



Waco Iris Society News

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An affiliate of the American Iris Society

January, 2023



Welcome to the new year and new opportunities for growing, showing, and sharing beautiful irises. The Waco Iris Society will kick off the new year with our first meeting of 2023 on January 21st at the

Crestview Church of Christ Community Center, 7129 Delhi Road beginning at 10:00 a.m. We will have a special speaker to tell us how to control common garden pests. We will discuss our April Iris Show and

potted iris sale, raffle with lots of fun plants and garden items donated by members, and enjoy plenty of goodies at the refreshment table.

President's Message—*Just Around the Corner ...by Ken Anderson*

For those of you who write letters, messages, or articles of any kind, I think you will agree that the hardest part of writing an article is composing that first sentence. I remember being taught that the introductory sentence of a paragraph should convey some sense of what the rest of the paragraph would be about. Well, I have thrown that rule out the window today. First of all, I hope you all enjoyed some wonderful times through the holidays and that 2023 brings great things for you. This article will hopefully remind you of the joy of gardening and what this time of year means for us.

If you have read anything I have written previously for our newsletter at this time of year, it is quite likely that you might have found a refer-

ence to January as being that time of year when we turn a corner. December is usually a busy time for preparing for the holidays. For many of us, we are setting up a Christmas tree, putting up outdoor lights, preparing special foods, buying gifts, or visiting relatives that we might see only at Christmas. The month of December seems to keep us busy whether we want to be or not. Exactly one week after Christmas, we ring in the new year. Perhaps for some people, this brings another time that becomes focused on social gatherings and family visits. Then the new year begins, and life returns to a more normal routine. That is when we “turn the corner” in more ways than one. We take down those old calendars and hang up the new ones. We put away

the Christmas decorations and possibly reorganize the closet. And for gardeners, one of the most typical things we do is take that stroll through our garden, regardless of how big or how small it is. There seems to be that sense of urgency to get out there and see what needs to be done. While all of these things have been going on, even the sun will let you know that we are “turning the corner.” Back in December, it was dark at 5:45 p.m., and the Christmas lights were on by that time. But now there is still enough daylight at 6:00 p.m. for you to be outside if you so choose. Yes! We have turned the corner.





Just Around the Corner (cont.)

On your walk through your garden, I am sure you will find many reminders of the hard freeze we had in December. While it is discouraging to see the loss of some plants that normally make it through a freeze, it is encouraging to note that the irises are already bouncing back. The ends of leaves that were green a



Freeze damage to spuria irises by the back fence

few weeks ago are now light brown or beige. The spuria irises in my yard were dealt quite a blow by the hard freeze. On the day the temperature began to drop dramatically, the clump of spuria irises by my backyard fence seen in the photo was deep green and off to a wonderful start for spring. The hard freeze changed all of that within a day's time. However, I have noted that this appears mostly on the older leaves. There are new leaves emerging. By the time spring rolls around, those older leaves will likely have been shed already. Surprisingly, the spuria irises emerging on the east side of the house suffered little or no damage. They were somewhat protected from that brutal wind. The oak and sycamore leaves from my neighbors' yards provided



Spurias on the east side of the house protected from the wind

an extra blanket of protection. Remember that our irises, especially the tall bearded ones, usually look rather pitiful in January, but February brings quite a change. By the middle of February, which is just a month away, we should see significant new growth. As new growth appears and Valentine's Day arrives, we are reminded that this is the time to provide a well-balanced fertilizer.

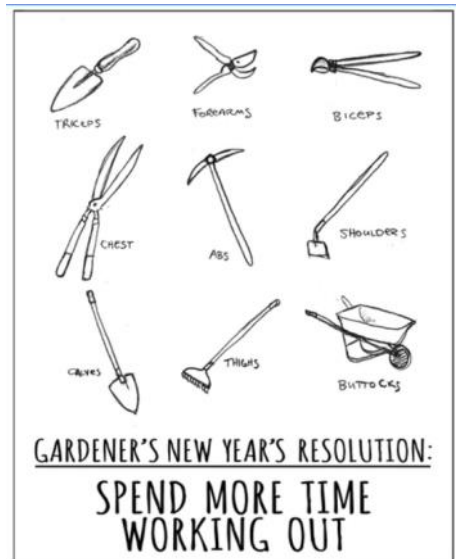
Last February, on Valentine's Day, I left for Illinois to retrieve some things that had been left for me by my sister. I brought back dozens of packets of pictures, some recent, some very old. During these cold days, I have been sorting through those packets. In one, I found a picture that I do not recall ever seeing before this past week. It



