



# Waco Iris Society News



2019 Dykes Medal Winner

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

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## First meeting of the New Year

The Waco Iris Society will have our first meeting of 2021 on January 16th, 10:00 a.m., at the Crestview Church of Christ, 7129 Delhi, in Waco. We will continue with our webinar on the *History of the Amer-*

*ican Iris Society*, hosted by immediate past president of AIS, Gary White.

Waco Iris Society is very fortunate to have a great place to meet with plenty of room for social dis-

tancing. So many of our sister clubs don't have this and have had to go without meetings of have "virtual" meetings using ZOOM or some other type of online meeting program.

## Tribute to Hazel Haik by Peggy Cathey



Hazel Haik, Aug. 13, 1927-Nov. 26, 2020

Thanksgiving day, 2020, we lost one of our long term members. Hazel was a Waco Iris Society member

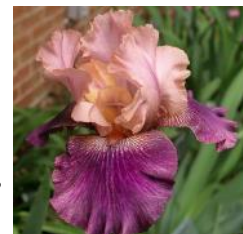
for nearly 50 years and she will be missed by everyone who knew her.. She joined the American Iris Society in January of 1972 and soon became an AIS Garden and Exhibition Judge and finally retired as a Master Judge. She loved to enter iris shows and won Best of Show 10 times, the Silver Medal for most blue ribbons 23 times and the Bronze Medal for 2nd most blue ribbon 3 times. Her passion was the design division of the shows. She won Best Design of Show 9 times and the Design Sweepstakes for most Blue Ribbons in the Design Division, 9 times.

Hazel was a great mentor to me

and taught me how to make winning Artistic Designs. After many failed attempts at show designs, I asked her to "show me". She did and I Won Best of Show that year. She was always willing to help me with accessories for my designs and always wanted to see photos when she became too ill to attend the shows. She told me many times, she wanted to enter just one more time. Sadly, she never got the chance.

*Hazel Haik*

(Hooker Nichols, 2007)





## November , 2021 Meeting Minutes by Ken Anderson

The Waco Iris Society held its regular meeting at the Crest View Church of Christ in Waco, Texas on November 21, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by the President Mitch Whitley.

**Roll Call:** Members present were Ken Anderson, Dan Cathey, Peggy Cathey, Ken Fuchs, Joyce Jones, Jim Landers, Michael Lowe, Don Peterson, Frances Peterson, Linda Roper, and Mitch Whitley.

**Secretary's Report:** The minutes of previous meeting had been made available to all members in the November newsletter. There were no additions or corrections to the minutes. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Mitch Whitley reported that as of Novem-

ber 10, 2020, the club's checking account had a balance of \$10,534.05.

**Old Business:** Comments were expressed regarding the success of the rhizome sale.

### New Business:

Plans for the upcoming show were briefly discussed. Artistic categories will remain the same as had been planned for the 2020 show. Members were given copies of the artistic divisions. The show theme was changed from "Texas Celebrates the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the American Iris Society" to "Texas Celebrates 101 Years of the American Iris Society". Show committee was verified.

Jim Landers reminded members to make note of any irises blooming

this fall. Members were asked to send the name of the iris to Jim for documentation purposes.

In the event the show could not be held this spring, Joyce Jones suggested having some type of virtual show.

**A.I.S. Drawing:** In the drawing for a one-year membership in AIS, Mitch Whitley's name was drawn.

Refreshments provided by various members were enjoyed prior to the program.

**Program:** Ken Fuchs presented the program. He provided a webinar video by Gary White, immediate past president of the American Iris Society, with part one of *Irises and AIS-The Early Years*.

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

## We're Only Weeks Away... by Dan Cathey

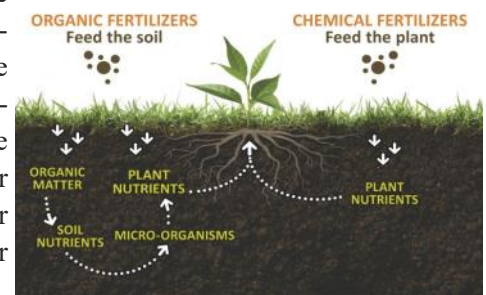
It's that time of year again - Spring iris fertilization time is rushing upon us in mid-February and a great way to remember to do that is Valentine's Day. Fertilizer should be applied as a side dressing about 6 weeks before bloom time (a major growth time) and again in October with an optional feeding at the end of the bloom cycle, usually around the middle of May. If you are using chemical fertilizer, be sure to select a blend that is "lower" in nitrogen ratio such as 10-20-10 or 13-13-13 N.P.K. (referring to Nitrogen, Phosphorous, and Potassium ratios of 1-2-1 or 1-1-1 expressed in terms of percentages of the total contents of the bag; 5-10-10, for



example, is 5% nitrogen, 10% phosphorus, and 10% potash) and remember that your irises need all of these ingredients to prosper. All fertilizer labels present these nutrients in that order so it is easy to see what you are getting. Some brands offer additional ingredients known as trace elements, which will also be listed on the label, and are mainly minerals in very small quantities. Since minerals are depleted over time in garden environments the addition of these trace elements may be beneficial and usually add very little to the cost of the product. A good rule of thumb for the application of chemical fertilizer to iris is 2 tablespoons of fertilizer

per rhizome distributed evenly around each. Avoid direct contact with your plants as much as possible. Never use any products that contain weed control as these will kill your iris!

