



PRESCOTT AREA IRIS SOCIETY

VOLUME 12 ISSUE 2

APRIL 2015

Vera Stewart



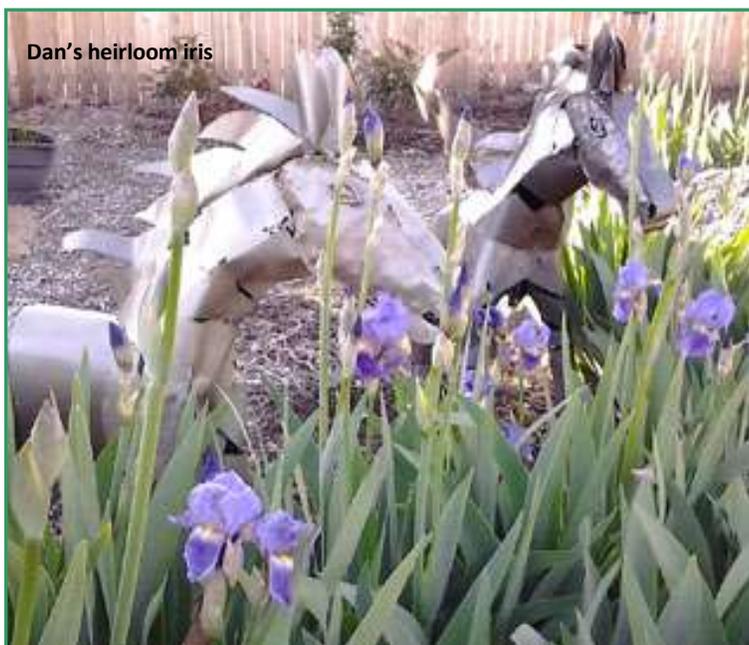
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With the very mild winter, spring is arriving much earlier this year and with it, the iris are beginning to bloom. It's my favorite time of year. I get up, grab my coffee and head for the gardens. I never get tired of walking down the rows and taking in the colors and the smells. Something we all need to do. My household and my garden are my first priorities.

My second is the leadership of PAIS. This year is a very busy time for us. May 2 is our iris show. July 18 is the marking party, July 25, 26 is the Sharlot Hall Museum Rhizome sale and August 1 is the Yarnell sale. Oct 9 and 10 we are hosting the Fall Trek for Region 15 of the American Iris Society. There are a number of members that have stepped up to beginning organizing these events and they need help from you. Plan to sign up at the next meeting.

Our next general meeting is **April 11 at 2:30. NOTE DATE AND TIME CHANGE.** It will be a full two hour meeting. Do not miss it. The theme of the April meeting is ".....". You need to be there to find out.

Dan's heirloom iris



MAY 2 SHOW PREPARATION

Carolyn Alexander has an intimate knowledge of growing iris in our area. Her home iris gardens in Williamson Valley are spectacular! Carolyn will discuss the exhibit rules, entry form, show categories and People's Choice Awards. This is a great way to prepare for our May 2 exhibit.

2015 EVENTS CALENDAR

April 9	Sculpture Garden workday
April 11	General Meeting 2:30-4:30
April 14	SH Museum workday
April 17	OLLI Class #1
April 24	OLLI Class #2
May 1	Iris Exhibit Setup
May 2	Iris Exhibit-Mortimer Nursery
May 2	OLLI Class #3
May 18-23	AIS National Convention—Oregon
June 11-12	Sculpture Garden workday

Iris Bucks earned in 2014 must be spent by the end of the iris exhibit, May 2, 2015.

April 11, 2015 Meeting Agenda

Reminder—the meeting starts later, at 2:30

President Dan Welcome

2:30 – 3:30: Speaker - Carolyn Alexander
Selecting and Preparing your Iris for the *Kaleidoscope of Color* iris exhibit at Mortimer Nursery.

