



PRESCOTT AREA IRIS SOCIETY

May 2010

Volume 7, Issue 3

President's Message

Hooray! The warm weather is returning hopefully early enough for irises to recover from the wind and freezing nights. Only a few days left for the buds to open up and show us their beauty for Saturday's Iris Show. We have all experienced disappointment in our iris gardens this season as a result of too many wet, cold and windy days. I will be explaining this to our judging panel when they arrive on Saturday and asking them to be lenient if they see some frost damage on the flower. Many of my irises were damaged while they were still in bud form and when the flower actually blooms the edges are crinkled from frost bite. Many of the members have expressed similar problems with their irises. Even though the flowers are less than perfect, they are still very pretty and it is beneficial to exhibit them. The public that comes to see our irises are interested in learning what is available and they will be writing down the names of irises they would like to purchase at our rhizome sales, so let's not disappoint them.

Just a reminder that we need your help this year in making our rhizome sales better by providing laminated photos to show the various variety of flowers. Take photos of the irises you think you will be dividing and giving to PAIS as your irises bloom in the next couple of months and email them to me at art-west@cablone.net along with as much information as you know about the iris, such as name, hybridizer and year. If you only know the name that's okay, I'll look up the rest and then I will edit the photo to reflect that information. Roger has agreed to laminate the photos so they will last more than one year. Last year we had a problem with rains destroying many of the photos between sales and we had to reproduce the photos more than once. Since this process takes some time to complete we ask that you send photos frequently as they bloom and not wait until all have bloomed. We need all member's help with this so we can continue to earn enough money to pay for our 'Active Member's FREE Newly Issued Rhizome' for 2011. This program

(Continued on page 2)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 8-Spring Show
Mortimer Nursery

May 15 Prescott Garden Tour

June 12—Alta Vista Garden Tour

July 17 Iris Auction/Ice Cream Social

July 24 Marking Party

July 31 Prescott Rhizome Sale

August 1 Yarnell Sale

August 7 Chino Valley Sale

October 2 Fall Trek
Huntington Gardens, San Marino, CA

November 6 General Meeting

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held at *Yavapai Title*, 1235 E. Gurley, Prescott, Gurley at Sheldon intersection



Nancy Floyd's garden above

Cookie Best's garden, below

May 8 Iris Impressions

We want your irises for the show.

Don't be shy, enter the show and listen to the public ooh and awe over our favorite flower. Let's spread the "iris virus". Come enjoy what members are growing. Questions- contact Roger, 442-2498 rogerosgood2005@yahoo.com
If you plan to display your irises you need to have your entries completed by 8:30 the morning of the show.

The *Camp Verde Bugle* visited Nancy Floyd's garden in Verde Valley.

For more lovely photos visit:

<http://cvbugle.com/main.asp?SectionID=99&SubSectionID=1068>



(Continued from page 1)

benefits our members with a new expensive rhizome for their garden, makes our future iris show better with newly issued irises to view and improves our future rhizome sales when you divide the rhizomes and give PAIS the increases. It's a three way win for all of us plus with proper iris care you could win the "Best of Show" award in future years.

One of those newly issued rhizomes was planted in my garden last year. I received it from Sutton's Iris in August 2009 and it not only bloomed for the first time this year but it bloomed before any of my other tall bearded iris had bloomed and even before these last few days of freeze. It is called 'Touch of Tuscany' (see photo). It had 3 bloom stalks with 4 or 5 buds per stalk. The only problem is it bloomed so early there won't be any left by Saturday to bring to the show.

My wishes are that you enjoy the irises in your garden and sharing them with others as much as I do. Good luck with your iris show entries!
Carolyn Alexander



Open Iris Garden Days

We have already enjoyed the first two open iris garden days for PAIS members. Those that attended had a good time in spite of the weather problems and iris blooms being in shorter supply than normal.



