



Prescott Area Iris Society

Volume 15 Issue 3

June 2018

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President's Message

~ by *Sherry Williams*

Our next meeting date, June 9, is significant for me. It is the day we officially moved to Arizona and the Prescott area last year. It is amazing to me that it has only been a year, as I am so comfortable in our new surroundings and it truly is home. A major factor in that comfort is the amazing people of PAIS. This has been such a rewarding year being a part of this society. I don't ever remember being so quickly accepted into a group and feeling as if I have a wonderful group of friends rather than just a group I belong to. So I need to start off this message with Thank You for just being who you are. This group is dedicated to iris, gardens, the community and each other – truly a blessing!

On April 20 & 21 many of us had the opportunity to go to the AIS Region 15 Spring Trek in Phoenix. Having it so close to home gave us the ability to have more of our members attend and we represented a major share of the attendees. It was unfortunate that due to the weather this year one of the gardens on the garden tour didn't have any iris, however, the other three provided us with some beautiful options for us to vote on for favorites. We were, of course, excited when we got to the last garden and found one of the entries was a Louisiana seedling from our own Gary Miller. It was an amazing entry and WON! For best Louisiana and seedling. Congratulations to Gary. We also want to thank Sun Country for hosting this event and providing a wonderful experience. The days were well planned, the visit to the Arizona Heritage Museum was fascinating and the banquet was very enjoyable (of course we were the loud, fun group at the back table).



On April 28th we had the Kaleidoscope of Color at Mortimer's Nursery. What an amazing day. Our contributors to the People's Choice Awards, Display Arrangements & Grandma's table were lovely. Mortimer's outdid themselves with the new sunscreen cover on the greenhouse and their generosity. Barbara McCurry, Dennis Luebkin, Kellie Smith, Joanne Moorhouse deserve a big thank you for all their efforts putting this together. And a grateful thank you to all the volunteers on Friday and Saturday that help set-up, man the event and tear down. Many folks look forward to our event each year and based on the comments, we didn't disappoint this year. And we sold every potted iris we had available and people were still wanting more.



**Don't forget our
Summer Potluck
June 9th - 1:30pm
@ Stoneridge
Community Center**

We are having our marking party for the Rhizome sale on July 21 at my home: 6571 E Dalton Way, Prescott Valley. We plan on starting at 8:00 AM (to stay as cool as possible) and we'll have food and beverages available. This is not a clean activity so come ready to get down and dirty. If you haven't been before, please come, we have a great time while we prepare the iris rhizomes for the sale.

That also means we're coming up on the 'let's dig & divide the iris garden' season. July is the time to start the dig & divide (July 4th is sort of the start date). Make sure to put any of your rhizomes for the summer sale in bags that are marked with their names or bundle and add a tag. If you're not sure of the name, mark as a NOID (no identification). If you have a garden that needs to be divided and it is a bit much for you this year, let us know. Contact either myself (714-515-2160), Dennis Luebkin (623-980-6627), Bill Walter (928-515-2972) or Steve Brubaker (908- 698-7819) and we'll see if we can arrange for some volunteers to come help.

This year at the Kaleidoscope of Color we had approximately 330 plants for sale. We could have used more, so we are encouraging our members when you dig & divide, hold some for the rhizome sale and put one or two in 1-gallon pots for the Kaleidoscope Sale. Make sure everything is marked with their names – plastic plant markers marked with #2 pencil (Bill SWEARS this is the best). We will provide the pots, plant marker, potting soil and alfalfa pellets; just let me, Dennis, Bill or Steve know how many you need. If you don't want to "babysit" the plants until next spring, let us know, we'll pick up the plants and find a babysitter.

Our Rhizome Sale is on July 28th and will be held at the Stoneridge Community Center. The Stoneridge Community Center provides us with a larger area for the sale, more parking and the wonderful patio area. This year should be an exciting event.

This is a busy time of year, but when you work with friends it always enjoyable. Join us on June 9th for the General Meeting at the Stoneridge Community Center. Then you can get out there and 'dig and divide' and join us at the marking party and the Rhizome sale.



