



# NEWSLETTER

## APRIL 2023

### **KALEIDOSCOPE OF COLOR 2023**

### **Annual Festival of Iris**

**Saturday, April 29**

**10:00 AM to 2:00 PM**

**Stoneridge Community Center**



#### **Symbolism of the Iris Flower**

The ancient Greeks began the practice of planting purple iris flowers on the graves of women believing they would entice the Goddess Iris to lead their loved ones in their journey to heaven.

In the United States, the iris is the birth flower for February, the flower for the 25th wedding anniversary and the state flower for Tennessee.

#### **APRIL 22 MEETING**

**OUR PRESENTATION IS:**

**Spring Planting, Lauren Pausi**

**Master Gardener**

There is always something new to learn and this discussion will be invaluable.

**READY, SET, SHOW, APRIL 29!**

**WE NEED YOUR BLOOMS**

Have you ever entered your iris in an exhibit? There will be a demonstration showing how to present your iris most effectively. The exhibit rules and entry forms will be thoroughly explained so plan to attend and get the low down.



Bye Bye Blues

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring greetings to all!

My goodness, our weather has been very unpredictable. Hopefully our spring and summer will smooth out.

We are quickly approaching our April 29 Spring Iris Exhibit and potted iris sale. We are looking forward to seeing your many blooming entries to make this year's event spectacular.

As always we need everyone's help with setup on Friday and tear down after the show on Saturday. Interacting with the public who come to view the show is always a treat because they are always so amazed at the beauty and variety of iris blooms that they didn't know existed. Don't miss out on this opportunity to support the club and make new friends.

See you all April 28-29.

Vicky Hughes



## 2023 CALENDAR

April	22	Spring Planting, Lauren Pausi Master Gardener
April	28	Setup <i>Iris Exhibit/Sale</i> 11 am—4 pm Bring your own lunch
April	29	<i>Iris Exhibit/Sale</i> setup 7:30-9:30 am <i>Exhibit open</i> 10 am—2 pm
June	17	Ice Cream Social, Photo Contest
July	22	Marking Party 8:00 am Luebkin residence
July	28	<i>Rhizome Sale</i> Setup 10:00 am Stoneridge Community Center
July	29	<i>Rhizome Sale</i> 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Stoneridge Community Center
September	16	The Wonderful Worldwide Diversity of the Iris Family continued -Eugene Zielinski  Iris Silent Auction
November	18	Hybridizer David Toth 2023 PAIS Board Election



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## Kaleidoscope of Color – Return of the Annual Spring Iris Exhibit

This is an exciting time of year with the return of the Kaleidoscope of Color to an in person event after several pandemic years. Also exciting is, hopefully, the final arrival of Spring and a veritable bounty of our members' iris flower stalks! PAIS's annual "Kaleidoscope of Color" Iris Exhibit is happening on Saturday, April 29 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at Stoneridge Community Center. This event is free to the public and never fails to "wow" our members and the many hundreds of visitors from around the state when they experience the colorful explosion of irises on display. We are hopeful the show coincides with peak iris bloom this year, and that our members and local iris gardeners can show their beautiful blooms for all to enjoy.

The format of the exhibit will continue to be the popular "Peoples' Choice Exhibit" with no AIS judging. Bring your favorite irises and arrangements. Potted iris plants in a multitude of colors will be available for purchase at the exhibit. Morning and afternoon demonstrations will also be provided on the care and planting of iris, and club members will be available to answer questions about growing iris.

Our annual Iris Exhibit is an all-hands-on-deck 2-day event...from setup to teardown, iris intake and labeling, information, greeters, cashiers, sales of potted iris and other items, runners, and many other opportunities for lots of folks. If you cannot stand or walk for long, there are sit down jobs for you. More information will be shared at the meeting on Saturday, April 22 from 1:30 to 3:30 PM at the Stoneridge

Community Center in Prescott Valley. Iris entry requirements and instructions for filling out the entry card will be covered. Iris entry cards will be available for members to take home and fill out ahead of time. Iris need to be checked in between 8:00-9:30AM the day of the show.

We look forward to seeing many of you at our April meeting.

~Sherry





## CAROLYN ALEXANDER 1942-2023

Carolyn's love of iris materialized after she moved to their 3 acre home site in Prescott. Iris were one of the few flowers that critters seemed to leave alone. After discovering that iris grew exceptionally well for her, Carolyn planted 18 garden beds with 650 varieties of iris which soon became more than 3000 plants. After fencing her garden she added bulbs and grew many flower varieties. Her love of flowers and animals soon became a focus in her paintings.

Carolyn was PAIS president 2010-2011. Her many club contributions were hosting garden tours of her iris, chairing rhizome auctions, helping maintain the iris gardens at



Yavapai College, presiding over spring iris shows, presenting informative exhibit presentations and displaying her many beautiful iris at club meetings and exhibits.

