



PRESCOTT AREA IRIS SOCIETY

VOLUME 12 ISSUE 4

SEPTEMBER 2015



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well September has certainly gotten here fast. We have had a busy productive year thus far in lieu of some unexpected events. We move forward thanks to the determination and devotion of our membership. Our hosting of the AIS Region 15 Fall Conference (Trek) is right around the corner on Friday October 9th and Saturday October 10th with nationally recognized irisarian, writer and speaker Kelly Norris, curator of the Des Moines Botanical Gardens. This is a very important regional event. This event rotates between the club affiliates of Region 15 and this year it is our turn. The last one we did was in 2008. It is a wonderful event. All of Region 15 clubs of the American Iris Society have been invited to this event. Region 15 includes all of Arizona and Southern California, so we are expecting a good turn out from affiliates in Phoenix, Tucson and Southern California. All of our membership is invited to attend and the cost of registration has been reduced for our members. Please see our registration information in this news letter and on our website. It is important that all of our members participate both in the work to be done before and on the two days that the Conference occurs. This is a large, fun event. We need all our members to volunteer to help make this event successful. From set up and tear down to helping with decorations, registration, raffle, auction, greeters and numerous other tasks that need to be done. Your participation is what keeps PAIS strong and now nationally recognized as a progressive and active AIS affiliate.

Although, Region 15 provides a small amount of seed money to initiate our work, PAIS is responsible for all cost associated with putting the conference on. It is an expensive proposition, in the range of \$5,500 which includes our national speaker, food and other needed items for the Conference. The good news is that when we were asked two years ago to do this we began raising and saving the money from our sales and we have had two very good years of income so we have it covered. One of our major expenses is for the food which costs PAIS approximately \$30.00+ per person. The registration fee for Region 15 members is \$45.00. The fee for PAIS members to attend has been reduced to \$30.00 which basically covers the cost of meals. If you volunteer to work but do not attend the actual conference or luncheon there is no charge to you. I do encourage you to attend the conference. It is a time to talk to other Region 15 members and make new friends and a time to learn from our national speaker and Region 15 members. It is well worth the cost.

We will have two pre Fall Trek volunteer days, Saturday, September 26th and October 3rd from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm at the Luebkin's to help put items together for the event and get things ready. We will also need help on the conference weekend. Sharon Luebkin has outlined jobs that need to be filled for the weekend. Read the article on page 2 and see how you can assist. Contact Sharon Luebkin at 623-628-4860 to see where you can assist either before or during the weekend. Your participation is needed and greatly appreciated during this very busy September and early October.

Best Regards to all,
Dennis Luebkin, Interim President

2015 EVENTS CALENDAR

September 10	Sculpture Garden workday
September 19	General Meeting 1:30-3:30
September 26	Fall Trek Preparation
October 1-2	Sculpture Garden workday
October 3	Fall Trek Preparation
October 6	Sharlot Hall Museum workday
October 9-10	Region 15 Fall Trek-Prescott
November 21	Potluck—Election of Officers

September 19

1:30—3:30 pm

**Annual Photo Contest &
Ice Cream Social**

Yavapai Title

1235 E.Gurley at Sheldon and Gurley

See photo entry rules page 3



New Member Welcome

Pam Rosic

FALL TREK PREPARATION AND YOU

The Fall Trek (Conference) is almost here. Time to put our best feet forward! Dress code for the day is as western as you can get. Blue jeans, cowboy or white long sleeve shirt, cowboy hat, cowboy boots, braids, pony tail or your most western look. We have a blue or red bandana for each member to wear. This will identify our PAIS members so we can help our guests. Call Sharon Sundvall to purchase reasonably priced western shirts for men and women. 928-515-2500



Because we have little time for both set-up and take down, we'll need lots of volunteers early and late. Our event ends at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday with a wedding party coming in to set up at 3:30 pm, so we must be completely out by then. In the morning we might be able to get into the Marina Room around 6:30 to 7:00 am and need to have everything set up by 8:00 am, table decorations, raffle items, silent auction and boutique items plus registration and reblooming flower display. All will need to be carried in from cars or the lobby and placed by 8:00 am. We'll also need raffle ticket sellers, greeters, guides and another cashier. When it is all set up, then it's our time to shop and mingle and enjoy breakfast. Whether you are staying with us for the whole day to attend the conference or just coming to help, all are welcome, needed and appreciated.

