



# PRESCOTT AREA IRIS SOCIETY

April 2009

Volume 6, Issue 3

Roman Song



## SPRING???

The calendar says the first day of spring was about a month ago, but we had snow flurries for about 5 minutes Friday and I am still waiting to be convinced that spring has arrived. Stan and I stopped by the sculpture garden Wednesday and Roman Song, by the front entrance to the garden, was blooming like crazy in several clumps.

Red Heart, a standard dwarf bearded iris, has been blooming in our iris bed by the street for at least a week. As I look at the bed on the south side of the house, buds have appeared on at least 6 different varieties and I am hoping this cold weather does not freeze the buds. This has been an exceptionally blustery spring and I am ready for calm, 75 degree weather.

Your iris should all be fertilized by now with a low nitrogen fertilizer (10-10-10). Make sure that your plant markers are readable and that they are with the correct plant. Don't forget to pull weeds. Stay ahead of the curve and don't let them over take your flower beds.

Watch for aphids and thrips and take defensive action early to avoid a bad infestation.

Red Heart, SDB



## It's Show Time!!

Our April 25 meeting will be all about how to prepare your iris for the May 9 show.

- What do I look for when deciding which iris to show?
- How long should the iris stem be?
- How do I transport the iris stalks so they don't get damaged?
- What if there are aphids on the iris I have selected to show?
- What do I need to consider when designing an arrangement?
- What flowers and items can be included in the arrangement?
- How do I complete the entry form?

Find out the answers to these questions and your questions at the Yavapai Title office on Gurley and Sheldon, 2 p.m. Saturday, April 25.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**April 25—2 p.m.**  
Preparing and arranging iris  
for the spring show

**May 9— Spring Show**  
Mortimer Nursery

**May 11-16 -AIS National  
Convention, Kansas City, MO**

**May 16— PAIS Garden Tour**

**July 25— Rhizome Marking Party**

**August 1— Rhizome Sale**

**September 5 —Rhizome Silent  
Auction/Potluck**

**October 9, 10—Fall Trek  
Lompoc, CA**

**November 14— TBA**

## Why Sponsor an Iris Show?

Iris Shows are primarily to educate and thrill the public even though winning ribbons and medals is fun too!

Exhibits at plant sales and Iris Shows are a great way to promote our favorite garden flower. The public is often eager to learn from gardeners who have grown Irises themselves and have knowledge of local conditions and the species and varieties that flourish there.

We are counting on you to make this show a blooming success!!

## President's Message

Wow, this has been an amazing winter! And I say winter because we have had snow flurries for the past couple of days. Spring has been coming in like a lion. But the good news is that we have had 6+ inches of moisture since the first of December and the creek behind my house that is usually dry has been running ever since and there is still snow on the mountain tops! When it gets warm, green will bust out all over.

And following the green will be the colorful blossoms of iris just in time for our first AIS Juried Iris Show. We are looking forward to this new event on May 9<sup>th</sup> at Mortimer Nursery. Show booklets will be handed out at the general meeting on April 25<sup>th</sup> detailing the event along with discussions and presentations on preparation, display and arrangements for the show. This will be a great learning experience for the novice and experienced iris grower alike.

Spring is always an active season in any iris club. We are also planning our annual iris garden tour on May 16<sup>th</sup>. This will start at the Yavapai Sculpture Garden where members have been tending the iris plants that have been planted there over the past few years. And this year we will be adding a whole new huge bed of iris dedicated to all the Dyke's Medal Winners. This is a big undertaking that will have an enormous impact on the garden, not just from a gardening point of view, but also from the artistic angle.

Keep an eye on your plants for the aphids and thrips so your blossoms will be as nice as can be for our first iris show. Happy Gardening! - - - - - Diane

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### Iris Society Contacts

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### Welcome New Members

**Sarah Bowers**

**Dee Siddons**



Formal Occasion—Iris Exhibit 2008

### **Grooming Iris and Designing Arrangements for the Show**

Carolyn Alexander has training in floral arranging and design and she will be demonstrating the techniques you need to create winning floral designs for your show entry. If you have never entered an iris in a show, this is your chance to find out how to do it.

If you know someone who might be interested in entering an iris in the May 9 show, bring them to the April 25 meeting. Carolyn and Judy will provide all the information needed for entering your iris in our first judged show.

Shows attract new members and help educate the public about iris, so do your part and enter iris in this years show.

ENTRY FORMS AND SHOW RULES WILL BE DISTRIBUTED .  
CONTACT VERA IF YOU WANT COPIES AND CAN'T ATTEND  
THE MEETING.