



# Waco Iris Society News

Website: [http://www.kenfuchs42.net/waco\\_index.html](http://www.kenfuchs42.net/waco_index.html) E-mail: [wacoiriss@gmail.com](mailto:wacoiriss@gmail.com)



Montmartre

2017 Dykes  
Medal Winner

Volume 10, Issue 4

An affiliate of the American Iris Society

March, 2018

## Presidents Message by Dan Cathey

The Waco Iris Society will meet again on March 17, beginning at 10:00 a.m. We meet at the Crestview Church of Christ Community Center, 7129 Delhi Rd. (Sanger changes to Delhi past Providence Hospital). Everyone is invited to attend. We will have our member, Ken Fuchs, presenting his program on the 2017 AIS National Convention held in Des Moines, IA. See Ken's program comments on page 2.

I want to say "Spring has sprung" and I for one am ready to put Winter to bed, but I am mindful of several late freezes that could still be a problem this year. The weather service says that March 15th is the last "average" frost date for this area but the wisdom of those in the know say "wait until after Easter" which is more the theory to which I subscribe. I can remember a couple of freezes well after Easter but I guess you have to throw caution to the wind at some point, after all, this is Texas.

We have some upcoming dates that are of interest: The Region 17 Meeting August 3-4 in Cleburne, the AIS National Convention April 8-14 in New Orleans, LA, and of course our annual Club Iris Show on April 7th. If you need information on any of these, please let me know and I will make that available to you.

Since our show is coming up very quickly, please be mindful that those weeds in your iris beds are not only a source of distraction but are a real detriment to having those "show" blooms next month. Weeds steal the nutrients, moisture, and sunlight that the iris need to thrive so let's get out there and get rid of them, the sooner the better.

Hopefully, you got your iris fertilization done the middle of February but if not, go ahead and do it as soon as possible. Like weeding, this will help reward you with stronger plants and more blooms this Spring. For those of us that



have daylilies, mid-March is the target date for fertilizing those. Also, if you haven't done your pre-emergent treatment this Spring, now is the time; remember it has to be done BEFORE the weed seeds start to germinate.

In case you missed it in the Region 17 Newsletter, Waco Iris Society is a Silver Medal Club with 75% plus



Region 17 Silver Medal Club  
75% of members must be AIS members

membership in AIS so congratulations on that! Anytime you have a club question, an iris question, or a comment, please email me at [dannydayle@yahoo.com](mailto:dannydayle@yahoo.com) or phone me at 254-854-2558. I may not have the answer right off but I will find out and get back, promise.

## New Orleans Convention Tours Nearly Sold Out by Paul Gossett



We're so very happy with the enthusiasm demonstrated by both AIS and SLI members as shown by their early registration for the 2018 Convention in New Orleans -- we are thrilled beyond measure, but unfortunately we have -- almost -- reached a point that we're having to stop selling garden tour tickets.

Some of the gardens tours have space limitations for the number of

buses they can handle at a time, and some also have space limitations for the number of people that can be accommodated for lunch. We will start a waiting list once the garden tours have reached their limit, and will allow people to register for garden tours if cancellations are received by the registrar. Those affected will be notified immediately.

We are sorry for the inconvenience, but we had to limit (continued pg. 4)



## 2017 AIS Convention Highlights: *Rhythm of the Prairie* by Ken Fuchs

The 2017 Convention began on Tuesday with reduced Board meetings, and the Silent Auction opened that evening. As usual, on Wednesday many different section meetings were held and there was also a very limited Simulated Iris Show with examples of the different types of irises. Section meetings included those for the Japanese, Louisiana, Reblooming, Novelty, spuria, and Tall Bearded Iris Societies.

Wednesday evening we were treated to a Welcome Reception at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden. The main structure at the



GDMBG is a beautiful conservatory inside an enormous geodesic dome. A tropical paradise enchanted us as we wandered the trails before attending the reception. Afterward, we strolled around a large oval-shaped garden behind the main building. It was surrounded by a large wall, and between the walkway on the outside of the wall itself were hundreds of irises in full bloom, grouped in different large clumps of identical cultivars. It was a breath-taking feast for the eyes.

