



# Waco Iris Society News

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An affiliate of the American Iris Society



2016 Dykes  
Medal Winner

January, 2017

## January WIS Meeting

The next meeting of the Waco Iris Society will be held Saturday, January 21 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 a.m. For this month's program, Waco Iris Society member Ken Fuchs will be presenting a seventeen-minute video-slide show of the 2016 American Iris Society National Convention Tour of **Presby Memorial Iris Gardens**. Ken says "*You'll feel that you've been there, too, after viewing it.*" Following is a brief description of what you will see:



On Thursday, May 26, 2016, attendees at the 2016 A.I.S. National Convention in Newark, NJ, began the bus tours of guest gardens with an all-day visit to The Presby Memorial Iris Gardens located in



Montclair in Essex County, about 22 miles north of Newark. Often referred to as *The Rainbow on the Hill*, Presby Gardens were estab-



lished in 1927 to honor Frank H. Presby of Montclair, a leading horticulturalist and a founder of A.I.S. During the month of May, the gardens showcase more than 100,000 blooms.

When the Convention buses arrived, attendees were in awe at the sight of a multitude of blooms and colors in a number of beds stretching well beyond the length of a football field. Besides having the master planting for the convention, the Gardens' twenty-six beds also had countless historic irises from many past decades, even past centuries.



*San Souci*, Van Houtte, 1854

The Presby Memorial Iris Gardens



co-hosted the 2016 A.I.S. Convention and graciously provided a delicious luncheon for all Convention attendees in a large white tent set up in the middle of the gardens. Following the luncheon, many attendees gathered in groups for garden judging training. The weather was perfect, and the irises were in peak bloom. This particular garden tour will be long remembered by everyone fortunate enough to have been there.

Congratulations!

AIS Membership  
Winner in November

B. J. Wheeler



## President's Message by Dan Cathey

Happy New Year to everyone! Now that the holidays are behind us it is time to start thinking **IRIS** and all things gardening again. We undoubtedly have some cold and dreary days remaining before we can start our Spring gardening rituals but there are quite a few things we could and should be addressing now.

Those days when we would really rather not be outdoors would be the time for looking at irises in the catalogues and on the internet, learning about the new trends in iris hybridizing and making a "must have" list of some of those to acquire in the upcoming season. There will also be lots of really fantastic days to get out in the garden and get things done before the busy Spring season is upon us.

If you need to start a new bed, now is the time to do it. Get your soil improvements, compost, manures, alfalfa pellets, minerals and organic fertilizers worked into the bed so they will have time to go to work improving the soil in time for planting.

How about getting started on all those projects you have been putting off? Do you need to lay some stepping stones, build a new patio or deck or put in some hardscape features? What about adding some ground cover or mulch or maybe a nice garden bench or swing so you will have a great place to sit and admire your beautiful landscape?

Now is **not** the time to begin pruning roses or shrubs. They will begin putting on new growth about three weeks after pruning and a severe cold snap could kill off the new growth severely setting the plants

back. Wait until at least the middle of February so that any new growth will begin in March and it should be OK. This is, however, the perfect time to remove limbs from trees if needed. Also, the next couple of weeks is an ideal time to survey your garden beds and make a list of what needs to be done come Spring and decide what the priority should be.

Since we won't have another meeting until March, here is a reminder to fertilize your irises around the middle of March; about a tablespoon of fertilizer per rhizome. Suggestions include 10-20-10, 13-13-13 or any organic fertilizer.

### *How we spent the holidays*



Using rocks we already had to build a new walk path into our front garden.



Peggy built this fun racoon vignette under our bay window.



Irises are planted close to the house. Re-blooming irises and Spuria irises are planted to be seen from our bay window. Over 100 Dutch iris bulbs have been planted in this garden along with daylilies, daffodils, Oxblood lilies, and red spider lilies. We also have roses, amaryllis & crinum lilies, Muhly grass, columbine, salvias, Nandina and Forsythia. We also like to use garden art. You can see all kinds of "critters" scattered among the plants. Can't wait for Spring!



This is a new bed we have added to our backyard. As you see, the bed doesn't have to be a big one. Ready for new introductions.



Using rocks collected on our property, we have made a "dry" stream going to our small garden pond. It will channel rainwater from the roof into the pond.



A nice place under the trees to sit and watch the birds and admire all of our hard work



## November Meeting Highlights by Bill Calhoon, Secretary

Imagine, seeing iris blossoms in November! For those who attended the November 19, 2016, meeting of the Waco Iris Society, we not only had the opportunity to see, touch and smell several varieties of re-



*Tenderly,*  
Nearpass, 2000

blooming iris, we got to bid on some, too. Thanks to Michael Lowe for bringing the beautiful blooms.