Map to Stoneridge Community Center

**2018 P.A.I.S.
General Meeting
Please Join Us for our
Summer Pot Luck
Bring your recipe for our Cookbook**

**June 9, 2018
1:30PM to 3:30 PM
Stoneridge Community Center
1300 Stoneridge Dr. Prescott Valley, AZ 86314**

**Speaker ~ Eugene Zielinski
Iris Species of the Old World**

While irises are found across the northern hemisphere, the old world has the greatest variety by far. There are the bearded irises of Europe, the Spurias of the eastern Mediterranean, the exotic aril irises of the desert Middle East, and the bulbous irises of Turkey and central Asia. The far east, especially China, is home to a large number of beautiful species, including the well known Siberian irises.

This month's presentation will cover only a small amount of this variety, with comments on where these irises grow, how they grow, and, maybe, just maybe, whether they will survive in Prescott.

April 28, 2018

PAIS "Kaleidoscope of Color" Iris Show

"Peoples' Choice" award winning Iris and their growers:



BEARDLESS: Spuria,
"Ochroleuca"
[Marge Larson](#)



REDDISH-BROWN:
"Rustle of Spring",
[Loretta Bresof](#)



NOVELTY IRIS:
"Splatter Matters",
[Judy Book](#)



SPACE-AGE:
"Points North",
[Barbara McCurry](#)



**PEOPLES' CHOICE
BEST OF SHOW
& HISTORIC:**
"Well Endowed",
[Barbara McCurry](#)



**TALL BEARDED
Winner:**
"Montmartre",
[Janice Chesnik](#)



TALL BEARDED #2:
"Scoonchee",
[Sharon Luebkin/Dennis](#)



ARIL/ARIL-BRED:
"De Nile",
[Sharon Luebkin/Dennis](#)



MEDIAN:
"Sheer Excitement",
[Loretta Bresof](#)

PAIS "Kaleidoscope of Color" Iris Show

April 28, 2018

Mortimer Nursery, Prescott, AZ

By Barbara McCurry, Iris Show Co-Chairs with Kellie Smith

Our annual iris show was a "blooming" success on so many levels. First and foremost, was the cadre of volunteers over 30 strong that pulled off the event in style. Volunteers included longtime members, plenty of new members, and even an occasional spouse. Also essential was Mortimer staff at the ready to help with anything we needed, especially Valerie Phipps and Gary Mortimer.

We were fortunate this year with almost perfect weather (a tad windy in the afternoon); a show attendance at 339, the selling of ALL 262 iris pots, most within the first hour of opening to the public; a strong showing of 113 individual (and varied) iris stems, 3 display iris, and 4 unnamed beauties at Grandma's table; and timely setup and takedown of the show.

Thanks to Kellie and Heather for their help with incoming iris, and Carolyn's expertise at the iris intake table. Thanks to Patrick and crew for getting the iris to their proper locations and alphabetizing. Special thanks to our fantastic team of cashiers and tallies supervised by Eugene...I think it was a much better system this year. Thanks to our member iris growers and pot tenders! Thanks to Judy and her crack team for arranging the pots and helping the public during the sale. Thanks to the Luebkins for their iris care demonstrations. Thanks to Katy for setting up her very own booth to teach folks about displaying Iris...that was a real hit this year! Thanks to Sharon and Loretta for handling the new membership table. Many thanks to our headcounter clickers Heather and Stan, to our cadre of cheerful greeters, and to ALL of our volunteers on both days.

Overall, the iris held up well during the show with some opening in the afternoon. The iris flowers were center stage emanating an iridescence in the changing light thanks in part to the "summer" mesh greenhouse cover installed by Gary Mortimer on the eve of the show. I was amazed at the colorful variety of iris this year regardless of a tough growing season. The Luebkins provided many of the visitors with hands-on iris care and historic rhizomes to put their newfound knowledge to work...I'm sure they passed on the "Iris Virus" as only they can! Joanne kept us all going with her great selection of breakfast, snack, and lunch items including cold water. Thanks for the coffee pot Brenda...we needed that!

Give yourselves and each other a hearty pat on the back for all

your hard work and willingness to volunteer in making our show a huge success. On behalf of PAIS, I thank you all from the bottom of my iris heart!

