



# PRESCOTT AREA IRIS SOCIETY

Fall 2009

Volume 6, Issue 8

## President's Message

### *Giving Thanks at the End of a Prosperous Year*

Not many opportunities come along that are as rewarding as serving as president of the Prescott Area Iris Society. It hardly seems possible that the year has come and gone, already. What I learned over the last year could not have been taught in a year of classroom instruction. Our members, along with members from Region 15 are some very wise gardeners who are anxious to share their knowledge and skills with anyone who will listen. We just have to show up, ask questions and listen. What an opportunity to grow!

Thank you to all who helped make this year such a success. It was our best year yet in fundraising so we need to make it our best year in giving back. We have a great start on that since we have nearly doubled the membership. This will allow us to implement some of the big plans we have for next year to help educate the public about iris culture. We have added iris care at the gardens at the Margaret T. Morris Center and will look forward to a garden tour there in the near future. We are talking to some of the local schools to get a youth program started. We added the first ever Rhizome Sale in Yarnell this year which was a great success. Just ask Dan Schroeder who allowed us to use his gardens! (See articles in this issue.) We'll be there next year, I'm sure. We will be adding more books to the local library so be sure to suggest some of your favorite books about iris for the wish list. This is in addition to all the current projects we have going!

Some days, participating in or being in charge of one of the PAIS events may seem like more than one can handle but we need to participate in life not just watch from the sidelines. We need to be passionate about involvement in this wonderful world of iris. I know that you will surprise yourself when you start sounding like the expert in a short time just by showing up and listening.

Being involved is the key. Thank you to all the members this last year that were involved and add so much to PAIS, and their lives, too, I'm sure!

Here's to next year,  
Diane Clarke

## Volunteer Opportunity - MTM

The Margaret T. Morris facility Therapy Garden in Prescott includes a few iris and their Day Care property, which is located adjacent, contains a large iris bed. This large bed was planted in the late 1980s and has not been 'maintained' - you know what I mean! I'm looking for several volunteers to be part of a 'workgroup' that would help bring that area back into shape..... this action would take place in the spring.

Pam Catlain is the horticulturist at MTM and our group will work directly with her. Some new varieties were planted in the Therapy Garden in August. Thanks go to Shirley Eitner and Bonnie Haughton for their assistance with the planting; iris rhizomes were donated by Judy Book, Ruth DeVries (the college Sculpture Garden) and Vera.

Please call Vera Stewart 445-8132 or e-mail at flwrlovr@cableone.net if you'd like to participate in this new Community Service project.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 14– 2:00 p.m.

**Kathy Chilton**  
**International Iris Competition**  
Florence, Italy  
New Member's Welcome  
Officer Elections



*Iris in the garden at the  
International Iris Competition  
Florence, Italy*

## November 14 Meeting

Kathy Chilton, past RVP for Region 15 and master iris judge will present our program. Kathy's subject will be the International Iris Competition in Florence Italy, 2009. She spent a week in Florence, judging the iris competition and afterwards visited Monet's Garden in Giverney, France. Don't miss this chance to "travel" abroad and view iris grown in Italy and France.

Place :Yavapai Title

1235 E. Gurley at Sheldon  
see map page3

Time: 2 p.m.

## Region 15 Fall Trek

Lompoc Valley Iris Society hosted the 'Valley of Arts and Flowers' 2009 Region 15 Fall Trek October 9-10 in Lompoc, CA. PAIS was well represented by Vera Stewart, Linda Rossman, Linda Smith, Judy and Stan Book.

The Friday evening reception was a time of bidding on silent auction items, rekindling old acquaintances and enjoying light refreshments accompanied by wine from a local winery.

Saturday morning breakfast was a real treat. Instead of the usual hotel fare of pastries and coffee, we were served a full, made to order breakfast. The morning judges training by Jane Troutman on Artistic Design was full of good tips on the does and don'ts of



*Jane Troutman (photo by Vera Stewart)*



preparing arrangements. Jane was ably assisted by Mike Monniger, who was given a challenging prop to use in his arrangement. Mike and Jane have both won numerous awards for artistic design.

Hybridizer, George Sutton, of Sutton's Iris Gardens gave the illustrated keynote address.

*Mike Monniger (photo by Vera Stewart)*

George is passionate about creating reblooming irises and virtually every slide was a reblooming iris in every color imaginable. Fourteen of the 2009 introductions were Medians. Re-bloomers are no longer limited to tall bearded irises.

