



Prescott Area Iris Society

Volume 16 Issue 1

February 2019

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President Sherry's Message

Happy New Iris Blooming Year to everyone! First of all – Thank You. What a great year we had last year. It was my first year as president and it was a winner, not because of me, but because we have such amazing members of this organization who willingly pitch in and help make everything work. We had wonderful meetings, our Spring Exhibit and Summer Rhizome Sales were excellent, and we have a HUGE stock of iris growing ready for this spring sale.

We're working on making 2019 another amazing year with great speakers, wonderful fundraising events, and, of course, beautiful iris in our public and personal gardens.

We had a minor glitch in scheduling our meetings at the wonderful Stoneridge Community room and were unable to schedule two of our meetings. But we will be holding both meetings, June and September, in the Crystal Room of the Prescott Valley Library. It's a wonderful room with amazing views, so we will be quite comfortable there.

We have also changed our storage to a larger unit at the same location. Not a big deal, however, it will be much easier to get our sales paraphernalia in and out of the storage unit.

One of my projects last year was to increase local milkweed plantings for the Monarch Butterfly. Sadly, the Monarch Butterfly population is down 80% over last year by early counts. I encourage everyone with a little space in your garden to add milkweed. (see Monarchs article) The Native Garden nursery carries seed specific to our area as well as potted plants. Milkweed is the only food source for the Monarch caterpillars and the only plant on which they reproduce.

For anyone that may be interested, the American Iris Society, (PAIS is an affiliate) is having the National Conference April 23 -27 in San Ramon CA. This will be an amazing event with wonderful speakers and garden tours. I encourage everyone to attend. It is a great way to meet other iris folks, learn stuff you didn't know you need to know, see amazing gardens and, of course, have a great time. See the registration form on page 2. Also at our meeting for anyone interested, or you can log on to the AIS website for information.



February 9th Spring Potluck Lunch

1:30PM to 3:30 PM
Stoneridge Community
Center



Here is registration form that Sherry mentioned in the President's Message.

	<p>American Iris Society Convention Registration April 23-27, 2019 San Ramon Marriott Hotel 2600 Bishop Drive, San Ramon, CA 94583 Hotel room reservations are separate from convention registration! Contact the San Ramon Marriott (925) 867-9200 – ask for the American Iris Society – Apr2019 room rate.</p>	
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Please complete and send this form so that it arrives no later than April 15, 2019. Registrations will be acknowledged by email. You will receive a packet with additional information, name tags, and event tickets at check-in.

PLEASE PRINT – Fill out one form per person attending.

Name to appear on name badge: _____
 Address: _____ Phone: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Email: _____ AIS Region: _____

	IF POSTMARKED	BEFORE MAR 1	AFTER MAR 1	=	TOTAL
Full Adult Registration Includes Welcome and Awards banquets, Garden Tours, Judges Training, and convention book		\$330	\$350	=	
Full Older Youth Registration (ages 9 – 18)		\$165	\$165	=	
Full Younger Youth Registration (age 8 and below)		\$125	\$125	=	
Optional Tour to Joe Ghio's gardens (includes bus and lunch)		\$ 85	\$ 90	=	
Older Youth Optional Tour to Ghio's		\$ 65	\$65	=	
Younger Youth Optional Tour to Ghio's		\$ 55	\$55	=	
TOTAL Enclosed					

Payment Method:
 Check – make payable to "AIS 2019 Convention"
 Credit Card: **Visa** **Mastercard**
 Card number: _____
 Card holder's name (as it appears on the card): _____

Refunds for cancellations requested on or after March 1, 2019 will be made at the discretion of the Convention Committee. NO REFUNDS AFTER MARCH 15, 2019

Meals Please select from the following choices

Welcome Banquet - April 24
 House Rubbed Bone-in Ribeye Steak Pacific Sea Bass Vegetable Paella

Awards Banquet – April 27
 Beef Tri-Tip Salmon Selection of Vegetarian Vegetables and Salads

SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS:
 Gluten Free Lactose Intolerant Diabetic
 Other – please describe here: _____

SPECIAL NEEDS: If you have mobility issues for the tours, please describe here:
 Wheelchair or walker Unable to walk incline
 Other – please describe here: _____

GEEK DINNER: For reservations contact Joanne Prass-Jones (510) 795-9723 joanne@usjoneses.com
Send Registration and Payment to: Jean Richter, 1226 High Street, Alameda, CA 94501 (510) 864-7962 jeanrichter@berkeley.edu
 Visit the AIS Convention web site for more information: <http://www.aisconvention2019.org>

CONTACT US

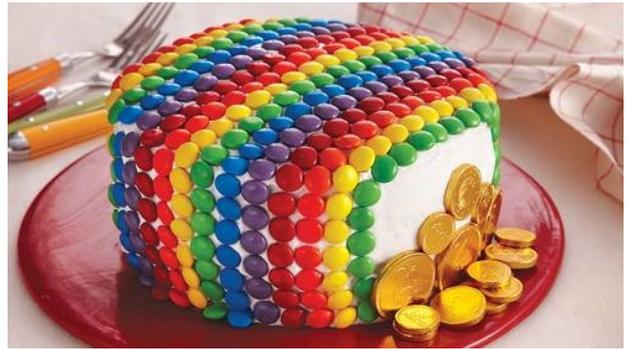
President: Sherry Williams duckwalkdesigns@gmail.com
1st Vice President: Kellie Smith
mrsautowizard@hotmail.com 928-237-6019
2nd Vice President: Kathleen Shaffer koicats@sbcglobal.net
928-642-4594
Secretary: Robin Walter redstickrob@gmail.com
Treasurer: Eugene Zielinski eez55@earthlink.net
Director at Large: Barb McCurry bj4mccurry@hotmail.com
Membership: Loretta Bresof bresof@cableone.net
928-775-8701
Publicity: Bill Walter Tasmania@cox.net
Sculpture Garden: Dennis Luebkin, dluebkin@g.com

Hospitality: Joanne Moorhouse 928-445-2559
Newsletter: Vicki Hughes [vimticky@hotmail.com](mailto:vimticki@hotmail.com)
Cynthe Brush mudwoman@greyvisual.com

PAIS website: <http://prescottirissociety.org/>
Prescott Area Iris Society
P.O. Box 11918,
Prescott, AZ 86304



*Best Wishes to our friends
with March Birthdays!!!*



- March 9 Stan Book
- March 11 Loretta Bresof
- March 12 Joella Cheek
- March 13 Victoria Van Klompenburg
- March 14 Vera Stewart
- March 27 Judy Book



Map to Stoneridge
Community Center

**2019 P.A.I.S.
General Meeting
Please Join Us for our**

*General Meeting
& Spring Pot Luck*

**February 9, 2019
1:30PM to 3:30 PM
Stoneridge Community Center
1300 Stoneridge Dr.
Prescott Valley, AZ 86314**

*Speakers ~ Master Gardeners
Tricia Michelson and
Stephanie Lambert on
Soil Preparation*

Sherry & Amy's Christmas Party



"Hostess with the Mostest!"
What a baker, preserves maker, decorator, etc. Nibbles were so yummy. It was a fun gathering.



Down Under with Bill & Robin Walter



Banksia & Bird



Red Flowered –Eucalyptus



Orange Flowered – Eucalyptus



Bill & Roos

We are having a wonderful trip, if not a bit exhausting. There is a heatwave in Melbourne right now. Even Healesville Sanctuary (all native flora & fauna - where we took these pics) is closed today for the safety of the animals & visitors. Yesterday was only 110°F...& today it's going to be about 113°F! Cool change later tonight...phew!

You wanted items for the newsletter. Although we didn't spot any iris we thought people might like to see some Aussie flora.

We'll see you later...in February sometime...

