



PRESCOTT AREA IRIS SOCIETY

April 2012

Volume 9, Issue 2

President's Message

By the time you are reading this, we will have had one general meeting under our belt and a chance to look at our calendar of events for the year. The board hopes we are presenting some exciting meetings for you and it will stimulate your interest in participating.

As a club, we are still going strong. With over 50 committed members, we manage to staff nearly all of our events throughout the year and keep up enough enthusiasm to ensure continuation of some of our most popular programs such as the spring garden tour and the always fun Rhizome Sale.

It is sometimes a shame that we come to meetings, but do not know the person sitting next to us. Or, perhaps we recognize the person, but know absolutely nothing about their background. To this purpose, in this issue, we are starting a new column entitled FOCUS ON MEMBERS. It is our hope to present a personal profile on a long-time member and one on a new member to our group. Eventually, we'll get around to everybody. For this issue we have selected Dan Schroeder, our new Vice-President and Carol Thomas, our Hospitality Chair, one of our newer members. Perhaps after reading their profiles, you'll find you really share a lot in common. Please say "Hi" to them at the next event.

Our mission statement has always included the cultivation of all iris varieties and education of the public about this large group of flowers. If there is a subject, or plant group which you especially love, let us know. We are about a lot more than Tall Bearded Iris. Why not try a Louisiana... all you need is a tub, or pond of water, or a spot in your yard that seems to be wet all of the time. Five of our members are currently growing them. I won't tell you who they are. Why not ask your table companion at the next meeting? If they say "no", at least you will have introduced yourself.

Let's make this a social and informative year for PAIS! Perhaps a summer BBQ with no business on the agenda? Just a good time visiting with friends and sharing stories about our favorite flower! Let us know what the club can do to make PAIS a great club for you.
Roger

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL 28—MEETING 1:30 PM
PHOTOGRAPHING IRIS
IRIS EXHIBIT PREPARATION

MAY 12—GARDEN TOUR
MAY 19 —SPRING SHOW

JULY—MARKING PARTY,
RHIZOME SALES

AUGUST 11--SILENT AUCTION
ICE CREAM SOCIAL

SEPTEMBER 15—MEETING
NOVEMBER 17--MEETING

MEETING TIME 1:30-3:30 P.M.
1235 E. GURLEY, PRESCOTT
At the intersection of Gurley



APRIL EVENT

Have you ever entered an iris stalk in our spring show? If not, this is the year you have been waiting for. Marge Larson will demonstrate the techniques you need for showing your iris to its best advantage. Since we are sponsoring an exhibit instead of a show, the iris will not be judged. Prizes will be awarded for the People's choice, so this is a golden opportunity for you to see how to groom an iris and to feel comfortable entering several stalks. Our goal is to educate the public about growing and enjoying iris, so we want the tables to be full of iris of all colors, sizes and types.

Are you often disappointed when you look at the photos you have taken of the iris in your garden? Are they over or under exposed? Are you too close or too far away to get a really good photo? Is the color inaccurate? Harriet Neal will explain the ins and outs of flower photography.

All of this is happening at our April 28 meeting, 1:30 p.m. Plan on attending.

Introducing Carol Thomas, Hospitality Chair

In July of 2008, I moved from the Washington DC. area to Prescott Valley. I retired from 40 years of teaching public school and my husband retired from his job as a helicopter pilot. I have always loved gardening and had beautiful flowers in the home we left. I was in for a big surprise when it came to high desert gardening. I immediately planted all the flowers I had loved back east thinking the more sun the better. Much to my surprise, the Arizona sun is quite different. My clue was that all my flowers burned during the first day. I threw up my hands as I cursed my adobe soil and lethal sun. I knew I needed help.



I went to Mortimer's Nursery to ask for plants that might live on the "prairie". That afternoon I happened upon the PAIS Iris Show. The flowers were lovely and the people quite friendly and informative. I was assured that Iris would grow at my house. I joined that day and began reading everything I could find on iris. What a great resource these new friends would become. My first class, taught by Carolyn, was dividing rhizomes but that was a problem since I didn't have any rhizomes. At the new member get together, Carolyn gave us iris and I could not wait to get started. Then I was told I would need to buy DIRT. Whatever! Three and a half years later, I have wonderful friends and 2 large Iris beds. In addition I have had success with daylilies and of course sunflowers, which my birds kindly plant for me. When my granddaughters come to visit, they want to garden.

