



PRESCOTT AREA IRIS SOCIETY

September 2008

Volume 5, Issue 6

Barry's Golden Wisdom

TRANSPLANTING IRISES IN THE PRESCOTT AREA

In our area (elevation 5000'-6500' and garden zone of 7) irises thrive best when transplanted from the middle of July through the first week of September. Are these absolute rules? July and August are. It takes about 6 weeks for newly planted irises to develop a viable root system. The new root system begins to supply water and nutrients to the plant, increasing winter survival rates. This is critical.

If you transplant irises in early October, the Prescott area can have a mid-October freeze which stops or slows down root development. It's *all* about probability. Transplant in July and August and the probability for plant survival and bloom for the following year increases substantially. Transplant in mid-September or later and the chances for good growth and bloom the following year diminishes.

Additionally, when irises are transplanted, it is imperative to water them deeply and well. I use a hand held garden hose and as I water, I dig into the soil with my trowel so the water gets below the surface to the roots. Always add 5 gallons of compost to the hole plus 1 cup of bone meal and/or triple phosphate when planting several iris in one hole. I also add 1 cup of 10-10-10 garden fertilizer to the soil in the hole. Mix it well, water well, then plant the irises.

Don't Miss our Popular Potluck and Auction September 6

Each year Region 15 sends rhizomes, which were featured at the Spring Trek, to Region 15 clubs which auction the rhizomes to members. The rhizomes we received were donated by hybridizers to the 2008 Trek in the Hi Desert of Southern California. Proceeds from the auction support Region 15 activities including the Spring and Fall Treks and the Region newsletter.

Enjoy the friendly competition while purchasing some of these spectacular irises for your own garden. Both a silent auction and a live auction will be held, so bring your cash and/or checkbook and plan to have fun bidding and buying iris. Check out the photos of these iris to stimulate your appetite.

And... speaking of appetite, potluck means food, fellowship and fun! Please bring a main dish, salad or dessert. Beverages and table service will be provided. Sharon and Gary Phelps are hosting this event. See the map on page 3. The fun will begin at 5:00 p.m. Please RSVP to Vera at 445-8132 flwrlvr@cableone.net and let her know what food you will be bringing.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sept. 1-VAIS Rhizome Sale
Cottonwood
10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Sept. 6—Iris Auction/Potluck
8480 Live Oak Dr. Prescott
5:00–8:00 p.m.

Oct. 10-11—Fall Trek
Hassayampa Hotel, Prescott

Nov. 8 —Spring Show Iris Photos
Yavapai Title, Prescott

Verde Valley Iris Society Rhizome Sale, September 1

The Verde Valley Iris Society (VAIS) is holding its first Rhizome Sale on the sidewalk outside Mount Hope Foods on Main Street in Cottonwood, Arizona. The sale takes place on Labor Day, September 1st, 2008, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This is a great opportunity to get some real bargains..

President's Message

My husband and I really enjoyed our very first cruise this summer; a 10-day Alaskan cruise that included a stop at Victoria BC, where the Butchart Gardens were at their peak bloom. It won't surprise you that I was searching for an iris in bloom – and nestled among Monarda (red Bee Balm) was this one, precious delicate blue beardless iris! There was evidence of TBs having bloomed, but I had to visit the gift shop to find any more blossoms, which is where my daughter bought my Christmas gift, a beautifully hand-painted glass platter.



Just before leaving home I enjoyed the beauty and fragrance of reblooming 'Champagne Elegance' (D. Niswonger 1986), and then last week was astounded to find 'Autumn Wine' (Christopherson '03) BB & RE with two bloom stalks. Both of these varieties were planted next to a rose bush, and received the benefit of the rose fertilizer this spring.

Speaking of unusual things - member Evie Renz asked me if I was acquainted with "glitter iris" – and she referred me to the recent *Bulletin of AIS*. She has just been given the variety 'Royal Tapestry' that has this phenomenon, and has promised to call me when it blooms spring 2009. Likewise, if any of you have a "glitter iris" please contact me and share information.



Now for events past and future, which are happening here locally. You know our annual Rhizome Sale brought in an incredible \$2525 in just three hours on August 2nd; a full report will be available in our next newsletter. Huge appreciation is awarded to Phil Crenshaw and David Nicholson for coordinating our outreach at the Farmers Market this summer. The Board had approved purchase of a canopy to use at various venues; and it has certainly been put to good use already – five Farmers Market days, the Rhizome Sale, and will be taken to Mortimers on Saturday, September 13th for their annual Autumn Outreach Fair. Many thanks to all the volunteers who worked these events!!!

The Autumn Outreach Fair at Mortimers is a wonderful opportunity for local organizations to provide free gardening information to the public - this is the third year we have been invited to participate. It's the 13th of September; the hours are 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., and a wonderful free BBQ starts at 11:30 a.m. Last year's attendance was between 350 and 400 people, so you understand why it is important that we join with many other groups to showcase our special focus. I'm doing a 'Dig & Divide' demo at 1 p.m., and will appreciate some of our members in the audience to encourage group participation. Please let me know if you'd like to volunteer to work a two hour shift with one or two other members in the PAIS booth.