was of me, taken in May 1963. I wanted to share this photo because it is directly related to gardening. Of course, the first thing you might notice is that I was not overweight when I was sixteen years old. What I do want you to notice is the old farmhouse in the background. There was a screened porch just outside the kitchen door. On the corner, there was a honeysuckle vine that was there for as long as I can remember, and it was still there when we moved away in 1967. But the main thing I want you to see in the picture is the trellis on the right side of the door. I remember my dad brought home a bunch of strips of wood from a carpentry project where he had been working. They

were just the perfect thickness, width, and length for building a trellis. It is obvious that I did not do any exact measuring when I nailed all of this together. I guess in my planning, I knew the morning glory vines would completely cover my carpentry flaws. This picture caused me to reflect on a very simple time in my life. It is a great reminder that even at the age of 16, much of my spare time and energy was devoted to my passion for growing things. As we grow older, we are challenged by our aging bodies. Gardening demands that we move about, bend over, get down on our knees, shovel soil, push a wheelbarrow, carry heavy things, drag hoses, etc. You know the list just as well as I do! I am including this picture and sharing a time from my distant past to remind us all that gardening is a lifetime passion. Regardless of the physical challenges that some of you are experiencing, I hope you are reminded of the time when you first found a passion for growing plants and that you find a way to enjoy another glorious spring that is just a couple of months away. For those of you who are younger, I encourage you to make the most of your time to follow your passion for gardening. We can all agree it is a physically demanding hobby but certainly well worth the effort.

Happy Gardening in 2023!





Treasurer's Report by Peggy Cathey

At long last, the bank situation has finally been handled. Our attempt to change banks was shot down hard by lots of new government regulations about new accounts, so we will remain at Bank of America. Mobile banking will help a lot with deposits since the Waco branch of BOA is the closest one to me, which is just over 50 miles from where Dan and I live. Ken and I met at the Valley Mills BOA location in December and got all the necessary paperwork and new signature cards done, so we are all set. The club account is in really good shape, so no worries about putting on a great Iris Show in April. We should have all the expenses covered. Don't forget to bring your iris and garden related items for the club raffle. Plants are always good and go fast.

Checking Account	
Beginning bank balance Nov. 1, 2022	\$ 11,911.42
Income	
Dues	\$ 10.00
Raffle	\$ 55.00
AIS dues (Mitchell)	\$ 30.00
Expenses	
Hospitality	\$ (30.25)
AIS memberships	\$ (65.00)
Meeting room donation	\$ (25.00)
Ending bank balance Dec. 31, 2022	\$ 11,876.17
Petty Cash	
Total Petty Cash	\$ 100.50
Total club funds Dec. 31, 2022	\$ 11,976.67

2023 American Iris Society Convention

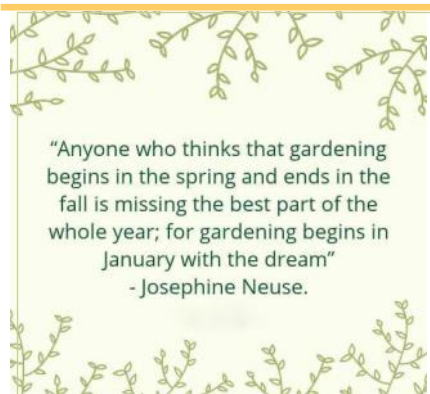


Please join us for the 2023 AIS Convention being hosted by the Iris Society of Dallas. The convention will be held April 12-16, 23. The host hotel will be the Courtyard By Marriott, 2200 Bass Pro Court, Grapevine, TX. A special room rate of \$139 per night is available for the convention. Ask for the "Iris Society of Dallas" rate.

Full Registration for the Convention is \$349. This includes the two days of garden tours including lunches, presentations on various iris related subjects, judges training sessions, the Welcome dinner, the Awards Brunch on Sunday, a Convention book, and goodie bag.