I have always believed that if you are going to be part of an organization, that involves giving back to that organization by supporting events, participating on a committee, and being willing to do what needs to be done. We all know the old saying that in any organization 10% of the people do 90% of the work. Let's not make that true of PAIS.

Introducing Dan Schroeder, Vice President

The old saying goes "you can take the kid out of the country, but you can't take the country out of the kid." Raised on a dairy farm in rural Wisconsin, all my family, including me, would be considered avid gardeners. We had about ½ acre of garden. As a kid, I remember planting 100 tomatoes. It was our source of food.

In the late 60s my mother purchased my first horse I had always wanted a horse, but what kid doesn't? As the years passed, I trained horses professionally and competitively, showing for 25 years. I started out with barrel racing, and worked up all the way to dressage. Did that word send you to the dictionary? The French origin means "the art of riding and training a horse in a manner that develops obedience, flexibility and balance."

In 1986, I decided to make a change in my life and moved to Arizona. I got into optics and 3 years later, I received my license as an optician. A solid game plan considering today's economy!

In 2001, I began oil painting again, a favorite past-time. Horses, cattle and other farm animals are my favorite subjects.

When 2005 came around, I made yet another change and moved to Yarnell. We (Dorman and I) bought an older house many people might call a fixer-upper! Boy, did we do a total transformation on the place. I received some iris from some neighbors to start our plot. We now have ½ acre of vegetable garden and many flowers, including hundreds of iris, a koi pond and aquatic plants. We are off and running! And how!!

The fledgling garden (known fondly in the community as *Dan's Garden*) is now in full swing and growing by leaps and bounds. Where will it end? I can't say. For the last 4 years, I have hosted the "Artist in the Garden" exhibit during the May Yarnell Daze. Crafts artisans come to display their creations to the public. What fun!

In 2009, I went to my first rhizome sale at Sharlot Hall Museum. Oh boy, was I surprised. Talking with one of the members, I decided on the spot, to join PAIS. At the time, I did not know where this "love affair with iris" was going and how hooked I would become.

For the past 3 years, the last PAIS rhizome sale of the season has been held at *Dan's Garden*. Folks have come from Prescott, Phoenix and even other states. The attendance has been amazing!

Being asked to run for Vice President has been quite an honor. I hope to bring to PAIS the talent, knowledge and support to achieve the same goals we are all trying to achieve: that is spreading the love of iris.



Getting Ready for the Iris Show

Ruth Barker, North Carolina and Jim Morris, Missouri

Read the show schedule

The show schedule and the show chairman rule. Although most iris shows follow closely the show sample contained in the Judges' Handbook, some may deviate with consolidations of sections or have local awards.

Start early!

Begin selecting stalks early. Start walking in your garden about a week in advance of the scheduled show date. Evaluate your plants and potential stalks for the show. If necessary, stake promising stalks to protect from the winds or other hazards. There is nothing more frustrating than finding a possible "Best of Show" stalk that is leaning and unusable.

Cut early and label correctly

Many of us cut our show stalks as early as Wednesday for a Saturday show. We also cut promising stalks in the bud that we project will be freshly opened before the show. This may avoid that predicted rain and wind or hail storm. Also cut early in the morning (or later in the evening). It is important to have as much water in the stalk as possible because when cut the impetus to carry water up the stalk is reduced. During daylight, humidity is normally lower than during the night or late in the evening. Thus, this lower humidity speeds up the evaporation of water up the middle of the stalk in the day. Write the cultivar name on the bottom of the stalk so you always know its identity. Make sure your entry is cut for display within the proper classification. Don't display too short or too tall, and double check the Iris Registration List if you suspect the entry's identification. Don't mix up your stalks and vases either!



Prepare entry tags in advance

Complete your entry tags in accordance with the Show Schedule and do it before you leave for the show. Use return address labels to save time. Complete both top and bottom of the tags. Rubber bands inserted through the entry tag punched hole and looped over your entry container are efficient.

