



PRESCOTT AREA IRIS SOCIETY

April 2008

Volume 5, Issue 3

READY, SET, GO

Marge Larson

On April 5 we will be off and running with a demonstration on how to prepare your flowers for our May 10 exhibition at Mortimer Nursery. Hopefully we will transform a homely crooked stalk into a thing of beauty and worthy of the public's vote. Marge Larson has entered many shows and more recently judged shows in Phoenix and Tucson and will share some of the tricks of the trade. Nancy Floyd, who lives in Camp Verde (at 3000 feet elevation) has volunteered some of her blossoms again (she contributed iris blossoms 4 years ago). Anyone else who has iris to contribute is encouraged to bring them. Remember -- getting them to the show is the hardest part!

Plan to attend this demonstration at our usual meeting place, Yavapai College, building 4, room 118 at 2:00 p.m. I hope to see everyone attend this FUN meeting.

We will have sign-up sheets for volunteers for the Fall Trek, "Hassayampa Holiday", which our club is hosting on Oct 10/11.

"Glory of Spring"

This year the Prescott Area Iris Society's 9th Annual Spring Exhibit, "Glory of Spring" will be held on Saturday, May 10, 2008 at Mortimer Nursery. We urge all members of the PAIS and VAIS to enter any iris you may have blooming, to help make this exhibit a success. The exhibit is a gift to our community and an opportunity for you to share your iris and help educate the public about the many iris varieties which can be grown in our area.

Entry categories will include: Artistic Arrangements, (which must include iris); Tall Bearded Iris; Median Iris, (which includes Intermediate Bearded, Border Bearded and Standard Dwarf Bearded iris. In addition entries of Aril, Spuria, Dutch, Siberian, and Louisiana iris are encouraged. Winners in all categories will be determined by public vote.

We need volunteers to greet guests, answer questions about growing iris, assist with arranging entries on the tables and cleanup. Call Ruth De Vries to offer your help.

"Carnival of Iris"

Sun Country Iris Society, Phoenix is hosting their annual iris show April 12 at Baker's Nursery, 3414 North 40th Street, from Noon to 4:00 PM. This is your chance to see an American Iris Society sanctioned, judged, show first hand. Don't miss this opportunity to be wowed by beautiful iris of all colors and classes. We will be carpooling to this event so contact Vera Stewart if you want to go with the group.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 26—VAIS meeting 6 p.m.
Cottonwood

March 28—McCormick Work Party

April 5 —Ready, Set, Go
Marge Larson, Yavapai College

April 12—Carnival of Iris Show
Baker Nursery, Phoenix

April 14-19 AIS National Convention, Austin, Texas

April 25-26 Region 15 Spring Trek
Lancaster, CA

May 3 - Members Garden Tour
please note date change

May 10—Spring Exhibit
Mortimer Nursery, Prescott

July 12—Dig and Divide Demo

July 26—Rhizome Marking Party

August 2—Rhizome Sale

September 6—Silent Auction and Potluck for Region 15

October 10,11—Fall Trek,
Hassayampa Inn

November 8—Highlights of AIS Convention, Austin, TX

President's Message

I thought 'spring had sprung' until the snow flakes started early this morning (March 16th) and continued all day long! Sure wondering how the *reticulata* iris Katherine Hodgkin (1958) now blooming in Phil Crenshaw and David Nicholson's gardens are enjoying the weather change.....they are similar in size to crocus and bloom at the same time.and as you can see from my photo are very charming!



We have lots of iris related events coming up, but first I want to encourage you to try out the Wild Iris Coffeehouse, located at 124 South Granite St. in Prescott – lots of pastries to enjoy with coffee or tea in a lovely iris motif room. A few of the volunteer workers who cleaned up the iris beds at the Yavapai College Sculpture Garden enjoyed checking out that spot after finishing the job. Thanks to members Judy Book, Phil Crenshaw, Bonnie & Chet Haughton, David Nicolson, Del Renz, Linda Rossman, and Cam Waguespack for readying the iris beds there on March 6. The iris clumps are looking great, and we're looking forward to admiring their bloom as we begin our Member Garden Tour there at the Sculpture Garden on May 3rd.