BREAK – 10-15 minutes

3:45 Dennis-iris care for this time of year

4:00: Barb/Kathleen—Iris Show volunteer positions/needs

4:20 - President Dan closing remarks

Adjourn 4:30

Exhibitor Instructions

Entries are accepted from 8:00-9:30 am!

Select display tubes. There are smaller tubes available for shorter entries. Hold container by tube and base to ensure that the tube does not fall out of the base.

The tube should be filled halfway with water, but add water to tube if needed.

Place stalk in tube. Be sure stalk is standing straight up and down. Bring pieces of iris stalk or foam wedges to straighten the stalk, but be sure these materials are below the rim of the tube.

Complete both parts of the entry tag. Be sure the number on the container base is written on both portions of the entry tag. Include your phone number. Print your name on the back of the top portion of the entry form or use a small address label on the back of the tag.

Ask for assistance if you are not sure in which section to enter your iris. Prior to the exhibit know the name of your iris and year the iris was introduced to determine if your iris may be entered in the Historic section. To locate a photo of your iris entry and verify details, check the American Iris Society *Iris Encyclopedia* online:

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

Hang the entry tag on the tube with a rubber band or a large, opened paper clip. Make sure the entry tag is placed on the front side of the tube. (The side facing the attendees.)

When your entry is ready to be displayed, place it on the intake table at the entrance. Your entry will be placed in the appropriate exhibit section by an exhibit committee member.

Members may enter the exhibit when it opens to the public at 10:00 a.m. Thank you for participating!!

Ready, Get Set, Go Photo!

It is nearly that time of year when we enjoy the iris blooms. My first SDB bloomed this morning and of course I had to **get a photo of it for my records and one for your viewing too. This SDB is called "Primal Scream" 2000 by Dyer and it really screams bright yellow with orange/yellow beards.**

We will have our annual photo contest for our members again this fall. It is so much fun to extend the season by looking at iris photos after the blooming season has gone. Participation is what makes a successful photo contest and fun for all. Please plan to participate this year. The photo has to be taken by you to enter contest but does not have to be your iris. You can take iris photo anywhere such as the May iris show, April iris **general meeting, your friends yard, AIS convention, another iris member's yard** and of course your own yard.

The categories are:

- * *Landscape or iris scene (great time to take photo of a portion or all of an iris flower bed)*
- * *Iris single bloom or small cluster of iris*
- * *Artistic, macro, Photoshop (example: get up close shot of the beard and throat of iris)*
- * *Iris with people, animals, insects (example: Catch a candid shot of members active at May show)*



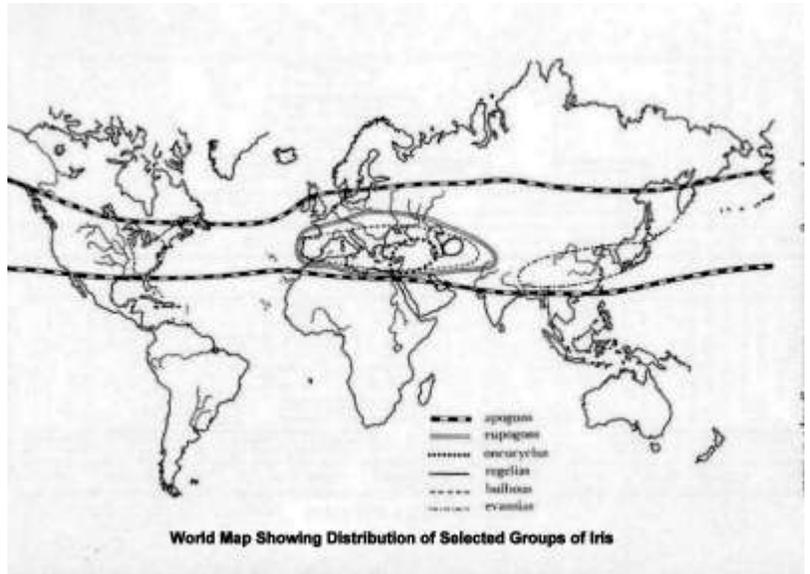
Primal Scream

You may enter all four categories. Pick your best photo. Limit yourself to one photo in each of the 4 categories. Start taking great photos now as prizes will be awarded to winners at the fall photo contest. Join in, it is FUN! If you have **questions, I'll be at the April 11th general meeting.** See you there. Carolyn (Photo Chairperson)