Slowing down and pushing

As it gets closer to the show, begin to evaluate whether that lovely stalk has buds that are going to open in time for the show. If some buds are progressing too quickly, the stalks may be cut, put into a wine bottle and in the refrigerator for a couple of days, which will slow it down. If you do not have a second refrigerator, this practice will force you to either go on a diet or eat out! If you do have a second refrigerator, place wet towels inside to add humidity so the buds don't dry out, since most refrigerators have dehumidifiers. On the other hand, if the night before the show, you have buds that are showing a lot of color but need to be pushed, put them in wine bottles and set on the bathroom counter. Keep the lights on, the door closed and turn on the hot shower every so often to keep the room very humid and warm. These buds will likely open overnight for you!

Wedging and last-minute grooming

Groom at home the night before the show, if you prefer. Wipe fingerprints off of the stalks. Wedge stalks into bottles. The use of cheap carpet padding or flexible foam plastic cut to wedge size is the best wedging material. It is so efficient and much easier to use than paper, cork, sticks, boxwood cuttings, cut stalk material, etc. It will secure your entry from moving in the bottle or PVC pipe. Evaporation takes place from the foliage, so remove those leaves at the base of the stalk as these do not add points but can subtract points from the judging. Exceptions might be made for some beardless entries where the foliage adds to the appearance of the stalk. Place those stalks in deep water as soon as possible.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Get your flowers to the show intact

Watch the top! Most of us have seen or heard of someone with that “Best of Show” stalk being smashed in the car or during transport. Develop a method of transport that works for you. Here’s an easy technique—carry your median and Siberian entries (already groomed) in bottles in rectangular peach baskets with handles. You can stuff napkins, newspaper or wash cloths in to keep the bottles from shifting. Wine boxes or milk crates work well for TBs. Some use buckets with either rolled up newspapers (on end) or chicken wire to stabilize the flower stalks. Others use wood carriers with PVC pipe. Support or wedge the bottles to keep them from moving during transport.



Enter and enjoy

Place your entries or provide them to the entry committee if you have one. Make sure that you make a last-minute check of your entries removing critters, spider webs, foam wedges sticking up out of the vase and fingerprints. Ensure that your stalk is in the water and wedged firmly in the bottle so that show clerks can’t knock it askew. After entry and show preparation, walk away before the judging. Go have fun and come back after judging to see your winners!

Reprinted with Permission from the AIS Bulletin, April 2011

Iris Plant Characteristics

Study your plant, now, before it blooms!

By Mike Moller ~ Duluth, Georgia

Tall Bearded Plant Characteristics

Every member of TBIS loves iris. When we talk about the plant, we can touch on an area that most people really have not evaluated. Color, color, color is the term that many people have used through the years to pick an iris. An iris must be a good perennial. The plant itself is the key to those perennial qualities. An engineer can design a beautiful bridge, but long after the opening we want that bridge to last forever. A bridge depends upon a solid foundation. Plant qualities are the foundation of an iris.

The foundation of an iris starts with the foliage. The leaves should be strong, healthy, and erect. The size of the leaves should be wide and in proportion to the size of the plant. Standing 10 feet or more from a bed of iris is a good way to evaluate the foliage. If you looked at a bed of 10 iris, try to pick out the one plant that really attracts your attention. You might find picking one plant is very difficult. Today’s hybrids can look very good. The next thing to do would be to look for faults in those 10 iris. Can you find any narrow or floppy leaves? That test might weed out one or two iris. Take another look to see which iris in that bed might be lighter in color than the others. The lighter colored foliage might weed out another iris.

At this point get closer to the bed and look to see if any foliage displays leaf spot or abnormal discoloration. If leaf spot is only on one iris and the others look good, that iris might have a problem. Abnormal coloration needs to be evaluated as to what makes it abnormal. If the leaves are variegated, that might be something that makes the iris very distinctive. Allan Ensminger worked for years with variegated flowers with variegated foliage. He always told me the flower part was easy, but the leaves were always a problem. Although we have Zebra, which is an outstanding perennial, most variegated leaves cause the plant to have less than ideal, perennial qualities. I have only had to judge a couple of iris with variegated foliage and both proved to be weak in plant performance.

Another coloration we might experience is purple based foliage. Many years ago, that was distinctive. Today it is becoming more common. I personally, have never found that to be a poor characteristic for the foliage. I have noticed over the years that the purple area seems to be more dominate. At some point this might prove to cause a problem, but most plants with purple based foliage seem to be hardy perennials.

