



# PRESCOTT AREA IRIS SOCIETY

June 2010

Volume 7, Issue 4

## President's Message

Wow! What a turn out for our second annual AIS sanctioned Iris Show! Thanks to all for bringing your irises and participating in the event. A special thank you to Roger for being a terrific, organized Show Chairman and Judy for her invaluable knowledge and assistance on the show committee and on the day's activities helping members get their entry tags done on time.

In spite of many obstacles we pulled off a great show without the public being really aware of our plight with frozen irises, rotting rhizomes from too many rainy days, wind and thrips infestation. We would like to blame all of our brown, dead iris buds on the late freezing nights of April but some experts advised that many were doomed because of the thrips infestation we had in Prescott. Whatever was the reason for less than perfect irises or even in some cases no flowers at all, we managed to gather enough irises to accomplish what we set out to do; show the public how beautiful and varied irises can be and to educate them on the types and care of irises.

Just a reminder that it will soon be time for our rhizome sales and we are looking forward to having our photos laminated to show off the iris flower for the customer to see it's beauty. Take just a few minutes to walk your garden and write down the names of clumps that are too crowded and need to be divided. We need photos in advance of the marking party for us to record the name, year and hybridizer on the photo and Roger will laminate them. It may be a little more difficult than expected due to the many irises which may not bloom this year at all. If you have digital photos from previous years that would be ok too. Just email any photos of iris you are planning to donate to PAIS at [artwest@cableone.net](mailto:artwest@cableone.net) so we can get to work on them now. If you have no photo, give me the name, year and hybridizer and I'll look it up on the net. This needs to be done early so we have time to get the photos recorded with the information and laminated. Please don't wait until the last minute.

A special thanks goes to our Prescott garden hosts: Bonnie, Vera, Audrey, Victor and Linda for all their hard work preparing and sharing the beauty of their gardens with club members and to artists Katy Standhart, Barbara Palmer and Linda Umphrey. We also appreciated the hospitality of Dan in Yarnell and Nancy, Cookie and Marge in the Verde Valley area.

Carolyn Alexander

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 12—Alta Vista Garden Tour

July 17 Iris Auction/Ice Cream Social  
Alexander residence

July 24 Marking Party

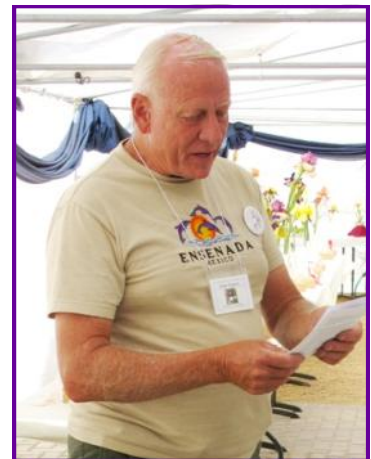
July 31 Prescott Rhizome Sale

August 1 Yarnell Sale

August 7 Chino Valley Sale

October 2 Fall Trek  
Huntington Gardens, San Marino, CA

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held at *Yavapai Title*, 1235 E. Gurley, Prescott, Gurley at Sheldon intersection



Roger announcing winners  
Doris—cashier



**Ice Cream Social, Iris Auction & Photo Contest**  
**Save the Date Saturday, July 17**  
**Details on page 4**



## Iris Impressions

Our 2010 Iris Impressions show is now behind us and it is time to recognize all the hard working volunteers who “made things happen”.

Starting in January, the Board of Directors selects a theme and submits the proposal to the national society. Once they approve our show, the real work starts in earnest. We order our ribbons and rosettes and start selecting club members who will take charge of various tasks.

Many thanks to Judy Book and Audrey Velonis for working so hard on Publicity! They were responsible for printing all our show materials and getting advertising out into the community. Doris Elevier and Cookie Best took charge of the Promotions and Sales table during the show. Steven Ginter and Judy Book worked to sign in the participants. Patrick Beatty, Cam and Ray Waguespack helped with staging the iris and then our show clerks joined with the judges to award the ribbons. Vera Stewart, Linda Rossman, Sharon Phelps and Cam and Ray Waguespack were our show clerks this year. Thanks also to our greeters, set up and clean up crews: David Nicholson, Sharon Phelps, Carolyn Alexander, Diane Clarke, Sandy Kelleher, June Britton, Bonnie Haughton, Nola Mertz and Coleen Scott.



