



PRESCOTT AREA IRIS SOCIETY

June 2008

Volume 5, Issue 5

"Glory of Spring"

Congratulations, club members! We had a wonderful spring exhibit thanks to the 16 members and 5 non-members who entered 73 individual stalks and 14 arrangements. Your willingness to show your iris was the contribution we needed to insure the success of our exhibit. Thanks to the following members who exhibited their irises: Audrey Velonis, Bonnie Haughton, Carolyn Alexander, Dave Nicholson, Diane Clarke, Jo Cheek, Joan Morse, Joyce Crenshaw, Phil Crenshaw, Judy Book, Lee Morris, Linda Rossman, Shirley Eitner, Ruth De Vries, Valerie Phipps, and Vera Stewart. We also had 2 special entrants, Valerie Phipps granddaughters, Amanda and Morgan. Keep up the good work!!

Additional kudos go to our volunteers: Bonnie/Chet Haughton, the Books, Joyce Crenshaw, Ruth/Ted De Vries, Diane Clarke, Shirley Eitner, Joan Morse, Linda Rossman, Vera Stewart, Audrey/Victor Velonis and Audrey's parents.

Favorite Tall Bearded (popular vote)

- 1st - Matt McNames - Linda Rossman
- 2nd - Fiery Temper - Linda Rossman
- 3rd - Original Art - Linda Rossman

Favorite Median (popular vote)

- 1st - Delirium - Linda Rossman
- 2nd - Softly - David Nicholson
- 3rd - His - David Nicholson

Arrangements (popular vote)

- 1st - Vera Stewart (Dutch iris)
- 2nd - Joyce Crenshaw (Rockstar)
- 3rd - Kishai Rowney (Ikebana)
- HM - Audrey Velonis (White pitcher)

Other (popular vote) Oyez- arilbred - Linda Rossman

Members only ballot

- President's Award: Matt McNames
- Linda Rossman
- Dorothy Morris Most Unique: Oyez
Linda Rossman
- Maxwell Best Bi-color: Original Art -
Linda Rossman



Victor & Audrey Velonis, Valerie Phipps

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 26— Rhizome Marking Party
9:00 a.m. at the Rossman's

August 2— Rhizome Sale

Aug. 27- VAIS 6:30 Cottonwood
Public Safety Building
Members gardens

September 6—Silent Auction for
Region 15 and Potluck

October 10,11—Fall Trek,
Hassayampa Inn

November-Spring Trek Presentation

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Claude Baker

Doris Elevier

Roxanne Hull

Chuck Pospishil

AIS National Convention

Marge Larson

This year the National American Iris Society Convention was held in Austin, TX from April 14-19. It was WINDY and cool, and the iris were a little behind schedule in blooming. Even with scant bloom it is always fun to meet new people on the bus trips, attend classes by some noted irisarians, and see the countryside and enjoy extra tours. We should be very proud of our own member, Francelle Edwards, who had some lovely seedlings. Many favorable comments were given for her hybridizing efforts. There was also a "mock" show where the attendees could vote on the best iris, but every one of them had a flaw -- it was a good conversation starter.

Next year the National Convention will be held in Kansas City, MO and they are planning some special events. It will be held May 11-16, 2009 which is our peak bloom season -- think about it!

President's Message

Like you, my eyes (and nose) have feasted on a multitude of bearded iris varieties this spring, and I bet you have a "must have" list started also. However, in my front yard this pictured Siberian iris, with its burnt umber spathes and violet-blue flowers, grabs and holds my attention with its simple beauty. Thanks to Sharon Phelps for sharing a small clump in October of 2006; I tentatively have identified this SI as *Caesar* (F.C. Morgan 1930.)



