



# PRESCOTT AREA IRIS SOCIETY

June 2009

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**Seek to understand what draws you to the garden. You may discover greater rewards than the blue ribbons awarded for the biggest pumpkin or the best preserves. You may find the garden becomes a teacher and crop "failures" become lessons learned. However big or small your garden is, if you allow nature to touch your spirit, gardening will bring returns of peace, satisfaction, and well-being for as long as you continue to wander the garden path.**

- Norman H. Hansen, [The Worth of Gardening](#)

## President's Message

My mother touched my spirit with gardening when I was very young and I have had an urge to garden every since. My gardens have been as large as a 40 acre farm on some of the best earth in Michigan and as small as a planter box on a 43' boat. Now, I struggle to garden on a small lot atop a granite hillside where the harsh elements and all types of critters, large and small try to keep me down. Yet in all these situations it has always been the 'returns of peace, satisfaction and well-being' that my gardens gave to me that kept me digging.

Along the garden path of my life, a blue ribbon or two have been won, but they aren't what keeps drawing me back to my garden. It's the soil, the soul of the earth itself. It's the satisfaction of working the soil; feeling the cool, dark, hummus filled earth between my fingers: finding a worm while I am digging a hole to let me know that my soil is healthy; striving to grow healthy soil first in order to grow healthy plants.

And when the day is done, I can sit back in 'peace, satisfaction and well-being' and enjoy all the successes *and* the failures for they have both taught me lessons that I will build upon for next year.

Happy Gardening

## Awards Potluck and Iris Exchange June 13

Mark your calendar now and plan to attend our June 13 meeting at 5:30 p.m., Yavapai Title. The club will provide meat and drinks and your contribution is a vegetable, salad or dessert. Call Carolyn Alexander and let her know you will be attending and what dish you will be bringing.

**Reservations needs to be made by June 8.**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Note Date Changes!!**

June 13—Awards Potluck & Iris Exchange

July 11- Iris Auction and Ice Cream Social

July 25— Rhizome Marking Party

August 1— Rhizome Sale  
Sharlot Hall Museum

August 8-Rhizome Sale Growin' Crazy Nursery, Chino Valley

October 9, 10—Fall Trek  
Lompoc, CA

November 14— Kathy Chilton

## Iris Exchange-June 13

Join the Fun! Increase your Iris garden without spending a dime!

Here's how:

Dig up 1 to 3 named iris that have multiplied, label them and bring them to our June meeting. If you have a photo to go with the iris that would be all the better. If you don't have a photo, let Judy know and she will try to provide a photo.

For each iris you bring you will draw a ticket with the number which determines the order in which you choose your replacement iris. Bring a list of your current iris names so you won't duplicate what you already own when selecting your iris.

This is a real benefit of membership. Don't miss out on this opportunity to increase the size of your iris garden

## ***Symphony in Color* a Huge Success!**

After nine years of providing springtime iris *exhibits* here in 'everybody's hometown' the Prescott Area Iris Society took on the intimidating task of presenting an American Iris Society (AIS) *sanctioned show*, complete with six certified judges for single bloom stalk entries and artistic arrangements.

And entries we had – there were 107 stalk entries in the Horticulture Division, 101 of these were individual varieties/cultivars versus last year with 71 entries. There were 15 entries in the Artistic Design Division, compared with 14 arrangements in 2008. The number of entrants increased over last year also – 14 members and four non-members entered the competition.

AIS has very specific rules for showing which are outlined in the Judges Handbook. The club prints these rules plus any individual ones for their local club in a show booklet (which also has to be approved by AIS). This is the booklet that was handed out at the April General Meeting to all members, and was available upon request for others.

Awards are also specified by AIS, although there can be "local awards" in addition. PAIS does provide four local awards: The President's Award, presented to Linda Rossman for 'Louisa's Song', Best of Show; the Best Artistic Arrangement, presented to Kisha Rowney for 'Madame Butterfly'; the Dorothy Morris Memorial Award for Most Unique Iris, presented to Audrey Velonis for 'Gnus Flash'; and the Charles Maxwell Memorial Award for the Best Bi-Color presented to Ruth DeVries for 'Ocelot'. These four winners will be receiving \$25 gift certificates at our Awards Potluck gathering on June 13<sup>th</sup>.

