



Waco Iris Society News

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

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An affiliate of the American Iris Society

November, 2021

Growing Better Irises With Proper Soil Preparation

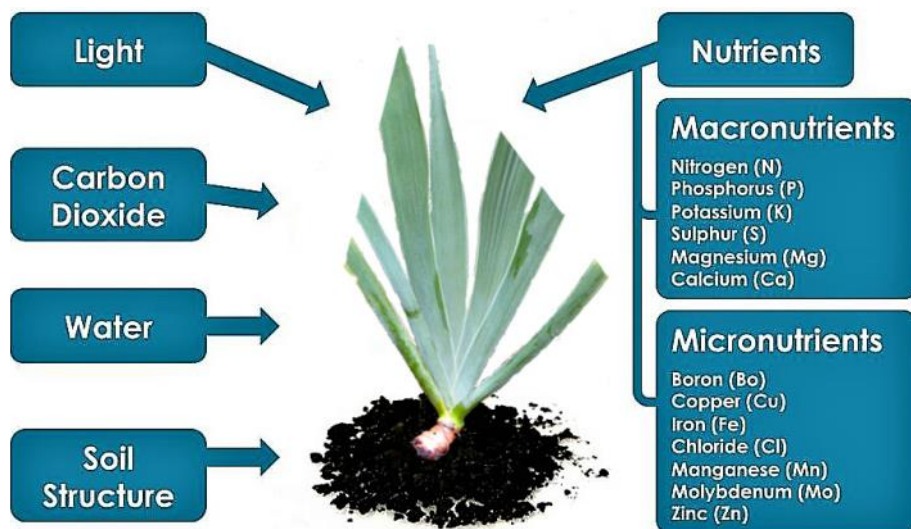


The next meeting of the Waco Iris Society will be Saturday, November 20, 2021, at the Crestview Church of Christ, 7129 Delhi.

Our speaker for the November program will be club member Glenn Huddleston. Glenn's presentation will feature a group discussion detailing items that will lead to the successful planting and growing of irises. The presentation will be highlighted with in-depth information detailing factors on topics such as selecting a proper planting site for irises, soil preparation, proper use of nutritional additives and more.

Glenn is a retired County Agent for the Texas AgriLife Extension Service. He has been growing irises

for many years and has won numerous top awards at our annual iris shows.



September Meeting and Annual Iris Sale by Peggy Cathey

We had good attendance at our September Meeting, and were happy to welcome two new members: Donna Popham and Jan Ketcher. Everyone was given the opportunity to choose a 2021 Iris introduction from beautiful irises purchased by the club from Mid-America Iris Gardens. Once everyone chose their favorite, the remaining irises were auctioned. This earned the club \$795, which more than paid for the irises. September is the beginning of a new club year and we were all happy to see each other after the summer break.

An even bigger event was held the following Saturday with our annual Iris Rhizome Sale, always held the last Saturday of September. We had tried something different, with an ad on Facebook which "boosted" our event. We were not prepared with the overwhelming turnout of people wanting to buy irises. We had 100% club member participation, just not enough irises to meet the demand. We were totally sold out in just over an hour. We want to thank everyone who helped, brought irises for the sale, and especially to all who came to buy irises.

This was our largest sale ever. We also want to apologize to those who didn't make it in time to get the irises you wanted. If you have a particular iris you are anxious to add to your garden, let us know. If any member has some to spare, maybe we can have it for you at our spring Iris Show, which will be April 9th at the LaQuinta Inn and Suites Woodway-Waco South.

We have one more new member by way of mail-in membership. Please welcome Carol Matthews of Mexia.



Spuria Iris, A Delight to Grow by Ken Anderson

It's that wonderful time of year again when the summer heat has left, and we are enjoying pleasant fall weather. This is a great time to get out in our gardens and take a close look at how various plants are doing. Sometimes plants can get too aggressive or too scraggly in growth. Sometimes things get overcrowded. And sometimes it might be time just to get rid of some things and change the look of an area. If you are like me, you take notice of some of the problems but don't take the time to fix them, especially in the heat of summer. The problems never fix themselves. They just tend to worsen over time. I had one of those areas in my garden that needed fixing. Yes, a real makeover was on the horizon.

I have an area in my garden that had begun to get rather messy and unkempt looking. Many years ago, I planted some St. John's Wort because it was a tough plant, provided some seasonal color, and was a dependable perennial. But over time, perhaps fifteen years, it had gradually expanded to the point where it was encroaching on areas where I wanted other plants. So earlier in the fall, I had a helper dig that massive clump of St. John's Wort entirely out of the garden. That was a tough job. Not only were the roots very intertwined with each other, but the soil there is heavy black clay. Finally, the last bit of this plant was successfully removed, which brings us to the point of this story.

About sixteen or seventeen years ago, I joined the Gatesville Garden Club. I met a wonderful lady named Nel Ziegler. Many of the club members might remember her as she judged the artistic division of our show several times. She was a

very knowledgeable person who was always willing to share with others who were interested in learning about plants, gardening, and floral design. I learned a lot from her about floral arrangements and floral design. However, one of my best memories of her has been with me for years. She gave me several rhizomes of tall bearded iris and rhizomes from two different varieties of Spuria iris she had in her garden. It was long ago before I paid much attention to the names of varieties or hybridizers. She might have told me the name, and I did not take note, or she might have just told me that one was yellow and one was purple and yellow. Anyway, those plants have been growing in my garden for at least fifteen years. I had divided and moved the yellow ones to different places in my garden, but I have never touched the purple and yellow variety.



