



# Waco Iris Society News

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2014 Dykes Medal Winner

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## Is It Spring Yet?

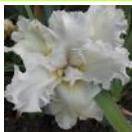
The March meeting of the Waco Iris Society will be held March 21<sup>st</sup> at the West Waco Library, 5301 Bosque Blvd. The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m.

Our speaker this month will be club member, Bonnie Nichols, who is the President of the newly formed *Novelty Iris Society*. Bonnie will tell us



*Pink Magnolia*  
Brown, 1970

just what a Novelty Iris is. At one time, the term among irisarians meant anything new, later it became used for Irises that deviated from the mainstream in form, pattern, or other characteristics. The



*Top Down*  
H. Nichols, 2015

irises on this list include but are not limited to horned irises, laced and flounced, spoons, flat flowers, broken color, purple based foliage and variegated foliage. Today, some of the characteristics have become well accepted but are still included in this list because of their special status.

Bonnie says she has been growing irises all her life. She can't remember not growing them. She says while Hooker has always grown irises too – they have totally different



*Against All Odds*  
H. Nichols, 2006

tastes in irises. She loves the unusual whether it is roses, zinnias, clematis, etc...that's what made her interest in the novelty irises so keen.

She is still a banker. She says "It helps support my habit of irises and daylilies. We have a commercial garden in Mesquite. I hybridize space age irises mostly."

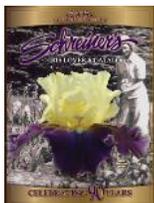


*Broadway Contender*  
B. Nichols, 2015

"See you on the 21<sup>st</sup>. This will be the last program I do before I turn 61 on Sunday, the 22<sup>nd</sup>..... Where did our years go?"

## President's Message by Glenn Huddleston

Last month Al Elliott talked with us about our infatuation with irises. He stressed one sign of this condition is the uncontrollable desire to purchase new iris rhizomes each year. Hybridizers are well aware of this desire and are busily sending out catalogues taunting the latest and greatest irises available now. As of this writing I have already received four 2015 catalogues not to mention offerings on the internet.



http://  
[www.hillcrestiris.com/catalog.html](http://www.hillcrestiris.com/catalog.html)

[www.hillcrestiris.com/catalog.html](http://www.hillcrestiris.com/catalog.html)

If you are a new iris grower, I would suggest you start small and stay

small until you determine the time and resources you have to devote to iris gardening. Irises can become additive quickly and then become a burden.

Next consider what types of irises you like. The list is quite extensive to include TB's, Median's, Louisiana's, Spuria's, Historic's, and Novelty's to mention a few.

If you are just getting started in irises, I would suggest you secure rhizomes from local growers or hybridizers that develop varieties in climatic conditions similar to ours.

The next 90 days would be a prime time to order iris rhizomes. The earlier you order, the better selections you will have. Don't forget,

most Iris Societies offer rhizome sales in late summer to early fall.

With all of that being said, let's focus on our 2015 Iris Show. Ken Anderson is working hard to ensure this year's show will be the best ever. Our membership has increased which should mean an increase in horticultural entries.

So far the weather has favored iris gardening this year. Even the colder temperatures in February should be to the liking of medians.



I don't know about you, but I think I'm coming down with Iris Virus!

Happy Gardening!!!





## Update From Show Chair by Ken Anderson

We are just weeks away from our spring show and I am sure all members are anxiously awaiting their first bloom stalks. For tall bearded iris to bloom it is necessary that they have some extended time of winter chill. I believe we all can agree there has been no lack of chilling weather. Today I was looking at some of my iris, just sitting



there all packed in ice and snow, knowing that they were getting a very good chill before spring arrives. I hope everyone is seeing good signs of new growth. I have been out looking at my iris and many of those I purchased in the fall are doing very well. Also many of the ones from the prior year are showing good increase. I hope all club members are seeing good signs

of growth in their gardens.

Regarding the upcoming show, I would like to remind all members that we still have not filled all categories for the artistic division. We need one more entry in Category I, "Winter Turns to Spring". We need two more entries in Category III, "Summer". We also need one more entry in Category IV, "The Holiday Season". If you have not signed up for an artistic entry, please give some consideration to doing so at our next meeting. It would be nice to fill all categories.

Our show will be held at a different location this year. Our old location is gone, making way for new and different things. Change is one of those things we have to endure. Sometimes it can be a challenge and sometimes it can renew our energy. A few weeks ago Mitch Whitley and I went to the Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites to meet with the manager about our space for the show. We had a very nice visit with him. He was extremely accommodating and is going to do everything he can to make our experience there a good

one. I left our meeting feeling excited about the opportunity to have a show in a much newer facility. Even though this requires going to a different place, I think everyone will really enjoy the space we have rented. The lighting will be better for displays and awards tables and the lobby area will be a great place to have the plant sale. In addition, there is plenty of parking in back of the hotel. A few more details about the building will be shared at our meeting.

I hope to see all of you at our March meeting. We will be finalizing plans for the show. Since we were not able to have a show last year, I am anticipating a great show this year. Most of our members have been growing iris a lot longer than me, but I am going to go out on a limb and predict that this year is going to be a really good year for our iris because of the moisture we have had and because of the definite winter chill. Hopefully we will have a lot of beautiful entries in our show!

## Keeping Track Made Easier by Peggy Cathey

I hope many of you have read the article on page 22 of the Spring Region 17 Newsletter. It is a review of a computer program that has been around for at least 15 years. I know this because I purchased it in 2005. Unfortunately, after many computer crashes, I lost the program and subsequently forgot about it. At a recent Judges Training, Judy Schneider mentioned the program and how it has streamlined her record keeping of all her irises. I went straight home and purchased the program and downloaded it. As I was looking it over, I thought it looked very familiar so I sent the creator an e-mail asking if he had any record of me purchasing the program. Sure

enough, I had—in 2005. He then refunded my money and sent me all the updates. Now, THAT is customer service. It has improved a LOT over the past 10 years. There is a new Iris database with 40,000 records to automatically insert the Description, Characteristics, Hybridizer and other information with the click of a button. It will not only do this for irises, but daylilies as well. There are also sections for roses, perennials, hostas, lilies, wildflowers, trees, vegetables, and more. You can map your garden, add pictures of your plants, track blooms, fertilizer schedules, awards, notes, almost anything you can think of. It is a program that does it

all. You can view and print reports for all sections and print a garden map of all your irises by row or location. How cool is that? If you are into hybridizing, there is a whole section for keeping track of the parentage of your seedlings. You can even create full color catalogs for your irises and other plants and view it on the Plantstep website. The program is Plantstep and can be found at <http://plantstep.com/>. The cost of the program is only \$29.95 and all updates are FREE. There are "how it works" videos on the website.





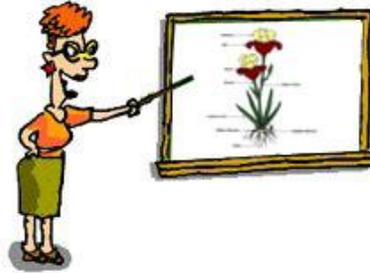
## How to Point Score Iris in a Show and in the Garden by Peggy Cathey

Peggy Cathey, who is an accredited AIS Garden & Exhibition Judge will be the instructor for a 3 hour Judges Training class to be held in Cleburne. The training will be held from 9-Noon, April 16<sup>th</sup> at Winston Patrick McGregor Park. This will be a rare and unique opportunity to learn the differences in how irises are judged in the garden, as compared to how they perform on the show bench. The class is open to anyone who is interested in learning what judges look for when judging show stalks and how to identify a good iris in the garden.

The training will begin with 2 hours "in-garden" instruction on how to evaluate and point score irises growing in the garden. This is very important information to have when judges vote the AIS Ballot each

year to determine the top award winners.

At 11:00, the class will move inside the McGregor House for 1 hour of classroom instruction on point scoring irises in an exhibition. You will



learn what the judge is looking for when judging a show. Irises will be cut from the garden, brought in, groomed, and entered in a mock show. The class will then learn how

to point score each iris and how to choose the Best (Queen) of Show.

There is a fee of \$5 for the 3 hour Judges Training to cover cost of expenses. We will also provide coffee and light refreshments for our guests. **Please RSVP to [iris.daylilies@gmail.com](mailto:iris.daylilies@gmail.com) or 817-666-9002 to reserve your spot.**

After the Judges Training, Peggy will offer a workshop for all members or interested persons who would like hands on instruction on how to groom your iris for a show. There will also be instruction on how to quickly and easily put together an artistic design.

**Hazel Haik**  
Nichols, 2007



## Iris Poem

The following iris poem is from an old catalog of **Green Gate Gardens**, 1931 which used to be in Bennettsville, South Carolina. The owner's name was Gabrielle Drake McColl.

*The garden with its little gate of green,  
Invites you to enter, and view mysteries  
unseen,*

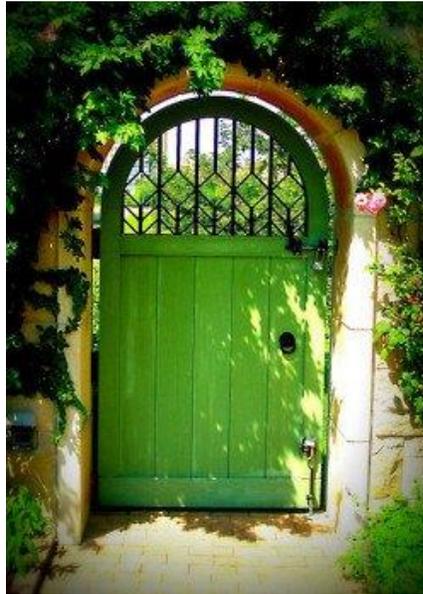
*Its vine laden bowers and overhanging  
trees,*

*The air filled with sweetness, the hum  
of the bees,*

*The flagged walks with Iris galore,  
Of most beautiful coloring, unknown  
before,*

*Pink, white, purple, yellow, azure blue,  
Mixed and mingled of every hue,  
You come away wondering, can more  
beauty be seen*

*Than in the garden with its little gate of  
green.*



## THANK YOU

Dan and I want to thank everyone for your prayers and get well wishes after Dan's emergency surgery on the 10th. He is now home and doing better.



**AIS Membership  
January Winner**



**Lynn Pachelli**



## 2015 AIS Region 17 Annual Meeting by Dell Perry

The Regional for 2015 will be held in Dallas on Friday/Saturday August 14-15, 2015, hosted by The Iris Society of Dallas.

Our host hotel will be The Crowne Plaza in Addison – the same hotel that was used for the 2013 and 2014 AIS National Conventions. The room rate will be \$90 +tax per night. To reserve your room, contact the hotel DIRECTLY at 972-980-8877 – block code: IRI - say you are with the Iris Society of Dallas or do so online using the hotel link provided on the Iris Society of Dallas website – [www.irises-dallas.org](http://www.irises-dallas.org). We have reserved a small room block, so **please book early** to ensure a room at the \$90 rate. Rate is guaranteed until July 24, 2015.

Regional registration is \$50. The Judges Training class is \$10. Please be sure your registration is emailed or postmarked no later than August 5<sup>th</sup> to avoid the \$10 late charge. Friday dinner will be BBQ. For the Saturday banquet you may select chicken or vegetarian.

We will have a Hospitality Room available from 3:00 p.m. Friday through Saturday evening. The Tall Bearded Iris Society (TBIS) will be having their Annual Board Meeting in conjunction with the Regional and will be using the Hospitality Room for their Friday evening and Saturday meetings, during which time it will be closed to Regional attendees. On Saturday morning we will provide muffins, pastries, yogurt, fruit, coffee and juice in the Hospitality Room. In addition, for those who wish to eat Saturday breakfast at the hotel restaurant, we will be offering a coupon when you check in.

Friday night will be BBQ and something fun.

Saturday will be a three hour Judges Training in the morning on Tall

Bearded Irises with Hugh Stout as the instructor, the Regional business meeting, and the ever popular IRIS AUCTION followed by the banquet and program. Our guest speaker will be Hugh Stout, Jr., hybridizer and owner of Stout Gardens at Dancingtree in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. His subject for the program will be what's new that he is seeing in irises. Plans are in the works for a Silent Auction and /or Raffle.

Check out the ISD website – [www.irises-dallas.org](http://www.irises-dallas.org) - for updates and registration form. Contact Bonnie Nichols with any questions at [BJNHTN@aol.com](mailto:BJNHTN@aol.com) or 214-676-9892.

### About Stout Gardens at Dancingtree

We have been growing, showing and hybridizing both daylilies and iris since 1999. Hugh Stout is both an exhibition/garden judge with the American Iris Society as well as a past garden judge for the American Hemerocallis Society. He is also past president of the Oklahoma Horticultural Society and Oklahoma Iris Society and served on the board of Oklahoma City Beautiful for eight years and Sustainable OKC. He also served as president of the Tall Bearded Iris Society for three years and RVP for Region 22 of AIS.

Stout Gardens has been a tour stop on the 2007 AIS National Convention tour, the 2011 Median Iris National, the Region 11 Daylily Regional as well as the American Garden Writers Association tour, water garden and Oklahoma Horticultural Society tours. The gardens are also an AIS Median Iris Society and Tall

Bearded Iris Society Display Garden.

Stout Gardens is a state licensed & inspected nursery specializing in daylilies and iris. All plants are grown here at Stout Gardens. You can shop with confidence knowing our flowers are guaranteed true to name and healthy. We sell only cultivars that have proven themselves worthy in Oklahoma's tough and diverse climate.

You can contact us at: [stoutgardens@cox.net](mailto:stoutgardens@cox.net) or by phone at (405) 642.4190.

We are located at:  
432 NE 70th St  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105



**Backdraft**  
Stout, 2010



**Eskimo Kisses**  
Stout, 2013



**Polestar**  
Stout, 2009



**Pooh Bear**  
Stout, 2013



**Purple Essence**  
Stout, 2010



**Quench**  
Stout, 2013



**Ron Mullin**  
Stout, 2010



**Route Sixty-six**  
Stout, 2013