



# PRESCOTT AREA IRIS SOCIETY

## May 2008

Volume 5, Issue 4

### "Glory of Spring"

#### May 10—Mortimer Nursery

Don't miss your chance to be a blooming success. Enter your iris blooms and floral arrangements in our exhibit. The public is counting on being amazed and astounded by the "Glory of Iris" and we can't do that without your participation. We are hoping for 75% of the club members to contribute iris for the exhibit. If you missed the meeting and did not get a copy of the rules and procedures, call Ruth or Bonnie.

It was exciting to have Marge Larson speak to us at our general meeting on April 5<sup>th</sup>. She gave us many good pointers on preparing our iris for a show. To begin she gave us a demonstration of what she carried in her grooming kit: tweezers, pen, small scissors, make up brush or tooth brush, a cotton ball, q-tips, and address labels. She brought several iris with her, and explained what condition the iris should be in to display them in a show. She demonstrated how to transport the iris to a show, and then how to properly put them in a vase to display them. Personally, I did not know that in a "juried" show, one cannot rearrange the iris after it is placed on the show table. Marge has 10 years of experience in judging, and was formerly the President of the Sun Country Iris Society in Phoenix. She gave us this phrase to think about, "*Leave room in your garden for angels to dance.*"

As the date of the big event is approaching, the committee and others are busy making plans. We are expecting lots of beautiful iris to be displayed for visitors to enjoy.

We appreciate those who signed up to help at the exhibit. You will be receiving a phone call or email reminder. It is still not too late to volunteer! .... Ruth De Vries

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#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**April 30-May 4-Verde Valley  
County Fair**

**May 3 - Members Garden Tour  
8:30 a.m.**

**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**

#### May 3- Garden Tour

Sunscreen, hats and bottled water are the order of the day for our garden tour this year. You may remember that we had snow and rain last year so be prepared for all weather conditions. Our tour will begin at Yavapai College in the Sculpture Garden at 8:30 am. Park in the lot in front of the Performing Arts Center. The garden entrance is on the south side of the building. Maps will be available at this stop and so will light refreshments. The iris have already started blooming in the garden and we are anticipating a great bloom this year.

Be prepared to make a donation at our last stop, Hummingbird Iris Gardens, where lunch will be served. Although this event is not open to the public, you are welcome to invite friends. Please RSVP to Linda at 777-8110 or Vera at 445-8132 so we can adequately plan for food.

Carpool if at all possible. If you are coming from the Prescott Valley area or beyond, you are welcome to park at Linda's on Old Black Canyon Highway and carpool from there. Arrive at Linda's by 8:15 a.m.

## President's Message

Daily checks to my iris beds just aren't frequent enough right now – I need to go out both in the morning and late afternoon to see if any other bloom stalks have shot up or iris buds have opened! The SDBs like *Cherry Tart* are in full bloom in my garden right now.



Four of the PAIS Board members trekked down to Phoenix April 12<sup>th</sup> to view Sun Country's juried show – here are some of the judges deliberating on the selection of "Best of Show". Sometime later this year our Board will be discussing the merits of putting on an AIS "Show" versus continuing with an "Annual Exhibit".

There are lots of opportunities to get your *iris fix* in the next month:

- April 30 – May 4<sup>th</sup> – the Verde Valley Fair
- Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> – PAIS Garden Tour
- Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> – PAIS' 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Exhibit "The Glory of Spring"
- Golden's Iris Garden weekends & Tuesday & Thursday evenings- late April – May
- Hummingbird Iris Gardens open Friday-Sunday during bloom season.
- PAIS Garden Tour reminder: Please remember to RSVP to Linda Rossman or me – at last count we had 32 members and guests coming.



Board member change: Due to travel plans Evie Renz has asked to be replaced as Program VP; Dianne Clarke has graciously agreed to complete Evie's term – a vote to approve this will be held May 3<sup>rd</sup> after lunch. Also, the Board is pleased to announce that Joyce Crenshaw has accepted the appointment as Fall Trek Treasurer.

