



Waco Iris Society News

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



2016 Dykes Medal Winner

Volume 9, Issue 5

An affiliate of the American Iris Society

April 2017

Big Waco Iris Society Happenings in April

Gardeners Gathering

April 2, 2017, 1:00—4:00 p.m.
Carleen Bright Arboretum
9001 Bosque Blvd, Woodway

Once again, Waco Iris Society will have a booth at the Gardeners Gathering, an annual event hosted by the Woodway Beautiful Commission. We will have potted irises for sale and will be handing out flyers about our show the following Saturday. Any member who would like to bring plants for the sale please send a list of which irises you will be bringing to Peggy (254-854-2558 or wacoiriss@gmail.com) by Thursday, March 30, so we will have photos available for display with the plants. Please have your plants at the garden between 11:00 and 12:15. The event opens to the public at 1:00. This is always a fun event with several vendors available with plants, garden décor, food and much more. The event takes place in the parking lot. If the weather is threatening rain, the event will be moved inside the Great Hall of *The Pavillion*, 1 Pavillion Way, Woodway. **Gardeners Gathering** is FREE for everyone!

Check out the Waco Iris Society on Facebook for a preview of irises for sale. www.facebook.com/WacoIrisSociety/

WIS Iris Show & Sale

April 8, 2017, 1:00—4:00 p.m.
Hampton Inn & Suites, South
2501 Marketplace Dr., Waco
(directly behind Khols)

Our show location has moved. Please join us at our new location in the *Bluebonnet Room* of the *Hampton Inn* located in the middle of *Marketplace Mall*. The show is FREE and open to the public from 1:00-4:00. Anyone planning to enter irises for the show should arrive between 8:00 and 9:45 a.m. so entries will be in place by 10:00 before the judging begins. You do not have to be a member of the Waco Iris Society to enter, and there is no entry fee. Only requirements are the iris must be a named variety and should be displayed in a green bottle or vase. A copy of the Show Schedule with show rules may be found here: <http://www.kenfuchs42.net/Waco/2017%20Waco%20Iris%20Society%20Show%20Schedule.pdf> Entry tags will be available for those who did not get any at our March 18th meeting. Following is a list of who has signed up to make an Artistic Design. There are still some spots available, so please let Ken Anderson know if you will be willing to fill one of these spots.

Class 1. *Flaming Red & Orange*

1. Dan Cathey
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Class 2. *Glittering Gold & Yellow*

1. Frances Peterson
2. Peggy Cathey
3. Ken Anderson
4. _____

Class 3. *Anything Goes with Green* (Novice-never won a blue ribbon)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Class 4: *Brilliant Blue & Passionate Purple*

1. Jean Richardson
2. Ken Anderson
3. Peggy Cathey
4. _____

Please give Ken Anderson a call if you can fill one of these empty spaces (254-223-3161).

We will once again be offering potted irises for sale at our show. The sale will be set up in the *Longhorn Room*, adjacent to the show. The sale will be open during the same hours—1:00-4:00, as the show. Please send your plant list to Peggy so photos will be available.





President's Message by Dan Cathey

We are entering our busiest time of year as Iris growers and exhibitors. I hope that everyone got a nice rain last week as some moisture was sorely needed. We got eight tenths here at the house which was enough for all our plants to have a good drink with almost zero runoff.

We voted at our meeting to participate in the Gardeners Gathering on Sunday, April 2nd. If you have never attended this annual event it is an interesting and fun way to get into the Spring spirit. This year, the Gathering is a week prior to our Show so it will be a really great opportunity to let the Waco area community know about our Show. We will be handing out flyers and inviting folks to come and see the beauty and variety that the iris has to offer. We will also be having a plant sale at the event so bring your best stuff (*but not everything, we will*



need plants for the Show sale as well). Please let Peggy know as quickly as possible or by Thursday at the latest and she will try and have photos available for your plants. If you have some iris blooming you might want to bring a few in a vase to help say who we are and what we are doing. We will also have plant markers available for sale.

If you are bringing plants you can drive into the garden to drop off but all vehicles must be out no later than 12:15. If you just have a few items it is probably easier and simpler to carry in on foot. The City of Woodway provides one table and one chair so you will need to bring your own chair if you desire to sit. An extra table would be welcome also but the spaces are of limited size so let me know in advance so I can coordinate. Normal attendance is around one thousand so it is a wonderful chance for our Club to gain recognition. The Event is held outside in the botanic garden but will be moved inside in the event of bad weather.

