



# PRESCOTT AREA IRIS SOCIETY

Fall 2012

Volume 9, Issue 5

## President's Message

Greetings from your new interim President!!! WHAT????? Yesss, you read that right!

We have been honored with Roger Osgood as our President at the beginning of this year. Roger is a remarkable person who devoted untold hours to the club and our members. He organized our storage and club records. He proceeded to create instruction manuals for each of our club's major events to provide year-to-year continuity. His next goal was member training and involvement in the club. We are both deeply appreciative and indebted for Roger's tireless and cheerful contributions to PAIS!

When Roger resigned, vice president Dan Schroeder graciously took the helm. Dan's good humor and modesty were disarming. We all fell in love with Dan and pitched in to ease his transition to the Big Time. His hosting of a most successful rhizome sale in his Yarnell garden was a major contribution of time and effort that Dan willingly gave to the club. Personal events overtook Dan, however, and unfortunately for us, he needed to resign.

Now, we are stuck with the *Jack of No Trades, and Master of Nothing* [we can think of]!! So, you all come on out to our Sept 15 meeting, wish me Godspeed and regale me with all the ways you plan to keep our amazing club actively and robustly continuing to serve each other and the community.

As you know, our club's major community outreach is the Yavapai College Sculpture Garden. For years, we have planted and maintained clumps of iris in the garden to compliment the sculpture by providing seasonal color and green accents most of the year. This year, visitors enjoyed the most outstanding bloom to date in addition to the outstanding collection of sculpture!

We have also planted and maintain the prestigious Dykes Medal Iris Garden within the sculpture garden. This amenity gives people an opportunity to view the development and improvement of the bearded iris cultivar from the medal's inception, 1927, to the present. Few such display gardens exist in the USA, and perhaps, only this one in the state of Arizona.

This year our big fundraising (also garden community service) event featured recent iris introductions from the American Iris Society's National Convention's gardens. We were excited to place about 800 iris rhizomes in gardeners' hands and generated \$6157.21 in rhizome sales during our four day sale. Another \$190 was added to our coffers from the auction of rhizomes on August 11. Expenses were \$934, most of it covering our ads and "donation to Sharlot Hall Museum for the use of their facility minus our donation to Region 15 for the convention rhizomes.

Sooooo....., with the best efforts of three [count 'em] presidents and an unbelievably great board – in addition to essential help from our beloved members – we are enjoying a truly successful year. .... Stan Book

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 15

Photo Contest  
Round Table Discussion

November 17

Linda Rossman

*The ABC's of Fertilizer*

MEETING TIME 1:30-3:30 P.M.

YAVAPAI TITLE

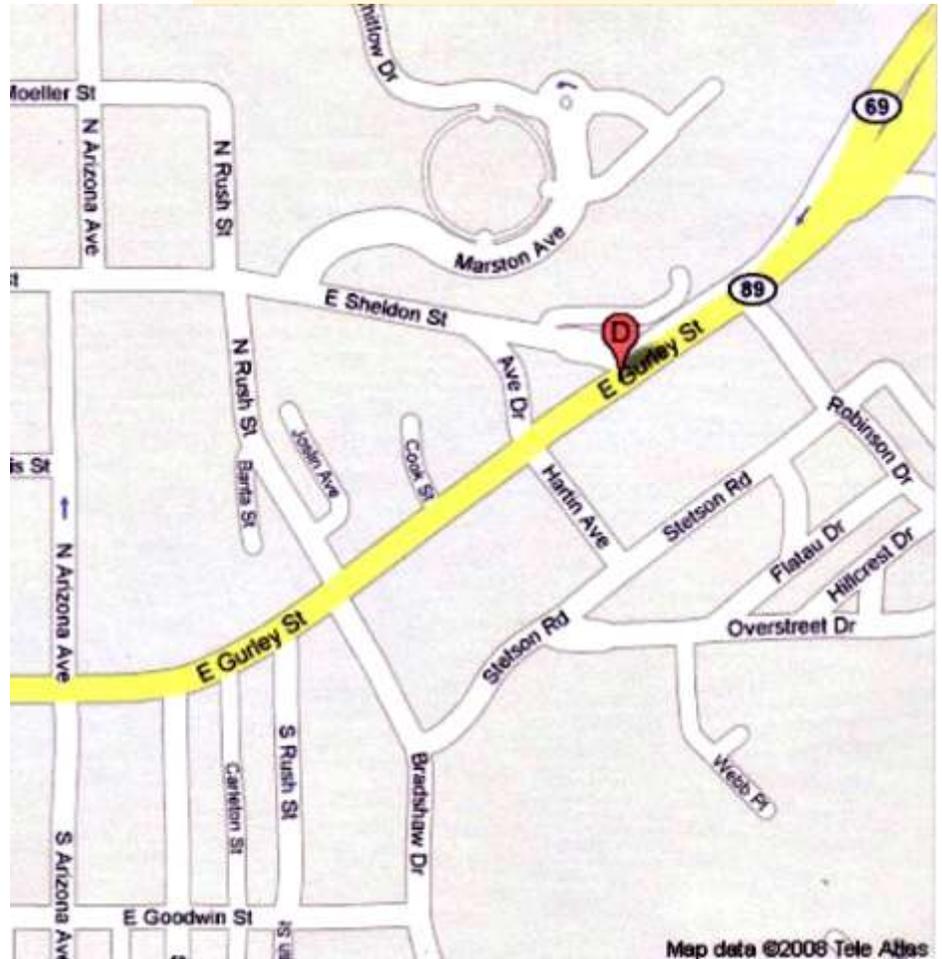
1235 E. GURLEY, Prescott  
Park in back of building