Our PAIS membership now stands at 55 – that includes 8 Dual Club Members, seven from Verde Area Iris Society one from Sun Country in Phoenix.



Ruth De Vries terrific

On April 5<sup>th</sup> (our last General Meeting) Sedona member Marge Larson treated us to a demonstration on preparing iris for show/exhibit. Her "Ready, Set, Go" program was a good prelude to the Sun Country Show, "Carnival of Iris" a week later where she served as one of the eight AIS certified judges. Since the Verde iris bloom time is earlier than the Prescott area she was able to gather TBs, Medians, SDBs, and Dutch for her demo. Ruth DeVries is admiring the display prior to the beginning of the meeting.



From the back: Stan Book, Ruth De Vries, Del Renz, Judy Book, Bonnie Haughton, Shirley Eitner, Joy Tkach, Vera Stewart. Jim Stewart took the photo.

I want to bring you up to date on the McCormick Garden project. Owners Scott and Joy Tkach offered the club the opportunity of digging iris rhizomes in their approx. 12 x 65 feet iris garden. The crew pictured here dug and potted irises into 132 five gallon pots – we plan to sell these at the Farmers Market and Annual Rhizome Sale this summer, with profits going to fund the Fall Trek. Tkachs also are donating a month's free lessons in yoga or Kung Fu as a raffle item – this will be done at Linda Rossman's after lunch on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Kudos to the McCormick crew!

Planning for *Hassayampa Holiday*, the Region 15 Fall Trek that our club hosts on October 10-11, 2008 continues – see the flyer insert and make your registration. Thanks to all of you volunteers working on various committees during this exciting and busy year.

Several of the club members are going to be at the Region 15 Spring Trek in Lancaster, CA April 23-26 – we'll be sharing highlights with you later.

*I'm looking forward to seeing you at the Sculpture Garden May 3<sup>rd</sup>.....*



Marge Larson presenting grooming tips

### **Barry's Golden Wisdom**

- Water deeply every week to ensure good growth and bloom.
- Watch for aphids and thrips. Hose off with strong spray.
- Keep after those grasses and weeds.
- Pick off dead flowers after stalk has bloomed.
- Enjoy the bloom. Invite friends over; share the joy of spring.
- Take photos of your blooms for your own documentation and for the rhizome sale.
- Double check correctness of variety on plant markers

### **Natural Aphid Control**

Here are some potentially effective ways to control aphids. I have not tried these so I cannot vouch for their effectiveness but they are worth a try, especially if you are averse to using chemical pesticides.

#### **Orange Peel Spray**

Oranges and other citrus fruit contain natural occurring pesticide compounds called limonene and linalool. These compounds can be used as a treatment for soft bodied pests such as aphids, fungus gnats, mealy bugs and as an ant repellent.

- Pour 2 cups of boiling water over peelings of one orange. Let this steep for about 24 hours. Strain the mixture into a glass jar and toss the peels. Add a few drops of castille soap. Use this liquid as a spray on target insects or on ants and their nests. Smells nice too!

#### **Yarrow Tea**

Yarrow has insecticidal properties and is also an excellent natural fertilizer. Try mixing this with strong coffee to make a more powerful brew. Yes, coffee, caffeine makes the insects hyper and confused..

- Soak 1 cup of yarrow plant pieces in 16 ounces of water for 24 hours or more. Brew it in the sun like tea. Strain and mix with 1 gallon of water. Mix in strongly brewed coffee and 1/4 teaspoon castille soap. Spray on aphids and other soft bodied pests every 1-2

### **Molasses Solution**

Spray the iris with a molasses solution (2 ounces of molasses to 1 gallon of water) You also could treat with neem or a horticultural oil available at nurseries.

### **Tea of tomato or potato leaves**

Chop 12 or so tomato leaves and 1 chopped onion in 1/2 cup of 70% isopropyl alcohol for a few minutes. Apply the mixture directly on aphids with a cue tip or paintbrush.