In April we're privileged to have Marge Larson, our Director-at-Large Board member who is an AIS Judge, present our General Meeting program. She has titled her demonstration "Ready, Set, Go" – which will be held April 5. A week later, on April 12, those interested in seeing how a "juried show" differs from an exhibit (winners by public vote) are invited to trek down to the valley where Sun Country Iris Society presents their "Carnival of Iris Show."

As I mentioned above, our Member Garden Tours on Saturday, May 3rd will begin at the Sculpture Garden, followed by the home gardens of Joyce & Phil Crenshaw and Audrey & Victor Velonis, and ending at Linda & Lee Rossman's Hummingbird Iris Gardens. The Board is planning to offer hot beverages and sweet rolls at the College garden and a nice lunch at Linda's home. Although not advertised to the public you may invite friends to tour with you – however, to ensure adequate food, please RSVP to Linda Rossman or me; there will be a donation basket at Linda's to offset the cost of the food.

On Mother's Day weekend, Saturday, May 10th, we present our spring gift to the community – PAIS' 9th Annual Iris Exhibit at Mortimer Nursery - entitled "The Glory of Spring". Even if you don't attend Marge's demo on preparation of irises for show I hope you'll bring some entries – maybe you'll find out the name of some of your unidentified plants. That happened to me back when I was coming down with the *iris virus* – a friend had given me some rhizomes and I brought this lovely but unidentified, lavender bloom – which was immediately identified as *Mary Frances*, (1971)! By the way please call event coordinators (Ruth DeVries & Bonnie Haughton) and volunteer to help out that day.

Speaking again about volunteering - there are spaces available for planning the Hassayampa Holiday Fall Trek, Region 15's fall meeting to be held here in Prescott October 10-11. Contact either Marge Larson or Stan Book, and tell them in which area you'd like to work. The club does receive \$600 in start-up funds to help with expenses of hotel and speakers, but we'll be dipping into the treasury to fund various aspects of this event.

Which brings me to an exciting opportunity for fund-raising that happened just a week ago – Books received a phone call from the new City Engineer that had recently moved here and purchased an older home on McCormick with a large established iris garden, which they have fenced for a dog enclosure. Scott & Joy Tkach wish to donate most of the iris to our club, but they desire removal before April 1st. The area is about 13 by 34 feet, and has an estimated 60 clumps of iris. The prior owner had died and no garden map exists. The Board has planned a Work Party for Friday, March 28 to dig up and pot portions of each clump (a neighbor states each clump is a different variety). We need lots of the plastic nursery pots – five gallon size – and *you to volunteer*. Please e-mail or call me if you can help that day or if you can donate some containers, or if you have space to store the potted irises and would water them.

Now, that was a lot of information – I want to close now with wishes for a Happy Easter and Springtime to you all..... and a warm welcome to our new members!
Vera

Iris Society Contacts

Vera Stewart President 445-8132
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Linda Rossman Membership/Treasurer 777-8110
lindarae@cableone.net

Ruth DeVries Secretary 771-1051
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Judy Book Newsletter Editor 776-7217
jbook@cableone.net

Spring Exhibit—Ruth De Vries
Bonnie Haughton 445-4357

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Joella Cheek
Maurice Everaert
Nancy and Norm Floyd
Candy Peters
Sharon Phelps
Diana Smith
Mary Wagner
Jack Weber



Barry's Golden Wisdom

March-April

- Remove dead leaves.
- Pull all grasses and weeds.
- Remove soil from the surface of the rhizomes. Be careful not to break off tender new fans.
- Replace plant markers which are dislodged or lost. Check your iris map if you are unsure where a marker goes.
- Replace faded or missing plant markers.
- No iris map? Make one now while the foliage is still small and the individual plants are easy to see.
- Fertilize now, then water well. Use a granular, low nitrogen fertilizer such as 5-10-10 or 10-10-10. Sprinkle about 1 cup per clump. Keep the granuals off the rhizome.
- Water every 7-10 days to ensure good growth.

