



NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2022

Presidents Message

Greetings to All,

Here we are nearing the end of summer and approaching the fall season. We are having a wonderful monsoon and the irises are happy along with their owners. I want to thank all our resolute volunteers for their hard work in our three public gardens and iris events throughout the year. With over one hundred members we look forward next year to more participation by our membership to truly make PAIS a vibrant and effective organization in our community.

As many of you know Brenda and Tony Griffin dedicated members of PAIS are moving from Chino Valley to Texas on a beautiful seven-acre parcel where they will open a new iris business. No more marking or potting parties at Brenda's. We wish them well and success in their new endeavor. When Brenda settles in, contact her for interesting historic and unique irises.

July and August are our busiest times of the year with our digs, marking party rhizome sale and potting party. August and September are our best months for finishing our digging, dividing, and planting our new iris acquisitions. It is also a suitable time to give your irises one last fertilization for the year with 10-10-10. Let the rain soak in the fertilizer. Our major events and work for the year are almost over. What a busy year this has been for PAIS two iris sales, a marking party, potting party, iris digs in Prescott and other areas. If you are still digging irises please pot and save two, three or four irises for our spring sale. Next year at the end of April we will hold our **Kaleidoscope of Color Iris Show and Potted Iris Sale** to benefit Yavapai College Scholarships and other charities. Our spring show will be the first in 3 years due to Covid. It is a beautiful event, and all should participate. We will finish our year by planting our new irises in our public gardens for a beautiful spring display in 2023. The Prescott Community and beyond appreciate the work and effort PAIS puts into these gardens to beautify our community.

Dennis

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER

2022

Inside this issue

President's Message....	page 1
Welcome.....	page 3
September Meeting.....	page 4
Treasurer's Summary...	page 4
Annual Rhizome Sale...	pgs 5-6
AIS Awards 2022.....	pgs 7-8
Silent Auction.....	page 9
PAIS Member Tribute...	pgs 10-11
Can You Dig It?.....	pgs 12-1
Photo contest.....	pgs 14
Summer Potting Party	page 15
Birthdays.....	page 16



Welcome to our newest PAIS members --

Sheryl Leona

Linda Gombos

Sheryl Olinghouse

Isabel Olsen

Pam & John Poco

Russ & Susan Taylor

Cheri Ditto

J.D. Greenberg

Irma Vazquez

Greg Glassco



CONTACTS

President: Dennis Luebkin dbluekin@q.com

1st Vice President: Marty Boxer martin.boxer@asu.edu

2nd Vice President: Vicki Hughes vimticki@hotmail.com

Secretary: Jeri Conklin jericonklin@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Sherry Williams duckwalkdesigns@gmail.com

Director at Large: Kathleen Shaffer irisfun351@gmail.com

Membership: Robin Walter redstickrob@gmail.com

Publicity: Dennis Luebkin

Sandra Schilling [SSchilli9151@gmail.com](mailto:sschilli9151@gmail.com)

Hospitality: Deb Wade deb7909@gmail.com

Vicki Hughes

Newsletter: Jean Brennan jeanmbrennanmsrn@gmail.com

Community Gardens: Dennis Luebkin

Kathleen Shaffer

Diane Thornbrugh dianelt5@icloud.com

Prescott Area Iris Society

P. O. Box 11918

Prescott, AZ 86304

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1048378225226372>

[https://prescottirissociety.org/
president@prescottareairissociety.org](https://prescottirissociety.org/president@prescottareairissociety.org)

membership@prescottareairissociety.org

Meeting Location:

Stoneridge Community Center

1300 Stoneridge Drive

Prescott Valley

September 17 Meeting **The Wonderful Worldwide Diversity of the Iris Family**

Have you ever thought about which common or exotic flowers are members of the iris family? Attend our September 17 presentation by Eugene Zielinski and discover things you may not have known. Most of the irises we love to grow are from the Northern Hemisphere -- North America and Eurasia. But irises are part a larger family, and members of the iris family can be found on every continent (except Antarctica, of course). This presentation will be a brief worldwide survey of the iris family. You'll find that a lot of these flowers don't even look like irises, but are beautiful none the less. Some can be grown in Prescott, but many wouldn't tolerate a Prescott winter. Some are well known garden plants, almost as popular as irises themselves.



