



Prescott Area Iris Society



Volume 13 Issue 6

October 2016

Presidents Message October 2016

Greetings to All,

It has been a wonderful end to the summer with good rains and mild temperatures. Fall has arrived and the leaves are changing and so are our irises. Time to look at the last minute iris plantings to get them acclimatized before winter and our fall cleanup. Several of our garden expansion projects for Yavapai College and Embry Riddle University are still in the middle of preparation so we will not be planting those this year.

We have had several wonderful financial years and we are looking into creating a scholarship for Yavapai College for the horticultural and agricultural programs at the College. Although in the early stages of investigation it is our desire to give back to the community and the college that has supported PAIS over the years. With our promotional team doing a wonderful job at advertising our spring and summer events we have had people from every corner of Arizona attend our show and sales along with people from Utah, California and Nevada.

Sharon and I missed the Photo Contest, Ice Cream Social and Auction this year due to health issues keeping us in the valley; knee surgeries and now Sharon has recently been diagnosed with congestive heart failure. That was something that neither she nor I could have imagined and it will restrict her travel to Prescott temporarily. We will continue to have some wonderful events this fall in October and November and I encourage you to attend these events. I am not sure when Sharon and I will be back up; so be safe, be kind to each other, and God Bless you all!! Best Regards, Dennis

Coming Events

October 14-15 — Lomoc Valley Iris Society - AIS Region 15 Fall Meeting

October 22 - Rebloomer Potluck, Eugene Zielinski—Species Iris

November 19- Elections, Drought Tolerant Plants as Companions

Happy Birthday

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| October 1st | Jean Cole |
| October 5th | Kathleen Shaffer |
| October 14th | Linda Rossman |
| October 15th | Mary Mitchell |
| October 16th | Patrick Beatty |
| October 16th | Brenda Griffin |
| October 19th | Dora Ward |
| October 25th | Dede Erceg |

October Meeting:

Get ready for a brunch potluck on Saturday, October 22nd, 9:30 to noon, at the Yavapai Title conference room. Please bring a brunch item to share (juice, fruit, yogurt, donuts, quick breads, muffins, potato dish, egg dish, etc.). Eugene Zielinski is our featured speaker on the topic of species iris. This is our second to last meeting for the year...hope to see you there! Barb McCurry, VP



Rebloomer—Just Call Me - by Barb McCurry

American Iris Society 2016 Awards

The awards listed on this page are decided by a vote of the AIS judges.



THE DYKES MEDAL SWANS IN FLIGHT -
Siberian iris - (Robert Hollingworth)



THE COOK-DOUGLAS MEDAL OPEN YOUR EYES (Paul Black) Standard Dwarf Bearded irises



THE JOHN C. WISTER MEDAL SHARP DRESSED MAN (Thomas Johnson) Tall Bearded irises



THE CAPARNE-WELCH MEDAL GECKO ECHO (Brad Kasperek) Miniature Dwarf Bearded irises



THE KNOWLTON MEDAL Border Bearded irises MEERKAT MANOR (Brad Kasperek)



THE WILLIAMSON-WHITE MEDAL SARI'S DANCE (Ginny Spoon) Miniature Tall Bearded irises

American Iris Society 2016 Awards

These iris won the popular vote of attendees at the national convention.



President's Cup
Put Another Nickel In (Howard Bushnell)



Ben R.Hager Cup
Moose Tracks (Lynda Miller)



Franklin Cook Memorial Cup My Honky Tonk Rumble (Hooker Nichols)
and Three Part Harmony (Paul Black)



Region 15 Commercial Gardens

Hummingbird Iris Garden
(928)777-8110
Linda Rossman
5942 Old Black Canyon Hwy
Prescott, AZ 86303
lindarae@cableone.net

Mystic Lake Gardens
(951)928-2337
Paul & Carole Buchheim
22177 Polley Street
Nuevo, CA 92567
www.mysticlakegardens.com
cbuchheim@gmail.com

Wild Oak Farms
(909)307-4565
Tony & Cheryl Hicks
32036 Live Oak Canyon Rd
Redlands, CA 92373
wildoakfarms.redlands@gmail.com

Stanton Iris Garden
(760)415-3248
Alex & Kitty Stanton
Lilac Vista Drive
Valley Center, CA
stantoniris@gmail.com

Burgard Iris Farm
(805)835-3965
Catherine & Emil Burgard
840 Climbing Tree Ln
Templeton, CA 93465
burgardfarms@yahoo.com

Squires Iris Garden
(818)892-1516
Randy Squires
15906 Chase Street
North Hills, CA 91343
randysiris@juno.com

Gardening Tips Late Summer/Fall Iris Care

Dennis Luebkin

Here we are at the end of summer looking ahead to fall and cooler weather. We are nearing the end of our planting season so timing is important. Some of us have still been digging and dividing our gardens or have purchased irises from club sales or commercial growers and have not yet planted them. It is important to get our treasures in the ground. It takes 3 to 4 weeks to establish new roots before cold weather sets in. Pages 16-20 of our club handbook will give you good planting information. To get iris ready for winter, here are a few tips.

