



## Spring Iris Care *by Dennis Luebkin*

Here are a few tips:

**Cleaning:** If you have not cleaned around your irises now is the time to do that. Remove dead fans and old bloom stalks. Also clean any leaf debris from around the rhizomes and remove any soil from the tops of the rhizomes caused by freeze thaw. Remember the rhizomes like some light and air. This will also help prevent rhizome rot. If you should notice any soft rhizomes during cleanup you can apply some Ajax or similar cleaner on top and around the rhizome. The chlorine will assist in killing the bacteria causing the rot. Remove weeds so they do not

compete with the irises. Remove dead flower stalks. Keep weeds and grasses under control.

**Fertilizing:** If you have not fertilized your irises you can use Best 6-24-24 (nitrogen-phosphorus-potassium) fertilizer around your irises. A good 10-10-10 general garden fertilizer with trace elements and minerals such as iron, calcium, magnesium, sulfur, boron, manganese, copper, zinc also is helpful for the overall health of the irises. Nitrogen promotes good overall growth and green fans. Phosphorus and potassium help in the development of a strong root system, resist

disease and produce abundant bloom.

**Pest control:** Thrips and aphids lay their eggs at the base of the fans and with the warmer weather they are beginning to become active. See above for the Bayer fertilizer. You can also direct spray Malathion on the infestation of insects. Soap and water will also reduce, but not eliminate, the insect problem.

**Watering:** With the weather becoming warmer we need to watch our watering for the bloom season. We have been blessed with gentle rains this spring, but with the onset of warmer weather watering will need to be more frequent, about once a week, to produce good bloom. If the ground begins to look dry, check 3 inches below the ground to see how moist the ground is. If it is dry, water with a deep soaking.

Page 1: **Spring Iris Care by Dennis Luebkin**

Page 2: **President Sherry's Message, Feb. Meeting CANCELLED**

Page 3: **2021 Calendar & Announcements ~ Notice to all Members**

Page 4: **PAIS Members' Contact Info & Birthdays**

Page 5; **Crafton Hills Iris Farms.**

Page 6: **Thank You Note & Quick Note**



# PRESIDENT SHERRY'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year and hopefully, a year of returning to normalcy and gathering together. We have a number of things going on this year that will keep us busy. On February 13th we are putting out the first 10-10-10 fertilizer for our iris at the Yavapai College Sculpture Garden (YCSG) & Embry Riddle Memorial Garden (ERMG) to give them a good start for the season. On March 13th we are putting out 6-24-24 fertilizer to aid in flower production, at both locations. I'll send out emails for those who want to come and help.

We are planning on redoing the Dykes Garden at YCSG this year. It needs changes to the irrigation, soil amendment and replacement of some missing Dykes winners. We will let everyone know the scheduled dates, so you can volunteer to help.

Our Spring Show this year will be held May 8th at the Prescott Rodeo Grounds -- Home of the World's Oldest Rodeo® (assuming we are back on track with the pandemic). It should be a great year; we have a lot of potted iris from our rhizome sale last year that Brenda Griffin and her amazing garden are taking care of for us. We will be setting up on Friday, May 7th in the afternoon. I'll send out an email, so we can have lots of help. If we cannot have the in-person sale this year, we will have the online sale again.

We can all start thinning our iris in early July and contribute rhizomes (marked with the name) for our rhizome sale. We will have a marking party on July 24th to get all those rhizomes cleaned, trimmed, marked, sorted and ready for our rhizome sale. This is a fun day and the more hands, the faster the work and, of course, the opportunity to chat with friends.

Our Summer Rhizome Sale is scheduled for July 31st at the Stoneridge Community Center. We will be setting up on the afternoon of July 30. This is an all hands-on deck event. Watch for the information, so you can volunteer to help.