Our Cub Scout Troop will open the morning meeting with a color guard and pledge of allegiance. Don't forget our "Meet and Greet" Book signing and early registration on Friday starting at 5:00 pm. That will be held in the lobby. A few people will be needed for set up on Friday.

We will have 2 work weekend days, September 26th, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm and October 3rd 9:30 am to 12:30 pm, both at Luebkin's, -10 Cienega by the airport. September 26th will be to fill the loot bags and prepare our gifts. All preparation of irises and plants will occur on October 3rd. We are giving them 2 iris from the Citizen's Cemetery, (Crimson King- 1893 and Othello-1848) which will need to be prepared along with wrappings pots of plants so as not to be too dried out. The western named irises will be wrapped and go to the boutique or raffle.

Please call Sharon Luebkin at [\(623\)628-4860](tel:6236284860) or email dlobkin@q.com or call Kathleen Shaffer at [\(619\)957-2199](tel:6199572199) to volunteer. We will have a sign-up sheet at our September 19th meeting. If you cannot make the meeting call us or just drop by and surprise us. It will all work out and you will all be needed.

Sharon and Kathleen **Ed. Note: Registration form on page 7 of newsletter.**

Planning Ahead for 2016

We had a fantastic sale of potted iris at our May exhibit and we would like to please our guests again with a large variety of iris available for purchase. Because we had such a tremendous rhizome sale this year, we had very few unsold rhizomes to pot for next spring. Here's is how you can help. Now that you have seen how many increases you have since bloom time, there are probably iris you could have divided, but did not get around to it. Pot up as many of these iris as you can. Be sure they are marked clearly with the variety name and hold them for the May exhibit. Iris can over winter in pots quite well if they have lots of sun and are in a warm location, maybe next to a garage or house wall. If you feel you cannot take care of them until next May, email Dennis or Dede and they will make arrangements for their care.





7th Annual Photo Contest

September 19, 2015

BY: Carolyn Alexander

Today is a perfect day to download my saved iris photos from the camera's memory card and start selecting my best shots. We started getting Monsoon rains at about 11 AM and it is too wet to work in the yard. I save this type of work for just this type of day. It is a way to enjoy my irises all over again when the blooms have been long gone. I hope you have many photos to sort through and a perfect day to reflect on those beautiful blooms. Maybe you are one of those organized iris lovers that already have your best photos selected from last spring. If not, it's time to select your very best photos, one for each of the four categories. Remember, only one entry per person per category.

Habitat — Landscape or iris scene

Individual Iris flower or group of irises — Single or cluster

Macro Close-up Design — Artistic or Photoshop enhancements of iris

Something else — Iris with insect, animal or people

The winner will be selected by all the members present by secret ballot. The name of the photographer will not be displayed during voting. To enter you must have taken the photo yourself but it can be of any iris anywhere. It could be taken at one of our iris functions like digging at Citizens Cemetery or the iris show. Maybe you toured someone else's garden and took the perfect shot of a beautiful iris. Anything goes even photos you took at the AIS annual convention in Oregon this year. In order for everyone to see the photos on the table while standing up we request you limit your size to either 5"X7" or 8"X10". Please no mats and no frames, we are judging the best photo, not all the fluff.

The board went all out and ordered garden signs this year for prizes (see samples here). We have several to choose from and you won't want to miss this, so get out your photos now. Please share as it is way more fun when everyone participates.



Just Call Me

New Member Training

On Sunday, August 16th PAIS held its New Member Training class at the Luebkin's home. Attendees included Joanne Moorhouse, Pam Rosic, Allison Kravetz, Vicki Hughes, Dora Ward (Vicki's mom), Judy Reynolds and Bill and Robin Walter. We welcome these new and now highly trained members. It was a small group which provided time for questions and interaction, very enjoyable. We are looking forward to your involvement and can't wait to see you at our September 19th meeting. Bring us some of your iris pictures (5 x 7 or 8 x 10) for the photo contest. Come hungry too for the ice cream social.

Gardening Tips Late Summer/Fall Iris Care

Dennis Luebkin

Here we are at the end of summer. It's September and we are wrapping up summer and looking ahead to fall and cooler weather. This year's predictions are for an El Nino winter which for us in the Prescott area could mean colder, wetter weather with rain and snow. Frosts and freezing could come earlier. We are nearing the end of our planting season so timing is important. Some of us have still been digging and dividing our gardens or have purchased irises at the club sales or commercially and have not yet planted them. It is important to get our treasures in the ground before the middle of September. It takes 3 to 4 weeks to establish new roots before cold weather sets in, so to get iris ready for winter, here are a few tips.