*Best Tall Bearded  
Carolyn Alexander  
Codicil Innerst '85*



*Best Space Age: Carolyn Alexander  
Frosted Fantasy Cadd '01  
Best Specimen of Show*



*Best Aril/ Aril bred  
Linda Rossman  
Oyez White '38 AB  
Dorothy Morris Award*



*Best Median: Linda Rossman  
Delirium Smith, M. '01 IB*



*Charles Maxwell Award: Lee Morris  
Celebration Song Schreiner, R. '93*



*Best Seedling: Doris Elevier  
LD2008a*



*Best Design of Show Section A: Diane Clarke  
Butter Pecan Hager '83  
Artistic Design Sweepstakes*



*Best Design of Show Section B  
Kishy Rowney  
Betty McPherson Rice '01*



*People's Choice: Iris Stalk  
Lee Morris  
Secretary Johnson, T. '06*



*People's Choice: Arrangement  
Vera Stewart  
Congratulations Keppel '83*

Division 1, Horticultural gave us the following winners:

- Tall Bearded-*Codicil*-Carolyn Alexander.
- Space Age-*Frosted Fantasy*-Carolyn Alexander
- Aril/Aril bred-*Oyez*-Linda Rossman
- Median-*Delirium*-Linda Rossman
- Best Specimen of Show-*Frosted Fantasy*-Carolyn Alexander
- Horticultural Sweepstakes –Linda Rossman
- Dorothy Morris Award-*Oyez*-Linda Rossman
- Charles Maxwell Award-*Celebration Song*-Lee Morris
- Doris Elevier won for her seedling (numbered LD2008a)

Division V, Artistic Design winners:

- Best Design of Show- Section A- Diane Clarke for her *Butter Pecan* arrangement
- Best Design of Show-Section B- Kishy Rowney– *Betty McPherson* arrangement
- Artistic Sweepstakes- Diane Clarke

Our People's Choice ballot box collected over 250 votes for the most popular iris.

A gift certificate went to Lee Morris for his iris *Secretary*.

A gift certificate also went to Vera Stewart for her *Flags* floral arrangement.

*Continued page 4*



As show chairman, I want to thank each and every volunteer who worked so hard along side me to make our show a success. Our special thanks to Valerie Phipps and the folks at Mortimer Nursery who take a special interest in our show, accommodate our every need and provide the space and tents to show off our stalks.

Last but not least, we thank our 8 judges who share their love of the iris and help educate us with each and every show: Gerry Snyder, Marge Larson, Ardi Kary, Patrick Orr, Jack Weber, Elaine Gunderson, Nancy Goodrich, Phyllis Moss.

Cordially, Roger Osgood, Vice President

### Ice Cream Social

Last year we had a lot of fun and took away some newly coveted rhizomes from Phoenix's Spring Trek at the Alexander's Ice Cream Social. In fact it was so popular we decided to do it again. Here's the information for our second annual ice cream social:

**When: Saturday, July 17**

**Time: 1-4 PM**

**Where: Carolyn & Adrian Alexander's home**

**2555 W. Green Brier Drive**

**Prescott, AZ 86305**

**Phone (928) 778-1551 Please RSVP by July 12**

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

**Your contribution: Volunteer to bring cookies**

This is an opportunity for members only to bid on some fairly new rhizomes that were growing the past 2 years in Tucson for the 2010 Spring Trek. Region 15 (Arizona and Southern California) obtains newly released rhizomes from commercial hybridizers two years in ad-



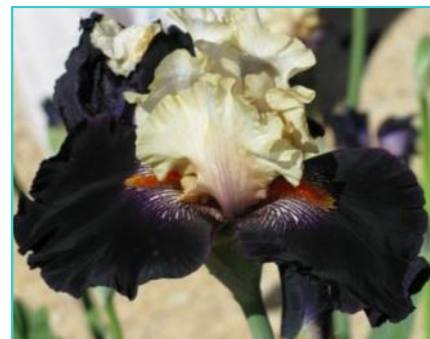
My Generation Lauer 09

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.

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



Main Street Lauer '09

*Ed. Note: These photos are illustrative of the quality of iris that will be sent to our club but may not be the iris we receive.*

#### Photo Contest at July Ice Cream Social

It's springtime and we are waking up to a new blossom almost every morning! If you're like most of us, you tear out of the back door each morning, camera in hand, to photograph that fresh new blossom and capture its beauty on the camera memory and media cards forever. The next step is hurriedly downloading those pictures and forwarding them to friends and club members.

But wait, have you thought of picking out your very best snapshots and bringing them to the July 17th ice cream social? That's what a portion of this meeting will be: a photo contest. The nice part of it is that you'll be sharing the beauty from your garden with your fellow members. There will be prizes and recognition for all if nothing more than to say that you took part in the activities.

There will be 4 categories as follows:

- \* Landscape/habitat
- \* Individual iris flower
- \* Artistic
- \* Other

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

## Gardening in Chino Valley—Doris Elevier

This has been a truly tough season for our Iris. Between a very cold, long winter and a miserable spring, they have fought an uphill battle. I've lost many plants and some of those that survived are stunted and misshapen. Much to my surprise, many survivors are now blooming, albeit late. While stunted, the blooms are lovely. As soon as the bloom season is over, I'm redoing all my beds. (See Doris's photos in the adjoining column.)

