

Volume 16, Issue 2

November, 2024



# Newsletter

Waco Iris Society



We are eagerly anticipating the first meeting of the New Year which will begin at 10:00 a.m. on January 18th. The meeting will be held at Crestview Church of Christ in the Community Center, 7219 Delhi.

Carol is preparing a terrific program for us that will highlight some of our members' iris gardens. You will not only see what they have done to highlight their irises, but you will also see many beautiful blooms from previous seasons. If you haven't

sent your photos to Carol, please do so quickly so she has time to add them to the PowerPoint program. We should all go home with new inspiration, tips, tricks, and ideas for improving our own iris gardens. Our gardens are an ever-evolving source of joy and sometimes disappointment, but we learn as we go as to what grows well for us and what doesn't. Remember, we are all in this together, learning and growing as a club.



*PDC Garden, 2007*

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Greetings to all my fellow iris gardeners. What a pleasure it is to sit down at the computer on a gloomy day and begin to anticipate what lies ahead as, little by little, the days grow longer. Even though you all know it well, I will give you my annual review. As I sit here at my desk, I look out a window that faces west. The sky is totally gray, which indicates to me that the afternoon will likely continue to be gray and wintery looking. Of course, it is Texas, and before I finish composing this message, the sun could shine brightly, rendering my description of the day useless. I do love gray and overcast days. If the temperature is decent and there is no wind, I enjoy being outside doing something. Of course, I love those fall and winter days when it is sunny, and the temperature does not rise above 70 degrees. But people like me still have to apply sunscreen! So, I will take the gray days over the sunny ones to do my yard work.

I get a thought or perhaps more of a feeling at this time of year. I share it frequently, hopefully with a slightly different twist each year. Maybe you can relate to that feeling. Once Christmas Day has passed, the following week seems to pass quite quickly, too, and the excitement of New Year's Eve, New Year's Day, The Rose Parade, and bowl games soon become memories. This was especially true during my years in education. And I have noticed that even in retirement, once the shopping, gatherings for meals with family and friends, and all the other wonderful things associated with the holidays have passed, there seems to be a shift within... mentally, physically, and emotionally. I think it is a condition that is probably not clinically identified and common among gardeners. The hustle, bustle, and rushing around associated with the holiday season are all now behind us, and we look forward to the next big thing: the arrival of spring. I hope you share this excitement. As usual, we all take our little walks through our gardens or around our house to check out what is happening with our irises. I think, for the most part, we can agree that they are not too exciting to look at this time of year.

Of course, there are exceptions; you will hear a lot about that in our program at our next meeting. Some rhizomes might appear to have disappeared or show only a tiny amount of growth. If you are new to iris gardening, don't let this be a concern. You will be amazed at the changes that will occur in the next three months. As a lover and observer of nature, I am always amazed at the speed at which things begin to change. I am sharing pictures from my yard today to illustrate this point, especially for members who have recently started to grow irises. In September, I dug some beautiful Roper's Revenge irises for the rhizome sale. I set some aside to replant in one of my beds, but I never got around to planting them until a few weeks ago. They looked pretty pathetic. However, with just the passage of a few weeks, signs of increases are coming up on each side of the old rhizomes. I took a close-up picture of one to let newcomers know that this is the time you might begin to see new growth on your irises. Never give up on them.



New increases showing on *Roper's Revenge*

I have also included two pictures of "Flash of Brilliance." The first picture is before I did a little grooming and the second one, after grooming, has arrows to



## President's Message cont.



*Flash of Brilliance* before grooming on the left, and after grooming on the right. Note the new increases coming on.

point out some of the new growth already occurring. This is a good time to remove the old leaves. If they have turned brown, they should release from the plant with just a slight tug. I leave them alone for a few more days if they don't release. As the rhizome expands, it will naturally slough off the old leaves.

