



Waco Iris Society News

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Swans In Flight
2016 Dykes Medal Winner

Volume 9, Issue 2

An affiliate of the American Iris Society

September, 2016

New Club Year Kickoff by Peggy Cathey

The AIS Region 17 Meeting, sponsored by the Waco Iris Society is now history. It was a fantastic event and each one who helped is to be congratulated for a job well done. A full account of the Meeting starts on page 2 of this newsletter.

The first meeting of the 2016-2017 Waco Iris Society will be Sept. 17, 10:00 a.m. at the Crestview Church of Christ, 7129 Delhi, in Woodway (not far from Providence Hospital). This is the meeting all the members look forward to each year. Our annual Iris Giveaway, Exchange and Auction. We have ordered and received a great supply of irises from Mid-America Iris Garden and Superstition Iris Garden. Ninety-seven beautiful irises to pick from. Each member who qualifies by attending 3 meetings through out the year and assisting with either the Iris Show or Sale will have their choice when their number is called. Once every-

one has picked their favorite, all the rest will be auctioned off. Everyone may participate in the Auction.



Among the choices are many 2016 introductions like Paul Black's

Call to Danger

or Tom

Johnson's cute little SDB "flattie" **Gottcha Good.**



Everyone is invited to participate in the iris exchange. Members who received a gift plant in the Giveaway in 2014 are asked to bring back 1 rhizome increase from either of the irises they received that year. You will be getting a letter with the names of the irises you received. If you did not get an iris that year, you may still participate by bringing an iris rhizome introduced in 2011 or later. Please write the name of the iris on a 2"x 8" slip of paper, plus write the name on the center leaf of

the plant. The papers will go into a pot and you will draw for your exchange plant. Only those who bring a plant for the exchange are eligible to participate in the exchange.

Our annual Iris Rhizome Sale will be held at the GreenLife Nursery, 1312 N. New Road. All members who will be bringing irises for the sale are asked to call or e-mail Peggy (254-854-

Waco Iris Society
IRIS SALE

Saturday, Sept. 24
GreenLife Nursery
New Road @ Bosque Blvd
9 am til 2 pm

For more information visit us online at www.greenlifeny.com
or call: [254-854-2558](tel:254-854-2558)

2558 or natvtxn1@windstream.net) with your list of plants so we will have photos of everything offered for sale. We will begin setting up at 8:00 on Saturday, September 24 and the sale will open at 9:00. If you have a table, please bring it and don't forget to bring a chair, water, and a snack.

President's Message by Dan Cathey

Welcome to the first regular meeting of our new Club year on September 17th! This is a don't miss meeting with our annual iris give-away and auction headlining the agenda. Also, please remember to participate in the iris exchange as well. The exchange (or swap if you prefer) is a chance to get yet another late model low mileage introduction at no cost to you. You are receiving a letter that spells out how and what to do but if you have any questions, please email me at dannydayle@yahoo.com and I will

do my best to answer questions. We have been blessed with some early Fall rains this year with lower temperatures so our soils should be prime for planting your new acquisitions without going through the potting step. If time permits, do any soil prep for new plantings as soon as possible before the meeting so the beds will have a chance to "settle in" for planting. There will be lots of beautiful cultivars available during the auction so be sure and take this opportunity to add to your collection and save \$\$.

Also, be thinking about rhizomes you can dig for our upcoming sale on September 24th. This sale is our most important fund raiser which allows us to have our annual Spring Show as well as purchasing the plants for the giveaway and auction, your help in making this an even bigger success than in past years will be gratefully appreciated.

Help With Refreshments

Preston says we need finger snacks, chips/dips, and sodas. Please help fill our refreshment table.



2016 AIS Region 17 Meeting Held in Waco by Peggy Cathey & Nelda Moore, ISA

Congratulations to all our Waco Iris Society members who helped make the 57th annual AIS Region 17 Meeting a great success. The Meeting was held at the Hampton Inn & Suites Waco South located just off I-35 on August 19-20. We had hoped to have 50 attendees but instead, we had **80** enthusiastic iris lovers in attendance as we celebrated *Bridging the Brazos with Irises*.



The Iris Society of Dallas was a great help supplying the snacks, drinks and sandwich fixin's in the Hospitality Room. They helped serve, clean-up and anywhere we needed help.

The Waco Iris Society was well represented with **21** members attending. Some attend the regional meetings regularly but we had many first time attendees. Attending were: Bob Alexander, Ken Anderson, Jerrie Cage, Bill Calhoun, Dan & Peggy Cathey, Preston Floyd, Ken Fuchs, Glenn Huddleston, Jim Landers, Michael Lowe, Leroy & Naomi Nabors, Phil Nacke, Hooker & Bonnie Nichols, Frances Peterson, Ellen Singleton, Frank & B.J. Wheeler, and Mitchell Whitley.