Some Observations: Lots of folks with cameras taking photos; lots of folks amazed by the fragrance of iris; lots of "Wows" over such beautiful healthy iris; and lots of interest and questions on iris horticulture.

For all those that participated in this annual event, please take some time and send me your comments on what worked well at the show, and your recommendations for improvements. I will summarize the results and make them available to all.

Peoples' Choice Awards for 2018 – Congratulations to All of the Winners! The winning iris and their growers were chosen by our iris show visitors and fellow iris club members (see page 3). Each of the winners received a \$25 Mortimer Nursery gift certificate.

Many thanks to all the members and growers that entered their iris in the show this year...all beautiful and a joy to behold! I'm hopeful our newest members will enter the show in 2019 and make it even better. Many thanks to our 2018 Iris Show committee volunteers Kellie Smith (and Heather), Judy Book (and Stan), Dennis Luebkin, Sherry Williams, and Barbara McCurry.



Our New Members

Helene Rupp & Helene Albrecht (Granddaughter)
Ldhelene@yahoo.com
Their mailing address is
PO Box 214
Chino Valley, AZ 86323
(602) 799-4481 (Mobile)

NOTES ON PHOTOGRAPHING IRISES ~ by Mike Unser

Members Iris'

[HTTPS://WWW.HISTORICIRIS.ORG/NOTES-ON-PHOTOGRAPHING-IRISES/](https://www.historiciris.org/notes-on-photographing-irises/)

Good photographs of your flowers allow you to share the beauty in your garden, show others what you have for trade or sale, and allow you to make detailed records to document your collection. Getting good photos of your irises is easier than ever in the age of digital cameras – all you need is a little know-how. It used to be very expensive taking and processing hundreds of photos to get just the right shot, but digital cameras have changed all that. Now it is simple and easy to take all the pictures you like and choose only the best to keep, so don't be afraid to get out there and experiment with lighting, angles and camera settings. These tips should assist you in improving your skills.



There are so many cameras on the market now I couldn't possibly attempt to tell you which camera to choose, however there are some features and accessories that I have found to be useful when taking photos of flowers. A 'macro' setting that allows you to take close-ups is very handy and gives much better resolution than a camera without this feature. I always use the macro setting when doing mug shots of my irises. Having a monitor screen so you can see the shot before taking the picture is very useful in attaining well balanced and nicely composed shots. I use the finest settings the camera allows to get the highest resolution, however this necessitates file-size reduction later on. If you want to use your pictures directly with no changes a lower setting may be better for you. A cloth specifically made for cleaning camera lenses is a good thing to have along. I always seem to get a smudge on the lens that starts messing up my photos, so check the lens often. And finally, you will never regret the investment in a good tripod – it eliminates all those blurry photos and saves so much time.

Anyone that has grown irises knows the appearance of a bloom is quite different depending on the light, and that colors and tones change thru the day as the sun traverses the sky. The quality of the light must be taken into account if good results are to be had. When taking flower photos the ideal lighting is a bright but overcast sky. Too much sun creates glare, washes out the colors, and lights up the flower too much, while too dim a light source makes the bloom look shadowed and deeper toned than it really is.



If you don't have overcast light and need to get that shot, I have found that early morning or late evening light is good, though the color tones can sometimes be pushed off to blue (early morning) or red (late evening). A light diffusing screen can be very useful when taking snapshots in full sun, but is rather unwieldy to drag about the garden – which is a good reason to have a friend along to assist. The angle of the light can also play an important part in the success or failure of your photo. Try taking pictures from several angles and directions to determine best shot for that variety. Light coming from behind the flower lights it up and makes it almost transparent, while light from behind the camera gives a flatter look with less depth, but often truer color. I have achieved some very nice shots using late evening sun that lit up the bloom from the side, while taking the picture at a 90 degree angle to the light.



Composing the shot is essential to getting good results. Be aware of the background – is there anything there that is distracting or off-color? I have had many beautiful shots ruined by a car or other clutter behind the bloom that drew the eye away or made the photo look jumbled and messy. Take a minute to move background objects or readjust the camera angle to reduce or eliminate distractions. Also try not to have other blooms in the background if their color does not harmonize nicely with your main subject.