Robin & Bill AU 🐨 🐘 🌡️ 🌞

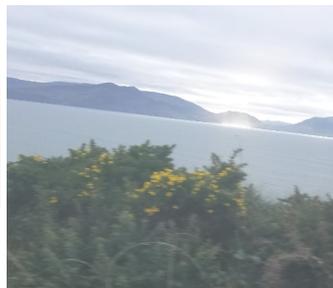


Robin-Home

Watch out for kangaroos in Prescott near Burnt Ranch Road!
~ by Cynthe Brush



Not many gardens blooming in Ireland at Christmas but lots of beauty.
~ by Vicki Hughes



Monarch Butterflies: 86% Missing, California's Overwintering Population Hits Record Low

Call To Action! Save Our Western Monarch Butterflies



Jan. 9, 2019 Adapted from a New York Times article by Laura M. Holson, shared by a gardening friend (<https://tinyurl.com/y7axpyf7>)

Monarchs arrive in California each winter, an undulating ribbon of orange and black. Migrating western monarch butterflies nestle among the state's fragrant coastal eucalyptus forests, which provide hospitable living conditions, traveling from as far away as Idaho and Utah only to return home in the spring.

This year, though, the monarchs' flight seems more perilous than ever. The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, a nonprofit group that conducts a yearly census of the western monarch, said the 2018 population reached historic lows, an estimated 86 percent decline from the previous year.

That in itself would be troubling news. But, combined with a 97 percent decline in the total population since the 1980s, this year's count is "*potentially catastrophic*," according to biologist Emma Pelton, who oversees the survey. The society has preliminary counts from 97 sites, most of them along California's coast...an area that accounts for nearly 77 percent of the state's winter monarch population.

Ms. Pelton warns if nothing is done to preserve the western monarchs and their breeding and feeding habitats, the butterflies could face extinction. In a 2017 study, scientists estimated the monarch butterfly population in western North America had a 72 percent chance of becoming near extinct in 20 years if the monarch population trend was not reversed.

Butterflies are important because they quickly respond to ecological changes and serve as a warning about an ecosystem's health, Ms. Pelton said. They pollinate flowers, too. Monarchs require milkweed, a herbaceous plant that grows throughout the United States and Mexico, for breeding and migration. Milkweed acreage has been declining in recent years because of pesticide use and urban development. "*A lawn does not provide a home for a butterfly*," she said. "*It doesn't help to raise them in your house, either.*"

Ms. Pelton said the trend could reverse if citizens and governments act now. Gardeners, can plant milkweed to support the surviving monarchs. And towns could help local habitats thrive by planting new trees now, so in 20 years, generations of monarchs have new places to winter. "*We don't think it is too late to act*," she said. "*But everyone needs to step up their effort.*"

The Tri-City Area Report

Our own local Monarch advocate-educator, Cathy Palm-Gessner, emailed a request in mid-August: "*At this time it appears the numbers of monarch butterflies in the Prescott area are down from last year. I still have not seen any monarchs in my yard this summer. Next Saturday, August 18, I will have a SW Monarch Study booth at the Highlands Center for Natural History's Arthropalooza. I would like to show the public live monarch caterpillars or eggs. Unfortunately I am having trouble finding caterpillars/eggs so am asking for your help in locating some...I can pick them up and return them after the event.*"

Call To Action! Save Our Western Monarch Butterflies (continued)

