

Volume 16, Issue 4

March, 2024



Newsletter



Saturday, April 13th

Hampton Inn & Suites Waco South
2501 Marketplace Dr.

(located in the Central Texas Marketplace between
Kohl's and Cabela's)

Potted Iris Sale and Show opens from 1-3 p.m.

The Waco Iris Society is pleased to present our annual IRIS SHOW and Potted Iris Sale on April 13th at the Hampton Inn and Suites Waco South, 2501 Marketplace Dr., in Waco. Show entries should arrive between 8 a.m. and 9:45, with all entries in place by 10:00. Judging will begin at 10:15. The show and potted iris sale will open to the public from 1-3 p.m.

Inside this issue:

| | | | |
|----------------------------|---|---------------------|---|
| President's Message | 2 | Treasurer's Report | 6 |
| March Meeting Minutes | 3 | Word Search | 6 |
| Preparations for Show 2024 | 5 | Contact Information | 6 |

President's Message, March 27th by Ken Anderson

What an exciting spring we have had! First, there was an early bloom of redbud trees, wildflowers, and fruit trees. After some cold winter nights not too long ago, the weather quickly turned very spring-like! And then, after being teased by Mother Nature into thinking that warmer days were ahead, the cooler days and almost freezing early morning temperatures returned. These kinds of weather changes certainly impact the growth of irises and the production of bloom stalks. I have spoken to many club members who shared similar thoughts and concerns: "My irises are blooming early" and "I hope I will still have some irises blooming by the time we have our show." If I have not spoken to you directly about this issue, you might agree and share the same concerns. However, there are always those "late" season irises. Hopefully, several members can enter varieties that typically bloom too late for our show. Also, the Louisiana and spuria irises often bloom after our show. It would be great to offer an array of blooms not typically seen at our show. Of course, as always, the public seems to enjoy whatever we have to display. As club president, I always anticipate a very good show.

If you have had the chance to be out on the road to almost anywhere, I am sure you have been rewarded with the sight of beautiful fields of Bluebonnets and Indian Paintbrush. In those fields there are almost always other varieties enhancing the beauty. I am no expert on wildflowers, but I do recognize that there are several yellow varieties intermingled in nature's masterpiece. Quite often there is a wonderful mixture of Bluebonnets and Indian Paintbrush that creates a third perception of color. These fields make me think of impressionistic paintings, with their hints of different colors, so brightly contrasting, just waiting for our eyes to enjoy. To my great pleasure, I saw a beautiful variation of this phenomenon in a field just the other day. It was several acres of land dominated by purple Verbena but had accents of Indian Paintbrush, generously adding that wonderful tone of "paintbrush pinkish-orange." Perhaps there is a real name for this col-

or, but I am certain you can visualize the color combination. Another sure sign of spring is the "Blackfoot Daisy." The picture below was taken in the ditch by my property near Gatesville. This is truly a delightful attraction in spring and even throughout the summer and fall. And the real beauty is the fact that it prefers terrible soil, mostly rocky limestone subsoil with very little humus. What a pleasant surprise each spring to find it growing and flourishing here and there without any human help! For more information, check out this wonderful small plant online.



Blackfoot Daisy, a native Texas perennial

Several irises have begun to bloom in my garden, and many other varieties have bloom stalks emerging. In the fall of 2022, I bought just a few new irises at the auction since I was running out of space. I wanted to share this one with you. It is *Spine Tingler*, Tom Johnson, 2022. The description on the AIS site says it blooms early to mid-season. Well, it was one of the first irises to bloom in my yard this year. Something I have tried to do this year is take a picture of an iris the first day it blooms. Later, I will be able to go back and review the information on my phone and will know

President's Message (cont.)

exactly when each variety began blooming. I realize this hint or suggestion might be a little late, but I am finding this is a quick way to make note of this information.



Spine Tingler, Tom Johnson, 2022

I certainly hope that by now all of you are beginning to enjoy the fruits of your labor that began last fall, or perhaps even a year or two before that. It certainly is a wonderful time of the year when you wander out into your garden each morning, sometimes knowing what to expect because you saw a lot of color on a bud the previous day. But other times, you are totally surprised by a bloom that seems to have come out of nowhere! What a magical time it is!

As I composed this message I just glanced at the calendar and realized that our show is less than three weeks away. By the time you receive our newsletter, it will be less than two weeks away. Wow! It is time to get busy with all those details we address in preparation for the show. I will put on my "other hat" as show chair and remind everyone of some things regarding our show.