Planting: Go to the PAIS website <http://prescottirissociety.org> to view the "How to Grow Irises in the Tri City Area". If your rhizomes have been out of the ground for a while and are looking dry, soak them for 3 to 4 hours in a bucket of water. You can also add some vitamin B1 to the water to rehydrate them before planting. Based on your soil condition, amend your soils with All Purpose Soil Conditioner and Seed Cover (or similar product) and alfalfa meal while digging and replanting.

Cleaning: Remove dead fans and old bloom stalks. Also clean any leaf debris from around the rhizomes and remove any soil from the tops of the rhizomes. Leave about the top 1/4 to 1/3 of the rhizome exposed. Remember the rhizomes like some sunlight and air. This will also help prevent rhizome rot. If you should notice any soft rhizomes during cleanup or detect a rotten odor you can apply some Ajax or similar chlorinated cleaner on top and around the rhizome. The chlorine will assist in killing the bacteria causing the rot. Weeds and grasses are a problem after our summer monsoon. Remove weeds and grasses so they do not compete with the irises.

Fertilizing: Fertilize with a good 10-10-10 with trace elements. You can use Best 6-24-24 (nitrogen-phosphorus-potassium) fertilizer for re-bloomers. You can also use a good rose food for strengthening the rhizome and root system for the winter months. If you have rebloomers, this will also help them rebloom. Irises are heavy feeders. Nitrogen promotes good overall growth and green fans. Phosphorus and potassium help in the development of a strong root system, resist disease and produce abundant bloom for rebloomers and for the following spring.

Pest control: Thrips and aphids lay their eggs at the base of the fans so be sure to clean out the dead fans and leaf debris.

Watering: With the warm dry summer we have had, continue watering through the warm weather twice a week to establish newly planted rhizomes and then begin to cut back on the watering to once week. If the ground begins to look dry check 3 inches below the ground to see how moist the ground is if it is dry, water with a deep soaking. After the first freeze cut back watering to an as needed basis. Happy gardening!!

PAIS CONTACTS

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Embry Riddle Univ. planting: Dede Erceg
Citizen Cemetery planting: Dennis & Sharon Luebkin
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Mailing Address:

Prescott Area Iris Society
P O Box 11918



Ruth DeVries 1936-2015

Our club has lost a willing worker and a true irisarian. Over the years, Ruth served as sculpture garden chair, secretary, board member and volunteer at iris exhibits and sales. She was also an energetic member of the 2008 Fall Trek committee. As an iris enthusiast, she willingly shared her iris with friends and neighbors. A week before her death, Ruth invited our club to dig up her iris to sell at our rhizome sale. Bill Walter, Katy Standhardt, Stan and Judy Book were pleased to fulfill this last request.

Following is the article Ruth was asked to write about herself for the newsletter in January 2009.

I was born in Iowa and lived in a small rural community, during my childhood. We had lots of garden produce. Tomatoes and carrots were delicious picked fresh from the garden and washed off with the water hose! My Mother had peony, lilac and bridal wreath bushes, lily of the valley and more.

I married young and we moved to the desert of Arizona in 1956. I did not fight the hot, low desert for a garden, except for growing tomatoes in our "court yard" in Wickenburg. After moving to Prescott in 2003, the country girl in me was sparked anew to dig in this good soil. My top choice was to grow some iris, and I wandered upon the rhizome sale at Sharlot Hall Museum in August and made a small purchase - how could one decide with all the beautiful pictures of iris. I joined PAIS at that time.

In August of 2005 we purchased our property on Perdido Lane, and the next spring iris began to spring up (among lots of other goodies). Beautiful blossoms! I had no idea about names, etc. Innocently, I attended the silent auction that year, and it is all history from that day on. I now have several iris garden plots, and have around 150 rhizomes, and over 90 different varieties. That short visit to the rhizome sale got me hooked.

An Invitation from the Historic Iris Preservation Society Become a Guardian Gardener!

Help us save the rarest irises before they disappear. Join our new Guardian Gardens network! Any HIPS member can join. Here is how it works: Guardian Gardeners (GGs) "adopt" rare irises and give them space to grow in their gardens. We'll help you identify rare irises you might already have, too. When the irises are big enough to divide, they are offered to other GG members, botanic gardens, and possibly to a commercial vendor who might want to get it back into commerce. In this way, they are shared out to known sources. Once an iris has been shared with enough known sources, it's no longer on the "rare" list. Then it can be shared with the general public at local sales, the annual HIPS sale, etc.