Choose a camera angle that shows the flower at its best, but doesn't misrepresent the flower either. Does it have an interesting pattern when seen from above? Then raise your camera

NOTES ON PHOTOGRAPHING IRISES ~ Continued

angle to capture that. Is the form exceptional? Then lower the angle to get a good side shot that really highlights the flare of the falls. Grass or green foliage is ideal as a camera angle to capture that. Is the form exceptional? Then lower the angle to get a good side shot that really highlights the flare of the falls. Grass or green foliage is ideal as a backdrop, and you will never regret taking a minute to remove spent blooms or tuck a diseased leaf out of the way (of course you should never do this in another's garden without permission). All the little details can really add up to make your photo successful or not.

Don't fret too much over composition in the garden though, as many problems can be corrected later with image processing software. I have always used Photoshop products, but there are many others available. These applications can really help a lot with finishing your photos. You can adjust and fine tune many aspects of a photo. **Here are the most useful:**

Cropping – This tool allows you to cut the photo down to just what you want in the shot. The bloom (or other focal point) is easy to center in the frame, and distracting items at the edge can be cut away. **Photo resize** – This refers to the physical size of the photograph – its height and width. Normally displayed in pixels, it can also be set to display in inches if you plan to print out your picture. I have found that 300-500 is a good range of pixel size for online display.

File size – This refers to the number of kilobytes (kb) or megabytes (mg) of memory space that your digital photo is stored as. The initial picture file from the camera, if taken at a high resolution, is going to be very large. Mine are typically 1-2 mgs (1000-2000 kbs) to start and I aim to get them under 75kb when finished. The higher the file size the clearer and crisper the resolution and hence more detailed the picture. The lower the resolution or file size, the less detailed the picture – usually. So many things depend on your software. Resolution is sometimes given in DPI (dots per inch). My Photoshop Elements has a feature called 'save for the web' that automatically reduces file size without compromising resolution. Many applications have an adjustment feature called 'resolution' that can be manually set to do the same thing. 72 DPI is the usual setting for web photos, but a higher setting is needed if you wish to print your photos to paper. Every time a picture is uploaded to or downloaded from the web it loses a little bit of data. Multiple transfers can eventually cause so much data loss the photo may become worthless. It is advisable to keep a back-up of your original pictures or the final picture after processing so you will always have a good quality copy stored away to use when needed. Floppy disks or CDs are ideal storage mediums.

Color adjustment – Sometimes a digital camera wants to push the hue one direction or another. My old Olympus always photographed purples as different shades of blue, and my Nikon is off toward red, making photos of blue look purple. To compensate for this I sometimes need to adjust the color a bit to bring it back toward its true tone. It is always done as a last resort as this is a tricky process. I recommend spending some hours playing with the color tools to get the hang of how it is done. I find it helps if only the bloom itself is selected for adjustment, and not the entire photo.

These are just the functions I find most useful. Many others are available. 'Cloning' can help remove distracting background noise, smudging can help wipe out leaf spot, and the text features allow the varieties name to be added to the photo. Take some time to get to know your application's functions and capabilities and you'll be amply rewarded with better photos.

Digital cameras and photo software put the tools formerly available only to large professional operations right at our fingertips – and just steps from the garden! Photography in the digital age is fun and cost effective, and it has never been easier for amateurs to get the experience they need to become talented photographers. So get out there and play around until you too are taking fabulous photos of your irises.

Publication permission granted by the The Historic Iris Preservation Society

Members Iris'



Photos by Vicki Hughes

10th Annual
Photo Contest

September 8, 2018

By Amy Williams



This is an exciting time of the year when the irises start to bloom. What a wonderful way to capture the beauty and elegance of the iris in picture. As you are out in your garden, snap a shot of the blooms that you have.

It is also a great time of the year to travel around town to some of our other gardens and see the blooms in those gardens as well. Maybe take a trip to one of the public gardens that we have through our Community outreach program and take pictures of these irises that PAIS has worked so hard throughout the year to maintain. These gardens include the Richard Marcusen sculpture garden at Yavapai College, Sharlot Hall Museum, Embry Riddle University-Meditation garden, and Citizens cemetery.

The four categories that will be part of the photo contest are:

1. Landscape or iris scene
2. Single iris or cluster of irises
3. Artistic, Macro, or photoshop
4. Iris with people, animals, or insects.