The AIS awards were displayed next to the winning cultivars/arrangements on May 9<sup>th</sup>, and will be presented along with certificates and/or rosettes on June 13<sup>th</sup>. The Best Specimen of Show was awarded to Linda Rossman of Hummingbird Iris Garden for her TB 'Louisa's Song' Linda will also receive the Silver Medal for the most blue ribbons in Horticulture (9), and a Sweepstakes rosette. A Bronze Medal for the 2<sup>nd</sup> most blue ribbons in Horticulture will be awarded to Vera Stewart, who had five first place ribbons.



Judges Marge Larson, Gerry Snyder and Patrick Orr

Section rosettes will be awarded to Judy Book for her Space Ager 'Thornbird'; David Nicholson for his Median 'Softly' – also to Linda Rossman for her outstanding Tall Bearded specimen of 'Louisa's Song'. Victor Velonis received two blue ribbons in the Artistic Design classes – one for Open Interpretation 'Overture' and one for 'Flowers in the Moonlight' in Oriental Design category, so he wins a Sweepstakes rosette. There were blue first place ribbons in the following Sections, but there were insufficient exhibitors and/or varieties to garner a Section rosette award: Section C – Novelty; Section D – Arilbred; Section H – Siberian; Section I – Historic; and Section J – Bulbous (Dutch).

Although the judging portion of the Show took longer than anticipated, Claude Baker kept the public, who were standing outside the tent in bright sunlight, entertained! For a first time AIS Show your Board is very gratified for the success and multitude of compliments from the public and the six judges – they all would like to come back in 2010!

A very large thank-you is extended to Mortimer Nursery for sponsoring our Show and to the many hardworking members who helped make 'Symphony in Color' a resounding success - especially Committee members Marge Larson (also Head Judge) and Judy Book and clerks Shirley Eitner and Audrey and Victor Velonis!!!

Vera Stewart, Show Chair



Victor Velonis attaches ribbons

### **Iris Society Contacts**

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

### **Rhizome Sale August 1 & 8**

Begin deciding which iris you will be dividing and donating to our club sales.

Be sure to have plant markers beside the correct iris. Pull weeds.

Notify Judy of the names of iris which rebloom.

# Symphony of Color Awards

**Louisa's Song**

Best Specimen  
of Show



**Madame  
Butterfly**

Best Design of  
Show

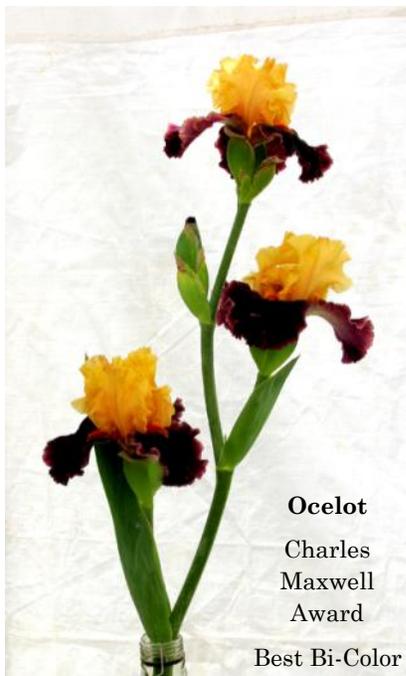


**Thornbird**  
Best Space  
Age

**Artistic Design Award Winners**



**Softly**  
Best  
Median



**Ocelot**  
Charles  
Maxwell  
Award  
Best Bi-Color



**Gnus Flash**  
Dorothy  
Morris Award  
Most Unique

## 2009 Garden Tour

What a perfect day for a garden tour. The weather cooperated, which for our unusual spring, could have been a little iffy. We had over 40 members and guests on tour and 27 at the luncheon.

The tour started out at the Yavapai College Sculpture Garden lead by Dick Marcusen, founder and artist in the garden. Dick is also an active member of the Friends of Yavapai College Art who are responsible for the art in the garden. Stan Book, a PAIS member and a Friend of Yavapai College Art member described some of the iris and outlined the upcoming Dyke's Medal Winner's Garden that PAIS will be planting this season. Cam Waguespack, also a PAIS member and Friend of Yavapai College Art explained how the Friends help with the sculptures in the garden.

We then moved on to the three gardens on tour: Sharon Phelps, Carolyn Alexander and Diane Clarke. We all have had to battle the thrips and aphids this year so we felt as if blooms were not in tip top shape, but the show went on! As gardeners, we understand that some years are better than others.

The final garden was Linda Rossman's Hummingbird Garden. With over 2300 varieties, there is always something in bloom! Lunch was enjoyed along with her garden.

