



Waco Iris Society News

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2015 Dykes

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An affiliate of the American Iris Society

January, 2016

Waco Iris Society—President's Message by Glenn Huddleston

The next meeting of the Waco Iris Society will be held January 16th at the West Waco Library on Bosque Blvd, next to Target. The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m.

As the old saying goes, "Time flies." The Waco Iris Society had a great year in 2014-2015 and an even better year is in store for the future. This past year we had several new members join our society, which we all know is the life blood of any group. We experienced successes and growth with our Annual Iris Show and Plant Sale. It is encouraging to see how the community supports our sale each year.

Personally speaking, 2014-2015 was a challenging year to grow irises (to say the least). As we move forward in 2016, hopefully Mother Nature will cooperate and our iris show will be the best ever. We have a good thing going with our plant sale, which could even be better with more rhizomes being offered for sale. Begin to plan now to decide which clumps you can divide and don't forget potting up a few rhizomes for our show and sale. This year we sold out of all potted irises quickly!

As you know by now, our society will host the Region 17 Iris Society meeting in Waco on August 19-20, 2016. This will be a great opportunity to show-case our so-

ciety and what we stand for. Although this is a major undertaking, it can be made easier with everyone's help. Many hands make quick work. Just volunteer and ask what you can do.

Now for our January program. If you like pictures of some of the latest and greatest irises being offered by our hybridizers you will not be disappointed. Society member Ken Fuchs attended the 2015 National Iris Meeting in Oregon and will present a power point program entitled, *The Irises of Portland*. Bring extra pens and paper and be prepared to get excited. Why not bring a friend to the meeting?

Happy Gardening



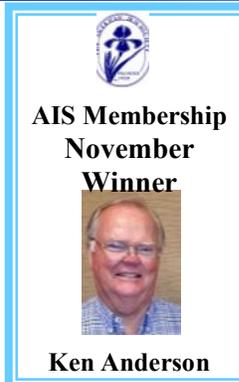
November Meeting Highlights By Bill Calhoon

Braving an extra breezy Saturday morning, members of the Waco Iris Society met November 21, 2015, at the Crestview Church of Christ in Waco. Seventeen current members were joined by one new member, Frances Peterson, and four guests for the last meeting of the 2015 calendar year.

Once club President Glenn Huddleston called the meeting to order, guests were recognized, roll was called, meeting minutes were read and approved and the Treasurer's Report was presented

and approved. Ken Anderson was the lucky winner of the drawing for the AIS Membership. Glenn announced that Jim Landers donated a book on Iris to the Club library; anyone interested in loaning out the book can contact Peggy Cathey.

Ken Anderson then gave an up-



date on the 2016 Iris Show. The theme for this year's show will be "Iris in a World of Animals" with Artistic Design categories covering 'Precious Pets', 'Birds of a Feather', 'Wild and Wonderful' (novice class), and 'Creatures of the Sea.' Ken distributed sign-up sheets for the Artistic Design categories as well as Show Committee assignments.

Glenn asked Peggy Cathey to provide an update on the 2016 Regional Meeting, which the Waco club will be hosting. Peg-



November Meeting Highlights By Bill Calhoon (cont.)

gy asked for committee member volunteers to assist with determining a budget and registration fee for the meeting, as well as planning the Saturday Meal. The Lone Star Iris Society has com-



Peggy Cathey accepts check from June Hivnor representing the Lone Star Iris Society

mitted \$200 toward costs for hosting the meeting and the Dallas Iris Society has offered to host the Hospitality Room. Ken Fuchs volunteered to serve as Registrar for the event. Rooms have been reserved at the Hampton Inn & Suites for August 19th and 20th, 2016.

Following a reminder to report all reblooming iris to Gailmae Suite and a break to enjoy the plentiful refreshments, Peggy Cathey presented a program she has developed on "Iris 101." Peggy has presented this highly informative and comprehensive

program to a number of gardening groups around central Texas. In addition to an overview of iris culture, the program reviews the different types of bearded and beardless iris, and covers the wide range of color patterns found across the iris family. Not only is this program beneficial for those not familiar with iris, it holds interest for iris lovers as well. Thank you, Peggy, for all the work you have put in to developing this program and for sharing your love of iris with gardeners across the state.

What Is A Rebloomer? By Betty Wilkerson

If you hang around iris groups, either in the flesh-and-blood world of local societies and rhizome sales in your local neighborhoods, or in the virtual world like the [Reblooming Iris page on Facebook](#), you know that a common question is "how can I tell if an iris is technically a rebloomer?" Sometimes irises bloom in the summer, sometimes in the fall, but not the following spring, and so on, hence the question.

