



# Waco Iris Society News



**Florentine Silk**  
2012 Dykes Medal Winner

Volume 5, Issue 2

An affiliate of the American Iris Society

November, 2012

## SOCIETY HAPPENINGS by Peggy Cathey

I am looking forward to seeing all our members at our meeting, this Saturday, November 17. We will meet at the Waco West Library, 5301 Bosque Blvd. and the meeting will begin as soon as we can get set up once they unlock the doors at 10:00 a.m.

### November Speaker

Bonnie Nichols will be our speaker this month with lots of information on what we can expect to see at the 2013 AIS Convention the Iris Society of Dallas will be hosting. She will have a slideshow of many of the 10 gardens that will be on tour during the 3 days of garden bus tours. Hope some of you will make plans to attend. It will be close to home, so that will cut down a lot on travel expenses. The convention will be held April 15-20, 2013. I will save the rest of the details for Bonnie's presentation.



going on, but that didn't stop our faithful followers from coming and stocking up of some beautiful irises. We had many, many varieties to choose from and we were able to show photos of nearly all the different varieties we had, which made the selection easier. Thank you to the members who provided iris rhizomes for the sale as well as everyone who came out and worked the sale.

### November Iris Giveaway & Auction

Members who attended the September meeting received 3 iris rhizomes from our Iris Giveaway. We received a lot of irises from our 3 suppliers, Paul Black & Tom Johnson of Mid-America Gardens, Rick Tasco of Superstition Gardens, and Joe Ghio of Bay View Gardens. Mitchell will have a report of how our auction went.

### Sunshine Report

We had 3 members, Michael, Hazel and Becky, who were unable to attend the September meeting because of illness or recovery from surgery. Hope they are feeling better and are able to join us on Saturday. Bob has been having a lot of pain in his back, so hope he is feeling better, also. Any time you know of a member who is not feeling well, please let me know so I can pass the information

on to all our members.

### 4 New Members!

The big news from our September meeting is the addition of four (4) new members! We have Kay Melvin of Waco, Sara Landsfeld of McGregor, Bill Calhoon of Meridian, and Phil Nacke of Meridian. A huge welcome to these new members.

### Our Wanderers Have Returned

I have talked to Ken Anderson and Preston Floyd and they have returned safely from their summer in the cool mountains of North Carolina. They frequently had to e-mail me to rub it in about the cool weather and all the rain they were getting. It will be good to see them again. Ken has been working on finding judges for our spring iris show and I am sure he will have some things to talk to us about to get us ready for April.

### September Sale

We had a great sale in September. Mitchell will have the sales figures for us at our meeting, but I can tell you it was a terrific turn-out for such a rainy day. I don't think the rain stopped the whole time the sale was

### September 2012 AIS Membership Drawing Winners



**Leroy & Naomi Nabors**





## History and Meaning of Iris by Samantha Green

With striking uniqueness and beauty, irises have rich meanings, and when given as gifts, they can convey deep sentiments. With nearly 300 species and thousands of varieties in a wide spectrum of colors, the iris, which fittingly takes its name from the Greek word for "rainbow," can be found in virtually every part of the world, growing both naturally and in farms and gardens.

The iris's history is rich, dating back to Ancient Greek times when the Greek Goddess Iris, the messenger of the gods and the personification of the rainbow, acted as the link between heaven and earth. Purple irises were planted over the graves of women to



summon the Goddess to guide the dead in their journey. Ancient Egyptian kings marveled in the iris's exotic nature, and drawings have been found of the flower in a number of Egyptian palaces. During the Middle Ages, the meaning of irises



became linked to the French monarchy, and the Fleur-de-lis eventually became the recognized national symbol of France.

From their earliest years, irises were used to make perfume and as a medicinal remedy. Today, they are primarily seen in gardens, in bouquets, and in the wild all over the world.

Through its intricate history, the meanings of the iris has come to include faith, hope, and wisdom. Depending on factors such as color and region, irises may bear additional meanings as well. In some parts of the world, the dark blue or purple iris can denote royalty,

whereas the yellow iris can be a symbol of passion. Irises may also express courage and admiration. The many meanings of the iris makes the flower a great choice for an array of gift giving occasions: corporate, sympathy, get well, "just because" and birthdays are just some of the occasions for which irises might be the perfect choice.

Today, the iris is the state flower of Tennessee, and the Fleur-de-lis is



the emblem for the city of New Orleans. Irises are cultivated all over the world, and they can be found naturally in Europe, the Middle East, northern Africa, Asia, and North America.

Spread the love of this beautiful flower. Share irises with your friends, family and neighbors. Who knows, they might just get hooked like you and I.

### AIS National 2013 April 15-20 Dallas, TX USA



Convention Hotel: Crowne Plaza – Addison  
14315 Midway Rd  
Addison, TX  
972-980-8877

Convention Chair: Bonnie Nichols - 214-352-2191  
Visit [www.irises-dallas.org](http://www.irises-dallas.org) for complete details and registration.

### MEETING LOCATION

Meetings begin around 10:15 a.m.



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