You may enter in as many of the categories that you would like. You may enter photos via my email at ducklings75@gmail.com or provide 5x7 or 8x10 photos. Please make sure all photos are unframed and without mat.

I will be at the Stoneridge Community Center at 12:30 before the June 9th meeting to work with any-



one that would like help in editing their photos. All photos should be provided via email in advance. Any photos emailed can be proofed at that time and you can select the pictures that you would like entered and in what categories. Prizes will include garden accessories and gift certificates to gardening centers. Just have fun and be creative. This is a wonderful opportunity



for our members to engage with one another over the love of irises. Please feel free to ask me anything about the contest at any of the general meetings or via email.

The top row Photos by Unknown Author are licensed under [CC BY-NC-SA](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/)



*Best Wishes to our
friends with
June & July Birthdays*

June 15th Bonnie Bruce
June 23rd Barbara Kyte
July 23rd Sharon Phelps



University of Arizona
Yavapai County Cooperative Extension
Master Gardener Association

Please, no pets!

Presents

PLANT AND YARD SALE

MONSOON MADNESS



**BRING YOUR
GARDENING
QUESTIONS AND GET
ANSWERS FROM
MASTER GARDENERS**



**COME
ENJOY THE
ENTERTAINMENT
WHILE
SHOPPING FOR
GARDEN ITEMS**

Herbs, Perennials, Trees, Shrubs, Natives, House Plants,
Garden Tools, Pots, Garden Art & Books

----- **Cash Only** -----

SATURDAY, JULY 14, 2018

7:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M. (unless sold out sooner)

**Rodeo Grounds - Parking Lot
840 Rodeo Drive, Prescott**



Located behind the Rodeo grandstands and accessible from
Gail Gardner Way or Miller Valley Road

928-445-6590 (ext. 222)

<http://extension.arizona.edu/yavapai>

 **Yavapai County Master Gardeners**



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



Pollinator, Butterfly and Humming Bird Attracting Plants

The following list of annuals and perennials are those mostly native plants which will grow in the Prescott Area. I have found these to be attractors of Bees, Butterfly's, Monarchs and humming birds with a good supply of nectar for each. From Spring to fall these species provide food at various times during most of the year till first freeze. There are numerous varieties, types and colors within each species listed.

Three of the best Websites I have found for ordering are:

HighCountryGardens.com
Westernwildflowerseed.com and
AmericanMedowers.com

You can buy individual seed packets or wildflower mixes. All germinate very well. They also have 2-5" pots of plants you can buy.
Enjoy your Gardens, Dennis.

Achillea (Yarrow)
Agastache (Humming Bird Mint)(Hysop)
Aquilegia (Columbine)
Asclepias (Milkweed)

Bahia Disecta (Bahia)
Castilleja (Indian Paintbrush)
Cleome (Bee Plant)
Cosmos Delphinium (Larkspur)
Echinacea (Cone Flower)
Erigeron (Fleabane)
Eupatorium (Joe Pye Weed)
Gaillardia (Blanket Flower)
Helianthella (Sunflower)
Hymenoxys (Orange Mountain Daisy)
Ipomopsis (Scarlet Gilia)
Iris Missouriensis Iris Versicolor (Blue Flag iris) Liatris (Gayfeather)
Linum (Flax)
Lobelia (Cardinal Flower)
Lupinus (Lupine)
Machaeranthera (Asters)
Oligoneuron (Stiff Goldenrod)
Penstemon (Beardtongue)
Rudbeckia (Black-eyed Susan/Cone flower)
Sidalcea (Mallow)
Symphyotrichum (New England Aster)
Zinnias Centranthus (Jupiter's Beard)
Coreopsis Monarda (Bee Balm)
Ratibida (Prairie Coneflower)
Salvia Sage

Shrubs

Caryopteris (Blue Mist Spirea)
Butterfly Bush

Watch email and Facebook for updates and announcements.

Luther Burbank Art and Garden Center

Article & Photos by Stephen Brubaker

Nestled in the middle of a residential area in central Santa Rosa, the Luther Burbank Art and Garden Center hosts a number of gardening activities for that community including the local iris society and the local garden club. During my visit, they were holding the annual iris show; but I was there to photograph the gardens.