## Welcome New Members

Cathie	Adair
Joann	Alessio
Anne & Bob	Bailie
Eleanor	Blessen
Pat & Jim	Briody
Sandra	Buening
Tracy	Byam
Sharon	Dobrinski
Therese	Fitzgerald
Sandy	Gauthier
Judy	Harper
Lynn	Hearl
Chris	Heffelfinger
Lynda	Hinchey
Mary Ander	Holmes
Carmen	Horton
Sabrina	Huffman
Pam	Jobst
Stephanie	Kallam
Rhonda	Kloster
Heidi	Koebensky
Barbara	Kyte
Kelly	Mattey
Deborah	Onstott
Marcia & Ken	Reid
Karen	Schiefelbein
Barbara & Charlie	Schoenberg
Bonnie	Sekenske
Penelope	Smith
Dot & Don	Walker
Joan	Webb
David	Winans
Fred	Witte
Diane & Tug	Yasar

Map to  
Yavapai Title, 1235 E. GURLEY, Prescott



## New Member Orientation

Nine members took advantage of the new member orientation August 18 at the home of Sharon Phelps. This enthusiastic group listened attentively to Carolyn Alexander's explanation of planting and caring for iris, watched her planting demonstration and then responded by asking intelligent questions and clarifying growing suggestions.

Refreshments were served, new members mingled with board members and introduced themselves to each other.

At the end the meeting members were given freshly dug rhizomes.

We are sure their eagerness will continue and anticipate introducing many new members at our Saturday, September 15 meeting.



**The broadest, and maybe the most meaningful definition of volunteering: Doing more than you have to because you want to, in a cause you consider good.**

*-Ivan Scheier*

**There are many wonderful things that will never be done if you don't do them. -**

*Charles D. Gill*



Oct 10 Carol Thomas

Oct 14 Linda Rossman

Oct 16 Patrick Beatty

Oct 23 Mary Ander Holmes

## Annual Iris Photo Contest

Carolyn Alexander

This spring hopefully you were like most of us and you tore out of the back door each morning, camera in hand to photograph that fresh new iris blossom and capture its beauty on the camera memory and media cards forever. Or maybe you took many photos at our PAIS Iris Garden Tour or AIS National Convention. Wherever you took the photos is okay as long as it is your photo. Just sort through them and pick out your very best snapshots and bringing them to the PAIS General Meeting this Saturday, September 15. A portion of our meeting will be a photo contest. Bring any iris related photo size 4x6" or larger. The nice part of it is that you'll be sharing the beauty from your garden with other members and reflecting on the wonders of irises. There'll be prizes and recognition for all, if nothing more than to say that you took part in the activities.

### Photo contest Categories:

Iris Landscape/habitat

Individual iris flower or flowers

Artistic (close-up design or Photoshop enhancements of iris)

Something else (people, animal, insect etc. along with iris)

Winners will be selected by a People's Choice vote. Everyone will vote for their favorite iris in each of the four categories. Prizes will include a special new introduction, Cool Character, potted from the AIS National Convention that had not yet been registered. Be one of the first to own one of these special iris beauties.



Cool Character, Wilkerson



Bandwidth, Sutton '10



Rare Breed, Tasco '11

## **Sculpture Garden Cleanup**

The iris beds in the sculpture garden are now weed free and the dead iris leaves have been removed thanks to the organization by Sharon Phelps who sent out the plea for volunteers. On September 6-8 the following members showed up and got the job done: Katy Standhardt, Darrell Levi, Patrick Beatty, Bonnie Sekenske, Carolyn Alexander, Sharon Phelps, Stan and Judy Book.

Many of the Dkys Medal iris are looking wonderfully healthy and will need dividing next year. One iris, Victoria Falls, has sent up a very tall reblooming stalk which should be open in another week or so.

We have an opening for new co-chairs for the sculpture garden upkeep. This is a fun task which involves recruiting workers for maintenance, planting new iris beds and helping select the iris to be grown in the garden. Email any board member listed on page 2 to volunteer for this important community outreach program.



Victoria Falls, Schreiner '77

Dykes Medal '84

## Gardening Tips

Okay, I know we talked about weeds last month, but we just witnessed an iris bed covered with a vine with red tubular flowers at our apartment. Stan had revitalized the soil, replanted all the iris and they were growing nicely. We had checked several weeks ago to see how they looked and they were doing fine. We recently stopped by to check again and the bed was totally covered with the aforementioned vine. The iris were invisible due to the heavy growth. After an hour of pulling off the vines we discovered lots of new blades of grass. So vigilance is the key.