## Sutton's Reblooming Iris: A Sampling



Little Streaker 09 SDB



Shabaza 01 Arilbred



Raspberry Swirl 09 TB



Fruit Stripe 09 BB



Fall Line 09 IB

## Slate of Officers

As per our bylaws, an election for officers will take place at the Fall meeting. Nominations will be accepted from the floor and will be added to the slate. The nominating committee is proposing the following slate: Carolyn Alexander-President; Roger Osgood-Vice President; Coleen Scott-Secretary; Claude Baker-Treasurer; Judy Book-Director at Large.

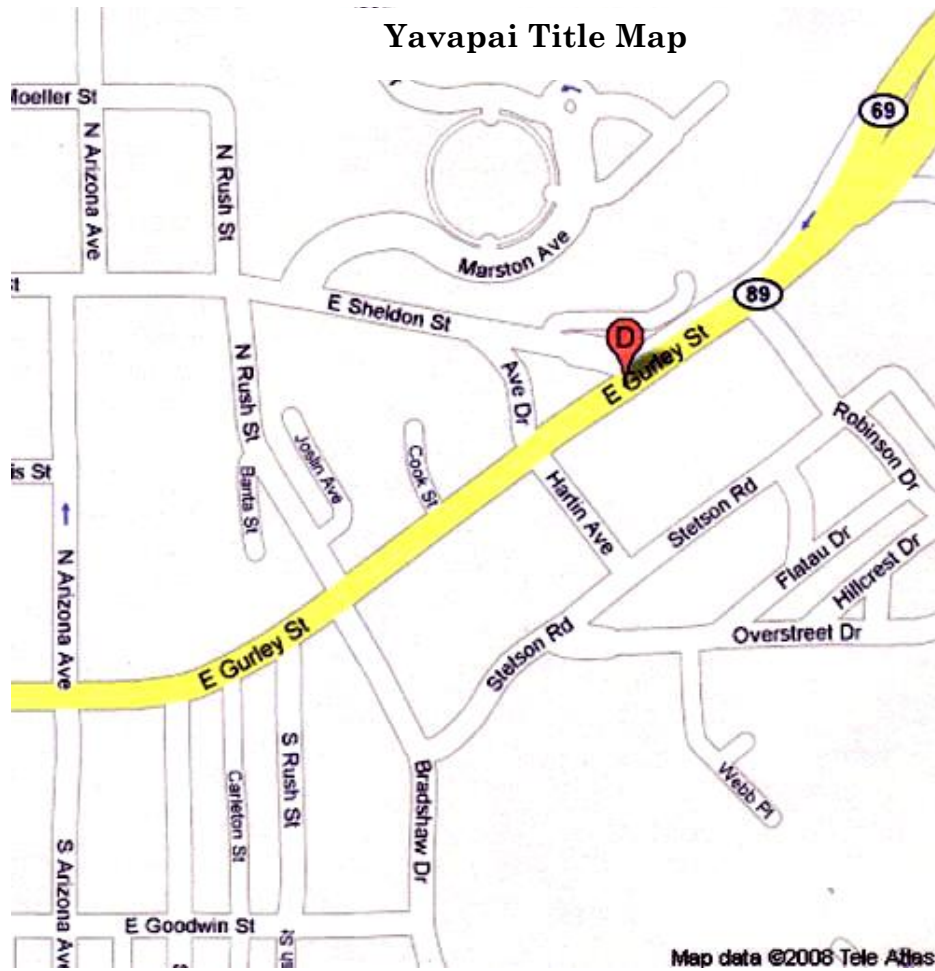
## Iris Society Contacts

Diane Clarke, President 445-7067 agoseris6@yahoo.com  
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Judy Book, Newsletter Editor 776-7217 jbook@cableone.net



Eleanor Roosevelt Sass/McDade '33 First to bloom in May, a reblooming classic. Note the older form of the bloom.

## Yavapai Title Map



## Yavapai Title

1235 E. Gurley, Prescott  
Gurley at Sheldon intersection

Yavapai Title building is on the southeast side of the road right at the light.

Parking at rear of building.

Plan to attend our last meeting of the year, November 14, at 2:00 p.m.

### Your Suggestions Needed

We are compiling a list of books related to iris which our club can purchase and donate to the public library. This is another way we can educate the public about iris and give back to the community. Send titles you would like to see added to [jbook@cableone.net](mailto:jbook@cableone.net).