Annette and friend

We had snow in many areas on May 22, Thursday afternoon and evening. The Sedona gardens were worried about us getting to them safely so their gardens were open both Friday (23) and Saturday (24). It turned out the snow melted quickly and Friday was okay for viewing, but a bit cold. For those who attended on Saturday, it was a very nice warm day. Verde Valley had some beautiful iris blooms at both Nancy Floyd and Annette McDonald's gardens. If you didn't make it to Nancy's and Annette's gardens you really missed a treat as their irises were in full bloom and there was so much to see with their horses and surrounding ranch to explore. We enjoyed ourselves so much it

Next was Sedona with Marge Larson and Cookie Best. Both were delightful hostesses and eager to show us their gardens. It was sad that the irises were

behind schedule in blooming because of the cold weather conditions. It didn't stop us from enjoying their gardens. Larson's garden had a view of the fantastic red rocks from the front yard and the green grass of the golf course



Dutch iris -Marge's garden

from the rear.

Cookie had a little paradise with so many different plants, a waterfall and pond.

The following week, on May 1st, we went to Yarnell to Dan Schroeder's to watch artists painting in the garden and to view the iris. Many of his irises were in bloom, but he had a lot more yet to bloom as well. It was a fun day watching the artists paint as well as answering the numerous questions from the visitors. About 40 people came to enjoy the day with us.



Rustler—Cookie's garden



*Secret Service-
Annette's garden*



*Too, Too, Ripe
Nancy's garden*



*Oh So Pretty
Cookie's garden*

Fertilizer 101

By Bob Van Liere – Denver, Co

From 'Tall Talk' Spring 2010

Publication of Tall Bearded Iris Society

How about a refresher course in Fertilizer!

The primary plant food elements essential to our Iris are Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium. The secondary plant food elements are calcium, magnesium and sulfur. A third category of nutrients are called the micronutrients which consist of boron, manganese, copper, zinc, iron, molybdenum and chlorine.

The primary plant food elements are the building blocks or foundation for a good healthy Iris.

Nitrogen – It promotes rapid vegetative growth and gives our Irises a healthy green color. It tends to increase the protein content in our irises. Remember do not apply a high Nitrogen based fertilizer too late in the season as it will cause soft, fast growth which then will make our Irises more susceptible to disease and winter kill.

Symptoms of nitrogen-starved Iris:

Stunted growth

Pale yellowish color

Low protein content

Phosphorus – Important element for all plant growth. It is the active ingredient of protoplasm (a substance constituting the basis of living matter in animals and plants (Webster). Phosphorus encourages the development of root formation, **advances maturity (brings it to flower sooner)**, enables seed to develop better and contributes to the overall well being of our Irises.

Symptoms of a phosphorous-starved Iris:

1. Small growth, especially in the root development (what you see on top will be reflected in what is below the soil line).

Spindly stalks

Delayed maturity (inconsistent blooming or never coming into flower)

Tips of older leaves dying

Lack of or poor fruit and seed development (budding hybridizers remember your plant needs phosphorus to develop the seeds of that future Dykes Medal Winner).

Potassium – The mystery element. Better defined by what is lacking or deficient in the plant but it is believed to aid in the plant's ability to resist disease, protects in cold and other adverse weather conditions and it functions in the process whereby starches and sugars are made from carbon dioxide and water.

Symptoms of potassium-starved Iris:

Irises grow slowly

Margins of leaves develop a "scorched effect" starting first on older leaves.

Stalk is weak and plants are easily uprooted.

Seed is shriveled.

Irises resistance to disease is reduced.

Micronutrients

<http://www.agr.state.nc.us/cyber/kidswrld/plant/nutrient.htm>

North Carolina Department of Agriculture

Boron (B)

- Helps in the use of nutrients and regulates other nutrients.
- Aids production of sugar and carbohydrates.
- Essential for seed and fruit development.
- Sources of boron are organic matter and borax

Copper (Cu)

- Important for reproductive growth.
- Aids in root metabolism and helps in the utilization of proteins.

Chloride (Cl)

- Aids plant metabolism.
- Chloride is found in the soil.

