



NEWSLETTER

AUGUST/ SEPTEMBER 2021

12th Annual Photo Contest

September 18th, 2021

It's that time again! You have already dug, donated, planted and potted all your rhizomes - your work is done! So, now is a great time to check your devices - phones, tablets, iPhones, iPads and computers for all your potential award-winning photos. Oops, I forgot to mention your cameras!

Only PAIS members are eligible to enter. Photos can be taken anywhere, anytime but must be taken by the entrant.* **Entrants will need to get their photos printed.** You can enter up to three photos, **8" x 10"** with **no frame**, in each of four categories, which are...

Category A: Habitat – Iris landscape or iris scene

Category B: Individual iris – single or cluster of same iris

Category C: Artistic – Macro and/or photoshopped enhancement of iris

Category D: Irises and Others – irises with insects, animals, people...any or all, your choice

Entrants, please come to the 'Contest Registration' table to submit your photo/s, to which you have added on the back, your name, and the category you are entering it in. Soft pencil or a sticky note will do, just so it's legible.

No photographer's name will be on display as it is a 'popular choice' contest. Everyone who comes to the meeting will be given a voting slip and choose their favorite in each category. They will then deposit their voting slip in the 'SVSV' (*secret voting slip vault*).

There will be a tallying by our 'expert' talliers, and winners and runners-up in all categories will be announced, and prizes will be awarded.

◆◆◆ Robin ◆◆◆



Iris closeup photos

Barb McCurry



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**Even though this is the cutest photo of 'Irises and Others' you will ever see (I'm biased – it's my great niece) I'm ineligible to enter it as my daughter-in-law in Australia took it!*



President's Message

I hope everyone's summer has gone well. We certainly have had a wonderful monsoon, although I know that some of our members have been adversely affected and had some flooding.

We had a wonderful rhizome sale in July. People were excited to be able to wander around and pick their own rhizomes. Certainly that was more fun than just getting online, and we have had some wonderful reviews from people. Our sale brought in close to \$4300, which means we are well covered for our endowment and scholarship at Yavapai College as well as our donation to the Yavapai Food bank and our club expenses.



Photo by Kellie Smith

We are still hoping that we will be able to renovate our Dyke's winners garden at the Yavapai Sculpture Garden this fall. We have asked the college to see if some of the horticulture students (younger, stronger folks) would like to help us get that done – with some payment, of course.

Our membership has continued to grow, and we are so pleased to welcome our new members, many of whom participated in the rhizome sale and other activities. It is so fun to have new folks join our group. Hopefully we'll see most of you at our meeting on September 18th, 1:30 at the Stoneridge Community Center, Prescott Valley.



The September meeting is always fun and includes an ice cream social, a photo contest (info included on page 1) and a silent auction. We are including a list of the rhizomes that should be in the auction, page 5. Most of these iris are new to our area and have come from growers and from the Region 15 gardens that were planted in the Inland Empire in California for the Spring Conference.

We are also including the registration form for the 2021 Region 15 Fall Conference. We are hosting the event this year and we are so happy that Jim Hedgecock of Comanche Acres Iris Gardens will be our speaker and guest of honor. The registration for the conference is \$45.00, however, for our members we are only charging \$25.00 to cover the cost of lunch. If you have never had the opportunity to attend one of these conferences, they are worth the time. Fun, informative and, of course, you get to meet other iris addicts from Arizona and California.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on the 18th.

Sherry



Photo by Gary Miller

American Iris Society Medal Awards 2021



Daring Deception— T. Johnson



Two Dykes Medal
winners 2021



Reckless Abandon—Keppel



Don't Doubt Dalton—Burseen



Belle Fille—M. Smith



Volcanic Glow—Keppel



Bluebird of Happiness—Black



Don't Stop Believing—T. Johnson



Football Hero—L. Miller

The Dykes Medal is the highest award of the American Iris Society (AIS) and was first awarded in 1927. Medals are awarded each year to irises in each specific classification type by vote of the registered American Iris Society judges. Because no medals were awarded in 2020, two per class were given this year.

The iris in rows 2 and 3 were all awarded the John C. Wister Medal for tall bearded iris which is normally awarded to only three tall bearded iris. To view photos of all medal winners: <https://wiki.irises.org/Main/InfoAwards2021>

CONTACT US

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Meeting Location: Stoneridge Community Center

1300 Stoneridge Drive, Prescott Valley

Prescott Area Iris Society

P.O. Box 11918, Prescott AZ 86304

<http://prescottirissociety.org>

September/October Birthdays

Kris Wood	September 11	Patrick Beatty	October 16
Marilyn Wiley	September 14	Gayle Coyne	October 16
Jeri Conklin	September 20	Sam Folio	October 16
Joanne Moorhouse	September 23	Brenda Griffin	October 16
Rev. Jean Holms	September 24	Val Maxey	October 16
Barb Meyer	September 26	Dede Erceg	October 25
Lane Kihlstrom	September 26	Kathy Sisley	October 25
Jean Cole	October 1	Pam Pruess	October 29
TG Shaffer	October 5	Kurt Conklin	October 30
Frank Giovenco	October 8	Heather Blakey	October 31
Faith Chaney	October 10	Linda Guy	October 31
Deb Wade	October 10		