A History of Iris Dennis Luebkin

Into the history of the world's civilizations there exists a flower that has had a significant impact on politics, symbols, beliefs, stories and legends. This flower is the iris. The iris has a long and fascinating history. Beginning with this article and continuing for the next several newsletters we will look at the history of irises from the beginning of recorded history to today.

Iris are found naturally only in the northern hemisphere in a band around the world which would roughly correspond as northern Europe south to North Africa, Central Siberia/China south to Central India, Southern Canada south to the Gulfs of Mexico and California.



The iris has a long recorded history whose documentation begins in civilization approximately 4,000 years ago. Predating ancient Greek civilization, one of the oldest records of iris can be seen in a Minoan wall fresco in the palace of Minos at Knossos on the isle of Crete. It shows a representation of the priest-king in a field of iris flowers. In ancient art, the iris is generally stylized showing both standards and falls.

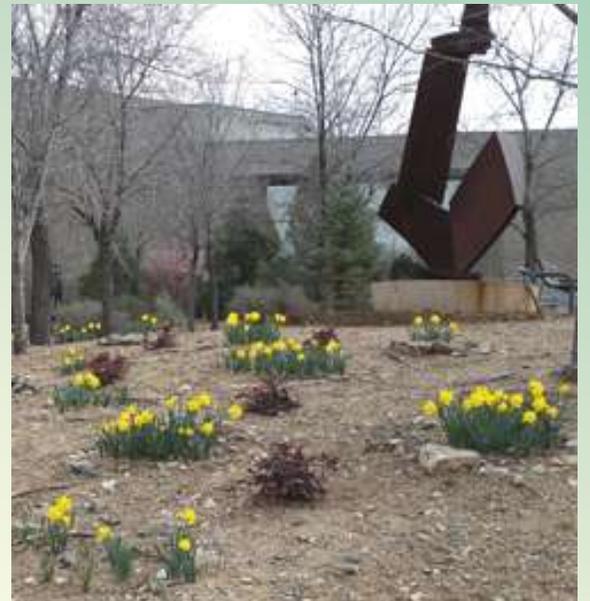
We owe the name of the iris to the ancient Greeks. Among the gods who dwelt on Mt. Olympus, was one named Iris. She was the special messenger of the goddess Hera, queen of the gods. It is said Iris used the rainbows to carry messages from heaven to earth. It is from this point that the iris has come to be known as the rainbow flower. The journey continues in our next newsletter.



DEDE ERCEG, our sculpture garden coordinator, was recently featured in the *Chino Valley Review*, *Iris are garden's bread and butter*, CV woman says. Check it out: <http://cvrnews.com/main.asp?Search=1&ArticleID=60178&SectionID=74&SubSectionID=114&S=1>



Iris reticulata - Dede



Daffodils in sculpture garden—Dede-

SPRING IRIS CARE

Dennis Luebkin

It is only March and spring has sprung in the Prescott area a month early. Our daytime temperatures are warm, night temperatures for the most part are staying above freezing. Flowers are blooming, the trees are leafing out and some of our irises are either blooming or showing bloom stalks. We had a wonderful gentle soaking rain which is wonderful for our irises. **With our irises' growth increasing, so are the things we need to do in our gardens. Here are a few tips.**

Cleaning: If you have not cleaned around your irises now is the time to do that. Remove dead fans and old bloom stalks. Also clean any leaf debris from around the rhizomes and remove any soil from the tops of the rhizomes caused by freeze thaw. Remember the rhizomes like some light and air. This will also help prevent rhizome rot. If you should notice any soft rhizomes during cleanup you can apply some Ajax or similar cleaner on top and around the rhizome. The chlorine will assist in killing the bacteria causing the rot. Remove weeds so they do not compete with the irises. Remove dead flower stalks. Keep weeds and grasses under control.

