



PRESCOTT AREA IRIS SOCIETY

Winter 2009

Volume 6, Issue 1

President's Message

The February 14th meeting will be a very important meeting as we plan for 2009. We will discuss all the events and activities that we have planned for our club so we all know where we are going and how we plan to be a success! Our club is filled with talented, capable, and knowledgeable members who have a lot to offer our club and our community. We will:

- Welcome new members and greet returning members.
- Look at the 2009 calendar and review the events and activities.
- Announce our Committee Chairman and give members an opportunity to volunteer for their favorite activity.
- Review the Budget for 2009.
- Enjoy the Program of educational topics with a couple of surprises thrown in to make the afternoon enjoyable.
- Enjoy the refreshments that will be provided.

With everyone's support and a lot of teamwork we will fulfill the goals set for our club in 2009. Thank you all for working together and making every aspect of our club successful!

Diane

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

The Prescott Area Iris Society membership year is from January—December and all memberships are now due for renewal. Please send in the renewal form with your check ASAP. Members not renewing by March 1 will automatically be dropped from membership. Don't delay, do it today! The renewal form is on page 4.



*Golden Panther (Rick Tasco '00)
Dykes Medal 2008 Runnerup*

Iris Society Contacts

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Carolyn Alexander, Vice President 778-1551 artwest@cableone.net
Claude Baker, Treasurer 445-9611 cvb@commspeed.net
Ruth DeVries, Secretary 771-1051 gmama14@mac.com
Doris Elevier, Membership 636-9610 doris1434@cableone.net

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 28—VAIS meeting
Cottonwood, Photographing Iris

February 14—2 p.m.
Educational and Surprising!
Yavapai Title, Gurley At Sheldon
1235 E. Gurley

April 17-18 Spring Trek
Phoenix, AZ

April 25—2 p.m.
Preparing and arranging iris
for the spring show

May 9— Spring Show
Mortimer Nursery

May 11-16 -AIS National
Convention, Kansas City, MO

May 16— PAIS Garden Tour

July 25— Rhizome Marking Party

August 1— Rhizome Sale

September 5 —Rhizome Silent
Auction/Potluck

October 9, 10—Fall Trek
Lompoc, CA

November 14— TBA

Board Member Introductions

In order to get our club year off to a good start, the following paragraphs were written by board members as a means of introducing themselves to you.

Diane Clarke—President Being connected to the earth has always been important in my life. I was born on a dry land wheat farm in North Dakota which my family continues to farm. We moved to Montana when I was 7 but we continued to spend most spring, summer and fall vacations working the land. I learned how to drive when I was in the 4th grade so I could take lunches to the workers in the fields. This connection to the land always made me long to work it where ever I lived - even on our boat! One year I had more basil than I knew what to do with. Upon arriving in Prescott, I was thrilled with the seasonal temperatures because I imagined I could grow some of the same things I had grown while living in Montana, Colorado and Michigan. Well, did I have a lot to learn! Gardening in Prescott has its own unique set of challenges including the scorching sun, the varieties of soil and rock, the surprising effect of the elevation, the lack of precipitation, the shortage of water, the abundance of critters and bugs and more. With all these challenges, I finally worked my way to iris! They are the best flower to grow under these conditions. I look forward to collecting as many of the different varieties, cultivars and colors that this genus offers! Happy Gardening!

Ruth DeVries-Secretary Yavapai Sculpture Garden Chair I was born in Iowa and lived in a small rural community, during my childhood. We had lots of garden produce. Tomatoes and carrots were delicious picked fresh from the garden and wash off with the water hose! My Mother had peony lilac and bridal wreath bushes, lily of the valley flowers and an abundance more. I married young and we moved to the desert of Arizona in 1956. I did not fight the hot, low desert for a garden, except for growing tomatoes in our "court yard" in Wickenburg. After moving to Prescott in 2003, the country girl in me was sparked anew to dig in this good soil. My top choice was to grow some iris, and I wandered upon the "rhizome sale" at Sharlot Hall Museum in August and made a small purchase-how could one decide with all the beautiful pictures of iris. I joined PAIS at that time. In August of 2005 we purchased our property on Perdido Lane, and the next spring iris began to spring up (among lots of other goodies). Beautiful blossoms! I had no idea about names, etc. Innocently, I attended the silent auction that year, and it is all history from that day on. I now have several iris garden plots, and have around 150 rhizomes, and over 90 different varieties. That short visit to the "rhizome sale" got me hooked!

Claude Baker—Treasurer I am a retired engineer living on 5 acres in Williamson Valley. I have been a resident since 1988 while maintaining an office in Phoenix and wearing out cars up and down I-17. I have four main iris beds in action now and my primary interest is in rebloomers. I also belongs to the Orchid Society and the Prescott Antique Auto Club and founded "Bumps in the Road", a not for profit organization formed to help individuals over one time bumps in the road of life.

Doris Elevier – Membership - Farmer's Market Chair I became aware of Iris when I was four years old. It was a soft blue and had such a nice smell. The scent reminded me of my Mom's laundry fresh off the clothes line. When I was ten I saw my first Plicata and thought I had never seen anything so beautiful. Since we rented I was not allowed to plant anything. After marriage, I lived a Military life for 16 years, moving all over the country and Europe. Finally, in 1977, I felt settled enough to plant! I attended an Iris Show in Hobbs, NM and saw about 200 Iris on display and that was the beginning. I ordered \$25 worth of rhizomes and in 1979 took Queen of the show as well as runner-up to my queen. While I lived in El Paso, TX, I had roughly 150 named Iris, including a number of Arilbreds. Now I'm here in Chino Valley, AZ and starting over!

