



# PRESCOTT AREA IRIS SOCIETY

## August 2010

Volume 8, Issue 6

### President's Message

Wow! What a wonderful exciting 'Summer Sales Events' we had this year. Even Mother Nature cooperated with our weather this time and kept the Monsoons at bay.

All five sales locations were dry this year and the public came to buy with lots of enthusiasm. It is always so much fun to talk with the shoppers and answer their many iris questions. They really look forward to coming each year and buying more irises. What a delight for everyone.

This entire newsletter is devoted to thanking each and every one of you for your participation in our sales activities this year. We had a great year with \$4,096 gross sales. Yes, there are some expenses that have to be taken out of that total such as advertising, products sold and rental expense but we still did very well. A special thank you to all the members that BUY rhizomes from us each year. What fun it is to see the members hurry to see what is new that they don't have as yet. The "iris virus" definitely is catching.

Don't miss reading articles I've written to you on Let's Celebrate, Member's Contribution, Welcome New members and NIIP for 2009-10.

A special thanks to every member who talked to someone about joining our club. And thank you to the New Members who decided to join. We have 16 new members added to PAIS. We will give them a special welcome at our September meeting.

See you at our 'Fantastic Celebration General Meeting' in September.

Carolyn

Paul Black '10



Jazz Solo  
Schreiner '09 TB

### 2010 Dykes Medal Winner Needed

Paul Black, Johnson, 2003, received the Dykes medal for 2010. If anyone is growing this iris and would like to donate it to the sculpture garden, we would be most pleased. Contact Carolyn Alexander or



Salzburg Echo  
Schreiner '09 TB

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**SEPTEMBER 17**

IRIS PHOTO CONTEST

SILENT IRIS AUCTION

BINGO

DESSERT

1:00 P.M.

**YAVAPAI TITLE**

1235 E. GURLEY, PRESCOTT

**At the intersection of Gurley  
and Sheldon**

### July/August Birthdays

Diane Clarke

Nancy Floyd

Russell Hull

Sharon Luebkin

Jane McGraw

Judy Morgan

Sharon Phelps

Valerie Phipps

Michelle Snyder

Victor Velonis

### PLANT MARKERS

Purchase plant markers  
at the September 17 meeting

**12" 25@10.00**

**21" 25@\$12.00**

**What a Deal!!**

## PAIS 2011 Iris Sales a Great Success!

We've often heard that a chain is only as strong as its' weakest link. So it may be also said that a club is only as strong as its member's commitment. The level of volunteerism at our most recent iris sales attests to the success of our Prescott Area Iris Society.

Patrick Beatty hosted a marking party on Saturday, July 9<sup>th</sup>. One hundred and fifty named iris varieties were dug and donated to PAIS. Working in the shade of a lovely sheltered patio, the roots were trimmed, leaves cut and leaves labeled in preparation for presentation at the first Saturday sale. Many thanks to the volunteers who did the work: Carolyn Alexander, Patrick Beatty, Judy Book, Stan Book, Diane Clarke, Steven Ginter, Sandy Kelleher, Marge Larson, David Nicholson, Candis Peters, Sharon Phelps, Linda Rossman, Katy Standhart and Vera Stewart.

For the past two years we have been "rained out" at our Sharlot Hall Museum sale, so for this year the board decided to hold the sale for two days. This gave the Prescott locals ample opportunity to come visit and choose from among the many beautiful iris grown in our community. Oddly enough, this year we had no rain! Seven new members signed up, all with 3 year memberships. Bob Smith and Valerie Phipps agreed to co-chair the Chino Valley Thursday sale, which was held at Warrens Hay 'n More. Thanks to both of you for the great job you did. Four new members came on-board with 3 year memberships.

Our final event was hosted in Yarnell, by member Dan Schroeder. This was our third year to be hosted in Dan's Garden and it was our most financially successful sale there ever. Yarnell brought us two new members with a 3 year membership.

