



Waco Iris Society News

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An affiliate of the American Iris Society

March, 2019

March President's Message by Dan Cathey

When I first started to write this article, it was February 26th and reasonably mild for late February, and I was going to mention the relative lack of Winter we have had this year in general. While that still holds, it is now the March 6th, and the lows for March 3rd, 4th, and 5th were 21, 21, and 26 degrees respectively. OK, the "average" last frost date for our area is March 15th. I guess I shouldn't be taken aback at the late Winter's blast, but I just can't help thinking that it seems sort of "unfair" now that my fruit trees are in full bloom (looks like no fruit this year) and I am starting to see bloom stalks on the iris. Oh well, like the man said, "What are you gonna do?" and "This IS Texas." We can moan and groan more about this more at the meeting.

I hope everyone got their iris fertilized around the middle of February. If not, go ahead and get that done as quickly as possible. Now is the time for the first pre-emergent treatment to go out if you are inclined to do that. The brand Preen is reasonably effective on the weeds that germinate this time of year is not terribly expensive and, can save you quite a bit of the weeding chores as the warm months come about. Nothing is going to eliminate weeds entirely but treating now can

be a huge help. Pre-emergents are like fertilizers in the sense that neither will become effective until it is watered in so keep that in mind and water if Mother Nature is not cooperating. All the weeds you are seeing now, annual rye, henbit, chickweed, etc., germinated last fall and are just now putting on their growth leading up to seeding out for next Fall's crop, so, get those weeds out of there before they do put on seeds, and that means RIGHT NOW. Put the pre-emergent on your calendar for another application in early October to control these bad-boys.

I am extremely saddened to report that our friends and fellow Club members Daymon Graham and Phil Nacke have passed away, Daymon on December 31st and Phil on March 4th. We will make a memorial donation in both their names individually to the American Iris Society and to Region 17 as is our custom on the demise of a member. Our sincerest sympathies to Damon's daughter and

fellow Club member Sylvia Lemley and to Phil's partner Club Secretary Bill Calhoon for their loss.

Upcoming dates to remember are the AIS 2019 Spring Convention set for April 23rd-27th in San Ramon, CA and the AIS Region 17 Annual Meeting August 9th and 10th in Weatherford, TX. Detailed information and application forms for both are in the current Spring edition of our AIS Region 17 Newsletter which started showing up in our mailboxes the first week of March. If you need further information, let me know, and I will get it to you. Our annual Iris Show is set for April 13th at the LaQuinta Woodway/Waco South. Check-in starts at 8 a.m., judging will commence at 11 a.m. sharp, and the Show will open to the public at 1 p.m.

This month's meeting is at 10 a.m. at the Crestview Church of Christ community center in Woodway on the 16th. The program will be *Show Prep*, presented by member Glenn Huddleston. Glenn is our resident expert on getting Irises ready for the show. He has many "Queen of Show" ribbons to prove it.

I will bring plant markers to the meeting for purchase at \$8 for 25 if you need some. If you need several bundles (25 per), please let me know in advance.





Meeting Minutes By Bill Calhoon, Secretary



**Saturday,
January 19, 2019**

Meeting held at the Crestview Church of Christ Community Center.

Club President Dan Cathey called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m. and welcomed members and guests. Fourteen (14) club members and one guest were in attendance.

Secretary Bill Calhoon conducted the Roll Call. Minutes from the November 19, 2018, meeting had been published in the WIS Newsletter. A question regarding the published sales figures for the Rhizome Auction and the Rhizome Sale was clarified by Bill. After no additions or corrections from the floor, the minutes were approved as published.

Treasurer Mitchell Whitley presented the Treasurer's Report. The account balance as of December 12, 2018, was \$10,192.47. After no additions or corrections from the floor, Frances Peterson moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented; Preston Floyd seconded the motion; the motion carried.

Show Chair Ken Anderson provided an update on the 2019 Iris Show, reporting that the Show Schedule is to be submitted for approval. There was discussion regarding a proposed addition to the Schedule regarding the height of Artistic Design niches; it was agreed it should be a recommendation, not a requirement. Ken also had the sign-up sheet for Artistic Design Categories and reviewed the various Committee positions. Ken anticipates having approved Show Schedules at the March meeting.

In Old Business, Dan reminded members that dues are due to be paid. Also, metal plant markers are available at \$8 for a bundle of 25. No other old business was introduced.

In New Business, Preston Floyd introduced a discussion regarding the location of the annual Club Luncheon in May. Several options were discussed including La Fiesta, Golden Corral, and Ocean Buffet. Mitchell Whitley moved to book the separate meeting room at Golden Corral, Frances Peterson seconded and the motion carried. It was agreed that if Golden Corral was not available, Preston has the authority

to choose another location. There was also discussion regarding the date to ensure Dan and Peggy Cathey would be able to attend; it was agreed to stay with the assigned date.

Dan reported that meeting rooms had been booked at the Crestview Church of Christ Community Center for the remainder of 2019, on the third Saturday of January, March, September and November. WIS pays a \$25 honorarium for use of the facility.

