

Volume 16, Issue 4

March, 2025



Newsletter

Waco Iris Society



The Waco Iris Society proudly presents:



Music in the Iris Garden

Everyone is invited to show and/or attend our annual Iris Show and Potted Iris Sale on April 12th. Entries will be accepted between 8 and 10 a.m., with the judging commencing at 10:15. The show and sale will open to the public from 1-3 p.m. This year, we will be in a new venue – the **Holiday Inn Express and Suites Waco South**, 5701 Legend Lake Pkwy, near Baylor Scott & White Hospital. This year's theme for our show is ***Music in the Iris Garden***. We will gather to celebrate the iris flower's beauty, elegance, and diversity. As you stroll through the vibrant displays, prepare to be awestruck by the stunning array of colors, shapes, and sizes these magnificent blooms offer. Each iris tells its unique story, from the

delicate pastels to the bold and striking hues, showcasing the incredible diversity of nature.

Our talented members work hard to create breathtaking arrangements that showcase the Iris's true essence and capture the beauty of our ***Music*** theme. Whether you're a seasoned horticulturist or come to enjoy the splendor of nature, there's something for everyone to admire and appreciate.

So, let the Iris Show begin! We are eagerly anticipating the joy and inspiration that will fill your heart as you immerse yourselves in the enchanting world of irises. We look forward to seeing you at the show and hope you'll join us in celebrating the beauty of the iris flower. Enjoy the show!

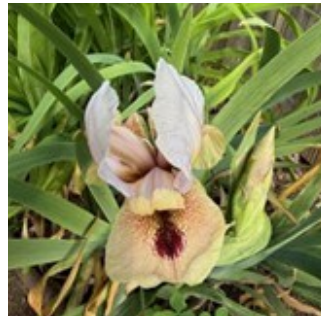
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It is already that time. Our spring show is just a few days away. I have no way of knowing each individual's perspective of the passage of time, but for me, the first quarter of the year seems to have flown past. For some reason, I feel like there were weeks that had only two or three days in them. But the calendar does not lie. What a difference there is between two years! For gardeners, the way a year feels seems to be mainly in the hands of "Mother Nature." As you may recall, last year we experienced a relatively mild spring with frequent rainfall. There was rarely a need for supplemental watering of anything for the first few months of the year. It was a banner year for everything. The trees, grass, wildflowers, and irises all burst into a vibrant display of color. Additionally, we experienced an unusually spectacular bloom season that arrived early. Depending upon where you live, this year has been quite different. The rains have been more sporadic. Some areas have received generous amounts, while others have received brief showers or even experienced a spring drought. Not only was there a difference in rainfall, but this winter also brought some hard freezes, unlike last year. As iris gardeners, we know the importance of winter chill for bloom production. We definitely received the chill, but sometimes those frigid temperatures lingered for several days in a row. The lack of moisture and numerous freezing nights appeared to be contributing factors to the late arrival of spring. I have noticed that redbud trees, which normally bloom by the end of February, did not produce buds until the middle of March, at least two to three weeks later this year than last year. However, the weather has changed very quickly, and warmer temperatures have arrived. The long-awaited bloom stalks on irises have also finally begun to arrive.

The first iris to bloom in my garden was "Tien Shan" (Arilbred). It seems to be first every year. However, a characteristic I see quite consistently with this iris is the lack of development of a strong stalk, as is quite evident in the attached photo. The stalks are nearly always short. Or, if they do happen to grow taller, they become so spindly that they topple over with the weight of the buds. I am certain this condition is a problem specific to my garden. Perhaps I

need to relocate it to a different area and improve the soil conditions for better overall development of the plant. A great thing about this iris is that it is dependable. It blooms every year, and it is always very early. Perhaps there are members who can share their experience with growing this particular variety.



Tien Shan,
Jensen, 2005 (AB)



Wings of Peace,
Sutton-G, 1997 SA

The second bloom to greet me was "Wings of Peace", one of my favorites because of its consistent great performance and its strikingly pure white color. In the attached picture, the pure whiteness of the falls reflects the colors of evening sunlight.

It is always a pleasure, as each variety seems to be waiting to take its turn showing off some colors. I hope each of you are experiencing this same parade of colors that changes on a daily basis for the next several weeks.