Gardening of any kind in our area requires an entirely new way of doing things. My soil is about as dead as a doornail and needs a great deal of help in order to produce. Between compost, horse manure, peat moss and various organic fertilizers such as fish emulsion I've managed to produce tomatoes and corn among other vegetables. But it always feels like a "hit or miss" endeavor for me! It certainly isn't like gardening in Arkansas!

And then there's WATERING. I've just discovered the quarter inch plastic "hose" with precut emitters every six or twelve inches. So far it appears to be working for me. It puts the water where it's needed with minimum pressure. It works great for row crops like lettuce, etc

What I normally do during this time, June-July isn't what I'm doing this year. Because of the unusual winter and the strange spring, my TB's are just NOW blooming. As soon as the bloom period is over, I'll evaluate the Iris as to which I choose to keep. The weak and failure to thrive plants get dumped to make room for those that are more adaptable. I also cull those that don't meet my standards or that I just don't like. There are so many lovely, strong iris to take their place.

This year I'm completely redoing my beds. New beds will be tilled and enriched with peat moss and bone meal. New drip lines without emitters will be introduced. They don't seem to plug up as easily.

Aside from the above, there's not much more that I do. Check for aphids and make SURE the iris are being watered adequately during this root building period.

*Ed. Note: Fertilize again after the bloom is done, cut bloom stalks off and continue to keep ahead of the weeds.*



Alabaster Unicorn Sutton '96



Stairway to Heaven Lauer '93



Mesmerizer Byers '91

## Iris Society Contacts

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

## Alta Vista Garden Tour June 12

Celebrate National Garden Week by attending the Prescott Garden Tour on Saturday, June 12, 2010. For your pleasure and inspiration this self-guided tour features six private, distinctive gardens open from 8 AM until 4 PM. Limited numbers of tickets for a \$10 donation are available by contacting Cathy at 928-541-9341 or [caasam@cableone.net](mailto:caasam@cableone.net).



## Welcome New Members

Sue Crabtree                      Linda Hoyt  
Linda Coppola                     Carol Thomas



## June/July Birthdays

Diane Clarke  
Sue Crabtree  
Jane McGraw  
Sharon Phelps  
Valerie Phipps  
Gerry Snyder  
Audrey Velonis

## Show Preparation

Our recent iris show required many hours of pre-planning and preparation in order to make things run smoothly. One of the critical elements was matching a water tube and base that would hold the flower stalk. Somewhere in the past, our society inherited 112 wooden bases, but it was discovered during the 2009 show that many tubes did not fit because the bases had been drilled incorrectly.

Thanks to my Wilhoit neighbor, Pablo Morales, all the old wooden bases were re-drilled to accommodate the water tubes. Fearful that we may not have enough for this year's show, he also made 55 new bases for us.

He went into the forest and found a large, fallen tree, which he cut down into one plank. That plank was cut into cubes, which he then beveled and drilled to accept a tube. He did all of this work for us and only charged \$2 per unit.

Many thanks go to Mr. Morales for his kindness and assistance to our Prescott Area Iris Society. By the way, he and his wife Angela are lovers of iris. I'll be sure to share a re-blooming rhizome with them, when it is time to dig next year. .... Roger Osgood

*Ed note: Roger spent untold hours sanding and painting the old and new bases prior to the show.*

## PAIS Garden at YCC Sculpture Garden

Our irises appear to have suffered from our unusually cold, icy, windy winter weather witnessed by the lateness in blooming, freeze burns, sparse blooms and unusually short stems on some of the TB's, despite the loving care of Sharon Phelps, Patrick Beatty and myself.

Both Monty's liquid fertilizer and Bayer Advanced systemic insect disease and mite control were applied to all the beds several times. We will continue using these products through the blooming period.

The same routine on my own irises have produced magnificent blooms, albeit very late blooms which are starting now.

I was pleased to guide a group of 16 ladies through the PAIS garden on the second Tuesday of May. Although the blooms were sparse, their beauty was enjoyed by all. We continued the tour with a visit to Linda Rossman's Hummingbird garden nursery where we all were "blown away" by the beauty of the site and her outstanding blooms.

Several beds at the Sculpture Garden are in need of re-working. There are 2 or 3 beds where most of the rhizomes have perished, so I will be asking for assistance with re-planting those areas in early August. There will be a need for more volunteers in June and July since I have foot surgery scheduled for early June and will be out of commission for 4 to 6 weeks. Please call me at 776-8660 if you are available to help.

Cam Waguespack

*Ed. Note: These iris are new additions to the garden. The photo on the right is incorrectly identified as Laugh Lines. If you recognize this iris, please email [jbook@cablone.net](mailto:jbook@cablone.net) so we can label it correctly.*

God's Handiwork Ghio '91



Sarah Taylor SDB Taylor '79