There were only two days of bus tours. On Thursday, our first stop

was the Brad Collins Garden located



in a multi-acre field in rural Iowa, southwest of Des Moines in Madison County. The irises were in two very long rows. There wasn't a lot of bloom, and mixed in with the guest irises were many seedlings. Garden judging classes were held there.

The Guest Iris Beds at the Botanical Garden were located in a fairly small area along the Des Moines River. There were lots of blooms, but sadly, all of the beardless irises had been neglected, and there were a couple dozen name tags for Louisiana irises clumped together in a bare patch. Nearby were a couple more name tags including Jim Landers' *Lady of Lometa*.

On Friday, our first stop was the Wayne and Pam Messer Garden. It



was a massive private garden extending on three sides of their house. The property was sloping and large

clumps of blue Siberian irises greeted us as we got off the bus and walked up the driveway, enjoying the many blooms along the fence line and much more beside the house in the backyard.

Our second stop was Kris and Tom Jurik's garden located on a hillside just north of Ames, Iowa. The guest garden had numerous blooms for us to see. A rather steep switchback walkway led to the Juriks' own private garden located in a large open flat area below. It had long rows of enormous pink, red, yellow, and white peonies, with clumps of Siberian irises filling in the spaces in between. There were also more rows of tall bearded irises to keep everyone busy admiring and taking pictures.

At the Iowa Arboretum in Madrid,



in Boone County, over 400 guest bearded irises were on display. The blooms in the beds were spectacular. The first bed was in a circular design with double rows of irises. Several other beds had the same circular pattern. More beds were located along the pathways and there were convenient for viewing and very enjoyable.

## Hospitality Report by Preston Floyd



Club members are asked to help with refreshments for Saturday's meeting. Finger foods, chips, dips and other yummy contributions would be appreciated. Coffee and drinks will be provided.

May will be our end of club year luncheon. Looking for ideas.

**Plant Markers  
25 for \$8.00  
will be  
available at  
the meeting**







## It's Show Time by Ken Anderson, Show Chair

Greetings to all my fellow Waco Iris Society members! Well, it is soon "show time". The days are getting longer and the trees are budding out. Some people have bloom stalks and even a bloom here and there showing up in their yards. I have not seen any bloom stalks in my yard but Preston has an iris that will be blooming today or tomorrow for sure. I saw a yard just a few miles east of here in South Mountain that had many bloom stalks popping up. So by next week I am sure everyone will have signs of blooms if not blooms appearing.

I hope everyone will have something to bring to the show. Of course everyone likes to win blue ribbons but please keep in mind that many people come to see color. You might not have the most perfect flower to show but it might be the one that really appeals to a visitor.

As I say every year, the show serves many purposes and one of those purposes is for the pure visual pleasure of all the colors and forms of iris. Also, please remember that we will be having a table for "Display Only" that will be for anything unknown or any other iris you wish to exhibit but not have judged.

I know we have many spots open in all of our categories for the Artistic Division of our show. Please give serious consideration to creating a design. The



artistic section really adds to the show and people enjoy viewing those displays also. Remember, our theme this year is "Irises and Childhood Memories". Category I



is Children's Songs, Category II is Fairy Tales, Category III is Nursery Rhymes, and Category IV is Saturday Morning Cartoons (Novice). The sign-up sheet will be passed around at the meeting so please be giving these categories some thought. It will be quite easy to find accessories to use with the design of your choice.

I am looking forward to a great show this year. I think the quality and number of our irises will be much greater than last year since we had a colder winter. I encourage all members to do whatever they can to help make this year's show a great success.

## Waco Iris Society Meeting Minutes by Bill Calhoon, Secretary

Saturday, January 20, 2018  
Meeting held at Crestview Church of Christ Community Center

Club President Dan Cathey called the meeting to order at 10:18 a.m. Eleven members and two guests were present at the meeting.