[CLICK HERE FOR REGISTRATION FORM](#)

It's DREAM TIME



Looking for beautiful irises to add to your garden or want to drool over beautiful iris photos? Here are just a few of our favorite growers and hybridizers:

Tom Burseen-write to him for a catalog-1513 Ernie Ln., Grand Prairie, TX

Hillcrest  Gardens

<https://www.hillcrestiris.com/>



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

 Mid-America Garden

<https://www.mid-americanagarden.com/>



<https://superstitioniris.com/>



<https://www.schreinersgardens.com/>

Sutton's
IRIS GARDENS

<https://www.suttoniris.com/>

Blue J Iris LC

<https://www.bluejiris.com/home-1>

Stout Gardens at Dancingtree

<https://www.stoutgardens.com/>

Comanche Acres Iris Garden

<https://www.comancheacresiris.com/>



Show Plans are Underway by Ken Anderson, Show Chair

As we begin the new year, it is time to give more thought to our upcoming show. I realize that with just barely a sign of some of our irises peeking out of the soil, it might be a little difficult to get our minds focused on our spring show, set for April 8, 2023. Just remember, time waits for no one. The days will turn into weeks, and the weeks into months. Before we know it, show time will be upon us.

Let me offer just a reminder of some of the details that have been addressed already. We do have judges for our show, and we do have a location reserved. The judges for the show will be Gordon and Happy Carver and Connie Ford. They have judged our show before. They were contacted early because finding judges becomes difficult as spring approaches. Thanks to Linda Roper for handling this task. The LaQuinta Inn & Suites is undergoing an extensive renovation and will not have completed all the work on the area of the facility where we have had our show for the past few years. We will be using the Hampton Inn on Marketplace Drive in Waco. We used that location a few times several years ago before we moved to LaQuinta. It will serve our purpose very well and at a very reasonable cost. A contract has been completed, and the staff at that location is happy that we are returning to their location for our show.

Our theme for the show is **Saluting Those Who Serve**. For those of you who are new to our club, the theme is particularly important to those members who plan to participate in the artistic division of the show. Specific details will be provided in the show schedule, and additional information will be provided at the March meeting, which will be devoted to show preparation. Also, if you are new to the club, you will probably have many questions

about how to exhibit irises or how to create an artistic design. There are a number of rules pertaining to each division, but members who have been doing this for a long time will gladly assist anyone with questions. It might seem a little overwhelming at first, but do not let that discourage you from participating. Once you have brought some entries for the horticultural division or have created a design for the artistic division, you will likely be hooked on these activities. There are five classes in the artistic division, with the fifth class being reserved for youth.

Class I: **Armed Services**



Class II: **Veterans**



Class III: **Men/Women in Blue**



Class IV: **First Responders**



Class V: **Medical Professionals** (for youth only)



A sheet for signing up for participation in the artistic division will be available at the January and March meetings. In addition, handouts will be available to provide some suggested ideas or ways to incorporate an accessory into your design.

As the days get longer and warmer, there is a tendency for all of us to start spending more time outdoors. Along with that time in our gardens, we begin to wonder what sort of bloom season we will have. I don't have to tell the experienced iris gardeners that the type of winter we have, the number of chilling nights we have, and the severity of a late freeze are just some of the things which can "make or break" spring iris shows. Last year we had a good show but had fewer entries than we usually have. Who knows what this year will bring?

Finally, I want to remind those of you who have potted irises to continue giving them a bit of TLC. If you potted them with a slow-release fertilizer in the middle of October, those nutrients are just about used up if it is labeled as a 90-day fertilizer. Be sure to give them a tiny bit of fertilizer within the next few weeks, especially if you are growing them in a medium with little or no natural soil. However, be sure it is a balanced fertilizer. Avoid too much nitrogen because this can sometimes cause rot. I am by no means an expert, but I am passing on information and advice I have received from other members. We are hoping to have a great sale as part of our spring show. Our potted iris sale has become increasingly popular with the public, and we have sold out completely in the last few years. We hope to have another successful event this year.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our meeting.



November 19, 2022 Meeting Minutes by Linda Roper, acting secretary



The November meeting of the Waco Iris Society was called to order by President Ken Anderson. Katrina Rieser was recognized as a new member. Thirteen members were present

Minutes were received by members online or by mail. Carol Lane accepted the minutes and Mary Keeth seconded.

Treasurer's report was presented by Treasurer Peggy Cathey with a balance of \$11,994.42. Linda Roper made the motion to accept the report and Dan Cathey seconded.

A.I.S. Drawing winner was Ken Anderson.

Club Raffle continued to be well received. Members support the raffle by bringing gardening items or plants to raffle. Members can buy tickets to have a chance of winning one of the items. All monies are deposited to the club treasury.

Old business: Discussion on the need to elect officers for Vice-

President and Secretary.

No decision was finalized at this time. In other old business, it was decided that members would bring their own drinks to the meetings.