Near the entry were textural plants with contrasting foliage colors such as spirea and phormium. Through a rose-covered arch one enters an enclosed area with gravel paved paths and mixed beds. *Fragrant Cloud* rose blooms just inside the entry, and the two-toned *Love* grows in one of several smallish rose beds not far away. The beds are probably not more than four feet wide, and the roses are placed close together. It appears that most of them are pruned to less than 24 inches in the spring to keep them fresh and in bounds.

Most of the beds, though, are given to iris mixed with annuals. Most impressive was a bed where white and blue iris

were featured with violet pansies in the same color range. As with the pansies, there was the occasional accent in soft yellow.



Of course, not all iris colors are in these ranges, so other flowering annuals served as backdrops to other colors. California poppies, for example, provided a great backdrop for a nearly black iris - possibly *Before the Storm*. A white iris with a yellow beard also looked good with this backdrop.

Noteworthy iris included *Mixed Signals* (below) and *Give It Away*, both flowers with some conspicuous edging.



Behind the building that serves the needs of the several clubs is an enclosed area paved with flagstones. In one corner is a massive pergola designed to support the considerable weight of a huge and mature wisteria. Its many inch-wide vines twine around the timbers holding up the roof. It must be a glory in full bloom. And probably a great deal of work to keep in bounds.

There's a great economy to the space: plenty of pleasing plant work is crammed into a small space. It was good to be able to see it when iris were at their peak and the roses were beginning to bloom in the last week of April.

Black Swallowtail Butterfly Saga

How To Overwinter Chrysalises 'til Springtime

by Cynthe Brush

Early October 2017

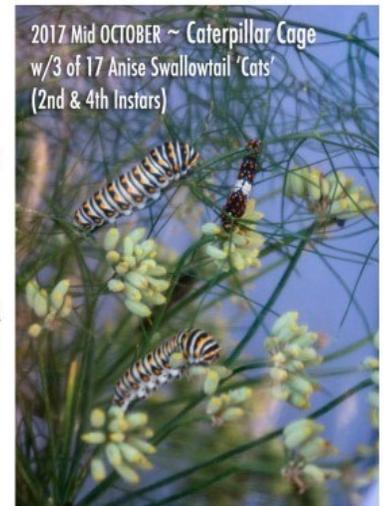
Noticed two fennel plants in my garden were LOADED with handsome striped caterpillars. Wondering what AZ butterflies feed on fennel...discovered online they might be Anise or Black Swallowtail Butterfly caterpillars.

With a backyard garden full of hungry birds the caterpillars' chances of survival weren't good (only 1%-5% survive predation to become butterflies), Decided to harvest the 'cats' in various instar phases, along with a jar full of fresh fennel fronds to raise in a butterfly house 'til they could pupate into chrysalises for overwintering on our screened front porch.



Mid October 2017

Gathered up over 20 caterpillars before freezing temperatures arrived. There was still plenty of fennel, but I was worried with the garden winding down. Didn't know if there would be enough to get all the 'cats' to their pupa stage? Two of the more mature caterpillars started wandering the cage all day, wanting to get out to make their pupas. Didn't think it was a lack of food (there was plenty). Wondered if they needed water? Concerned they'll exhausted themselves. One vacuated a mess on the side of the cage, which I read they do before this final transition.



Third week of October 2017

~ The last lone Swallowtail caterpillar wa gathered off the fading fennel for a total brood of 25 with half already chrysalises.



In doing more research, learned Swallowtails tend to 'hatch' in April-May at our 5000ft elevation when temperatures warm. Though they can be irregular, taking more than a year to emerge as butterflies. (continued on next page)



Black Swallowtail Butterfly Saga (continued)

Also found out the black versions of 5th Instars are 'supposedly' rare, but NOT in our bunch...where a good 1/3 verging on 1/2 of the total are black. Didn't make notes on this for the first 7 chrysalides, but will start to be more methodical, so we can learn if they are the same or different butterflies.

First week of November 2017

~ All 25 caterpillars have successfully pupated into their chrysalises. Four attached themselves to my butterfly house itself.