The Garden is located at the intersection of Estates Drive and Bosque Blvd in Woodway. Parking

is available across from the Garden at the City Offices lot. The Gathering is open to the public from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. If you are willing to help out at our booth we will start setting up at 11 a.m. but you can join us at anytime to greet visitors and promote the Club and Show. There is no charge for admission or parking. I hope to see you there!

We discussed publication of the meeting minutes in the newsletter instead of a reading during the meeting. It was approved to make this change but I would like to get everyone's input. We can eliminate the reading altogether or publish and read as well. Please let me know your thoughts. We also discussed changing the formal roll call to a sign-in sheet. The members seemed to be pretty evenly divided on this issue so we tabled it for the time being. Just a thought, the roll call doesn't take much time and it provides the newer members, and the older members as well, with the opportunity to put a face with a name. Here again, let me know what you think. Both of these items are to be done verbally as part of our by-laws so to make the changes permanent we will need to amend those parts.

It's Time to Celebrate Color by Ken Anderson

I just wanted to take this opportunity to remind all our club members that the theme of our show this year is "A Celebration of Color". I hope you will consider signing up for our artistic division. We have open slots in all four categories. Remember, Category III is designated as our novice category. So if you have never won a blue ribbon for an artistic design, be sure to give some consideration to submitting an entry. Remember, the novice category is *Anything Goes With Green*.

I am anticipating that we will have a very good show. A number of my irises are already blooming but there are many that look very healthy but are not showing any bloom stalks at all yet. That is a good thing because

they might pop up this week, arriving just in time for the show. According to Glenn Huddleston, start checking all bloomstalks that are 12 inches tall or taller ten days before the show. These are the ones that have time to mature and bloom in time for the show. That means check your stalks March 30th. I will be checking his theory very closely this year. I am hopeful his expert observations are correct!

The information given about keeping a list of iris and the date on which they bloom given during our program was a great suggestion. I have done this with daylilies but had never kept a chart for the iris. Not only are the bloom times different but it seems that the length of bloom

time varies. In trying to update my chart, I noticed two more varieties today that had not bloomed before this season. However, I do not have a large garden. I am sure that some of you who have hundreds of varieties would almost need secretarial assistance!

Enjoy the season!
Everything is bursting with color. I look forward to seeing all of you at our show.



Preston Floyd



Minutes of March Meeting by Bill Calhoon, Secretary

Meeting Minutes - March 18, 2017
[Meeting held at the Crestview Church of Christ Community Center]

President Dan Cathey called the meeting to order at 10:13 a.m. and welcomed attending members and guests. Seventeen (17) members and one guest, Mr. Don Peterson, were in attendance. Mitchell Whitley reported that Ms. Sherie Clarkson of Mason, Texas, had joined the club by mail. Welcome Sherie!

Bill Calhoon conducted the Roll Call, after which Peggy Cathey provided an update on Bob Alexander. Bill then read the minutes from the January 21, 2017, meeting. After receiving no additions or corrections from the floor, Dan declared the minutes to stand approved as read.

Dan then introduced for discussion the option of printing the meeting minutes in the WIS newsletter to allow members to read them before the meeting, rather than reading them aloud during the meeting. Some of the benefits discussed by members included reducing time taken during the meetings and being better able to more thoroughly review the information and the provide additions or corrections at the next meeting. Ken Fuchs added that since the newsletters are archived on the club website, minutes from previous meetings could easily be referenced when needed. Since members who do not use electronic communications receive a printed version of the newsletter, all members would have access to the printed minutes. Preston Floyd moved that the Waco Iris Society Meeting Minutes be included in the newsletters and not read aloud at the meetings; Phil Nacke seconded the motion which carried unanimously. Since the Club Bylaws state that minutes will be read at the meetings, an addendum will be made to the bylaws.

Phil then asked about the need for conducting Roll Call. Several mem-

bers added that other clubs in which they are members (Johnson County, Austin & Belton) use a sign-in sheet for tracking attendance. Several members preferred having the roll called aloud as it helped them associate names with attending members. It was agreed that conducting Roll Call will continue as is.

Mitchell Whitley gave the Treasurer's Report. Account balance as of February 9 was \$10,693.47, which does not include the balance of the PayPal account. Mitchell also requested that members who have reimbursements either bring the receipts to him at a meeting or mail them to him in a timely manner so he does not have to go back and research whether reimbursements have been made. Dan inquired about the check for the donation to the Iris Society of Dallas for support of the 2017 Region 17 Meeting in August. After receiving no additions or corrections from the floor, Dan declared the Treasurer's Report to stand approved as read.