I am looking forward to a great show on Saturday, April 12, 2025. I hope everyone is making plans to be present for the show. As you walk about your garden, look for bloom stalks that are just appearing. When you see the stalk just beginning to emerge, it will take about ten days for the bloom to fully open. Now is the time to be thinking about which bloom stalks will be possible entries for the show. I am looking forward to seeing everyone on Saturday and seeing many beautiful blooms. I am hoping that we have great participation in both the horticulture and design portions of our show.

I look forward to seeing you at the show on Saturday, April 12, 2025.

Show Chair Report, April 2, 2025 by Ken Anderson

It's time for the main event. Our spring show is just a few days away. Today is the day to be looking for bloom stalks starting to form at the base of the fan. If you don't see it today, that particular fan is not likely to produce a stalk in time to be shown at our show. If you have the chance, take some time today to stroll through your garden, making mental notes of the possibilities for entries in our show. If you have a large garden, you might even want to take pen and paper with you or use your phone to make notes of possible entries. I would like to receive a text, email, or phone call from anyone with news of their potential number of entries, in very general terms, such as: 'I will have a few,' 'I will have several,' or 'I won't have any.' Please note that we AIS requires a minimum of five exhibitors and at least twenty-five cultivars to host a sanctioned show. I am confident that this requirement will not be an issue this year. However, I suspect we might not have the quantity of blooms that we had last year, due to the bloom season being so different. The unusual weather patterns and late blooming season have affected the overall bloom count, but we are still expecting a show that will dazzle with its unique beauty.

All arrangements have been made for the show venue. If you haven't been to the Holiday Inn Express & Suites Waco South, located at 5701 Legend Lake Parkway, Waco, TX, you'll be pleasantly surprised by our new location. The layout of the room, its accessibility to the parking area behind the hotel, and other amenities will suit our needs very well. The people with whom I have made arrangements have been very helpful and accommodating. We will be allowed into the

meeting space at 5:00 p.m. on Friday to begin setting up for the show. This is a great time to bring in your design materials and your potted irises for the sale. If you cannot drop off your potted irises on Friday evening, try to arrive early on Saturday morning, preferably no later than 9 a.m. Please note that there will be much activity on Saturday morning as members bring in their entries for the show. Look for more information regarding the potted iris sale in Peggy Cathey's article. Entries must be received at the show site between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. on Saturday. Please refer to the show schedule, pages 3 and 4, for rules related to horticultural entries and to page 5 for information regarding sections. Please refer to pages 6 and 7 for rules and information regarding Artistic Design and to page 8 for details regarding Photography. For everyone entering any portion of the show, please complete an entry card for each entry and ensure that both the top and bottom portions of the entry tags are filled out. All entries for the show must be included on your entry sheet. If you need entry sheets or entry cards, those will be available on Friday evening and Saturday morning. Hopefully, the show schedule will provide the answers to any questions you might have. However, if you still require additional information, please get in touch with Ken Anderson at (254-223-3161) or Linda Roper at (254-386-7552). Remember, your participation is crucial to the success of our show. One final note: It is the responsibility of each exhibitor to review the rules and adhere to the schedule. In particular, please remember rule number 4, page 3 of the schedule. You are personally responsible for bringing your entries for exhibition.

Potted Iris Sale by Peggy Cathey

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the six members who took the time to pot up irises last fall for our Spring Iris Show and Potted Iris Sale. Your dedication and support are truly invaluable to our club. As it stands now, all the photos have been scheduled to appear daily on Facebook posts, which began on March 30, with different irises featured each day until Show Day, April 12th. We have 60 different named varieties of irises, as well as 19 different

"Mystery" irises – those for which the tags were lost. Some have colors, some say this or that, some are just mysteries, but still will add color to the garden. In total, we will have 200 potted irises. The sale will open at 1:00. No early shoppers, please!



Meeting Minutes-March 15, 2025 by Jacky Roberts

The March meeting of the Waco Iris Society was called to order by President Ken Anderson. Roll was called with 16 members present and no guests. Secretary Report was sent out in the newsletter, the only correction being to add the Show date which is April 12. Motion to approve by Carol Lane, seconded by Mary Keeth. Carried by unanimous vote. Treasurer Report was also in the newsletter.