Total income from all the sales and Farmers Market was \$4096.00. In addition to the volunteers mentioned at the marking party, may I also give a heartfelt thank you to the following members who worked as set-up personnel, cashiers, tally clerks, greeters and iris refill personnel: Joella Cheek, Cathy Craig, Shirley Eitner, Sandra Hennigan, Dennis Luebkin, Dan Schroeder, Bob Smith and Carol Thomas.

You can be proud that your efforts helped this year to be financially

successful. This sale is our primary source of income and helps us to fund the May iris show and the other educational things we do.

I hope to see some of our new members at next year's event. It's all in the spirit of having fun, making friends and sharing our love of iris.

Roger Osgood  
Co-Vice President  
Rhizome Sale Chair



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### Farmers Market Sale

Saturday, July 26, our last rhizome sale of the season was held at Farmers Market in Prescott in the Yavapai College parking lot. The day was partly cloudy for the first several hours so we avoided intense heat, rain and wind. David Nicholson and Stan and Judy Book volunteered to work this sale and they were rewarded with conversations by shoppers who were eager to explain their fondness for iris. Several 10 year old girls were given free iris to encourage the "iris virus" and when they came back at the end of the event with their mother, we discovered that a local charter school has just moved and is eager to start planting gardens on their new campus. So we obliged by giving them several sacks of the overflow iris which never made it to the sale table. We have been trying to establish a relationship with a school for several years and we are delighted with the prospect of working with students. Stay tuned for more details on this exciting opportunity.

## Reblooming Iris

If you are growing reblooming iris, be sure you have fertilized them and give them sufficient water. Here are some growing tips from Linda Bartell.

*Rebloomers need, first of all, to be established: minimum one year in one place in your garden. Some may take two years before they'll put on their rebloom show. For optimum results: A) The soil must be rich and well drained. B) They must receive a full day of sunshine, if possible - minimum four hours. The more sunshine, the more rebloom (and you must remember to take into consideration the position of the sun in relation to your rebloomers in the fall. C) They need extra water and fertilizer.*



*It's best (but not necessary), to keep your rebloomers together, as they need more water and fertilizer – two things that could have a detrimental affect on spring-only bloomers. Most iris go dormant in mid-summer, but you don't want your rebloomers to do so, therefore, you must make sure they never go more than a week without water. Fertilize six weeks before spring bloom, as with oncers, then immediately after bloom, and, finally, once or twice with liquid foliar beginning in July or early August to give them that extra boost they need to go through another bloom*

*cycle. If freezing weather threatens your fall bloom stalks, snap them off at ground level or cut them as close to the ground as possible. If the buds are a good size and showing color, bring the bloom stalks in the house and put them in a vase of tepid water. They should open. Or, if you know the cold snap is predicted for only a night or two, carefully cover them until morning.*

If you purchased rebloomers at any of our sales, there is a list of the rebloomers on page 8, in case you did not receive a list at the sale. This may help you identify your rebloomers. You may also view [photos of the iris](#) online.



The attached chart will help you record information about your rebloomers. Be sure to send information about your reblooming iris to [jbook@cableone.net](mailto:jbook@cableone.net) for our club records.

### Welcome New Members

Our Membership Drive was a BIG success with 16 new members from May's Iris Show through all of our five Rhizome Summer Sales.

Most of the new members took advantage of the training offered at Carolyn's home on July 28. She demonstrated how to dig/divide rhizomes, how to notice if your planted rhizome has started to rot, how to prepare the soil, plant, feed and care for the irises. New members were given an opportunity to select a few rhizomes left over from the summer sales and were encouraged to keep increasing the size of their iris gardens in hopes that they will also catch the "iris virus". In order to further the virus along, Carolyn shared beautiful photos of her iris garden and explained the different types of iris which grow successfully in our area.

