



# PRESCOTT AREA IRIS SOCIETY

## July 2010

Volume 7, Issue 5

### President's Message

I'll bet you are as busy as I am cleaning out old iris beds, transferring irises to different locations, making new iris beds and getting ready for shipments of irises ordered or the ones you are going to buy at the Silent Auction of PAIS Sales. It's healthy to work outside, it's fun but it's also exhausting. I have a new bed called "Pretty In Pink" and I've ordered more pink irises than will fit in the bed I'm afraid.

Here's a list of things you may need to be doing this month:

- \* Break off all spent bloom stalks.
- \* Give your iris a feeding of neutral fertilizer, either granular or foliar such as 10-10-10.
- \* Any 'mystery' iris that were not true to name can be dug and given to someone who doesn't care about named irises.
- \* Growers are offering discounts up to 50% for last minute orders. Schreiners has a long list of discounted irises.
- \* Plan what your new beds will look like.
- \* Make a list of iris clumps you will dig and donate to the club. Send the list to me. If you need help with information or photos let me know. Please do this ASAP.
- \* Watch for sales on potting soils, fertilizers and topsoil. For maximum bloom replenish soil every 2 years in iris beds.
- \* Lookout for decorative additions to your garden. I just bought some 50% off sale items after 4<sup>th</sup> of July for my new "Liberty" red, white & blue iris garden.
- \* Keep your beds weed-free and be on the lookout for grasshoppers, aphids, & thrips.

My first iris shipment has arrived from Napa Valley but most shipments have been delayed about 2 weeks because of bad weather this spring. I've heard from Aitken, Cooleys, Suttons & Mid-America Gardens all saying they will try to meet our July 17<sup>th</sup> deadline for delivering your FREE Newly Issued Rhizome. When I placed the orders for rhizomes I wrote to them to explain that our club was buying these irises for our active members and they were all impressed and have been communicating by email or phone trying to make it happen for you.

It will soon be time for you to take a break and come enjoy the afternoon with other iris lover's at our second annual ice cream social and silent auction. The Region 15 rhizomes arrived by UPS from Tucson today and I will make sure they stay in a cool place until you arrive to bid on the ones you want. See page 4 for the list of irises available and a link to the photos on the Region 15 web site.

So far we only received advanced photos by email from one member, Patrick Beatty regarding irises he will be digging for our rhizome sale. Thank You Patrick; your photos will be at the marking party to match to your irises. It is not too late to send me your photos. We will need to follow the prior years procedures by having you attach one photo to the sack with the rhizomes and bring it to the marking party. See page 2 for instructions..

See you soon; I can't wait to have a PARTY.

Carolyn

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**July 10 Moonlight Madness**  
See below

**July 17 Iris Auction/Ice Cream Social**  
Alexander residence

July 24 Marking Party

July 31 Prescott Rhizome Sale

August 1 Yarnell Sale

August 7 Chino Valley Sale

October 2 Fall Trek  
Huntington Gardens, San Marino, CA

**Monsoon Madness Plant Sale**  
7:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Yavapai County Master Gardener's annual sale of plants, garden tools, pots & books. Entertainment, knife sharpening & expert advice offered.

**Prescott Rodeo Grounds**  
840 Rodeo Drive



\* ICE CREAM SOCIAL

\* IRIS AUCTION

\* PHOTO CONTEST

SATURDAY, JULY 17

DETAILS ON PAGE 4

# Marking Party – July 24

## Steps to Prepare Rhizomes for the Sales

1. Normally dig and divide the clump within 10 days of the sale for a fresh look. Don't start to dig prior to July 21 to keep rhizomes looking good for end of July sales. Choose only named varieties. They should be healthy showing no signs of disease or insect damage. It is important that the rhizomes be large enough to have the potential of blooming next year.
2. Clip leaves to about 6-inches long and into a fan shape (inverted V). Cut roots to 3 inches.
3. On the middle leaf print the required information with a black permanent marker (Sharpie). (The information to be marked on the leaves is described below.) Avoid printing on the outside leaf since it is the first to turn brown.
4. After marking, wash all residual dirt from the rhizomes, roots and leaves. Swashing up and down in a 5-gal bucket of water is recommended. It is important to have clean plants.
5. Some people then like to soak the rhizomes for 10 to 15 minutes in a bleach solution of 1/2-cup bleach to 1-gal water. If you do this, wear rubber gloves to protect your skin. Afterwards, it is necessary to rinse the irises well in clear water.
6. Let the rhizomes dry completely outside in the shade. Laying out the fans and turning once works well.
7. Store with the fans spread out in a cool, dry place. If the rhizomes are placed in a paper bag or box, the fans should be placed down and the roots up (up-side down) to avoid trapping moisture between the leaves. Never store in plastic bag as it holds moisture and can rot the rhizome.