Drawing for A.I.S. Membership was won by Dan Cathey.

Everyone that bought a raffle ticket took something home.

Under Old Business, Mary Keeth received her medal for last year's show.



Update regarding new venue for this year's show. It will be held at Holiday Inn Express and Suites Waco South, 5701 Legend Parkway, Waco, Texas

Under New Business:
A. All elected current officers were unanimously voted in for another year as listed, President: Ken

Anderson, Vice President: Linda Roper, Secretary of State: Jacky Roberts, Treasurer: Peggy Cathey. All volunteer positions will stay the same with exception now Carol Lane will take over Hospitality Chair.

B. Discussed location of "End of Year" luncheon. All agreed upon George's, same as last year. Carol Lane agreed to check on availability for May 17th at 11am.

C. Discuss Region 17 newsletter and how to setup to receive by email or mail.

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

E. Discuss and approve \$400 each for Iris rhizomes from Mid-America Gardens and Sutton Iris Garden. Motion was made by Mary Keeth, 2nd by Linda Roper, unanimously passed. Mitchell Whitley to place order at Mid-America, Peggy Cathey to place order at Sutton.

Next was refreshment break and then Dan Cathey gave a Photography Power Point Presentation and Peggy Cathey gave Show Preparation Presentation.

Final Announcements/ Reminders. Meeting Adjourned.

Treasurer's Report by Peggy Cathey

Income since February 28, 2025		Expenses from January 1 through February 28, 2025:	
Income:		Donation for meeting room	\$ (35.00)
Raffle	\$ 60.00	AIS Membership	\$ (30.00)
Club dues	\$ 10.00		\$ (30.00)
Total income	\$ 70.00	Total expenses	\$ (125.00)

We have a new policy: The checking account balance will now only be reported during the meetings.



More on Photography by Dan Cathey

Our fearless/peerless leader sent me this excellent photo of a spirea taken in his backyard. I really wish that I had it for my presentation on photography at the last meeting. It presents several of the key elements all in one photo, depth of field, leading lines, and contrast. Take a minute here to look at the photo and see if you can spot these features...

The depth of field is pretty self-evident with the foreground and the background fading out of focus, leaving us with the subject clearly presented. The leading lines are a little bit subtle, but the bare branches effectively pull the eye to the subject in the center.

We talked about contrast in photos using color, or in this case, lack thereof, the deeply shadowed area underscores the white of the featured blossoms giving a WOW element.

So, what's not to like? Beauty is always in the eye of the beholder but, in my opinion, the cropping could



Photo by Ken Anderson

have been a bit tighter, eliminating about 10% on both the right and left sides doing away with elements that do not add to the subject. What do you think?

I hope seeing these elements being used can help clarify my presentation

Music in the Iris Garden

In the garden where irises bloom,
A symphony plays, dispelling gloom.
Their petals sway in a gentle dance,
Creating a melody of pure romance.

The breeze whispers through each flower,
A soft tune that grows by the hour.
Nature's orchestra, so divine,
In the garden, where irises shine.

Birds chirp in harmonious glee,
Joining the irises' melody.
The sun casts its golden rays,
Adding warmth to the musical display.

Each iris sings its own sweet song,
In a garden where they all belong.
A chorus of colors, sounds, and light,
In the garden, where day turns to night.





Music in the Iris Garden



Iris Names ending with MUSIC

Mandarin Music
Blylyth, 2008

Waco Iris Society

An affiliate of the American Iris Society

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We're on the Web!

http://www.kenfuchs42.net/waco_index.html

Website has been updated—
Check it out!

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<https://www.facebook.com/WacoIrisSociety>

Word Bank

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|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| Alpine | Canary | Cool | Fairy | Mariachi |
| Angel | Chamber | Country | Folk | Modern |
| Ballet | Champagne | Dance | Haunting | Mood |
| Bluegrass | Choral | Disco | Heavenly | Moonlight |
| Brave | Christian | Distant | Jukebox | Mountain |
| Calypso | Classical | Enchanted | Latin | Organ |