

# PRESCOTT AREA IRIS SOCIETY



THE HANDS OF A  
FUTURE IRISARIAN  
See article below



November 2014



"Iris in a Home Garden"

by

Victoria Von Klompenburg

AIS Photo Contest winner

## PAIS HAS AN AWARD WINNING PHOTOGRAPHER!!!

Quarterly the American Iris Society produces a wonderful magazine called "Irises" The Bulletin of the American Iris Society. They have just sent the Fall 2014 edition to its members.

This edition contains the 2014 Photo Contest Winners and PAIS's very own youth member Victoria Van Klompenburg, age 8 won in two categories. Her close-up entitled "Iris in a Home Garden" was taken in her proud grandparents, Dennis and Sharon Luebkin's back yard. Antelope Hills Golf Course is the mystical background. She also won in the People Category with her picture entitled "Hands in Luebkin's Garden". Victoria took this picture of her sister Constance discovering the largest single iris we found in the garden. It was "Adventurous" and as big as a salad plate. We would all like to congratulate Victoria for making us proud and putting our "Growing Irisarians program" on the map!



# THE FINAL WORD .....

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE OCTOBER 2014

Greetings to All,

This is my last Presidents message and I want to thank you All for a great two years guiding PAIS. Fall has arrived, the warm weather is over. Temperatures are now in the 30's at night and our iris planting season is all but over. Frost and freezing temperatures are not far off. We have had one of the heaviest monsoon seasons in history and our irises have loved it. My re-bloomer's are blooming, increases are everywhere. The iris we have potted for the Spring Sale, the 2015 Fall Trek and other spring PAIS projects are growing like never before. They loved rainwater. It is now time for us to get our gardens and irises ready for winter, which from all predictions will be a long, cold and wet one. Significant snow is expected at the higher elevations. For those of us that live in colder areas with lower temperatures mulching may be advisable this year. For those with the availability of pine needles, mulching with them over tender plants, roses and your irises, both potted and in the ground will help get them through a long cold winter. If you do not have pine needles straw will be a good substitute. Other leaf and vegetative material are not advised since they decompose quickly and may cause the rhizomes to rot. You may want to do a fall cleanup on your irises to get rid of some of the dead or dying leaves. For those of you who are in warmer areas and lower elevations October is still a time for planting any irises you have ordered which have come in from growers late in the season, although you may wish to pot them till spring and keep them in a protected area this year.

As we look toward the end of our current year let us not forget what will be coming up next year and during our down time organize for a very busy 2015. We will be holding our annual exhibit, sales and other events, preparing to teach about irises at Yavapai College, moving into our spring school education programs, working on the Sculpture Garden, Sharlot Hall, and the Citizens Cemetery. We will have a new President and Board and they will need the full support of the membership to assist them and accomplish our programs. As you are all aware we will have an all hands on deck event next year in October which will be our turn to host the 2015 AIS Region 15 Fall Trek which is quite an undertaking and will be a wonderful event we can all be proud of hosting. This event takes a year to prepare and our Fall Trek committee has already been hard at work organizing and planning. See the information on our fall Trek herein for more information. We are a very fortunate group in that we have 74 members all of which have talents in many different areas from organization, to computers, to telephoning, hospitality, photography and just making ourselves available to work and lend a hand where needed which is what we will need during the close of this year and throughout next year. Everyone's participation is truly needed so keep watching your news letter's for information and contact Sharon Luebkin at 623-628-4860 to see where you can assist.

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Everyone not only assists in putting on the program but attends all of the functions also.