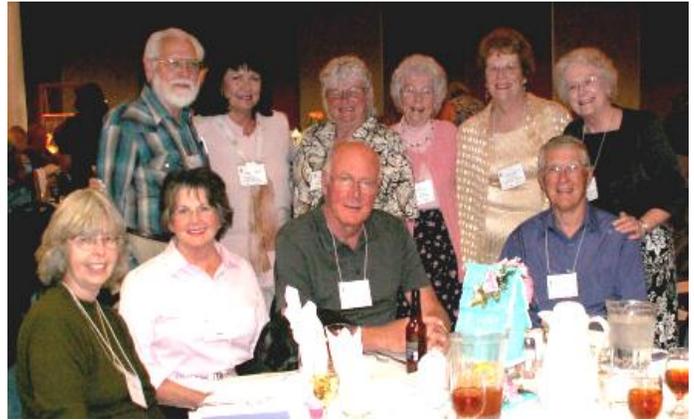
Major kudos are in order for Ruth DeVries, Bonnie Haughton, and the many volunteers who presented "The Glory of Spring" for old and new iris aficionados on May 10th at Mortimer nursery – you'll see evidence in pictures in this newsletter issue. If your first name was Linda that was your lucky day, as member Linda Rossman took major awards, as well as winning the raffle for a 2008 Bob Van Liere introduction *Crooked Little Smile!* Another Linda, from the public sector, won the Fitness with Joy raffle ticket.

The Third Annual Garden Tour on May 3rd was very successful – we had 42 members and guests enjoying the Sculpture Garden at Yavapai College, the home gardens of Victor & Audrey Velonis and Phil & Joyce Crenshaw, and ending with Linda Rossman's Hummingbird Iris Garden, where all enjoyed the bountiful lunch and viewing hundreds of gorgeous irises.

Several of our members trekked to Lancaster, CA on April 25-26 for the 2008 Region 15 Spring Trek - *Desert Delight*, hosted by Hi-Desert Iris & Daylily Society. If you think we've had winds here, - their president Richard Jamison e-mailed me that they had several days of 60 mph the days just prior to the trek and two days post trek the winds came up again for seven days with between 30 and 60 miles per hour. We had loads of fun admiring the gorgeous "guest iris" beds in five different home gardens, as well as taking three Judges Trainings (if desired), and enjoying the evening banquet. The highlighted Judges Training for me was presented by the world renowned hybridizer from Australia, Barry Blyth. His topic for the JT centered on hybridizing/seedlings and at the banquet he was the guest speaker, showing us pictorially his hybridizing results, and what he will be introducing.



Barry Blyth, Kathy Chilton, Mrs. Blyth



Now on the local scene: I want you to know that on Saturday, June 7th at the Farmers Market (held at YC parking lot) our market Co-Chairs David Nicholson and Phil Crenshaw will initiate a new Caravan canopy, which the Board voted to purchase for various club venues. We'll be selling the potted McCormick iris as well as providing information on iris culture, the Rhizome Sale August 2nd and selling assorted items like plant markers. If you didn't sign up before and would like to participate – we have available three hour time slots on June 7 or 21st, July 19th, or August 9, 16, or 23rd - please contact David or Phil.

Joyce Crenshaw was appointed as Membership Secretary; the Board is grateful she has agreed to do this important work..... our newest member is Doris Elevier of Chino Valley, bringing our current membership to 59. The Board wishes to acknowledge Paul and Karyn Finnell, owners of the new Jumpin' Juice & Java franchise on Iron Springs Road, for providing their Board Room free of charge for our meetings..... do stop in and enjoy their food and friendly atmosphere!

The Board cancelled the Dig 'n Divide Demonstration event due to press of Fall Trek planning activities; if you desire help with this important hot weather task please call either Bonnie, Judy or Stan, or Diane Clarke.

Congratulations are in order, for AIS has recognized Linda Smith's efforts in getting an iris society in the Verde Valley up and going - the Verde Area Iris Society is the newest Region 15 club, joining the other 12 affiliate organizations in So. California and Arizona!!! On that happy note I wish you happy gardening – I'd really like to wave a magic wand and eradicate all thrip, aphids, and the *over abundant* wind. Enjoy your garden and . . . remember to send in your registration for our Fall Trek *Hassayampa Holiday!!!*

Vera

Barry's Golden Wisdom

- Water deeply every week to stimulate fan development which will hopefully become next year's bloom
- Fertilize now around each clump in anticipation of the summer monsoons which will help dissolve the nutrients.— Use fertilizer whose first number, nitrogen content, is 10 or less.
- Grasses and weeds will continue to grow and will be rampant once the monsoon season starts, so be vigilant
- Pick off dead flowers and/or cut off bloom stalks
- Update your iris notebook with bloom information and culture notes
- If your varieties are starting to grow together, tie a string around the base of the clump to separate clumps
- Begin thinking about which iris you will be dividing and donating to the August 2 rhizome sale

Iris Society Contacts

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Joyce Crenshaw Membership 778-0066
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Judy Book Editor 776-7217
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Signups for Sculpture Garden Maintenance

June 2008 Bonnie & Chet Haughton
July/August 2008 Cam & Ray Waguespak
Refer to last month's newsletter for a list of duties.

