



Waco Iris Society News

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2015 Dykes

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What Is An English Box?

Our meeting this month and for the rest of the year will be at the Crestview Church of Christ Community Center, 7129 Delhi, in Waco. Meeting begins at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, March 19.

We are excited to have Al Elliott back again as our speaker. Al always brings something new and different. This month, he will be telling us all about how to make an English Box. English Boxes are a Section of the Horticulture Division of our Iris Show. I haven't seen one entered in Waco, so I am looking forward to seeing how it is done. Always check the Show Schedule for size and material to use when making your English Box. Also, you will want a theme for your English Box.

Could be all one color, all Space Age, or bi-color, etc. It takes 6 blooms, but only the bloom, not the entire stalk, so if you have beautiful flowers, but not so perfect stalks, you can still show them off.



"A Touch of Brown"

Al's bio: Al joined the Santa Fe Iris Society in 1993, is a life member of the American Iris Society and was elected to the AIS Board of Directors in 2016. He is a member of the Median Iris Society, Tall Bearded Iris Society and Historical Iris Society. Al served as president of the Santa Fe Iris Society, Show chair

numerous times and chaired the Region 23 Convention (Twice). He was the Assistant Regional VP for Region 23 (New Mexico) in 2009. He served as the West Texas Iris Society Exhibition chair/co-chair in 2012 and 2013. Al's judges training began in 2002 and he is an active garden/exhibition judge in NM, AZ, NE, CO, and TX.

His presentations/judges training classes include *English Boxes*, *Dykes*, *Space Age Iris*, *Before Awarding the 1st Ribbon*, *Back to the Basics – Point Scoring*, *Not Eligible for Best Specimen of the Show – Collection*, *Seedlings*, *Bulbous Iris*, *Education Displays*, *AIS Awards*, *Our Infatuation with the Iris*, *De-Mything the AIS R&I Checklists* and *Iris Postage Stamps*.

Al states, "We grew 600+ irises in 2010-2013 and have down sized to 100 irises due to moving to a 55+ retirement community in Georgetown, TX." Al retired after 23 years as USAF Lt Col in 1991 and then served 17 years at Los Alamos National Laboratory in charge of the nuclear safety compliance program.

"There are two flowers in the world – *Iris and weeds*."

The English Box:

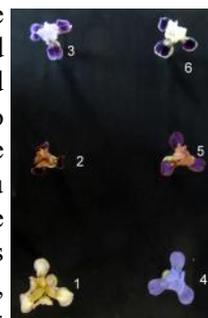
The presentation will focus on the following: There are four major ways to display or to show off your iris. 1) "In the Garden" shows the entire plant – roots, stem, stalk, clumping and the flower. 2) The iris

is used in floral designs in the background or as the primary focus. 3) We use the iris in our traditional "horticulture" shows to accent the stem and blooms. 4) The English box emphasizes the beauty of the individual bloom. We can compare different colors, different hybridizers,



"White Standards & Yellow"

or the various types of beards, especially with the space age iris. The English box was initially introduced by the British Horticulture Society as a standard for showing individual flowers, minus stem and foliage. The box can be used for almost any floral bloom. It is made out of wood or Styrofoam material, either square, oblong, or triangle shaped. You need a dark background [paint or cloth] to help accent the bloom and you need to display the bloom in florists picks, paper cups, or glass jars, as well as a supply of water and support to hold the flower upright.



"Medians"

Be sure to see the Show Schedule for the rules for size and material needed to make an English Box. Each club has different rules.



President's Message by Glenn Huddleston

Hopefully by now everyone has managed to get the weeds and grasses out from around your irises, replanted skips and applied fertilizer. These are basic cultural practices that need to be completed at this time of the year.

The next six months will be an exciting and challenging time for members of our society. As always Ken Anderson has once again developed a great theme for our April 9 annual iris show. It is not too late to sign up for an artistic design.