Sharon Luebkin, along with Stan and Judy Book has recently returned from the 2014 Fall Trek which was held at the Huntington Library, Museum and Botanical Gardens in Arcadia California on Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>. The AIS Trek gives Irisarians from all over our region time to get together to discuss and learn about irises and what they do in their organizations. It is a time to get new ideas, renew old friendships and make new ones. You do not need to be an AIS member but it is encouraged. There is generally a Region 15 Board Meeting, a General Membership Meeting, a speaker, a luncheon, Judges training and a raffle. The speakers are generally well know Irisarians who are authors, or hybridizers who are well known in the national iris community who speak on wonderful topics that relate to each one of us. The judges training is open to everyone from those who wish to be national judges for AIS sanctioned shows to those who just wish to learn more about irises. The topics are wonderful and they are well worth attending even if you do not wish to be a judge. The recent topic was on re-blooming irises and was a great class given by Riley Probst, AIS Emeritus Judge and Shirley Trio-Probst, Master Judge of Fleur de Lis Iris Gardens, Modesto, Ca. Our group came home with some wonderful items from the raffle. A great time was had by all.

Our next and last meeting of the year will be November 15<sup>th</sup> which will be our annual election meeting. We have a wonderful slate of members who have agreed to run who will be presented to the membership. Barb McCurry will also be speaking on noxious weeds and weed control in our gardens. Please be sure you attend.

We are a caring community who not only support the work of PAIS but also support each other in times of need and crisis. Several of our members that I am aware of have come upon hard times with serious health issues for either themselves or their spouses which we all need to keep in mind and keep them in our prayers, our thoughts along with sending good wishes their way. Our thoughts go out to both our members and their spouses. Vera and Jim Stewart, Ruth and Ted Devries, Sharon Sundvall, Jackie Hardy and Carolyn and Adrian Alexander. I would like to thank the PAIS community for the outpouring of good wishes, prayers, cards, letters and calls during my recovery period from hip surgery. It was very up lifting. Each day is an improvement and I look forward to being back with you all soon. Until then, best regards to All and have a wonderful and joyous Holiday Season which is right around the corner!!

Dennis Luebkin  
PAIS President

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## Choosing Flowers

By Carolyn Alexander

In the fall 2014 Irises AIS edition there was an article on page 23 regarding companion plants. Susan Holland Spicker writes about planting flowers that bloom at the same time as the bearded irises to enhance the beauty of the garden. It has been my desire to do the same in my garden but because the irises bloom so early in Prescott and the night time temperatures are still pretty low it is a challenge to get both to bloom at the same time. California Poppies and Columbine always bloom at the same time as well as Golden Chain Tree. The remainder of my flowers blooms at different times of the year which keeps the yard looking colorful every month except December, January and part of February. Companion plants can be displayed right in the same beds as the irises either in front, back or even in between the iris.

Selecting the right plants for your flower garden is often a matter of preference, but with so many species and varieties available it can be mind-boggling. Consider the following when designing a garden: hardiness, color, fragrance, height, time of bloom and size of plant. Do you want to attract hummingbirds, butterflies or song birds? Or are you trying to create a work of beauty just for you?

While our irises take a rest during this fall season it is a good time to plant your fall bulbs; like daffodils, crocus and tulips. If you want more color in your gardens late February and March before the SDBs start to bloom consider planting bulbs now. Next spring consider planting annuals and perennials to bloom after the irises blooming season. Many of my flower beds have both annuals and perennials in bloom currently. Companion plants can bloom during the fall iris rebloom season until the first night time freeze (see photos). Consider Planting Chrysanthemums now so every October and November you will enjoy fall blooms even during the colder nights.

During the winter keep your iris beds clean and weed free with dead iris leaves removed. You don't want to give the little insects a place to lay their eggs at the base of iris leaves and amongst attached dead leaves. Water when the ground is dry and enjoy the break when it rains or snows as you won't need to water as much. Maintaining iris gardens during the winter is a cinch. Enjoy your time off from gardening.

# BIRTHDAYS!!!!



Jean Cole                      October 1<sup>st</sup>  
Diane Thornbrugh            October 10<sup>th</sup>  
Linda Rossman              October 14<sup>th</sup>  
Patrick Beatty                October 16<sup>th</sup>  
Dede Erceg                    October 25  
Katy Standhardt              November 6  
Shirley Eitner                November 11<sup>th</sup>  
Carol Hartvigsen             November 27<sup>th</sup>  
Barbara Kyte                 December 10<sup>th</sup>  
Marge Larson                December 10<sup>th</sup>  
Carolyn Alexander          December 20<sup>th</sup>  
Sandy Kelleher              December 22<sup>nd</sup>

**BEST WISHES TO YOU ALL!!!!**

Did you know???.....

