



PRESCOTT AREA IRIS SOCIETY

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IRIS GARDENING IN RAINY WEATHER IN THE PRESCOTT AREA

Barry Golden, Golden's Iris Garden

Talk about an oxymoronic statement! As I write this, the 2nd storm to hit the area in the past week has moved on. From both storms, our area has received over four inches of rain. What I thought was most beneficial about the moisture was the steady rain. Not too much of a downpour, and not too light, but just right. Kind of like Goldilocks. Think Spring flowers.

So, what are you going to do now in your garden? You could be a couch potato head or you could get dirty and enjoy the great weather as well. I've already been in the garden removing dead leaves from the iris clumps and doing a general clean-up. My garden sure needs it right now. The other thing I'll be doing is gently removing dirt from the tops of the rhizomes. Since the dirt is moist, I'll use my fingers. However, after a few goat head attacks, I'll switch to a trowel to do the job. It's important to remove the dirt so the rhizomes can dry out and not rot because of our freeze and thaw cycles. Sometime next month (January), I'll fertilize the garden with a granular general purpose fertilizer like 10-10-10.

This past week, there was a hawk hanging around the area, chasing birds from around the bird feeders. In fact, my bushy hair was brushed by the hawk in one chase. I was hoping the hawk would take care of my rabbit problem. The rabbit(s) were chewing the iris leaves in one area of the garden. Anyway, this past week, the hawk was perched on the telephone wires and was intently focused on an area. Sure enough, the next day, Misty, my dog, while we were throwing a ball out back, came back chewing something and it was fresh rabbit leg bones. All part of the area's food chain.

Have a nice holiday.

Think Spring
Marge Larson

It is time for reservations -- both regionally and nationally. Region 15 (AZ and So. CA) will hold a 2 day "spring trek" and the National Convention will be in Austin, TX. It is fun to share hotel rooms and/or carpool to these events with other local club members. Please visit the websites below and make plans. We will have forms at the next meeting.

If you can't attend and want a form, let Judy know.

www.irises.org

2008 Convention information

Austin, TX, April 14-19

www.region15ais.org

Landcaster, CA, April 25-27

New Mexico Spring Trek

If you happen to be traveling to New Mexico, here is another spring trek which may interest you.

The Albuquerque Aril & Iris Society presents the Aril & Median Trek, April 28-30, 2008 with an Iris Show April 27, 2008. for more information:

<http://ariltrek.homestead.com/index.html>

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2008

January 2008—membership renewals due \$15.00 per household

January 8, Brad Kasperek, Phoenix

January 30—VAIS meeting
Cottonwood, Historic Iris

February 16—Bob Van Liere
IRIS4U Gardens, Colorado

March—VAIS meeting

April 12—Beardless Iris

April 14-19 AIS National Convention
Austin, Texas

April 25-26 Region 15 Spring Trek
Lancaster, CA

May 10—Spring Exhibit-
Mortimer Nursery

May - members garden tour
to be announced

President's Message

With the haunting melody of "Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming" still resounding in my head (from our church's Christmas cantata) the flowers that greeted me the snowy morn of December 9th were Japonica Flowering Quince!!! The weather this fall has been unusual, and one forsythia bush had bloomed out of season in November, so I am trying not to be surprised by the eight quince buds that opened – mid March is its typical bloom time here. I'm just thinking what a nice addition to the festive holiday season!



Thanks for your vote of confidence for a second year as your president. We have some big challenges/opportunities in the coming months, and I look forward to two early year events that were unplanned, but are available now to us. Of course the major event occurs in the fourth quarter: PAIS hosting the Region 15 Fall Trek Meeting here in Prescott at the Hassayampa Inn October 10-11, 2008. See separate article on the progress made so far for the conference.

The first unplanned event occurs the evening of Tuesday, January 8th – the Sun Country Iris Society (Phoenix/Scottsdale area) has invited our members to come down to the Valley for a program with a very special speaker Brad Kasperek, hybridizer from Utah. Those of you attending our November meeting will recall Linda Smith's talk - we associate Kasperek with the "broken color" iris. See separate article with additional details – I hope several of our members will carpool down for this wonderful opportunity.

The second unplanned event comes in February, and to take advantage of a chance to have Bob Van Liere, iris grower from Denver, CO speak to us on his hybridizing program we need to change our meeting date from February 9th to the 16th. Those of you that attended the 2007 Spring Trek will remember Bob as the entertaining and informative banquet speaker. We are fortunate that he is traveling from southern California, where he is speaking to the San Diego and San Fernando iris clubs, as well as spending some time with family in San Diego before driving home to Denver on February 17th. You will receive specifics on room location in early February after Yavapai College makes second semester commitments on room requests.

