



Waco Iris Society News

Website: http://www.kenfuchs42.net/waco_index.html E-mail: wacoiriss@gmail.com



2016 Dykes Medal Winner

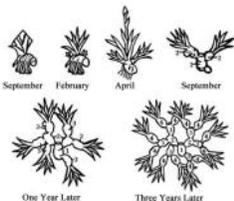
Volume 9, Issue 2

An affiliate of the American Iris Society

September, 2016

Fall Garden Prep And Reblooming Irises by Peggy Cathey

The next meeting of the Waco Iris Society will be November 19th at the Crestview Church of Christ Community Center, 7129 Delhi Rd. (Sanger Ave. becomes Delhi after it crosses Hwy 6, past Providence Hospital). The meeting will begin at 10:00. Our program this month will be all about Fall Gardening with



Irises. We will cover all your fall gardening chores such as digging and dividing your irises and

why this is important. Also, have you done your fall fertilization yet? Time is running out. Do you need

to make new iris beds? Want to know how to prepare a bed now for spring planting without the use of a shovel or tiller? Lets talk about reblooming irises, the different types, and what you should be doing to increase your chances of a rebloom. We will also see a slideshow of some of the more reliable rebloomers that you may want to add to your garden. Speaking of that, I will be bringing 3 reblooming irises that we will auction off. If you have any you would like to bring, please let me know so we can have photos of each offered in the auction. They can be potted or bare-root. Lets have some fun with this and support our Waco Iris Society. Dan and I will bring Echo Location, My Generation, and Pleasant Peasant. Re-



member to keep a list of any irises you have rebloom this fall and send your list to the Reblooming Iris Society's Southern Director, Gailmae Suite, metex65@yahoo.com, so she can record all the irises in our Region that rebloom.

As for refreshments for the meeting, Preston says we will need finger foods and snacks. He will be doing some baking and says he has the drinks. Dan and I will bring the coffee.



President's Message By Dan Cathey

Welcome to the somewhat cooler ?? Fall weather. It is still unseasonably warm but for some of us, you know who you are, it could be an opportunity to get out there and do that Fall fertilization that you kept meaning to do but couldn't seem to find time. Take a few minutes to clean the dead leaves off the plants and do a little policing to get rid of the other clutter that can harbor disease and insects. These two tasks will reward you in the Spring with healthier, happier plants and bigger, better blooms. It is probably a little late for a pre-emergent application since that has to be done before the weed



seeds germinate but if you haven't done so, it may still be worth the cost and effort because weed seeds seem to always be blowing in from somewhere. The weeds that are germinating now are the ones you will be fighting in the Spring, henbit, chickweed, rye grass, etc., so even if you only get partial control it is still a good thing. Please be sure to water the pre-emergent to activate it. It probably isn't likely, but if you see any bloom stalks on your **newly** planted iris rhizomes, do the plants and yourself a favor and cut the stalk off close to the rhizome. It takes a tremendous amount of plant energy to bloom and for this to occur while the plant is trying to estab-

lish itself could exhaust the plant and cause it to die. I know that you really want to see that bloom but wait till Spring. For established plants this is likely the rebloom you have been working for so please do not cut those off unless a freeze is expected and it is close to opening. On the brighter side, we are finally starting to see some much needed moisture which will help carry your plants into the Winter cold much better.

Our Fall sale was a great success! The turnout, both in terms of club members and customers was absolutely great. We stayed busy from open till close with (cont. pg 2)



September Meeting Highlights by Bill Calhoon

The Waco Iris Society held its first meeting of the club year on Saturday, September 17, 2016, at the Community Center of the Crestview Church of Christ. Twenty-three members attended the meeting which was our annual Giveaway, Exchange and Auction. After calling the meeting to order, WIS President Dan Cathey reminded members that dues for the 2016-2017 club year were payable. Dan then recognized all the hard work of WIS club members in hosting the AIS Region 17 Meeting held in August. Bill Calhoon then conducted Roll Call and read the May 2016 Meeting Minutes and Mitchell Whitley presented the Treasurer's Report.

WIS Show Chair Ken Anderson provided an update on the 2017 Iris Show which will be held on Saturday, April 8, 2017. The theme of this year's show will be, "Iris: A Celebration of Color." Following the successful outcome of the Re-

gion 17 Meeting, Peggy Cathey suggested the Club consider holding the 2017 Iris Show and Sale at the Hampton Inn & Suites. After discussion of the possibility, a motion was made and seconded, and club members voted unanimously to hold the 2017 show at the Hampton Inn.