Secretary Bill Calhoon conducted Roll Call. The minutes of the November, 2017 meeting were published in the WIS Newsletter. After receiving no additions or corrections from the floor, Dan declared the minutes approved as published.

Treasurer Mitchell Whitley then presented the Treasurer's Report. The account balance as of January 12 was \$10,512.46. After receiving no additions or corrections from the floor, Frances Peterson moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented; Michael Lowe seconded; the motion carried.

Peggy Cathey gave an update on the

2018 Iris Show on behalf of Show Chair, Ken Anderson. Peggy circulated a sign-up sheet for Show Committee spots as well as the sign-up sheet for Artistic Designs. It was reported that the hotel at which the show is to be held has changed ownership. Mitchell Whitley reported that he will be going by the hotel to sign the contract.

Peggy then gave an update on Region 17. The Johnson County Iris and Daylily Society will be hosting the 2018 Region 17 Annual Meeting in Cleburne on August 3rd and 4th. The meeting will be held at the Hampton Inn at Cleburne. Featured speaker will be Anna Cadd, who will also offer a Judges Training class on Spurias. Registration for the meeting is \$65 if paid by June 3rd.

Members were reminded of the WIS sponsored Judges Training scheduled for Saturday, February 17 on

the topic of "Are These Really Rules?" to be given by Dell Perry. Club members were asked to help with light refreshments for the training.

Dan opened the floor to any other Business; no new business was introduced. Dan then reminded members that AIS 2018 Calendars are still available (\$7 each) as well as Plant Markers (Club Member price \$8 for a bundle of 25 markers).

Bill then conducted the AIS Membership Drawing which was won by Linda Roper.

Before breaking for refreshments, Dan reminded Club members that even during cold weather like we have been experiencing, it is important to monitor soil moisture. The cold weather shouldn't hurt irises, but they still need some moisture. Mitchell reminded about the importance of clearing dead leaves



## January WIS Minutes (cont.)

and debris away from the rhizomes. Dan also reminded about the importance of fertilization (around Valentine's Day) to encourage Spring bloom.

Following a break for refreshments,

Dell Perry of Plano gave an informative program on "How to Keep Track of Your Garden" with examples of "what" to record and "how" to record it, as well as multiple reasons as to "why" it can be

helpful.

Meeting was adjourned following the program.

Submitted respectfully,

Bill Calhoun

## Waco Judges Training by Tracey Rogers (Austin Iris Society)

Fourteen iris lovers from the Belton, Austin, Johnson County, and Waco clubs attended the judges training on Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup> hosted by the Waco Iris Society.

Dell Perry, the Region 17 newsletter editor conducted the training on the topic: *Are these Really the Rules?* She addressed misconceptions that are commonly thought of as rules by both exhibitors and judges but are really pretender rules — rules that are commonly applied but may be being misapplied if they are even actually AIS rules.

Pretender rules include personal prejudices such as "I don't like bro-



ken color irises," sparse details in handbook, misconceptions, applied common sense, 'that's how it has always been done,' taught by another

judge, and rules that differ by area, region or affiliate club.

One of the biggest points I came away with is Dell's suggestion for judges to read the Handbook from cover to cover just before show season starts as a refresher. You can't remember everything. I would suggest that show chairs read it too before reviewing or revising a show schedule. Many rule issues that aren't clear in the Judges Handbook can be addressed in the show schedule.

While all judges training classes are informative, I would recommend that everyone attend this class as it reveals a lot of assumptions iris growers make about rules for judging that just aren't the case, or in other words they aren't rules, but are pretender rules. Examples of assumptions that aren't rules include faulting crinkled leaves, and paper spathes should always or never be trimmed. Crinkling is weather related and is normal in Louisiana irises. Detectable trimming is mentioned in the Handbook, but it isn't banned.