Some people are really fussy about their rebloomers and insist that they follow strict rules. For those, we have the definition from *The World of Irises* written



Autumn Tryst

by members of The American Iris Society, edited by Bee Warburton with Mel-

ba Hamblen as Assistant Editor, and with help from Dr. Raymond Smith. Dr. Smith wrote that "a rebloomer may be defined as any iris that produces an extra period of full bloom each year. By full bloom is meant bloom of one or more increases



Clarence

from each rhizome that flowered during the immediately preceding regular period. This definition excludes those sorts whose stalks emerge serially over an extended season, as well as clones with only a fraction of the mature rhizomes blooming during the next, even though such sorts do provide color apart from regular seasons and are frequently mislabeled rebloom-

ers" (Warburton: 137).

The AIS Judges Handbook is a bit more "loose." In summary, it states that rebloom should produce enough additional bloomstalks to double the total number of days of bloom produced annually (143).

1. Rebloomers (Cyclic Rebloomers), the standard for this group, are cultivars which complete two distinct cycles of bloom. After the spring flowering, there is a second nearly predictable period of bloom.
2. Multiple Blooming Irises send up bloomstalks repeatedly at any time throughout the growing season, spring to summer and fall.
3. Repeaters produce additional bloomstalks with unpredictable regularity immediately following or shortly thereafter the initial Spring bloom season. It is not uncommon



What Is A Rebloomer by Betty Wilkerson



Pleasant Peasant

for these varieties to extend the spring bloom season from four to eight weeks.

4. Sporadic Rebloomers

are varieties which unpredictably produce bloomstalks at varying times during the growing season. Many occasional rebloomers perform well on the West coast and the Southern areas of the United States. While they are

highly regarded there, they may not show reblooming tendencies in colder climates.

5. Secondary Stalk Rebloomers, although rare, occur when rhizomes send up secondary stalks.

The Irises of Portland – A Video Slide Show by Ken Fuchs

In May 2015 Jim Landers and I attended the 2015 A.I.S. National Convention in Portland, OR. As usual, the highlight of the convention was the guest garden tours. We spent three days visiting six outstanding and memorable gardens: Schreiner's Iris Gardens in Salem, OR; Mid-America Garden in Brooks, OR; Mt Pleasant Iris Farm in Washougal, WA; Aitken's Salmon Creek Gardens in Vancouver, WA; Wildwood Gardens in Molalla, OR; and Miller's Manor Gardens in Canby, OR. The Schreiner's Display Gardens were the most colorful, as all the irises in the beds were surrounded by many-colored lupines and other companion plants. The most spectacular garden was the master planting at Chad Harris's Mt Pleasant Iris Farm overlooking the Columbia River Gorge. It rains nearly every day in the Portland area, and consequently many blooms had water droplets on them, but they only added to the beauty of the irises.

We took hundreds of photos of the irises in bloom in the gardens, concentrating primarily on 2013, 2014, and 2015 introduc-

tions. We selected 183 of them for the 23-minute program. It is titled "The Irises of Portland," but none the irises were actually in Portland, as the different guest

gardens are all in the area surrounding Portland. We hope you enjoy seeing them as much as we did.



Schreiner's Iris Gardens, Salem, Or.



Mt. Pleasant Iris Farm-Master Planting

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

-  January 16, 2016, 10:00
WIS Meeting
West Waco Library
-  March 19, 2016, 10:00
WIS Meeting
Location to be announced
-  April 9, 2016, 10:00
WIS Iris Show
Holiday Inn & Suites, Waco Northwest
1801 N Development Blvd, Waco, TX 76705
-  May 21, 2016, 10:00
WIS Meeting
West Waco Library
-  August 19-20, 2016
AIS Region 17 Convention
Hampton Inn South, Waco, TX



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

We're on the Web:
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Reblooming Iris Report by Peggy Cathey

Several people in the area still have irises blooming. If you do, please write down the name of the iris(es) blooming in your garden and send the names to the Reblooming Iris Society's Southern Area Director, Gailmae

Suite, 817-477-4454 or metex65@yahoo.com and *Au Contraire*.

Dolores Avram had these two beauties blooming on Christmas Day and brought them inside to enjoy. They are *Red Lipstick*



Meeting Refreshments by Preston Floyd

I will be baking, so have that part covered. We will need other members to bring chips & dips, finger food, drinks, ice and coffee. I will also have all the paper goods and plastic ware we need.

Thanks for helping.

