



PRESCOTT AREA IRIS SOCIETY

October 2007

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FALL PLANNING AND RESULTS OF NEW SUMMER PLANTINGS

Barry Golden, Golden's Iris Garden

This article will cover 2 main items: 1) what to do now in the iris garden; 2) the results of new iris plantings this past summer.

Ever since the monsoons ended in early September, there has been a definite change in our weather. It has been cooler during the day as well as the night. We did have a touch of frost during the second week of October here in the garden. Night time temperatures are now regularly dipping in the low 40's. So, what are you going to do about your irises? How about some water. The irises are growing well right now, in fact, they are growing like crazy. I see a number of new leaves on most plants. I have been watering once per week and really soaking the soil. I have also been removing the various weeds that have grown up as well as gently removing dirt that has covered the rhizomes. I'll do the uncovering after I have watered as the soil is easier to remove when wet. Until we get a real killing frost, water, weed and uncover your rhizomes.

Around mid-July, I started on an iris planting/transplanting regimen on a part of my garden that was not growing well. Many of the plants had been in this part of the garden for a number of years. The lack of soil nutrients was evident to me as the plants were not sending up increases or blooming well. I got my pick out and started digging. I dug a "million dollar hole" about 2 feet wide and 1.5 feet deep. I sifted through all the soil and removed as many rocks as I came across. My dog, Misty, enjoyed chasing the rocks as I removed them. I then added the following: 5 gallons of compost to each hole; 2 cups of bone meal; 1-2 cups of triple phosphate; 2 cups of 10-10-10 fertilizer. I mixed all these with my shovel and thoroughly watered the million dollar mixture. Then I planted the iris and watered 2-3 times per week. Below are several photos of the results.

Note how the trowel can be pushed into the soil up to the handle, as well as the good leaf growth and multiple increases. This will be a new standard for my transplanting efforts.

Get out and enjoy these beautiful days and



have fun. Best of all, get dirty!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, Nov. 10

Spring Trek Photos

Presented by Cam & Ray Waguespak

Yavapai College, Bldg. 4, Rm. 118

2:00 p.m.

Next meeting February 2008

President's Message

October's bright, blue weather and the vivid, blazing fall colors that accompany it were awaiting us upon our return from the Region 15 Fall Meeting in San Diego.....my favorites are the Virginia Creeper vine, Three-leaf Sumac bush, and the breath-taking hues of chrysanthemums.

PAIS was well represented at the annual fall meeting, and the five Board members of PAIS that attended were especially observant, knowing that our club will be hosting this event here in Prescott in October 2008. The San Diego/Imperial County was the host club, and our "Welcome/goody bags" carried out their *Remarkable Rebloomers* theme by including two rebloomer rhizomes!



George Sutton's Judges Training on Rebloomer Iris was a highlight. An easy definition to remember is that a rebloomer iris is one that *blooms outside its regular bloom season*. There actually are five categories: cyclic, multiple, repeater, sporadic, and secondary stalk – which is when a second stalk next to the "mama" stalk sends up a blooming stalk. To encourage a *known* rebloomer variety to bloom again, he stressed the importance of watering and extra fertilizer after the first bloom. Mr. Sutton told us that we will be seeing many new "secondary stalk" varieties within the next five years. The Judges Training sessions are wonderful opportunities to gain information from the professionals – one does not have to be planning on becoming a show judge to attend, enjoy, and learn in a non-threatening environment.

Now back to events on the home turf. The Region 15 Silent Auction/Potluck at Stan and Judy Book's on September 15th was attended by 24 members/guests and brought in \$225. This money goes back to the Region for administration purposes. The second Silent Auction on September 21st at my home (attended by 18) was unplanned until the large box of rhizomes showed up on my doorstep on the 17th of September. These were surplus guest irises – all 2000 – 2007 introductions, and each club received a box of them. Each club could do whatever they wished with them, without being obligated to send receipts to the Region. There was even more lively bidding at this event; every one of the 39 rhizomes was sold, and we took in \$195.75! I was happy to remain the top bidder for *Dreamcake* the second time around!

Planning for the Region 15 Fall Meeting continues. The date of October 11, 2008 has been chosen, and we have speakers set for the luncheon program and judges training. The hotel contract for meetings and overnight accommodations for those members of Region 15 societies coming from Southern California, Phoenix, and Tucson is in progress. The Region provides \$600 for the host Society to offset expenses of obtaining speakers. There is lots of planning ahead and I want to thank you for signing up for committees in which you are interested. You'll have another opportunity at our November 10th meeting. I'll be sharing specifics in a future newsletter.

The Verde Area Iris Society held their first meeting September 19th, and has twelve members signed up. We'll be voting November 10 on a dues change that will lower our dues and provide an opportunity for dual membership at a low cost.

I'm looking forward to seeing you there – Board members will be potting up their surplus perennials for door prizes – if you have some to donate please call Ruth DeVries, our Plant Coordinator, at 771-1051.

