



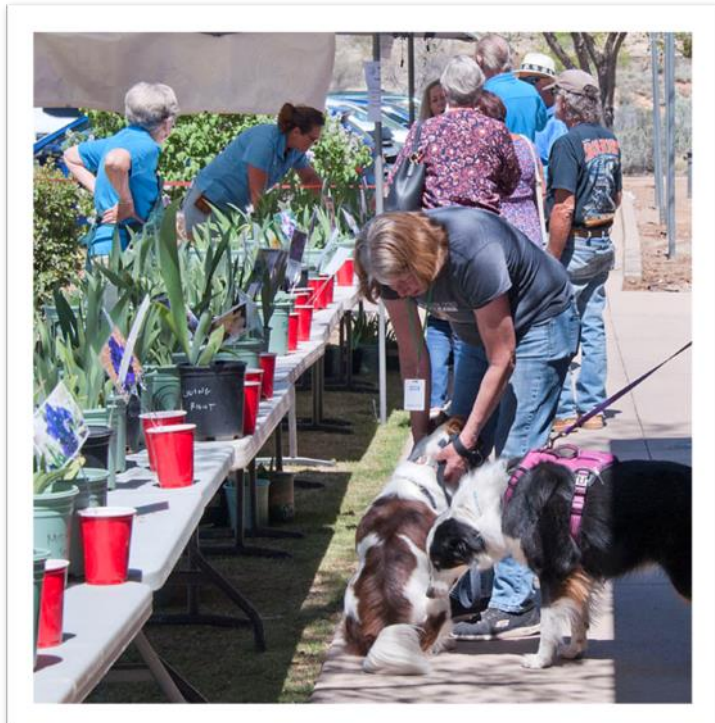
NEWSLETTER JUNE 2023

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Returning with enthusiasm after missing two years with pandemic- necessitated on- line sales, the April 29 Spring Iris Exhibit and Sale was a huge success

Thanks to the efforts of event co - chairs Sherry Williams and Sandy Schilling, and a work crew of over twenty PAIS members and friends, the event at Stoneridge Community Center drew hundreds of iris lovers (and iris buyers!)

More than 600 potted iris sold, gross receipts exceeded \$4700. Artwork by Carolyn Alexander sold as well, and we signed up 5 new members. Thanks to all who helped set up for the event on Friday, April 28. I only wish we could have had more entries in the display, but our winter weather didn't cooperate. Of course, the following week everyone had blooms..... Marty Boxer



Photo—Cynthe Brush

JUNE 17 MEETING

Stoneridge Community Center, 1:30



Cynthe documenting winners
Photo-Marty Boxer

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14th Annual Photo Contest

& Ice Cream Social

Saturday, June 17th, 2023



It's that time again. Ooh, and ice cream too! So get those cameras clickin' and those lips lickin'!

*Only PAIS members are eligible to enter.

*Photos must be 8" x 10" and unmatted.

*Photos can be taken anywhere, anytime, but must be taken by the entrant.

*You can enter **one** photo in each of four categories, which are...

Category A: Habitat - Iris landscape or iris scene

Category B: Individual iris - single or cluster of same irises

Category C: Artistic - Macro and/or photoshopped enhancement of irises

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 to choose their favorite in each category.

When voting is finished, there will be tallying by our 'very talented talliers'. Winners and runners up in all categories will be announced, and prizes will be awarded.

1st place winners will receive a \$25 Mortimers Nursery gift voucher and there are great prizes for runners up.

Happy snappin',

Robin, Sherry & Amy





New Members

Kimberly Brown

Lisa Colosimo

Susan Gall

Jim Dopler

Larry Montgomery

Timothy Shaffer

Julianna Stewart



Awesome Alex Burseen 2003 Robin/Bill Walter



2023 CALENDAR

June	17	Ice Cream Social, Photo Contest
July	22	Marking Party 8:00 am Luebkin residence
July	28	<i>Rhizome Sale Setup</i> 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

Vicki, our 2nd VP, went to Ireland to be with her ill sister. While there she fell and broke her leg. Send wishes for a speedy recovery to her Prescott Valley address or via email.



IRIS EXHIBIT



Best Tall Bearded *World Premier Loretta Breshof*



Tall Bearded *Cinnamon Girl* Cathy Sar



Tall Bearded *Straight Up* Sherry Williams



Best Arilbred *Golden Illusion*
Gary Miller



Tall Bearded *Prague* Val Maxey



Best Artistic Design
Isabel Olsen

Photo-Isabel Olsen



Median Iris *Raspberry Jam* SDB
Cynthe Brush



Best White *Desert Snow*
Sandra Schilling



Median Iris *Web of Desire* SDB
Cynthe Brush

WOW, what a thrill to have the Spring Kaleidoscope Exhibit again and based on the number of folks that came that day, our community has missed it also. While the spring was a little hesitant to show her pretty face this year and our irises continued their winter rest a little longer, we did have some beautiful brave irises that popped up just in time to give us a great display.

Again, our group showed their true commitment to irises and PAIS. We had so many hard-working volunteers that the event was successful, helping us refill our coffers for our endowment for Yavapai College Horticultural students and making sure our public gardens are well fed and irrigated. We brought in \$4729 before expenses (printing, food for the volunteers, prizes, etc.).

A huge thank you to everyone that helped. It was an exhausting few days, but there were a lot of hugs, a lot of laughter and amazing time spent with an incredible group of people.

Sandy & Sherry ,Exhibit Coordinators

Cynthe Brush, Photographer



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Photos by Cynthe, Gary, Marty, Sandra

TOOLS FOR THE GARDEN BY CATHY EGERER

Iris clumps growing together?

These edging sections called Choppers, are easy to insert between the clumps to keep them separated. Available online or at Walmart, Home Dept, etc.

One advantage is they come apart, so edging is easy to move around.



Here I've used some Choppers to mark rows of irises being grown for next year's HIPS sale.



Weeding? UGH!!!

Arthritis in your hands?

Try this! The nitrile grips the weeds and makes weeding easier on your hands.



Container Gardening – Part 1, Containers

by Doug Chyz

Did you come back from your local iris sale with more irises than you have room for in your garden or are you a container gardener already? Are you looking for a temporary home for your irises until you get beds prepared, or would you like to have a few larger containers filled with irises as specimen plantings anchoring walkways or patios? No matter the reason, growing irises in containers is easy. The following are some tips, tricks, and traps for growing irises in containers.

First, you need to consider what the size of your containers will be. You may have locations that allow for very large containers, or you may be restricted by space or even funding. Large decorative containers can be expensive and then you need to add soil to them which is another expense. