



PRESCOTT AREA IRIS SOCIETY

Fall 2011

Volume 8, Issue 5

President's Message

It is hard to believe, but this is my last message to you as President of Prescott Area Iris Society. It has been a wonderful 3 years on the executive board, first as Vice President and the last two years as President. If the efforts of the board are any indication, the future of the society is on sound footing.

It takes a group of dedicated volunteers working together, to steer the society toward its goals. It has been my pleasure knowing and working with these volunteers. I want to thank all the officers, chair persons, committees, and members during my tenure for their willingness to dig in and get it done without expectation of reward or acknowledgment. The society is one of the best examples of an organization in which volunteers provide the membership with services far beyond the value of the dues.

The principal goal I had for these years was to take a comprehensive look at where we were as a society and to get the board and the society started on thinking about the future. The principal idea was to move from a reactive method of operating toward a proactive, decision-making model. Thus, we began to plan for the future rather than simply reacting to the present.

Many changes and new ideas were developed during the past three years with one goal in mind, the betterment of the society. Let us reflect on some of these changes:

- Membership Drive with a Cash Card incentive for bringing in a new member and for the new member

- Implementation of NIIP (newly introduced iris program) in 2009 – thank you to its volunteers

- NIIP Silent Auction of members returned iris increases to bring newer iris to the members

- Iris Photo Contest

- FREE year membership for donating rhizomes

- Extending membership to 3 year renewal and separation in dues for single or entire household

- New section for Dykes Medal iris at the Sculpture Garden

- Expanding the iris planting in the Sculpture Garden and encouraging member participation in selecting the best irises

The reason serving you has been so much fun and such a rewarding experience is the level of involvement of our membership in our events and programs. I leave not only better for the experience of working with so many dedicated volunteers, but assured that the society is in good hands.

I have one last request as your President; one, which I hope you will heed. PAIS is a success because of you. Please, keep that in mind and volunteer. Offer your time and energy to make the society even better. You are the society and its future.

Your friend in irises,

Carolyn Alexander

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER 19

1:30 P.M.

**WHAT IS THE AIS
NATIONAL CONVENTION?**

PRESENTED BY

KATHY CHILTON

AT YAVAPAI TITLE

1235 E. GURLEY, PRESCOTT

**At the intersection of Gurley
and Sheldon**



November/December Birthdays

Carolyn Alexander

Shirley Eitner

Sandra Kelleher

Marge Larson

Darrell Levi

Katy Standhardt

Roselyn Turner

November 19 General Meeting

Our guest speaker, Kathy Chilton, recently returned from AIS National Iris Convention in Victoria, Canada, will share her experiences attending national conventions. Next year the AIS convention will be in Southern California and Kathy is a co-chair of the 2012 AIS National Convention Committee. Since the convention will be so close to Prescott, it will be a great opportunity for each of us to consider making the trip and attending this exciting event.

Most of you will remember Kathy from our November 2009 meeting when she shared her slides of the 2009 International Iris Competition at Florence, Italy. Kathy was the U.S. representative on an international panel of judges at the 53rd Annual International Iris Competition in Florence in May 2009.

About Kathy Chilton:

Kathy grows her iris on a cattle ranch near Tucson. Kathy and her husband Tom moved to the family ranch after their youngest left for college. She started renovating the old, neglected garden along with the old, neglected house. A friend suggested planting iris and despite some beginning failures, she became entranced by the beautiful flowers. After joining the Tucson Area Iris Society and seeing her first show, she was hooked. After retiring from twenty years of teaching, she had time to indulge her growing case of the "iris virus". The majority of irisein her garden are tall bearded, but Louisianas, arilbreds, spurias and medians are also represented. Kathy is an Accredited Judge of AIS and has judged shows in Phoenix, Tucson, San Diego, Denver and Salem, Oregon.



Kathy especially enjoys attending the garden tours at the national conventions and treks. She encourages everyone to try growing a few different types of iris and to support the American Iris Society by becoming a member.

Nominations for 2012 Officers

The nominating committee has met and selected these PAIS members for you to consider for the 2012 executive board:

Roger Osgood-President

Dan Schroeder- Vice President

Steven Ginter- Secretary

Sharon Phelps- Treasurer/Membership

The non-elected members of the board are Past President – Carolyn Alexander and Director-At-Large – Diane Clarke (appointed position).

We encourage member nominations for any of these positions at our November meeting. There will be an opportunity for nominations from the floor. If you have any questions about one these positions please feel free to call or email me and I'll be happy to send you a list of tasks for these positions or answer other questions you may have. Email: artwest@cableone.net, phone 778-1551. Carolyn

NIIP (Newly Introduced Iris Program)

Wow! What fun was had by all at our September meeting. There were 90 potted iris available in our silent auction and most were from our new 2011 NIIP iris and bonuses received from the commercial growers, plus some from members who donated their 2009-2010 NIIPs increases.

We announced that many irises were sent free from the commercial growers but we did not give you the details as to reason why. Listed below were our expenditures in purchasing the NIIP irises from the various growers. Yes, they sent many more rhizomes than what we ordered. PAIS spent \$1224.64 on irises for our members which resulted in the growers wanting to donate even more rhizomes.

At the silent auction we collected \$291.50 to defray some of the clubs expenses. The final result was a net expense of \$933.14.

The majority of the NIIP iris went for \$5-\$7 when they were valued at \$50 by the growers. That was quite a bargain. Hopefully the members will take special care of these iris as if they had spent the \$50, plant them correctly and not let them die from rot.

We hope to see the extra increases donated back in two or three years for members to bid on in yet another silent auction. By recirculating the newer iris back to the members, it gives everyone an opportunity to own iris for their yard that they might not be able to afford on their own. Eventually, in 3-4 years, we will have enough increases to offer them to the general public at our rhizome sales. Good luck and enjoy your new iris.

2011 PAIS Rhizome Orders

<u>Commercial Garden</u>	<u>Expense</u>
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Mid America	\$528.75
Napa Country Iris Gardens	\$250.90
Sutton Iris Garden (correction)	\$300.00
Superstition – Rick Tasco	<u>\$144.99</u>
NIIP total purchases	\$1224.64
Income	<u>\$-291.50</u> (silent auction)
Final PAIS expense	\$ 933.14

Reblooming Iris

Do you have fall reblooming irises this year? Let Judy know if you have any rebloomers. She keeps a list of which iris rebloom in our area.

Mine bloomed a lot less than this year. I think I didn't give them enough water in the middle of summer as the tip of the leaves turned brown. We didn't have as much rain during Monsoon season which effected there fall blooming cycle.

I did have two tall bearded iris rebloom and they are still blooming now. They are both oldies for me. Lacy Halo was obtained at a PAIS silent auction back in 2006 and was received from Region 15 hybridizer D. Shepard. Exotic Star was one of the first irises I every planted back in 2005 and I bought it at Mortimer's Nursery. Both of these irises never fail to bloom in the fall and in the spring and they are rapid multipliers. I have donated rhizomes to PAIS for the summer sales many times.



Exotic Star Plough '75

Carolyn



Lacy Halo Shepard, '04

Second Annual Photo Contest

There were many wonderful photos brought in by our members to choose from at our last meeting. Everyone was given a ballot and was asked to vote for their favorite in each of the iris categories.

There were 4 categories as follows:

Landscape/habitat

Individual iris flower or flowers

Artistic (close-up design) or use of Photoshop

Something else (people, animal, insect, etc. along with iris)

The photos of the first place winners appear below. You will have to look very close at the winning photo of 'something else' to see the thrips on the pale yellow iris under its beard.

Congratulations to Carolyn Alexander for her winning photos in the landscape and individual categories and to Diane Clarke for her artistic and something else photos.

