



PRESCOTT AREA IRIS SOCIETY

April 2011

Volume 8, Issue 3

President's Message

It is hard to believe that Mother Nature would pick our meeting dates twice in a row to bring us snowy conditions, but it did. I think we could have had our April 9th meeting as there was a break in the storm in the afternoon and then returning snow in the evening. I didn't want to take a chance after everyone struggled to get home from the snowy February meeting, so it was decided to cancel. I know many of you wanted to come and I had everything ready for a great meeting including another chance to play BINGO this time using Dykes Medal Iris Names. It will be saved to use at our September meeting.

We had plans to talk about this year's Spring Iris Exhibit which is a little different than the past two years AIS Iris Shows. This year there will be no judges nor AIS ribbons. It was voted by the members at our November 2010 meeting since there was no volunteer to chair the show and complete the necessary paperwork that must be done in January to qualify the show that we would have a simpler show with only People's Choice Awards.

We would still like you to use the same grooming techniques and search for the queen iris in your yard to bring. Much of the public won't know about grooming the iris stalk and will pick the one they like based solely on color. Bring as many irises as you like because everyone has a different idea of what is the prettiest iris. We are going to help you learn how to groom your stalk this year so when we return to an AIS Show with AIS judges, you will know how to do this to win the Best of Show. Linda Rossman and myself have plans to not enter the competition this year, so we will take the time to help all of you showcase your iris to their very best advantage. We will have more time to do this because the iris won't have to be ready for judging before the public viewing.

There will be one award for best artistic design using the theme, 'Color My World'. All flower arrangements will be included in this category.

There will be awards but at this date decisions have not been formalized as to the prizes. Categories which will receive awards are listed in the rules. We will not be using AIS ribbons since we are not an AIS sanctioned show this year.

Remember to pick up your wine cardboard cartons at Safeway and save your empty wine bottles to transport your fragile irises. A tear in your iris petal could keep you from winning. Don't forget while at the grocery store ask for paper bags instead of plastic to use to transport your rhizomes to the marking party.

Here is hoping for good weather through show date.

See you at the Iris Exhibit, May 7,

Carolyn

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 7

**Color my World
Spring Show**

Mortimer Nursery

**Bring entries 7:30—9:00 a.m.
Public Viewing 10 a.m.—3 p.m.**

Prizes awarded 3 p.m.

Pickup entries by 3:15 p.m.

May 14

Garden Tour

July 9

Marking Party

Rhizome Sales

Sharlot Hall Museum

July 16 11 a.m.—5 p.m.

July 17 12-4 p.m.

Chino Valley

July 21 10 a.m.—2 p.m.

Yarnell

July 23 10 a.m.—2 p.m.



We will return to living color in our next issue with color photos of the iris exhibit.

**Active Members in 2010 Qualified
for 2011 NIIP Iris**

Name	2011
C. Alexander	Y
Claude Baker	Y
Patrick Beatty	Y
Judy & Stan Book	Y
Joella Cheek	Y
Diane Clarke	Y
Doris Elevier	Y
Nancy Floyd	Y
Steven Ginter	Y
Bonnie Haughton	Y
Marge Larson	Y
Annette McDonald	Y
David Nicholson	Y
Candis Peters	Y
Sharon Phelps	Y
Valerie Phipps	Y
Roger Osgood	Y
Linda Rossman	Y
Robert Smith	Y
Gerry Snyder	Y
Katy Standhart	Y
Vera Stewart	Y
Audrey Velonis	Y

These are the members that qualified as active during 2010 by helping in the show or sales and 3 other activities. You will be eligible for one 2011 rhizome. We are going to order 2011 rhizomes from several commercial iris gardens and will let you choose the one you want when they arrive. Plans are to display the rhizomes at our marking party and rhizome sales for you to pick from. We are at the mercy of the gardens as to when they arrive, so we will have to wait to announce specifically when you can pick up yours.

When we receive your NIIP increases from the past 2 years for sale we will offer the members first chance to purchase these before offering them to the public, as we know you will appreciate the value of these irises more than the public. Usually a rhizome that is one year old averages about \$35 and a two year old rhizome is about \$18 in value. This can vary depending on popularity, availability and demand of the rhizome.

If you feel your name was left off of this list please notify Carolyn Alexander and we will review our attendance sign-up sheets to see if an error was made.