### PAIS Membership Renewal 2010

PAIS dues run from January through December. Make check payable to: PAIS & mail to: P.O. Box 11918, Prescott, AZ 86304 or renew at the November 14, 2009 meeting and save postage.

Please enroll me/us as a \_\_\_\_\_ new \_\_\_\_\_ renewing member(s) Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues: \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 Youth: \_\_\_\_\_ \$5

\_\_\_\_\_ \$5 dual Membership in PAIS (**Dual Club Member** - anyone with a current paid membership in a Region 15 Affiliate club) **Please note club of primary membership: VAIS \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_**

Birthdates: Month/Day \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Month/Day \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

PAIS is only successful with the involvement of its members. Please indicate how you will help our organization: *Note: Active members in 2010 will receive a newly introduced rhizome of their choice in spring of 2011 as per agreement.*

May Iris Show \_\_\_\_\_ Door Prize Contribution/Plant Table \_\_\_\_\_

Spring Garden Tour \_\_\_\_\_ Hospitality/Refreshments \_\_\_\_\_

Rhizome Sales \_\_\_\_\_ Sculpture Garden Maintenance \_\_\_\_\_

**Computer skills-circle all that apply: Email, word processing, spreadsheet, desktop publishing, financial record keeping**

## REBLOOMING IRIS

This was the time of year when you needed to be watching for bloom stalks on your reblooming irises. To recap their care: extra fertilizer, extra water and regular division. Slow the watering as the days cool. Stop watering after first heavy frost. Too much water too late in the season will cause severe damage. If a bloom stalk is up and color is showing at the tip of a bud, and frost is predicted, cut the stalk and it should bloom inside. If no color is showing and you just must see the bloom, try setting a tomato cage over the iris and then cover with paper, cloth, or even a blanket. This may provide enough protection to save the bloom.

Thanks to Cindy Rust for these tips from her article "Thoughts on Rebloom" in the Spring 2009 issue of *The Reblooming Iris Recorder*.



Champagne Elegance which was planted in the Yavapai College Sculpture Garden in late August has surprised us with beautiful bloom stalks in the middle of October. Notice the number of buds!!

If you have iris that have or will rebloom before our November meeting, please bring along photos that we can display. If you have a blooming iris, bring it!!

Photo by Diane Clarke

Photo by Carolyn Alexander



### Verde Valley Rebloomers



Violet Turner Lauer '99 TB  
Linda Smith, Nancy Floyd



Victoria Falls Schreiner's '77 TB  
Nancy Floyd



Bountiful Harvest Hager '91 TB  
Candy Peters

### Prescott Rebloomers



Raspberry Frost Sutton '01 TB  
Carolyn Alexander



Rhea Peerz Kasperek '99 IB  
Vera Stewart



Autumn Wine Christopherson '03 TB  
Vera Stewart

## Sculpture Garden Update

This last summer was a busy time for many iris club members at the Sculpture Garden. Most of the iris beds in the garden were dug, divided, replanted, new rhizomes added, a few new beds were created and the beds were dug deeper with amendment and fertilizer added. Groups of workers met four different days, some very hot days, and a couple of "smokey" days.

Yours truly was not in town for this first very hot morning of digging, but fortunately several tough members came to dig and divide learning a new respect for the word "dig". That day a new bed was added which is now the first bed in the garden, the next five beds were dug up and rhizomes divided and some replanted in different beds. Thank you's to workers: David Nicholson, Diane Clarke, Katy Standhardt, Patrick Beatty, Bonnie Haughton, Judy Greenburg and Stan and Judy Book. Those first six beds include: Role Model, Afternoon Delight, Raspberry Silk (new), Laugh Lines (new), Private Treasure, Roman Song, Royal Storm, Champagne Elegance RE (new rebloomer) Lemon Mist (new), Cinnamon Girl (new) and mystery iris in bed 6. These beds had very good increases during the summer and should be a good show in the spring. The big, beautiful surprise in the last few weeks was the blooming of Champagne Elegance. (Photo page 4)

Stan, Judy, Ruth and Patrick worked one morning for a few hours and planned what we would do with the remaining beds and also dug a new bed in front of the Sculpture named "Leaps and Bounds". We found a rhizome by the same name and planted several of them in this bed. This will be a unique touch in another year, as the plants grow. That same morning we planted "Concertina", which is a beautiful pink RE, in a bed where "Instigator" had been and not done well. We would like to have more rebloomers in the garden, and the pink color will be a lovely addition. David Nicholson and Patrick Beatty were willing helpers and good "diggers". Katy Standhardt helped again and Shirley Eitner was a great help dividing, washing and marking rhizomes.