After an evaluation of the iris bed, you will find that the foliage that looks pleasing to you, will probably give you a good first clue to outstanding characteristics of a perennial iris. If you observe that particular iris over time, the foliage should look good all season. Some iris experience floppy or discolored leaves in the heat of summer. In the south, many

iris tend to be weaker because of the heat. That weakness causes people to cut them back and then complain about them growing poorly.

The durability of iris is very important to everyone that plants a perennial garden. People that do not have a good knowledge of iris characteristics expect to place it in the flower bed and enjoy the flowers forever. Ideally, an iris should develop a dependable clump that should perform well for three years. After three years it should be divided. At the Loomis gardens I observed many iris clumps that were outstanding after two years, but overgrown in the third year. When we look at iris over 50 years old, the three year rule works very well. The newer Tall Bearded hybrids really had problems in year three.

Hybridizers today rarely see a three year clump of a new variety. Many plants in a commercial garden are divided yearly. After a large distribution of that variety over the years, then a hybridizer might actually see a three year clump. At that point they may find that the Durability of their iris does not meet the standards they were trying to achieve. I have observed many of these three year plants to be more pronounced in hybridizers doing line breeding.

We expect a good perennial to provide 3 to 5 increases per year. For every 3 increases we should expect one bloom stalk. In the Loomis garden every fan and bloom stalk was counted. Most iris in the first year averaged around 3+ fans and 1 stalk. The second year plants averaged 12+ fans and 4 stalks. The third year average was 14 fans and 5 stalks. The third year average numbers are deceiving because many line-bred iris had less stalks and fans than other hybridized iris.

Disease is another cause for poor durability. Most iris do very well, but some show a tendency to disease. If the bed of iris has good drainage and most perform very well, then the one that is susceptible to disease is probably not a variety that can be called a good perennial. In trying to replant that iris, find a couple of places you can move it to, to check out if disease continues.

Floriferousness is also considered an important plant characteristic. In Tall Bearded iris we expect the plant to bloom for at least 14 days. Observation during the bloom period is important. One-year plants with a single bloom stalk will usually last the 14 days. Two and three-year plants should always last 14 days. The biggest drawback to this would be a lack of buds per stalk. A TB is expected to have at least 7 buds. Only about 10% of plants have less than 7 buds and many of those also bloom for 14 days.

Two and three-year plants should be expected to always bloom. I have come across a few iris that seem to have a two-year cycle. They do not die, but they only bloom every other year. This is a characteristic that causes many people to dislike iris.

When we talk about bloom we should always take into consideration the reblooming iris. We want an iris to bloom at least once per year. These varieties are advertised to give us double our pleasure. The consistent rebloomer is hard to find in colder climates. Some rebloomers bloom so late in the year that rhizome production is hampered for spring. This can cause a scattered bloom throughout the season. In warmer climates rebloom is better, but not certain, every year. I was the editor for the Reblooming Iris Society, for 3 years. During that time, I received many yearly reports from all areas of the country. One observation I had at the time concerned very warm climates. Many iris have been reported as being rebloomers, but nobody in the north ever experienced a rebloom on those plants. If I put those yearly reports together, by garden, I found that an iris reported to rebloom in September one year was listed as a rebloom in June the next, and so on. I never had any idea of the number of plants that gardener had, but if I accepted that it was one clump, then many times it looked as if the iris had a 9 month cycle.

Every iris is genetically different, so the difference of its plant characteristics can be similar in most, but vary a lot. If we can start with a good foundation we have the essence of a good Tall Bearded iris.

“Reprinted with permission from the Spring issue of Tall Talk 2012”



Tiger Honey -grown by
Lee Morris

I think that most people who have grown irises soon find that they have more increase than they can use, and despite their best efforts at finding new homes for their iris babies, are eventually faced with a dilemma: what to do with them all. After all, what iris lover can throw them away?

Pat McNeal “Selling Irises at the Farmers’ Market”, AIS Bulletin, April 2012

Kaleidoscope Of Color



Prescott Area Iris Society

An affiliate of American Iris Society

Region 15

13th Annual Spring Iris Show

Mortimer Nursery

3166 Willow Creek Road, Prescott

May 19, 2012

10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Spring Show 2012

Don't forget that our annual spring show is upon us.

Attend our April 28th meeting for pointers and tips on how to get your prize winning iris ready for "opening night." Oops, that's day! Marge Larson has promised to present some good information.

