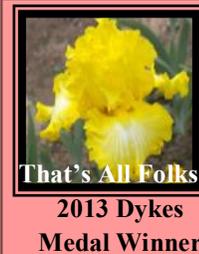




Waco Iris Society News

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



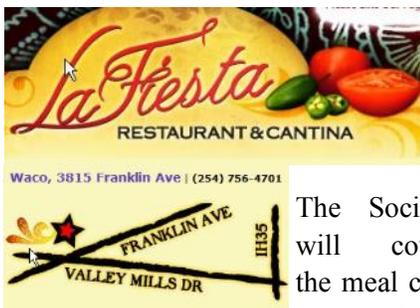
Volume 6, Issue 6

An affiliate of the American Iris Society

May, 2014

President's Message by Glenn Huddleston

Looking ahead, our May meeting will be our annual Spring Picnic (luncheon) at the LaFiesta Restaurant on May 17 beginning at 11:00 a.m.



The Society will cover the meal cost for members.

Our current slate of officers have agreed to continue serving for the 2014-2015 term. I want to thank all members who have volunteered to serve our Society in an officer role. According to AIS regulations, we must have officers to be accredited. Also at this meeting we need to decide on source(s) for our Society's rhizome orders for the September rhizome give-away and auction.

I would suggest that we go ahead and set the date for our Iris Show for 2015. This is an important decision in which we should all be involved.

By the time you read this article, the 2014 iris bloom season will only be a memory. The increase in night and daytime temperatures coupled with strong winds hastened the end of the bloom season. This was a disappointing iris season for many, including yours truly. I'm convinced the adverse weather conditions accounted for most of our delayed bloom prob-

lems. I would encourage all members to follow-up the bloom season with a general fertilization of all irises. Hopefully you can complete this task just before a rain.

Now that the bloom season is over, this would be a good time to evaluate which varieties need to be dug and divided. It is always good to share these extra rhizomes with friends and others that may not be growing irises. I mention this only as a reminder of our rhizome sale in September. If we can decide now what clumps need to be divided, it will make everything go smoother in September. Take extra care to keep your varieties correctly identified. We all make mistakes, however it does not help the image of our Society when someone buys a pink iris and it blooms blue next spring.

AIS National Convention

Congratulations to the following winners of top awards presented during the AIS National Convention held in Dallas April. 5-10.

President's Cup: Winner of the President's Cup, for the best in region cultivar was 'Bottled Sunshine', an IB by Hooker Nichols, 1995. First runner-up was 'Dorothy Devenport', TB, Hooker Nichols, 2003. Second runner-up was 'Muleshoe Money', TB by Tom Burseen, 2011.



Bottled Sunshine

Franklin Cook Cup: Winner of the Franklin Cook Cup for the best out of region cultivar was 'Bahama Blues', IB by Michael Sutton, 2010.



Bahama Blues

Ben Hager Cup: Winner of the Ben Hager Cup for the favorite Median was a tie between 'Bahama Blues' and 'Bottled Sunshine'.

Zurbrigg-Mahan Seedling Cup: The Zurbrigg-Mahan Seedling Cup for the Best Seedling seen at the recent AIS Convention is tall bearded Seedling #08-6-10 hybridized by Alton R. Pyburn of Region 17, Sweetwater, Texas.



Novelty Iris Society

Breaking News! The organization of a Novelty Iris Section has just begun. You can become a founding Member!

History: At the AIS 2013 Dallas Convention Bonnie Nichols gave a judges training on Novelty Irises. It was so well received Don Rude asked Bonnie if a section for this group could be formed and a meeting was scheduled for the 2014 Dallas Convention. The meeting was well attended and those there elected to work to form this new section. Bonnie J. Nichols was elected Chair, Don Rude vice-chair, Shirley Trio-Probst (cont. on pg. 2)



Iris Classification by Glenn Huddleston



Each year during iris bloom season I hear people say "I would grow irises if they would bloom longer." When possible I do my best to assure these people that thru planting a range of types of irises it would be possible to have bearded irises blooming continuously for 60 days or longer.

The American Iris Society recognizes six series of bearded irises for production and promotion and for show and garden classification for judging and awards. Let me share the characteristics with each series.

Miniature Dwarfs (MDB)-less than 8 inches tall with flowers 2-3 inches across. Miniature Dwarfs are the first series of Irises to bloom.

Standard Dwarfs (SDB)-these irises are 6-15 inches tall and display 2-4 inch flowers. They bloom after the Miniature Dwarfs.