A new bed was made to honor Francelle Edwards, who is one of our treasured members with a gorgeous garden in

Phoenix. She has recently begun to introduced her hybridized iris and "Rachel Julia", Francelle's 2009 introduction which won the Herb Holk Award at the 2009 Spring Trek is the first iris to be planted in her honor. We hope to plant more of her introductions in this bed. To fill in the bed for this year, we added "Cranberry Tea" donated by David Nicholson. The new Medians are Cherry Tart SDB, Hubbub IB, Calling Card IB, Rare Edition IB, Sarah Taylor SDB, Eye Magic IB, and the new tall beardeds are Stairway to Heaven and Thornbird, plus those mentioned above. The remaining beds will be dug next summer. A big thanks to Stan Book for lending us his tiller to work this hard ground.

New plant markers are in, and I am now working on numbering the beds, this number will be placed on the back of the plant marker.

Have all of you walked through the Sculpture Garden? It is a lovely garden, and if you haven't enjoyed the beauty and quietness there, you are the

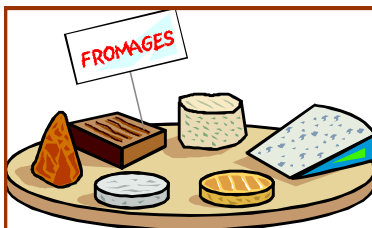
loser. Nearly every time I am working in the garden someone stops and comments on how they enjoy the iris. This gratitude and the cooperation of the members, assisting when needed, has made my job a pleasure this year. Help keep the garden weeded and beautiful, sign up at the November 14 meeting. You will be glad you did!

Thanks to Linda Rossman and Carole Buchheim, we have received almost all of the Dykes medal winners. Because the new bed in the sculpture garden has not yet been prepared, Shirley Eitner has planted some in her garden and Doris Elevier has potted literally hundreds of rhizomes. Thank you ladies!!

Happy gardening to all of you, Ruth De Vries



International Iris Competition..



## Ah! Italiano!

Wish you could be there? Come to our November 14th meeting for a glimpse of Italy. Our guest speaker, Kathy Chilton from Tucson, was in Italy to Judge the



We are looking for volunteers to bring a treat for us to savor with an Italian flare. If you can bring a refreshment please RSVP to Carolyn Alexander: art-west@cablone.net, 778-1551.

## Iris Enthusiast

By Carolyn Alexander

Each flower is an invitation to reconnect with the Earth's energy. Just enjoying the many colors is healing. Gardening is a wonderful way to balance oneself and can be made easy when growing irises. We hope you visited at least one of our PAIS Rhizome sales this summer and purchased some new rhizome beauties for your yard.

### The Beauty of Irises

The natural artistic beauty of an Iris is obvious to everyone that looks at their blooms and they are enjoyed by all during the blooming season. But what about after the blooming season has past? Many of us have found ways to continue iris beauty in our lives throughout the year. Several of our PAIS members have found their own personal way to enjoy the iris through other venues or hobbies. Dan Schroeder, Katy Standhardt and Carolyn Alexander use watercolors and acrylics to paint iris to enjoy during the year.

Other artistic members include Ray Waguespack with his iron sculpture of an enlarged beautiful single bearded iris that all the PAIS Marking Party volunteers enjoyed at Cam and Ray's home this July. Carolyn Alexander recently purchased an iron iris sculpture at Watter's Garden September sale. (See photo) These sculptures extend the beauty of the iris into the winter dormant months in the yard. Stan Book is another artist who enjoys making sculptures for the yard.

Additionally we have several members who love to capture the irises fleeting beauty during the blooming season with their camera and then later at their computer edit, enlarge and frame the photos for their homes. We were delighted to receive the Ables professional photos of the iris they donated to the sale. Those fantastic pictures sure made those rhizomes sell first.



Carolyn's photos of her garden sculpture

### Purchasing Irises

One way to extend the joy of iris is to get involved with other iris lover's through the activities of PAIS Members. All summer members have been very active in digging, dividing, sharing, marking and then selling rhizomes. We expanded our sales this year to include a Chino Valley sale at Growin' Crazy Nursery and a sale at Dan Schroeder's garden in Yarnell. The customers in these towns were very enthused to see us. What fun it was to have them excited about buying rhizomes and to ask questions about how to care for them. If you didn't get involved this summer with one of our 3 Farmers Markets or rhizomes sales at Sharlot Hall Museum, Yarnell or Chino Valley be sure to add these summer events to your 2010 calendar. These activities help our kitty grow so we can use this money for purchasing and distributing educational materials, maintaining gardens around town (Yavapai College and Margaret T. Morris Center) and providing active members who qualify, a newly hybridized rhizome each spring.