This program and all entry information is available on-line at our PAIS website (www.prescottirissociety.org), or in person at Mortimer Nursery located on Willow Creek Road.

We hope to see you there at 8:00 a.m. when we start accepting your entries.



Happy Birthday to our members who are celebrating another year. Join us in their celebration.

April

Roxanne Hull April 6
Dennis Luebkin April 22
Annette McDonald April 29

May

No birthdays



Happy Birthday TB Hall '52

Garden Tour, May 12

As the tune goes from the Broadway musical CAMELOT, "It's May, it's May, the lovely month of May!"

What better way to start spring in Prescott than joining us in the Garden Tour scheduled for May 12th starting 9:30. Watch for more details.

We have some lovely gardens to showcase and a potluck lunch to follow, hosted by our own Linda Rossman, at Hummingbird Iris Gardens. If that doesn't make you want to dig in the dirt, I don't know what will. Sharon Phelps, our Treasurer/Membership chairperson is spearheading this event. Why not call, or E-mail her letting us know you are coming. We want to divide our potluck into categories, so we don't get 20 bags of potato chips!

* Appetizer:

* Meat: Sharon is providing a ham.

* Vegetables or Salads:

* Desserts:

* Beverages:

* Misc:

Bring your camera and practice taking professional photos of the blooms. (Who says a Christmas card can't have your favorite iris on the cover.)

This could turn into an all day event, so get plenty of rest, get out your walking shoes, hat and pack that potluck dish for travel.

Contact: Sharon Phelps ssphelps12@gmail.com Phone 717-1051

We're looking forward to seeing you at this exciting spring event. Mark you calendars now!



A thought to ponder:

Be a yardstick of quality.

Some people aren't used to an environment where excellence is expected.

Steve Jobs



Star of Spring AB
Flanagan '99

Refreshments needed!

In discussions with other affiliate presidents, we often ask "What brings members to your meetings?" The question generally has two possible answers.....Guess!

Well, food is number one. Apparently, members love to eat and they like to share recipes. So, many clubs have full pot lucks before their meetings and others, like us, just have desserts, or snacks.

Number two is door prizes. Nice, but they often cost the club money. We can handle #1, but #2 needs some thought. The nicer the gift the more expense! Unless we have donations!

Adding a heart healthy selection to the refreshment table would be nice. Would you prefer some green tea, instead of coffee? Would some strawberries, or a wedge of cantaloupe serve your diet better than a brownie?

Won't you weigh in on this topic and let us know if this would be a welcome change to our meetings? It will only take a moment, unless we start talking iris!

Call or email Carol Thomas so she will know you can be counted on to bring refreshments. Our next meeting is April 28. 928-772-8090 cjcavaness@q.com

SPRING IRIS CARE

Ardi Kary Sun Country Newsletter
Reprinted with permission

GENERAL – Clean the iris beds. The irises will perform better and you will enjoy your iris beds when they are clean and neat. Remove all the dead leaves and debris. Weeds will be cropping up soon. Pull them out.

WATERING – Give your iris plants deep water for proper growth and development of bloom stalks. Do not over water. Iris like to dry out a little between watering. Our days and nights will be getting warmer and the irises are growing at a very rapid rate. Check the soil to see if watering is needed.

FERTILIZING – Our plants are beginning their spring growth. Use a good well-balanced fertilizer such as 5-15-15 or use a fertilizer high in phosphate (0-45-0) for good root and bloom development. Do not use a fertilizer high in nitrogen. Follow the directions on the package for The amount to use and how often to apply.

MARKING AND MAPPING - Match up the plant markers with your map to verify that each iris plant is correctly identified. Then when the irises are blooming, check again to see if what you planted is indeed what you thought you were planting. Use color iris catalogs or the AIS Registrations and Introductions or the [AIS online encyclopedia](http://www.aishome.com/online-encyclopedia) to help you identify your irises correctly.

WINNERS – Check your garden to see which bloom stalks will be ready for the Iris Exhibit. Make sure they are identified correctly. Avoid overhead spray watering; water could leave spots on petals. Remove all bugs before entering iris in the Exhibit.

Give your irises the attention they need at this time of year and they will reward you with beautiful blooms.