Treasurer's Summary

We are more than halfway thru the year, and we have had our two big sales that bring in funds for the Yavapai College scholarship and endowment (we are committed to \$3000.00 per year), our donations to local community efforts as well as the maintenance of our gardens and other club expenses.

Due to what seems to be the never-ending pandemic, we didn't have an in-person Spring sale and again had it online. Brenda Griffin took on the responsibility and was a champion for the club making sure that all the orders were processed and given to our customers. She was helped by other volunteers, and we owe them a huge thank you for taking on this task. The Spring Sale brought in \$1894.00. We knew that this sale was not going to be as amazing as past years as we didn't have as many potted irises as we had had in the past. We had budgeted sale income at \$4000, so we were \$2106.00 below our expected income, but were looking forward to an amazing rhizome sale based on our wonderful rainfall in 2021.

We had a bountiful number of rhizomes this year, donated by our members, Facebook friends and a wonderful gentleman in Cornville. We were looking forward to our Summer Rhizome Sale. Our sale brought in \$4563.86. We had thunderstorms and rain for most of the day and feel that many folks didn't want to venture out to our sale. We had budgeted \$7000.00 for the Rhizome sale, so we are down \$2436.14 from the expected income or a total of \$4542.14 for the year from both sales.

We are, however, still covered for our annual commitments. We currently have in our savings \$288.22, our checking account balance is \$2754.35, the PayPal account has a balance of \$2763.40 and our CD is \$3009.78 for a total available of \$8815.75.

Sherry Williams

Annual Rhizome Sale

Stoneridge Community Center - Saturday, July 30th 2022

“Ok, is everybody ready?” asked the ‘door guard’ “Batten down the hatches...they’re coming in! 10, 9, 8 2, 1”. Then the doors were opened and in came the ragin’ rhizome rabble (a.k.a. the RRR)...!

Now, lets go back a few weeks. Of course, it all started in our members’ gardens when the iris had finished blooming and many needed dividing and replanting. That’s where the rhizomes come from...donations of excess rhizomes from our members and all the hard work of digging, and their diligence in having names (or not) for their great assortment. Also thanks to our volunteer diggers who traveled far and wide to gather donated rhizomes. So, after all that back-breaking work we ended up with several hundred iris varieties. As for the numerous unidentified NOIDs (no i.d.), there was an abundance of them too. Seems like some irises have developed nomadic qualities and like to replant themselves in different locations!! Hence, No Idea!

*** *Sale Day* ***

Although there was an early iris-care workshop (more throughout the day) which held all their attention, the RRR were ‘chomping at the bit’ by 10 am, and after admittance to the sale, had a wonderful time poring over the multitude of named and photographed rhizomes, making their selections, then moving on to the NOIDs and deciding how many of those would be fun to take a chance on ... you really can’t go wrong for ‘half a dollar’! Any extras ... plant markers and/or alfalfa ... just before tallying was the next step & then on to the cashiers table.

The buyers seemed more than happy with their bounty and the cashiers were happy to take their payments, as the funds we raise from our sales go back to our community in the form of Yavapai College scholarships and donations to Yavapai Food Bank. We also support and maintain the iris gardens at Yavapai College Richard Marcusen Sculpture Garden, Sharlot Hall Museum and the Granite Mountain Hotshots Memorial at Embury Riddle University Interfaith Chapel.

As I could possibly forget someone, I will not mention any names but will thank everyone who volunteered on Friday the 29th for the ‘set-up’ and on Saturday - Sale Day! None of this would have been possible without you all. And a giant thanks to all our intrepid gardeners for their fantastic rhizome contributions! Oh, I do have a special mention that goes to the hospitality volunteers who kept us all ‘fed & watered’, giving us the strength to go the distance!

Last, but definitely not least, a big, big thanks to all our loyal customers who help perpetuate our cause.

Robin

*A special thanks to “Trader Joe’s, Prescott, for the generous donation of 600 of their bags...very handy & much appreciated!



Rhizome Sale 2022

Photos by Bill Walter



...and
so it
begins!



Set-up
day



Iris-care
Workshop

NOIDs



Thank you
to our
loyal
customers.

