



PRESCOTT AREA IRIS SOCIETY

September 2007

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TIME LINES FOR TRANSPLANTING IRISES IN THE PRESCOTT AREA

Barry Golden, Golden's Iris Garden

"Why can't you transplant irises in the fall like we did in Missouri?". I hear that question all the time and it is a great question to explore. Actually, one can transplant irises just about anytime of the year. Will they flower or even survive if irises were to be transplanted in January? My common sense says "no" but people have told me that because of a move, they had to dig up their irises and plant them in January (or some other month) and claimed the irises did fine. I can't verify that and I'm sure some will survive and some won't. Actually, most irisarians use trial and error along with their knowledge of iris plant growth and development.

In our area, at our elevation (5000'-6500') and garden zone of 7, irises do best when transplanted during July and August, and the first week of September. Are these absolute months? July and August are. The reason is that it takes around 6 weeks for your newly planted irises to develop a functional root system. The root system begins to supply water and nutrients to the plant and survival of the plant increases. This is critical. If you transplant irises in early October, growth stops or slows down. It's all about probability. Transplant in July and August and the probability for plant survival and bloom for the following year increases. Transplant in October, or some other month, and the chances for good growth and bloom the following year decreases.

Additionally, when irises are transplanted, it is imperative that those plants get watered deeply and well. Moisture on the bottom of the rhizomes stimulates the growth of new roots. I use a hand held garden hose and as I water, I dig into the soil with my trowel so the water gets below the surface to the roots. Remember to add 5 gallons of compost to the hole as well as 1 cup of bone meal and/or triple phosphate for a grouping of several rhizomes. I also add 1 cup of 10-10-10 garden fertilizer to the soil in the hole as well. Mix it all up, water well and add your plant. Fertilize your irises. I use 10-10-10, but use anything you have.

September 15 Potluck and Silent Auction

Don't miss this event! Each year Region 15 sends us guest iris which were featured at our Spring Trek. Hybridizers donated these recent iris for the 2007 Trek in the Inland Empire area of Southern California. You will enjoy the friendly competition to purchase some of these spectacular irises for your own garden. Pages 4 and 5 show photos of these iris to whet your appetite.

And... speaking of appetite, potluck means food, fellowship and fun! Please bring a main dish, salad or dessert. Beverages and table service will be provided. Stan and Judy Book, whose house was recently featured in *Yavapai Magazine*, are hosting this event. See the map on page 3. The meeting will begin at 5:00 p.m. Please RSVP to the Books at 776-7217 or jbook@cableone.net.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sept. 15—Silent Auction/Potluck

2175 Aspen Acres Dr.
Prescott, 5:00 p.m.

Sept. 19- Verde Area Iris Society

Cottonwood Library, 5:30 p.m.

Oct. 13—Fall Trek, San Diego

Nov. 13—Spring Trek Photos

Yavapai College, 2:00 p.m.



President's Message

During the “dog days” of August I didn't expect to find an iris bloom stalk shooting up in a bed located next to a young rose bush. *Champagne Elegance* is indeed elegant and in bloom as I write this message to you. Perhaps the timing of rose fertilizer stimulated its bloom at this unusual date?



Anyway, it is appropriate to *toast* some events with you. The first event, or series of events, was the stupendous success of our Rhizome Sale on August 4th. This actually began with pre-sales at the Prescott Farmers' Market on the three Saturdays preceding the sale, the Marking Party (where members could purchase irises we had ordered from Mid-America or from donations), the actual Rhizome Sale at Sharlot Hall Museum and ended with participation in the Farmers' Market on August 8th and 15. Even though final figures are not complete – we grossed around \$4,000!!!! Although some of the income is from new memberships, plant markers, and culture books, the major portion comes from Charlie Maxwell's garden, our purchase of recent introductions from Mid-America and rhizomes donations from members and other much appreciated donors. For example, Sun Country Iris Society member Nancy Burnett drove up from the Valley with 131 rhizomes (38 varieties), cleaned, trimmed, and labeled, with descriptions and pictures attached!

So I *salute* you, our dedicated volunteers, who have worked so many hours to increase our club's treasury.....thank you!