### **Soap Spray**

A soap spray can be used to strip them of their protective wax coating, dehydrating them. Mix 1 tablespoon of Castile soap to 1 gallon of water.

### **Spraying basics**

1. It is best to use any type of spray in the early morning or the cool of evening. Do not spray when temps are above 80 degrees Fahrenheit! Your plants may "burn" or have a reaction to what you are using in excessive heat. This is known as "phytotoxicity"
2. Always perform a test on a small portion of the plant material first. Wait 24 hours to observe any negative reaction. Proceed if there is no damage.
3. Really and truly...more is not better. If you are not getting good results don't increase the strength of these remedies without testing first.
4. Target just the area you need to treat. Be careful... try not to harm the good guys! You don't want to run off your allies.
5. When working with sprays or dusts always protect your exposed skin and face.

These ideas were gleaned from Golden Harvest Organics: <http://www.ghorganics.com/page9.html>

If any of these work for you, please let us know.

### **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Connie Best

June Britton

Nancy Jenner

Sandra Kelleher



## Iris Photos on the Web

The next time you are surfing the web for iris photos, go to the Delaware Valley Iris Society gallery. You can view iris from individual gardens, iris exhibited in past shows plus see many kinds of iris: tall bearded, medians, Louisianas, Japanese, Siberian and Species. If you are looking for a photos of a particular named iris, this is a great place to start. The site is searchable by variety, hybridizer, category and year hybridized. You can even search for historic iris and Dykes Medal winners. As you can tell, I am really impressed by this web site. I hope you enjoy it too. <http://www.dvis-ais.org/gallery/>

## Signups for Sculpture Garden Maintenance

May 2008	Ruth & Ted De Vries
June 2008	Bonnie & Chet Haughton
July 2008	Cam & Ray Waguespak
August 2008	Cam & Ray Waguespak
September 2008	Vera Stewart
October 2008	Stan & Judy Book
November 2008	David Nicholson
December 2008	Phil & Joyce Crenshaw

## Duties

- Remove spent blooms and bloom stalks
- Remove dead leaves
- Make sure plant markers are standing upright
- Pull weeds in areas where iris are planted
- Make note of any iris which are doing poorly and notify Cam
- Check irrigation
- Check for insects
- Remove soil from tops of rhizomes
- 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. If Cam is not available, contact Barry Golden 445-0503. Thank you for volunteering to help us with our community project.

Cam Waguespak



## Verde Valley Fair April 30-May 4

The Floriculture entries at the Verde Valley Fair are primarily iris and many of the Verde Valley Iris Society members exhibit their blooms at this fair. The Commercial Building houses this exhibit. The fair grounds are located at 800 East Cherry Street, Cottonwood. Don't miss this opportunity to view blooming iris.

Gate hours are 4/30 4-10 p.m.; 5/1 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; 5/2 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.; 5/3 9 a.m. to 11 p.m.; 5/4 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

## Iris Society Contacts

Vera Stewart President 445-8132  
flwrlovr@cableone.net

Linda Rossman Membership/Treasurer 777-8110  
lindarae@cableone.net

Ruth DeVries Secretary 771-1051  
gmama14@mac.com

Judy Book Newsletter Editor 776-7217  
jbook@cableone.net

Spring Exhibit—Ruth De Vries 771-1051  
Bonnie Haughton 445-4357

## GOLDEN'S IRIS GARDEN

4564 Robin Drive Diamond Valley  
928-445-0503  
Hours: weekends 9am-4 pm  
Tuesday & Thursday 5-8 pm  
barrygolden@hotmail.com

## Hummingbird Iris Gardens

5942 Old Black Canyon Hwy., Prescott  
928-777-8110  
Hours: Friday through Sunday 9am to 4pm  
lindarae@cableone.net

## MORTIMER NURSERY

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