



## Autumn Joy! ~ ReBlooming IRIS

### IRISES THAT BLOOM MORE THAN ONCE?

Now that you've been bitten by the iris-virus (a very serious affliction!), no doubt you'll be delighted to know that some irises actually bloom in more than one season. At first counted among the oddities (or novelties) in the iris world, rebloomers are now being hybridized for cold hardiness, disease resistance and, of course, beauty. At present, there are more than 1,000 cultivars that rebloom, in various climate zones,



and many of them rival in color and form the best of the 'oncers' or cultivars that bloom only in the spring. There are even hybridizers whose work is primarily focused on improving the quality and increasing the number of dependable, beautiful reblooming cultivars. Rebloomers (or remontants, as they are sometimes called) are found in all bearded iris varieties – from miniature dwarf to tall. A few of the beardless varieties (like Siberians) that bloom a second time are called 'repeaters.' If you're interested in trying your hand at growing rebloomers, the first step is to learn which cultivars rebloom in your climate zone. The quickest way would be to go to the Reblooming Iris Society website. Also, several hybridizers' catalogs have zone information on the rebloomers that they carry. (continued page 6)

Article written by By Linda L. Bartell, Region 6 Iris Club of Southeast Michigan (Zone 6A).

Published earlier in a 2011 PAIS newsletter. Adapted with slight edits in this version.

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**More on Reblooming Iris** *Members' Comments: Cultivation & Fertilizing Tips*

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# NOVEMBER HAPPENINGS

## PRESIDENT SHERRY'S MESSAGE

Fall weather's here (with a little winter freeze thrown in for good measure). Summer was hot without the normal monsoon relief. We missed our rain and so did our gardens. I'm hoping for a wet winter and spring and then getting our wonderful monsoons back next year.

In October, several of us attended the AIS Region 15 Fall Trek held at the Huntington Library in San Marino, CA - an amazing place to visit with a wide array of gardens and superb galleries. The wonderful event featured hybridizer Thomas Johnson speaking on hybridizing and tall bearded iris. It was very interesting! He shared many photos of his successful seedlings that will be introduced in the next few years – all I can say is, get your pocketbook ready – they are amazing!

Our November 9th meeting will be exceptional. Hopefully, everyone will be able to attend. We will elect our new 2020 board. Then our guest speaker will be Bob Van Liere of Iris4U Iris Garden, CO...a great opportunity to meet an amazing hybridizer and learn more about tall bearded iris. The November meeting is also our last potluck for the year, so pull out those fall & winter recipes to cook up something yummy.

We still have work to do at some of our gardens – clean-up, irrigation repair, removing daylilies. A sign-up sheet will be passed around at the meeting. Please plan to volunteer and help us finish up the year getting our public gardens ready for winter.

Dennis and I met with the Yavapai College Foundation in late October. We're pleased to announce the PAIS college endowment is officially started...a wonderful legacy to leave for horticultural students. I will be sharing a video from the student who received our 2019 PAIS scholarship – it brings home how important this is to horticultural and agricultural learning.



Surprise NoID rebloomer in Stephen Brubaker's Garden

See you on the 9th!  
Sherry

### ***Nominating Committee Announcement from Loretta:***

*The Hospitality Chairman position is open. We need someone who can help set up and take down for our 3 pot luck meetings, order, purchase & pick-up pastries and sandwiches for the Iris Spring Show and Summer Rhizome Sale. Set-up the ice cream social (which is one of our general meeting). There are usually only 5 general meetings a year. Not a big job but a necessary one. (NOTE: Since I am not on the board next year and a resident of Stoneridge, I can assist the Hospitality Chairman at that venue.)*

*Please contact **Dennis Luebkin:** 623-628-4860  
or **Loretta Bresof:** 928-775-8701 to volunteer.*

## **PAIS General Meeting:**

**November 9th, 1:30pm - 3:30pm**  
**Stoneridge Community Center**  
**1300 Stoneridge Drive**  
**Prescott Valley, AZ 86314**

*Please Join Us for Our*  
*2020 Board Elections & Fall Potluck*  
*Speaker: **Bob Van Liere***  
*Iris4U ~ Colorado Iris Hybridizer*



# OUR REBLOOMING IRIS



PAIS Members' Most Dependable Reblooming Iris *Blatant* (top), *Double Your Fun* (center), *Elainelope*, *English Charm*, *Immortality* (above), *Mother Earth*, *Returning Rose*, *Total Recall*, *Wearing Rubies*

Photos, this page & next: PAIS members

## Our Reblooming Iris: PAIS Survey & Comments:

In reviewing PAIS members' replies, a pattern of success (or not) is emerging... seems iris rebloom in local gardens situated at 5000 ft or lower. Check the elevation of YOUR garden.