See you
next year!





Award of Merit—Garden Award

"One of The American Iris Society's most coveted awards is the Award of Merit (AM). The award is given each year to a limited number of iris varieties in each of the classifications of iris and only after the eligible varieties have been marketed over a period of time. This assures wide distribution and thus affords the judges sufficient opportunities to properly evaluate the eligible varieties in the garden as worthy of the award.

Eligibility for the Award of Merit begins the second year after the variety has received the Honorable Mention Award, and eligibility continues for three years. All eligible varieties are listed on the judges Official Ballot during the three years of eligibility. An iris may win an Award of Merit only once.

For photos and a complete listing of all the 2022 AIS Awards: <https://wiki.irises.org/Main/InfoAwards2022>

TB AWARD OF MERIT (Total votes cast = 2565)

- 31 BLUSHING GRAPES (Lynda Miller)
- 30 ROYALTY REMEMBERED (Keith Keppel)
- 30 SHIVAREE (Keith Keppel)
- 28 HUCKLEBERRY PIE (Michael Sutton)
- 28 ZEBRA BUTTER (Douglas Kanarowski)
- 25 ROCKET FUEL (Michael Sutton)
- 25 SWEET CHILD OF MINE (Larry Lauer)
- 23 GO BERSERKA (Tom Burseen)
- 23 HARD TO RESIST (Thomas Johnson)
- 23 HEARTS AFIRE (J. T. Aitken)
- 22 BARBARA JEAN LAUER (Larry Lauer)
- 22 BILLOWING WAVES (Keith Keppel)
- 22 ELDERBERRY PIE (Michael Sutton)
- 22 ESPIONAGE (Keith Keppel)
- 22 METRO BLUE (Michael Locketell)
- 22 MULTNOMAH FALLS (Paul Black)
- 22 RIM OF THE WORLD (Michael Sutton)
- 22 SERGEY (Thomas Johnson)
- 21 LUXURIANT (Paul Black)
- 21 MAYAN SUNRISE (Thomas Johnson)
- 21 MIND CHANGER (Lynda Miller)
- 21 MIXED SIGNALS (Keith Keppel)
- 21 WAVES OF JOY (Richard Tasco)



Blushing Grapes-Miller

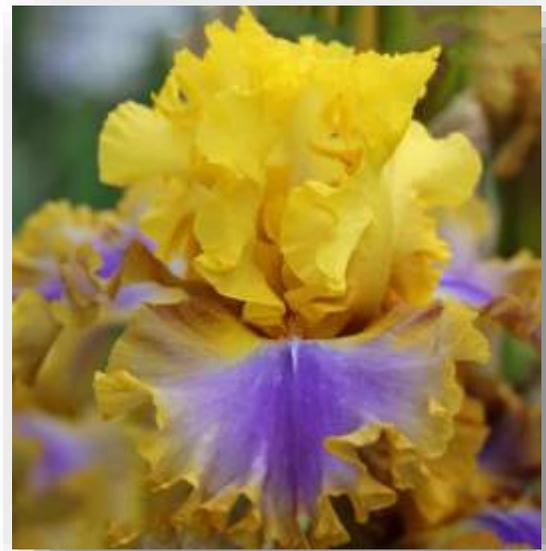
A
I
S

2
0
2
2

A
W
A
R
D
S



THE DYKES MEDAL
FOOTBALL HERO - TB iris - (Lynda Miller)



JOHN C. WISTER MEDAL Tall Bearded
GOOD MORNING SUNSHINE (Thomas Johnson)



COOK-DOUGLAS MEDAL Standard Dwarf
Bearded irises COCONIO (Marky Smith)



KNOWLTON MEDAL Border Bearded
irises BOY GENIUS (Joseph Ghio)



8 HANS AND JACOB SASS MEDAL Intermediate
Bearded Irises APPLE CRISP (Paul Black)



CAPARNE-WELCH MEDAL Miniature
Dwarf Bearded irises RIVULET (Keith Keppel)