Another future event that we look forward to each September is the annual Potluck and Silent Auction. Member Sharon Phelps and husband Gary are hosting this 'party' on Saturday, September 6th, and I really hope you'll plan to attend!!

The final 'happening' I'll mention is *Hassayampa Holiday*, the Region 15 Fall Trek sponsored by PAIS October 10-11th. We're hoping for a sizable group of our own club members to register/attend – we kept the registration fee low to encourage PAIS members to come.

In closing this message I again want to express my appreciation to all the hard-working volunteers who have made, and are making this club the success it is – here's a shot of my July reblooming 'Champagne Elegance' and it's just for you!!!

Vera



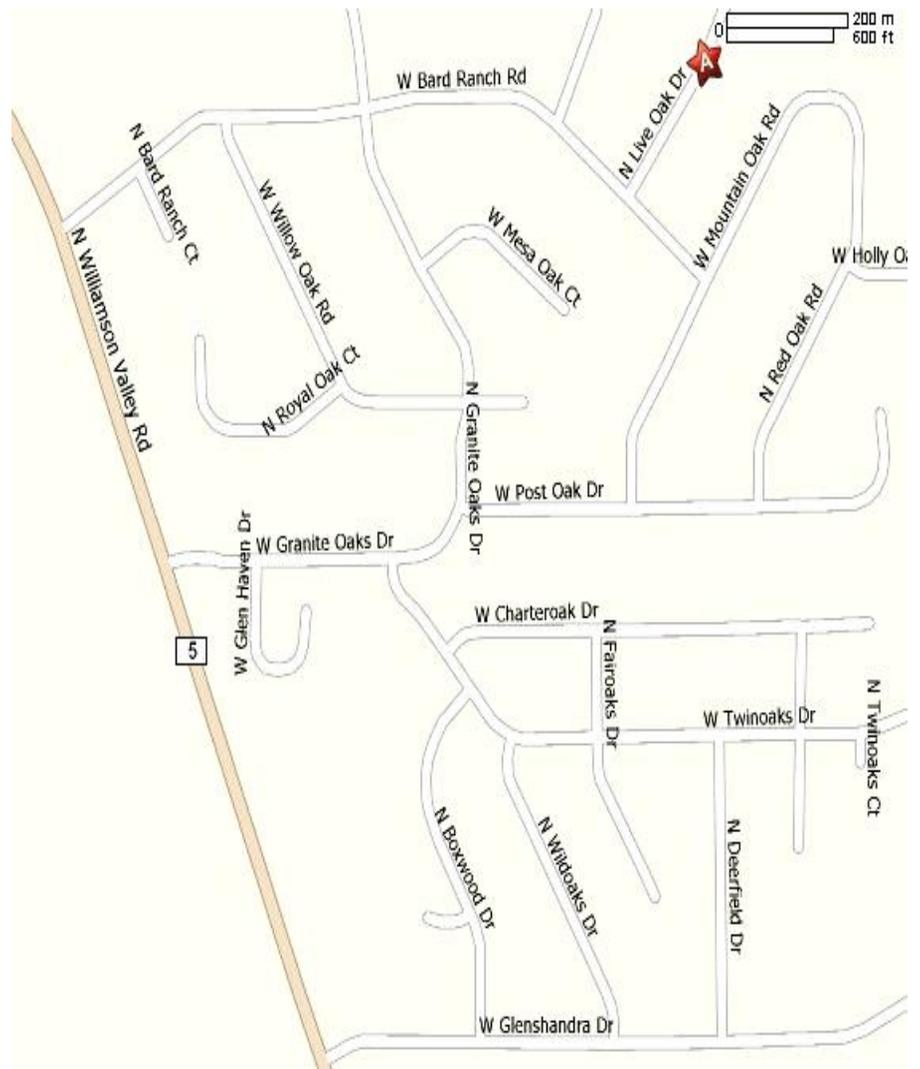
PAIS Contacts

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Phelps Residence

8480 N. Live Oak Dr. 717-1051

Bard Ranch Road is just before mile marker 7 on Williamson Valley Road. From Iron Springs and the Wm Valley intersection, it is just about 7 miles to Bard Ranch Road. From Willow Creek Road, cut through on Commerce, go by the ball park, and then left on Pioneer Parkway. From Outer Loop Road, turn left, pass American Ranch and take the next left after Sundown Acres which is on the on the right. We really are easy to find. Come in on Bard Ranch, left on Live Oak, we are the fourth house on the left. 8480 N. Live Oak. IT IS A CIRCLE DRIVEWAY SO DRIVE ON IN THE OPEN GATE AND *ENTER OUR HOUSE THROUGH THE DOUBLE WOODEN GATES*



Rhizome Sale Report

The Rhizome Sale at Sharlot Hall Museum was another smashing success. We had over 125 different named iris for sale which you contributed. We applaud your generosity. We also sold rhizomes 5 Saturdays at the Prescott Farmer's Market. Our overall total rhizome sales topped \$3000.00. Thank you for your purchases and for your time volunteering to make this event a successful club fund raiser.