PAIS Officers

President- Roger Osgood rogerosgood2005@yahoo.com

Vice President Dan Schroeder Dan@McCoyEtc.com

Secretary Steven Ginter steveginter@gmail.com

Treasurer/Membership Sharon Phelps
ssphelps12@gmail.com

Iris Encyclopedia web site:
<http://wiki.irises.org/bin/view/Main/WebHome>

PAIS: <http://prescottirissociety.org/index.htm>

25th Anniversary for Kary Iris Gardens

Ardi Kary, and AIS judge and past president of the Sun Country Iris Society extends a special invitation to members to visit her Scottsdale garden April 7, 8, 15, 21, 22, 28 and 29 from 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. she grows 5 types of iris in her small residential garden: tall bearded, arilbreds, medians, spurias and Louisianas.

April 21 will be the official day to celebrate the 25th anniversary with special evening hours from 6:00-8:00 pm. Throughout the day there will be beverages, hors d'oeuvres, and door prizes with a grand prize drawing at 7 p.m. Iris discussions will include "how to plant a rainbow iris garden", "how to extend your iris bloom season", and "how to hybridize an iris".



Ardi's 2012 introductions are two more tall bearded iris hybridized by Francelle Edwards: Desert Roundelay (shown left) and Red Velvet Nights.

Kary Iris Gardens, 6201 E.
Calle Rosa, Scottsdale
62 Street, 1/2 mile south of Camelback
<http://www.karyiris.com/>

If you have plans to go to the Valley you might also want to attend the **Sun Country Iris Show** at **Christown Mall, 1703 W. Bethany Home Rd., Phoenix, April 14, 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.**



Sculpture Garden Update 4-8-12

Francelle Edwards is one of Arizona's own iris hybridizers and the Yavapai College Sculpture Garden has several of her irises planted there. The college has installed a plaque to honor her and her iris. This is a good reason to head down to the SG and take a look. When I was there on 4-8, there were buds on several of her irises, and many others. So there should be some of her flowers in bloom in about a week! Several other irises are blooming.

Since we had so much warm weather in January and February, many bloom stalks were out early only to get frozen off. At our first Garden Cleaning Party on February 25th, we cut back several bloom stalks in addition to all the dead and damaged leaves, watered, repaired irrigation hoses and heads and applied Bayer Liquid and bone meal. Helpers included Darrel Levi, David Nicholson, Kathleen Shaffer, Linda and Lee Rossman, Partick Beatty, Roger Osgood and Stan Book. As you can see, some helpers figured out how to make the work look easy!

After it finished snowing on March 19th, I was anxious to see if any of the blossoms had survived. Sure enough, there was Roman Song, struggling in the snow. The buds that hadn't opened yet, survived and it is still blooming, so go take a look.



Because of the snow, we needed another Garden Cleaning Party. The weather didn't cooperate on 4-2 and the wind cut right to the bone. We were bundled for winter weather, had lots of hot coffee but we just couldn't finish or I am sure we would have turned to popsicles! That hardy crew included Darrel Levi, Dennis and Sharon Luebkin, Kathleen Shaffer and Stan Book. There is more cleaning and grooming to be done, so we will be gathering again soon. I hope you can answer the call when it goes out. Watch your email for dates and times.

The aphids are upon us, so be sure you are spraying. By the time you see damage, it is too late. The little things get between green and dry leaves and on dried leaves that are not completely removed from the rhizome. They will crawl between just about any two iris surfaces. Good plant grooming will help. Some years will be worse than others and because of the warm weather in January and February, they arrived early. This has started out as a bad year, so be on the lookout. Read up on iris care at http://www.herbs2000.com/flowers/i_pests_dis.htm

Thank you to all who help at the Sculpture Garden. It is a Prescott treasure!!



To be, or not to be? That is the question

Well, I wasn't exactly thinking Hamlet here! Perhaps something a little easier to do!

As I read the AIS President's message in our most recent **Iris Bulletin** (Judy Keisling of Missouri), I read something that captured my interest. She stated in her article:

"By the way, AIS does need more judges. Currently there are 552 fully accredited judges and 42 apprentice judges. While this sounds like a lot, it's really not considering the number of shows and judges' training classes held annually and the aging of many current judges. Each year a significant number of older judges retire, often with no additional judges to replace them. Being a judge is not only rewarding, it also provides the opportunity to learn more in depth about the flower we all love."

I know we have one member currently working toward a certification. Perhaps you would also be interested in expanding your knowledge of the iris family.