Meeting Minutes-March 16, 2024 by Jacky Roberts, Secretary

The March meeting was called to order by President Ken Anderson.

Roll call was done by Dan Cathey, there were 13 members present.

The A.I.S. membership drawing was won by Mitchell Whitley, Secretary report and Treasurer's report were sent out in the newsletter and accepted as published.

Everyone that purchased a raffle ticket won something.

Old Business: Update on backup meeting place will be discussed next meeting.

New Business: Slate of Officers for 2024-25 year was motioned by Carol Lane and Seconded by Mary Keeth and voted unanimously.

Linda Roper requested some help finding a location for the end-of-year luncheon, Carol Lane volunteered to research a location.

Ken Anderson asked everyone to see if they wanted to receive the Region 17 newsletter via email or mail and will forward to the region editor.

We needed someone to be in charge of the Artistic sign-up sheet for the show, Mitchell Whitley volunteered.

Distribution of show schedules, entry sheets, entry cards, and flyers.

We discussed sources for iris giveaway/auction and how much to spend. We decided Mid-America and Sutton Iris Gardens. Motion by Mary Keeth, seconded by Katrina Rieser, voted unanimously. \$400 for each was motion by Mary Keeth, seconded by Katrina Rieser, voted unanimously.

Discussion was had about how much to donate to the church for

the meeting room we settled on \$50 a meeting. Motion by Jacky Roberts, seconded by Katrina Rieser, voted unanimously. Mitchell Whitley will schedule future meetings.

Mary Keeth thanked everyone for the cards, care and support with the passing of Jerry.

B.J. Wheeler spoke about the Tall Bearded Iris Society.

We then had refreshments and had Peggy Cathey do a program on show preparation.

Final reminders, rules for "Single Blossom" entries can be found in the show schedule on page 4, paragraph 13. Rules for "Photography" can be found in the show schedule on page 8. Container Grown Iris will be for display only. Meeting was adjourned.

Preparations for Show 2024 by Ken Anderson, Show Chair

The Spring Iris Show is the main event of the year. There is always a lot of excitement brewing within each member regarding blooms that will open in time for the show or be too late or too early for our show. Thoughts on creating a design might be swirling around in some minds at three in the morning. The added excitement might center around the addition of new elements to our show. Hopefully we will have great participation in those new elements. You do not have to be a member of the Waco Iris Society or the American Iris Society to enter an Iris Show and there are no entry fees.

Those of you who are creating designs should already have the elements pre-planned. Gathering the container, the niche, the fabric if used, and an accessory for the design is something you can do well before the show. Having all these elements ready to go will certainly reduce stress. The last part of this process is finding the perfect bloom or blooms for the design and any additional plant material. You might feel a little overwhelmed if this is your first time entering a design. However, remember that some members have years of experience and will gladly offer guidance and answer your questions. Just remember, every exhibitor who has been doing this for years also did it for the first time years ago. Mitch Whitley has the official “sign-up” sheet for the artistic division. If you have questions or wish to add your name to the list of entries, please get in touch with him at 254-400-6194. Following are the classes and openings:

An Iris Show *Where the Wild Things Are*

Class 1: Out of Africa:

Katrina Rieser
Peggy Cathey
Ken Anderson



Class 2: Wild and Woolly West:

Dan Cathey
Ken Anderson



Class 3: An Outback Party:

Peggy Cathey



Class 4: Into the Woods (Novice):

Mary Keeth



Class 5: Wild Child (Youth):



As you can see, there are plenty of openings for you to sign up to do an artistic design. It's fun and a big attraction for our guests.

If you are bringing a horticultural entry for the first time, you might be concerned about what you should and should not do. Just remember some basics. Cut your entries either early in the morning or late in the evening up to 2 days before the show if it is apparent the bloom will open by show day. Cutting the bloom stalk a day or two before the bloom opening will not interrupt the blooming process. Be sure to put the bloom stalk in water as soon as possible, even if it is not in the green bottle you will use at the show. Remember to immediately label it correctly, especially if you bring more than one entry. The easiest way to do this is to cut strips of paper, then cut a slit in one end. Write the name of the iris on this strip, wrap it around the stalk, and slip the end through the slit you cut. Also, be sure you have a green bottle for each entry. Correctly identify each iris by variety and section it will go in for the show.



