



PRESCOTT AREA IRIS SOCIETY

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The Iris Transition

Barry Golden—Golden's Iris Garden

So, bloom is over and what happens to your iris plants during this transition period before July? Actually, this is an interesting question and the answer helps explain why irises are transplanted during July and August in the Prescott area. Bloom in the Prescott area is just about finished by the end of May and all that energy in the form of starch that was stored in the rhizome has been used to form bloom stalks as well as causing an overall increase in leaf growth and enlargement.

Do irises go through a period of dormancy after bloom? A number of irises writers say this is so. Actually, irises are not "dormant" but rather changing the growth pattern from one of bloom (May) to that of plant enlargement and the beginning of new fan development from the rhizomes. The larger the rhizomes and leaves, the more successful this new fan development will be. Smaller, less vigorous plants will produce smaller new fans. Last years new fans developed during this period begin to grow as these fans are the "chosen ones" and possibly will bloom next year.

In our environment, you have to water the plants regularly. I water deeply once per week. I also add a couple of cups of 10-10-10 granular fertilizer around each clump in June, with the intent of the summer monsoons dissolving these granules and supplying nutrients to the growing plant. You can use what fertilizer you have on hand but be sure the first number is no greater than 10. That's the nitrogen content and too much nitrogen (higher number than 10) causes excessive growth perhaps causing and contributing to future rot problems.

By early July, it's hot! Even the insects are hunkered down and not very active. Hot, dry July is the beginning of the planting period for Prescott. It takes about 6 weeks for a transplanted iris plant to grow new roots and fans (leaves). If there is sufficient water in the soil, new root development begins within a few days. If you don't water during these crucial first few weeks, your iris plant will dry up like a prune and end up in iris heaven.

To review, water once per week, deeply, and fertilize now (June).

Iris Splendor Awards

President's Award

Strike a Pose—Linda Rossman

Charles Maxwell Memorial Award

Best Bi-Color

Supreme Sultan—Linda Rossman

Dorothy Morris Memorial Award

Most Unique Iris

Gnu-Judy Book

Popular Vote—Tall Bearded

1-By Popular Demand - Linda Rossman

2-Cumulus - Linda Rossman

3-Dusky Challenger-Audrey Velonis

Honorable Mention Rustler—Stan Book

Popular Vote—Other Iris Types

1-Anaconda Love-Linda Rossman

2-Batik-Linda Rossman

3-Chubby Cheeks-Linda Rossman

Honorable Mention—Dwarf Arctic Iris-Linda Rossman

Popular Vote—Artistic Arrangement

1-Vera Stewart

2-Vera Stewart

3-Audrey & Victor Velonis

Honorable Mention Joyce Crenshaw

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 14 - Dig and divide demo at Golden's Iris Garden

July 27- Rhizome marking party

August 4 - Rhizome Sale

Sept.8 -Silent Auction/Potluck

President's Message



Someone once said that “*all gardening is landscape painting*” and I want to congratulate all you artists in the PAIS!!! My last iris to bloom was the one I won at the 2006 Spring Trek, **Bon Appetit**, a 2006 Aitken introduction (see left photo). This gorgeous addition to my personal landscape was photographed June 1st and even though all the iris blooms are now gone for this spring, I'm remembering the marvelous color and fragrance via pictures.

There were eight members from PAIS that traveled to the 2007 Region 15 Spring Trek, named “The Artist's Palette”, hosted by the Inland Region Iris Society – the host hotel for the event held April 20-22 was in Ontario, CA. It was a wonderful weekend of garden tours, Judges Training sessions, banquet with slide presentation by Bob Van Liere, grower/hybridizer from Denver, CO – not to mention the great boutique and raffle area that had loads of iris and garden related items. The super nice buffet breakfasts both mornings and bus rides to the various gardens provided great opportunities to socialize with irisarians from around Region 15 which includes Southern California and all of Arizona.