One topic that frequently comes up in our show is whether to wipe the stalks or not. The Handbook states

under "Cleanliness" — 'The stalk, flower and blossoms should be clean with no dirt, dust or spray residues. Slight smudges or fingerprints on the stalks demand little penalty and are easily removed when the exhibitor gently wipes the stalk with a soft tissue.' This is an example of a custom or show rule, so put the rule in the show schedule to determine if wiping is allowed.

Hopefully a lot of the points raised by Dell will be addressed whenever the new Judges Handbook comes out.

### More on Judges Training

By Karen Singletary, Johnson County Iris & Daylily Society

For those folks who did not make it to the Judges Training in Waco on Feb 17, you missed out on a good learning experience and some good entertainment. Remember you don't have to be in training to be a judge to attend a class. Anyone can go and learn something new about iris, the organization and the people running the organization. It all works together.

## New Orleans Convention (cont.)

the number of people that can attend each of the garden tours per the above reasons. We hope you understand, and that you will continue to make plans to attend the Convention; you won't want to miss many of the other important scheduled events that are other-than garden tours.

Also, New Orleans is a very beautiful city and is celebrating its 300th Anniversary this year; there's lots to do in and around, and if you're in town, there will be many activities attached to this celebration that you may want to take part of.

You may download the registration form here:

<http://nebulaweb.com/627bb4af059a2f193fae293f605fccf1?AccessKeyId=5379E1207826C0375BAA&disposition=0&alloworigin=1>

Waco Iris Society

An Affiliate of the American Iris Society

presents the 2018 Annual

# Iris Show



*Irises and Childhood Memories*

**Saturday, April 7, 2018**

**La Quinta Inn & Suites Woodway-Waco South  
6003 Woodway Dr., Waco 76712 (near Providence)**

**Open to Public 1-4 p.m.**

**FREE ADMISSION**

**\*\*\*\*\***

**FREE PARKING**





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

Peggy Cathey, Newsletter Editor

[wacoiriss@gmail.com](mailto:wacoiriss@gmail.com)

Join WIS 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:

Mitchell Whitley, Treasurer  
812 Dayton  
Waco, TX 76706



March 17, 2018 10 a.m.

2017 AIS Convention Highlights—Ken Fuchs  
Crestview Church of Christ Community Center



April 7, 2018

Annual Iris Show

LaQuinta Inn & Suites, 6003 Woodway



April 8-14, 2018

American Iris Society National Convention  
New Orleans, LA.



May 19, 2018 2017

Annual End of Club Year Luncheon  
Time and place to be announced



August 3-4, 2018

Region 17 Annual Meeting  
Hampton Inn & Suites, Cleburne, TX

Check out our website:

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



[https://www.facebook.com/search/  
top/?q=waco%20iris%20society](https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=waco%20iris%20society)

## Word Search: *Region 17 Affiliates* by Peggy Cathey

Austin

Belton

Benson

Dallas

East Texas

Fort Worth

Johnson County

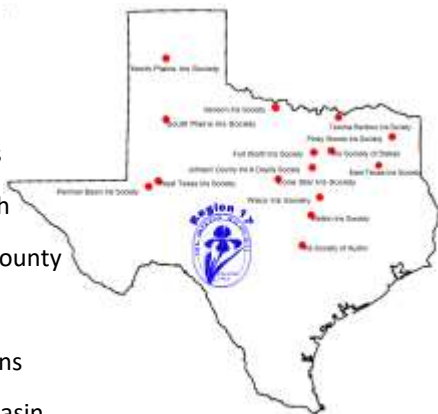
Lone Star

North Plains

Permian Basin

Piney Woods

South Plains



## Region 17 Affiliates

N	Y	A	M	W	R	F	O	T	W	E	S	T	T	E	X	A	S	A	N	F	U	K
B	V	K	L	D	R	K	P	Y	K	E	E	U	K	S	A	L	L	A	D	C	N	A
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G	E	C	K	N	U	T	X	A	A	Q	N	O	T	L	E	B	A	N	G	F	L	V