The second event is yet to happen, but is scheduled soon: the initial meeting of interested irisarians residing in the Verde Valley. This group is spearheaded by PAIS member Linda Smith, and will hold their first meeting at the Cottonwood Public Library on Wednesday, September 19th at 5:30 p.m. Support for the new group, in various forms, will be offered; perhaps a new membership category, like a “dual membership” could be developed.

Our third event is the Region 15 Silent Auction/Potluck at the home of Stan and Judy Book on Saturday, September 15th at 5 p.m. Forty-five rhizomes from the 2007 Region 15 Spring Trek will be auctioned off after we enjoy a delicious meal together. Note: we requested and received an earlier dig time for these 2000 and newer plants and have potted the freshly dug rhizomes, so they are developing new roots as you read this. There will be door prizes for all members and guests attending, and awards for those members who have volunteered and worked so hard to make this a super successful year for PAIS.

Now I want to mention two opportunities for you to share your knowledge and enthusiasm for iris – the first one is earlier on the same day as our Silent Auction/Potluck. Mortimer Nursery is sponsoring their 2nd Annual Autumn Outreach Fair on Saturday, September 15th from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. PAIS has been asked to have a booth again this year, along with many other gardening-related organizations to offer free information to the public. Not to be missed is the free BBQ starting at 11:00 a.m. If you'd like to participate in this event – sign up for a two-hour shift – please call me soon @ 445-8132.

The second opportunity for community outreach is a new one for PAIS - that of participating in the Yavapai County Fair, which is held this year on September 20-23rd. We have been asked to provide coverage for at least four two-hour time blocks, and we would be doing much the same thing as at the Farmers Market and Mortimer's Autumn Outreach Fair. We will be sharing the space of the Yavapai Master Gardener booth. Interacting with the public is fun, and materials will be provided for you to pass out to the fair goers. I should mention that entrance fees are waived if you are working a booth. Please contact me soon if this sounds like something you'd like to try.....there will be some morning hours and some afternoon ones scheduled.

Lastly, I'd like to welcome the four new members who joined at the Rhizome Sale.....WELCOME, do come and join us as we celebrate on September 15th at Judy and Stan's home.

Vera

Welcome New Members!!

Jackie Hedge

O. J. Johnson

Mary McNay

Gerald Wiedman

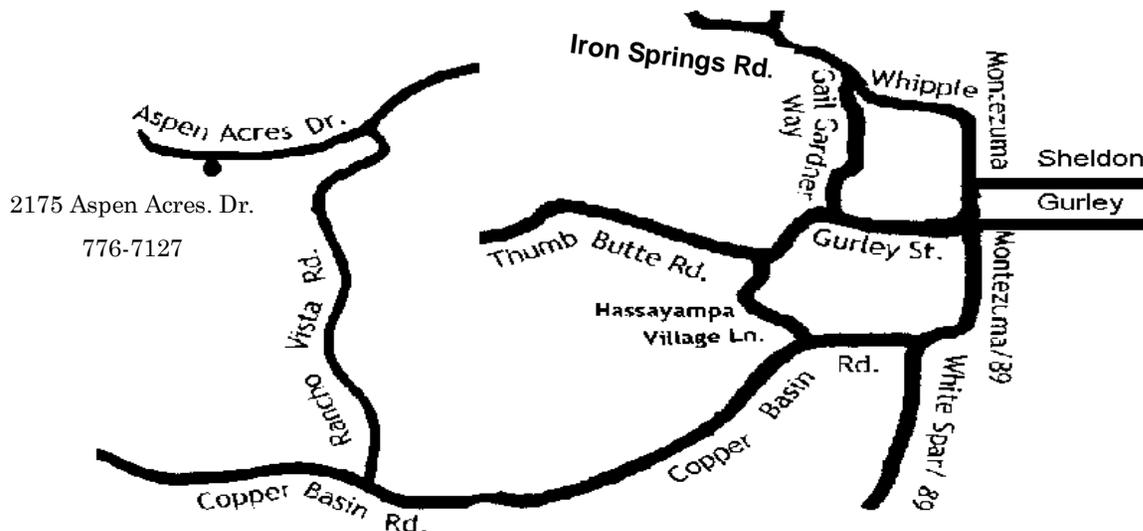
Iris Society Contacts

Vera Stewart, President 445-8132 flwrlovr@cableone.net

Linda Rossman, Treasurer/Membership 777-8110
lindarae@cableone.net

Judy Book, Newsletter editor 776-7217 jbook@cableone.net

Map to the Book Residence Potluck



Are You an Iris Fan?

