



PRESCOTT AREA IRIS SOCIETY

November 2010

Volume 7, Issue 7

President's Message

Don't you love the fall season with the changing color of the leaves and the cooler nights with many lovely sunny days? Since planting many reblooming irises the past two years I'm enjoying the fall season for the color in the iris gardens as well. Hopefully you also are starting to take advantage of the many reblooming irises available for our climate area. When ordering rhizomes, be sure that you check the information that shows the lowest temperature at about 10 degrees or zone 7 or lower number for Prescott. If you live in Verde Valley or another warmer area you may have a larger selection and a higher zone number. The Sutton Iris Gardens (www.suttoniris.com) gives you the zone chart and lists all their rebloomers by zone so you don't get an iris trying to bloom after the freeze and loose the flower.

I have had irises blooming since August and I picked the last bunch of iris last week because the temperature was dropping and I didn't want them to freeze. They have been in the house for about 7 days and are still blooming. A new rebloomer that I planted in July from Sutton, "Lest We forget", guardsman red self, has 5 buds but none of them have open yet so it is a little too early to take it in the house and I might loose it before it blooms. it is a zone 7 and should have bloomed a little earlier so I wouldn't have to worry about this, but then it is a new plant this year. See photo of one of my iris gardens from last week in next column.

It is a good idea to keep track of your reblooming irises and note each time they bloom. The Reblooming Iris Society has a chart for recording the months they bloom which we are including with this newsletter.

We have a wonderful topic and speaker, Patrick Orr, for our next PAIS meeting scheduled for Saturday, November 13. Patrick will be talking about how to hybridize our very own irises. See page 3 for details. Be sure to mark your calendars now so you won't forget this special event.

At our November meeting you will also have a chance to win several 2010 potted iris and a Margaret Thomas Wilson potted iris (see previous newsletter for details). Theses irises were potted several months ago in 2 gallon cans so they have plenty of room for roots to grow and you can leave them in the pots until next summer.

The business end of the meeting will include discussions on next year's planning, election of officers and above all else requests for volunteers for the various chair-person or co-chair positions. We need members to step up and assume leadership positions in 2011. Many of the same members have been volunteering for more than one committee and repeated the same jobs year after year. It takes a lot of volunteers to have a successfully run society and we need YOU. If anyone has questions or would like to discuss how they can help send me an email: art-west@cablone.net or phone me 778-1551.

A few of us are getting exhausted by doing most of the work to keep this club going strong. For example planning for the iris spring show starts as early as February with deciding on a theme, creating the schedule and getting AIS approval. Roger has created a wonderful 3 ring binder with all the past shows activity so the committee can just step in and follow the directions that are laid out. The show committee should be at least 3 members so the work load can be divided. If this AIS Show is to continue we need a chair-person and two committee members to do all the pre-planning. Many of you have helped the day of the show but there is so much more that has to be done in the planning stage. If you like going to the AIS sanctioned show we need members to step

Continued in next column)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 13

**The Art of Hybridizing Iris
Presented by Patrick Orr**

1:30-3:30 p.m.

Yavapai Title

*Yavapai Title, 1235 E. Gurley, Prescott at
the Gurley and Sheldon intersection
beside Circle K*

Member Update

We have some sad news to report. Ken McGraw passed away mid- October. Jane and Ken joined our club several years ago after moving from Southern California to Sedona. They were also active members of the Native Plant Society in Sedona.



(President's Message Cont.)

forward now. The same holds true for planning General Meetings, and other activities, like maintaining the iris in the sculpture garden, the Rhizome Sales, the Silent Auction-Ice Cream Social and the Garden Tours. Currently we have 64 members and if each member would accept this challenge we would have no problem keeping all of our activities strong.

See you soon, Carolyn

Fall/Winter Iris Culture

1. Continue watering deeply every 7 to 10 days. This encourages the development of the fans and the continued growth of the rhizome. Regular watering may be discontinued when most leaves have died, usually in late November after several frosts.
2. Keep your iris beds free of dead leaves and weeds
3. Do not cut the leaves back. When the leaves die, pull them off.
4. When pulling off the dead leaves, make sure the tops of the rhizomes are not covered with dirt. After rain and snow, the rhizomes tend to get buried deeper.
5. Also be on the lookout for soft rot and treat the rhizome immediately.
6. Water deeply about once per week beginning in January unless we have an exceptionally wet winter. Let soil dry out between each watering.
7. Fertilize in late February or early March.
8. Check plant markers for placement and legibility. If they are faint now, it will only be worse next spring.
9. Make sure your iris map is up to date. Markers frequently get dislodged during the winter. An accurate iris map will help you replace the markers correctly.

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Membership List Corrections

Dennis Beard email correction
Dennis_html@hotmail.com
O.J. Johnson should be O. G. Johnson
Please notify Judy Book of any additional corrections.

REFRESHMENT REQUEST

What goodies will you be tempting us with at our November meeting?

Bring some goodies to share. Beverage will be supplied by the club.