If you use organic fertilizers almost any quality brand will suffice but try and select a product with an alfalfa base, one in which alfalfa is the first (major) ingredient as iris respond very well to alfalfa. An application rate of a "healthy handful" (about 1/3 cup) will work nicely but it is hard to over-(cont. pg. 3)





## Plans Are Being Made by Ken Anderson

Hello fellow iris lovers and fellow members of our club. I don't have to tell any of you what a challenging year it has been. As we grow older I think each of us has a new perspective on time and the value of each day. We can look back on 2020 and be glad it is behind us. But on the other hand, it is another small chunk of our lives that has been spent. Perhaps we did not get to spend it in the usual way or do some of the things we would have liked doing, but there were some good things in spite of Covid-19. I am hoping everyone has made it through that challenge. Even if you were one of the unfortunate ones to contract the virus, I hope you have been able to recover by now. Vaccinations have begun and hopefully we all will have had the opportunity to receive the vaccination by the time our show date rolls around.

Plans are being made to have our spring show at the usual time and

place. There was unanimous agreement that we would simply use the same theme as we had last year and just "tweak" the title of our show. We are still celebrating the fact that the American Iris Society has been in existence for one hundred years. We are just adding a year to our title since it is now 101 years. Presently the revisions are being made to various pages and will be sent in for approval within the next few days. There is a possibility that we could have approval by the time of our January meeting. In any event, there are only a few things that need to be revised or changed for the 2001 show. Show schedules will be distributed at the March meeting.

It has been my experience for many years that many of the irises in my yard look terrible in December. Sometimes it causes one to wonder if there will be anything there to produce a bloom stalk. However, by the time the end of January rolls around, there are positive signs that there has been a lot of

activity below the surface of our gardens. In the area where I live we have experienced a relatively dry fall. The summer was also very dry. Providing some supplemental water during the summer and early fall would probably have been beneficial. I think we are more likely to lose plants at this time of year because it quite often turns very dry. Just keep in mind that clumps that appear to have disappeared might come back in great abundance when the weather has cooled and a bit of moisture has been provided. In our area we have had quite a few very chilly nights. Frost has appeared many times during the past few weeks. This is always helpful.

I am looking forward to spring as usual and I am looking forward to our next meeting. I hope we can continue with our plans and that our show this year becomes a reality.

Looking forward to seeing you on Saturday, January 16, 2021.

## We're Only Weeks Away... by Dan Cathey (continued from page 2)



fertilize with organics. Alfalfa can also be supplied easily in the form of alfalfa pellets, this is pure alfalfa put into pellet form mainly for horse feed. DO NOT use rabbit feed which is mainly alfalfa but contains other ingredients such as salt which could be harmful to your iris. (The other "kind" of rabbit pellets, rabbit manure, is a wonderful fertilizer!) N.P.K. numbers are supplied on organic fertilizers just as on

chemical products but do not have the same importance since organics rely on decomposition via microorganisms to become viable, ie, feeding the soil not directly to the plants as with chemical products. Organic compost and aged manures supply very little nutrition (usually about 0.8-0.3-0.6) and should not really be thought of as fertilizers but more as amendments but are excellent soil conditioners and can be a very important part of your Spring program, supplying additional nutrients and minerals not found in fertilizers. Carefully work the fertilizer into the soil, remembering that iris-

es have shallow feeder roots that should not be disturbed.

Always water well, after side-dressing with fertilizer or amendments, as iris plants cannot use nutrients in solid form. Be certain that the fertilizers are not left to rest on the rhizome as this can lead to rot.

Also, if you need to start a new bed, right now is the perfect time to do it. Get your soil improvements, compost, manure, 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.



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**

**Mitchell Whitley, 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



-  January 16, 2021  
Crestview Church of Christ, Waco, TX
-  March 20, 2020  
Crestview Church of Christ, Waco, TX
-  April 10 2020  
Waco Iris Show  
(Location to be announced)

Check out our website:

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



<https://www.facebook.com/search/wacoirissociety>

## Help with Refreshments

Due to the current government restrictions placed on group meetings, all club refreshments must be in pre-packaged. Please help by bringing snacks and drinks for our refreshment table. Anyone who would like to make cookies, brownies, or even sandwiches, this is OK as long as they are pre-packaged in

sealed baggies. Nothing that would require plasticware or plates, however.



## Note from the Editor by Peggy Cathey

I want to thank Ken Anderson and Dan Cathey for their contributions to this month's newsletter. I have been ill since December 16 and rarely out of bed during this time (NOT Covid related). I have a lot of difficulty with bright light, so stay in the dark most of the time. The glare from the computer screen is really tough on me. But, in short bursts, I

think I have the newsletter done. A little later than I would have liked, and no Word Search Puzzle, but pertinent information about our club and our highly anticipated Iris Bloom Season.

On nice days, do what you can to clear away weeds from your irises before fertilizer time. You want to feed your flowers, not the weeds.

Well, I have sat here as long as I can stand. Time for me to get back in my cave. I am hoping I am on the downhill side of this and will be much better by meeting day.