New Business: Ken Anderson stated that a slate of officers for the 23-24 year needs to be presented at the January meeting. These officers will be elected by a majority vote of the membership present at the January meeting.

The venue for the Spring Iris Show (April 8, 2023) was discussed. La Quinta Inn & Suites Woodway, Waco South could not accept a contract due to renovations. Ken provided information on possibly changing the venue to Holiday Inn Express South. Peggy Cathey made the motion that a contract be signed with Holiday Inn Express South. Carol Lane seconded the motion.

Show Chairman Ken Anderson discussed the theme "Saluting Those Who Serve" for the 2023 Iris Show. The Artistic Division Classes for this theme were presented and

discussed. Artistic Division categories will be CLASS I: Armed Services; CLASS II: Veterans; CLASS III: Men/Women in Blue; CLASS IV; First Responders; and CLASS V: (YOUTH) Medical Professionals. The Sign-up Sheet was provided to members that were interested.

With no further business, the business portion of the meeting was adjourned and refreshments were served.

Program: Peggy Cathey presented a very informative program titled "Back-to-Basics - An Iris Refresher." Our club has many new members this year and such programs as this are very necessary for them as well as our other members.

Future Programs: Mitchell Whitley suggested a program on dealing with pests in the iris bed. Mary Keeth volunteered to present a program on preparing irises for the 2023 Spring Iris Show at the March meeting.

The November meeting adjourned at 12:10 pm.

My Favorite Iris by Peggy Cathey

I would like to start a new section to our Newsletter titled My Favorite Iris and I would like each of you to think about this and let us all know what iris is the favorite in your garden. You can either email, text or write it up and bring it to a meeting. If you are like me, this will probably change as each new variety opens. But, for now, I will start with my favorite (at this moment). This iris is the biggest clump in our garden. This iris was presented to me at the 2019 Region 17 Meeting (my last Meeting serving as the RVP) by it's hybridizer, our friend Tom Burseen. Tom had named the Iris 'Catheys Can' because he said Dan and I were always willing to do what was necessary to "get things done".



Catheys Can, (Burseen, 2020)

A Tall Bearded iris standing 36" tall. It is an Early to Late bloomer. The Standards and Style Arms are a pale violet-white and the Falls are violet with a lighter washed edge and ruffled. The Beards are tangerine. It has huge violet blended,

ruffled spoons and has a slight spicy fragrance.

Catheys Can is a 'Space-Age' iris, having the spoons at the ends of the beards and is considered part of the new Novelty Iris Class.

If you have a chance to grow this iris, I think you will agree that it is a great grower, putting on several new increases each year. We had numerous bloom stalks in 2022 and each had 8 or more buds, making it a very long blooming iris in the garden.

Now, it's your turn to tell us about your favorite iris.





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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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:

Peggy Cathey, Treasurer
1115 HCR 1414, Covington, TX 76636



January 21, 2023

Crestview Church of Christ Community Center, 10a.m.
Program TBD



March 18, 2023

Crestview Church of Christ Community Center, 10a.m.
Program TBD



April 8, 2023

Annual Iris Show and Potted Iris Sale
Location to be announced



April 12-16, 2023

American Iris Society Annual Convention
Grapevine, TX, hosted by the Iris Society of Dallas



May 20, 2023

End of Club Year Luncheon
Location to be announced

Check out our website:

www.kenfuchs42.net/waco_index.html



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

Word Search, by Peggy Cathey



New Face

(Paul Black, 2008)

TB, 36" (91 cm), EMLS. Medium blue-orchid centers blending to paler slate-violet on outer third; style arms pale mauve-pink crest to light violet ridge to cream edge; F. light rose wash, darker rose hafts, lighter rim, sanded warm white veins beside beards; beards white to lavender base, light orange in throat, white at end; ruffled; pronounced grape fragrance.

Word Bank

- | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. color | 11. dawn | 21. freedom | 31. horizon |
| 2. moon | 12. rules | 22. honey | 32. enchantment |
| 3. harmony | 13. creation | 23. challenge | 33. arrival |
| 4. direction | 14. face | 24. prospect | 34. beginning |
| 5. design | 15. hope | 25. order | 35. dimension |
| 6. spirit | 16. release | 26. discovery | 36. possibility |
| 7. glory | 17. cool | 27. vision | |
| 8. idea | 18. blood | 28. path | |
| 9. born | 19. love | 29. fangled | |
| 10. age | 20. century | 30. morning | |

Iris Names Beginning With NEW

Words can be found in any direction (including diagonals) and can overlap each other. Use the word bank below.

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