**Active 2009 Members
NIIP 2010 Rhizomes**

Name	Selection
Carolyn Alexander	Poodle Parade
Claude Baker	Boundless
Patrick Beatty	Murano Amber
Cookie Best	Up in Flames
Judy Book	Jaguar
Stan Book	Trumpeter Swan
Diane Clark	Risky Business
Ruth DeVries	Polished Peach
Shirley Eitner	Pink Invasion
Doris Elevier	Town Flirt
Steve Ginter	Bandwith
Bonnie Haughton	Mochadoodle
Marge Larson	Fanciful Whimsy
David Nicholson	Fusion
Roger Osgood	Autumn Sunburst
Candy Peters	Wise Woman
Sharon Phelps	Come to order
Valerie Phipps	Penguin Party
Linda Rossman	Boundless
Dan Schroeder	Stir It Up
Gerry Snyder	None
Bob Smith	Purdue Pete
Katy Stanhardt	Second Helping
Vera Stewart	Penguin Party
Audrey Velonis	Australian Rose
Cam Waguespack	Bottle Rocket

Since 2010 rhizomes have been in the ground less than a year they may not be ready to split.

Label your marker that increases belong to PAIS and plan to divide in 2011 or 2012 and be sure to keep one for yourself.

If you have lost your NIIP rhizome please let us know, explain what happened and give information to Carolyn Alexander. We need to determine how many we will be receiving for 2011 or 2012 rhizome sales.

Dykes Medalists

The Dykes Medal Winner irises were planted at the Sculpture Garden at Yavapai College in September. They are doing very well for the most part with many increases. Because they are young plants and we have had some cold snaps there are no visible signs of iris stalks, but we should start seeing bud stalks in the next few weeks and maybe have some in bloom for our garden tour on May 14th.

We were unable to buy all of the needed rhizomes for each year and we also lost some due to weather conditions before planting in the sculpture garden. Listed below are the missing rhizomes:

To complete the garden we still need these Dykes Medal Winners:

1929 Dauntless	1932 Rameses	1933 Coralie
1940 Wabash	1941 The Red Douglas	1948 Ola Kala
1945 Elmohr	1954 Mary Randall	1956 First Violet
1957 Violet Harmony	1959 Swan Ballet	1964 Allegiance
1965 Pacific Panorama	1966 Rippling Waters	1968 Stepping Out
1970 Skywatch	1973 New Moon	1983 Ruffled Ballet
1991 Everything Plus	1995 Honky Tonk Blues	1997 Thornbird
1999 Hello Darkness	2001 Yaquina Blue	2005 Splashacata
2007 Queen's Circle	2009 Golden Panther	

If you have any increases on these rhizomes will you let us know? Email Carolyn Alexander at artwest@cableone so we can determine how many we need to locate and purchase from commercial iris gardens this year to complete our Dykes Medal collection.

Alfalfa Meal

Last year I started using Alfalfa pellets in my iris beds because of several articles I read from Irisarians having positive results with using them as an additional supplement to their fertilizer program. Unfortunately the pellets required soaking in water and breaking the pellets up to get them in the soil which seemed like a lot of work.

This year there have been several articles from Region 15 by Irisarians using Alfalfa Meal instead of the pellets. I started looking for the meal and found it at Olsen's Grain in Chino Valley on 89 Highway. The local Prescott Olsen Grain on Miller Valley does not carry it but you can ask them to get it from the Chino Valley Store for you.

It is a very economical way to supplement your fertilizer program at about \$16.90 for 50 pounds of alfalfa meal. Just scratch it in around the plant but not directly on it. Good luck, Carolyn

MAY 7 IRIS EXHIBIT—COLOR MY WORLD

With this mailing we are including:

- exhibit rules, the time for entering, categories, and all essential exhibit information
- must reading about selecting and tending your stalk
- several samples of the entry form which need to be completed for each iris you are entering— *Note: you will find the entry # on the base of the display stand you will be using*
- bookmarks with show place and times to share with friends
- a flyer for you to take to your favorite, hair dress, barber, restaurant or any independent business willing to advertise our exhibit—feel free to copy more to help publicize our exhibit

Our club has gained quite a reputation for putting on an eye catching exhibit and we need your participation, so bring those blooms and join in the fun. No experience necessary. Since this is not a judged show, Carolyn and Linda will gladly give you pointers, the day of the show, about grooming your