In May we will have our annual society luncheon and installation of officers. We need a member to volunteer to be president as soon as possible. It is not a difficult posi-

tion. If we fail to elect a president we stand to lose accreditation as an Iris Society. If you are willing to serve, or have questions, please call me.

As you know, the Waco Iris Society will host the AIS Region 17 annual meeting in Waco on August 19-20. We are expecting around sixty people to attend this event.

Peggy and Dan have been busy setting the ground work for the meeting. However there is still lots to be done and I know members will volunteer when needed. Registration fees have been waived for all members. Waco Iris Society members will pay a total of \$30.00 to cover meals on Friday and Saturday night.

A copy of the Registration Form is attached. You may bring it to the meeting. We will be able to scan credit cards at the meeting if you would like to pay that way.



In Memory Of Charles Bohon

Club member, Charles Bohon, passed away Feb.

2. In his memory, Waco Iris Society has sent a Memorial donation in his name to both the American Iris Society and to AIS Region 17.



January Meeting Highlights by Bill Calhoon

Meeting Highlights



At our first meeting of 2016, the Waco Iris Society

gathered at the West Waco Library on Saturday, January 16, with sixteen members and four guests in attendance. By the time we broke for refreshments, three of these guests had joined/re-joined WIS, becoming members! We would like to welcome new members Jeri Cage of Hamilton and Jean Tomlinson of Pottsville, and welcome back Kay Melvin of Waco.

After calling the meeting to order, President Glenn Huddleston welcomed members and guests. Bill Calhoon conducted roll call and read the minutes from the November 2015 meeting, followed by Mitchell Whitley who presented the Treasurer's Report. Frances Peterson was the lucky winner of the AIS Membership Drawing.

Glenn then turned the floor over to

Dan Cathey who presented several items for consideration regarding the upcoming Region 17 Meeting which will be hosted by the Waco Iris Society in August, 2016. After discussion, Club members voted to waive the registration fee for WIS members agreeing that members will pay for the cost of their meals. The Registration Form will be available on both the Waco Iris Society and Region 17 websites and is attached to this newsletter.

As the hosting club, WIS will obtain iris for the live auction. These

rhizomes will be paid for by Region 17, with proceeds from the live auction going to Region 17. Mitchell Whitley will contact Mid-America



AIS Membership January Winner



Frances Peterson

Gardens regarding this order. Dan reported that the Club has the opportunity to purchase and/or donate iris to sell as part of the "Boutique." Proceeds from this would go to the Waco Iris Society. Following discussion, Club members voted to order iris from both Superstition Iris Gardens and Tom Burseen (The Lab) for sale/silent auction at the Boutique. Glenn reminded members that in addition, Club members could bring iris from their own gardens for the boutique sale/silent auction as well. Discussion then turned to food, with Dan reporting that Bonnie and Hooker Nichols will be bringing barbeque for the Friday evening Welcome Banquet. Peggy had explored options for the Saturday evening Banquet and members agreed that Italian food would be a good option for this meal.

Following a break for refreshments, Glenn introduced (cont. on pg. 4)



Gardener's Gathering by Peggy Cathey

Once again, Waco Iris Society will have a booth at the Gardeners Gathering in Woodway. We will need lots of potted and/or bareroot irises to sell. This year's event will take place the day after our Iris Show—Sunday, April 10 from 1-4. Set-up will be 10-Noon the day of the event. In case of rain, the event will be held in the Pavilion. We have always done very well at this event.



We had to cancel last year because we sold out of irises at our show, so we need everyone's help this year. It isn't too late to pot up a few irises for our show and for the Gardeners Gathering.

