



# NEWSLETTER

## FEBRUARY 2023



### IRIS COLOR PATTERNS

*Yesterday, Today,  
and  
Tomorrow*



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

**WE NEED YOUR BLOOMS.**

### **Iris Color Patterns February 18 Meeting**

The American Iris Society has been presenting educational, iris related webinars for the past several years. Jill Bonino, an AIS judge, explains iris color patterns with photos of iris. You will want to attend this informative presentation.

*See you Saturday, February 18, 1:30 pm at Stoneridge  
Community Center, Prescott Valley.*



**Note: Members, please make sure that any address, email or phone number changes are submitted to the [Membership chair](#) ASAP. Thank you.**

## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Welcome members, new and old, to another year of the Prescott Area Iris Society! Our group includes over 100 members who love to grow irises in their own gardens and in the community gardens of Prescott.

We meet six times a year to socialize and to learn from each other and from invited speakers. The knowledge and enthusiasm of our membership is amazing.

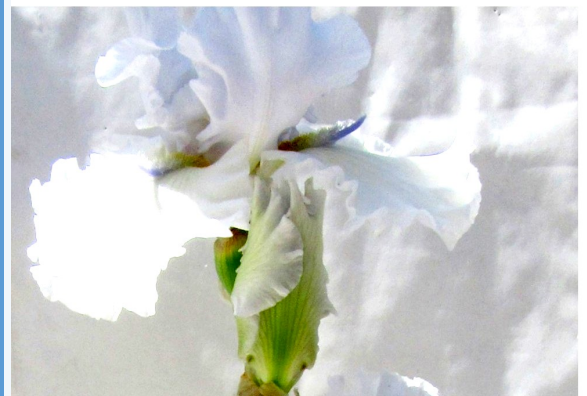
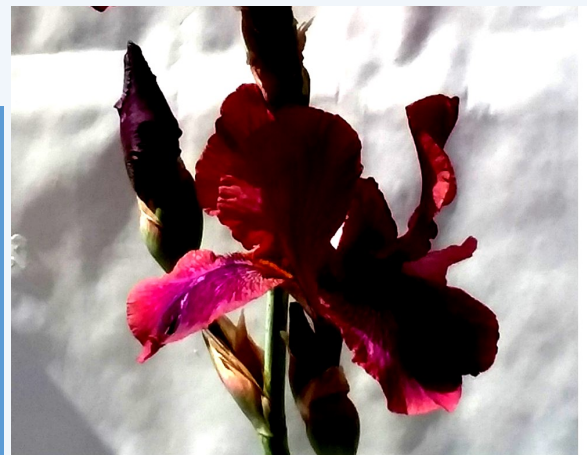
Community iris gardens at Yavapai College, Embry Riddle University, and the Sharlot Hall Museum are our gifts to Prescott. We support scholarships to horticulture students, present garden - based learning at our local elementary schools, and make donations to Prescott-area food banks.

Two big events fund our programs- a spring iris exhibit/sale and a summer rhizome sale. We encourage all members to attend these events, and to bring a friend to get them “hooked” on the beauty of irises .

We hope to see more members helping out in the care of our community gardens. If you’re not sure how, come on along and we will show you. PAIS is truly a great group with a common interest. I’m proud to be President. Again, welcome! Marty Boxer

## 2023 CALENDAR

February	18	Iris Color Patterns, AIS webinar– Jill Bonino
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 Exhibit open 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



Unless otherwise stated, all meetings are held from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm at Stoneridge Community Center, 1300 Stoneridge Drive, Prescott Valley.