Thank you to Sharon, Carolyn, and Linda for having their gardens open. And thank you to Ruth DeVries, chair of the Yavapai Sculpture Garden and her helpers David Nicholson and Bonnie Haughton for having the garden in such lovely condition. A unique part of the tour this year was the addition of artists painting in the gardens and we are grateful for their contributions: Barbara Palmer at Sharon's house and Katy Standhart at Carolyn's home.

Diane Clarke



Circus World-  
Photo by Candy Peters



Awesome Alex

### Diane Clarke's Garden



Cruise Control  
Photo by Candy Peters



Photo by Carolyn Alexander

### Carolyn Alexander's Garden



Dodge City Photo by Candy Peters



Ruffled Copper Sunset Photo by Candy Peters



Saddle Up Photo by Ruth DeVries



War Chief

### Sharon Phelp's Garden

Photos by Candy Peters



Tempting Fate



Wonderful World



Matt McNames



Linda Rossman's Gardens Photo by Doris Elevier

## Hummingbird Iris Gardens



Prime Power  
Photo by Candy Peters



Little Crooked Smile  
Photo by Candy Peters



Wild Angel  
Photo by Candy Peters



Brilliant -oriental poppy  
Photo by Doris Elevier

### June 13 Potluck and Awards Meeting

We have a great meeting planned for our June Potluck and Awards Program, Saturday, June 13 at 5:30 PM at the Yavapai Title Company (Gurley & Sheldon). PAIS will furnish the meat (turkey & ham) soft drinks, coffee and dishes. Members will contribute an appetizer, salad, vegetable or dessert.

First we will recognize our beautiful iris winners and their owners with their ribbons and certificates from the Spring Show.

Second, we will have an Iris Exchange. Bring 1 to 3 iris rhizomes with the name & color written on the leaf or attach a paper with the year, hybridizer, name of iris and colors. A photo of iris would be appreciated by all. Let Judy know if you need a photo. We only want named iris to exchange. All 3 rhizomes may be the same or not. The rhizomes do not need to be potted. You will be given the opportunity to draw for 1-3 other rhizomes of your choice to take home. PAIS wants to provide you an opportunity to grow your iris garden without the extra costs. This is one of several ways we are introducing to help you grow your iris garden. You will learn of other plans to grow your iris garden through our Membership Drive to be announced at this meeting which includes bringing a new applicant to the August Rhizome Sale and we will give you and the new member a free rhizome.

We need to limit donations to 3 or less rhizomes in the interest of time constraints. Save the rest of your extra rhizomes for the August Rhizome Sales Events. We will show you more ways to get free rhizomes (credit vouchers) for the August Rhizome Sale through marking your donated rhizomes for the August Rhizome Sale.

Third, a discussion of keeping a log of your irises so you have accurate information will be a topic.

Fourth, many of our Iris Gardens were taken over with thrips this year. We have a hand out on many ways to control thrips and when to watch for signs of thrips laying their eggs.

Volunteer opportunities will be presented so be prepared to sign up for a few hours to help with the Rhizome Sale, Farmer's Market, and Dykes planting. Come early and check out the rhizome choices brought by your fellow members. Carolyn

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## Homegrown Iris Blossoms Win the Throne

By Diane DeHamer, Feature writer, Chino Valley Review, May 12, 2009

"Where flowers bloom, so does hope."- Lady Bird Johnson

Doris Elevier of Chino Valley became hooked on irises at the early age of 7. "I remember it so well. One of our neighbors grew irises and she had a 'Plicata,' which is an iris that is lavender and white with freckles, and I was just awestruck when I saw it," Doris said.

Doris says that because her husband was in the military and they moved a lot, it wasn't until 1978 that she was actually able to start growing her own irises. "I went to an iris show in 1978 and fell in love with all the beautiful irises. One of the growers sold me \$25 worth of rhizomes, and I've been growing them ever since," Doris grinned.

Through the years Doris has had at least 300 named varieties of irises in her yard.

So in 1979 Doris decided to enter her first iris show, and did well. "I took 'Queen of the Show' with an older brown-colored iris named 'Bang,' and that was only the beginning. I went on to take runner-up to my own queen with a dainty little iris named 'Campus Flirt' and ended up taking home four blue ribbons, two second places, and two honorable mentions. I was stunned!" Doris said.

Doris explained that irises not only come in many beautiful colors, but also have different scents. "Some irises have scents similar to cloves, cinnamon, grape and some have a clean smell like sheets coming off the clothes line," she said

"Growing irises is like having Christmas in spring, because that is when all the irises bloom and you have a barrage of colors that takes your breath away," she added.

Since moving to Chino Valley three years ago, Doris has joined the Prescott Area Iris Society Club and is membership chair of the club.