Bill conducted the AIS Membership Drawing which was won by Preston Floyd.

Turning to old business, Dan reported that he had stopped by the offices of the storage units next to GreenLife Nursery during their posted business hours to inquire about the location of the 2017 Annual Rhizome Sale but was unable to make contact with the owners.

Show Chair Ken Anderson distributed fliers to post announcing the 2017 Iris Show. Ken also circulated the sign-up sheet for Artistic Display categories and had bundles of entry cards and entry forms available. Peggy will bring copies of the updated WIS Membership brochure/form as well as a "How to Plant Iris" handout to the Show. Ken then asked for feedback on the possibility of purchasing an advertisement in the Gatesville newspaper. Following discussion, Mitchell Whitley moved that Ken be reimbursed for the cost of an advertise-

ment in the Gatesville newspaper. Phil asked about the possibility of setting a budget for advertising. Michael Lowe announced that he would post fliers at the Marketplace and will also ask about posting at the Magnolia Market Silos location. B.J. Wheeler asked about being included in local television listings of coming events; Dan suggested that B.J. contact the television station about this possibility. Preston offered to check with the Marketplace regarding options for directional signage for the show. Following this additional discussion, Dan clarified that Ken would be within the parameters of his role as Show Chair to make decisions on advertising as a show expense as part of the show budget and therefore a motion to approve the action was unnecessary.

During the discussion regarding the Iris Show publicity, it was announced that the date for the annual Gardeners Gathering at Carleen Bright Arboretum had been changed. Peggy clarified that the gathering will be held on Sunday, April 2, which is the weekend before the Show (in previous years it had been held the Sunday immediately following our annual Iris Show). Following discussion about WIS participation in the event (for which there is no cost) and the need for people to help, Linda Barnard moved that the Waco Iris Society participate in this year's Gardeners Gathering; Peggy Cathey seconded and the motion carried.

Dan then suggested a break for refreshments and thanked Preston for organizing the hospitality and thanked members for contributing.

Following the break, Dan reported that he had been exploring possible programs with a focus on topics that would be helpful to newer members. Dan referenced a recent presentation that Dell Perry had made to the Johnson County Iris and Daylily Society on "How to Keep Track of Your Garden" and distributed copies of the (cont.)

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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mail address to:

Waco Iris Society Membership
P. O. Box 21921,
Waco, TX 76702-1931

MARK THESE DATES



-  April 2, 2017
Gardener's Gathering
Carleen Bright Arboretum
-  April 8, 2017
WIS Iris Show
Hampton Inn & Suites, South
-  May 20, 2017
WIS Annual "End of Year Luncheon"
Vegas Buffett (Valley Mills @ Waco Dr.)
-  May 23-27, 2017
AIS National Convention
Des Moines, IA
-  August 4-5, 2017
AIS Region 17 Meeting
Dallas, TX
-  September 16, 2017
WIS Meeting, Annual Iris Giveaway, Exchange &
Auction

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We're on the Web:

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

WIS Minutes (cont.)

handout she provided to JCI&DS members. Dan also distributed copies of the compiled results of the 2017 "Texas All-Star Iris" poll (which were also included in the last newsletter). Mitchell commented that he learned Barry Blyth (Tempo Two Iris in Australia) will no longer be selling irises. Linda Roper asked if there was a list of Iris retailers and hybridizers available.

Returning to the topic of tracking the iris in your garden, Dan recommended that members map their gardens using a system that makes sense to them. Mapping ensures that you still have a way of identifying your iris even if labels are lost or

moved. Dan also shared that for those interested in computer database options, the Plant Step software package is a useful tool. <http://plantstep.com/>

Dan reported that he could ask Dell Perry to give her program at one of the WIS meetings for a fee of \$100 and opened the topic for discussion. It was agreed that this would be a good program to provide so Dan will coordinate with Dell on her availability. (Later, during her program on Show Prep, Peggy indicated that Dell also has a Judge's Training program regarding show judging. It was suggested that we consider having combining the two, holding the Garden Tracking pro-

gram in the morning and the Judge's Training following lunch.)

Dan then turned the floor over to Peggy who presented a helpful program on Show Preparation, including options for presenting, stabilizing and grooming horticultural entries along with a worksheet on how to correctly fill out the entry cards. (Following adjournment of the meeting, Peggy also provided a tutorial on how to create Artistic Designs for those interested members.)

The meeting was concluded and adjourned at 12:08 p.m.

Submitted respectfully,
William R. Calhoon
Secretary, Waco Iris Society