There were first, second and third place winners for all categories. All 12 winners were able to choose a potted iris, garden tool or iris sign from prizes. Thank you to all 8 members who brought in their photos and took part in this fun activity. They were: Annette McDonald, Linda Rossman, Katy Standhardt, Diane Clarke, Carol Thomas, Kathleen Shaffer, Vera Stewart & Carolyn Alexander. We hope next year there will be even more members participating.

We plan to have a photographer come to one of our 2012 meetings and teach us the tricks for taking the best iris photos so we all have a better opportunity of winning next year's photo contest.

It may interest you to know that the American Iris Society also sponsors a [national iris photo contest](#). This year's winners have just recently been posted on their website.



Landscape/habitat
Carolyn Alexander



Individual iris flower
Carolyn Alexander



Artistic
Diane Clarke



Something Else
Diane Clarke

Cooley's Gardens: A Classic Garden Closes - Mike Unser

As of this month, October, 2011, Cooley's Gardens is officially closing its doors. Though gone, they will not be forgotten. A legacy of iris hybridizing and introduction spanning eight decades is not so easily erased. Iris lovers the world over will continue to cherish and enjoy the varieties that are with us due to the efforts of the Cooley family and all their heirs that have lovingly kept the business going all this time. As well, historic iris lovers will continue to collect their beautiful catalogs, for which they were renowned.

Cooley's Gardens started as a back yard hobby of Rholin and Pauline Cooley in Silverton, Oregon. They produced their first commercial catalog in 1928, and went on to become one of the largest iris firms in the US, lasting 83 years as of 2011. It has been continued by subsequent generations of the family, most recently by Rick Ernst and his wife Katie. Sadly, Rick passed away this past spring.



Cooley's was the primary introducer for many famous iris hybridizers. Early on, in 1929, Dr. Kleinsorge began introducing his illustrious varieties in their catalog with his beautiful 'Klamath'. Cooley's continued to introduce almost all of his irises until his final varieties 'Bengali' and 'Buckaroo' in 1961. Another legendary hybridizer featured in Cooley's thru the 40's, 50's, and 60's is Dave Hall, most famous for his line of 'flamingo pinks' that so captivated the iris world. He also brought us many other new color breaks as well. Cooley's later brought us the work of master hybridizer Jim Gibson and his ground-breaking work with plicatas, as well as the award winning creations of Larry Gaulter.

I was fortunate to have the chance to visit the beautiful display gardens at Cooley's during the 2006 AIS Convention. The garden was a mass of beautiful flowers and the fields stretched away into the distance - row after row in a dizzying rainbow of blooms. Visitors eagerly toured the display beds and admired the indoor floral arrangements for which Cooley's has been so famous over the years.

All things must eventually come to an end, and Cooley's Gardens can rest assured of their place in iris history. We will always have their legacy, all the beautiful iris they created and those they introduced, to remind us of their contributions to the world of iris.

Published by permission from the AIS blog.

<http://theamericanirissociety.blogspot.com/2011/10/cooleys-gardens-classic-garden-closes.html>



Sculpture Garden Volunteers

Our community service to the Prescott area with the involvement in Yavapai College Sculpture Garden is very important to PAIS and to those that enjoy the gardens throughout the year. It gives the community an opportunity to learn about the beauty of iris and makes the public aware of our organization. We receive many positive comments from the college staff and the general public throughout the year about the iris gardens. The college was extremely happy with our newest addition, the Dykes Medal Winners, because it gives some insight into the history and the progress of iris development from 1927 to now.

This project can only be accomplished by our members sharing in the care of these iris gardens. A very special thank you to our chair person, Sharon Phelps, who coordinated the volunteers and over saw the activities. We would like to thank those that volunteered throughout 2011 at our November meeting. Please come to our meeting for a wonderful surprise to show our appreciation. The following members shared their energy and time in this worthwhile project: Stan and Judy Book, Patrick Beatty, Katy Standhardt, Roger Osgood, Steven Ginter, Diane Clarke, Dennis Luebkin, David Nicholson, Valerie Phipps, Bob Smith, Sandra Kelleher, Sharon Phelps and Carolyn Alexander.

