members. To our new members, Charles, Lynn, Yebsera, Delores, Bobbie, Frank, Karen and our newest member, Dr. Joyce Jones, we all say welcome and thank you for joining our Iris Society.

It is worth noting, we had a super iris rhizome sale. The success of the sale was made possible by the unselfish cooperation of society members. About 50% of our membership is from outside Waco, yet members came early and stayed to the end, volunteering where needed and visiting with our guest buyers. Kudos for everybody!!

Adverse weather conditions led to the cancellation of our 2014 Iris Show. However, I can report that plans are underway for a great Iris Show in 2015. Mitchell has secured a new show location; and Ken will be back in town to give direction to our show. With our increased membership, we should be able to exhibit 200 entries. Ken will soon begin signing up members for artistic design entries.

We always want to bring our best iris

entries to the show. Remember for this to happen, a fall fertilization and debris removal is needed. Always use a low nitrogen fertilizer if possible and cleanup the iris planting to lessen insect and disease problems. Ken will also be asking for volunteers to make this our best show ever.

Happy Gardening!!!



Hospitality Report

by Preston Floyd

Glad to be back in Texas and getting back into the club routine. I have most of the refreshments covered, but could use some help from a few people. If a couple of members could bring some chips and dips, that should just about cover the refreshments for this month. Dan and Peggy are bringing the coffee.



AIS MEMBERSHIP

DRAWING

Winner for September
Charles Bohon



2014 WIS Exchange, Giveaway & Auction

We had a great turnout for our September meeting. This is always a fun meeting and one no one wants to miss. We had 21 members present and signed up 3 new members. Please welcome B.J. & Frank Wheeler and Karen Moses.



Bob Alexander (on r) chats with 4 of our newest members: Frank & B.J. Wheeler, Dolores Avram & Karen Moses

Everyone took home lots of new irises for their gardens.

We want to thank the Iris Society of Dallas and the 2014 AIS Convention Committee for donating 51 convention irises to the club. Each member present got to



Convention plants given to club members present at meeting

pick 2 plants to take home.

We had a good iris plant exchange where members brought back an increase from an iris they received 2 years ago and we drew to see who would take home which exchange plant.



Dan Cathey, Bill Calhoon and Phil Nacke get Giveaway/Auction plants ready

After this, we took a refreshment break, then the real fun began. The club purchased gift plants from MidAmerica Gardens and Superstition



Members waiting for the giveaway to start

Iris Gardens and they did not disappoint. We had 95 plants to choose from for our gift iris and we each were able to choose twice! The rhizomes

were all big and beautiful.



Members waiting for next iris up for bid

Once all the giveaway irises were chosen, all the remaining plants were put up for auction.

The bidding was lively and the years old bidding war between Bonnie & Mitchell is still alive and well. Glenn was our auctioneer, Bill distributed the irises, Peggy kept track of the bids and Ken F. ran the slide show. Thanks to everyone who bid on the irises and those who worked to make it a success. The auction brought in a total of \$570.



Glenn is our Auctioneer

Successful September Sale

What a great day for a sale! The weather was perfect, the customers many, and the sales were steady from just before 9 a.m. until 2:30 when we sold out and shut it down. Ken Fuchs and Bill Calhoon did a great job working as cashiers and caught on to our new electronic accounting system very fast. Members came through—as always—with some outstanding rhizomes. Pictures were available for most of the varieties so our customers (and members) could pick out their favorite colors and types of irises. Lots of members were on hand to help locate those special, must have rhizomes. Thanks to everyone who

came out to support our club and for making this the most successful iris

sale EVER! Total sales were \$2,401!





Upcoming AIS Judges TRAINING

Everyone will agree—AIS needs more qualified judges to judge our show exhibitions as well as evaluate irises in our gardens for awards and perhaps even the Dykes Medal. Here are 2 opportunities for you to start your training as a candidate or continue your training as an apprentice.

Feb. 7, 2015, Fort Worth Botanic Garden, 9-11 a.m. \$10

Back to Basics—Point Scoring, Al Elliott, instructor. RSVP Happy Carver, 817-946-8473 or gcarver@flash.net.

Feb. 21, 2015, Grandys, Sherman, 9-12, \$5, **Novelty Irises**, Bonnie

Nichols, instructor. RSVP Judy Schneider, 940-594-5557 or

jlkapps@hotmail.com.



2015 Show Report by Ken Anderson

The date and place for the spring show have already been set and it is time to begin focusing on the details of the event. I hope all members will be present for our upcoming meeting. Since we had to cancel our show last year we will use the



same theme that had been chosen for 2014 *A Calendar of Irises*. Copies of updated information regarding the show will be given to all members at the meeting. The sign-up sheet for the Artistic Division will be available for any changes or additions that need to be made.

Class 1: Winter Turns to Spring

Class 2: The Colors of Spring

Class 3: Summer

Class 4: The Holiday Season

I realize that some of our members have physical limitations when it comes to doing the work of caring for your gardens. However, I do hope that as many members as possible will have some entries for our show. I am looking forward to seeing all of you and also looking forward to a great show in the spring.

Reblooming Irises by Peggy Cathey

Hope most of you are seeing fall bloom on many of your irises. It is always exciting when I spot a flower stalk when most other landscape plants are shutting down for the winter. We have **Autumn Tryst** about to bloom in the front garden now. It has always been the most reliable rebloomer for us.



Be sure to keep track of any irises which rebloom for you and report them to Gailmae Suite, Reblooming Iris Society Southern Area Director, of the variety and date of bloom.

Gailmae will compile this data for Region 17 and report it to the Reblooming Iris Society Recorder. You may e-mail your list to her at metex65@yahoo.com or call her: (817) 477-4454. You may also send your list to me and I will forward it to Gailmae.

Rebloomers require a little more care than your other irises. They appreciate a little extra fertilizer and water and you should try to keep them going through the summer months to prevent them from going dormant. Dan and I like to put all our reblooming irises in a garden all together so they can receive the extra care needed. They will also ben-

efit from a little mulch to help conserve water. Our rebloomer bed is right outside our dining room bay window so we can enjoy them when we are eating our meals.

When Mike Lockett of Virginia did a program on reblooming irises in Austin a few years back, he mentioned the night temperatures had to dip below 50 degrees for them to



bloom. I don't know if that is true in Texas or not, but we have now had that, so we will see if it sparks more bloomstalks.

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 (Unless stated
otherwise in newsletter)

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Join Waco Iris Society today!

Only \$10 per year. You may join at a meeting, download membership form from our website, or send a check with your name, address, phone number and e-mail address to:

Waco Iris Society Membership

P. O. Box 21921,

Waco, TX 76702-1931

MARK THESE DATES



November 15

"Iridaceae - The Iris Family" by Rodney Barton

West Waco Library, 5301 Bosque Blvd.



January 17

"The English Box"
by Al Elliott



March 21

"Novelty Iris"
by Bonnie Nichols



April 11

Spring Iris Show
Holiday Inn



Like us on Facebook

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

We're on the Web:

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



Youth Member Asks for Your Help

Yebsera's school collects "Box Tops for Education" in order to raise money for the school. If you are willing/able, would you mind clipping them for her? It makes a big difference to the school and they have various games and competitions to see who can bring in the most.



AIS Calendars

2015 AIS Calendars are available from the AIS Storefront for \$7 each. If we have 10 members who want calendars, we can order them for only \$5 each. If you would like a calendar or two, please let Mitchell know at our November meeting.



Ken & Preston—Glad Your Back in Texas!

Phil Perlson of Asheville, NC, posted this photo November 1 on Facebook of a "freak snow-storm" that hit Asheville.

