



# Waco Iris Society News



Bottle Rocket

2019 Dykes Medal Winner

Website: [http://www.kenfuchs42.net/waco\\_index.html](http://www.kenfuchs42.net/waco_index.html) E-mail: [wacoiriss@gmail.com](mailto:wacoiriss@gmail.com)

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An affiliate of the American Iris Society

March 2020

## Why We Do What We Do to Grow Beautiful Irises

Please join us on March 21st, 10:00 a.m., at the Crestview Church of Christ's Community Center for our March meeting. With our annual Iris Show coming up in April, this will be a great time to find out ***Why We Do What We Do to Grow Beautiful Irises.***

Our speaker will be our own Glenn Huddleston who will lead us in a group discussion of the why's and when's of better iris culture.

Glenn has been growing irises for over 20 years and currently maintains an extensive planting of tall bearded irises. He says, *"the challenge to growing irises is complicated when the grower is uncertain regarding the importance of the recommended cultural practices. Understanding the correct cultural practices is the key to success with irises."*



## President's Message by Dan Cathey

The threat surrounding the Corona Virus seems to be at the top of everybody's list this Spring, and some legitimate concerns are no doubt warranted. Still, at this time, there appears to be no reason for meeting or Show cancellations for our group. I have been trying to stay abreast of news that would directly affect the Waco area, but there are none at this writing. Personally, I do not feel we need to react other than reasonable precautions, i.e., do not attend if you are feeling ill, avoid unnecessary physical contact, and cover your mouth and nose if you should need to sneeze or cough. If you have personal concerns or objections to attending, please know we respect your feelings. In short, the March meeting will go on as scheduled, and we will put a discussion of our plans regarding our Show on the

agenda.

Preston Floyd, who has been our excellent hospitality host for quite some time, is stepping down from that responsibility for the foreseeable future and has withdrawn his name from consideration as our new Secretary as well. Peggy and I will bring coffee and bottled water along with some plates, cups, etc. If anyone wishes to bring snacks, I am sure they will be appreciated. Please be thinking about volunteering for the Secretary position as this is an essential post. We also need a new Hospitality Chair.

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 has been historically within the timeframe for the first pre-emergent treatment to go out. I feel the window for application has passed for

this year due to the early warm-up coupled with the fact that I have newly germinated weeds everywhere! Last year we had freezing temps on March 3rd, 4th, and 5th while this year, I have been gardening outside in a tee-shirt. Hey, this is Texas, right?



***This newsletter will go to print before we have a chance to hear back from Crestview Church of Christ to be sure the Community Center will be open for our meeting. If we must cancel, we will let everyone know as soon as we do and will send out an email. Those without email will be called. Please check your email often this week. Thank you for understanding***



## Spring Show Anticipation by Ken Anderson, Show Chair

It is that time of year again. Spring is popping out all over and seems to be arriving a little earlier than usual. Many of the early blooming daffodils have come and gone already, and redbud trees are coming into full bloom. Some varieties of trees are showing new growth. Some have already had new growth, only to have it frozen off a couple of weeks ago. Just in the past few days, I have seen bloom stalks developing on several varieties of the irises in my garden. With all those signs of spring, we know that the spring iris show is just around the corner.

Preparations for the show are well underway. Our show schedule was submitted and approved and will be available at the March meeting along with show flyers. The March meeting is always a busy time. We will discuss any show issues or concerns at this meeting, so be sure and be there if possible. There are only three more weeks following this meeting until the show.

All members are encouraged to be a part of seeing that we have a good show and sale on April 11. Now is an excellent time to be checking your potted iris to see what you can bring to the sale. Also, there will be a sheet for signing up for an artistic display. If you have never participated in this division, this would be a great year to get started. The novice category, *The Symbols of Texas*, offers many possibilities for accessories to complete your design. Please consider participating.

If you are new to the club, be sure to ask any questions you have about submitting entries in the horticultural division. If this will be your first time at an iris show, you are in for a

real treat. Some of our members have been doing this for a long time and will have many entries. It is always exciting to see all the different iris colors. I am hoping for at least one hundred entries this year. That will be a room filled with impressive forms and colors!

On Thursday, March 5, I had a chance to visit Michael Lowe at his place south of Robinson. Michael grows hundreds of irises. He has put in a completely new garden at the back of his home. My religion admonishes me not to covet thy neighbor's property. Well, I was out there sinning for sure. Michael has the perfect soil for growing irises. When he decided to start a new garden, he simply moved to another spot on his property and developed row after row of new plantings. Like everyone else, he has to battle the snails and slugs and a few other things that can attack the plants. But for the most part, his irises look fantastic. I anticipate he will have many for the show. I hope all the members will have some to bring for the horticultural division. And remember, even if you have something unknown but worthy of viewing, there will be a table set up for display only.

The show is on April 11. That is only a few weeks away, so it is time to be making prep-

arations to be there and participate in any way you can. As club members, we all will be acting as hosts to the guests who come to the show. Each member is encouraged to welcome our guests and show our appreciation for their attendance. Bring potted irises for the sale, create a design, or volunteer to help in other ways. There are always plenty of miscellaneous tasks to complete for the show to be successful.

The hotel where the show is being held will allow us to begin setting up for the show at 3:00 p.m. If you have some spare time on Friday evening, April 10, it is always helpful to have some extra people to get tables set where they need to be, carry in potted irises, organize pots for sale, etc. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the show.