A new membership list is attached to help you see who has joined our group. If any of the new members live close to you, give them a call, make them feel welcome and offer them a ride to our September 17 meeting. Here are the new member's names:

Vickie Fogarty	Jacki Hardy	Reggie Hill	Tony Romano
Valerie Liberti	Barbara McCurry	Judy & Michael Morgan	Susie Otter
Wendy Ratner	Sue Sammarco	Kathleen Shaffer	Pamela Statzeer
Valerie Thim	Roselyn Turner	JoAnne Yerkes	

## CAN YOU SPARE A COUPLE OF HOURS???

The iris in the Sculpture Gardens at Yavapai College need YOU!!! Keeping the iris plants cleaned up (old leaves and debris removed) helps to present the gardens to the public in a favorable light even when the iris are not in bloom. If you could sign up to help even one time in a twelve month period, it would not put a burden on any one person. I do appreciate all of you whom have already given hours this year to help maintain the iris gardens at Yavapai College: Patrick, Stan, Katy, Roger and Steven. Bob and Val are scheduled to help in October and Dennis, a new member this past year, is coming up from Phoenix on August 11<sup>th</sup> to help clean up the gardens.

Some of you may not realize that these iris are planted and maintained by members of Prescott Area Iris Society. It was exciting to see many of the



Cherie, Hall, DM 1951

new iris which were planted last year in the Dykes' Medal winners' section in bloom this spring. We plan to plant more this year so that we eventually have a clump of iris representing most of the Dyke's medal winners from 1927 to 2009.



Stairway to Heaven, Lauer, DM 2000

If you can help out just one day in August, or September it would help the PAIS to have a beautiful iris garden section in the Sculpture Garden. Remember the garden's appearance reflects on the entire PAIS. Many tourists and local residents tour this area of the campus during the year and we want to look good. This time of year most of the work just means cleaning out old iris leaves, pull weeds around the iris clumps, and ensure that the watering system emitters are in place and providing water as needed. If any iris rebloom, we would then need to take

out the old bloom stocks. You really never need to work alone as we can assign pairs and I can help at any time. In September we will need some additional help in planting more iris into the Dyke's Medal Winners' garden. Since the ground was so well prepared last fall, it would probably take just a couple of hours of effort to complete this section of iris.

Planning ahead, the winter months of December, January and February usually do not require care of iris at Yavapai College, but come March and April all hands are needed. I know that it is a busy time in your own garden, but a few hours donated at the Sculpture Garden by many makes the work go fast and is actually fun if a group turns out. Be thinking about donating your time now or in the future. We need you.

**Please email myself, Sharon Phelps at [ssphelps12@gmail.com](mailto:ssphelps12@gmail.com) or call 928-717-1051.**

### Surprise Addition to the Sculpture Garden "W.R. Dykes"

Our club ordered several more Dykes medal winners from Superstition Iris Gardens and they generously included the iris, W.R. Dykes, 1926, named after **William Rickatson Dykes**. His complete biography can be found on the [HIPS website](#). The following paragraph is a description of this iris from the HIPS site.

The story of W. R. Dykes as related by Laetitia Munro: "Up until it was hybridized, there were no yellow iris of its size. After many years of trying, WR bred this iris. WR was quite excited about it, but when he reported it to the AIS they believed he 'faked' it somehow. WR was killed in an auto accident before he could intro it. His widow Katherine introduced it with his name. But many think WR would have tossed it on the compost heap, once he saw the brownish mutations on the falls. Some think the original iris was clear yellow, and the brown streaks are from a virus that invaded the original mother rhizome, and is passed on to every one of its increase, but no one knows for sure."



## Rhizome Sales Activities

Thanks to every member who shared in the success of our five Rhizome Summer Sales. See article 'Let's Celebrate' for details. PAIS depends on these sales and we all appreciate your support and help.

### **There are many ways members help and support our program. Here are some of the ways:**

1. Contributing some rhizomes from their garden is the start of it all happening.
2. Cleaning, trimming and labeling their donated irises and keeping them in separate bags.
3. Joining in on the Marking Party to trim, label and box donated irises.
4. Providing a location for the Marking Party and drop off of rhizomes. Thank you Patrick Beatty for doing this for the club.
5. Taking photos of your irises or looking up a pictures on the internet, using Photoshop or another photo program to label photos with information about the iris.
6. Next laminating photos to protect them from the weather.
7. Sales Events include all of these workers:
  - a. Greeters
  - b. Membership clerk
  - c. Tally clerk
  - d. Cashier
  - e. Set up or take down the tables, chairs, and rhizomes
  - f. Storing or transporting irises from one show to the next
  - g. Balancing tally sheets with cash and accounting of sales to bank
8. Members buying rhizomes at either Marking Party or Summer Sales

Many of you did one or more of the above activities and we really appreciate your involvement. We want to show special appreciation to the member's that donated their rhizomes as without these rhizomes there would be no Summer Sales. See article 'Contribution of Rhizomes'.