Our guest speaker and Judging School instructor was Perry Dyer from Oklahoma. He gave a very interesting 3 hour class on all the different Median Iris classes and how they came to be. His Saturday evening program, titled *Median Classics*, had many photos



of several of the medal winning median irises including 3 Dykes Medal Median irises: **Brown**

Lasso a Border Bearded which received the Dykes in 1981, the Intermediate Bearded iris **Starwoman**, DM 2008 and **Dividing Line**, a Miniature Tall Bearded iris which won the Dykes in 2014. There were also photos of irises, in Perry's opinion, that should have won awards. Hooker Nichols has several which have won medals and he also had the very first Space Age Median—**Hagar's Helmet**.



Perry Dyer, Paul Black, 2017 AB
Photo by Paul Black

In 2017, Paul Black is introducing an Arilbred Median which will be named **Perry Dyer**. Before Paul moved his iris garden to Oregon, he lived very near Perry just outside of Oklahoma City.

Perry has introduced 40 irises of all types and sizes. Four have won medals, 10 received the Award of Merit, and he has received 22 Honorable Mentions for his iris introductions.

Attendees of the Region 17 Meeting were well-fed by the breakfast in the hotel each morning, barbecue Friday night, the hospitality room offered sandwiches, dips, chips, cookies, and cakes, and the Italian food, salad, and 6 different desserts catered by the Olive Garden topped off the Saturday meals.

The convention "goodie bags" held snacks, including a full size Snickers bar made and donated by the M&M Mars Candy Co. located in Waco, pens, notepads and other important information, but the return address labels were the welcome surprise gift since these colorful labels included photos of irises in-

troduced by AIS Region 17 hybridizers: Bonnie and Hooker Nichols, Tom Burseen, Joe Spears, Jim Landers, Kirk Strawn, Alton Pyburn, Vincent Christopherson, Steve Place, and Vernon and Dana Brown. Each attendee also got their choice of a Median iris donated by members of the Waco Iris Society



During the Saturday Business Meeting, Jim Landers, R-17 Historian, announced Glenn Huddleston as the top award winner for winning 4 top show awards. He also gave a report about how many show awards Hazel Haik has won over the years.

Waco Iris Society is also proud to announce two members winning Honorable Mention with their Louisiana Iris introductions—Hooker Nichols received the most votes with his **Melody Wilhoit** and Jim Landers received the 3rd most votes with his very first introduction **Lady of Lomieta**.

Former Region 17 RVP Gordon Carver presented the new slate of officers for Region 17 who were unanimously elected. They include the following: Regional Vice Presi-



Connie Ford, treasurer; Jerrie Cage, Secretary; Bonnie Nichols, Asst. RVP and Peggy Cathey, Regional Vice President

dent Peggy Cathey, Assistant RVP Bonnie Nichols, Secretary Jerrie Cage, Treasurer Connie Ford, Past RVP Dawn Boyer. Appointed as Chairpersons are: Judges Training Al Elliott, Youth Advocate Vicki Howard, Historian Jim Landers, Membership Chairman Bill Pittman, Newsletter Editor Dell Perry, and Webmaster Jaime Hadley. The



Region 17 Meeting (cont)

newly elected officers and chairpersons will assume their respective duties once the RVP is approved by the AIS Board at their Fall Board Meeting held the first weekend in November. ***Thank you all for your support!***

The centerpieces were original and beautiful. The Friday barbecue had a western theme with B.J. and Frank decorating with Texas boots, haystacks, candy, and ropes plus a table favor of a Median Iris was provided by the Iris Society of Dallas while the Saturday banquet had a brown plate loaded with a suspension bridge with irises on the railing as well as on the bridge floor over water created by a fabric that imitated



Bridging the Brazos with Irises
Photo by Dara Smith

running water over rocks. The grassy banks held tiny flowers of spring bulbs. Peggy's sister made the suspension bridge centerpieces. The Saturday Median Iris table favor was provided by Dell Perry.

The Friday evening entertainment was a fun game of Dykes Medal Bingo. Photos of Dykes Medal winners were randomly shown on the screen and as each player got a DYKES (Bingo), they got to choose from among several Dykes winning rhizomes. Everyone was a winner of at least one.