Photos: Local Gardeners & Cathy Palm-Gessner

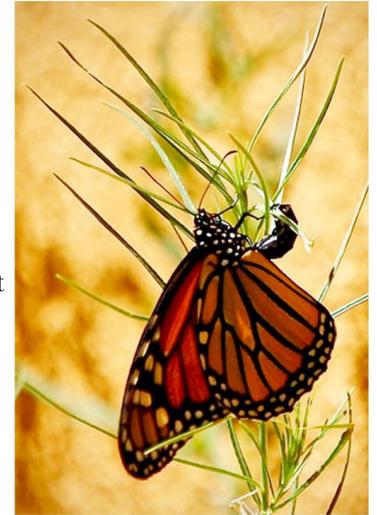
On October 22, 2018 Cathy reported: *"It has been a low number year for monarchs in the Prescott area probably due to the very dry spring / winter and then the wet (snow) freeze up in Flagstaff on October 6. I am still seeing monarchs here that most likely are coming (eclosing) from chrysalises locally. Leslie just found 4 chrysalises in her garden after removing her dead tomato plants! Please continue to look for monarchs especially on rabbitbrush and let me know. Monarchs can survive a freeze, if they are sheltered and not wet. Last year I had reports of monarchs all the way through November! Remember, when you go out looking, it has to be 55 degrees before monarchs can fly.*

What Can We Gardeners Do to Help Monarchs?

Cathy tells us the plants Monarchs need for egg laying & caterpillars are various types of milkweed: **Arizona milkweed** (*Asclepias angustifolia*); **Broadleaf Milkweed** (*Asclepias latifolia*); **Butterfly Milkweed** (*Asclepias tuberosa*); **Horsetail Milkweed** (*Asclepias subverticillata*); **Spider / Antelope Horn Milkweed** (*Asclepias asperula*); **Showy Milkweed** (*Asclepias speciosa*); both scarlet and gold **Tropical Milkweed** (*Asclepias curassavica*). Most of these milkweed are available to purchase as plants from the Highland Center or 'Monsoon Madness' summer sales.

Adult butterflies will nectar on wild & domestic sunflowers, butterfly bush, rabbitbrush, and many more flowering plants that attract hummingbirds and bees as well. Check out this page for lovely flower ideas and an amusing video of a male Monarch nectaring on a hummingbird feeder, while a surprised hummer waits impatiently for its turn.

<https://monarchbutterflygarden.net/5-butterfly-flowers-attract-monarchs-and-hummingbirds/>



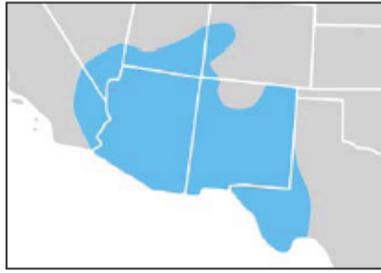
Female Monarch laying eggs on milkweed

The Xerces Society has other suggestions for the Southwest USA Region in an informative PDF. See those ideas on the next page. We've also sent the full brochure as an attachment to this newsletter mailing.



A variety of plants support our Monarch butterfly populations.