For the last two years or so, I have noticed that the variety, which is purple and yellow (see photo above), was not blooming very well. So I decided it was time to dig them up, break them apart, and put them in a different area. With the help of the man who works for me at times, about half of the clump was dug up. I gave some to him to plant at his home and kept the other portion for me. There were still more to move, so I made two areas to accommodate them and even put a few small-

er rhizomes in pots.

I am sharing this information with our newsletter readers to encourage anyone who does not have a few Spuria iris to find a place for some. There are many reasons why I really enjoy this particular type of iris. For one thing, I have found that this iris will grow well in heavy clay soil. If the soil is not heavy, it will also do well there too. So the type of soil you have is not as much of a consideration as with tall bearded iris. I am by no means an expert with these plants but have found them very rewarding to grow. They usually bloom just a few weeks after most tall bearded varieties and add a great amount of color, just as other spring bulbs are finishing their show. The yellow ones are particularly striking. Another great feature of these irises is that they are very tall. They provide an excellent background for other plants. As you can see in the photo, the blooms are about even with my four-foot fence behind them.



Spuria iris require very little special care and seem to be relatively free of pests and disease. I also appreciate the fact that they will increase in numbers very quickly but do not require dividing as much as the tall bearded iris. The ones I have recently divided had a massive amount of old rhizome material still attached (see photo next page).

Spuria Iris by Ken Anderson (cont.)

Just the same as tall bearded iris, the old part of the rhizome will not produce any leaves or bloom stalks. All of the new growth emerges at the very end of what was the previous year's growth. As you can see in the photo, the roots on the old part of the rhizome will dry up and turn brown, whereas the new growth sends out fresh white roots.

If you do not have any Spuria iris growing in your yard, I encourage



you to add a few varieties. You won't regret having them there. The only negative I could think of regarding including them in your garden is that during the hotter part of summer, they will die down completely, and for a while, there will

be a bare or empty-looking spot in your garden. However, by mid-October or early November, you will see the new plants coming to life. They will provide attractive green foliage throughout the winter and for a couple of months after the bloom season has ended.

I hope you continue to find joy in your garden. This is a wonderful time to get outside and appreciate the beauty of nature.

Judge's Training Opportunities

Aril & Arilbred Iris

Nov. 21, 2021, 1:00 p.m.

Instructor: Rick Tasco

2 credit hours

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

11425 Marsh Ln., Dallas

Iris Color Patterns

Feb. 12, 2022, 10:30 a.m.

Instructor: Peggy Cathey

1 credit hour

JN Long Cultural Arts Complex

425 Granbury St., Cleburne

\$5.00 for judges

Tall Bearded Irises

Feb. 27, 2022, 3:00 p.m.

Instructor: Cynthis Wade

1 credit hour

Grandy's Restaurant

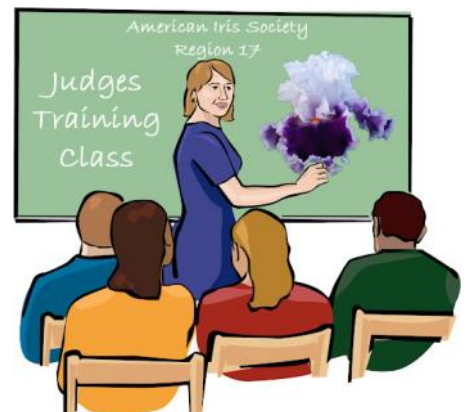
3201 Texhoma Parkway, Sherman

\$5.00 for judges

Treasurer's Report—Sept. 1 to Nov. 12

by Peggy Cathey, Asst. Treasurer

Checking-Opening balance 9/1/21		\$ 9,139.92
Income:	Dues	\$ 170.00
	Iris Sale	\$ 3,120.00
	Auction	\$ 795.00
	Plant Markers	\$ 93.00
	Ad reimbursement	\$ 25.00
	Expenses	
	AIS Memberships	\$ (90.00)
	Credit Card fees	\$ (62.45)
	Newsletter exp	\$ (20.28)
	Table rental	\$ (60.00)
	Office supplies	\$ (3.98)
	Plant markers	\$ (351.00)
	Postage	\$ (8.48)
	Printing	\$ (55.00)
	Member sale bonus	\$ (1,446.50)
Checking-Ending balance 11/12/21		\$ 11,245.23
PayPal opening balance 9/1/21		\$ 65.87
Facebook ad		\$ (56.03)
PayPal Ending balance 11/12/21		\$ 9.84





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**

**Mitchell Whitley, President
Peggy Cathey, Newsletter Editor
wacoiriss@gmail.com**

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

IMPORTANT DATES



November 20, 2021, 10 a.m.
Crestview Church of Christ, 7129 Delhi
TBD



January 15, 2022 10 a.m.
Crestview Church of Christ, 7129 Delhi
TBD



March 19, 2022, 10 a.m.
Crestview Church of Christ, 7129 Delhi
TBD



April 9, 2022
LaQuinta Inn & Suites, Woodway-Waco South
Annual Iris Show

Check out our website:

www.kenfuchs42.net/waco_index.html



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

Word Search—Iris Names That Begin With Autumn

Words may be across, backwards or diagonal.
Iris names that have either *back* or *forward* in their names.

ASPEN	SPLENDOUR
BREEZE	SUNBURST
CHAMELEON	SURGE
EXPLOSION	TAPESTRY
HAZE	THUNDER
HEIRESS	TRYST
LUSTRE	UNANSWERED
ORANGELITE	VELVET
PIROUETTE	WINE
ROSYCHEEKS	YEARS



Autumn Years
Ensminger, 1996

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