Silent Iris Auction September 17—Members Only

Have you priced the new iris introductions lately? Many hybridizers are selling their 2021-2022 beauties for \$55-\$65. At the **September 17 silent auction** you will have a chance to bid on newly introduced iris from the gardens of the San Diego Iris Society. What a bargain! Bring cash or credit card. And yes, you can squeeze in one or two more iris. Dig up several iris that you are not totally in love with, pot them for our May exhibit/sale and you will have space for some fabulous, new iris. For photos visit: https://prescottirissociety.org/silent_auction/

Dash	Ay Chihuahua
	Copper Angel
	Desert Blush
	Flamingo Fever
	Gold Dust woman
	Jedi Princess
	Tango In The Night
Deaton	Gossett's Gamble
	Feeling Spicy Tonight
	I'm So Confused
	Biting My Tongue
	Always A Rebel
Ghio	Center Of The Universe
	Freehand BB
	Hat In The Ring
	Powerhouse
	Santa Cruz Surf
	Share The Love
Johnson	Beautician
	Easy On The Eyes
	Leave Me Breathless
	Mystic Art
	Respect
	Shadow Bands
	Timeless Treasure
	Trending
Kanarowski	Butterfly Skies
	Sings With Frogs
	Tijuana Taxi

Lauer	Blinded By The Light
	Closer to Home
	Higher Ground
	Let's Have Fun
	Rustic Fantasy
	I Saw The Light
	Sunday Afternoon
Miller	Garden Spot
	Scattergram
	Powder Keg
	Over Heated
Schreiners	Sea Eagle
Tasco	Boundless Beauty
	Noble Lord
	Reality Check
	Secret Delight
	Spring Elegance
	Under My Spell
Toth	Clouded Judgement
	Rich Delight
	Prom Date
	Paula Kristine Toth
	Electromagnetism
	Risso
	Spy Guy
	Tropical Smoothie



Clouded Judgement



Biting My Tongue



Butterfly Skies



Blinded by the Light



Gold Dust Woman



Mystic Art

PAIS Member Tribute: Brenda and Tony Griffin

"Thank-you" hardly seems to be an adequate expression of our deep appreciation for all Brenda and Tony Griffin have contributed and done for Prescott Area Iris Society over the past six years.

Brenda Griffin joined PAIS in 2016. An all-or-nothing, person of action, she jumped in to numerous volunteer activities with both feet and heartfelt enthusiasm. Tony, of course, supports her iris gardening passion and has been a solid background participant in all she has done for PAIS.



The Griffins have:

Grown magnificent iris, contributing hundreds of rhizomes over the years for PAIS' annual fundraisers.

Ordered historic irises for the Sharlot Hall Museum gardens.

Hosted many PAIS marking parties for our annual sales followed by the rhizome potting parties for unsold surplus irises.

Prepared and served breakfasts and lunches to our volunteer participants at these gatherings.

Brenda was a PAIS member we could always count on to help dig iris in the Yavapai College Sculpture Garden and at Embry-Riddle's Hotshots Memorial Garden.



For the past four or more years, Brenda has generously organized, supervised, watered, and fertilized hundreds of these potted iris in PAIS' inventory, so they would be at their best for our annual spring sale fundraisers.

In 2020, when the pandemic shut down all in-person public gatherings, threatening fundraising options for PAIS, Brenda was immediately involved in figuring out how PAIS could move their two annual iris fundraising events to an online sales platform. She worked tirelessly with the volunteer web development team in entering irises' inventory

details, contributing photographs of the current year's inventory, receiving sale purchase notices via email, communicating with buyers and PAIS coordinators, processing, packing, and shipping out those purchases across the USA. She also offered to be the pick-up location for local sales. This ended up being an extended, two year commitment continuing through 2021.

WOW! Wouldn't any iris society wish to have such talented, generous members like Brenda and Tony?!! To say we will miss them, after their upcoming move to Texas, is a huge understatement. However, we do wish them the very best in their relocation and new venture of developing a successful iris farm ~ Brenda's Joy Iris ~ in beautiful eastern Texas hill country, where Tony was raised. **Happy Trails to You!** And please stay in touch.

Article by Cynthe Brush



Photos by Brenda Griffin/
Sandra Schilling



Can you DIG It!

Everyone looks forward to our PAIS Annual Rhizome Sale that occurs each July. PAIS members prepare for the sale by digging, digging, digging! This year the PAIS volunteers focused on thinning the Richard Marcusen Sculpture Garden at Yavapai College, the Sturtevant garden at the Sharlot Hall Museum and a special iris rescue in Cornville.