After a recap of the Region 17 Meeting by Peggy, WIS club members were reminded about the Annual Rhizome Sale which was held on September 25 at Green Life Nursery. Dan then introduced for discussion a proposal to give honorary club memberships to WIS members who have been with the club 30 years or more. The proposal was enthusiastically adopted; members

who will receive the honorary memberships are Bob Alexander and Hazel and Becky Haik.

Jim Landers was the lucky winner of the AIS Membership Drawing. Club members then participated in the annual rhizome Exchange. Before a break for refreshments, Jim Landers presented Glenn Huddleston with a special Region 17 award recognizing his winning the most Iris Show awards in 2016.

Following the refreshment break, club members received their auction paddles, reviewed the list and slide program of the 97 irises available for the Giveaway and Auction, then made their choices for the giveaway. Glenn Huddleston and Leroy Nabors then shared auctioneer duties during an often-competitive auction of the remaining rhizomes which had been ordered from Mid-America Iris and Superstition Iris. The meeting was adjourned following the auction.



President's Message (continued from page 1)

hardly any time when we didn't have people shopping. As a matter of fact, we didn't even get to close at our scheduled 2:00 time and kept working with customers until almost 3:00. A great big thank you to all the members who brought plants and who came to assist, we couldn't have done it without YOU! Our

sales figures broke all our previous years records by nearly double! Even more important, we recruited four very excited and enthusiastic new members. A big Heart of Texas welcome to our four new members: Charlotte Anderson and Rosie Gulig, both from Waco, Judy Morgida of Hewitt, and Janice

Ketcher of Elm Mott. Everyone please say HI! and introduce yourselves.



Best Wishes for the Holidays from Waco Iris Society



Thanksgiving, Sexton, 1976



Christmas, Gatty, 1991



Happy New Year Byers, 1989



AIS Membership September Winner



Jim Landers



What Is A Rebloomer? By Betty Wilkerson (Zone 6)

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 by members of The American Iris Society, edited by Bee Warburton with Melba 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 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 one period and the remainder during the next, even though such sorts do provide color apart from regular seasons and are frequently misla-



'Feedback'

beled rebloomers" (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).



'Earl of Essex'

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 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



'Immortality'

colder climates.

5. Secondary Stalk Rebloomers, although rare, occur when rhizomes send up secondary stalks in the same growing season.

I must admit, I have a loose definition: I like iris blooms so much that I welcome just about anything that puts up an extra bloom stalk.

My hybridizing lines were originally started with 'Feed Back', 'Early of Essex', 'Immortality', and a few others that rebloomed in fall.



'Another Bridge'

To learn more about Reblooming Iris, go to the Reblooming Iris Society's website here: <http://www.rebloomingiris.com/>

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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MARK THESE DATES



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



January 21, 2017
WIS Meeting
Crestview Church of Christ Community Center



March 18, 2017
WIS Meeting
Crestview Church of Christ Community Center



April 8, 2017
WIS Iris Show
Hampton Inn & Suites, South

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



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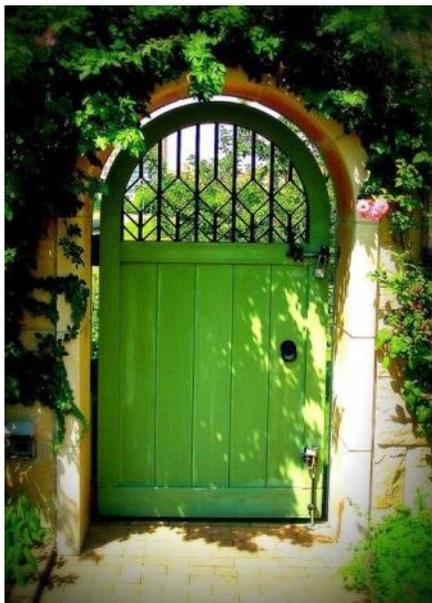
<https://www.facebook.com/WacoIrisSociety>

We're on the Web:

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



The Green Garden Gate (author unknown)



*The garden with its little gate of
green,
Invites you to enter, and view mys-
teries unseen,
Its vine laden bowers and over-
hanging trees,
The air filled with sweetness, the
hum of the bees,
The flagged walks with Iris galore,
Of most beautiful coloring, un-
known before,
Pink, white, purple, yellow, azure
blue,
Mixed and mingled of every hue,
You come away wondering, can
more beauty be seen
Than in the garden with its little
gate of green.*