The Waco Iris Society held its final meeting of 2016 at the Crestview Church of Christ Community Center with 16 members attending - including new member, Linda Rop-

er of Clifton, who joined at the meeting. Welcome Linda! After the meeting was called to order by Club President Dan Cathey, the Treasurer's Report was presented and approved, Roll Call was read and the Meeting Minutes from the September 2016 meeting were read and approved.

Dan then updated members on the outstanding results of the 2016 Rhizome Sale which was possibly a record with over \$2,400 in sales. After the member money-back disbursements, the Club income totaled over \$1,300. Following some of the challenges in trying to share space with GreenLife Nursery, Dan reported that he has been trying to contact the owner of the building about shifting the sale location to the open area on the other side of the storage entrance.

Ken Anderson provided an update on the 2017 show, asking members to consider signing up for Artistic Design categories and Show Committee assignments. Dan shared a Thank You note from Hazel Haik for the honorary club membership. The AIS Membership drawing was won by B.J. Wheeler.

In new business, Dan raised the possibility of doing a local "popularity poll" similar to the American Hemerocallis Society Popularity Poll. Conducted in partnership with other local iris clubs,

the poll will provide an opportunity for growers to share the names of those varieties that consistently perform well in our specific Central Texas area. Copies of the form were distributed and WIS members can email completed forms to Dan or bring them to the January 2017 meeting (see pg 4). Peggy Cathey shared information on several upcoming Judges Training sessions.

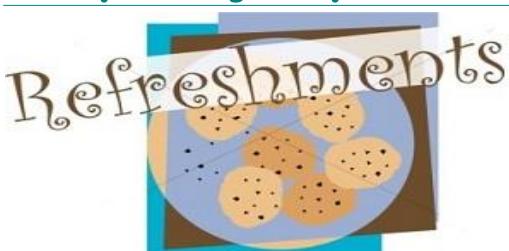
Following a break for refreshments, Peggy presented an informative program on *Fall Gardening with Irises*. Peggy had also presented the program to approximately 80 attendees at the Texas Garden Council District 5 Meeting in early November held in Georgetown. In addition to helpful reminders on Fall garden tasks, the program included numerous images of reblooming iris. Following the program, members had the opportunity to bid on ten rebloomers donated by members Michael Lowe, Glenn Huddleston and



Dan and Peggy Cathey. Photos of the irises and auction results appear on page 5 of this newsletter.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:51.

## Hospitality Report By Preston Floyd



Happy New Year everyone. As usual, I will need some help with chips, dips, and finger snacks. I will be doing some baking and Peggy and Dan will

bring the coffee. Thanks to everyone for your help.





## Anticipation by Ken Anderson, Show Chair

We have just passed through that time of year when most, if not all of us, have experienced the whole gamut of physical and emotional feelings. We have probably felt tired, excited, stressed, relieved, and even some sadness all packed into a few short weeks. With all the running about, shopping, parties, family gatherings and traveling we might have some feeling of relief by December 31. Hopefully, we did not miss the opportunity to find some Peace and Joy along with reflection of the meaning of Christmas. Then, once we have taken down the Christmas lights, put the decorations away, stocked up on the post holiday specials for wrapping paper and more Christmas stuff, we can begin to put closure on the year. I don't know about you, but with the arrival

of January my mind and spirit take a positive turn. There is a certain feeling of anticipation for what the new year will bring.

Is it anticipation? Do you feel that excitement? Well, I suspect it is a feeling that all of us gardeners share. We have just updated our digital calendars or hung the paper ones, or both. Rare is the gardener who can hold a pictorial calendar in hand and resist flipping to March, April, and May to see what might be pictured! We are anticipating that burst of spring color. Last Friday was one of the coldest days we have had in a long time. Getting out on that day was miserable. But the silver lining is that it was definitely a "chill" day for our iris. I hope you are looking forward to this spring as much as I

am. The show schedule is being prepared and copies will be available if approval has been received. Please keep in mind the theme for this year's show, *Irises: A Celebration of Color*.



I hope you will consider creating an artistic entry. Also, we will have only one judge for our horticultural division this year. The judge will be Dawn Boyer from Amarillo.

I hope your irises have done well through the fall months and that you are anticipating a good year. It will be good to see everyone at our meeting on January 21, 2017.

## All Star Irises for North Central Texas By Dan Cathey

Please list your five top performing iris for our poll. The object is to take everyone's success stories with their iris and make it available to all members. We will try and report 25 of the best iris for our area. This will be a huge benefit to newcomers to the iris as well as helping the more experienced pick better additions to their collections. We are including all the membership from The Waco Iris Society, Johnson County Iris and Daylily Society and the Lone Star Iris Society since we all share similar climate and growing conditions. Please submit your choices at the next Club meeting and we will try and have the results tabulated to be distributed by the March meetings. Remember, the more input we receive the more accurate and valuable the results, so please participate.