Intermediate (IB)-these irises have 3-5 inch flowers on stems that are 16 to 27 inches tall. Bloom season is after the Dwarfs.

Border Bearded (BB)-these irises are very similar to intermediate irises, however the flowers are sometimes larg-

er. They generally bloom with the Tall Bearded irises.

Miniature Tall Bearded (MTB)-these irises generally bloom with the Tall Bearded irises, but have thinner stems and smaller flowers giving a delicate appearance.

Tall Bearded (TB)-this group includes irises reaching stalk heights of 28 inches and taller. Flower size can measure 4 to 6 inches across and up to 7 inches tall. Tall Bearded irises are the last of the (bearded) iris to bloom, usually lasting to early May.

From now until the end of July is the prime time to order iris rhizomes. Most hybridizers have catalogues and/or list on the internet showing photographs and descriptions of irises they offer. When ordering new irises, I always urge gardeners to start small and then grow with the time and management that they have to devote to irises.

Happy Gardening!



*Do you like Novelty
Iris like the
Spaceagers, Broken
Colors or Flatties?
Become a Charter
Member of The
Novelty Iris Society!
Start-up donations
welcome.*

(cont. from pg. 1) secretary, and Deborah Bilberry treasurer. Donations are accepted. As of this writing 2 weeks after convention discussions are ongoing as to dues and other matters.

Join: If you wish to be part of the founders of this group please e-mail Bonnie J. Nichols at Bonnie.Nichols@TexasSecurityBank.com or send a donation to Deborah Bilberry montybilberry@gmail.com (Also, see attached application)

Thought for the Day

"What the caterpillar calls the end of the world, the master calls a butterfly."



Quote by [Richard Bach](#), *Illusions: The Adventures of a Reluctant Messiah*





Louisiana Irises as Companion Plants by Hooker Nichols

(The following is reprinted, with Hooker's permission, from the Spring 2014 issue of Fleur de Lis, the Journal of the Society for Louisiana Irises)

Visitors to our home iris planting are amazed with the amount of flowers found in our city lot here in Northern Dallas. Bonnie will tell you that the home garden actually is her own personal garden, whereas, the large commercial planting we maintain in Mesquite, TX belongs to me. All the hybridizing done by Bonnie takes place in her garden and she will tell you that I must tread lightly when it comes to planting my Louisiana irises in her garden due to their invasive nature.

Bonnie is a daylily exhibition and garden judge instructor and also grows hundreds of daylilies in the home garden. I am allowed to hybridize the daylilies here at home. If any special type of garden flower is variegated, it will be tried to be grown here in the home garden by Bonnie. All bearded and beardless iris seedlings are grown on the Mesquite acreage in Southeast Dallas County. All newly acquired bearded varieties are grown in the home garden for two years and then transferred to the acreage.

Louisiana irises are not the only beardless iris grown in the home garden. An extensive collection of Spuria irises can also be found blooming in the home garden at the same time the Louisianas are at peak bloom. Whenever the Society for Louisiana Iris folks tour the gardens, they marvel at the beauty of

the Spurias too. It always amazes me that so many Louisiana growers do not grow the Spurias also.

All reselected Spuria and Louisiana seedlings are moved from the Mesquite garden back to the home garden for further evaluation because water is more available. Bonnie said the Louisiana and Spuria seedlings could be planted at the back of each bed so as not to invade the daylilies and other flowers. That is exactly where you will find them in the future.

The beardless and bearded irises, as well as, the other plants are constantly fed Miracle-Gro liquid plant food from March through October. An ample helping of 8-8-8 pellet fertilizer is also given to all plants during the same period. It is my firm belief that you cannot over water daylilies or Louisiana irises. It is very imperative that mulch be applied to all beds of beardless irises and daylilies to help maintain moisture during our hot summer growing periods. The marriage between the Louisianas, Spurias,

and daylilies is very happy. The bearded irises are only watered once a week during the summer months.

We are very fortunate to be able to bloom almost 100% of our Louisiana seedlings on a yearly basis. It takes a lot of work transplanting them into individual pots, pouring the fertilizer to them during the summer and then transplanting the hundreds of individual potted seedlings out in rows each fall. Then the bloom the following spring is truly spectacular!

Next spring, the Species-X children from *I. Tectorum* X Louisiana varieties should have their maiden flowering. The plants have stabilized their growth habits and have excellent increase. A late freeze prevented their blooming in the spring of 2013.

When the SLI returns to Dallas for their annual Spring convention in 2017, visitors should be able to view many re-selected Louisiana seedlings and first year seedlings.