Linda Smith is forming an auxiliary iris club in the Verde Valley and invites you to attend. In preparation for this meeting she posted the following question on [Iris-Talk](#). Are you an iris **Fan, Fancier or Fanatic**. Some of the responses she received are below. Email Linda, irisgrower@cableone.net, with your answers to this question.

You are an iris fan when you travel to someplace you always wanted to see at the time the irises are in full bloom.

You are an iris fancier when you spend it in your own back yard among your irises.

You are an iris fanatic when you start in zones 9 & 10 and "follow" iris bloom season across the country!

You are an iris fan when you admire your own irises when watering them.

You are an iris fancier when you carry your notepad with you into your friend's garden or tour garden to write down the ones you like.

You are an iris fanatic when you drive back to gardens on yesterday's garden tour to view them and take pictures a second time.

You are an iris fan if you plant a few irises among your flowers.

You are a fancier if you build flower beds just for irises.

You are a fanatic if you dig up your entire yard to plant irises.

You are an iris fan when you go to the show each year to see the pretty flowers.

You are an iris fancier when you actually enter a few irises and hope for some blue ribbons.

You are an iris fanatic when your vehicle purchases (both of them) are governed by the amount of space and clearance available in them, in order to haul tall irises to the show without damage.....and you need both vehicles to conform, because it takes that much space to get them all there....and you recruit your spouse to drive one vehicle while you drive the other.



Verde Valley Area Iris Society
Come Grow with VAIS
Sept. 19, 2007 at 5:30 (Wed)
Cottonwood Public Library
Topic: Fan, Fun, or Fanatic about IRIS
irisgrower@cableone.net 928-567-7470 Linda Smith

Bulletin of the American Iris Society— Are you a Member?

The AIS Bulletin is published quarterly with issue cover dates of; January, April, July and October. The official publication of the AIS typically has a composition of approximately 90-120 pages and includes color photography. Contents include: activities of the AIS, growing and hybridizing different types of irises, culture questions and answers, book reviews, reviews of show gardens, awards of top irises, people in the iris world, information about conventions, iris shows and administrative information about the AIS. A single AIS membership for one year is \$25.00 Click here to join online: [American Iris Society](#)

September 15 Silent Auction

We are trying something new this year with the Region 15 rhizomes. First, all of these rhizomes are a good size compared to recent years. Second, we have potted the rhizomes so they have established new roots by the time you purchase them at the auction.

Linda Smith prepared these photos so you will be able to make some decisions as to what you want to bid on prior to the Silent Auction. This year we have only one of each rhizome so be prepared to watch those bid sheets carefully. Bring your money and your potluck dish... and enjoy this exciting event.



See more photos on page 5.

MORTIMER NURSERY
FOR ALL YOUR GARDENING NEEDS!
 3166 Willow Creek Rd.
 Prescott 776-8000

GOLDEN'S IRIS GARDEN
 4564 Robin Drive
 Diamond Valley
 Prescott 445-0503



Mango_Passion.jpg



Marty Richards - RE.jpg



Men Like Me.jpg



Navajo Code.jpg



Passing Cloud.jpg



Peeaboo Zebu.jpg



Pickledilly.jpg



Plum Quirky.jpg



Pond Ripples.jpg



Reseda Moon - .jpg



Scoonchee.jpg



Sea Of Love.jpg



Shadows of Night.jpg



Start_Your_Day.jpg



Tomcat.jpg



True Spirit.jpg



Waimea Canyon Sunrise.jpg



Whippersnapper.jpg



Your Majesty.jpg



Horny Persian

Iris Lists Still Needed

It is not too late to submit your list of irises to Linda for our club list of what iris are being grown by our members. We can use this list for trading iris among club members. Included with this newsletter is a list of those iris already submitted. Follow the directions at the top of the form. Thanks to those of you who have already participated.

OUR RHIZOME POTTING EXPERIMENT

When we have purchased rhizomes in the past from any source, it seems like it has always taken a long time for the rhizomes to show signs of renewed life. This year, when potting the Maxwell rhizomes we consulted with Kathy Chilton, Region 15 RVP, and she suggested that we try the following:

“I start with a good quality potting soil. I dump a large bag into my wheelbarrow, then mix in several shovels-full of sand and about a cup of Osmocote fertilizer. (I like to use native sand from a wash.) To push them to root more quickly, I would suggest watering them well with a root stimulator/starter liquid immediately after potting. Warm weather is really the best stimulator of growth.”