Remember to register for the 2008 Spring Trek being held in Lancaster, CA on April 25-26. The guest speaker for the banquet is Barry Blyth of Tempo Two Gardens in Australia – reservations for this rare opportunity are limited to 90 due to space limitations at the conference hotel.

And now, my friends, during these sometimes dreary, wintry days of the Advent season, filled with hectic responsibilities, take some moments for calm reflection....and know my wish is for your holidays to be filled with peace and love. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!
Best wishes, Vera

Iris Society Contacts

Vera Stewart President 445-8132 flwrlovr@cableone.net	Ruth DeVries Secretary 771-1051 gmama14@mac.com
Linda Rossman Membership/Treasurer 777-8110 lindarae@cableone.net	Judy Book Newsletter editor 776-7217 jbook@cableone.net

Brad Kasperek– Speaker, Sun Country Iris Society

Our club members have been invited to attend the Sun Country Iris Society meeting, January 8, 7:00 p.m. in Phoenix at the Valley Garden Center, 1809 N. 15th Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona (two blocks north of McDowell). Brad Kasperek is the owner of Zebra Gardens in Utah and is famous for hybridizing iris with broken color and with unusual names such as Okapi Poppy, Coyote Ugly, Yak Attack, Quail Ale, Chocolate Moose and too many more to mention. Brad's iris have won numerous AIS medals and awards. If your are interested in attending this meeting, call Vera by January 5 so we can arrange to car pool: 445-8132.



Millenium Falcon

My Favorite Iris

Ruth De Vries

My favorite iris?? How does one pick one favorite iris?? This fact I know, they are addictive! and my collection grew very quickly.

My journey began when I visited the Rhizome Sale at Sharlot Hall Museum in 2005. I was overwhelmed by pictures of iris on a board, and walked around the tables in a daze. Two or three corny guys were tallying and taking the money, and asked if I wanted to join the club, which I responded to with a "Yes". It has been quite an education and I never imagined meeting such friendly, helpful and enthusiastic people. I cannot tell you which rhizomes I purchased that day; I did not know enough to mark them or pay attention to the names, I just knew the pictures were beautiful. I planted them and left them at the residence where we lived at that time and never saw the blossoms.

My next purchase was at The Silent Auction meeting in September 2005. Among those I purchased were two Louisiana Iris. I was totally ignorant on how to care for them, and lost both of them. Later I read that they needed a comparable soil and water to Louisiana's. I also purchased "Autumn Wine" that year, a deep wine bi-tone, space age and rebloomer; "Whole Lota Love" and "Pink Pincurls" which are both pink self's with tangerine beards. I have already divided "Whole

Lota Love". Another was "Alaskan Moon", an Amoena with golden beards. To complete my first collection that year, I also purchased "Mandarin Morning" an interesting bi-color orange/tangerine blossom. It has short round falls, and I am wondering if it will be one of the Aril/Arilbred family.

I do love the "pinks" but that wine-colored "Autumn Wine" is gorgeous and I was so excited to see it blooming again this fall. I was not aware that it was a rebloomer.

Since 2005, I now have four beds and about 100 rhizomes planted, the majority have not bloomed yet. I can't wait for the surprises next spring.

My newest venture; I also have started a section of iris with the names of my 14 grandchildren. I already have planted "Terry(ton)"; "Awesome Alex"; "Autumn (Echo)"; "Terra (Rosa)"; and "(Sarah) Taylor". The kids think it is pretty special when they see their names on the markers. At the fall trek one of my raffle tickets won "Blessed Are The Children" so that will be the name of the grandkids garden.

I am looking forward to more meetings with members and also the social times we have. I plan to attend the 2008 spring trek in Lancaster, CA. and, of course, the 2008 Fall Trek in Prescott, Az.