American Iris Society— Are you a Member?

The AIS Bulletin is published quarterly in January, April, July and October. This official publication of the AIS typically has a composition of approximately 90-120 pages and includes gorgeous color photos of iris. 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](#).

November/December Birthdays

Carolyn Alexander
Shirley Eitner
Sandra Kelleher
Marge Larson
Nola Mertes

November 13—The Art of Hybridizing Iris

Patrick Orr is to be our speaker at the November 13th general meeting.

As I stare at my blooms in the spring, I often-times marvel at the beauty of the flower we all love. Why is this iris ruffled, how did they get the falls to be a different color, why are the stalks on this iris so strong, why does that one bloom more profusely?

Well, my friends! It is all in the breeding. Genetics do tell!

And who does all of this? The hybridizers, of course! Those talented people who have patiently spent years cross breeding iris “x” with iris “y” in hopes that something tremendously exciting will happen. Sometime it does... and sometimes it doesn't.

Patrick Orr, who was one of the judges for our May 8th *Iris Impressions* show this past year, has graciously agreed to be our guest speaker. Patrick has spent several years working to hybridize new varieties. (Perhaps he will come up with a “true red”, if he is patient.) He is eager to share his knowledge of this specialized art.

What does it take to become a hybridizer?

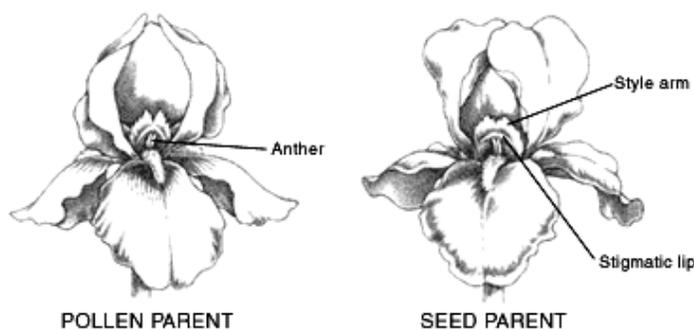
How do you do it?

What tools do I need?

What if I want to breed a bi-colored, space age with ruffles and a strong stalk?

Has this iris been created before?

What are the best varieties to select as parents?



How many additional questions do you have

when you gaze at your iris bed? Patrick will be here to answer all of those questions. To be prepared, he would like our questions in advance, so he can provide concise and informative advice to us wanna-be hybridizers.

Please contact me by telephone at 442-2498, or better yet, E-mail me at rogerosgood2005@yahoo.com with your questions and we will forward them to Patrick.

This promises to be an exciting, end of year meeting, so do plan on being there.

.....Roger Osgood, Vice-President/Program Chairperson

Reblooming Iris

Several years ago, Linda Smith started keeping track of the reblooming iris for our club. I have endeavored to keep the list current, but I need your help. Please read through the list on page 4 and if you have any iris which rebloom and are not included, bring your list of additions to the November meeting or email them to jbook@cableone.net



Anxious Hager '92



Rosalie Figge McKnew '93

Photos by Carolyn Alexander

Reblooming Iris / Quad City Area & Verde Valley

Tall Bearded

Angel's Blush
Anxious
Autumn Tryst
Autumn Wine
Billionaire
Blatant
Bountiful Harvest
Champagne Elegance
City Lights
Clarence
Crimson King
Decker
Double Down

Duo Dandy
Eleanor Roosevelt
Fall Rerun
Flower Showers
Halloween Halo
Happy New Year
Immortality
Istanbul
Jennifer Rebecca
Juicy Fruit
Kind Hearted
Lacy Halo
Las Vegas
Let We Forget

Marty Richards
Matrix
Misty Lady
Next in Line
October Sky
Over and Over
Pink Attraction
Raspberry Frost
Rhea Peerz
Romantic Evening
Rosalie Figge
Royal Knight
Sign of Virgo
Soft Returns

Victoria Falls
Violet Turner
Ziggy

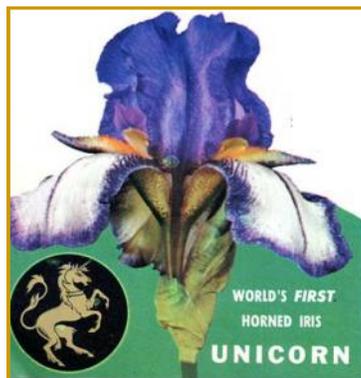
Medians

Concertina-IB
Hot-SBD
In The Red-SDB
Jewel Baby-SDB
Time to Shine-SDB

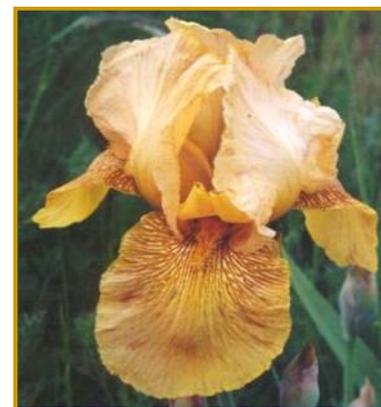
What's In a Name

We recently order an iris named *Autumn Colors*, Sutton '09, and that got me to wondering how many iris have the word Autumn in their name. I looked at the [AIS Registration and Checklist](#) online and discovered that there are 138 iris with the word Autumn in the name. The earliest iris hybridized in this group was Autumn Glow ,1923, Sturtevant. Robert Swan Sturtevant a landscape architect, was the first editor of the AIS Bulletin .