Adopting Irises: right now there are hundreds of rare irises that need adoption. These are from rescued gardens and other GG gardens. These irises are available to new GG members for just the cost of the postage. Even if you have room for only a few irises, your guardianship will help protect them from disappearance. How to Join: Contact Doug Paschall, the Guardian Gardens administrator for HIPS, at gg@historicism.org to enroll in the program. Rare irises are waiting for a home - please help us save them! Not a HIPS member? You're invited to join at www.historicism.org.



A History of Iris (continued)

Dennis Luebkin

The Ancient Egyptians used iris in their architecture and as a symbol of eloquence and power. It was a symbol of life and the protection of life. It was placed on the brow of the Sphinx and upon the scepters of the Pharaohs. It is found on the walls of palaces and royal tombs. It was sculptured in stone in the temple of Karnack and was used in the burials of the royal court. The iris was used as a fragrance and as perfumes. They were used in ritual burials and ceremonies. It is said that King Thutmose III Pharaoh of Egypt in 1479 BC found iris in Syria during his conquest of the Assyrian Empire and was so enthralled with the beauty and fragrance that he took them to Egypt to be planted in his royal gardens. The Egyptians considered the three petals of the iris to represent Faith, Wisdom, and Valor. Since the iris flower reflected a sense of authority, it was used to decorate the funeral temples of the pharaohs who believed the iris would preserve their power in the next life. Frescos and paintings in palaces and tombs show members of the royal families holding bouquets of irises.

As in the Egyptian Empire the Assyrian, the Babylonian and the Persian Empires also considered irises one of the symbols of royalty and power. Iris were important to both royalty and in religious ceremonies. They were placed in their architecture, tapestries, rugs and pottery. Irises were grown in the gardens of the rulers of the empires.

During the period of conquest of the Mediterranean region and Asia by Alexander the Great and Greek Colonization of the ancient world, iris were found in many parts of the new empire and were brought back to Greece and other parts of the empire for cultivation. It was mentioned in Greek mythology that purple iris should be planted on the graves of women so that the god Iris would lead their souls to the Elysian Fields, the ancient Greek version of heaven. This practice is still conducted to this day in Greece to guide the souls of women to their final resting place. Irises were also mentioned in the writings of both Homer and Virgil. Iris which had been collected and used by the Greeks in areas of their colonization have been given the names of the irises locations such as I. Trojana (Troy in Turkey), I. Cypriana (Cyprus), I. Junonia (to honor the Roman god Juno), I. Mesopotamica (Mesopotamia), and I. Kashmiriana (Kashmir near India) to name a few.

The Egyptians, Greeks and so too the Romans cultivated iris for use in commerce. They grew iris for use in perfumes, fragrances, preservatives, powders and medicines. In ancient times the iris rhizome was known in writings as the Orris Root and in herbal medicines is still identified as such today. They were used as preservatives in foods, beers and wines. The irises I. Pallida, I. Germanica, Dalmatica, and I. Florentina are believed to be some of the irises (Orris Root) used for medicinal purposes and fragrances in ancient times. Irises were grown commercially across the Roman Empire. It was a very lucrative business. The writers Theophrastus, Dioscorides and Pliny the Elder wrote of iris cultivation and noted that the choicest iris varieties came from Silistria, Dalmatia, and Pamphylia.

In medicine iris were used in the treatment of diseases of the lungs, blood and stomach disorders. It is said that the oil of iris could remove freckles from the skin. In ancient Greece druggists and doctors were known as rhisotomi (root diggers). Our current term for the iris root rhizome is derived from this Greek word. Irises were so highly prized in ancient Greece that Pliny stated that iris should be gathered only by those in a state of chastity. Thank goodness we do not have to hold to that restriction today!!! Stay tuned for another exciting iris adventure in the iris history corner in our next issue.



Iris from Herbarius Latinus, 1509

Editor Note: If you missed part one of the history, you can view it here: http://prescottirissociety.org/newsletter/March_April_2015_newsletter.pdf

Registration Form

PAIS Members, \$30 Registration includes: Friday evening snack; Saturday Continental Breakfast and Buffet Lunch.