Mary Meinholz' Scouts joined as e-members of AIS which we are sponsoring in our growing Irisarians program. PAIS now has 27 scouts and 2 regular youth members....Bringing our totals to 29 youths and 74 adults! The Youth members will be participating in AIS events such as the Coloring contest, an Essay contest and Photographic contest. PAIS will also be training them in various aspects of Iris horticulture. Their goal is to earn an AIS badge.

AND.....who is hoping to host Kelly Norris, Guest speaker at our Region 15 Fall Meeting at their home??? To find out be sure to attend the PAIS Nov 15<sup>th</sup> general meeting at Yavapai Title!!

## BUSINESS SECTION

### **Summary of Proposed *Prescott Area Iris Society Bylaw Changes* to be voted upon at PAIS general meeting November 15, 2014.**

Bylaws currently in existence are dated November 17, 2012

The following are two proposed Bylaw changes which were passed by a unanimous vote of PAIS board members present.

#### **CURRENT BYLAWS:**

##### **Article 5 Dues**

5.1 Annual dues are payable in January and shall be past due March 1. Loss of membership will be automatic upon failure to renew by March 1.

##### **Article 6 Governing Board**

6.2 The Executive board shall appoint additional governing board members: director at large, publicity, membership, sculpture garden chairs and newsletter editor all of whom shall be voting members. Their term of office shall be one year.

#### **PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES:**

##### **Article 5 Dues**

5.1 Annual dues are ***to be paid by January 31<sup>st</sup> of each calendar year (note: they may be paid for the following calendar year beginning in November of each year)***

*This change allows PAIS to annually print the newly adopted membership booklet and facilitates giving a composition of our membership to National and Regional offices in a more timely fashion.*

##### **Article 6 Governing Board**

6.2 The Executive board shall appoint additional governing board members: director at large, publicity, membership, sculpture garden, *Sharlot Hall Historic Iris Garden and Education (youth and adult)* chairs and newsletter editor, all of whom shall be voting members. Their term of office shall be one year.

*The addition of two new voting governing board members is the result of the evolution of the importance of PAIS ongoing involvement in these areas.*

Respectfully submitted,  
2014 PAIS board members

## MAGNIFICENT RE-BLOOMERS

THANK YOU TO MEMBERS WHO HAD IRIS PICTURES TO SHARE WITH US FROM THEIR BEAUTIFUL FALL GARDENS



From the garden of Leigh Simmons  
~ Praying Mantis on Iris



'Double Your Fun'



The Luebkins' Garden

L. 'Queen Dorothy'

R. 'Anxious'



L. 'Autumn Circus'

R. 'Buckwheat'



Beautiful composition of 'Rosalie Figge' in Vaseline Glass by Barb MCCurry



'Crimson King' ~ Sue Crabtree



According to husband, Gary Phelps, Sharon stopped at every Iris garden in Portugal last month. She says Iris even grow in cracks there!!!





L. 'Unknown Beauty' ~ Sue Crabtree ~ Below 'Suky' with dog Yodie



Carolyn Alexander's gorgeous fall mixed flower garden with Iris L. top 'Batman'  
Top R.'Rosalie Figge'. Bottom L. 'Double Your Fun' IB. Bottom R. 'Batman'



'Telepathy' on L. & R. 'Sahara Sun' from Dan Schroeder



'Just Call Me' Barbara McCurry



Below: Though not a re-bloomer she had the tenacity to bloom late so we added 'Naughty Goddess' Vera Stewart



A look back at Dennis' Presidency and his endeavors !

Thank you for a load of Fun! Work! And more Work! And of course, for many, many special things you have done for PAIS!!!!



Above: At the garden tour with wife Sharon and Carolyn Alexander, who created the garden for PAIS enjoyment!

Below: Conferring at Sharlot Hall with TG Shafer



Below: Dennis & Sharon sharing their knowledge with the students at Prescott College