Reblooming Iris / Tri-City Area & Verde Valley

Tall Bearded

Angel's Blush
Autumn Tryst
Autumn Wine
Billionaire
Blatant
Champagne Elegance
City Lights
Clarence
Crimson King
Decker
Duo Dandy

Flower Showers
Halloween Halo
Happy New Year
Immortality
Istanbul
Jennifer Rebecca
Las Vegas
Matrix
Misty Lady
Next in Line
October Sky
Over and Over

Pink Attraction
Romantic Evening
Royal Knight
Soft Returns
Victoria Falls
Ziggy

Medians

Hot
In The Red
Time to Shine

If you have a rebloomer which is not on this list, please notify Linda Smith, at irisgrower@cablone.net or mail her the information, 2290 W. Running Iron, Cottonwood, AZ, 86326. Linda has an extensive collection of *Roots* and the *Recorder* which she will be happy to lend to members who are interested in reading more about reblooming iris. They will be available at our February 16 meeting.

Minutes of PAIS General Meeting November 10

The first order of business was presenting the new slate of officers for the year 2008, by Judy Book. Slate of officers as selected by nominating committee were:

President: Vera Stewart
Vice President: Evie Renz
Secretary: Ruth De Vries
Treasurer: Linda Rossman

There were no nominations from the floor. The vote was called and the slate was unanimously elected.

The second order of business was a discussion of a dues revision by Vera Stewart. Currently dues for one year are \$15.00 for one person and \$20.00 for a family membership. Membership renewals are due in January. The suggestion was made to drop the amount to \$10.00, per family per year. Much discussion followed, including a concern of trying to raise the dues again, if that becoming necessary. Linda Smith wanted us to be consistent with her new club in the Verde Valley, whose members have already paid their dues and could for a fee, become members of our club also. She also asked if anyone in Region 15 could have a dual club membership. Judy Greenburg made a motion to have our club dues be \$15.00 for an individual and for a household. Anyone with a current paid membership in a Region 15 affiliate club may become a dual mem-

ber of PAIS upon payment of \$5.00 per year. Dual members will have voting rights in PAIS. This change starts in January 2008. The motion was seconded and the motion carried.

The third order of business was details of the upcoming Fall Trek in Prescott, to be hosted by our club in 2008. Stan Book and Marge Larson will co-chair this event. A roster of committees was passed around which listed heads of committees and volunteers. Vera invited all members to volunteer for at least one committee.

Vera Stewart introduced our speaker, Linda Smith, who presented us with a slide show of pictures taken at the Spring Trek in the Inland Empire Area of Southern California by herself and Ray Waguespack. She did a wonderful job of breaking the pictures into 8 groups and explained the meaning of each group. The groups were 1. Space Age, 2. Breakers (broken color); 3. Self; 4. Plicata; 5. Variegata; 6. Amoena; 7. Bitone; 8. Bicolor. There were many questions and much discussion during this showing of iris. Linda tested what was learned by having us draw the different categories of iris with crayons .

Before closing our meeting we had a drawing, and each of us took home a garden plant donated by members of the PAIS club.

Submitted by Ruth De Vries

Fall Trek Up-Date

It's official. We have a signed contract with the Hassayampa Inn for the Region 15 Fall Trek, October 10-11, 2008. The Friday evening feature will be a "meet and greet" to allow attendees to relax and renew friendships. On Saturday morning, judges training on Arilbreds will be presented by Kathy Chilton, Region 15 RVP. The afternoon speaker is Rick Tasco, hybridizer and co-owner of Superstition Iris Gardens in Cathay Valley, CA. Rick and Roger's iris have won numerous AIS awards. In addition to hybridizing, they also have a passion for growing historic iris. Their garden has been designated an official display garden by the Historic Iris Preservation Society. Save this weekend so you can attend this worthwhile event and broaden your iris knowledge.

Plant Information Online

<https://plantinfo.umn.edu/arboretum/default.asp>

Produced by the University of Minnesota Libraries, Plant Information Online is a free plant information service of the University of Minnesota Libraries and is intended for just about anyone with a green thumb, or those who want to get their thumbs a bit greener. Use this site to discover which of 937 retail and wholesale firms ship the plants or seeds you're interested in - 101568 different kinds of plants! Access 11878 websites of illustrations and information pertinent to particular North American growing regions. Find 350587 records detailing which pages in garden magazines, plant science journals, and books show images of plants - up to 134400 different plants! Have at your fingertips the contact information and websites for 2294 North American seed and nursery firms.

From the homepage, visitors can search the plant database by scientific or common name, and they can also take a look at the search tips for a bit more guidance. The site contains links to selected websites that feature both images and more detailed regional data on thousands of plants. Some culture information is also included. After locating plants of interest, some visitors may wish to browse through the nursery database for tips on locating the nearest nursery. Over 100 named iris are listed as well as many species. Not every iris listed is accompanied by a photo .