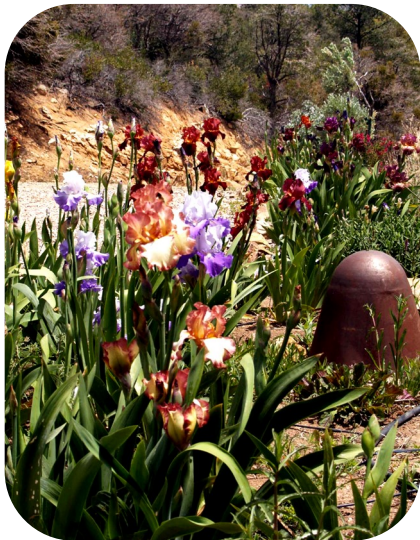
## Members' Iris Beds



Sandra Schilling Chino Valley



Barb McCurry Prescott Valley



Stan Book Prescott

## IRIS SEEDLING ADVENTURES

I started the seed stratification in February 22 and in May they were sprouting. I planted the seeds in trays and put them in my mini greenhouse out on our covered patio. Only 3 of the TB and 12 of the SDBs sprouted. When the seedlings were about 3" high, I transplanted them to 2" individual pots. I transplanted them into a new raised bed in early August when I saw roots coming through the bottom holes of the pots. Seedlings are on the right side of the bed. They are under a nice thin blanket of pine needles and are doing very well and hopefully some may bloom this spring. Loretta Bresof



Gary' Miller's seedling, Lest We Forget X unknown, bloomed from October—November. Now in January, at his home in Mayer it has a bloom stalk and another one coming.

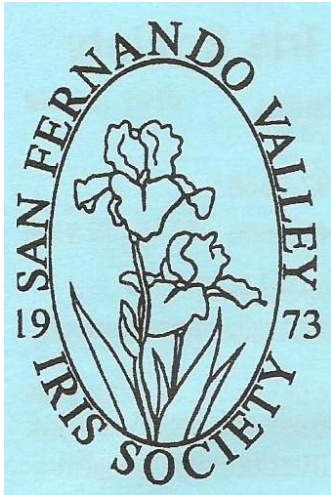


 SpringMoonPhotographs.com



2022 Mid-JANUARY ~ The potted iris in the greenhouse think it's spring. It is a delight, when snow is everywhere in the garden, to see plants affirming spring will be on its way soon enough.

January 18-Had another treat this evening when I checked iris seeds being chilled in the refrigerator. Found seven more sprouted seeds from the SDB 'Leopard Print' X TB 'Just A Crush' cross made by Cory Kaufman and shared with PAIS members by Gary Miller. So now 8/26 seeds from that cross are planted. Hope they grow and bloom! Cynthe Brush



## SPRING TREK—Southern California

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.



## IRISES DOWN UNDER

**Robin Walter, a New Zealand native, called this article to my attention. It seems the “iris virus” is alive and well down under.**

### IRIS EYES ARE SMILING ON YOU

[MANAWATU GUARDIAN](#) 10/25.2022

Iris is the Greek goddess of the rainbow, but Michelle Westhead doesn't have to wait until sunlight and raindrops make a show.

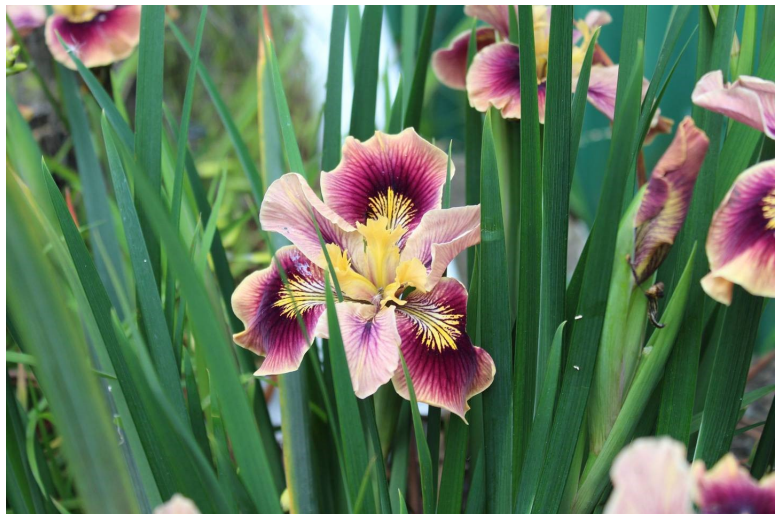
The Palmerston North gardener is a big fan of the plants named after Iris and has between 60 and 100 irises growing at her property.

It all started when Westhead saw an iris in a show and discovered they come in many colors. Every iris she saw growing up was the same shade of purple. She has since learned they come in every color under the rainbow except for a true scarlet red.

"I decided I would get myself one in each color then I discovered there were four and a half thousand of them." She has been growing irises for about 18 years and for the past 10 years has been an active member of the Rangitikei group of the New Zealand Iris Society. Westhead says at first she was very much a bit player starting with two or three plants, then 10, then 50. "That's my little obsession. It does threaten to get away on me quite frequently." But she soon realized she doesn't need 4500 plants to have fun.

