

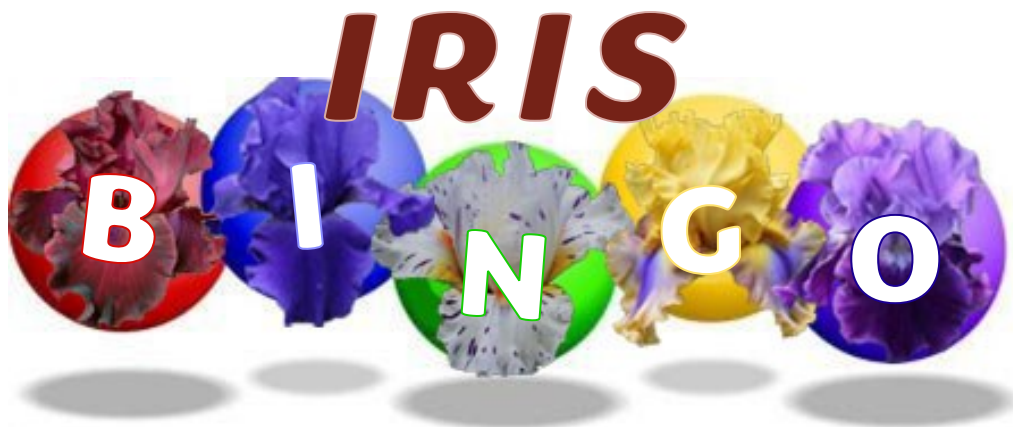
Volume 16, Issue 2

November, 2024



Newsletter

Waco Iris Society 



Remember how much fun we had playing BINGO last year? Well, get ready for another round of excitement! We've upgraded our cards and introduced a new way to draw the numbers. Members, we're counting on your support—please bring at least three named irises to use as prizes. These can be potted or bare-root. If you're a new member and don't have any irises yet, don't worry—bring other plants, house plants, perennials, bulbs, or even garden-related items like trowels or other small tools. We want everyone to feel like a winner! And remember, guests are always welcome to join in the fun.

All the fun will take place on November 16th at the Crestview Church of Christ Community Center, 7129 Delhi in Waco. Our members always provide wonderful snacks, but please bring your own drink.



Thank you to everyone who made our sale such a success!

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A Most Welcomed Change of Weather by Ken Anderson

President's Message, November 5, 2024:

When I compose a message for the newsletter, I will sometimes look back to see what I had to say the previous year in that same period. What a coincidence! Last year, I wrote about cooler weather and rain. Since we live in central Texas, rain is always newsworthy. The most welcomed changes are the cooler temperatures and the rain that has occurred because of these frontal systems moving through our area. We nearly always need the rain. And the cooler temperatures are always appreciated. I am hoping that everyone received some beneficial rain yesterday afternoon, yesterday evening, and even well into the night. Having lived in Gatesville for twenty-two years, I have witnessed some strange occurrences regarding thunderstorms in our area. Some of my friends here in Gatesville claim they have seen the same phenomenon that I have observed. My theory is that the dramatic change in elevation just east of Gatesville, known as South Mountain, creates some upward turbulence of air that prevents the rain from forming. I witnessed this again yesterday. I live on the east end of town and received no measurable rain, while downtown had at least a quarter of an inch. I have a friend who lives on the west side of town. He will often call or text to let me know it is pouring down rain at his place. The storm is moving from west to east, so I expect rain any minute. Eventually, I get a few drops, and then it stops. Moments later, it began to pour about three miles east of my house. Such was the case



yesterday around noon. Fortunately, those of us who live on the east side of town finally got some beneficial rain later in the afternoon and again in the evening. I am sure all of us can agree that we are grateful for whatever rain comes our way. With the change of time over the weekend, the cooler air, and the rain, our members likely feel like fall has finally arrived.

This is also the time of year when I take the opportunity to remind members about fall fertilization. As usual, I always have fond memories of the reminders Glenn Huddleston gave us. He was adamant about fertilizing irises at certain times of the year. Many of you have heard this before. However, some of our newer members should note that there are three good times to apply fertilizer. Remember these three



special holidays: Halloween, Valentine's Day, and Father's Day. Those three occasions coincide with essential changes within the rhizome of an iris. Halloween, at the end of October, the roots begin to grow, absorbing nutrients and creating rhizome growth. A healthy and fully developed rhizome is needed to produce beautiful blooms in the spring. The fertilization in February (Valentine's Day) supplies another round of nutrients about a month or six weeks before most blooms occur. When the bloom season has ended, the June fertilization will provide another boost for the rhizomes as the bloom period has depleted much of the stored nutrients. Also, they begin to produce new growth, eventually becoming the following year's



rhizomes. Another thing to remember is the use of time-released pellets like Osmocote®. Those pellets provide nutrients for about ninety days. That coincides with Glenn's recommended cycle of fertilization. This system is a good reminder for those growing irises in containers that the time-released pellets should be applied simultaneously. By following these tips, you can ensure the health and beauty of your irises, empowering you as a knowledgeable gardener.