Selecting Iris for the Sculpture Garden

The purpose of the iris in the sculpture garden is to share the beauty of the iris with the public and give them an opportunity to see what is available in a wide range of iris. The addition of the Dykes Medal iris bed provides a chance to see the large changes in iris over the years and learn a little iris history as well. The iris plantings help promote our iris society by our involvement in this worthwhile project.

To enhance the gardens even more we would like our members involvement and participation in selecting the very best iris for our growing area. At our November meeting we will discuss how you can give us your input about your favorite iris growing in your garden. We will select by popular vote the best tall bearded iris to be planted in the sculpture garden next June. Come to the meeting to learn more.

Fall insecticide to protect against thrips, aphids & gophers

Carolyn Alexander

My Granite Oaks Garden club met this week at Watters Nursery to discuss preparing our yard for winter.

One of the topics was using a liquid systemic insecticide (Ferti-lome Tree & Shrub Systemic Insect Drench) on our trees right now to prevent aphids, thrips and pinon tree scale next spring. This insecticide has a 12 month effectiveness and should keep us from having to spray for these problems in the spring. The importance of using this product now before the ground freezes and the tree won't be able to drink up the liquid was stressed.

I brought up the challenge we have in Prescott with our iris being a nesting ground for thrips and aphids by laying their eggs in the base of the plant in early January and February. I further explained that even though it helped to use Bayer Systemic Rose Food Care with systemic insecticide it didn't completely eliminate their existence. Valerie Phipps at Mortimer Nursery explained that because of the extreme cold in January and February 2011, the plant was not taking up fluids and therefore couldn't fully utilize the Bayer Rose Care that I was putting on them in those early months. Yet if you wait until it is warmer it will be too late to control the insects. The Master Gardener at the Watters meeting agreed this was true. So my next question was could I put the Bayer systematic rose food on the plants now for next years infestation. The answer was that it would not be of value because of the short duration of its strength is only 60-90 days. We came to conclusion the answer might be to use the same systemic insecticide that we use on our trees in the fall for our irises and roses but at a lesser strength since it lasts up to 12 months.

I called Valerie for help and she contacted the distributor of Ferti-lome Tree and Shrub to find out if it was ok to use on irises, daylilies and roses in particular and what quantity to use. They agreed that it could be helpful and that the ratio should be 1 ½ oz per gallon of water. This product is much stronger than the



(Continued from page 6)

Bayer Rose Care so be sure to follow the ratio given. Also you need to saturate the plants with water on a slow drip first to push down the salts and then add the systemic insecticide. If this works we won't need to use Bayer Rose Care in the spring since the Ferti-lome stays in the roots and rhizome for up to 1 year. I'm now very curious whether this systemic will protect my iris plants all year and I'm going to experiment, though it may be a year before I make a report on my results. You can purchase this product at Mortimer Nursery.

Along this subject, Francelle Edwards, from the Sun Country Iris Society in Phoenix reported that the systemic insecticide, Merit, not only prevents insects but also deters gophers. The systemic poisons the rhizomes and any gopher eating the rhizome dies.

Region 1 (New England) area web site: www.irisgarden.org reports "Imidacloprid is a systemic persistent pesticide manufactured by Bayer Corp with low toxicity to mammals. Merit (Bayer) is the brand marketed for home use and is similar to Ferti-lome Tree & Shrub which also contains Imidacloprid. Merit is also the brand name in Advantage, Bayer's spot-on flea killer for dogs. It is an analog of nicotine sulfate, the pesticide naturally found in tobacco and petunias. It was first synthesized in Japan in 1987 and registered for use in the US in 1994. If you have gopher problems, as I do, then possibly this product is worth trying. Maybe the rhizome concentrates the chemical to a toxic level for rodents. Information obtained from Janis Shackelford of San Diego Iris Society newsletter December 2009. Shop for systemic pesticides that contain Imidacloprid.