Irises are the most low-key plant she has ever seen. Put them in the garden, water for a couple of weeks, and then leave them alone. They flower voluminously for years. If you want a particularly good show you can throw some fertilizer at them, otherwise irises are virtually trouble-free.

"I love the vibrancy of the flowers and the variety and the fact that you really don't have to do much to them." Westhead's collection ranges from 10cm high *reticulata*, the same size as a crocus, to a *spuria* that grows taller than her. As a busy person, she doesn't want plants that are too time-consuming and you can have irises flowering almost all year round.



Pacific Coast irises in Michelle Westhead's garden Photo / Judith Lacy

# My Affair With a Monarch

Story and most photos by Robin Walter

A couple of weeks in to my recent visit to family and friends in New Zealand, I noticed a monarch caterpillar on a Swan plant where I was staying. It was a nice looking caterpillar, but I didn't take a lot of notice for a couple of days until I saw how big & fat it was getting...so I got my trusty camera (well, my phone...) into action.

Now, not being a Lepidopterist, I can only give you my observations...with a little help from Google and photos...which are mine (and a couple from family \* after I left).



The Swan plant (*Gomphocarpus fruticosus*)  
- in New Zealand - originates from Asclepiadaceae family, a species of Milkweed.

\* Photo - Jillian

Magnified tiny caterpillar on lower leaf, already chomping it's way to bigger things!



Getting bigger each day and shedding exoskeleton. The caterpillar sheds its 'skin' 5 times as it grows. The 'black blob' in the photo is dried up 'skin'.

Attaching itself to the leaf after making the 'silk'...a tinge of green at the head end.



12 hours later, feeling secure enough to hang upside down in a 'J' shape and begin it's magical process.



After another 12 hours... it is a chrysalis. Now the waiting begins - it can be 10 to 14 days.



Same garden...not 'our' chrysalis, just a 'show off' neighbour.

*\*Photo - Maria*



\*As of the deadline for this article, there has been no 'grand emergence'...but we already know how beautiful these butterflies are, so you can visualize the end result.

## BLOOMER-RANG IRIS FARM



Welcome to Bloomer-rang Iris Farm. We are located in the Arizona mountains just south of Prescott! I want to introduce us! I'm Lisa and my husband is Rich! I recently retired from a 37-year private childcare career and Rich is a Manufacturing Engineer at Intel! We were married in 2014 and we have a crazy, silly family! When we saw this beautiful farm back in September, we knew this was our forever home, a dream come true for us! We went back down to Glendale, sold our house, moved and jumped in on a wing and a prayer! We are new to Irises, but we are going to do our very best to keep the same amazing customer experience you've had over past years! Look at the pictures and meet the family on our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100068903779692>.

### 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. Fertilize noMid February and mid March, water in the fertilizer. Use a low nitrogen fertilizer like 5-10 - 10 or 10-10-10. 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



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jan 1	Lori Collison	Feb 28	Betty Ziffer
Jan 1	Dottie Moss	Mar 1	Cheryl Dreska
Jan 4	Jean Brennan	Mar 5	Marilyn Campbell
Jan 6	Susan Taylor	Mar 9	Stan Book
Jan 11	Kathleen Shaffer	Mar 11	Loretta Bresof
Jan 13	J.D. Greenberg	Mar 12	Marty Boxer
Jan 19	Barbara McCurry	Mar 13	Sherry Brown
Jan 24	Angela Denis	Mar 13	Charles Steen
Feb 1	Candis Peters	Mar 13	Victoria Van Klompenburg
Feb 2	Cheryl Giovenco	Mar 14	Vera Stewart
Feb 3	Catherine Van Klompenburg	Mar 21	Joyce Knill
Feb 11	Constance Van Klompenburg	Mar 27	Judy Book
Feb 17	Bill Walter	Mar 31	Luretta Lyall
Feb 23	Diane Thornbrugh		

## NEW MEMBER WELCOME

Donna Lozito

### CONTACTS

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

### Meeting Location

Stoneridge Community Center

1300 Stoneridge Drive

Prescott Valley

Prescott Area Iris Society

P. O. Box 11918

Prescott, AZ 86304

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

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