The iris, Matt McNames, which won Best of Show at our spring exhibit was the rhizome sale raffle prize. The raffle winner was Tom Fields from Rimrock. Congratulations, Tom!! Thanks, Linda Rossman, for donating this iris.



Planting Your Auction Irises

The rhizomes we received for the auction have been potted by board members so that by the time you purchase the rhizomes, they should have begun to develop roots. They were potted in a mixture of half soil amendment and half top soil to which we added some granular fertilizer. The pots will be kept moist, but not sopping wet, to encourage root growth. After purchasing the iris, you now have a decision to make. Do you want to leave them in the pot through the winter or transplant them immediately. We have tried both methods. If you choose to leave the iris in the one gallon pots, you may want to huddle the pots close together and put dirt or mulch around them to give the rhizomes a little protection from the winter cold. You would not start the protection until early November. You might want to move the iris into 2 gallon pots. The iris growing in two gallon pots survived last winter quite adequately and some even bloomed the first year.

IRIS AUCTION LIST

All Night Long	TB	Hakuna Mata	AB/RE	Plum Duck	SP
American Master	TB	Hawaiian Rain	TB	Polish Princess	TB/RE
Angel's Awe	TB	Huerhuero	TB	Prime Power	TB
Around My World	TB	Indian Sunrise	TB	Quantum Leap	TB/SA
At First Blush	TB	Italian Ice	TB	Quiet Reflections	TB
Ballerina's Pirouette	TB/SA	Just Too Mauvelous	TB	Ramblin' Man	BB
Bold Expression	TB	Kathy Chilton	TB	Road to Nowhere	TB/SA
Bubbling Waves	TB	Kinkajou Shrew	TB	Sierra Downtown	TB
By Design	TB	Laced Handkerchief	BB	Silverback	TB
Carnival Ride	TB	Long Time Gone	TB	Special Kay	BB
Clothed in Glory	TB	Magdalena Louisa	TB	Sugar in the Mornin'	TB
Dandy Candy	TB	Men Like Me	TB/SA	Tomcat	TB
Devil David	TB/SA	Midnight Mink	TB/RE	Windjammer Seas	TB
Don't Miss This	TB	New Perspective	TB-novelty	Wine Escapade	BB/RE
Dream Ticket	TB	No Doubt	TB	Winona's Choice	TB
Dutchman's Dream	TB/SA	Okapi Poppy	TB	ZZ Zanzibar	SP/RE
Fairy's Prom Dress	TB	Passion Play	TB	RE=Reblooming	
Falconeer	TB/SA	Pastel Geisha	BB	TB=Tall Bearded	
Fay's Oscar	TB	Peekaboo Zebu	TB	BB=Border Bearded	
Grand Canyon Gold	TB	Peggy Sue	TB/RE	SP=species iris	
				SA= Space Age	
				AB=Arilbred	

SCULPTURE GARDEN MAINTENANCE

Seeing the iris blooming in May at Yavapai College during the garden tour was a real treat for members and friends. Our Garden Maintenance Coordinator, Cam Waguespack, has resigned and we need someone to carry on the fine work she and husband Ray started. Our immediate need is for volunteers to pull weeds and remove dead leaves from the iris this month. In order to have beautiful blooms next spring, we need to maintain a healthy growing environment now. Please call Stan, 776-7217 or email jbook@cableone.net. Volunteer with a friend. The weeds should be easy to pull due to the recent rainfall.

REGION 15 FALL TREK 2008—TO TREK OR NOT TO TREK?

Okay, let's pretend that you just climbed onto the iris wagon and you have no idea what a Fall Trek is. Twice a year the American Iris Society affiliate clubs in Arizona and Southern California (Region 15) get together for mini conventions. The Spring Trek features a speaker, judges training and visits to iris gardens of the sponsoring clubs members.

The 2008 Fall Trek in Prescott, features judges training by Kathy Chilton, our knowledgeable RVP, plus an illustrated talk by noted iris authority and hybridizer, Rick Tasco, featuring, guess what, iris. There are also wonderful raffle prizes, good food and lots of time to meet fellow iris growers. Hometown folks enjoy the advantage of paying only \$35.00 for registration and avoiding the hotel charges, (unless you particularly want to spend the night at the lovely and historic Hassayampa Hotel). The choice is yours. Plan to attend the Friday evening Social where you can view the great raffle items, savor delectable refreshments and meet and greet other irisarians.

Register soon. This is an exciting opportunity you won't want to miss and its right here. You avoid paying airline fare or hundreds of dollars for gasoline to travel to a distant trek. See you there!!