Name(s) of Attendees: _____

Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Judge's Training: YES () NO () Please indicate if you plan to participate in judges training.

Amount of enclosed check: \$ _____ Number attending: _____ Please make checks payable to:

Prescott Area Iris Society; registration must be received by, September 30, 2015. Please mail check and a copy of this registration form to: **Sharon Luebkin, 10 Cienega Drive, Prescott, AZ 86301**

Questions contact Sharon Luebkin (623)-628-4860 (Cell), or Dennis Luebkin (623)-980-6627 (Cell)

E-mail: dlobkin@q.com. Visit our website <http://prescottirissociety.org> for more information.



Prescott Area Iris Society

welcomes you to

WILD WEST IRIS

AIS Region 15, 2015 Fall Meeting

Friday October 9 & Saturday October 10

October 9, 5:00-8:00 p.m.

Early Registration, Meet & Greet plus Book Signing with Kelly Norris

October 10, 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Featuring Guest Speaker & Judges Training

Kelly D. Norris

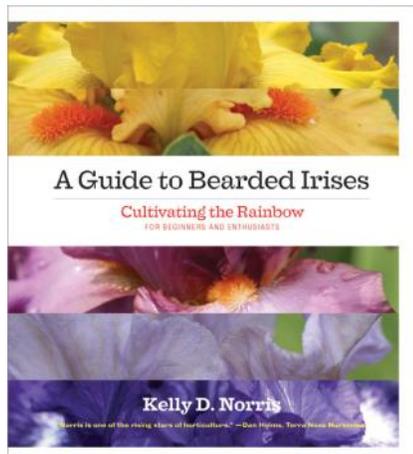
"Intermediates and Border Bearded Irises"

How to Sort them Out

At the Hassayampa Inn, Marina Room, 122 E. Gurley Street,
Prescott, AZ

(Limited parking on the East side of Marina across from the hotel)

Reblooming Iris Display



In this comprehensive and definitive guide, iris expert Kelly Norris provides an accessible yet authoritative overview of these deservedly popular plants. Introductory chapters show how to grow successfully, how to use them in the garden, how to choose the best plants, and how to "create" new irises. *A Guide to Bearded Irises* also provides portraits of the most outstanding plants in each of the six recognized categories, from the dainty miniature dwarf bearded irises to the stately tall bearded irises.

Book sale and signing Friday night, October 9.

THE HAAS INTERFAITH CHAPEL MEDITATION WALKWAY AND GARDENS AT EMBRY-RIDDLE PRESCOTT

Embry-Riddle Prescott is a multi-faith community and our policies and procedures honor a spirit of this diversity. The Haas Interfaith Chapel is a peaceful and beautiful space available to meet the needs of people of all faiths. It and the surrounding landscape are dedicated to enhancing the spiritual dimension of our campus community.

In its growing role the Haas Interfaith Chapel has expanded continuing original plans to utilize the beautiful outdoor setting surrounding the facility. An extended walkway, re-engineered for safety, steps through the natural landscape in front of the Chapel creating a path to meditation among memorial garden spaces. Making available the beautiful panorama overlooking Willow Lake and creating calming restorative thoughts and inspirational views, this meditational walkway creates the infrastructure for placement of existing and future memorials, as well as creative niches for themed specific contemplation gardens, sought by interested contributors.

Today's students face an amazing diversity of experiences and world views on campus while juggling the demands of their education, their social life and their peer groups. Sometimes, during times of personal or social difficulty, students need a place to turn for support, guidance and quiet reflection.

Fortunately for Embry-Riddle, we enjoy associations with benefactors, friends and community minded organizations like J.W. Kieckhefer Foundation who appreciate the value of improving cultural and intellectual conditions.

Thanks to the J.W. Kieckhefer Foundation, along with local supporters such as the Rummel and Olsen Families, in addition to campus personnel, completion of the Meditation Walkway and relocation of displaced memorials have been accomplished.

The Prescott Area Iris Society (PAIS) contributed a garden in memory of the Granite Mountain Hotshots, who lost their lives in the Yarnell Hill Fire. To honor the fallen fire fighters, as well as all fire fighters, PAIS has chosen irises whose names reflect the attributes of fire fighters and first responders. Located at the entrance to the Haas Interfaith Memorial Chapel the flowers have been sent by irisarians from across the United States for this planting.

Open to the public, the Meditation Gardens will serve the Embry-Riddle and quad-city communities for many years to come.