Dan also reported that proposed changes to the Bylaws of the American Iris Society (AIS) will be presented with the Winter AIS Bulletin. AIS Members have the ability to vote on the proposed changes.

Bill then conducted the AIS Membership drawing, which was won by Phil Nacke.

Following a break for refreshments, Dan Cathey presented a program that had been prepared by Peggy Cathey. The program was all about the American Iris Society, what it is doing to improve the iris and why membership in it is important.

Hospitality Report by Preston Floyd



For our hospitality table, we will need snack items and baked goods. Dan will bring coffee.

I have had no luck finding a place to hold our May luncheon and I'm looking for help. So far, I have found no openings or locations with a separate dinner area. If you know of a place, please let me know.





Spring Is Just Around The Corner by Ken Anderson, Show Chair



Greetings to all my fellow iris gardeners. I have been to the iris gardens of some of our members. It is obvious that they have a passion for growing all kinds of plants, whether it be flowering trees, roses, spring flowering bulbs, annuals, perennials, daylilies, or many others. I don't have to tell you that spring is on its way, so my introductory remarks are probably a needless example of "preaching to the choir."

I went for a little drive around the Gatesville area and saw many of the old "flags" coming into bloom already. I also spotted some fruit trees, redbuds, and ornamental pear trees blooming in many yards. I also came across many patches of grape hyacinths. I came to one yard, and I could hardly believe my eyes.

There was a huge patch of a flower that I have not been



able to identify. Ironically, I have it blooming in my yard right now. It has six petals, light blue flowers, and grows from a small clump of grassy looking long leaves. Alongside the roadways, I have noticed many white-flowering trees which I believe are Mexican Plum trees.



They are abundant in this area. I have *I. 'Fairy Berry'* blooming in my yard right now. It is a standard dwarf

bearded iris that was introduced in 2000 by Cadd. My experience with this iris is that it definitely needs cold weather to make it bloom. Even though we have not had severely cold weather this year, we have had many very cool nights and days. Preston has a beautiful clump of a purple iris (unknown variety) blooming in his yard. I have even seen bluebonnets blooming on the west side of town, but I have spotted many areas along the roadsides that are covered with bluebonnets which should be blooming in a just a few weeks. Please pray that this old man keeps his eye on the road enough to get him safely to wherever he is going! I have heard that the wildflowers are incredible right now between San Antonio and Floresville. It seems a little early, but I have noticed many plants budding that seem to be ahead of schedule. I just can't help myself. The many beautiful colors of spring flowers are a blessing to behold. This should be a bumper crop with all the rain we have had.

I hope some of our members have been giving some thought to creating a design for our upcoming show. Just as a reminder, the theme for this year's show is *Iris in All Kinds of Weather* and the categories are:

- (I) *Winter Wonderland*
- (II) *Stormy Weather*
- (III) *When the Wind Blows* (Novice)
- (IV) *Frosty Autumn Mornings*
- (V) *Sizzling Summer* (Youth)

I have recently spoken to all of the judges who have committed to being at our show and they are

looking forward to our event. Most of the judges have not judged for our club before, and it will be exciting to meet new people dedicated to providing this service.

At the upcoming meeting on March 16, there will be a chance to ask questions about the show. Entry cards will be distributed, and for new members, there will be brief explanations about how to complete cards and attach them to entries. As always, all new members are encouraged to ask others for help with any part of the show preparation if you wish to have a horticultural or design entry. Show schedules will have been printed by then and will be available to all members.

I hope this article creates excitement about the arrival of spring, encourages your participation in the show, and energizes you for all the tasks that lie ahead in our spring garden activities. With all the rain we had earlier in the fall and winter combined with the number of cold or very cool days we have experienced, I believe we will have an exceptionally beautiful spring not only in our gardens but along the roadsides. I hope you are able to get out and take advantage of the beauty all around us.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the meeting and looking forward to our spring show.



Iris in All Kinds of Weather



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

Dan Cathey, President

Peggy Cathey, Newsletter Editor

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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:

Mitchell Whitley, Treasurer
812 Dayton, Waco, TX 76706



<https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=waco%20iris%20society>



Marvch 9, 2019

Waco Iris Society Meeting-Show Prep-Glenn Huddleston
Crestview Church of Christ Community Center



April 13, 2019

Waco Iris Society Iris Show
La Quinta Inn & Suites, Woodway-Waco South



April 23-27, 2019

2019 AIS National Convention
San Ramon, CA.



May 18, 2019

Waco Iris Society Year End Luncheon
Location and time to be announced



August 9-10

2019 AIS Region 17 Meeting
Weatherford, TX

Check out our website:

www.kenfuchs42.net/waco_index.html

Word Search: Iris Names that Begin with Spring by Peggy Cathey

Words may be Forward, Backward,
Diagonal, Up or Down

Angel	Fashion
Announcement	Fever
Aroma	Fling
Awakening	Frost
Ballet	Goddess
Beauty	Harvest
Blush	Image
Bonnet	Jewel
Bouquet	Kiss
Break	Morn
Bride	Parade
Butterfly	Rainbows
Dance	Romance
Elegance	Shadow
Fairy	