## Marking Rhizomes

To help both the buyers and the sale workers, please mark the middle leaf of the irises as follows:

Rub off the white, waxy coating on the leaf with a paper towel or soft cloth before writing on the leaf.

**For all irises, write the name, year and color.**

For other than tall bearded, write the type: MDB, SDB, IB, BB, MTB, etc.

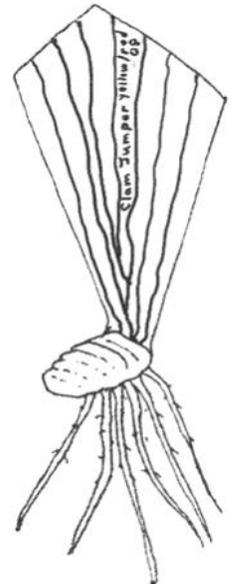
Indicate space age (SA), reblooming (RE) or broken color (BC) irises.

For irises with a particularly nice fragrance mark FRAG.

Write the year the variety was introduced, if known.

## Paper Bag

Put rhizomes of a single variety in a separate box or paper grocery bag, one bag for each variety (no plastic bags). Then attach a colored photo of the iris to the outside of the bag writing the variety, color, date introduced, name of hybridizer and iris type on the back of the photo: MTB, SDB, etc. If you sent your photo by email to Carolyn earlier you do not need to do this as your laminated photo with all the information will be waiting to be matched to the rhizome at the marking party. Also indicate if the iris is a rebloomer or space age. If you have internet ability you can look up your iris name in a goggle search like so: bearded iris 'golden panther'. If you put quotation marks around the name it will search for that specific name. Most of the time, a Google search sends you to [www.Daves Garden.com](http://www.Daves Garden.com), which has one of the largest databases for details on irises.



If you do not have the ability to look up all the data and do not know some of the items write down what you know and someone at the marking party will look up the missing information.

## Delivering Irises

Make arrangements to deliver rhizomes to Cam & Ray Waguespack (Sharlot Hall Sales Chairpersons) before the marking party on July 24 or bring them with you if you are attending the marking party. Cam & Ray's phone number 776-8660, email [rayw@cablone.net](mailto:rayw@cablone.net) and address 3066 Rainbow Ridge Dr. Prescott 86303.

Other delivery options: Stan & Judy Book in southwest Prescott, [jbook@cablone.net](mailto:jbook@cablone.net), 776-7217. If you are in Chino Valley area contact Doris Elevier at [doris1434@cablone.net](mailto:doris1434@cablone.net) or 710-4739. If you are in Verde Valley area we will be at Nancy's Floyd's the morning of July 26 for drop off. Cookie Best in Sedona will also be accepting rhizomes, 928-282-5970.

**If you cannot attend the marking party, please clean, trim and mark all irises as indicated above.**

# CRUNCH TIME

Its nearly here; the time when PAIS earns enough dollars to keep our club running smoothly and still have money left over to buy newly issued rhizomes for its active club members in 2011 who worked in 2010 at selling activities.

## Preparing rhizomes

Now is the time to step up and volunteer to help. We need everyone in one or more activities. If you are donating iris rhizomes see page 2 for detailed instruction on how to prepare your rhizomes.

Our marking party is scheduled at Cam & Ray Waguespack's home on Saturday, July 24<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM. We had a lot of fun last year while we were working. No experience is required and if you are new to the club this is an opportunity for you to learn a lot about preparing irises to be put back into the ground or in this case sold. You also will get first opportunity to buy the rhizomes of your choice before they go out to the public. Cam has offered to fix us a lunch so we can keep on working without starving. See directions below. PLEASE RSVP to [rayw@cableone.net](mailto:rayw@cableone.net), 776-8660, if you plan to attend.