Iron (Fe)

- Essential for formation of chlorophyll.
- Sources of iron are the soil, iron sulfate, iron chelate.

Manganese (Mn)

- Functions with enzyme systems involved in breakdown of carbohydrates, and nitrogen metabolism.
- Soil is a source of manganese.

Molybdenum (Mo)

- Helps in the use of nitrogen
- Soil is a source of molybdenum.

Zinc (Zn)

- Essential for the transformation of carbohydrates.
- Regulates consumption of sugars.
- Part of the enzyme systems which regulate plant growth.
- Sources of zinc are soil, zinc oxide, zinc sulfate, zinc chelate.

PAIS Iris Show May 8, 2010

As a result of our recent cold front, the irises are blooming later than normal and many of the iris buds were frozen before they were able to open. We are concerned that our show may have less than previous years' exhibits as the number of irises blooming have been reduced by frost and wind. Therefore it is important for each member to bring what they can from their gardens. Thank you for your understanding that we want this to be the biggest and best show ever. Let's **WOW** the viewers with what we have to show in spite of the poor weather!

The purpose is to give everyone an opportunity to show their best irises and to give the public a chance to see how beautiful and varied irises can be and to educate them on the types and care of irises. Bring all of your irises you feel are worthy of showing. We added tables and tent size this year so we will have plenty of room to show your beauties.

Now is the time to start assessing what will be ready to bloom by Saturday's show. If you have an iris stalk that has buds too close together you can insert a Styrofoam plate between the stems to gradually space it further apart. Just cut a 'V' shape at opposite sides of the plate to help the plate to stay between the stems.

Each of us is unique in what we see as the most beautiful and the larger the display on show day, the better to see what is available in the iris world. By popular request we have added the category for "People's Choice" so the public can vote for their favorite. There will be a **prize** for both 'Favorite Design' and 'Favorite Iris' (no ribbon as this is not an AIS Judged item).

Please review details and guidelines listed in the 'Iris Impressions' show schedule for a complete list of all awards and requirements. Entries will be received from 7:00– 8:30 a.m. Entries **must** be completed by 8:30.



Prescott Iris Gardens Tour

Saturday, May 15, 2010

Time: 9 AM – 2 PM

We are doing things a little differently this year, instead of a tour where everyone follows each other we are just giving you the addresses and times and letting you decide in what order you want to see the various member gardens that are open for viewing. This method worked very well for the Verde Valley and Sedona tour and it means there will be less people arriving at any location at the same time. This makes it easier for photo opportunities and viewing of the irises. See page 6 for addresses and directions.



Screenplay - YC Sculpture Garden



Cranberry Tea-YC Garden

Alta Vista Garden Tour June 12

Celebrate National Garden Week by attending the Prescott Garden Tour on Saturday, June 12, 2010. For your pleasure and inspiration this self-guided tour features six private, distinctive gardens open from 8 AM until 4 PM. Limited numbers of tickets for a \$10 donation are available by contacting Cathy at 928-541-9341 or caasam@cableone.net.

Iris Terminology

When reading through iris catalogs you may have come across terms with which you were unfamiliar. A refresher on terms will help us all look at iris in a new way. When attending our show, see if you can identify examples of iris blooms such as amonea, glaciata, diamond dusted, sunburst, etc. You may want to take photos of the examples and add them to your iris notebook with the appropriate descriptive term.

Parts of an Iris Flower:

S. - standards – the upturned three petals, (technically called sepals) that surround the three style arms

F. – falls – the downturned three petals, (correctly called petals) that possess beards. These may also be horizontally flared or flat instead of downturned)

B – beards – Elongate groups of fuzzy hairs in the middle at the upper base of all three falls

SA – Space Age iris, have something extra, beard appendages called horns, spoons or flounces.

Spoons – Appendages extending from the tip of the beards that widen into spoon shaped petaloids.

Horns – A protrusion or extension of the beards, often ending in a point or may be hair covered.

Flounces – Wide, folded, often canoe or fan shaped appendages extending from the tips of the beards.