Now for events closer to home - who could forget our Member Garden Tours on May 5th, when 39 members and guests trekked through four Prescott gardens? One thank you note I received from an AAUW guest raved “Sun, wind, rain and snow did not deter my awe of the beautiful iris plants at each home!” This event was followed the next Friday evening with our Sneak Peak and Potluck for 29 members and guests at Barry Golden's Iris Garden. Although Barry's bloom was “down” from prior years we had no difficulty finding and ordering varieties we couldn't live without!

Next on May 19th was our “Iris Splendor” exhibition at Mortimer Nursery, a wonderful gift to the community, and chance to show off our iris blooms. The number of single stalk entries decreased from 73 in 2006 to 62 this year; arrangements also were down from 23 to ten. Whereas last year there were numerous entries from non-members, this year there were none, due we think because of the weird spring weather and later exhibit date with lack of blooms to submit. Noteworthy was Linda Rossman's commanding number of awards – we salute her while considering that because she is going commercial this year we won't be competing with her in 2008!!! I hope you saw the *Courier's* front page article about our exhibit and picture of “Linda's Child” iris in the May 22nd issue. A huge thank you to Events Chair Bonnie Haughton and her assistant Ruth DeVries for this very successful event!

I want you to know that the Maxwell Project continues to progress with lots of work for committee members - taking digital pictures of the bloom, confirming Charles' garden map with his list, etc. We will begin digging and potting plants from the garden on July 10th. There are more than a hundred named varieties and even more seedlings, plants that he successfully hybridized. PAIS was bequeathed all the named irises in his garden; the seedlings are designated for the Prescott Community Center (previously Adult Senior Center). We'll be selling the potted iris at the Farmers' Market and Annual Rhizome Sale this summer.

Now for *Volunteer Opportunities*: Helpers to prepare rhizomes for the Rhizome Sale are needed. Call either Linda Rossman, who is having the Marking Party on Friday, July 27 at her place, or me. We'll be starting at 8:30 that morning, and hope to finish that afternoon. Then at the Rhizome Sale, August 4th workers are needed – please call Stan Book, who is the chairperson for this major fundraising event if you can assist with that project. Last, but not least, workers for Farmer's Market, July 14, 21, 28, August 11 and 18. This a fun event that involves meeting people, explaining what are club is and selling potted iris. This would be a 2 hour commitment. Call Judy, 776-7217, if you cannot reach me. Call me, 445-8132, for phone numbers if you've misplaced your directory. Enjoy your summer landscape, Vera

Popular Vote– Other Iris Types



1st Place- Anaconda Love



2nd Place-Batik



3rd Place-Chubby Cheeks

Welcome New Members

Harold & Paula Ables

Sue Crabtree

Joyce and Phil Crenshaw

Joan & Leland Morse

Evie and Del Renz

My Favorite Iris—Bonnie Haughton



Some iris growers favor a certain color or a combination of colors when choosing flowers for their garden. Others, like myself, enjoy the rainbow effect of many colors, although I do tend to prefer the blues and violets. However, one of my favorite irises is a beautiful, ruffled buttercup yellow with an orange beard. Her name is *Klondike Lil*. She was one of my first choices to help me start my garden in 1994. Klondike Lil was introduced in 1993 by hybridizer, Vernon

Wood, as a 32-38" tall bearded iris that blooms early to mid season. In 1997, it received an Honorable Mention award from the American Iris Society.

Lil is one of the first tall bearded irises to bloom in my garden, is very hardy and has good form with at least 6 buds to a bloom stalk. She is very reliable, blooming every year with two exceptions: in 1999 when divided and again in 2005.

I have shared Lil with others who report that they too enjoy her beauty as much as I do. She is my special iris friend and a definite keeper!