**Susan Belding** ~ Bought and planted them, but no luck! Either deer have gotten them or they just don't like where I've put them. Deer have a field day when I'm away for 7 months. Sorry to be such a dud!

**Marilyn Wiley** (Wilhoit) ~ *Blatant*, *Elainelope*, *English Charm*, *Immortality*, *Mother Earth*, *Returning Rose*, *Total Recall*, *Wearing Rubies*.

Planted this year, so it will be awhile



before I will know which ones like our place or not! *Autumn Explosion*, *Autumn Tryst*, *Belvi Queen*, *Champagne Elegance*, *Clarence*, *Daughters of Stars*, *Easy Peasy*, *Fiery Echo*, *Girly Girl*, *Get My Number*, *Hawaiian Sunrise*, *Huckleberry Fudge*, *Huckleberry Pie*, *Melody Lane*, *Peach Jam*, *Red Rock Canyon*, *Rosalie Figge*, *Splashcata* and *Tennison Ridge*. I don't do anything special, just let them do their thing.

**Loretta Bresof** (Prescott Valley) ~ I have had success with only one iris, *Double Your Fun*. It's rebloomed for me in

November 2017 and 2018! What a delight to see iris blooming around Thanksgiving! Although *Pure as Gold* and *Beverly Sills* are rebloomers in some areas, I have not had success with them reblooming here. (continued next page)

## RE: ELEVATION CHART FOR LOCAL CITIES

Chino Valley	4,708 ft	Skull Valley	4,265 ft
Dewey-Humboldt	4,556-4,580 ft	Spring Valley	5,632 ft
Mayer	4,415 ft	Verde Valley*	3,100-4,500 ft
Prescott	5,226-5,368 ft	Wilhoit*	5,029 ft
Prescott Valley*	5,026-5,100 ft		

\* MOST SUCCESSFUL LOCALES FOR REBLOOM

# OUR REBLOOMING IRIS (CONT.)



## Reblooming Iris in PAIS Members' Gardens

(shown top to bottom):  
*IB Eleanor Roosevelt*, *TBs Champagne Elegance*, *Returning Rose*, *Rosalie Figge* (center), *Total Recall*



**Katy Standhardt** (Prescott) ~ Yeah, I grow about half of my iris patch as "rebloomers" LOL, Never had a rebloom in August thru December. During the January thaw, *Crimson King* may bloom in a microclimate & a couple of my iris (one NoID) bloomed off & on into June, which may be their way of "reblooming". Ordered *Rosalie Figge* on line, planted it in August & it hasn't even had any new growth yet. It is reputed to be the most consistent rebloomer everywhere in the USA, but obviously will need to establish for a few years.

Do you see that remontanant iris are a myth hybridizers and wholesalers perpetuate to increase sales for people living somewhere like the Oregon coast? Aren't we gullible in this arid, high altitude climate to expect rebloom? One year I saw rebloom on *Marty Richards* at Yavapai College, so promptly planted one. Since then, I have seen no rebloom on Marty at the college or in my yard.

My backyard iris patch is surrounded on east & south sides by a solid wooden fence 6 ft. high. The lot north of me is slightly sloping toward us, so cold air settles into my back yard on summer nights (hard to ripen tomatoes) & my bird bath can have an inch of ice on it as late as May 15th in recent years. No. I'm not giving up my

fence for iris. It keeps out javelinas & deer and the homeless, but hog nosed skunks, raccoons, & gophers recreate everywhere in my yard. This morning the temperature was 37F in our truck in the front driveway.

An excellent example of the elevation difference is to see the Pioneer Home roses blooming 2-4 weeks earlier than those in the Sharlot Hall Museum rose garden, a few blocks below. Getting real!

**Kellie Smith** (Dewey 4580) ~ I love the *Iris Blatant* and though it's a rebloomer, for me it

hasn't.

**Marty Boxer** (Prescott Lakes 5400 ft) *Autumn Circus* and *Immortality* are two rebloomers that aren't reblooming for me this year.

**Marge Larson** (about 4200 ft) NONE of my rebloomers have ever produced. My neighbor gave me *Immortality* and his bloom at random – he calls them "everbloomers," but they won't bloom in my yard.

**Cynthe Brush** (West Prescott - Burnt Ranch area 5500 ft) I grow *Champagne Elegance*, *Crimson King*, *Double Your Fun*, and *Eleanor Roosevelt*. None have rebloomed for me, but my plantings are fairly 'young' (only 4yrs old), some are overcrowded, and I'm not disciplined at fertilizing regularly either. Hoping to have some success eventually.