We basically followed Kathy’s advice. We mixed garden soil with bagged soil amendment from Mortimer’s Nursery, then added coarse sand and all purpose garden fertilizer. Avoid high nitrogen lawn fertilizers. We couldn’t believe how quickly new roots formed.

A big THANK YOU is in order to all volunteers who participated in this project for the benefit of all of us.

Why Rebloom?

Terry Aitken answered as follows in the July 2007 issue of the AIS Bulletin. Some people, like me, are just plain greedy. I want bloom on my plants all thru the growing season. Our best performer, so far, is *Perpetual Indulgence* (Aitken 05). It is a Standard Dwarf Bearded iris that blooms in late April, then starts up again in early August and continues until freeze up. Amongst the Tall Bearded irises, *Again and Again*, (Innerst 99) blooms in May and reblooms in July. It may continue into August. In “cool climates,” Siberian irises can go on blooming for almost three months.

My Iris List

Place a check beside all the irises you are currently growing. List additional irises at the end. Continue your list on the back. If any of the irises have rebloomed for you, write RE beside the name of the iris. Print your name on the line provided. Email your completed list to irisgrower@cableone.net or bring it along to the potluck Sept. 15.

Iris	Iris	Iris	Iris
Afternoon Delight	Dark Vader	Lilac Haze	Sunset Point
Aladdin's Flame	Designer Gown	Lingering Spring	Telepathy
All Night Long	Designing Woman	Lonely Hearts	Terra Haute
Almaden	Divine	Loyalist	Thornbird
Altruist	Duncan's Smiling Eyes	Lullaby of Spring	Tiger Butter
American Master	Edith Wolford	Magharee	Tiger Honey
Americas Cup	Eternal Bliss	Magic Show	Towering Final
Annabelle Babson	Everything Plus	Magic World	Triple Whammy
Apricot Frosty	Eye Magic	Mary Frances	Uncle Charley
Aura Lights	Faint Praise	Maui Moonlight	Unfurled Flag
Avenging Angel	Fire Breather	Mesmerizer	Vibrations
Baby Blessed	Fogbound	Michael Paul	Victoria Falls
Banana Frappe	Frosting	Misty Twilight	Voila
Beautiful Friendship	Garnet Elf	My Ginny	Welch's Reward
Bedazzled	Gay Parasol	Night in Camelot	Well Endowed
Before the Storm	Gingerbread Man	Nights of Gladness	Wild Ginger
Blackbeard	God's Handiwork	Olympiad	Witch's Wand
Blue Staccato	Godsend	Pepper Lane	
Bold Expression	Golden Panther	Persian Berry	
Boyfriend	Goldkist	Pink Froth	
Butterfly Delight	Goodbye Heart	Power Play	
Camelot Rose	Gracious Curves	Princess Bride	
Can Can Dancer	Grooving	Private Treasure	
Carnival Song	Guadalajara	PT Barnum	
Celebration Song	Gypsy Lord	Puppet Baby	
Champagne Elegance	Hasta La Vista	Rare Edition	
Change Your Ways	Hidden Agenda	Raspberry Jam	
Chariots of Fire	Hollywood Nights	Raspberry Splendor	
Cherry Tart	Hot Fudge	Red at Night	
Chief Redskin	Hubbub	Role Model	
Christmas	Immortality	Roman Song	
Cinnamon Girl	Jane Troutman	Romp	
Circus Stripes	Jessie's Song	Royal Pink	
Claudia Burton Blair	Joyce Terry	Royal Storm	
Collette Thurillet	Juicy Fruit	Sable Night	
Colortart	Kaila's Dance	Saturday Night Live	
Competitive Edge	Kid Stuff	Scoonchee	
Congratulations	Kiwi Slices	Screen Play	
Copyright	Kona Nights	Shipsshape	
Coral Chalice	Lady Friend	Sky Blue Pink	
Course of Study	Laugh Lines	Smooth	
Cranberry Ice	Lemon and Spice	Gold Galore	
Curious Yellow	Lemon Puff	Sophistication	
	Liaison	Starring	