### Welcome to our New Members

As announced in our last newsletter, we would like to get to know our newest members by interviewing them during our November meeting. A break in the program will be given so all new members can be asked questions at the same time in a one on one interview privately. Members with more than one year with PAIS will be given a series of questions to ask a new member and then they will introduce the new member to all of us with the information they learned from these questions. Don't worry the questions will be real easy like:

- (1) Where do you live?
- (2) How long have you lived in this area?
- (3) Why did you join the Iris Society?
- (4) What would you like PAIS to do for you?
- (5) Have you grown Iris in the past?
- (6) How did you get started growing Irises?
- (7) How many Irises do you have? Between 1-30, 31-50, 51- 100, 101-200 over 201
- (8) Do you use a computer – Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Which software programs do you know?

- a. Network \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Email \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Word or another word processor \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Excel or another spreadsheet \_\_\_\_\_
- e. Photoshop (any type) \_\_\_\_\_
- f. Publisher or another desktop publisher \_\_\_\_\_
- g. Adobe Acrobat (reader) \_\_\_\_\_  
(writer) \_\_\_\_\_

It will be lots of fun with prizes awarded to the best Irisian Presenter and their New Member too.

### New Members

Robert & Laura Smith  
Gerry & Michelle Snyder  
Marie Wise



Photo by Patti Jares

There was an impressive turnout for the sixth annual Prescott Area Iris Society's Public Sale in Yarnell

# Iris Society sale successful in Yarnell

By Patti Jares  
Staff Writer

The remnants of Hurricane Jimena poured rain and wind, but the faithful and curious were not deterred from visiting Yarnell on Saturday, Sept. 5, to attend the sixth annual Prescott Area Iris Society's public sale.

The event was held at the home of Dan Schroeder in his yard – a blossom-filled area that created the perfect setting for the sale. Dozens of iris bulbs of every color were available for purchase, from common to heirloom, and intrigued visitors filled shallow boxes with them.

Diane Clark, president of the club, was surprised at the turnout – especially considering the weather.

"We're a young club," she explained, "working on trying to get established. Our main goal is to educate the public on growing irises in

the area; our second goal is giving back to the community."

Although the club originated in Prescott, there are members throughout Arizona as well as other western states.

Examples of the club giving back to the community include planting a scripture garden at Yavapai College, starting a youth program among Prescott schools, and helping with local therapy gardens through the Margaret T. Morris Foundation.

According to Clark, the society was pleased with its choice of location for the sale.

"If Dan wants us back," said Clark, "we'll be back next year."

Anyone interested in becoming a member of the society can contact Clark at 928-237-6285.

Thanks to the Wickenburg Sun for permission to reprint this article.

## Corrections to the Iris Society Sale article:

This was our first sale in Yarnell.

Our club does not have members throughout Arizona and other western states.

We do not have any programs in the schools yet, but that is one of our goals.

## Landscaping With Irises

By Carolyn Alexander

What fun it is to create names for my various iris gardens. I started this project to make it easier to identify where a given iris is located on my alphabetical iris list. I had numbered the iris beds but I can't ever remember the number of the bed so I started naming them. This all started this summer when I decided it was time to dig and divide the beds I had that weren't in any particular order. I was reading a book "Iris" by Theodore James, Jr. that suggested I put the beds in effective color combinations with various color designs or complementary colors. I had done this with other flower beds but never with irises.

Some of the iris beds names are: Chocolate & Vanilla Swirl (brown-off white), Candy Cane Lane (red or white), Sherbet Delight (orange/yellow/lime), Bluebird Haven (all blues), Pastel Palette (pale lavender, pink & blue), Darken Night (black/dark purple), Grapeland (violet-purple), Lavender Blues, Rainbow Pictures (varied colors), & Peacock Patch (bi-color). This should give you ideas of putting them in complementary colors or all the same color. From a distance the beds will be far more eye appealing when colors are grouped together.