Over the Christmas holidays

~ Took 3 chrysalids to my son and his family in CO. Learned I was going to be in Colorado for the entire month of April to help welcome a new grandbaby. Concerned the butterflies would emerge while I was gone, asked AVGC members and local friends if they would be willing to be Swallowtail Guardians? Seven folks eagerly accepted the challenge.

At the end of January 2018

~ Cezanna, a friend, newly arrived in Prescott took 3.

Late March / Early April 2018

~ Diane Murphy was willing to take as many as I could give her. She got 6.

~ Karen Crossley responded enthusiastically and came to pick up 3.



Photo by Cynthe



Cezanna's 3rd Female Black Swallowtail Butterfly

Photo by Cezanna



Female Black Swallowtail Butterfly #21 on Cynthe's Hand

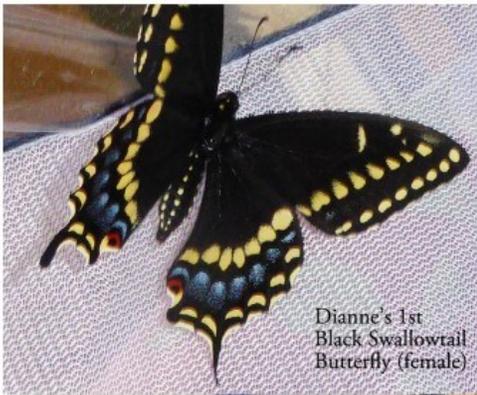
Photo by Blythe

~ Dede Erceg and Roberta Pelayo, each took 3...Roberta ended up with all 6 after a few weeks.

Cezanna's 3 eclosed as butterflies first...(April 10th, 18th & 19th). All female Black Swallowtails identified by beautiful blue spots on the bottom edge of their hind wings. Two of the 3 taken to CO eclosed on April 23rd & 25th, also female Black Swallowtails.

(cont. next page)

Black Swallowtail Butterfly Saga (continued)



Dianne's 1st
Black Swallowtail
Butterfly (female)



Dianne's 2nd
Black Swallowtail
Butterfly (female)



Empty Black Swallowtail
Butterfly Chrysalis #22
(Gold Star = a black cat)



Dianne's 3rd
Black Swallowtail
Butterfly (female)



Dianne's 4th
Black Swallowtail
Butterfly (female)

Photos by Dianne



Male Black Swallowtail Butterfly #13
on Cynthe's Hand

Five of Dianne's six chrysalises eclosed on April 28th & 30th, May 1st, 6th & 22nd. More female Black Swallowtails. One of Roberta's emerged. One of my four #13 FINALLY emerged on May 24th ~ the first male! Roberta, Karen, my CO family, and I are waiting for the rest of the 12 to do their magical springtime transformation.

RESOURCES:

~ We have a video of one of our Swallowtail releases in Colorado on my Cynthia Brush Facebook page.

~ Read more about the process at:

<https://monarchbutterflygarden.net/how-to-overwinter-swallowtail-chrysalis/>

**Meetings are held 1:30 to 3:30
Stoneridge Community Center
1300 Stoneridge Drive
Prescott Valley, AZ 86314**



Plant Marker Discussion ~ by Dennis Luebkin

I disagree with The Society's penchant for using plastic forks/knives and "permanent marker writing" (t'ain't at all). What really works -- and no one here in the desert seems to believe me -- is using the plain cheap vinyl plant labels from any local garden shop and writing the names on them with an ordinary No. 2 pencil. I learned that in my former life in the swamps with the Baton Rouge Camellia Society. We used both the plastic tags and the vinyl ones. The plastic ones were breakable even when new, although you had to try to break them. But they were stiff, compared to the vinyl, so they could be easily pushed down into the dirt. Both the plastic and vinyl labels would accept pencil writing without fading or breaking over several years.