Welcome New Members



Jody Bartling	Linda Davis	Val and Lyle Maxey
Elise H Beatty	Sam Folio	Jean M Pembroke
Jean M Brennan	Jane Graham	Joe and Pam Pruess
Diana Chapman	Kristin Hatfield	Sandra Schilling
Faith Chaney	Rev. Jean Holmes	Kris Wood
Jeri and Kurt Conklin	Joyce and Bob Knill	

Silent Auction Iris

Abilene (BB)	Hedgecock
Aggressively Forward	Innerst
Ay Chihuahua	Dash
Care to Dance	Schreiner
Chihuahuan Desert	Dash
Copper Angel	Dash
Drifting	Schreiner
Electromagnetism	Toth
Epic Saga	Hedgecock
Feeling Spicy Tonight	Deaton
Final Episode	Blyth
Flaming Light	Brown
Frimousse	Cayeux
Gold Dust Woman	Dash
Heaven's Garden	Toth
High Desert	Keppel
Ice Cream Sundae	Tasco
Idol	Ghio
Indian Sandstone	Ernst
Iroquois Scout	Hedgecock
Jedi Princess	Dash
Jitterbug	Keppel

LaRue Boswell	Dunn
Lusty Liza (BB)	Murphy
Marilyn's Skirt	Skaggs
Mexican Holiday	Schreiner
Mule Shoe Money	Burseen
My Lady's Manor	Remare
Noble Lord	Tasco
Painted Hills Sunset	Austin
Pirate Ahoy	Blyth
Poesie	Cayeux
Prom Date	Toth
Reality Check	Tasco
Recurring Delight	Lauer
Rodeo Girl	Schreiner
Rustler	Keppel
Sheer Panic	Toth
Silver Silk	Dash
Started With A Kiss	Blyth
Tango in the Night	Dash
Tropical Smoothie	Toth
Wild Apache	Gibson



THE BEGINNINGS OF TALL BEARDED IRIS

by Bob Pries

My first blog! I thought I might start off with some thoughts about another beginning which occurred about 200 years ago. For years I wondered what the first tall-bearded irises actually looked like. Here is what I've found.

Circa 1820, E. Van Berg of Neuenkirche, Germany and Marie-Guillaume De Bure of Paris, France began naming cultivated varieties from the bee crosses appearing in their gardens. Van Berg did not introduce his selections into commerce. On the other hand, De Bure is noted for the first named and introduced cultivar 'Buriensis'---which he named after himself. It was said to have a plicata pattern similar to the later 'Madame Chereau', but larger with more rosy markings outlining the white flower.

Although considered an "amateur" in 1848, De Bure was said to have the largest collection of irises in France. The book "The World of Irises" (available through the American Iris Society Storefront) credits De Bure for setting in motion the train of events which led to all present-day iris societies. It makes me wonder, "How many bearded irises did De Bure have in his collection?" By 1830, De Bure's work had inspired fellow Parisian Henri-Antoine Jacques, the

horticulturalist famed for introducing the Bourbon Roses. Perhaps his only surviving cultivar is 'Aurea.' Jacques in turn, inspired Nicolas Lémon of nearby Belleville, France (which was later annexed into the city of Paris).

Lémon was noted for growing thousands of seedlings. He did not bother with hand pollination and was quite happy with the work the bees produced. Nonetheless in 1840 he put irises on the map by offering 100 varieties for sale to the public.



Between 1840-1850, Lémon continued to offer hundreds of irises for sale each year. To find descriptions of these irises we must go to the French literature. I am greatly thankful to Sylvain Ruaud and other members of the Société Française des Iris et plantes Bulbeuses for providing links to these descriptions of the Lémon varieties. Readers can find these by going to Lémon's hybridizer page in the Iris Encyclopedia where you will find lists of his cultivars and linked references. The following plates show more of Lémon's irises.

This plate appears with- in [Portefeuille des horticulteurs](#). Vol 2 (1848) with a nine page description



American plant catalogs of this period rarely gave descriptions of these bearded hybrids and usually only offered collections of fifty or one hundred “germanica”



irises. Although these bearded hybrids were often referred to as *Iris germanica*, it is likely that all of them had only *Iris pallida* and *Iris variegata* in their backgrounds.

Experimental breeding between the two species by Sir Michael Foster, of Trinity College in Cambridge, England, showed this to be the case. Since both species

had chromosome numbers of $2n=24$, their offspring were all fertile with each other also. Germanica irises grown in gardens at the time were probably ‘Grandmas’ Blue Flags’ a sterile triploid.

It was probably not until about 1885-1890 that fertile tetraploid *Iris germanica* was collected from Amasia, Turkey and Foster started entering true germanica irises into breeding. Lémon’s irises were all diploid, while Foster’s ‘Amas’ was tetraploid. Thus, the early diploid irises really formed a fertile family distinct from today’s tetraploid tall bearded. The Lémon hybrids had more affinity to today’s diploid miniature tall bearded than to our modern tall bearded. The few that remain of the earlier group provide a delicate charm and grace to modern landscapes. I would love to see more images of them in the Iris Encyclopedia.

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American Iris Society blog 8/9/2021*



Celeste Lemon 1855



Fries Morel Lemon 1840



Mme. Chereau Lemon 1844

Photos—Historical Iris Preservation Society

<https://www.historiciris.org/>