I also have some beds in order for a reason, like my reblooming iris bed. It is a good idea to keep your rebloomers together because of the extra food needed to. I never had many to put together until this summer when I purchased about 20 reblooming iris rhizomes. This new bed is now called "Again & Again". Easy to remember since they bloom again. Currently "Raspberry Frost" is blooming (photo page 4) and "Dime Spot" is about to open. This bed was just planted in August so I think that's pretty good to have these blooms so quickly.



Dime Spot—Carolyn Alexander

Thanks to the Wickenburg Sun for permission to reprint this article.

# COMMUNITY PROFILES

## 'Dan's Garden' an inspiring work of love and art

By Patti Jares  
Staff Writer

Many people garden, but there are those who fill plots of ground with such an artistic flair that people are drawn to the beauty. Such is "Dan's Garden," located in Yarnell. Creator Dan Schroeder started the garden three years ago in his yard, and it has become an area icon; in fact, the Prescott Area Iris Society recently chose his home for their sixth annual public sale. "The garden has done it itself," exclaimed Dan modestly. "It draws people in."

However, at first glance it is apparent that Dan's Garden was not just thrown together. It was created with an artist's eye, and Dan is an artist. From the flow of flowers, rock walls and flagstone paths to the interior decoration of his home, to the way he paints a canvas, Dan's artistic talent shines through.

There are days that Dan spends from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. in his garden, and has the opportunity to interact with passersby.

"People walk, bike or drive by and ask, 'Can I see your garden?'" grinned Dan. "Sometimes I spend six hours giving tours; sometimes I spend all day weeding. It

makes me feel good that people are enjoying it as much as I am."

Dan's front yard is filled with flowers, including 15 variations of cannas - a variety of day lily, dahlias, English roses, hibiscus, calla lilies, and a colorful patch of mini-roses surrounded by a stone wall border.

And that is his front yard. His backyard contains a pond - three feet at its deepest - containing 10 variations of water lilies, Egyptian Papyrus Grass and other exotic water plants. There are also several small aboveground pools filled with water lilies and an abundance of water flowers - some extremely fragrant.

In addition to the flowers is yard art, including an antique door standing among the foliage. There is also a plentiful vegetable garden that includes squash, a variety of peppers, horseradish, and heirloom tomatoes.

When viewing the flowers - especially the water lilies, those who are familiar with the paintings of Claude Monet might see a resemblance between those paintings and the flow and color Dan has created. It is no coincidence - Dan "idolizes" Claude Monet.

"Seeing pictures of his gardens and flowers, I as an artist wanted something like that," acknowledged Dan. "That's what inspired me - I wanted Monet's garden; I have Dan's Garden."

Dan's Garden is a hot spot during Yarnell Daze, when he holds "Artist in the Garden" featuring eight artists chosen by Dan.

"It's a big hit," he said. "Last year the media were oil, acrylic, mixed media, glass, stained glass and jewelry to die for."

As an artist, Dan appreciates how a lot of artists are not accepted into the big galleries and have nowhere to go to display their work.

"I wanted this to be for the artist," he added. "I get nothing out of it except the thrill I feel when they sell their work. And it's not just for the artist, but something to bring the people in."

Ten years ago Dan picked up his brush and canvas after 30 years away from it, returning to his love of creating art. A member of the Wickenburg Art Club, his medium of choice is oil.

Dan's work is featured this month at the Yarnell Public Library, and his paintings of cows, chickens and horses



Photo by Paul Jares

### Dan Schroeder with his dogs in his beautiful garden

are reminders of his roots, as he was born and raised on a farm in Lacrosse, Wis.

Dan is also an avid collector of antiques and McCoy pottery. In the antique business for 10 years in Scottsdale, he and his partner Dorman acquired a large collection of the pottery and have been to Zanesville (where the pottery was produced) pottery reunions. They even met Nelson and Billie McCoy.

Dan and Dorman relocated from Scottsdale in June 2005, and being a realtor, Dorman was immediately hired by Larry Oldman of Hilltop Realty. A licensed optician by trade, Dan admitted he misses his work and might one day open a shop in Yarnell. But for now, he will continue to enjoy his garden with his Scottish terriers Abigail and Jessica.

His advice to garden enthusiasts is to find out what is growing in your area before

buying something that catches your eye at a local nursery.

"Instead of wasting a lot of money, get something established before you go on to another plant," advised Dan. "Iris, cannas - what's growing now is what I'm going to grow next year. If it doesn't grow, it goes!"

To contact Dan for a tour of his garden, call his home at 427-9620, or his cell phone at 602-300-5791.