It takes a lot of coordination and assistance to make this Summer's Sales Event a BIG Success and a special thanks goes to Roger for chairing this position and coordinating all the members activities.

## Let's Celebrate

Plans are underway to make our September General Meeting a real exciting event.

***Save this date 9/17, Saturday, 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM***

You won't want to miss all the freebies we have in the works. A huge amount of potted irises from many different sources. Some will be given away as prizes and others you will be able to bid for in silent auction. All of this to say thank you for making this a great '2011 Summer SALES Event'.

We did not have our July ice cream social and silent auction this year because we are not receiving any irises from Region 15 to auction as in the past years. Region 15 is hosting next year's AIS National Convention in Southern California and they are keeping the iris that would usually come to the chapters to be auctioned. I understand they have acquired over 2000 newly issued irises from the hybridizers for us to see.

We always had so much fun eating ice cream and trying to out bid our fellow members. Don't fret; we will do this in September with even better and newer iris. The growers we purchased our NIIPs from were very generous to us this year and we have over 20 rhizomes issued in 2011 given to us and you get to bid on

*(Continued on page 6)*

them in the silent auction. The highest bidder wins.

Yes, we will also serve Ice Cream Sundaes!!

Did you take lots of iris photos this spring? The Annual Photo Contest will be held at this meeting so bring your favorite iris photos and win potted iris ready for transplanting. Details on photo categories to follow later.

Iris BINGO is planned with, what else, FREE Potted Iris for the winners.

Round table discussion on problems or challenges you have had growing your irises. No question is too silly and we will try to provide an answer to every member's concern. We are working on getting a slide presentation on reblooming iris which grow in our zone for our climate and we will be discussing the effects of either late spring freeze or early fall freeze on rebloomers.

This will be a 'Welcome New Member' meeting as we have 16 new members since our May Iris Show. See separate article for new member names. We expect lots of questions about iris from our new members.

We have 2009 and 2010 NIIPs (Newly Issued Iris Program) received from our members and they will added to the silent auction table for you to bid.

### Member's Contributions to Rhizome Summer Sales

We had 5 very successful iris sales this summer for a total of \$4,096.

We thank every one that helped with the sales and or marking party. Without each of you PAIS would not be able to function successfully.

Sometimes we forget to thank those that bring us their extra rhizomes for us to sale and yet without the donations there would be no rhizome sales and no income for PAIS. We count on receiving these donations and we seem to be able to receive enough rhizomes each year to make it worthwhile to have yet another sale. We appreciate every single rhizome received except for maybe Crimson King which is somewhat over done.

#### Contributions were received from the following:

Carolyn Alexander – 33 varieties	Candis Peters
Bonnie Haughton – 24 varieties	Joella Cheek
Doris Elevier – 22	Vera Stewart
Roger Osgood – 20	Sandra Kelleher
Lee Morris – 11	Diane Clarke
Marge Larson – 11	Audrey Velonis
Kathy Chilton – SDB and BB	Stan Book

Roger Osgood donated several hundred reblooming iris with no names.

We recorded the names of those that contributed above but did not record the number of rhizomes received by variety. In most cases we received between 5-10 rhizomes per variety with the exception of Lee Morris who brought large amounts of rhizomes for each variety.

To show our appreciation to those that donated we are giving next year's (2012) membership renewal free. This will be continued in future years. Thanks to all who donated rhizomes.