Hafts – Areas on each side of the narrow of the falls, on each side of the beards

Shoulders – The areas on the arching upper middle part of the falls on each side just beyond the haft areas.

Pistil – The style arms with stigmatic lips and the ovary. The female flower parts

Claw – The narrow base of the standard and fall, the expanded leaf-like part is called the blade.

Ovary – The enlarged green, three-chambered structure enclosing the ovules where fertilization occurs.

Spathes – The pair of modified green leaves that enclose the flower bud, usually turning tan after it blooms.

Stamen – The anther plus its attachment filament. The anthers contain the granular pollen. The male flower parts.

Rhizome - Brownish, potato-looking, fleshy root

Descriptive bloom terms:

Self – standards, style arms and falls are the same color, as a complete self they have the same color beards.

Amoena – white standards and anthocyanin pigmented falls

Reverse amoena – anthocyanin pigmented standards and white falls.

Emma Cook pattern – an amoena pattern with white standards and narrow anthocyanin pigmentation bordered falls.

Bicolor – standards are a different color than the falls

Bitone – standards are a lighter shade of color than the falls

Neglecta – blue or purple bitones with standards a lighter shade of the color of the falls

Reverse bitone – a bitone with the standards a darker shade of the same color as the lighter falls

Blend – combination of two or more colors, can be smoothly or unevenly mixed

Variegata – yellow standards and maroon or brown falls

Plicata – stippled, dotted, or stitched margins of anthocyanin pigmentation on lighter ground color

Luminata – the reverse pattern of a plicata, with darker ground color and white edges, veins and around beards

Glaciata – these lack all anthocyanin pigments and are pure whites, yellows, pinks, or oranges, formerly called ices.

Substance – thickness and resilient tensile strength of the flower parts

Texture – surface sheen or finish, such as velvety or satiny finish of the petals

Diamond dusted – tiny, conical raised areas across the petal surface that shine like diamonds in the light

Silver lining – standards and falls have raised areas on the edges that reflects light in a shining light

Wash – obvious or definite overlay of one color on another

Infusion – faint or subtle overlay of one color on another

Sunburst – white or light streaks fanning out on the falls around, and sometimes beyond, the beards

Spot – darker area around and below the beard on lighter or different colored falls

Signal – an area or patch of contrasting color below the beards (usually on arils, and some beardless varieties)

Zonal – a distinct white or light area around the beards in the middle of the falls

These terms and more information may be found on the Reblooming Iris Society web site:<http://www.rebloomingiris.com/gallery.htm>

Self-Guided 2010 Garden Tour

May 15

Gardens will be open from 9 am – 2 pm

Yavapai College Sculpture Garden

1100 E. Sheldon St., Prescott

The garden is located on the south side of the Performance Hall.

Audrey and Victor Velonis Home

1225 Copper Basin Rd.

928-776-4263

Go south on Montezuma past Safeway to stoplight at Copper Basin Road. Turn right. About 1 mile down Copper Basin Road, watch for Hemlock on the left side of the street. The Velonis residence is 4 houses past Hemlock on the left side. Park on Cypress Avenue. To enter the backyard, use the gate on the west side of the property.

Linda and Lee Rossman

Hummingbird Iris Gardens

5942 Old Black Canyon Highway

928-777-8110

Drive through town on Hwy. 69 toward Prescott Valley. Turn right at the stop light at the Wyndam Hotel onto Old Black Canyon Highway. Follow the road for 1 1/2 miles. You are getting close after you pass Fitzmaurice Drive and then Finney Circle. The garden is on the left behind a tall wrought iron fence.

Bonnie Haughton & Vera Stewart

Forest Trails

1480 and 1486 Forest View West

928-445-4357 928-445-8132

Take Iron Springs Road out of town past Williams Valley Road to the Forest Trails subdivision. Turn left on Sierry Peaks Rd. go about 1/2 mile to Forest View. Turn left. Go 1 short block to Forest View West. Turn right. Vera and Bonnie's homes are after the tennis courts on the right side of the road.

Iris Society Contacts

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