Another thing I always mention in my January messages is the weather. For the past few months, I have made notes on a calendar hanging on the side of my kitchen cabinet. Fortunately, I was more dedicated to doing this than in past years. The information is not a complete report, but I can assure you that the winter chill needed for a good bloom season has already been at work for quite a while. I noted on my calendar that our first frost day was November 15 here in Gatesville. I did not record early morning temperatures every day, but the last two weeks of November were quite chilly, with low temperatures in the low 30s to low 40s almost every morning. I also recorded some below-freezing mornings during the first week of December. We had another frosty morning on December 18 and heavy frost on December 21. There

these chilling mornings. Weather conditions have been good for iris growth. A lot is happening beneath the surface of the soil.

Our next meeting, scheduled for January 18, 2025, promises to be exciting. Some members are working on brief presentations, and our program will be a time to share our gardens with others. I am not sure if the program has an actual title, but it will be a great time to "visit" the gardens of other members without driving a single mile. I have spoken to some members and anticipate this program will be excellent. Believe it or not, at least one member will have pictures of irises blooming in December and are blooming as of today, January 3. That is all I will reveal about that person's presentation. I anticipate an excellent program and a great meeting. Our meeting will be held at the usual location, the Crestview Church of Christ Community Center, 7219 Delhi Rd. Woodway. I look forward to seeing all of you at our meeting, and I hope you have had a wonderful Christmas and a great time with family members. I hope that your new year is off to a very positive start.



were other days of frost, but they were not always noted on my calendar. Most of us have had very beneficial rains along with

## Meeting Minutes by Jacky Roberts

President Ken Anderson called the November 16, 2024, meeting to order at 10:05 am. There were 15 members present and one guest, Loretta Reagan.

The minutes of the September meeting were published in an email sent to the members on November 8. Peggy Cathey moved to approve, seconded by Mary Keeth. The Treasurer's report was published in the newsletter.

Mitchell Whitley won the drawing for A.I.S. Membership.

A raffle was held for members, with most members taking something home.

There was no old business to discuss.

Under new business:

- We were fortunate to have Bonnie Nichols present to discuss her goals as the new president of A.I.S.
- We discussed plans for the January meeting. Everyone is invited to do a short program on their garden and to send photos to Carol Lang, who will put them into a PowerPoint presentation.
- Linda Roper reported that she was still working on getting a judge for our Iris Show on April 12, 2025.

After a refreshment break, we decided to have a raffle game for rhizomes instead of bingo. Everyone took home several new rhizomes, canna Lilies, and garden plants. The meeting was adjourned at 11:55.

## Treasurer's Report by Peggy Cathey

Happy New Year everyone!

I want to thank everyone who has brought items for our meeting raffles, from potted plants to gardening tools, yard art, and more. We have had some nice prizes for the lucky members whose number(s) have been drawn.

We're excited to continue the raffle for as long as you want it. Your contributions are what make it

possible, so please keep bringing items and, most importantly, buy those tickets.

Remember, each ticket is just \$1, or you can get 6 for \$5. Let's make this raffle a huge success!



<b>Checking: beginning bal. 10-1-24</b>	<b>\$ 14,311.57</b>	<b>Expenses:</b>	
<b>Income:</b>		Donation for meeting room	\$ (35.00)
Membership dues	\$ 20.00	Credit card fee	<u>\$ (1.54)</u>
Raffle	\$ 47.00	<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$ (36.54)</b>
Donation	\$ 14.00		
Iris Sale	\$ 30.00	<b>Checking: ending bal. 12-31-24</b>	<b>\$ 14,389.03</b>
Plant markers	<u>\$ 33.00</u>	<b>Petty Cash</b>	<b>\$ 100.00</b>
<b>Total income</b>	<b>\$ 144.00</b>		





**New Tomorrow**  
(Sexton, 1981)



# Happy New Year

## Word Search



### Iris Names beginning with NEW

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

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An affiliate of the American Iris Society

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We're on the Web!

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

Website has been updated—  
Check it out!

1. Accent
2. Adventure
3. age
4. approach
5. arrival
6. beginning
7. blood
8. born
9. challenge
10. charm
11. creation
12. dawn
13. day
14. design
15. dimension
16. direction
17. discovery
18. dream
19. enchantment
20. era
21. freedom
22. frontier
23. harmony
24. honey
25. horizon
26. idea
27. look
28. mexico
29. morning
30. offering
31. penny
32. perspective
33. tomorrow
34. venture
35. vision
36. wave
37. world
38. year



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