Kathy Chilton (who is so in demand that she is invited to Italy and France to judge) has offered to do a training session for our club in April or May of next year. We'll just call it JUDGING 101 for now. Being part of this beginners presentation does not necessarily mean you want to continue with the training needed to become qualified as a judge, but it will give you an overview of what every judge looks for in that winning stalk. Isn't this enough to get your attention? **THAT WINNING STALK!** This year, it could be yours.

Let me know if this workshop is of interest to you. If we could get 100% participation from our affiliate, that would be great. Perhaps this coming year, your favorite iris could be the winner because you knew what the judges wanted in that perfect iris.



THE REWARDS OF HELPING

Francelle Edwards

Sun Country Iris Society

Our Iris Society needs many helpers. In fact it needs as many helpers as there are members. Each person can find something to do to make our club healthy, useful, interesting, and a pleasure to all its participants. At nearly every meeting a list of jobs is passed around for which volunteers are needed. Too often the list comes back with too few names signed up. I know everyone is busy, and sometimes doing something for the club seems like taking on another chore. It shouldn't.

There are many rewards for volunteering to help at the shows, exhibits and rhizome sales. These are in addition to the gifts of new irises we earn and the thanks we sometimes forget to give those who deserve them. We get to talk with people who love irises but don't know that they will grow in Arizona. We get to talk with each other and become better acquainted with our fellow members. We get to see what beauties other people are raising in their gardens.

No surveys have been done about this, but I would guess that the amount of satisfaction each member gets from our club is in proportion to the amount of effort he or she gives to it. Actually, it is only fair that each person should take on one or two jobs and no one should enjoy the work of others while doing nothing. That way we can each share the rewards of helping, and no one will feel overburdened. So the next time you get an opportunity to sign up to work at a show, exhibit or sale, do it. Give yourself a break from routine Saturday chores and spend a few hours with iris and friends.

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Treasurer's Report for 1st quarter Jan-Mar 2012

	YTD	BUDGET 2012
1/1/2012 beginning balance checking account & cash box		2914.53
<u>INCOME</u>		
Membership Dues (most dues come in 2nd half year)	107.00	300.00
Retail Sales (markers, books, postcards, etc)	40.00	220.00
Region 15 proceeds (iris auction/sales)	0.00	3,000.00
Rhizome Sales - iris from members	0.00	2,000.00
(total excludes carry over 1/1/2012) TOTAL INCOME	\$147.00	\$5,520
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
AIS Convention donation	\$500.00	\$500
AIS Convention PAIS publicity/ad	\$100.00	\$100
AIS affiliation & dues for Exec. Board	\$0.00	125.00
Gifts	\$83.00	100.00
Garden tour expenses	\$0.00	50.00
Mail box rental	\$0.00	96.00
Meeting/program expenses-supplies, food, restaurant/speakers	\$0.00	75.00
Newsletter (printing & postage)	\$50.52	200.00
Office supplies/Admin. Costs (incl. gen'l postage)	\$49.00	150.00
Plant markers purchase for resale	\$276.75	276.75
Region 15 sale/auction of rhizomes, amount to be returned	\$0.00	1,500.00
Rhizome sale expenses (Sharlott Hall)-includes rent \$350	\$0.00	600.00
Sculpture garden expenses, fertilizer, Dykes, mulch	\$0.00	200.00
Spring Iris Show/Exhibit expenses-non judged	\$0.00	500.00
Storage unit rental	\$605.00	604.00
Travel expenses for board members AIS nat'l convention CA in '12	\$80.30	450.00
Web site-prepaid 3yrs '10 domain+2yrs '10 hosting	\$0.00	0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,744.57	5,526.75

Median Iris –What are they?

They are a group of bearded iris that are shorter than the tall bearded (TB) iris and taller than the miniature dwarf bearded (MDB). They bloom after the MDBs and mostly before the TB iris. They extend the iris bloom season with regal form, remarkable colors and patterns. Median iris are smaller and compact compared to the tall bearded iris. They make perfect plants for borders or in the front of your flower beds, and make ideal additions in rock gardens. Medians tolerate wide varieties of conditions being much more cold tolerant, withstanding strong winds, and strong rain downpours. When the Median Iris Society organized in 1948, five new classes of bearded irises (MDB, SDB, IB, MTB and BB) were added to the already popular TB iris class.