Cleaning: 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. Leave about the top 1/4 to 1/3 of the rhizome exposed. Remember the rhizomes like some sunlight and air. This will also help prevent rhizome rot. If you should notice any soft rhizomes during cleanup or detect a rotten odor, cut off the rotten part of the rhizome and apply some Ajax or similar chlorinated cleaner on the newly cut portion of the rhizome. The chlorine will assist in killing the bacteria causing the rot. Weeds and grasses are a problem after our summer monsoon. Remove weeds and grasses so they do not compete with the irises.

Pest control: Thrips and aphids lay their eggs at the base of the fans so be sure to clean out the dead fans and leaf debris.

Plant Markers: Check to make sure the names are still visible. If they are faded, remark because they are only get to less readable as time progresses. One of our members suggests writing the name on the metal with pencil. Though hard to read from afar, it does not come off.

Watering: With the warm dry summer we have had, continue watering through the warm weather to establish newly planted rhizomes and then begin to cut back on the watering. After the first freeze, water on an as needed basis. Happy gardening!!

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See the 2016 AIS Photo Contest Winners submitted by Judy Book

The **2016 AIS Photo Contest** is over and the winners are now on the AIS website. See the top photos in all six adult categories and the youth category. This is a direct link to the [2016 Photo Contest Winners](#).

Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to everyone who entered. And thank you to the photo judges; I know it isn't easy to select from all the beautiful photos.

This also means it is time to begin taking photos for next year's contest. Reblooming iris offer an opportunity this fall and there will be iris shows, the 2017 Convention, and all your gardens where you can photograph irises. To get started in photographing irises, see these [suggestions on HIPS by Mike Unser](#).



Adult Effects Winner -
Susan Bailey

Classic IRISES and the Men and Women Who Created Them by Clarence E. Mahan was found by Marilyn McCarthy and Katy Standhardt in the Prescott Public Library. It is a 400 page hardcover book that was donated to the library by PAIS. This is a book that every lover of historic irises will enjoy reading. Yes, you could purchase this on Amazon.com for \$62 to \$112 or download it to an e-reader. But why not ask your local library to put this “on hold” for you and they will bring it to your local library from any library in Yavapai County for you to pick up? This book was published in 2007 and is the fascinating story of how relatively unimpressive iris species were transformed into plants with flowers of diverse forms and colors. This is the first book written on the history of garden irises and represents years of research in French, British, and American primary and secondary sources. Many beautiful and original pictures of irises are included along with pictures of some people whose stories are told.

Mr. Mahan was an internationally recognized authority on irises. He was the recipient of the Historic Iris Preservation Society’s Distinguished Service Award. He is the past president of the Society for Japanese Irises and the Reblooming Iris Society, and the Historic Iris Preservation Society. In 2004 the American Iris Society honored him with it’s Distinguished Service Medal. He was president of the panel of judges at the International Iris Competition in Florence Italy in 1999.

This is a quotation from page 132, “Oriflamme is a tetraploid tall bearded iris. Tall bearded irises introduced before 1904 were diploids, meaning they had two sets of chromosomes. Almost all 19th century garden irises were forms or hybrids of two European species: *Iris Pallida* and *Iris variegata*. The discovery of several natural tetraploid tall bearded irises in the latter decades of the 19th century, especially *Iris trojana*, *Iris mesopotamica*, *Iris cypriana*, and the cultivar known as ‘Amas’ (also known as *Iris macrantha*), made it possible for iris hybridizers to breed garden irises with double the diploid number of chromosomes. Almost all modern tall bearded irises are tetraploids, meaning they have four sets of chromosomes. Submitted by Katy Standhardt

September 17, 2016 PAIS Meeting

We had a good turnout for the ice cream social, silent iris auction and photo contest with 24 members attending. Everyone had a good time eating, bidding and voting. There were 12 members entering their photos which was one less than last year's record of 13 entries. Dennis and Sharon Luebkin were missing this year due to knee problems or we would have exceeded last year's numbers. We wish Sharon well .

Thank you to those that participated in the photo contest. They were: Carolyn Alexander, Vicki Hughes, Barbara McCurry, Joanne Moorhouse, Loretta Bresof, Marilyn McCarthy, Katy Standhardt, Robin Walter, Linda Rossman, Kellie Smith, Heather Blakley and Ruth Simons.