The digs started at the Sculpture Garden in mid-July. The volunteer team started early in the day due to the hot weather the Prescott area was having that week. The team thinned out the plants that had significant growth, cleaned all of the dead leaves and weeds away from iris and replanted at least 3 healthy rhizomes of each iris dug to ensure new growth and great blooms for next spring. The rhizomes kept for the sale filled the back of a Suburban!

A few days later, a small volunteer team attacked the Sturtevant garden at Sharlot Hall with pitch forks and shovels in hand. This garden, which includes a collection of Grace Sturtevant's introduced irises, had not been thinned in some years so some of the clumps were extremely huge. The team of 6 spent two hours digging, cleaning, and bagging those irises for the sale.



A large team of PAIS volunteers took a road trip to the neighboring community of Cornville for our last iris dig/rescue before the sale. The 12 volunteers met at Mortimer Farms in Dewey/Humboldt to allow us to carpool. In this case, the gentleman didn't have enough hands to clean and thin his iris himself. PAIS to the rescue! As a reward for helping our friend thin his 100's of named irises, PAIS was given the extra rhizomes from each clump for our sale. This meant 100's and 100's of beautiful rhizomes donated to PAIS.

Can you DIG It! (con't)

These digs may seem like a lot of work (and they are!) but they are extremely fun and a great way to meet other PAIS members. Every volunteer cares about the iris and more importantly – about each other. Consider volunteering next year during our digs. Bring your gloves, your pitchfork and your smile. PAIS will teach you the rest.

“Many Hands Makes Light Work” – John Heywood

Article and photos– Sandra Schilling



The Photo Contest

At the June meeting we had our photo contest, and we had an amazing number of entries in each of the categories. It was awesome to see so many members come for the event and be active and engage in the photo contest. This year each category had a different winner and runner up. So many beautiful irises were shown in the pictures, you could tell that members took their time to pick amazing photos. This was another spectacular photo contest, and I am hopeful that next year will be just as brilliant. Keep snapping those photos!

Article and photos Amy Hirschert

Heather Blakely



Cynthe Brush



Jeri Conklin



Vicki Hughes



Sharon Luebkin



Gary Miller



Sandra Schilling



Bill Walter



Summer Potting Party

Sharon Luebkin



On August 5th thirteen brave souls from PAIS showed up at the Luebkin's to help pot the many leftover iris from our sale, ninety-three auction iris sent from Region 15, the remainder of the Rick Tasco/Roger Duncan iris collections for the Sculpture Garden, and iris for Embry-Riddle Memorial Garden. We had over eight hundred irises to pot. We started at 8:30 and stopped around 2:30.

Judy and Stan took home all the auction iris, Loretta took forty home to babysit, Kathleen took as many as she could fit in her car. Bill and Deb Wade were coming to pick some up for babysitting until our Spring Show at the end of April.

If you have room and would like some irises to love and care for until the Spring Show please contact Dennis Luebkin at 623-980-6627 or dluebkin@q.com and come to the Luebkin's at 10 Cienega Dr, out by the airport and take a bunch. Let us know that you got some if we are not there. We really appreciated all who showed up to pot iris and all those who will care for the irises until next spring. Many hands make light work!!!!!!



Photos-Marty Boxer

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Sep 20: Jeri Conklin

Sep 23: Joanne Moorhouse

Sep 24: Rev Jean Holmes

Sep 25: John POCO

Sep 26: Lane Kihlstrom

Sep 26: Barb Meyer



Oct 1: Jean N Cole

Oct 5: TG Shaffer

Oct 8: Frank Giovenco

Oct 10: Faith Chaney

Oct 10: Deb Wade



Oct 16: Patrick Beatty

Oct 16: Gayle Coyne

Oct 16: Sam Folio

Oct 16: Brenda Griffin

Oct 16: Val Maxey

Oct 25: Dede Erceg

Oct 25: Kathy Sisley

Oct 30: Kurt Conklin

Oct 31: Heather Blakely

Nov 6: Kathy Standhardt

Nov 6: Mary Soriano