## Directions to Cam & Ray's home

*Bring scissors, clippers and your enthusiasm*

Cam and Ray live at 3066 Rainbow Ridge, Prescott, in the Ranch. Take Hwy. 69 to Lee Blvd which is just east of the mall. Turn South on Lee Blvd. Stay on Lee Blvd. for about one mile until you come to the first STOP sign. Turn left at stop sign onto Rainbow Ridge. Go through an intersection and continue up Rainbow Ridge to the second house on the left past the intersection. This is about 1/4 mile from Lee Blvd. For more information: Cam 776-8660

## Digging Party

Monday, July 26 at 7 AM we will be digging, dividing, marking rhizomes on 1/3 of an acre at Nancy Floyd's home in Verde Valley. We have 8 volunteers but could always use more. Contact: Carolyn Alexander at [artwest@cableone.net](mailto:artwest@cableone.net) or 778-1551 if you wish to help. Car pool arrangements can be made.

## Sales

Volunteers are needed for each of our 3 selling opportunities. If you wish to help at one of these locations please contact the appropriate chairperson below. Please sign up as we need you!! Check with the chairperson as to what time they will want you there for whatever job you will be assigned. The hours listed below are open hours for the public and members to purchase rhizomes.

✂ Sharlot Hall Museum – Saturday, July 31 – contact Cam Waguespack at [rayw@cableone.net](mailto:rayw@cableone.net) or 776-8660

Open to public - 9-12:30 at 415 W. Gurley, Prescott

✂ Yarnell – Sunday, August 1 – Contact Roger Osgood at [rogerosgood2005@yahoo.com](mailto:rogerosgood2005@yahoo.com) or 928-442-2498

Open to public – 10-2PM at Dan Schroeder's garden

✂ Chino Valley – Saturday, August 7 – Contact Doris Elevier at [doris1434@cableone.net](mailto:doris1434@cableone.net) or 710-4739

Open to public -10-2PM at Growin' Crazy Nursery – 3440 N. Hwy. 89, Chino Valley

There are no plans to have a booth at Farmers Market in Prescott this year. After a few weeks out of the ground the rhizomes start looking poorly so we have tried to put all our sales close together this year. If you are digging please try not to dig before July 20 and keep the rhizomes out of the sun, in a cool place.

## Iris Society Contacts

Carolyn Alexander, President, 778-1551 [artwest@cableone.net](mailto:artwest@cableone.net)  
Roger Osgood, Vice President, 442-2498 [rogerosgood2005@yahoo.com](mailto:rogerosgood2005@yahoo.com)  
Claude Baker, Treasurer 445-9611 [cvb@commspeed.net](mailto:cvb@commspeed.net)  
Coleen Scott, Secretary 708-0414 [coleen@cableone.net](mailto:coleen@cableone.net)  
Doris Elevier, Membership 636-9610 [doris1434@cableone.net](mailto:doris1434@cableone.net)  
Judy Book, Director/Newsletter Editor 776-7217 [jbook@cableone.net](mailto:jbook@cableone.net)

## Garden Items Needed

Do you have potted plants, unwanted decorative planters, plant stands or other gardening items? Bring them to the marking party so we can price them for our sale.

## July 17 Iris Auction

The irises listed below will be auctioned July 17. Pictures of these iris are available on the [Region 15 web site:](http://www.region15ais.org/media/2010_auction_iris/)  
[http://www.region15ais.org/media/2010\\_auction\\_iris/](http://www.region15ais.org/media/2010_auction_iris/)