The Nichols Home Garden at the 2013 SLI Convention by Patrick O'Connor

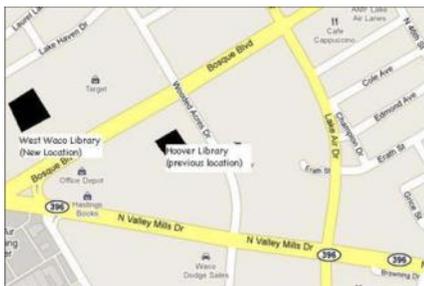
Waco Iris Society

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.

West Waco Library
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MARK THESE DATES



May 17
WIS Luncheon at LaFiesta
Franklin @ Valley Mills



August 22-23
AIS Region 17 Regional Meeting
Amarillo, TX



September 20
WIS Meeting-Iris Giveaway, Exchange
and Auction



September 27
WIS Iris Sale
GreenLife Nursery-New Rd.@Bosque



Like us on Facebook

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

We're on the Web:

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



Iris Show by Peggy Cathey

Everyone was disappointed our Iris Show planned for April 5 had to be canceled due to the late spring and no early blooms. To make matters worse, the sale planned for The Gardener's Gathering in Woodway on April 6 was canceled due to rain. April just wasn't a good month for the Waco Iris Society. We did have 5 members, however, who did quite well at the Iris Show in Cleburne on April 19. Congratulations to Glenn & Gloria Huddleston who won



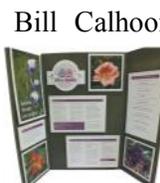
Queen of Show and Best Tall Bearded with **Double Down** and also the 1st Runner Up with **Chief John Jolly**

They will also receive the Silver Medal for most blue ribbons won-35! They won section certificates for Best Tall Bearded plus the TB Sweepstakes, Best Historic with **Mary Frances**, plus the Historic Sweepstakes, and Best Spaceage with **Behavin Bad** and the Spaceage Sweepstakes. They also won 10 color classes.

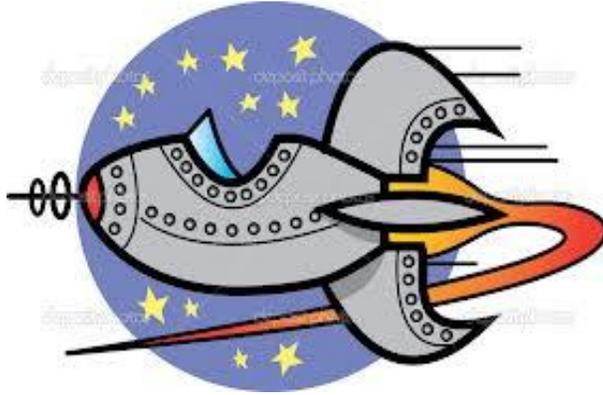


Dan and Peggy Cathey won the Bronze Medal with 25 blue ribbons. They also received the Best Median-**Orinoco Flow** and Median Sweepstakes, and Best Novelty with **Peekaboo Zebu**. The Best exhibit by a

Texas Hybridizer was Tom Burseen's **Miss Piggy**, exhibited by Dan & Peggy and they won 4 color classes. The show theme was **Africa-The Continent**. Peggy won Best Artistic Design with **The Watering Hole** as well as the Artistic Design Sweepstakes, and Best Photograph with **Backlit Beauty**.



Bill Calhoon received the Bronze Medal Certificate for Outstanding Educational Exhibit.



Greetings Earthlings!

We would like for you to join our mission as we CHARTER the
Novelty Iris Society
April 2014

Name: _____
Address: _____
Telephone: _____
Email Address: _____

I enjoy growing:

- Space Age
- Flatties
- Variegated Foliage
- Broken Color
- Other: _____

You will receive an email from Bonnie J Nichols our acting Chairman as we progress through the Mission Critical AIS Section process 501(c)3, by-laws, mission statement, goals, name, etc. We have not set membership dues yet; however, if you would like to make a donation toward our purpose, please enclose with this information sheet and give to Bonnie. She will accumulate the details and forward to our acting Treasurer. You may make your check payable to: The Novelty Iris Society or you may donate cash.

There were 30+ earthlings at the organization meeting. We know there are more of us out there that enjoy growing and showing the unusual irises.....we hope you will join us as a Charter Member.

Bonnie J Nichols, Acting Chairman-The Novelty Iris Society
3365 Northaven Road Dallas, Texas 75229 (214)352-2191