If you have been growing irises for years, you have seen this advice before. If you are new to iris

President's Message, May 9th by Ken Anderson



10-10-10 fertilizer



Alfalfa pellets



Worm castings

gardening, I will repeat myself from previous years. Remember to use a balanced fertilizer like 10-10-10 or 12-12-12. Just sprinkle it around the root system, trying to keep it from landing directly on the rhizomes. Also, it is an excellent time to put out alfalfa pellets. They will provide a natural nitrogen source plus the benefit of organic material. Another great product to use is worm castings. Worm castings are expensive, but they go a long way and do wonders for your plants. If you look for worm castings at local feedstores or other gardening outlets, they are usually available in small bags of just a few pounds. If you need a large amount, go online and find a source that offers it in the size bag you prefer and the best price. Worm castings can be mixed into the soil as you replant rhizomes or work into the soil around the rhizomes. Remember, many of the roots are shallow, so do not damage them. The addition of worm castings is one of the simplest yet most beneficial things you can do for your iris beds.

Our next meeting will be held on Saturday, November 16, at 10:00 a.m. at the Crestview Church of Christ Community Center at 7129 Delhi Road in Waco. We will be having our usual business meeting followed by our program. During our business meeting, we will discuss plans for our upcoming show in April and address any concerns that were an issue at last year's show. For the program will play Bingo, using the club's new bingo cards (no more beans to cover the numbers or computer programs that don't work!) The prizes will be iris rhizomes and potted irises. or even other potted plants. Each member is asked to bring at



least three irises. These may be potted or bare root iris rhizomes, other potted plants, or any combination of those three things. Keep in mind that if you do not have any irises to use for the game, any other plant you wish to share will be fine. We want our Bingo game to be fun for everyone and for all members to have the opportunity to go home with at least three plant items that they do not have in their garden.



In September, we had the largest rhizome sale we had ever had. Thanks so much to the members who prepared and brought rhizomes to the sale. Also, thanks to all the members who helped in many ways. There are always many small details to address at our rhizome sale, but thankfully, all of our members are willing to offer support and advice to customers, help at the sales table, and help with the setting up and removal of tables for the sale. Much preparation is needed to set up the sale. A special thanks is given to Dan and Peggy Cathey for all their "behind the scenes" work. Once they know the names of the varieties offered for sale, they begin gathering all the pictures and preparing the bags for the rhizomes. After all the work and preparation, the reward is seeing so many customers arrive to purchase rhizomes and witnessing their interest and enthusiasm for growing irises. I also want to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude for the overwhelming support we received for the rhizome sale. Your contributions have been invaluable, and we truly appreciate your dedication to our club.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our next meeting.

What A Sale!

Wow! What a sale we had in September. Thank you to all our members who donated plants and worked the sale. We had more varieties (over 240), and more rhizomes (more than 1,100) than ever before. AND, what a turn-out of eager iris shoppers! Folks started to line up before 8:30 for our 9:00 opening. The check-out lines moved slower than usual because the Square was not working properly, but we will have all of that working before our Potted Iris Sale on April 12th, 2025, during our big Iris Show.

Our members showed unwavering dedication, working tirelessly to set up tables, arrange the sacks in alphabetical order, and ensure all the irises were put in the proper sack (which held a photo of the irises inside). We even had to get creative and set up some

smaller tables in the parking lot due to the overwhelming response. Their hard work and commitment were truly commendable.

Members were happy to assist all our wonderful shoppers in finding the irises they were looking for and answering questions regarding how to plant and when and with what to fertilize them. We had plenty of printed How to Grow pamphlets and membership brochures for anyone interested in becoming a member. We also had several sign-up to receive our Waco Iris Society News, sent by email before each meeting or event.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to Carol for her invaluable help with the sales, and to Diane, Mary, Linda R., Jacky, and others for their assistance in making the check-out process smoother. Your contributions were instrumental in the success of our sale.

So, until next year, HAPPY IRIS GROWING!

