



# Waco Iris Society News

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2014 Dykes Medal Winner

Volume 7, Issue 5

An affiliate of the American Iris Society

April, 2015

## It's Show Time!

Our Iris Show is only a few days away. Blooms are showing up all over our area and it looks like we should have plenty for our show. Please note the new location for this year's show. It is the Holiday Inn & Suites, 1801 Development Blvd., on the north side of Waco. This will be Exit 339 (Loop 340/Lake Shore Dr.) off of I-35. You want to be on the east side access road, heading north. Turn right between, Discount Tire and Home Depot, and continue east to the Hotel. We are very excited about this beautiful new venue for our show.

We still have a few openings in our Artistic Design section. The show theme is *A Calendar of Irises*. The classes are:

Class 1: *Winter Turns to Spring*

Class 2: *The Colors of Spring*

Class 3: *Summer*

Class 4: *The Holiday Season*

If you would like to enter any of these classes, please let show chair Ken Anderson know so we can save you a spot. We are hoping to have all the months of the year covered so we can make a WIS calendar for next year.

All entries should arrive between 8 and 10 a.m. The show will open for public viewing at 1:00 and all exhibits are to be removed at 4:00.

In conjunction with our Iris Show, we will host an Iris Sale. This will be set up in the hall outside the exhibit hall and will be open from

10:00 until 4:00 or sold out. Most of the iris will be potted and ready to plant in the garden. Members who are planning to bring irises for the sale should call or e-mail Peggy with a list so photos will be available for all sale plants.

The Gardener's Gathering in Woodway at the Carleen Bright Arboretum will be held Sunday, April 12, beginning at 1:00. Waco Iris Society will have a booth selling more irises in pots ready for planting. In case of rain, the vendors will all be moved into the beautiful new Pavilion, so the sale will go on, rain or shine.

A sampling of irises for sale are on page 2.

## President's Message by Glenn Huddleston

I'm pleased to report that at G&G Gardens our expectations are high for an outstanding bloom season. We have had ample moisture and the day and night time temperatures are increasing. Stalk development has been noted in many gardens in late March.

As we enter the 2015 bloom season I would like to remind everyone, there are several things everyone needs to do to make your iris growing more enjoyable.

Record keeping is an important part of a successful iris planting. Not only do you need to keep records, you need to write it down when it happens. We all get caught up in

the excitement of incredibly beautiful blooms and tell ourselves we will write it down later. I've been there and it doesn't work. To begin with everyone needs planting diagrams that illustrates where varieties are planted. If you keep your planting diagrams on a computer, I would advise a hard copy as well.

Next, be prepared to check the variety when it blooms to insure it is correct. It may be the most beautiful iris you have ever seen, however if it's not the right variety according to your planting diagram, you need to record the variety, as planted, is wrong.

As club members we share our irises with others and sell irises at club sales. It is imperative that we keep the varieties true as named to maintain a good reputation for our club sales.

Another reason for being sure your varieties are correct come front and center at division time. A lot of work goes into the division process and we need to get it right. I would suggest digging only one clump at a time and write the variety name on several leaves before digging the next clump. Otherwise, at the end of the day, all you will have is landscape irises, with no names!





## March Meeting Highlights by Peggy Cathey

We had a very nice turnout for the March meeting. We want to welcome our newest member, Ellen Singleton of Austin. Ellen's aunt, Mae Burt, was a past president of our Society and a long time member s. Ellen was a member of the Waco Iris Society back when her aunt was a member and we are glad to have her back.



The March program was presented on Novelty Irises and our speaker was club member Bonnie Nichols of Dallas. She is the founder of the newly formed Novelty Iris Society, which is hoping to be instated as a new American Iris Society Section at the upcoming AIS National Convention which will be held in Portland, OR in May. Bonnie's pro-



gram was very informative and got us all interested in growing more Novelty Irises which include the Space Agers, broken colors, flatties, and all the unusual. We also helped celebrate Bonnie's birthday, which was March 22. A special cake was provided which had one of her iris introductions "Dragon Flight" on the top.



Ken Anderson, show chair, distributed show schedules, entry cards

and entry sheets for the show. He is planning on a great turnout and looking forward to our new venue.

An update on Hazel was given by Mitchell and Michael and Peggy gave an update on Dan. Bill told us Phil had been in the ICU of Providence since February with a lung infection, but he was improving and would be moved from ICU soon. Glenn reported issues with his foot and he is burning up the road between Whitney and Waco for lots of different tests to determine the problem.

## Judges Training Opportunities for April

There are 3 opportunities to learn about irises and to receive training to become an AIS Garden/Exhibition Judge. Classes are open to anyone wanting to learn, if you have aspirations to become a judge or not.

The first class will be held April 16<sup>th</sup> at the Iris Display Garden in Winston Patrick McGregor Park in Cleburne, 1628 W. Henderson @ Colonial. The topic will be *Point Scoring Irises in the Garden*,

which will be 2 hours, then move inside for a 1 hour class on *Point Scoring Exhibition Irises*. The instructor will be Peggy Cathey. Fee for the 3 hour class will be \$5. Please RSVP to 254-854-2558.

On April 21, there will be a class in the Nichols' Garden, 3365 Northaven Rd. in Dallas. The class will begin at 4:30 p.m. and will be a 1 hour class. Phil Williams of Rockytop Gardens in TN will be the instructor. The topic: *Whatever*

*is Blooming*. Please RSVP to 214-352-2192. Fee for the class is \$5.

April 26 will be a 2 hour class on *Medians and Arilbreds* at Dawn Boyer's Garden, 1900 Daws Dr., Amarillo. Class will begin at 12:30 and go until 2:30. Cost of the class is \$10. Dawn Boyer will be the instructor. Please

RSVP to 806-881-9775.



## Sample of Irises for Sale at Show & Gardener's Gathering



Engagement Ring



Amorous Heart



Another Woman



Harmonious Flow



Oh Carol



Tuscan Summer



Daughter of Stars



Hush Diana



Pshaw



Roper's Revenge



Dorothy Devenport



Lady Friend



Voltage



Wings of Peace



Bhutan



Orbison



Grain Exchange



Volcanic Glow