The Woodway Beautiful Commission hosts an annual Gardeners Gathering event at the picturesque Carleen Bright Arboretum, 9001 Bosque Blvd, Woodway. The event is free to the public, and features some of the best area greenhouses, nurseries, and gardening supply dealers that Central Texas has to offer. Vendors come from all over the area to sell garden decorations, handmade jewelry, birdhouses, and a variety of other crafts and services. Local gardening societies and clubs are always on hand, providing

valuable information and offering guided nature walks along the Arboretum's hiking trails. With the help of generous sponsorships from local home improvement stores, the children's activities have expanded to include a build-your-own wooden crafts booth, with bird houses, mini planters, and toolboxes, as well as homemade bubbles, birdfeeders, educational games, and the always-popular barrel train ride. If you need a mid-afternoon snack, grab a hot dog or hamburger, or just cool off with a frosty snow cone! With all of the fun things to see and do, don't forget to tour the Arboretum grounds! Always held on a spring Sunday afternoon, this event is free fun for the entire family!

2016 WIS Iris Show By Ken Anderson

Plans are well underway for our spring show on April 9, 2016. The show schedule was submitted in January and approval was received. Supplies have been ordered and other plans are being finalized and confirmed. We are looking forward to a great show.

I hope many of our members have been thinking about the kind of artistic entry they will be willing to provide for the show. It is a feature that the public really seems to enjoy and the entries are always interesting and colorful. If you have just recently joined our club and have not had experience creating an artistic design but think it is something you might like to do, be sure to ask for help. The club has plain white niches available for member use. They will be available at the next meeting. Local craft stores have niches in a variety of colors. Just be sure they conform to the proper size described in the artistic display rules. We have several members

who have done this for a number of years and they are always willing to give you pointers. The club printed calendars last year featuring entries in last year's show and you might like to see these examples of displays. A calendar will be available at the next meeting if you have not already seen it. The entry sheet will be available at the next meeting. We hope to fill all the categories. Hopefully we will have four entries in each category. Please remember that our theme this year is *Iris in a World of Animals* and our four categories are:

1. *Precious Pets*
2. *Birds of a Feather*
3. *Wild and Wonderful*
4. *Creatures of the Sea*

I hope this theme will provide a great variety of displays.

Our weather has been a bit on the mild side and spring is popping out everywhere. At least four varieties of tall-bearded iris in my garden are

already making bloom stalks. I hope that all members will have some varieties to enter. Entry tags will be available for anyone who plans to exhibit irises. Once again, members who might be new to all of these preparations are encouraged to ask for help. For the seasoned members I would like to encourage you to bring as many entries as you can. Remember, what you might be thinking of as the "same old iris" could be something beautiful and breathtaking to a newcomer. Something with the slightest imperfection that you dislike might be the very bloom to delight someone else!

I look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting on March 19, 2016.



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

 **March 19, 2016, 10:00**
WIS Meeting-How to Make an
English Box, by Al Elliott
Crestview Church of Christ
Community Center

 **April 9, 2016, 10:00**
WIS Iris Show
Holiday Inn & Suites, Waco Northwest
1801 N Development Blvd, Waco

 **April 10, 2016 1-4**
Gardeners Gathering
Carleen Bright Arboretum

 **August 19-20, 2016**
AIS Region 17 Convention
Hampton Inn South, Waco, TX



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We're on the Web:
[http://www.kenfuchs42.net/
waco_index.html](http://www.kenfuchs42.net/waco_index.html)



Meeting Highlights (cont.)

Ken Fuchs, presenter for the meeting. Ken assembled a slideshow titled *Iris es of Portland* with numerous photographs taken by Ken and Jim Landers at the 2015 AIS National Convention in Oregon. Ken also provided members with a comprehensive list of the 181

named iris (along with hybridizer and year of introduction) included in the slideshow. The photos were taken at six different gardens that were on tour as part of the convention. Thanks, Ken, for preparing and sharing this informative and delightful program.

Glenn then thanked members, guests and new members for attending. Before adjourning, Glenn alerted members that the next meeting will be held at a different location since the Library will not be available.

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, and ice. Peggy & Dan will bring the coffee. I will also have all the paper

goods and plastic ware we need.