Vera

Spring Trek Presentation– November 10

If you are new to our group, you may not have heard of the Region 15 Spring Trek held every April. The Spring Trek is a tour of 4-5 member and public gardens and last spring the Trek was held in the Southern California area known as the "Inland Empire" which is basically the Riverside, San Bernardino area. The event featured 2 private home gardens, one community club garden, one professional garden and one commercial garden. Ray Waguespak documented this event for us and will be showing close up photos of almost 140 iris from the Spring Trek. If you miss blooming iris and can't wait for spring, come to this presentation and be ready to make a wish list of the iris you want to order next spring. **Yavapai College, Bldg. 4 room 118, 2 p.m.**

Iris Society Contacts

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By Popular Demand—Member's Recipes

LEMONCELLO (Lemon liquor) Barry Golden

8-12 lemons washed
4 cups of everclear or other neutral high proof alcohol
2.5 cups of sugar

1. Zest lemons and put zest in a large glass jar with tight fitting lid. Add alcohol to cover zest. Set aside for 2-4 days.
2. When zest turns pale and alcohol has a deep yellow color, strain through a sieve and store in another glass container.
3. Combine sugar and 6 cups of water in medium saucepan over medium heat(do not boil). Stir until sugar dissolves and syrup is clear- about 10 minutes. Allow to cool.
4. Pour syrup into lemon infused alcohol. Then pour liquor into a clear wine bottle and cork.

Rolo Pecan Pretzel Squares Evie Renz

Set oven at 325°

Line large cookie sheet with parchment paper.

Arrange square pretzels on cookie sheet.

Top each square with Rolo candy.

Place sheet in oven and set timer for approximately 3 minutes or until the Rolo looks shiny.

Remove from oven and press pecan half into top.

Let set until firm. Enjoy!!

Hollywood Bowl Rice Salad Cam & Ray Waguespak

For many years, this was a staple at our Saturday evening picnics at the Hollywood bowl. This is good at room temperature or chilled.

1. One package of Knorr/Lipton Rice sides, chicken flavor. This is a chicken/rice & pasta blend.
2. Cook rice as directed, omitting margarine.
3. Approximately ½ of a 10 ounce jar Spanish Pimento olives, sliced into thirds.
4. Approximately 8 artichoke hearts cut in half or thirds. Use those stored in oil.
5. 5 to 6 cooked chicken tenders (baked) and cut into bite sized pieces.
6. Add mayonnaise to above to your taste and combine rice with all other ingredients.
7. Add curry powder to your taste.
8. Add chopped chives to your taste.

Nasturtium Blossoms piped with Herbal Cream Cheese Diane Clarke

4 ounces cream cheese, softened

1 T. fresh lemon thyme

30 nasturtium blossoms

Nasturtium leaves for garnish

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Stuffed Eggplant

Diane Clarke

2 med. or 4-6 small eggplant
1 t salt
½ c. butter
1 (8oz.) pkg. Seasoned brad stuffing mix
¼ lb. Mushrooms, sliced
1/2 c chopped onions
1 clove garlic
2 med tomatoes, peeled, seeded and diced
¼ c. water

Wash eggplant and dry, cut in half lengthwise; remove inside portion leaving about ¼ to ½ inch pulp intact. Cut removed pulp into cubes and sprinkle lightly with salt; place in a bowl, weighted down lightly and let stand for about half hour. Place eggplant shells, cut side down in shallow baking pan with about ½ inch water. Bake in 375 degree oven for about 10 minutes or until shell are just tender. Do not over bake. Drain; turn cut side up and place in pan close together. To make stuffing, heat ¼ cup of butter in skillet; toss bread stuffing in butter for about 2 minutes and turn into a mixing bowl. Melt remaining butter in skillet. Add the well drained eggplant cubes and cook for 3 to 5 minutes. Add to stuffing. Saute tomatoes and mushrooms in skillet for about 1 minute and add to stuffing mixture. Put the ¼ cup water in skillet, bring to boil and pour over stuffing ingredients. Toss gently and fill eggplant shells. Bake in 375 degree oven for 20 minutes or until nicely browned. Can top with grated cheese, diced tomatoes, diced parsley or your favorite tomato sauce.

Signups for Sculpture Garden Maintenance

October 2007 Stan & Judy
November 2007 David Nicholson
December 2007 Joan Morse
January 2008 Valerie Phipps
February 2008 Linda Rossman
March 2008 George & Diane Clark
April 2008 Del and Evie Renz
May 2008 Ruth DeVries
June 2008 Bonnie Haughton
July 2008
August 2008
September 2008 Vera Stewart

Duties

- Remove dead leaves
- Check irrigation
- Check for insects
- Check that rhizomes are not covered with soil
- Fertilize when necessary
- Insecticides when needed

Please call Cam at 776-8660 and she will answer any questions regarding needs for your particular month. Inform her of any condition which needs remediation. Thank you for volunteering to help us with our community project.

Cam Waguespack

Slate of 2008 Officers

The nominating committee is proposing the following slate which will be voted on at the November 10 meeting. Additional nominations will be taken from the floor.

President—Vera Stewart

Program/Vice President—Evie Renz

Secretary—Ruth DeVries

Treasurer-Linda Rossman