The big event this year is the AIS Region 15 Fall Conference being held in Prescott this year. We are holding the event at Prescott Rodeo Grounds -- Home of the World's Oldest Rodeo®. This is an amazing fun event with iris club members from Southern California and Arizona meeting to share. Our speaker is Jim Hedgecock and it's going to be a wonderful event -- however -- it takes a lot of work to get us there. We will need volunteers to help all through the year and we will need our club to come to the conference, participate and help out. We want this to be a wonderful conference for our club and all the clubs attending. Watch for information in emails & newsletters.

Everyone stay safe and, hopefully, we'll will be gathering soon.

Sherry

**PAIS February '21 Meeting:  
February 20th,**

**CANCELLED**

Stoneridge Community Center  
1300 Stoneridge Drive  
Prescott Valley, AZ 86314



# 2021 CALENDAR & ANNOUNCEMENTS



## 2021 PAIS Calendar

Remember, all members are invited to join us at board meetings and your comments are always welcome. The board meetings are held mornings of the general meeting in the kitchen area next to the community center room where we hold regular PAIS meetings.

The following schedule includes garden maintenance and other needs scheduled on an as needed basis.

**February 13** ~ Spring Iris Care: Day #1 at Yavapai College Sculpture Garden and Embry Riddle Memorial Garden (10-10-10 Fertilizer)

**February 20** ~ **Meeting CANCELLED** (Stoneridge Community Center)

**March 13** ~ Spring Iris Care: Day #2 at Yavapai College Sculpture Garden and Embry Riddle Memorial Garden (6-24-24 Fertilizer)

**May 8th** ~ Spring Show, Prescott Rodeo Grounds



## Prescott Area Iris Society

Robin Walter, Membership  
[redstickrob@gmail.com](mailto:redstickrob@gmail.com)

### Notice to all Members

As we are aware, 2020 has been a challenging year for us all! It has been a time of sadness and of kindness too.

On that note, the PAIS board has decided that because we have had only one general meeting for the year (February) and possibly no other gatherings for the rest of the year, that it's only fair to extend everyone's membership for one year.

Be assured that when there are any upcoming meetings or events, you will be informed via group email and/or the PAIS newsletter.

As trying as this year has been, at least there is the garden! Happy 'irising' and we all hope to catch up soon.

Regards,

Robin Walter

# CONTACT INFO & BIRTHDAYS

## CONTACT US

**President:** Sherry Williams [duckwalkdesigns@gmail.com](mailto:duckwalkdesigns@gmail.com)

**1st Vice President:** Marty Boxer [martin.boxer@asu.edu](mailto:martin.boxer@asu.edu)

**2nd Vice President:** Kathleen Shaffer [koicats@sbcglobal.net](mailto:koicats@sbcglobal.net)  
928-642-4594

**Secretary:** Diane Thornbrugh [dianelt5@icloud.com](mailto:dianelt5@icloud.com)

**Alternate Secretary:** Barbie Harlib [bharlib@gmail.com](mailto:bharlib@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Eugene Zielinski [eez55@earthlink.net](mailto:eez55@earthlink.net)

**Director at Large:** Barb McCurry [bj4mccurry@hotmail.com](mailto:bj4mccurry@hotmail.com)

**Membership:** Robin Walter [redstickrob@gmail.com](mailto:redstickrob@gmail.com)

**Publicity:** Bill Walter [Tasmania.bill@gmail.com](mailto:Tasmania.bill@gmail.com)

**Sculpture Garden:** Dennis Luebkin [dluebkin@g.com](mailto:dluebkin@g.com)

**Hospitality:** (Temp - Sherry, Amy & Loretta)

**Newsletter:** Vicki Hughes [vimticki@hotmail.com](mailto:vimticki@hotmail.com)

Cynthe Brush [mudwoman@greyvisual.com](mailto:mudwoman@greyvisual.com)

Judy Book [jbookaz@gmail.com](mailto:jbookaz@gmail.com)

**Prescott Area Iris Society:**

PO Box 11918 Prescott, AZ 86304

## *Best Wishes to Our Friends with March & April Birthdays!!!*

### *March*

Cheryl Dreska ~ March 1st  
Stan Book ~ March 9th  
Loretta Bresof ~ March 11th  
Joella Cheek ~ March 12th  
Marty Boxer ~ March 12th  
Sherry Brown ~ March 13th  
Victoria Van Klompenburg ~ March 13th  
Vera Stewart March 14th  
Judy Book ~ March 27th  
Luretta Lyall ~ March 31st