Vera Stewart – Past President – Spring Show Chair You may know me as *'flwrlovr'* but do you know who gave me the 'iris virus'? It was Bonnie Haughton, my neighbor since 1995 when Jim and I moved here from Tustin, CA. Bonnie is responsible for narrowing my eclectic garden tastes that included one row of unidentified purple, yellow, white & coral colored iris to my current total of more than 220 cultivars, the majority of which are named & identified varieties. I enjoy growing several types, mostly bearded varieties, ranging from Miniature Dwarf, SDBs, IBs to TBs and six Arilbreds – but also I have three Reticulata in pots on the deck, three Louisianas in a horse watering trough, four Siberians, one Barry Golden's unknown yellow Spuria, and three or four Dutch iris varieties. Soon after joining PAIS in 2005 I was asked to become Secretary of the club. Two years later I became President, and now another two years have passed and I'm Past-President and Show Chair for "Symphony in Color", our first AIS sanctioned/juried show scheduled for May 9, 2009.

A weed is a plant that has mastered every survival skill except for learning how to grow in rows. Doug Larson

We Need YOU!

We know you are receiving some benefit from being a member of our club and now it is time for you to step up and join a committee. For many years, the Board Members have been filling the positions of committee chairs, event organizers and worker bees and the time has come to involve all members in these tasks. Fresh approaches and new ideas will enable our club to produce events which will not only be enjoyable for our members, but will help us in our mission to educate the public about the joys of raising iris.

Signup sheets will be circulated at the February 14 meeting for the following committees:

Spring Show Marking Party
Rhizome Sale Farmer's Market
Sculpture Garden Maintenance

Be thinking about these opportunities and prepare to signup February 14 or indicate your desire on the attached renewal form.

Verde Valley Iris Society

Next meeting

Jan. 28, 2009 (Wed) 5:30 pm
Cottonwood Public Safety Building
199 S. 6 th St (corner of Aspen and 6th)

- Speaker: Harold Ables of Flagstaff will give helpful tips on photographing iris.

Prescott Area Iris Society members who also would like to join the Verde Valley Iris Society as an associate member:

Free for AIS member in good standing
Non AIS member is \$5.

Make check payable to Verde Valley Iris Society:

For more information contact Linda Smith:
irisgrower@cablone.net or 2290 W. Running Iron,
Cottonwood, AZ 86326
Phone Contact 928-567-7470

Iris Trivia

The iris is the official flower of what southern U.S. city? Come to the February 14 meeting to see if your answer is correct.

Barry's Golden Wisdom

1. Remove dead leaves which are, by this time, very abundant
2. Uncover dirt from tops of rhizomes—freeze, thaw causes rhizomes to become buried
3. Feel rhizomes to check for rot. If soft, pull up the rhizome, cut off the rot, sprinkle with comet, let dry for several days and replant. Place rotted rhizomes in the trash, not the compost pile.

John C. Wister Medal Winners 2008

This medal is restricted to tall bearded (TB) irises. It is named in honor of John C. Wister (1887-1982).

John C. Wister led the organizing meeting that created the American Iris Society and became its first president, a position he held for fourteen years. He guided the society through its formative years.



Millennium Falcon
(Kasperek '00)



Hollywood Nights
(Duncan '01)



Heartstring Strummer
(Johnson '01)

AIS AWARDS

Dykes Memorial Medal: First awarded in 1927, the Dykes Medal is the highest award of the AIS. Awarded to no more than one iris per year. Irises are eligible as a Dykes Medal candidate for three years following the winning of a classification medal. Only AIS registered judges may vote.

Medals: Each year there are Medals awarded to irises of each specific classification type. This is the top award for each AIS iris classification type. Irises are eligible as a candidate for a Medal the second year after they receive an Award of Merit (AM). One medal for each classification is given each year (except for the very popular tall bearded which awards 3 Wister Medals each year). Again, only AIS registered judges may vote. The list of 2008 awards is included with this newsletter.



Star Woman (Marky Smith) '98

Dykes Medal Winner 2008

AIS Membership

Benefits of membership in the American Iris Society include a subscription to the AIS Bulletin. The AIS Bulletin is published four times per year (see details of the AIS Bulletin on the AIS website: <http://www.irises.org>). You may also choose to participate in events such as local AIS sanctioned iris shows and the annual AIS Convention.

To join AIS send a \$25.00 check made payable to American Iris Society to:

Tom Gormley - AIS Membership Secretary

10606 Timber Ridge Street

Dubuque, IA 52001-8268

Telephone and Fax - 563-513-0504

E-mail: aismemsec@irises.org

2008 Prescott Area Iris Society Membership Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Today's Date _____

Email (this is very important) _____

Dues: _____ \$15 single/household _____ \$5 youth

_____ \$5 dual membership in PAIS* **please note club of primary membership on the line below**

* _____

Which activities can you assist us with?

_____ May Iris Show

_____ Refreshments

_____ May Garden Tour

_____ Sculpture garden maintenance

_____ August Rhizome Sale

_____ Farmer's Market

_____ Door prize contribution

Make check payable to: **Prescott Area Iris Society**

Mail to: **Prescott Area Iris Society, PO Box 11918, Prescott, AZ 86304**