# WELCOME.CONTACT INFO.BIRTHDAYS



## Welcome to our New Member

Deb Wade - New Sept 2019  
 deb7909@gmail.com



*Don't Forget! It's a Potluck...*

## Best Wishes to Our Friends with November, December & January Birthdays!!!

### NOVEMBER

Gloria Bowers ~ November 4th  
 Katy Standhardt ~ November 6th  
 Mary Soriano ~ November 21st  
 Heather Molans ~ November 28th



### DECEMBER

Eugene Zielinski ~ December 7th  
 Marge Larson ~ December 10th  
 Matt Headley ~ December 18th  
 Carolyn Alexander ~ December 20th  
 Nancy Leffer ~ December 26th



### JANUARY

Lori Collison ~ January 1st  
 Sandra Hennigan ~ January 9th  
 Kathleen Shaffer ~ January 11th  
 Barbara McCurry ~ January 19th  
 Angela Denis ~ January 24th

## CONTACT US

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Prescott Area Iris Society ~ PO Box 11918, Prescott, AZ 86304



# REBLOOMING IRIS ~ CULTIVATION

Rebloomers need, first of all, to be established: minimum one year in one place in your garden. Some may take another year or two before they'll put on their rebloom show. For optimum results:

**A)** The rich soil must be well drained.

**B)** They must receive a full day of sunshine, if possible, minimum four hours. The more sunshine, the more rebloom (and...remember to take into consideration the sun's position in relation to your rebloomers in the fall.

**C)** They need extra water/fertilizer.

It's best (but not necessary), to keep your rebloomers together, as they need more water and fertilizer – two things that could have a detrimental affect on spring-only bloomers. Most iris go dormant in mid-summer, but you don't want your rebloomers to, therefore, you must make sure they never go more than a few weeks (or less in a hot, dry climate) without water.

## Fertilizing Is Key

Fertilize six weeks before spring bloom, as with oncers, then immediately after bloom, and, finally, once or twice with liquid foliar fertilizer (such as Miracle Gro or Peters) beginning in late August or September to give them that extra boost they need for another bloom cycle. If freezing weather threatens your fall bloomstalks, snap them off at ground level or cut them as close to the ground as possible. If the buds are a good size and showing color, bring the bloomstalks in the house and put them in a vase of tepid water. They should open. Or, if you know the cold

snap is predicted for only one or two nights, carefully cover them until morning.

## Rebloomers Are Vigorous

Rebloomers tend to be more vigorous than oncers (for obvious reasons) and also tend to bloom first in spring. Whereas spring-only bloomers don't need to be divided more than once every 3- 5 years, rebloomers usually need division every 2- 3 years – and to keep the rebloom going, always leave in place a couple rhizomes from the clump to be divided. Then, while your newly replanted rhizomes are getting established elsewhere, your original (but thinned out) clump will continue to rebloom without interruption.

Some remontants will rebloom as early as a month after spring bloom. Others won't bloom again until the fall. A third category, (called all-season rebloomers), can rebloom several times (or even every month) before being cut down by a hard frost. So far, there are about twenty or so of these all-season (or continuous) rebloomers. A fourth category is 'sporadic rebloomers.' These unpredictable irises will rebloom – you guessed it – only when they feel like it.

Oh...and one more thing. Each garden within a certain climate zone can have what we call 'microclimates' – mini-environments created by the surrounding conditions (ie. location in relation to a sheltering building, trees, etc., or hills, depressions, direction of wind or sun, etc.) where a cultivar could rebloom, even though not

recorded as doing so in your climate zone. You might find yourself very pleasantly surprised to find an iris trying to rebloom because it is affected by these microclimates. Example: A clump of iris might rebloom for you along the south side of your house – given an extra boost from the southern sun exposure and the considerable protection from the elements by the building itself – and yet refuse to rebloom in your backyard garden!

Oops...almost forgot... If an iris fails to rebloom for you after you've given it all the tender loving care mentioned above (and after you've made certain it's been reported to rebloom in your climate zone), try moving it. In spite of the fact that most rebloomers perform better after becoming established, if you notice a cultivar seems to be unhappy in one spot (because it's not performing), try moving it. I pulled out an entire two-year-old clump of the SDB *Baby Blessed* because it had only bloomed once for me (spring bloom, not rebloom). We rototilled and fertilized that entire bed and replanted a piece of BB a few feet away from where it had been originally. As I write this article, roughly three months later, that same piece of *Baby Blessed* has a beautiful flower on a fully formed budstalk. Another (even smaller) piece of the original clump that I potted up is ready to bloom as well.