**Waco Iris Society**  
An Affiliate of the American Iris Society  
**Presents the**  
**2020 Iris Show**

**Texas Celebrates the**  
**100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
**of the**  
**American Iris Society**

**Saturday, April 11, 2020**  
La Quinta Inn & Suites Woodway Waco South  
6003 Woodway Dr., Waco, TX 76712

Open to Public 1:00 – 3:00 PM    **FREE ADMISSION**    **FREE PARKING**  
**POTTED IRIS SALE: 1:00 PM TO 3:00 PM**  
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Call Michael Lowe, 254-881-7072



## January 18, 2020 Club Minutes by Bill Calhoon, Secretary

*Held at Crestview Church of Christ  
Community Center*

Club President Dan Cathey called the meeting to order at 10:12 am, welcomed members and introduced new members Adair and Jameson McGregor.

Secretary Bill Calhoon conducted Roll Call. Thirteen (13) members were present at the meeting. Minutes of the November 2019 meeting had been printed in the WIS newsletter. After receiving no additions or corrections from the floor, the minutes were accepted as published.

Treasurer Mitchell Whitley presented the Treasurer's Report. The balance of the Club account as of December 12, 2019, was \$9,872.87. After no additions or corrections from the floor, the Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.

Dan reported a new shipment of plant markers had been received. New price for WIS members is \$9 per bundle of 25 markers.

The slate of officers for the 2020-2021 club year was presented. Mitchell Whitley and Michael Lowe served as the Nominating Committee.

President – Mitchell Whitley

Secretary – Preston Floyd

Treasurer – Mitchell Whitley

Assistant Treasurer – Peggy Cathey

Show Co-Chairs – Ken Anderson, Linda Roper, Mitchell Whitley

Ken Anderson noted that he will be listed as "Show Chair" to sign off on the Iris Show paperwork. Peggy Cathey noted that in order to retain AIS affiliation, the offices of President, Treasurer and Recording Secretary are required to be filled

and that the officers be members of AIS.

Show Co-Chair Ken Anderson reviewed the list of various Show Committee assignments and confirmed volunteers for the roles. Ken will complete and submit the Show Schedule for final AIS approval.

Dan reviewed the WIS By-Laws regarding officers, reading the descriptions of the roles of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. Dan also reviewed the election process: January – Slate of Officers presented; March – Vote on Slate of Officers presented at the January meeting; May – new Officers installed to begin roles at the September meeting.

Bill conducted AIS membership drawings: winner for November 2019 was Preston Floyd; winner for January 2020 was new member Jameson McGregor.

Preston Floyd asked for suggestions regarding the location of the Year-End Luncheon. Following discussion of various locations and options, there was consensus that Ocean Buffet was first choice.

Dan recognized the passing of Roger Duncan, iris hybridizer and partner of Rick Tasco at Superstition Iris Garden. For several years WIS has ordered from Superstition for the annual Giveaway and Auction.

In New Business, WIS has been asked to consider a contribution to the hosts of the 2020 Region 17 Meeting which is to be hosted by the Iris Society of Dallas. Preston Floyd moved that the Waco Iris Society contribute \$100 to the Iris Society of Dallas for costs associated with hosting the annual Region 17 meeting; Peggy Cathey seconded;

the motion carried. [The 2020 Region 17 Meeting is to be held July 31-August 1, 2020, at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Dallas. Guest Speaker will be Gary White.]

Ken announced that the 2020 WIS show theme is "Texas Celebrates the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of AIS" and distributed copies of the Artistic Design Categories. There was discussion of the categories and explanation of the "novice" category.

Mitchell Whitley commented that he has already noticed snails. Dan shared that Hi Yield snail bait is effective.

A recap of Glenn Huddleston's recent presentation to the Johnson County Iris & Daylily Society was shared. Since the fertilizer needs moisture to be activated, it's important to provide supplemental water if we don't get rainfall. Breakdown usually takes about 30 days. A "balanced" fertilizer (all 3 numbers the same/similar) is preferred.

In follow-up on the Iris Show, it was noted that visitation usually drops off by 3:00 pm. Following discussion regarding pros and cons of ending the show earlier, Preston Floyd moved to change the closing time from 4:00 pm to 3:00 pm; Jerry Keith seconded; motion carried.

Following a break for refreshments, Peggy Cathey presented a program on "Stalking the Queen of Show."

The meeting was adjourned following the program at 11:59 am.

Submitted respectfully,

Bill Calhoon

Secretary, 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.  
Crestview Church of Christ  
Community Center, 7129 Delhi, Waco

Dan Cathey, President  
Peggy Cathey, Newsletter Editor  
[wacoiriss@gmail.com](mailto:wacoiriss@gmail.com)  
[254-854-2558](tel:254-854-2558)

### Join WIS today!

Only \$10 per year. You may  
join at a meeting, download  
membership form from our web-  
site, or send a check with your  
name, address, phone number  
and e-mail address to:



March 21, 2020 *Why We Do What We Do to Grow  
Beautiful Irises* by Glenn Huddleston  
Crestview Church of Christ Community Center, 10a.m.



April 11, 2020 Iris Show  
La Quinta Inn and Suites (Woodway) at 6003 Woodway  
Drive



May 16, 2020 *End of Club Year Luncheon*  
Ocean Buffet



May 18-23, 2020  
AIS National Convention, Newark, NJ

Check out our website:

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



<https://www.facebook.com/search/wacoirissociety>

### Word Search: Iris Names that Begin with Green by Peggy Cathey

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

- |           |          |         |
|-----------|----------|---------|
| Acres     | Fashion  | Sprite  |
| Apple     | Gables   | Thumbs  |
| Beret     | Gizmo    | Unicorn |
| Card      | Goblin   | Valley  |
| Chance    | Haze     | Waves   |
| Chili     | Hornet   | Wings   |
| Christmas | Jacket   |         |
| Delight   | Jungle   |         |
| Dragon    | Light    |         |
| Echos     | Olive    |         |
| Elf       | Parrot   |         |
| Envy      | Pastures |         |
| Eyes      | Prophecy |         |
| Fairy     | Shimmer  |         |

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