**"Life is not about waiting for the storms to pass...it's about learning how to dance in the rain!" - Vivian Greene**



### Iris Society Contacts

Carolyn Alexander, President, 778-1551 [artwest@cableone.net](mailto:artwest@cableone.net)  
Roger Osgood, Vice President, 442-2498  
[rogerosgood2005@yahoo.com](mailto:rogerosgood2005@yahoo.com)  
Sharon Phelps, Secretary, [sspehpls12@gmail.com](mailto:sspehpls12@gmail.com)  
Cathy Craig, Treasurer, [cathycraig@hotmail.com](mailto:cathycraig@hotmail.com)

**NIIPs for 2009 and 2010**  
**Newly Issued Iris Program**

We have received a few NIIPs being returned by our members to distribute by PAIS. We decided that our members should get first chance to purchase these newer irises so they can be grown by more members and hopefully will at a later date be offered to the public.

These irises have been potted in one gallon cans and will be offered through silent auction to the members at the September general meeting. In addition we have several 2010 bonuses received from commercial grower – Napa Country Iris Garden that will be added to this group. Several going on the auction block are: Jazz Solo 2009 and Salzburg Echo 2009 (see front page)

Town Flirt, Second Helping, Pop Tart, Spice Trader and Splatter Matters are all 2010.

Thank you to Judy Book, Sharon Phelps and Linda Rossman for returning your 2009 NIIP increases and thanks to Stan Book, Doris Elevier and Katy Standhart for returning your 2010 NIIP increases this year. Both Vera Stewart and Carolyn Alexander returned their 2009 increases last year after only one year's growth.



Town Flirt  
Johnson '10 TB



Spice Trader  
Painter '10 TB



Pop Tart  
Painter '10 TB



Splatter Matters  
Painter '10 TB



Second Helping  
Sutton '10 TB RE

## Reblooming Iris Offered at PAIS Rhizome Sales

Again and Again	Innerst '99	Yellow/ white beard
Amethyst Winter	Richards '98	Deep Blue-self
Autumn Grandeur	Sutton '00	Medium Blue-self
Autumn Thunder	Hager '93	Dark Blue
Betty Dunn	Niswonger '95	White standard/peach falls
Blatant	Byers '90	Yellow Standard/ Beet red falls
Cee Cee	Innerst '96	Black tone/dark blue falls/lavender standards
Champagne Elegance	Niswonger '87	White Standard/ peach falls
Christiane Elizabeth	Mahan '01	Med Blue/ white Blaze
Circus Stripes	Plough '75	White veined violet
Clarence	Zurbrigg '91	Pale near white/ blue-violet falls
Double Agent	Maryott '88	Black tone/med purple standard/dk purple falls
Double Charm	Sutton '96	Amethyst Violet
Feed Back	Hager '83	Purple- self
Forever Gold	Sutton '97	Bright yellow gold- self
Golden Immortal	Sutton '97	Pale yellow standard/ light yellow
Grape Reprise	Moore's '84	Grape/ self
Hell's Fire	Roberts '76	Dark red-violet
Holy Night	Mohr '83	Purple- self
Immortality	Zurbrigg '82	White
Lemon reflection	Smith '78	Pale yellow- self
Mariposa Autumn	Tasco '99	White w purple edges/veins
Mariposa skies	Tasco '96	Pale blue standard/ violet blue falls
Matrix	Zurbrigg '91	Pale yellow- self
Meagan Elizabeth	Brown '91	Purple violet orange beards
Mesmerizer 2002 Dykes	Byers '90	Pure White space age
Miss Porterville	Sutton '97	Ruffled deep purple-self
Misty Lady	Sides '94	Lavender standard- dark lavender
Mountain Violet	Hamner '85	Pale lavender/white standard/lavender falls
Mulberry Echo	Maryott '97	Mulberry-self
Pagan Goddess	Miller '95	Pale pink-self
Rosalie Figge	McKnew	Reddish violet standard
Recurring Delight	Lauer '98	Cream standard/purple-blue falls
Sign of Leo	Zurbrigg '77	Medium purple-violet standard/dark purple falls
Speed Limit	Lauer '92	Medium Blue-self
Sugar Blues	Zurbrigg '85	Medium Blue-self
Total Recall	Hager '92	Yellow and white
Violet Classic	Zurbrigg '79	Medium violet
Winesap	Byers '89	Burgundy-self