### *April*

Bridget Bernardi ~ April 5th  
David Brown ~ April 7th  
Amy Williams ~ April 12th  
Robin Wakter ~ April 15th  
Cynthe Brush ~ April 19th  
Dennis Luebkin ~ April 22



# CRAFTON HILLS IRIS FARM



Crafton Hills Iris Farm is located in Redlands, CA in AIS Region 15. Last year I purchased 5 iris from their online website. I received all in great condition. As a new customer, Crafton sent me a bonus iris. All performed well and some bloomed this spring!

An invading deer stomped on the bonus iris "Lightly Buttered" and it died. I contacted Lori at Crafton Hills and she immediately sent an email promising to replace it if available... and she did!

Crafton Hills also sent a 15% coupon for January 2021. I purchased 6 new iris on January 1st. Not only did I get 15% off, but did not have to pay extra for tax. What's not to like!

I highly recommend this grower and know our members will be treated just as well. Being a new customer, I was impressed by their friendliness, courtesy and great iris rhizomes.

Submitted by Loretta Bresof.

www. [CraftonHillsIrisFarm.com](http://CraftonHillsIrisFarm.com)



# THANK YOU NOTE

We give a scholarship every year to a student at Yavapai College. This is from the 2020-2021 recipient. It makes all our efforts to raise money during the year worth the effort when you can help someone change their life and achieve their goals.

August 30, 2020

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FNPIRS

Dear Members of the Prescott Area Iris Society ,

I want to begin by thanking everyone at the Prescott Area Iris Society, for rewarding me a much needed scholarship to further my education. Students like myself, need more individuals and organizations who are willing to help out our future generations to gain the knowledge we need to build a brighter and better future. It is a great service you have done to not only myself, but for my family as well. This extra source will help me get to school and work while raising my autistic son and three step children; with a family like ours, every bit helps. It has always been important to me to show my children that no matter how long it takes, your goals can be achieved through perseverance, hard work, and the help of your community and loved ones.

I began a passion for agriculture at a young age, digging with my grandma all the time in her gardens. That passion grew on through highschool, entering FFA and starting my own garden patch at the school. Fast forwarding, I spent 6 years to gain my Associates in Applied Sciences in Agricultural Technical management. Now, I am wanting to pass the last two classes to achieve another 2 certificates in Animal care and Production Horticulture.

Agriculture has always been my passion, and after my schooling is over, I hope to work for Arizona Game and Fish. Working for a fish hatchery is mainly my goal, and with this scholarship I am one step closer. The light at the end of my tunnel is that much clearer, thanks to the fine folks of the Prescott Area Iris Society. Just know that you have made a difference in more than just my life, you have positively impacted my future for the better. I will never forget what this will do for my future, thank you.

Raina Rivera  
Yavapai College




**Quick Note** about our upcoming Prescott IRIS Roundup on Saturday, October 23, 2021. This event will be held in Prescott at our historic rodeo grounds. We are looking forward to meeting fellow AIS members from Arizona and Southern California. It will be a lot of fun!

First of all, we are hoping you can help us out. We will be giving our guests Gift Bags when they arrive, which will include Raffle tickets, a potted Iris and miscellaneous other items with a Rodeo Theme. We will also have Raffles and various Give Aways. SPECIFICALLY we are looking for Iris from your gardens with Rodeo Theme names, such as Cowboy Country, Rodeo Boots, Cowgirl Hat, Arizona Sunset (no other states please), Cow Paddy, Urban Cowboy, etc.

For the Silent Auction our main requests would be donations of 2017 and newer Iris; we don't care what their names are. We are also hoping for donations of handmade items from some of our many talented members to help fill in the Silent Auction and raffles. Please call Brenda Griffin if you have questions, 928-710-5419