Fertilizing: If you have not fertilized your irises you can use Best 6-24-24 (nitrogen-phosphorus-potassium) fertilizer around your irises. We have used Bayer 2 in 1 or 3 in 1 fertilizer which is a systemic insecticide fertilizer which is good for eliminating thrips and aphids, however it has recently be found that this may contribute to the reduction in the bee population. A good 10-10-10 general garden fertilizer with other trace elements and minerals such as iron, calcium, magnesium, sulfur, boron, manganese, copper, and zinc may also be used. Nitrogen promotes good overall growth and green fans. Phosphorus and potassium help in the development of a strong root system, resist disease and produce abundant bloom.

Pest control: Thrips and aphids lay their eggs at the base of the fans and with the warmer weather they are beginning to become active. See above for the Bayer fertilizer. You can also directly spray Malathion on the infestation of insects. Soap and water will also reduce but not eliminate the insect problem.

Watering: With the weather becoming warmer we need to watch our watering for the bloom season. We have been blessed with gentle rains this spring but with the onset of warmer weather watering will need to be more frequent to produce good bloom, about once a week. If the ground begins to look dry check 3 inches below the ground to see how moist the ground is. If it is dry, water with a deep soaking.

This should be a great year for blooms. Happy gardening!!



Saharan Sun Kasperek 1995—Dan Schroeder



Sharlot Hall Museum—Jean Cole



Tulip close up—Vera Stewart

Spring Has Sprung—Members' Photos



Tulip detail—Center Kaleidoscope
Barb McCurry



Daffodil—Carolyn Alexander



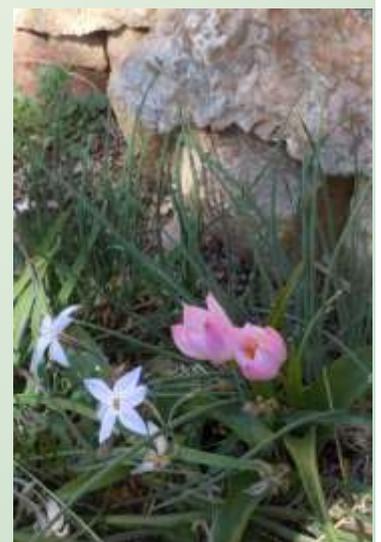
Pansy Purple` McEwen
1971 Siberian iris
Dan Schroeder



Enjoying Spring—Vera Stewart



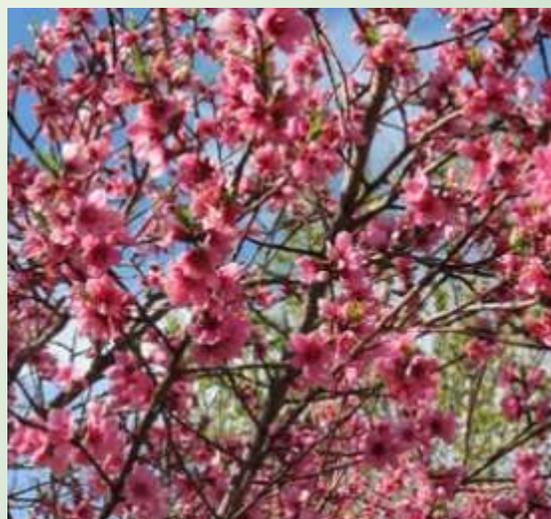
Shadows of Night Tasco 2006
Dan Schroeder



Tulips and ?????
Stan Book



Just Beginning—Jean Cole



Peach blossoms—Carolyn Alexander



Pansies—Vera Stewart