ABSOLUTE TREASURE	LEMON FRAPPACINO
ADRIATIC WAVES	LEST WE FORGET (RE)
ALEUTIAN ISLAND	LIKE A RAINBOW
ALL NIGHT LONG	LIKE THE WIND
ARCTIC BURST	LOOKY LOO
BE GOOD TO ME	MAIN STREET
BIRTHDAY CHEER	MONSOON MOON
BIRTHDAY MAGIC	MY GENERATION
BLACK MAGIC WOMAN	NEW ENCORE (MTB)(2)
CALABASH	NONE SURPASSED
CARRY ME AWAY	NOUVEAU RICHE
CELESTIAL EXPLOSION	ORANGE KING
CHEYENNE SKY	PACIFIC DEPTHS
CLAIM JUMPER	RAGING RIVER
CLOUDS AND SKY (2)	RENEGADE LADY
COME GO WITH ME (2)	RITZY
DAKOTA SMOKE	SECRET WORLD
DOUBLE RINGER	SHADOWS OF NIGHT
EASTER WONDER	STRUCK TWICE (RE)
EASY BEING GREEN	SUGAR IN THE MORN- ING
FINISH LINE	SUNSHINE ON MY SHOULDERS
FOLLOW THAT DREAM	TAYBERRY
GO FOR GOLD	TEENYBOPPER
GOING DUTCH	TESTAMENT
GOOD AS IT GETS	UPLIFTING
GRAND CLASSIC	WHITE HOT
HAWAIIAN RAIN	WIAMEA CANYON
HIGH OCTANE	SUNRISE
HOLLYWOOD NIGHTS	ZAK
ICELANDIC SEA	
INDIGO SEAS	
JANE TROUTMAN (2)	
KATHY CHILTON	

## Fall Trek

The next Region 15 event is the Fall Trek which will be held October 2 at the Huntington Gardens in San Marino, California. If you have never been to the Huntington, this would be a great time for a visit. See the Fall Trek registration form in this newsletter.

A little background from the garden's website:

In 1903 Henry Huntington purchased the San Marino Ranch, a working ranch with citrus groves, nut and fruit orchards, alfalfa crops, a small herd of cows, and poultry. His superintendent, William Hertrich, was instrumental in developing the various plant collections that comprise the foundation of the botanical gardens. The property—originally nearly 600 acres—today covers 207 acres, of which approximately 120 are landscaped and open to visitors. More than 14,000 different varieties of plants are showcased in more than a dozen principal garden areas. Forty gardeners, a curatorial staff of seven, and more than 100 volunteers maintain the botanical collections, provide interpretive programs for visitors, and propagate plants for special sales.

<http://www.huntington.org/huntingtonlibrary.aspx?id=210&linkidentifier=id&itemid=210>

## Welcome New Member

Barbara Mclandress

## July-August Birthdays

Diane Clarke

Nancy Floyd

Russell Hull

Jane McGraw

Sharon Phelps

Valerie Phipps

Coleen Scott

Michelle Snyder

Audrey Velonis



## ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Iris photo contest, silent auction of Spring Trek irises and an ice cream social are all rolled into one Big party for our members and their guests.

**When: Saturday, July 17**

**Time: 1-4 PM**

**Where: Carolyn & Adrian Alexander's home  
2555 W. Green Brier Drive, Prescott**

From Prescott go north on Williamson Valley Road 5 miles past Pioneer Parkway to Granite Oaks. Turn right on Bard Ranch Road. At the stop sign turn left on Granite Oaks Road and in one block, turn right on Green Brier. The house is on the right behind a green wrought iron fence. Gate will be open.

**RSVP: (928) 778-1551 [artwest@cableone.net](mailto:artwest@cableone.net)**

**Food: ICE CREAM and drinks – furnished by PAIS**

**Welcome: Volunteers to bring cookies**

This is an opportunity to bid on some fairly new rhizomes that were growing the past 2 years in Tucson for the 2010's Spring Trek. Region 15 (Arizona and Southern California territory) obtains newly introduced rhizomes from commercial hybridizers two years in advance of the Spring Trek and gives them to the club that then grows them for the Spring Trek. After the Spring Trek they are dug up and distributed to the various clubs in our region to be auctioned off with the proceeds going to support Region 15. It's a great way for you to get rhizomes from 'Hybridizer's Special Picked Irises' at a discounted price of whatever the silent bid will bring.

Bring your friends and get them to join PAIS that day and we will give both you and the new member a '\$10 Cash Card' that you can redeem at any of our summer rhizome sales. Or redeem that day, if you like one of the 1 gallon cans of newly planted, named irises that Carolyn has available.

This event is all about having good treats and good times.



Calabash Sutton 08



Nouveau Riche Keppel '08

Even if your spouse doesn't usually attend our meetings, bring him or her along to this event as it is all about socializing with other great iris lovers and eating a scrumptious ice cream sundae, cone or even a root beer float.

### Photo Contest at July Ice Cream Social

Bring one or more of your own personal photos of iris or an iris landscape and you might win a prize of a special potted, named iris (several are 2009 irises) or a print of your choice from Harold Able's professional iris photos.