Please refer to the show schedule for the correct Section for your iris. This information is required on the entry tag so the iris can be placed appropriately for exhibition. Additional entry cards will be available if needed. If bringing entries to the show is a new

Preparations for Show 2024 (cont.)

experience for you, plenty of other members will assist you in ensuring your entry is properly exhibited. The same goes for any of you who might be entering the artistic division of the show. Participation in artistic design is always fun. Once you have moved past the “first-time” experience, you will be well on your way to enjoying entering shows in the future.

I have confirmed our reservation for the meeting room at the Hampton Inn. Technically, the room is reserved for us from 7:00 p.m. on Friday until 7:00 p.m. on Saturday. However, as of today, March 28, no events are scheduled in that room for Friday, April 12. We can begin setting up our exhibits and bringing in our materials, plants, equipment, etc., for the show in the afternoon as early as 3:00 p.m. I plan to check with staff at the hotel again on the Wednesday before our show to confirm that we can set up early on Friday. If there is a last-minute change, you will be notified by one of the club members. However, I think it is safe to assume the room will be available in the early afternoon on Friday. If you have questions or concerns, please call or text me at 254-223-3161.

For members bringing potted irises for display, you can drop them off at the hotel on Friday afternoon. However, if you live far from Waco and must wait until Saturday to bring them, try arriving around 8 o'clock. Check-in time for entries in the show will begin at 8:00 a.m. There is always a lot going on as entries are being checked in and placed on tables, and members entering the artistic division are busy preparing their designs. Potted irises are being placed on sales tables. All displays and entries need to be in place by 9:45 a.m. The judges will be coming into the show area at 10:00 a.m. for instructions, and the judging will begin at 10:15.

In addition to the above reminders, we have added “Single Blossom” as a new section of the horticulture division and photography as a new division. Having these new elements will add to the fun and excitement of the show but will also raise questions. A little bit of confusion is always expected when something new is

tried. We will have fun and work through the challenges as they arise. Please refer to your show schedule regarding specifics for preparing entries.

Finally, I will repeat my usual speech regarding participation in the show. Understandably, members want to bring the very best specimens they have and increase their chances of receiving blue ribbons for their entries. However, the public likes seeing color



and the various combinations of colors. I believe all of the irises that bloom are worthy of appreciation. We had a good show last year.

However, several members have expressed concern about having irises to show this year. Remember, we must have at least five exhibitors and twenty different cultivars to have an accredited show. Even if you have only one or two blooms on the day of the show, please bring them and help increase our number of exhibitors and cultivars.

For those of you who are bringing potted irises for the sale, you will need to

have a 1”x 4.25” strip of paper (one-half a sheet of paper cut vertically and then cut into 1-inch strips) with your initials on it to receive the bonus from the sale. Please staple it securely on one of



the leaves. It is very helpful if you use bright-colored paper (card stock works well), which helps with sorting the tags for the person calculating bonuses. Also, be sure you have the variety of the iris marked clearly on the pot or a plant marker stuck in the pot.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the show and hoping to see a lot of beautiful irises.



Society

An affiliate of the American Iris Society

President: Ken Anderson

Phone: 254-223-3161

Email: kenwanderson@hotmail.com

Membership dues \$10/yr.

Send payment to:

Waco Iris Society

115 HCR 1414

Covington, TX 75636

Newsletter Editor:

Peggy Cathey

Phone: 817-666-9002

Email: wacoiriss@gmail.com

We're on the Web!

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

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

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

Website has been updated—Check it out!



facebook

[https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/WacoIrisSociety)

WacoIrisSociety

Iris Names beginning with SHOW



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

Word Bank

Baby
Biz
Boat
Bound

Case
Circuit
Down
Dress

Finale
Girl
Glow
Manship

Master
Miss
Off
Piece

Queen
Royale
Stopper
Time

Treasurer's Report by Peggy Cathey

| | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Beginning bal. 3-1-24 | \$ 12,335.18 | Expenses: | |
| Income: | | AIS Memberships | \$ (60.00) |
| Raffle | \$ 88.00 | Iris for Giveaway | \$ (755.65) |
| AIS dues (Dawn) | \$ 30.00 | Speaker stipend | \$ (25.00) |
| Total income | \$ 118.00 | Postage | \$ (51.97) |
| | | Newsletter | \$ (28.54) |
| | | Printing | \$ (.70) |
| | | Checks | \$ (38.96) |
| | | Total expenses | \$ (960.82) |
| | | Ending bal. 3-31-24 | \$ 11,492.36 |

