



# Prescott Area Iris Society

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August 2017

## Presidents Message

Greetings to All,

Wow, Hard to believe we are now in August. Where did the summer go? This summer's weather has been unusual to say the least. June was excessively hot and dry and July has been unusually hot, humid and wet. Predictions are that this will continue through October. We definitely need the water!

This has been an exciting and busy year for PAIS. Our spring show the Kaleidoscope of Color Iris Festival was successful despite the heat and bad weather. I thank all those who did the setup, sale and tear down in the extreme heat.

We had been asked by Embry Riddle University to expand the memorial Garden at the Hass Chapel and our wonderful volunteers have completed that. We also dug and divided our original plantings. Irises, day lilies and daffodils were planted to extend the bloom season at the garden. Next year this area will have a wonderful display of color. The university is very appreciative of the efforts PAIS has done to beautify this area to honor the 19 Granite Mountain Fire Fighters.

The new irrigation main system in the sculpture garden has been completed by the college and our volunteers are currently in the process of installing the new emitter heads to the location for the new iris beds supplied by the college. Thank you Judy, Stan and Bill for your efforts in doing this. New planting areas will be dedicated to the works of Arizona hybridizers such as Francelle Edwards, Margie Valenzuela, Don Shepherd, Dr. B. Charles Jenkins, Floyd Wickenkamp, and Larry Johnson. Other areas and theme plantings will also be added. Themed plantings of western/cowboy Irises, broken color irises, space age/novelty irises will be provided. Tall Bearded and Spurias will be used for the plantings. We will begin the planting of the tall bearded irises and the Spurias in August and September as they arrive in Prescott during the next few weeks. We thank Cathy Chilton, Darol Jurn, Jim Hedgecock, Nola's Iris Gardens, HIPS and the numerous individual donations of irises for the garden. Judy book and I have coordinated obtaining these irises over the past several months. Thank you Judy for all your efforts. We will need volunteer assistance for the planting which will start mid August. Stay tuned for further information on dates and times.



Sharlot Hall has asked us with the assistance of Diane Thornbrugh to add a historic collection of irises at the Foster House. These irises will be a complete collection of Grace Sturtevant who was the first female hybridizer in the US. Her Collection dates from 1917 to about 1930. She hybridized some of the most beautiful irises of the early twentieth century. HIPS has provided the collection for the garden and we thank HIPS for their assistance. We thank Diane for her efforts in developing a renewed relationship with the museum. Our original plantings of historic irises at Sharlot Hall 4+ years ago did so well that they needed to be dug this year. We had hundreds of historic irises from the museum to sell and give away for the sale. The dig of the Sharlot Hall Irises was a major event and we thank all of our member volunteers for their hard work.

## Presidents Message, cont'd

Our youth education program continued at Abia Judd elementary school. We thank Jean Cole and Sharon Luebkin for their efforts in teaching our youth about irises and horticulture.

Our Summer sale was wonderful. This year's sale was only one day, Saturday, July 29th. We had people from all over the state and beyond come to buy the irises. We had 243 varieties for sale. Proceed results are on page 6. These funds then go to



support our scholarships and community outreach programs. We would like to thank all those who volunteered for the Marking Party and the sale. We had a wonderful turnout of membership for both events.

Our next general meeting will be August 19th. It will be our Ice Cream Social, Iris Auction and Photo Contest. Be sure to attend this wonderful event.

Best Regards to All, Dennis Luebkin, PAIS President



Thank you to Patrick and his wife for opening their home for the marking party. Your hospitality was greatly appreciated.

Thanks also to Bill, Judy, Kathleen, Kelly, Eugene and the entire volunteer team for all their efforts to get things done for the marking party and sale.

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## New Member Observations—By Sherry Williams

So I'm the new kid (kid denoting time in the PAIS, not time on earth) and I am so pleased that I joined your group. My timing, I believe, was fortuitous as I was able to participate in a number of activities (a dig at Embury-Riddle, the marking party & the summer iris sale) that allowed me to meet other members. First I want to thank everyone I have met for being so welcoming, this is an amazing group of people with a common love – iris's and gardening that are a pleasure to be around.

Participating in the summer sale was actually a lot of fun. While my temptation was to continually shop, I was able to learn a considerable amount about iris. I was amazed at the number of varieties and quantity of rhizomes available. I liked that the iris were organized by alphabet which made it easy to find a specific one. Our customers were enthusiastic about our variety, pleased that they are locally grown, and were able to acquire great information about planting and caring for their new purchases. Your group has amazingly knowledgeable people that I look forward to learning from.

I have enjoyed each event and I am looking forward to years of enjoyment as well as an abundance of amazing flowers in my garden.

## August 19 Meeting

### Photo Contest, Ice Cream, Iris – Come and Get it!!

Have you priced the new iris introductions lately? Many hybridizers are selling their new beauties for \$45-\$60. At the August 19 **silent auction** you will have a chance to bid on newly introduced iris from the gardens at Hi Desert Iris Society. What a bargain! Bring cash. Iris bucks will not be used since this is a fund raiser for Region 15.