However another hybridizer who used the word Autumn at least 9 times in the names of introductions was



Lloyd Austin, 1898-1963. He introduced 210 iris from 1951-1962. He was a prolific hybridizer by any standard. In 1954, after years of experimentation, he introduced the first space age iris, *Unicorn*. He describes the iris in his catalog: "This horned iris represents the greatest breakthrough of an entirely new, highly decorative iris form that has occurred in the last half century. Customary beards, instead of reposing quietly on falls in normal position, are raised, separated from falls, projecting as striking plumed horns"



Real Gold '52

Another passion was his work with aril iris which he imported from all across the world. His goal was to improve this breed .He began hybridizing arils in 1946. Honorable Mentions were awarded his PERSIAN LACE in 1956 and PERSIAN BRONZE in 1957. His lovely, nearly true gold oncobred, REAL GOLD, is one of the most popular of its type. After 14 years of intensive work with arils he gave up this line of hybridizing due to its lack of profitability.

His attention turned to tall bearded iris and specifically reblooming iris. Austin introduced at least 28 varieties, among them *Autumn Princess*.



Autumn Princess '59

A talented and imaginative hybridizer and a cultural innovator of skill and resourcefulness, places him in the first ranks of men in the field.

Information from Historical Iris Preservation Society <http://www.hips-roots.com/articles/notable->

SEED SWAP

Many of us in the iris society also grow many other flowers and vegetables, and what a wonderful resource seed swapping would be for our group.

In our last newsletter, Roger provided us with a list of the seeds he is willing to share and his wish list. (See below) If you have any seeds or plants that match his list or any other seeds or potted plants or cuttings you would like to share with the club, bring them to our November 13 meeting.



Wanted:

Day lily starts
Heirloom tomato seeds

Willing to Share:

Flowers:

MARIGOLDS- thousands! yellow, orange
ZINNIAS- thousands! All colors and heights
FOUR O'CLOCKS- White, red, yellow, pink
BATCHELOR BUTTONS- Blue

Veggies:

POBLANO CHILI SEEDS
YUKON GOLD POTATO SEEDLINGS (next spring)
PONTIAC RED POTATO SEEDLINGS (next spring)
GARLIC

Plant starts:

GERANIUM- creeping vine (red) Great for hanging baskets
COREOPSIS- Yellow

PLANT MARKERS FOR SALE
Nov. 13—BRING YOUR CASH

REGION 15 FALL TREK 2010

The AIS Region 15 Fall Trek was held October 2nd at the Huntington, Library, Art Collections, & Botanical Gardens in San Marino, California. That location is famous for the original Blue Boy and Pink Lady paintings and many original Gutenberg books. The meeting was actually held in the Botanical Gardens Building, and was hosted by the Orange County Iris and Daylily Club. Some of you will recall it was just three years ago when the Prescott club hosted the Fall Trek at the Hassayampa Inn here in Prescott.

At the Board Meeting in the morning each president of the Region 15 clubs or their representative gave an update of their club activities to the group. Election of officers whose three-year term is ending occurred at the General Meeting which followed the Board Meeting. Jill Bonino, Treasurer and yours truly, Secretary have now completed their three year terms; new officers as of January 1, 2011 are Barbara Lauck and Joyce Poling. Cheryl Deaton, RVP and Winona Stevenson, Ass't RVP were elected to complete the third year of their terms.

Fred Kerr, iris hybridizer from Rainbow Acres, North Highlands, California gave an interesting program on his introductions - you may be aware he won a Dykes medal for his 'Queen's Circle' iris. In the afternoon he also presented an Indoor Judges Training for those judges and interested observers present.

In the back of the large conference room where we met there were loads of potted iris, raffle and silent auction items. Also Alex Stanton had brought a large number of reblooming iris from his gardens for display. The luncheon was a delicious BBQ, and in front of each place setting was a table favor - a freshly dug rhizome; mine was 'Camera Ready' a 2009 Tasco! One of my raffle tickets won 'Ask a Lady' '05 Blyth rhizome, and the next to the last raffle ticket for one of the fall centerpieces was mine!

The Committee Meeting for the 2012 National Convention - which will be hosted by our Region 15 - met after the Trek activities were completed; Judy Book is the representative from our club. You'll be reading more about the pre-convention activities planned for 2011 Spring Trek in the Inland Club/Stanton Iris Gardens area of Southern California in the next Region 15 newsletter.

Vera Stewart