FALL IRIS CARE

Fall is an easy time for caring for your iris. By now most of your rebloomers have bloomed and you have cut off the stalk at the base and all the dead leaves have been removed. If you want further specifics for this time of year, go to our new [web site](#) and look for the fall maintenance guidelines which can be found here: http://prescottirissociety.org/PAIS_testing/iris_planting.htm#fall

FALL TREK

Bill Molnar, San Diego Iris Society

For years there has been talk that one day bearded iris would re-bloom several months of the year, not just in the spring. We were told they would bloom in a kaleidoscope of vivid colors and patterns. Well that day has arrived. The color range is magnificent, the flower substance is thick, the stalks are tall, and the flowers are well placed. You will have the opportunity to view one of the largest collections of re-blooming iris this fall at Mystic Lake Gardens in Riverside County at the Fall Trek on November 12, 2011.

This will be your opportunity to visually select your favorites to put on your wish list to add to your garden.

The activities will begin Friday afternoon, November 11 and continue through late Saturday afternoon. You can find the registration form on the [Region 15 website](#) and as an attachment to this email. You will definitely want to attend because the display should be excellent. So rather than talking about the Good Old Iris of decades past, let's step into the future and make it a point to be at the Region15 Fall Trek, where the re-bloomers of the future have already arrived and will be blooming. You'll be glad you attended.

If you want to car pool, contact Carolyn at: artwest@cableone.net and she will try to coordinate your request.



Change of Treasurer Status

Effective 10/10/2011, Sharon Phelps was appointed Treasurer at the PAIS Board Meeting by a unanimous vote of its officers. For the remainder of 2011, she will fill the vacancy left by Cathy Craig's resignation .

Sharon's past experience will be an asset to our organization. Being treasurer of an organization is certainly not new to Sharon as she has handled much more money than the PAIS budget as treasurer of other organizations. She was the operations manager of a very large non-profit in Orange County, CA with budgetary and fiscal responsibilities for over 3 million dollars so she should be able to handle our finances with no problem

2011 PAIS Income & Expenses thru October 11, 2011

YTD Income \$4,465.00

YTD Expenses \$4,555.94

Checking/savings total \$8,889.63 as of October 11, 2011



PAIS Income/Expenses 2011	
<u>INCOME</u>	
Culture Books	12.50
Membership Dues	480.50
Plant Marker Sales	64.00
Rhizome sale Income	4,465.00
<u>EXPENSES</u>	
AIS	(315.00)
Garden Tour	(125.51)
Meeting Refreshments/Handouts	(426.59)
Newsletter printing	(21.11)
NIIP	(1,224.55)
Office Supplies	(23.00)
Plant Markers	(290.59)
Postage/PO Box Rental	(148.79)
Rhizome Sale	(630.56)
Sculpture garden	(217.82)
Spring show	(384.74)
Storage Unit Rental/Supplies	(747.68)

Iris Society Contacts

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Sharon Phelps, Secretary/Treasurer

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Jim Hedgecock, Guest Speaker, Nov. 1, Sun Country Iris Society, Phoenix

From: Ardi Kary

Sun Country Iris Society is having Jim Hedgecock from Comanche Acres Iris Gardens as our guest speaker for our November 1st meeting. He will give a program on Spuria Iris that will also count as a judges training session for the judges and judges-in-training. You are welcome to attend our meeting and join us for dinner. The meeting begins at 7:00 pm and ends at 9:00 pm at the Valley Garden Center, 1809 N. 15th Avenue, Phoenix. We will also be getting together for dinner at Macayo's at about 5-5:30, 4001 N. Central, Phoenix. Please let me know if you would like to attend.

Ardi Kary, ardikary@aol.com