Iris Given to Active Members 2009

NAME	SELECTION	STATUS
Alexander, Carolyn	Orangutan Orange	Provided increase in 2010
Baker, Claude	Crocadoodle	died
Book, Judy	Blueberry Parfait	May be able to divide 2011
Book, Stan	Peach Bouquet	died
Clarke, Diane	Here Comes the Night	
Devries, Ruth	Kudu'z Kodoz	
Eitner, Shirley	Double Your Fun	
Elivers, Doris	All About Blue	
Haughton, Bonnie	Earth Girl	
Larson, Marge	Miss Moonbeam	died
Nicholson, David	African Wine	died
Phelps, Sharon	Jazzy Solo	Plans to divide 2011
Phipps, Valerie	Spiced Tiger	
Rossmann, Linda	Salzburg Echo	
Stewart, Vera	Pied Peach	Provided increases in 2010
Velonis, Audrey	Merkat Manor	
Velonis, Victor	Zebra Perp	
Cam Waguespak	June Krause	
Ray Waguespak	Stealth Fighter	
Cheek, Joella	?*	

2008 active members who received a 2009 rhizome should be ready to divide and share with PAIS.

Garden Tour

We have tentatively scheduled our Prescott Area Iris Garden Tour for Saturday, May 14th. By popular request we will have food and follow a tour plan this year starting at the Sculpture Gardens at Yavapai College to see the new plantings of the Dykes Medal Winners.

We would like to add a new garden in the Prescott Area to the tour as many of you voted that you would like to see different gardens. Do we have a volunteer?? Contact Carolyn Alexander.

Carolyn will have her garden on display; she has added several new iris beds this past fall. If the weather holds it will be a real treat to see her color coordinated iris beds. Plans are to have a potluck lunch at her home and then head out for dessert at Hummingbird Gardens. We are hoping to bring back Patrick Orr to demonstrate how to hybridize in Linda's garden but haven't finalized those plans as yet.

April/May Birthday Greetings

Phyllis Ferguson	Dennis Lubekin
Roxanne Hull	Annette McDonald

Rhizome Sales

This is our only money maker so please help your club.

We need volunteers for our annual marking party. First and foremost is the search for a yard or patio to clean and label the irises. We will need a space large enough to handle approximately 15 people. The club owns 3 large tables and we can borrow more so don't worry about having them yourself.

Also needed are volunteers to clean and label the rhizomes. Since we were unable to have our April meeting we don't have a list started of who would like to help. One of the advantages of volunteering for this spot is you get first chance to buy the choice rhizomes and you will also get one free one for helping out. We may have the NIIP rhizomes available by then for you to choose your favorite if you qualified (see article on page 2).

We also need volunteers to work at the rhizome sales. We have added a day to the Sharlot Hall Museum sale in hopes that at least one of the days we can avoid the Monsoon rains that seem to come right at that time. We also moved it up by 2 weeks which will be better for planting and again trying to avoid those rains. (See front page for dates). Let Carolyn know which date, time and location is best for you.

It would be helpful if we could get an idea of how many rhizomes you will be generously donating to the society. Please walk your yard and see how many clumps have become overgrown and crowded and let us know what we can expect. Last year many of you were unable to dig and split the rhizomes because of our freezing cold spring so maybe now they are in dire need of digging.

If you have email please send your reply to artwest@cableone.net or phone Carolyn, 778-1551. Please let me know soon when and what you want to volunteer for. Thank you!!



These are the tentative tasks assigned to members. If you can't do the function listed or need to help at a different time, please advise Carolyn ASAP so we can locate another member for the job. We are excited about exhibiting our iris and need your help to make this event a rip roaring success. If you are not on the list, please feel free to volunteer. We can always use more help.

May 7 Iris Show Functions

Friday May 6 3-5:00 PM

Pick up tables, supplies, vases at storage & arrange tables at Mortimer Nursery Dave Nicholson, Stan Book

Assemble tubes and bases – add number stickers – fill vases with water Elaine Fleming

Cover tables with cloths & place table tent cards by variety & Alphabetical plastic numbers -Carol Thomas

Saturday May 7

7:30 -9:00AM

Fill water buckets – answer questions for exhibitors – hand out entry forms Sharon Phelps

Assist with completing entry forms Judy Book

Provide grooming tips and preparing iris for show Carolyn A. & Linda R.

7:30 -10:00 AM

Staging – place by variety and alphabet on tables, plus Grandma's garden & flower arrangements Sharon & Vera

10:00 to 3PM

Greeters – hand out voting ballots

Elaine Fleming, Vera Stewart 10-12:30 shift

Relief crew Bonnie Haughton & ? 12:30-3PM

Sales of markers and culture books

Joella Cheek & Claude Baker (10-12:30)

Ruth DeVries & Linda Hoyt (12:30-3PM)

Count People's Choice votes – Ruth & Judy

Record entries – Diane Clarke

Photos of winners & show - Diane

3:00 - 4PM

Clean up and discard trash

Audrey & Victor

Take down supplies, box & return to storage - Stan & David