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Prescott—928-776-8000
www.mortimer-nursery.com

Below is Bonnie Haughton's salsa recipe which made such a hit on the garden tour

PINEAPPLE SALSA

1 large pineapple, peeled, cored and diced
1 red bell pepper cored, seeded and diced
1/2 green pepper cored, seeded and diced
1 papaya peeled, seeded and diced
1 cup finely chopped red onion
3 TBS. fresh cilantro, minced
2 TBS. fresh lime juice
1 1/2 tsp. seasoned rice vinegar
1 Serrano or habanero chili finely chopped

3 green onions, finely chopped
1/8 tsp cayenne pepper
Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste

In a large, non-aluminum bowl, combine all the ingredients and adjust seasoning. Refrigerate until ready to serve. This is best the day it is made, but will keep for up to 1 week in the refrigerator.

Makes about 4 cups

GOLDEN'S IRIS GARDEN

4564 Robin Drive Diamond Valley
928-445-0503
barrygolden@hotmail.com

Hummingbird Iris Gardens

5942 Old Black Canyon Hwy., Prescott
928-777-8110
lindarae@cableone.net

IRISES THAT BLOOM MORE THAN ONCE? By Linda L. Bartell, Region 6, Iris Club of Southeast Michigan

Now that you've been bitten by the "iris-virus" you'll be delighted to know that some irises actually bloom more than once a year. Once considered novelties, rebloomers are now hybridized for cold hardiness, disease resistance as well as beauty. At present, more than 1,000 cultivars rebloom, in various climate zones. Some hybridizers focus primarily on improving the quality and increasing the number of dependable, beautiful reblooming cultivars.

Rebloomers, also called remontants, 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, learn which cultivars rebloom in your climate zone. Try the Reblooming Iris Society website. <http://www.rebloomingiris.com/> or Suttons Iris <http://www.suttoniris.com/> . Some hybridizers' catalogs have zone information on the rebloomers they sell.

Some rebloomers may take 2-3 years before they rebloom. For optimum results: A) soil must be rich and well drained. B) iris 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 to keep your rebloomers together, as they need more water and fertilizer. 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 2 weeks (or less in a hot, dry climate) without water. Fertilize them six weeks before spring bloom, then immediately after bloom, and finally, once or twice with liquid foliar fertilizer 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 oncers and also tend to bloom first in the spring. Spring-only bloomers don't need to be divided more than once every 3- 5 years, but rebloomers usually need division every 2- 3 years. 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, 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.

Each garden within a certain climate zone can have what we call 'microclimates', mini-environments created by surrounding conditions (i.e. location in relation to a sheltering building, trees, hills, depressions, direction of wind or sun) 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!

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, try moving it. I pulled out an entire two-year-old clump of the SDB Baby Blessed because it had only bloomed in the spring and did not rebloom. We tilled and fertilized the 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 bud stalk. Another even smaller piece of the original clump that I potted up is ready to bloom as well. Don't be afraid to experiment with fertilizer, water, location, etc.

Consider adding rebloomers to your garden when you buy iris this year. Notify Linda Smith irisgrower@cablone.net of iris that rebloom for you.

Reblooming Iris in the Tri-City/Verde Area

<u>Tall Bearded</u>	Flower Showers	Romantic Evening
Angel's Blush	Halloween Halo	Royal Knight
Autumn Tryst	Happy New Year	Soft Returns
Autumn Wine	Immortality	Superstition
Billionaire	Istanbul	Victoria Falls
Blatant	Jennifer Rebecca	Ziggy
Champagne	Las Vegas	<u>Medians</u>
Elegance	Matrix	Honey Glazed
City Lights	Misty Lady	Hot
Clarence	Next in Line	In The Red
Crimson King	October Sky	Time to Shine
Decker	Over and Over	
Duo Dandy	Pink Attraction	

Glory of Spring Winners



Matt McNames



Fiery Temper



Original Art



Oyez



Delirium



Softly



His



American Patriot



1st Place



2nd Place



3rd Place



Honorable Mention