The result of this effort was having four distinct bloom seasons starting with the miniature dwarf iris season, followed a little later by the standard dwarf iris season, and then later came the intermediate bearded iris season and finally the border (BB), miniature tall (MTB) and TB season.

To read the complete article by Debbie Strauss and see gorgeous photos of median iris visit the American Iris Society blog. <http://theamericanirissociety.blogspot.com/2011/09/what-are-theymedian-iris.html>

Minutes for the February 18th General Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 1:31 p.m. The new board for 2012 was introduced.

Thank you Steven and Carol for your refreshments today and to Carol Thomas for getting us organized at the welcome table. We're adding fresh fruit, in addition to sweets at the table.

Thank you to our 2012 volunteers: Carol Thomas (Hospitality), Diane Clarke (Sculpture Garden), Judy Book (Newsletter Editor), Dan Schroeder (Rhizome Sales), Steven Ginter (Marking Party), Linda Rossman (New Member Orientation), Sharon Phelps (Garden Tour), Dennis Luebkin (Publicity) and Bob Smith (Chino Valley Sale). Sign-in sheet is asking for future volunteers. Please be sure to help in some way. Sign up with Carol for refreshments. Thank you also for **raffle donations:** Carolyn, Sharon, Diane, Katy, Bonnie, Steven and Linda.

Carolyn Alexander was presented with two thank you gifts for serving as our president for two years. She received a snail and turtle solar operated mosquito zapper.

Goals for 2012: Cultivation of Iris, continuing education, member training, membership. Diane suggested creating more involvement by adding some of Sun Country's segments to our meetings, starting April 28th:

FOR YOUR INFORMATION- a 5 minute segment on something to share from the floor.

BASIC IRIS CULTURE-A 10 minute open forum for members who want to share a thought.

GARDEN GADGETS- Members could introduce new garden products to our group.

Still need help: Iris Exhibit. We need help with set-up at 3:00 pm on Friday, May 18th and on the day of the show.

Budget Decisions.

Sharon Phelps presented the boards thoughts on our finances and reasons for being financially conservative this year. We are suggesting placing NIIP on hold and reducing the Iris show to an exhibit due to costs.

Roger explained what is happening with the national convention guest iris beds. Thousands of irises are being donated back to affiliates for their public sales and silent auctions. We'll need lots of help at the July marking party, for the several thousand we will be getting just from the Stanton Garden. Region 15 has requested that we host the Spring Trek in 2015. Carolyn Alexander explained how the trek process works and how much work it would entail for our chapter. We would need at least four members to plant guest iris in their yards.

Up-coming events:

April convention registration still open. Carolyn has space in her vehicle if you need a ride.

Garden Tour: May 12th. Sign up with Sharon for your garden. A potluck will conclude the tour at Hummingbird Iris Garden, hosted by Linda Rossman.

Iris Exhibit. May 19th. **Kaleidoscope of Color** will be a non-juried event held, as usual, at Mortimer Nursery.

The board has suggested a rain check this year for the **NIIP**. We can use rhizomes from the convention to reward our members for their volunteerism. Be certain to sign our attendance sheets.

Promote AIS membership. Would you be willing to receive \$60 worth of iris for purchasing a 3 years subscription to the national society? This is the Region 15 recommendation to the eleven affiliates. Darrell Levi was the first to take advantage of this offer.

Sculpture Garden Donations- Carolyn asked members to consider donating iris to the sculpture garden which grow well in members yards. Give us the name to be added to our list. Contact Diane Clarke if you can help, from time to time, in the **sculpture garden**. Cell Ph-237-6285.

The Yavapai College Sculpture Garden and the Dykes Iris

Stan and Judy Book did a presentation of the sculptures and the Dykes Medal winners we have planted there. We are only short 6 cultivars. Hopefully we will get donations as a result of our ad placed in the convention booklet.

Valentine Bingo- Dan Schroeder called our bingo game. We had 8 winners.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:32 p.m.

The world is full of willing people; some willing to work, the rest willing to let them. Hopefully the officers of the various AIS groups fit the first part of this statement. They are all busy people and need all the help they can get from their respective memberships. If all or most members would do just a little it would greatly help to share the load your officers are trying to respond to. After all, this is your society. Ultimately it is your interest that will make your society what it is or what it is to become.

Jim Morris, AIS Bulletin, April 2012