The contest photo must be taken by a PAIS member but does not have to be from their garden. It might be a photo taken while on an iris garden tour. Keep the size down to 8 X 10 or smaller. You may use Photoshop to enhance your photo.

You select which of the 4 categories to enter your photo in. You may enter more than one category.

- \* Iris Landscape/habitat
- \* Individual iris flower (bearded iris)
- \* Artistic (closeup of iris or Photoshop enhancement)
- \* Something else (non-bearded iris)

Winners will be by People's Choice. Everyone will get to vote for their favorite in each of the 4 categories.

### Iris Trivia

- \* The purple iris is the state flower of Tennessee
- \* Contemporary uses of the fleur-de-lis are the flag of Quebec, the logo of the New Orleans Saints and on the flag of St. Louis, Missouri.
- \* In ancient Egypt, the iris symbolized rebirth. After the overthrow of Syria, where irises bloomed in abundance, Egyptian King Thutmose III immortalized these exotic flowers in temple sculptures, gardens and drawings found in palaces.
- \* In the language of flowers the iris represent-Faith, Wisdom, Promise in Love, Hope, Wisdom & Valor .

### PLANT MARKERS

Plant markers will be available for sale  
at the July 17 Auction.

Members price—25@\$8.00

**What a Deal!!**

## **Why Plant a \$50 Iris in a 10 Cent Hole?**

Linda Rossman

### **Preparing the planting hole when digging and dividing your rhizomes**

You can dig your irises anytime from now to the last week in August. If you are planting your irises closer than 18" apart, make your holes at least 12 to 14 inches around, but remember you'll have to divide more often than every three years. I recommend digging a hole the size of a tire rim, remove the dirt and the rocks. Rock removal is easily accomplished with a box screen made of hardware cloth (wire mesh). I then mix the dirt with 50% forest compost. Place the mixture back into your hole and fill hole with water; this will settle all air pockets. In the next day or so when you can pack the soil down without getting muddy then you can plant your irises. Remember not to plant if your soil is still real muddy, your iris will settle lower than you want them to. You should be able to pick up the soil and have it fall through your hands. Moist but not soggy!! If you must, you can add to the prepared hole a tablespoon of bone meal, and a tablespoon of cottonseed meal, mix well with the soil. Do not use any more than that. After I plant, I'll use a mixture of Monty's joy juice and molasses, water well and then keep the iris moist but not soggy. Repeat fertilizer/molasses every 2 weeks. I use 3-4 TBS. molasses to a gallon of water. Follow the manufacturer's directions for adding the liquid fertilizer. Spring is the preferred time to add bone meal and only a small amount per plant. Scratch it into your soil, water well and do not get any on your rhizome.

### **Potting iris from the auction, rhizome sale or rhizomes received through the mail**

- \* It is best to pot your iris in one or two gallon pots first, that way you'll be able to keep your iris moist and can check on how much water they are getting. I use fifty percent natural soil and fifty percent forest blend compost. Stay away from compost that has cow and or chicken manure in it. Compost with horse manure is okay. Good compost is essential to starting root development. Get the irises off to a good start with three to four tablespoons of unsulphured molasses to one gallon of water plus a liquid plant food with 2-15-15 or 8-16-8. Remember your irises need to get a good root system started before the first frost. Now you are ready to prepare your planting beds. It takes around three weeks for your iris to develop roots. By using pots you not only save water, but you can use less of your compost mixture. Once fans start to appear, your iris are ready to be transplanted into the prepared beds.
- \* If you get your irises dug and don't have time to replant them immediately, you can pot them until you are ready to plant. Remember to harden them off first. Hardening them off means that after you dig them, wash the dirt off the roots, mark them, trim them, set them in a cool place for three to five days. Once you dig your irises up the roots die, so don't think you can save them. They will need to dry.
- \* Linda is selling Monty's Joy Juice and Monty's growth formula (8-16-8), and root and bloom (2-15-15). They are available in 8 and 16 ounce bottles. (777-8110)

(Ed Note: When digging an iris clump that does not need dividing, but just transplanting, if you keep the dirt ball on the roots, you may be able to plant them immediately in the newly refurbished soil without trimming the leaves or the roots. Be sure to water well.)