My fondest memories of Carolyn are the times she opened her garden to the club for a tour and luncheon. She took such pride in her iris garden and she created lovely themed arrangements of iris in each bed. Carolyn loved sharing her iris and if a member requested that she "gift" an iris of particular beauty, she usually granted their request. Her many talents will be missed by our club members. *Editor*

### **Remembrances—Barb Mc Curry**

Just received some truly sad news about the passing of one of our most treasured long-term PAIS members, Carolyn Alexander, at age 80. Many of us are in our 70s and 80s now, so I've been dreading these moments. Carolyn, with the help of Judy Book and Sharon Phelps, drafted me into the club back in 2011 during the July rhizome sale, held at Sharlot Hall Museum. We're not just a club, but a family of disparate folks who love to grow irises, a most amazing flower. Carolyn's iris and flower beds were over the top, enhanced by her artistic talent and eye for aesthetics. And, she was



competitive at our iris shows through the years, winning award after award for her prize-winning blooms. She did so much for our club prior to health issues that sidelined her the last few years. The gophers won when she couldn't keep up with them, so she had most of her irises removed for others to enjoy...iris in the thousands. Always willing to share great advice on life, growing/showing iris, and a generosity of spirit that had no equal, Carolyn will be missed by those who knew and loved her. I hope there is an Iris Heaven, and she is reunited with her beloved "Goldendoodles" who are waiting for her. She loved to paint them and other critters enjoying her irises. So rest in peace my dear friend, and know you made this world a much more beautiful and magical place.





## SPRING TREK—Southern California

**Still taking reservations!!**

The San Fernando Valley Iris Society is hosting, *Our Golden Journey*, the AIS Region 15 Spring Trek, April 21-22. Visitors will view 4 gardens with guest iris. Transportation via an air conditioned bus with restrooms on board will make visiting gardens a breeze. Judges training and the Saturday night banquet presentation will be lead by Dykes Medal winner, Lynda Miller. See the registration form attached to this email.



## SCULPTURE GARDEN WORKDAY

On March 16, Kurt Conklin, Sandy Schilling and I got together for a cleanup of the irises at the Yavapai College sculpture garden. The weather was beautiful and the rains of previous days seemed to invigorate the entire garden.

We filled five giant trash bags with leaves and debris, and we fertilized the iris beds with 10-10-10.

I am happy to report that both the Dykes Medal garden, and the Tasco beds that we planted last September, are looking great. Should be spectacular in a few weeks!

Hope to have more helpers next time...

Marty



## COLOR PATTERNS

Illustrations of some of the color patterns introduced at February's meeting.

**Color Wash** - an enhancement, no defined border on the color. *Celtic Tartan-Keppel*



**Waterfall Marking**—color cascades down the fall. *Inkblot-Keppel*

**Thumbprint** — solid smudge of different color on either side of beard in the area of the haft.

*Persian Berry-Gaulter*



**Chevron Marking** – upside down chevron on the fall around the beard. *Expanding Universe-Black*

**Maculosa Pattern** – speckles on the petals, different from broken color—*Don't Doubt Dalton-Burseen*



**Zonal Spots** or spray pattern - white or lightened area around the beard, some of the spots looks like white spray pattern. *Gypsy Lord-Keppel*



**Bands** - different colors around standards or falls on the edge. *Wonders Never Cease-Black*



**Veining** – lines that are a contrasting color or darker color on the standards than the ground color of the petal.

## Spring Iris Care

1. Remove dead leaves
2. Pull weeds while they are small. Take care not to break off the new, young fans.
3. Uncover dirt from tops of rhizomes
4. Replace fallen and faded plant markers and make sure your iris map is up to date
5. Second fertilizer application due mid March. Water in the fertilizer. Use a low nitrogen fertilizer like 5-10-10 or 6-24-24. Avoid putting fertilizer granules in direct contact with the rhizomes.
6. Water the iris regularly every 7-10 days if it has been dry, to insure good bloom. Iris need to dry out completely between each watering.



**Red at Night**

### What makes an iris historic?

An iris that has been registered and introduced 30 years ago is considered to be “historic”.

The Historic Iris Preservation Society has assembled a gallery of the class of “1993”, iris which are now considered historic. Several of these have been grown by our members in the past. Visit the Gallery and select '1993' under Ages. <https://historicism.org/>.



**Celebration Song**



**Dawn of Change**





# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Apr 5	Bernardi, Bridget	May 29	Morlan, Yvonne
Apr 7	Brown, Sherry	Jun 1	Chapman, Diana
Apr 12	Hirchert, Amy	Jun 2	Gombos, Linda
Apr 15	Walter, Robin	Jun 3	Williams, Sherry
Apr 19	Brush, Cynthe	Jun 6	Glassco, Greg
Apr 22	Luebkin, Dennis	Jun 13	Chabolla, Janet
Apr 30	Olinghouse, Sheryl Leona	Jun 13	Warren, Janice
Apr 30	Pembroke, Jean	Jun 17	Harlib, Barbie
May 4	Knill, Bob	Jun 17	Miller, Gary
May 14	McConnell, Marion	Jun 17	Snyder, Michelle
May 15	Van Klompenburg, Johanna	Jun 20	Olsen, Isabel
May 16	Bartling, Jody	Jun 23	Beatty, Elise
May 24	Hughes, Vicki	Jun 23	Kyte, Barbara



## CONTACTS

**1st Vice President:** Marty Boxer  
**2nd Vice President:** Vicki Hughes  
**Secretary:** Jeri Conklin  
**Treasurer:** Sherry Williams  
**Director at Large:** Kathleen Shaffer  
**Membership:** Robin Walter  
**Publicity:** Sandra Schilling  
**Community Gardens:** Dennis Luebkin  
     Kathleen Shaffer, Diane Thornbrugh  
**Hospitality:** Deb Wade, Vicki Hughes  
**Newsletter:** Judy Book  
**Guardian Gardens Coordinator:** Cynthe Brush  
**Facebook Admin:** Barb McCurry

## Meeting Location

**Stoneridge Community Center**

**1300 Stoneridge Drive**

**Prescott Valley**

**Prescott Area Iris Society**

**P. O. Box 11918**

**Prescott, AZ 86304**

**[https://www.facebook.com/  
groups/1048378225226372](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1048378225226372)**

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