Doris still enjoys every aspect of growing and showing her prize winning irises

"I'm going to try my hand at hybridizing," Doris said. "I definitely am going to enter some of my irises in next years iris show, and who knows, I might walk away with another Best in Show."

Courtesy of the *Chino Valley Review*

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### Auction/Ice Cream Social

By the time July 11 rolls around, it will be feeling like the dog days of summer, but we have the perfect way for you to cool off, purchase recently introduced iris and enjoy the company of fellow irisarians. Carolyn Alexander is hosting the Silent Auction/Ice Cream social beginning at 2:00 p.m. This annual auction benefits Region 15 and helps the clubs of the region put on the Spring and Fall Treks. After the Spring Trek, the club that hosted the Trek, digs the iris they received from the hybridizers and ships them out to the region clubs to be auctioned at very reasonable prices. We are talking 2006-09 iris introductions which retail from \$14 - \$50.

To sweeten the deal, homemade ice cream, root beer floats and special toppings will be served so start your diet now so you can throw caution to the wind and partake of these delicious treats.

### AIS Photo Contest

The American Iris Society has been sponsoring a photo contest for the past three years and the contest is open to anyone who has taken photographs of iris. Winners from past years can be viewed here:

<http://www.irisphotocontest.org> .

Our club members have not participated in his event and it is time for us in the far west to step up to the plate and show our stuff.

The rules and an entry form are on page 8. Have fun and good luck.

**Winner: "If only we could take them with us!"**

Patricia N. McNeal



## he American Iris Society

### 2009 Photo Contest

AIS invites you again to participate in our annual Photo Contest. This contest is open to everyone and is free to enter, except that Judges and the contest chairperson are not eligible to enter or win. The winning photo of each category will be published in the AIS Bulletin and on the AIS web site. Prior year's winners and honorable mentions can be viewed at <http://www.irisphotocontest.org>. **The 2009 winner of each category will receive a 2009 introduction from The Greater Kansas City Iris Society (AIS Convention host).** The winner of each category will also receive a single annual membership or annual membership extension to AIS. Winners who are AIS life members will receive an annual membership in an AIS Section of their choice. Runner ups of each category will receive a 2007-2008 introduction.

#### How to Enter:

Simply fill out the entry form and send it with your photos to AIS at the address below. You may submit up to five photos in one contest. The deadline for submissions to the 2009 Photo Contest is **June 30, 2009**.

Irises in photos should be of the genus Iris. Entries will be selected and judged in seven (7) categories:

1. Irises used in a landscaped garden.
2. Irises in a field or home garden.
3. Events, tours, a person or people (at iris location), shows.
4. Close up of an iris or irises.
5. Iris photos with art effects, macro photos of bloom segments.
6. Photos of pets, wildlife or garden art in the irises.
7. Any category taken by a youth photographer (under 19).

Please do not send any photo smaller than 4 x 6 inches, nor larger than 5 1/2 x 8 1/2 (half page) The ideal size is 5 x 7. If you are using a digital camera, it is suggested that you take your photos in 360dpi or higher resolution, and we ask that you print and submit your photos on photo paper. Please avoid writing or labeling on the back of the photo, unless to identify a variety or person in the photo.

A panel of three judges will judge photos received and their decisions will be final. At the discretion of the judges, photos not selected in the current contest may be held for further consideration in future contests. Please provide AIS with a self-addressed stamped envelope if you want the photos returned. Photos will otherwise not be returned and may be destroyed when not selected.

Where to send your photos and entry:

**The American Iris Society Photo Contest, c/o Kitty Loberg, 1900 Mountain View Lane, Redwood Valley, Calif. 95470, Send inquiries to [iris.loberg@comcast.net](mailto:iris.loberg@comcast.net).**

#### Entry Form:

Photo caption name(s) and names of persons in photos, if any (for reference purposes)

#1 \_\_\_\_\_

#2 \_\_\_\_\_

#3 \_\_\_\_\_

#4 \_\_\_\_\_

#5 \_\_\_\_\_

Youth: If this is a youth entry, please tell us your age: \_\_\_\_\_

I am the person who took the photograph(s) enclosed, and I have not assigned any of my rights associated with these photographs to any third party. By entering the photo contest I am hereby authorizing The American Iris Society a royalty free, non-exclusive right to use winning photograph(s) and photograph(s) worthy of honorable mention in publications, in brochures, and calendars, on the Internet, and for other promotional uses.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone\_(\_\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_

(Receipt of photos will be acknowledged by email. Please provide a SASE if you want a receipt by mail.)