Commercial Gardens in Region 15

Iris Howse and Gardens—Bonita, CA

<http://www.irishowseandgardens.com/> is a small family owned nursery located in Bonita, California (San Diego County) specializing in Iris of many varieties. Established in 1999 by Ted and Rose Howse, the nursery is the culmination of several years of work. Ted, who is a graduate of Southwestern College's Nursery and Horticulture department is the hybridizer, grower and cultivator.

Golden's Iris Garden
4564 Robin Drive
Prescott 445-0503
barrygolden@hotmail.com

Lakeside Iris Gardens
8280 Entrada Blvd.
Lake Isabella, CA
lakesideiris@aol.com

Kary Iris Gardens
6201 East Calle Rosa
Scottsdale, AZ 85251
ardikary@aol.com

Mystic Lake Gardens
22177 Polley Street
Nuevo, CA 92567
cbuchheim@verizon.net

Squires Iris Garden
15906 Chase Street
North Hills, CA 91343-6306
randysiris@juno.com

Grow Medians

Folks often say "If only irises had a longer bloom time!" The answer is, "Plant median irises!" The median bearded irises, a diverse group, start blooming with the daffodils in the spring and some are a full 6 weeks earlier than the tall bearded irises. The median class includes, Standard Dwarf, Intermediate, Miniature Tall and Border Bearded. The height of iris in the median class range from 8 to 27.5 inches.

Garden Tour May 3

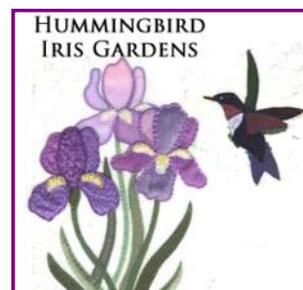
Plan to join us for our third member garden tour May 3. The following gardens will be included on the tour: Yavapai Sculpture Garden, Victor & Audrey Velonis, Phil and Joyce Crenshaw, and Linda & Lee Rossman. Refreshments and a light lunch will be served. Please RSVP Linda Rossman or Vera Stewart. Although the tour is not open to the public, you are welcome to invite friends to join us.

New Prescott Iris Garden

Many of you know Linda Rossman as treasurer and membership chairman, but she is also the proud developer of Hummingbird Iris Gardens in Prescott on Old Black Canyon Highway.

Linda and Lee live on 2 1/2 acres with their horses, spaniels, javelina, deer and numerous other native critters. Linda has been gardening and growing iris for over 20 years in various parts of California. The Rossmans moved to Prescott 9 years ago and Linda began planting iris in earnest 3 years ago. What began as a few iris planted close to the house has become multiple beds of iris. In addition Lee has built bridges and a gazebo, installed garden sculpture and benches.

Linda has planted over 1000 named iris and her collection includes, historic iris, Dykes medal winners and recent introductions from such well known hybridizers as Paul Black, Thomas Johnson and Schreiner's to name a few.



Hummingbird Iris Gardens will be one of the stops on our members garden tour May 3. Be sure to save this date.

Iris Photos on the Web

The next time you are surfing the web for iris photos, go to http://www.imagesbyables.com/Main_page.html.

This is the web site of our members Paula and Harold Ables from Flagstaff. Enjoy the photos of their iris garden and individual irises.

To see seedlings from Region 15 hybridizers Pete DeSantis and Randy Squires, check out this web site: http://sfvis.blogspot.com/2006_05_01_archive.html

You may also view iris from gardens that were visited during the Region 15 April Spring Trek 2007.

Looking at iris photos on the web is a good way to make a wish list of iris you want to add to your garden.