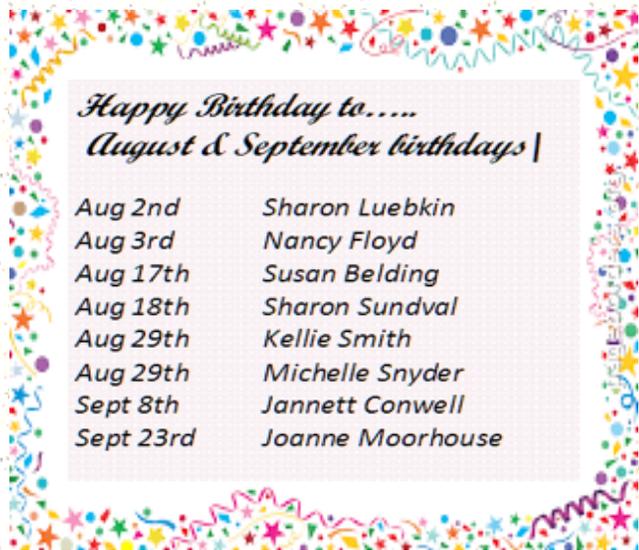


And yes you can squeeze in one or two more iris. Dig up several that you are not totally in love with, pot them for our May exhibit/sale and you will have space for some fabulous, new iris.

Another meeting highlight is the **annual photo contest**. New members, this is your chance to show us your stuff. We had the highest participation ever last year. Let's see if we can top that. Prizes and the admiration of your fellow club members will make entering worth your while. The photo contest rules are on page 3.



And last, but not least, plan to spoil your diet and indulge in ice cream and other goodies, strike up a conversation with someone you don't know well and have a grand time.



## The Search Is On!!

The Prescott Area Iris Society (PAIS) is currently expanding the plantings in the Sculpture Garden at Yavapai College. The Garden areas are being expanded to honor Arizona Iris Hybridizers. We are currently looking for irises hybridized by Don Shepherd at the old Shepherd Iris Garden in Phoenix. If you have any of these irises hybridized by Don please contact Dennis Luebkin at 623-980-6627 or [dluebkin@q.com](mailto:dluebkin@q.com). Here's a list of irises hybridized by Don Shepherd. <http://wiki.irises.org/bin/view/Main/Bio/HybridizerShepardDL>

Thank you for your assistance.  
Dennis Luebkin, PAIS President



# 9th Annual Photo Contest August 19, 2017

By: Carolyn Alexander

Today could be a perfect day to get out your saved iris photos on camera's memory card and start selecting the best shots. The Monsoons have been very active giving you the opportunity to sit at the computer and go through last springs saved photos of irises. It is a way to enjoy your 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. It's time to select the very best in four categories as only one allowed per category which is as follows:

Category A: Habitat — Landscape or iris scene

Category B: Individual Iris flower or group of irises — single or cluster

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

Category D: 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. In order for everyone to see the photos on the table while standing up we request you limit your size to either 5X7 or 8X10". Please no mats and no frames, we are judging the best photo not all the fluff.

We have lots of special prizes this year to pick from including solar stake iris flowers (photo above) and smaller iris stakes without solar plus photo albums and garden stakes (photo to right). Please share your photos as it is way more fun when everyone participants and get a gift while winning. You may enter in all four categories for 8 chances to win as we have a gift for both 1st and 2nd place in each of the categories. See you and your prize winning photos at the August general meeting. Carolyn



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PAIS website: <http://prescottirissociety.org/>

Prescott Area Iris Society P.O. Box 11918, Prescott, AZ 86304

Coming Events		
August	19	Iris Photo Contest/Auction/Ice Cream Social
September	16	Eric Moore Birds in the Garden
October		No Meeting
November	18	Elections/ Potluck Speaker TBA
December		No Meeting



### \*SUMMER IRIS CARE \*

- \* Continue to keep your iris beds weed free
- \*Water —check about 3 inches down to make sure the soil is dry before watering. The monsoons have been a big help. Cut back on watering as the weather cools
- \*Fertilize if you have not already done so—sprinkle fertilizer around the clump not on the rhizomes. Use a good 10-10-10 or similar low nitrogen fertilizer
- \*Cut blooms stalks off at the base and remove dead leaves
- \*Be on the lookout for soft rot and treat the rhizome immediately. As you are doing cleanup, remove dead leaves and sniff their base. The scent should be earthy. The slightest smell of rot means it is time to take action before any visible damage occurs. Use Comet or Ajax cleanser on the rhizome to dry it out after cutting off and discarding the rotted part of the rhizome. Sulfur can also be used for drying out the rhizome.
- \*Dig and pot 4-6 iris rhizomes of several varieties for the spring exhibit/sale. Normally we pot the leftover sale iris, but since there are none, we really need you to pot iris or we will have nothing to sell and the spring patrons want to purchase iris.
- \*Verify that plant markers are correctly placed and have not faded - remark as needed.

## My First Rhizome Sale - By Kellie Smith

This was my first rhizome sale I had the pleasure of working. At the start of the day 8:30 am, we had a load of donations that weren't marked and I wondered if we would be ready by the time customers started to arrive. Low and behold, PAIS members that came chipped in and we "got it done".



Folks started to arrive around 9:30 and it reminded me of Black Friday, minus the fist fights of course. I observed folks loading up buckets, bags, and boxes of iris. Some more than they could carry. Hopefully we had a successful sale. I'll be sitting on the edge of my seat awaiting the results.

Thanks to all, for the team work PAIS displayed.

Oh, I almost forgot. Thanks Sharon for my Iris bucks, I can hardly wait until next spring.

## July '17 Rhizome Sale Financials

<b>Income</b>	
Cash	4098.00
Checks	443.006
Credit Card	\$2,445.00
Less fee	67.30
Net	\$2,377.70
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,981.70</b>
<b>Adjustments</b>	
Advance	\$500.00
<b>Total-Adjustments</b>	<b>\$ 6,412.70</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Advertising	\$105.50
Marking Party	\$464.97
Refreshments	\$ 141.72
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$712.19</b>
<b>Net</b>	<b>\$ 5,700.51</b>
Iris bucks used	\$ 237.00
Membership(1)\$6.00	