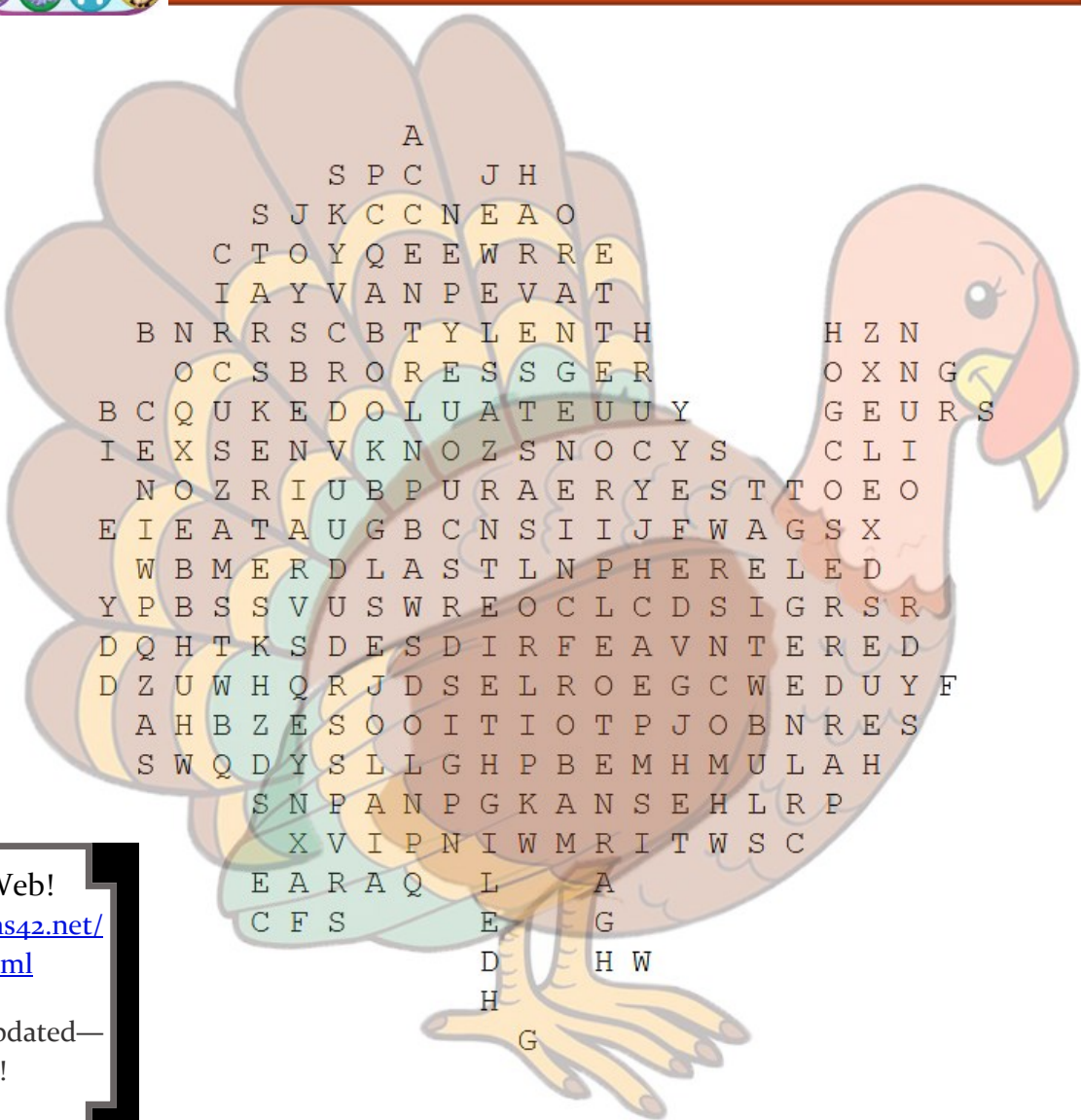


Treasurer's Report by Peggy Cathey

Beginning bal. 9-1-24	\$ 10,550.31	Expenses:	
Income:		Table rental	\$ (80.00)
Membership dues	\$ 160.00	Credit card fee	\$ (149.04)
T-Shirt	\$ 22.00	Newsletters (Sept)	\$ (13.02)
AIS membership	\$ 70.00	Postage	\$ (8.82)
Iris Sale	\$ 6,428.50	Printing	\$ (134.36)
Iris Auction	\$ 815.00	Facebook ad	\$ (60.00)
Plant markers	\$ 55.00	AIS memberships	\$ (165.00)
Petty Cash	<u>\$ 100.00</u>	T-shirt	\$ (22.00)
		Members sale commissions	\$ (3,151.50)
		Donation for meeting room	<u>\$ (35.00)</u>
Total income	\$ 7,650.50	Total expenses	\$ (3,818.74)
		Ending bal. 9-30-24	\$ 14,392.07



Iris Names beginning with Autumn



We're on the Web!
http://www.kenfuchs42.net/waco_index.html
 Website has been updated—
 Check it out!

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- 1. Accent
- 2. Blush
- 3. Breeze
- 4. Cavalier
- 5. Circus
- 6. Colors
- 7. Delight
- 8. Embers
- 9. Explosion
- 10. Garnet
- 11. Harvest
- 12. Ivory
- 13. Jester
- 14. Jewel
- 15. Joy
- 16. Nectar
- 17. Orange
- 18. Peach
- 19. Pirouette
- 20. Rain
- 21. Riesling
- 22. Ring
- 23. Sapphire
- 24. Shower
- 25. Sky
- 26. Stars
- 27. Sunburst
- 28. Surge
- 29. Tease
- 30. Thunder
- 31. Tryst
- 32. Unanswered
- 33. Wine
- 34. Years



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