Here are the winners:

A – Landscape or iris scene = 1st – Linda Rossman— 2nd – Carolyn Alexander

B – Iris single or cluster = 1st – Tie – Katy Standhardt & Carolyn Alexander

C – Macro or Photoshop = 1st – Ruth Simons — 2nd – Tie – Barbara McCurry & Marilyn McCarthy

D – Iris with pet, insect, person = 1st – Katy Standhardt —2nd – Barbara McCurry

A special congratulation to photographer, Ruth Simons, who had the most votes @ 13 in any category for her Macro Artistic photo. Wow! Over half of the 24 voters chose Ruth's photo. The next largest votes per photo went to Kathy Standhardt for her Roadrunner with iris @ 9 votes. Another fantastic photo! What are the odds of a wild bird walking around the irises and stands still long enough to get a shot? It was taken at our very own Yavapai College Sculpture Garden iris beds. Per Katy it pays to help clean up the iris garden as you get beautiful opportunities such as this. Submitted by Carolyn Alexander.



1st Place Winners—Linda Rossman, Carolyn Alexander, Ruth Simons & Katy Standhardt

2nd Place Winners—Barb McCurry, Carolyn Alexander & Marilyn McCarthy's photo held by Katy Standhardt



A – Landscape or iris scene



C – Macro or Photoshop



D – Iris with pet, insect, person



IRISES THAT BLOOM MORE THAN ONCE? By Linda L. Bartell Iris Club of Southeast Michigan

Now that you've been bitten by the iris-virus (a very serious affliction!), no doubt you'll be delighted to know that some irises actually bloom in more than one season. At first counted among the oddities (or novelties) in the iris world, rebloomers are now being hybridized for cold hardiness, disease resistance and, of course, beauty. At present, there are more than 1,000 cultivars that rebloom, in various climate zones, and many of them rival in color and form the best of the 'oncercs' or cultivars that bloom only in the spring. There are even hybridizers whose work is primarily focused on improving the quality and increasing the number of dependable, beautiful reblooming cultivars.

Rebloomers (or remontants, as they are sometimes called) are found in all bearded iris varieties – from miniature dwarf to tall. A few of the beardless varieties (like Siberians) that bloom a second time are called 'repeaters.' If you're interested in trying your hand at growing rebloomers, the first step is to learn which cultivars rebloom in your climate zone. The quickest way would be to go to the Reblooming Iris Society website. Also, several hybridizers' catalogs have zone information on the rebloomers that they carry.

Rebloomers need, first of all, to be established: minimum one year in one place in your garden. Some may take another year or two 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 few weeks (or less in a hot, dry climate) without water. Fertilize six weeks before spring bloom, as with oncercs, then immediately after bloom, and, finally, once or twice with liquid foliar fertilizer (such as Miracle Gro or Peters) beginning in late August or September 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.

Rebloomers tend to be more vigorous than oncercs (for obvious reasons) and also tend to bloom first in the spring. Whereas spring-only bloomers don't need to be divided more than once every 3- 5 years, rebloomers usually need division every 2- 3 years – and to keep the rebloom going, always leave in place a couple rhizomes from the clump to be divided. Then, while your newly replanted rhizomes are getting established elsewhere, your original (but thinned out) clump will continue to rebloom without interruption.

Some remontants will rebloom as early as a month after spring bloom. Others won't bloom again until the fall. A third category, (called all-season rebloomers), can rebloom several times (or even every month) before being cut down by a hard frost. So far, there are about twenty or so of these all-season (or continuous) rebloomers. A fourth category is 'sporadic rebloomers.' These unpredictable irises will rebloom – you guessed it – only when they feel like it.

Oh...and one more thing. Each garden within a certain climate zone can have what we call 'microclimates' – mini-environments created by the surrounding conditions (ie. location in relation to a sheltering building, trees, etc., or hills, depressions, direction of wind or sun, etc.) where a cultivar could rebloom, even though not recorded as doing so in your climate zone. You might find yourself very pleasantly surprised to find an iris trying to rebloom because it is positively affected by these microclimates. Example: A clump of iris might rebloom for you along the south side of your house – given an extra boost from the southern sun exposure and the considerable protection from the elements by the building itself – and yet refuse to rebloom in your backyard garden!

Oops...almost forgot... If an iris fails to rebloom for you after you've given it all the tender loving care mentioned above (and after you've made certain it's been reported to rebloom in your climate zone), try moving it. In spite of the fact that most rebloomers perform better after becoming established, if you notice a cultivar seems to be unhappy in one spot (because it's not performing), try moving it. I pulled out an entire two-year-old clump of the SDB Baby Blessed because it had only bloomed once for me (spring bloom, not rebloom). We rototilled and fertilized that entire bed and replanted a piece of BB a few feet away from where it had been originally. As I write this article, roughly three months later, that same piece of Baby Blessed has a beautiful flower on a fully formed budstalk. Another (even smaller) piece of the original clump that I potted up is ready to bloom as well. Guess the moral of the story is this: Don't be afraid to experiment with fertilizer, water, location, etc.