I frequently use 2 labels -- one I push down to bury it all the way in the dirt, the other I leave sticking up. ...on opposite sides of the pot. The stickie-up one I gently push down to the rim of the pot, so at least part of the name can be easily read. I've had too many problems of labels just plain disappearing, and I have no idea how that seems to happen so often. - Bill

I have always used metal stakes for my personal use except when I have received a temporary new plant. I have left the vinyl stakes Bill was referring to in the ground for more than 3 years and they never have become brittle and cracked. Bill was only referring to using the vinyl stakes in the pots for selling purposes, which I think is far better than what we have been doing in the past. Wood stakes are not good, we have tried them before, the writing doesn't stay on them, they warp and fall apart when they get wet. - Carolyn

For the garden I always use the metal tags using a brother P-touch machine and brother's tape. The tape is 1/2" black print on white tape Type TZ-2312PK which is Ultra Violet light durable. I've had tags in my yard for 6 years with no fading.

Regarding the markers for pots, I agree with

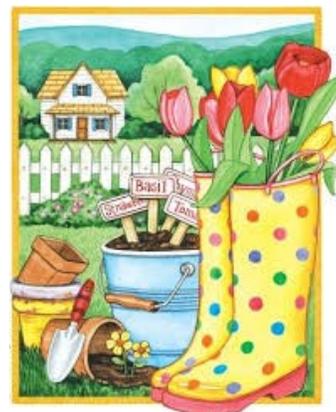
Carolyn on the types and problems with the popsi-cle sticks. I've used plastic spoons, forks, knives and the Sharpie markers, even the supposed ultraviolet light durable Sharpie pens will fade and wear off in 3 to 4 months.

Bill's use of plastic markers and pencil seems to be what he has had success with. I have received some pots from Bill that have been around for a year or more and the pencil although it fades, is still legible.

I do need to caution on the use of the plastic markers however. I have had mixed experience with them. They have a tendency to get brittle and snap off if hit. Depending on the type they become fragile. I would stay away from the ones that are oval with a pointed stake at the bottom. I have lost more markers by snapping off. The markers that are approximately 1/2" inch wide 3 inches long with a pointed tip seem to be the best. However, even those have a tendency to snap off but not as frequently as the others.

I have a friend in the Sun Country Iris Society who owned a nursery for 40 years in the valley. She said that they always marked their pots with the name of the plant with white or yellow grease pencil which you can purchase at any business supply store like Staples. It showed up well on the black pots and did not fade or smear. That method lasted for years. Sun Country does that and does not seem to have the problem we have. If we use tags like Bill does, we should also write the name of the plant on the side of the pot as a backup just in case. I think his method should be tried this year along with writing the names on the pots as a backup.

The use of paste on labels does not work as attested by Kellie's experience this past year.



Volunteer Opportunity at Sharlot Hall

Greetings to All,
 Tuesday June 5th PAIS has a scheduled cleanup at the Sharlot Hall Museum to clean up the historic irises there. Our scheduled time is from 8:30 till 11:00 although it may not take that long to accomplish the work. We will:

1. Clear creeping grass & dandelions, any dead leaves out of iris beds, especially between school house & Fort Misery. Grass is in middle of rhizomes & encroaching.
2. Replace labels for iris planted last Oct which did not have official labels.
3. There are a couple bare spots near Fort Misery where identified historic irises can be planted.
4. Plant any other new Grace Sturtevant iris.
5. Weeding new iris bed at Fremont House as needed.
6. Warning!! - Don't pull new annuals out that Steve is planting in between all the iris. He wants colorful beds. They are very small plants as he has grown them from

seed, may look like weeds. They are marigolds, zinnias, & bachelor buttons.

7. Parking is in the West Parking Lot at the Museum. Enter through the back gate on Beach Street. Look for Dennis If you have a volunteer badge wear it if not we will make arrangements when you get there.

8. If you get there earlier than Dennis do not pull weeds until Dennis checks the area. We don't want to pull up things that have been planted by the museum .

Contact Dennis at dлубkin@q.com or 623-980-6627 if you can attend.

Best Regards, Dennis



We welcome all of your OBSERVATIONS & CONTROVERSIES, Funny Stories, memories, Garden tips, photos, etc.
 We love anything Gardeny...



Innovator (spuria)
 photo by Marge Larson



Verde Valley Fair
 Cottonwood, AZ,
 by Marge Larson



Flattie - photo by
 Marge Larson



Oasis Space 9
 photo by
 Judy Book



Dragon King
 photo by
 Judy Book



Wizard of Odds
 photo by
 Judy Book