Bill Calhoon did a wonderful job taking money in the boutique. We had lots of new and older irises donated by members and purchased for the boutique from Superstition Iris Garden. The irises were sold, offered in a silent auction and put in a raffle. Also in the Silent Auction was a Texas Flag and certificate stating that it flew over the Capital building in Austin earlier in August that was donated by the Iris Society of Austin. Other raffle items included an iris hat box full of Texas made items donated by the Iris Soci-

ety of Austin, a huge basket of goodies donated by the Lone Star Iris Society, a basket of Texas pecans and other goodies donated by the North Plains Iris Society and a basket of garden supplies donated by B.J. & Frank. There were all kinds of Iris items offered for sale in the boutique. Waco Iris Society did quite well with our boutique sales.

Each year, the hosting club receives \$400 from the Region to purchase irises for the main event—the Iris Auction. Proceeds from the auction go to the Region to offset the printing costs of the Region 17 Newsletters. This year, irises from Mid-America Garden, Rockytop Iris Garden, Stout Gardens at Dancingtree, Hillcrest Iris, and Seandel Iris Garden were offered. Glenn Huddleston did a great job as auctioneer with Dan Cathey and Jerry Keeth of JCI&DS assisting. The auction made \$1,966.

Always a highlight is seeing friends from past meetings as well as the new friends made this year. An appeal was made for someone to host the next ANNUAL MEETING!

Greetings From Your Show Chair by Ken Anderson

Are you ready to be finished with the hot days of summer? Well, I am sure everyone is appreciating the fact that those extremely high temperatures of early August are behind us and we can begin to anticipate some cooler weather. With the arrival of September it is time to be doing a lot of work in the garden. Hopefully all of you who are able to do so have been out digging and dividing already. As ordinary a task as it is, and so repetitive, there is just something special about pulling that clump of rhizomes apart, inspecting the condition of the increase, and anticipating a beautiful bloom in the garden next spring. And speaking of next spring, a

theme has been chosen for our show. The theme of the show for 2017 is ***Irises: A Celebration of Color***. This theme was chosen to recognize and celebrate the entire spectrum of the rainbow as the range of colors found in irises has grown to include them all. It is my intention that participation in the design portion of the show should be fun. Hopefully by offering such a broad theme more people will be encouraged to participate in the competition. If you have never participated in the design competition, I hope you will consider doing so this year. Here is a description of the categories in the artistic division:

Category I, *Flaming Red and Orange*

Artistic displays for this category will incorporate the use of red and/or orange in whatever manner suits the exhibitor. Try to use varieties of iris for the display that are either red or orange if possible, or consider using a red or an orange background. Also give some thoughts to accessories that are usually associated with one or both colors. Think of fire, desert, sunsets, fall leaves, various types of vegetables, fruits, or even man-made items associated with the color, such as fire trucks.

Category II, *Glittering Gold and Yellow*

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.

Crestview Church of Christ
Community Center
7129 Delhi, Waco

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Only \$10 per year. You may join at a
meeting, download membership form
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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



Sept. 17, 2016, 10:00
WIS Meeting—Iris Giveaway,
Exchange & Auction, Crestview
Church of Christ Community
Center

Sept. 24, 2016, 9:00-2:00
WIS Iris Sale
GreenLife Nursery, 1312 N. New Road (@ Bosque

Nov. 8, 2016
Texas Garden Clubs, Inc. Fall Meeting
Georgetown, TX

Nov. 19, 2016, 10:00
WIS Meeting—Fall Gardening with Irises
Crestview Church of Christ Community Center

January 21, 2017
WIS Meeting—Fall Gardening with Irises
Crestview Church of Christ Community Center



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



2017 Iris Show (cont)

Artistic displays for this category will incorporate the use of gold and/or yellow. It is suggested (not required) that the exhibitor try to use gold or yellow irises for this category. As in other categories, the background could be gold or yellow and the accessories could include items that one associates with the colors gold and yellow. Things to consider are the sun, sunlight, sunshine, various fruits, vegetables, other flowers, birds, etc. that are associated with this color. Also consider man-made things that are associated with these colors.

Category III, Anything Goes with Green

The exhibitor will use as much green as possible to contrast with the color of irises in the display. Preferably (but not required) the exhibitor would use a shade of green, or a blend of greens for the background. As the name of this category suggests, the use of green should accentuate the design and selection of flowers for the design.

Category IV, Brilliant Blue and Passionate Purple

Artistic displays in this section will have blue or purple as the primary color in the display. That can be achieved by using a blue or purple background (not required) or using flowers in a shade of purple or blue.

Blues and purples suggest night clouds, sunny skies, stormy skies, night scenes, water, winter time, cold weather or beaches with blue oceans. Consider the use of other natural fruits or flowers with blue or purple.

Exhibitors should keep in mind that the focus of this total artistic display is to suggest all the colors of the rainbow. The goal is to conform to the rules of design but to have fun representing the color you choose in whatever way is pleasing to your eye. Don't forget that the container for the design is also a good way to add that extra bit of color.