A problem which may be encountered in the iris bed at this time of year is soft rot, due to an extended period of moisture. When pulling off the dead leaves from the iris clump, feel the top of the rhizome to make sure it is still firm. If the rhizome is at all soft, rot may be starting. Another way to tell is to sniff the bottom edge of dead leaves that are pulled off the clump. If they have a foul odor, soft rot has begun.

The *American Iris Society Bulletin*, April 2012, recommended the following: "Rot is fairly manageable if caught early, so be observant. The easiest control involves a bucket of bleach water and a tenacious attitude. Just apply the solution (half water and half bleach) directly to the base of the clump. You'll start to notice disappearance of the rot within a few days."

Here are several more approaches which have been used by our members. If the rot is confined to one part of a clump, you may have good luck with just cutting out the affected parts, back to firm, white rhizome, and liberally dusting the wounds with Comet or Ajax or some other chlorinated cleaning powder. The chlorine disinfects, and the powder acts as a drying agent, too.

If the damage to a clump is extreme or if the soil is still very wet around the clump, it is better to lift out the clump. Carefully cut the infected rhizome out of the clump and discard it. Then disinfect the rest of the clump by drenching it with a solution of one part bleach to nine parts water. Follow this by dusting the clump with Comet cleanser. Let it dry for a day or two and replant in a drier location, if possible.

Remember to make sure your iris are identified. Plant markers will be available for purchase at the September 15 meeting.

## POT SITTERS

Once the sales and the silent auction were complete, we still had many iris left which needed to be potted. Dan Schroeder, Sharon Phelps, Carolyn Alexander, Dennis Luebkin and Stan Book potted the remaining iris and will grow them over the winter. The iris will then be offered for sale at various venues. The photos on page 1 and the photo below show three of the many varieties we are growing.



## PAIS Officers

President Stan Book [jbook@cableone.net](mailto:jbook@cableone.net) 928-776-7217

Vice President Patrick Beatty [patrick.beatty@att.net](mailto:patrick.beatty@att.net)

Secretary Vera Stewart [flwrlovr@cableone.net](mailto:flwrlovr@cableone.net)

Treasurer/Membership Sharon Phelps [ssphelps12@gmail.com](mailto:ssphelps12@gmail.com)

PAIS website: <http://prescottirissociety.org/index.htm>

Iris Encyclopedia web site:

<http://wiki.irises.org/bin/view/Main/WebHome>

Friend us on Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/PrescottIrisSociety>

## 15 Favorite 2012 AIS Convention Guest Irises by Popular Vote

1. TB 'Beauty Becomes Her' (Black, 2010)
2. TB 'Easy Being Green' (Richards, 2009 );
3. TB 'Greatest Show On Earth' (Kerr, 2010)
4. TB SA 'Doctor Who' (G. Sutton, 2010)
5. TB 'Pacific Fire' (T. Johnson, 2007)
6. TB 'Nessun Dorma' (Kerr, 2009);
7. TB 'Oh Carol' (Lauer, 2012)
8. TB 'Genealogy' (T. Johnson, 2008);
9. TB Xerxes (Baumunk, 2010)
10. TB 'Strawberry Frosting' (M. Sutton, 2010);
11. TB 'Tuscan Summer' (Keppel, 2010)
12. TB 'Calizona Gold' (Valenzuela, 2012);
13. IB 'Man's Best Friend' (Black, 2008)
14. TB 'Snapshot' (T. Johnson, 2008)
15. TB 'Tobacco Chew' (Burseen, 2009)

View photos of these irises at:

[http://www.region15ais.org/previous\\_events/2012\\_convention\\_photos/](http://www.region15ais.org/previous_events/2012_convention_photos/)

## 2012 AIS Convention Award Winners

### President's Cup for Best In-Region Iris

'Easy Being Green' (Richards, 2009)  
First Runner Up: 'Calizona Gold' (Valenzuela, 2012)  
Second Runner Up: 'Desert Sonata' (Edwards, 2010)  
Third Runner Up: 'Coral Dancer' (Edwards, 2010)

### Franklin Cook Cup for Best Out of Region Iris

'Greatest Show On Earth' (Kerr, 2010)  
First Runner Up: 'Beauty Becomes Her' (Black, 2010)  
Second Runner Up: 'Doctor Who' (G. Sutton, 2010)  
Third Runner Up: 'Sweeter Than Honey' (Van Liere, 2012)

### Ben Hager Memorial Cup

'Man's Best Friend' (Black, 2008)  
First Runner Up 'Soleil' (M. Smith, 2012)  
Second Runner Up 'Rimaround' (Aitken, 2007)  
Third Runner Up 'Tic Tac Toe' (T. Johnson, 2010)

### President's Cup for Best In-Region Iris

- 'Easy Being Green' (Richards, 2009)



### Franklin Cook Cup for Best Out of Region Iris

- 'Greatest Show On Earth' (Kerr, 2010)



### Ben Hager Memorial Cup

- 'Man's Best Friend' (Black, 2008)