Floral Arrangements



3rd Place—Audrey & Victor Velonis



1st Place—Vera Stewart



2nd Place—Vera Stewart



Honorable Mention—Joyce Crenshaw

Iris Splendor Awards



President's Award
Strike a Pose



Charles Maxwell Memorial Award
Best Bi-Color
Supreme Sultan



Dorothy Morris Memorial Award
Most Unique
Gnu



By Popular Demand-1st



Cumulus-2nd



Dusky Challenger-3rd

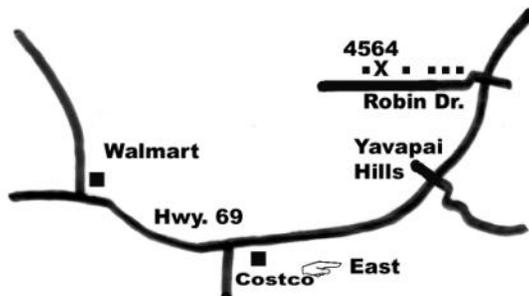


Rustler—Honorable Mention

Popular Vote - Tall Bearded

Dig and Divide Demo

Now that you have seen how wonderful it is to have blooming iris, you will undoubtedly want clear instructions on how to divide and replant your irises. Barry Golden's demo, July 14 at 6:30 p.m. is just the ticket. Wear comfortable shoes and clothing for this garden demonstration at Golden's Iris Garden. Mark your calendar



August 4 Rhizome Sale

Start planning what to divide and bring to the rhizome sale. After following Barry's culture guidelines you should have wonderful large clumps of iris to share. Before your clumps get too big, be sure you know where one variety starts and another begins. We use colorful contractors tape tied around the base of the clump to differentiate one iris from another when they are growing too close to together. Be sure you have identified your iris with something other than a "permanent marker". The names will fade before you know it. Update your iris map so you know what is planted where.

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Linda Smith is compiling a list of rebloomers and a list of what members are growing. Send your lists to irisgrower@cableone.net

Region 15 Spring Trek, What and Why

What is a Spring Trek? A Trek is 2 1/2 day conference of all clubs in a Region for the purpose of providing education and training to members of the Region. Why participate in a Spring Trek? It is a chance to renew friendships with club members in Region 15, make new friends, learn about iris culture and compare notes on what other clubs are doing, attend judges training, view slide presentations of irises and best of all, view hundreds and hundreds of blooming iris in all types of gardens. (See photos to the right.)

This years event featured two private home gardens, one club garden , one professional garden and one commercial garden. In addition to gorgeous tall bearded iris we were also delighted by spurias, Louisianas, a chronological display of many of the Dykes medal winners, a fantastic display of broken color iris hybridized by Brad Kasperek, huge, blooming iris in raised beds, and iris in a home garden surrounded by plantings of roses, fruit trees and so many beautiful flowers I couldn't begin to name them all.

One of the main benefits of going on a Trek, in addition to the great company and delicious food, is seeing a wide variety of irises that may not be grown in gardens in your area. The more gardens one visits the more familiar one becomes with iris and soon you are able to recognize irises by name and can begin to learn and understand what characteristics to look for in well grown iris. It is also a great way to make a wish list of irises to add to your garden.

Spring Trek Experience

Ray and I really enjoyed the Ontario Iris Spring Trek. Ray was particularly pleased to do some photography and now has close-ups of 137 different named irises on the computer.

Visiting the 5 gardens was especially good and we thought well planned by the Ontario group. The bus arrangement was well done and the timing was exceptional. Having prizes donated and numbers drawn on each bus segment also added to the enjoyment of the trip. Almost everyone won something.

We had never seen so many irises in bloom at the same time and the variety was stunning. Although we had lived in southern California for many years, we had never been to any of these gardens.

We did not stay over that Saturday night so did not attend the final dinner and presentations but we know they went well. I left my raffle tickets with Vera and was pleased to have a message when we returned that I had won a prize.

..... Ray and Cam Waguespack

Club Tidbits

We gained several new members at the Iris Exhibit and our total membership is now 61. Welcome new members.

I plan to do a trial run e-mailing the newsletter to Board members this month. If all goes as planned, the next newsletter will be have e-mailed and paper copies would be mailed to those without e-mail. The savings in postage and printing costs will be significant.

The Yavapai Sculpture garden iris are doing well, all but one clump survived and almost all of the iris bloomed. Remember your commitment to assist with weeding during the summer. Call Vera if you forgot when it is your turn to pull weeds.



Sirocco Mist



Expose



Decadence



Gnu Flash