**REGION 6
SOUTHWEST**



AZ, NM, w. TX



SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	V	↻	🎨	↑	💧	📍	👁️	📄
<i>Asclepias asperula</i> 🐛	Spider milkweed				🌸	🌸	🌸	🌸	🌸					H	P	W/G	2'	M	📍	👁️	2
<i>Baccharis salicifolia</i>	Mule-fat			🌸	🌸	🌸	🌸	🌸	🌸	🌸	🌸	🌸	🌸	S	P	W/Px	10'	M	📍	👁️	3
<i>Baccharis sarothroides</i>	Desertbroom	🌸	🌸							🌸	🌸	🌸	🌸	S	P	Y	12'	L/M	📍	👁️	3 A
<i>Bebbia juncea</i>	Sweetbush				🌸	🌸	🌸	🌸						S	P	O/Y	4'	L	📍	👁️	2
<i>Berlandiera lyrata</i>	Lyreleaf greeneyes				🌸	🌸	🌸	🌸	🌸	🌸				H	A	Y	2'	L	📍	👁️	1 B
<i>Bidens laevis</i>	Smooth beggartick									🌸				H	A	Y	3'	H	📍	👁️	7 C
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Common buttonbush						🌸	🌸	🌸					S	P	W	12'	H	📍	👁️	11
<i>Chilopsis linearis</i>	Desert willow				🌸	🌸	🌸	🌸						T	P	W/Px/Ps	30'	L	📍	👁️	2
<i>Cirsium arizonicum</i>	Arizona thistle					🌸	🌸	🌸	🌸					H	B	R/Px/Ps	4'	L	📍	👁️	1 D
<i>Conoclinium coelestinum</i>	Blue mistflower						🌸	🌸	🌸	🌸	🌸			H	P	Bu/Pr	3'	M	📍	👁️	10 E
<i>Ericameria nauseosa</i>	Rubber rabbitbrush						🌸	🌸	🌸	🌸	🌸			S	P	Y	6'	L	📍	👁️	80 F
<i>Eupatorium serotinum</i>	Lateflowering thoroughwort									🌸	🌸			H	P	W	6'	M	📍	👁️	171 G
<i>Glandularia gooddingii</i>	Southwestern mock vervain				🌸	🌸								H	P	Px/Pr	1'	L	📍	👁️	1 H
<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	Common sunflower							🌸	🌸	🌸	🌸			H	A	Y	8'	M	📍	👁️	18
<i>Liatris punctata</i> var. <i>mucronata</i>	Cusp blazing star							🌸	🌸	🌸	🌸			H	P	Px/Pr	3'	L	📍	👁️	7
<i>Mahonia haematocarpa</i>	Red barberry		🌸	🌸	🌸									S	P	Y	12'	L	📍	👁️	1
<i>Prosopis velutina</i>	Velvet mesquite				🌸	🌸	🌸							T	P	W/Y	30'	L	📍	👁️	2 I
<i>Rhus ovata</i>	Sugar sumac				🌸	🌸								S	P	W/Px	6'	L	📍	👁️	1 D
<i>Robinia neomexicana</i>	New Mexican locust				🌸	🌸	🌸	🌸						S	P	Px	10'	L	📍	👁️	2
<i>Senecio</i> f. var. <i>flaccidus</i>	Threadleaf ragwort			🌸	🌸									S	P	Y	4'	L	📍	👁️	1 J
<i>Sphaeralcea ambigua</i>	Desert globemallow			🌸	🌸	🌸								H	P	O	3'	L	📍	👁️	1 D
<i>Trifolium pinetorum</i>	Woods clover					🌸	🌸	🌸	🌸	🌸				H	A	Px/Pr	1'	M	📍	👁️	1
<i>Verbena macdougalii</i>	MacDougal verbena					🌸	🌸	🌸	🌸					H	P	Pr	3'	M	📍	👁️	1
<i>Verbesina encelioides</i>	Golden crownbeard					🌸	🌸	🌸	🌸					H	A	Y	5'	L	📍	👁️	577
<i>Viguiera dentata</i>	Toothleaf goldeneye									🌸	🌸			H	P	Y	6'	M	📍	👁️	1 D

KEY

- 🐛 **Milkweeds** (*Asclepias* spp.) are monarch caterpillar host plants.
- 🌸 **Bloom time:** orange months indicate monarchs are present.
- 🌿 **Form:** herb (H), shrub (S), vine (V), tree (T).
- ↻ **Lifecycle:** annual (A), biennial (b), perennial (P).
- 🎨 **Flower color:** red (R), pink (Px), orange (O), yellow (Y), green (G), blue (Bu), lavender (L), violet (V), purple (Ps), brown (Ba), white (W).
- ↑ **Max height** (in feet).
- 💧 **Water needs:** low (L), medium (M) and high (H).
- 📍 **Availability:** seeds available (📍), plants available (👁️).
- 👁️ **Observations:** the number of observations received of monarch adults nectaring across their entire range.
- 📄 **Photograph:** Monarch on blue mistflower. (© The Xerces Society/Anne Stine.)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- A. Can be used for streambank stabilization.
- B. Blooms year-round in warm weather.
- C. Can be used in bioswales.
- D. Drought tolerant.
- E. Can spread quickly.
- F. Can be invasive in disturbed soils.
- G. Birds eat seeds.
- H. Not as drought tolerant as habitat suggests.
- I. Deep taproot reaches water table.
- J. Good for soil stabilization.