Guess the moral of the story is this: ***Don't be afraid to experiment with fertilizer, water, location, etc.***

# MINI ARTICLES & TIPS



PAIS Annual Photo Contest Winners

## PAIS Annual Photo Contest

There were four photo categories:

- **Single Iris or Iris Cluster**
- **Iris Landscape**
- **Iris w/People, Animals, or Insects**
- **Artistic, Macro or Photoshop**

## ...and The Winners Are!

1sts ~ **Robin Walter**: Single Iris;  
**Barb McCurry**: Iris w/People or Critters;  
**Barb McCurry**: Artistic;  
**Marty Boxer**: Landscape.

2nds ~ **Barb McCurry**: Iris w/People or Critters;  
**Sherry Williams**: Landscape & Macro;  
**Kellie Smith**: Single Iris.

**CONGRATULATIONS!!**

## Additional Comments from Members on Rebloomers

*Double Your Fun*, an intermediate bearded iris, 21" height and moderately fast spreading, was introduced by hybridizer J. Terry Aitkins in 2000. It is an early mid-season bloomer, blooming around mid May in Prescott Valley. *Double Your Fun's* standards are "pearl white, mid-rib flushed with deep violet. Falls are a soft butter yellow, slightly darker by its yellow beard." SOURCE: American Iris Encyclopedia.

It's not a showy bloom but a delicate beauty that blooms heavenly in both spring and early winter. It seems to enjoy my iris bed incorporated with amended soil from Prescott Dirt Company. (see Loretta's TIPS below)



9-30-19

*Was SO delighted to see this lovely iris blooming in Prescott Valley on N. Kirkwood Ave. just across the street from Sherry's. And it's fragrant!! Was*

*quite a surprise. The woman who owns the place doesn't know what iris cultivar it is. It may be 'Harvest of Memories' which is fragrant and said to rebloom in our zone. May be 'Pure As Gold,' which will rebloom, if it has the right conditions. ~ Cynthia Brush*

### Loretta Bresof's Tips

- *Early February: Fertilize w/10-10-10*
- *Late March or early April: Fertilize w/6-24-24 when I treat all my TB, BB and IB iris, so they will flower for our May Iris Show.*

- *Late July: Fertilize again w/10-10-10 after blooms have faded. This may sound like a lot of fertilizing, but it works well for me.*

### Stephen Brubaker's Tips

- *Fertilize regularly.*
- *Water more often.*
- *Site your rebloomers in the best location in your garden.*  
*(see his surprise NoID rebloomer, pg.2)*

# REGION 15 IRIS EVENT REPORT



*Thomas Johnson of Mid-America Gardens presenting information on new seedlings (Yea!!) as well as insights to which irises make great parents! He also conducted a judge's training.*

The American Iris Society Region 15 fall gathering was held in San Marino, CA at the Huntington Botanic Gardens. The perk of holding an event there is participants can roam their extensive gardens after the meeting without paying for admission. The host, Inland Region Iris Society, was well prepared with a huge spread of breakfast yummys, tables full of door prizes, many donated by Thomas Johnson (Mid-American Gardens) and Rick Tasco (Superstition Iris Garden) plus a silent iris auction and other iris rhizomes for sale.

Thomas Johnson, hybridizer extraordinaire, focused his illustrated presentation on iris traits he is concentrating on when making crosses for

new introductions. One principle he follows is *focus on form*. Some iris patterns he is working towards are: orange and pink amoneas, bicolors with contrasting fall edges, blends, contrasting color style arms, and overlapping falls. Other goals are a blue bearded pink bi-color, stripes on the falls as opposed to veining and a halo near the beard. Summarized, Johnson is working toward distinctive form and a different application of color. One caution to beware of is creating iris with too many ruffles, leading to top heavy flowers and standards that won't open fully. We may see a return toward more tailored iris, common in days gone by.

*Article by Judy Book*

Thomas Johnson considers these iris to be good hybridizing "parents" in his program.

(Top to Bottom):

*Dressed to the Nines*

*Leave Me Breathless*

*Painted Love*

*Photos: Mid-America Gardens*



# REGION 15 IRIS EVENT (CONT.)



AIS Region 15  
Fall General  
Session Meeting

The Iris Rhizome Raffle set up - a rhizome goes in a colored bag put behind the printed bag with the iris photo. Raffle tickets are placed in the printed bag w/ iris photo.



Reblooming Iris at Huntington Gardens, San Marino CA  
(shown top to bottom):  
Autumn Tryst, Golden Immortal,  
Bernice's Legacy, Total Recall  
Photos: Judy Book



"Welcome Bags" for AIS Region 15 Fall Meeting attendees!



All attendees at the AIS Region 15 Fall Meeting received a decorated cookie. What an assortment!! Thank you to So Cal Cookie Gal (Redlands, CA) for their work on these beauties!



Iris Event Photos Courtesy of **Crafton Hills Iris Farm**