Please use the following guidelines in making your selections:

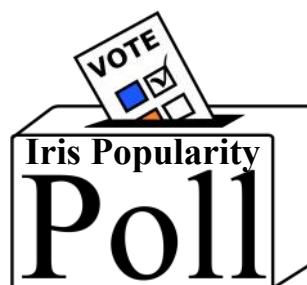
- \* List only plants that you currently or have grown recently in YOUR garden.
- \* Top criteria should be the "vigor" and overall desirability of the plant itself.
- \* Include factors such as: dependability of bloom, average number of blooms, rebloom, disease resistance, and ability to increase. The plant should satisfy all the AIS standards for its type (ie, Tall Bearded, IB, BB etc.) and be capable of producing "show" stalks.
- \* The blossom should be distinctive and appealing. Give extra credit for "wow" factor.

List your top 5 on a piece of paper

and bring it to a meeting, e-mail it to me at [dannydayle@yahoo.com](mailto:dannydayle@yahoo.com), or call me with your 5 picks-254-854-2558.

My top five picks are: (list at least one but a maximum of 5)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_





## November Rebloomer Auction



### **CHARTERED COURSE** (Kerr, 2005)

TB, 36" (91 cm), M & RE. S. and style arms light blue-lavender; F. medium red-purple, brown haft markings; beard bases white, hairs tipped red orange; slight sweet fragrance. Donated by Michael Lowe, bid won by Linda Roper.



### **ECHO LOCATION** (Wilkerson, 2007)

TB, 34" (86 cm), EM & RE. S. pale yellow; F. pale yellow, brown haft lines, faint brown line on bottom when first open; beards white tipped bright yellow; slight fragrance. Donated by Dan & Peggy Cathey, bid won by Frank & B.J. Wheeler.



### **LEST WE FORGET** (Sutton, 2008)

TB, 37" (94 cm), EML & RE. S. guardsman red; style arms same, touch of yellow; F. blended, hint of yellow wash; beards gold; ruffled; slight spicy fragrance. HM 2012. Donated by Glenn Huddleston, bid won by Linda Roper.



### **MARTY RICHARDS** (Byers, 1991)

TB, 34" (86 cm), VE-VL & RES. violet fading to, lighter at base, faintly marked at base in spring, markedly dark purple on winter bloom; style arms violet fading to pale violet at base; F. purple violet darker than, lighter area near beard, inconspicuous veining on hafts in spring, darker purple on winter bloom; beards violet blue at end, in middle, yellow orange in throat; slight sweet fragrance; foliage twists slightly. HM 2007. Donated by Michael Lowe, bid won by Dan & Peggy Cathey.



### **MY GENERATION** (Kerr, 2005)

TB, 34" (86 cm), EML & RE. S. white base, solid aster violet top, lighter aster violet lines throughout; style arms aster violet; F. white ground, aster violet lines throughout, lines more solid at end of petal, thin white rim; beards hyacinth blue at end, indian yellow in throat; ruffled; pronounced sweet fragrance. HM 2012. Donated by Dan & Peggy Cathey, bid won by Bill Calhoon.



### **PLEASANT PEASANT** (Stanek, 2005)

TB, 34" (86 cm), EML & RE. Deep yellow gold self; beards same; slight spicy fragrance. Donated by Dan & Peggy Cathey, bid won by Frank & B.J. Wheeler.



### **START YOUR DAY** (Kerr, 2004)

TB, 36" (91 cm), MS. white, center blue; style arms white, blue stigmatic lip; F. white; beards white, yellow in throat; slight musky fragrance. Donated by Michael Lowe, bid won by Frances Peterson.



### **SUMER FANTASY** (Brown, 1965)

TB, 36" (91 cm), Re. S light yellow, flushed red; F white, faint lavender-red veins, faint lavender stitching border; orange beard; yellow styles flushed brown. Donated by Michael Lowe, bid won by Frances Peterson.



### **TENDERLY** (Nearpass, 2000)

TB, 36" (91 cm), EM & RES. ivory white, inner pink infusion, base peach; style arms ivory white; F. ivory white, central area light yellow veined peach pink, light pink border; beards tangerine, base white; lightly ruffled, flared. Donated by Michael Lowe, bid won by Linda Barnard.



### **YOSEMITE STAR** (Suton, 2004)

TB, 36" (91 cm), ML & RE. S. violet blue, blended wistaria blue; style arms violet blue; F. violet blue blended wistaria blue, white blaze surrounding beard; beards white at end, yellow, to yellow orange in throat; ruffled; slight sweet fragrance. Donated by Glenn Huddleston, bid won by Dan & Peggy Cathey.

# 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**

**Dan Cathey, President  
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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 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**



**April 9, 2017  
Gardener's Gathering  
Carleen Bright Arboretum**



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## Real Gardeners (author unknown)

*Real Gardeners buy at least ten thousand plants in the course of a lifetime without having the least idea of where they will put any of them when they get home.*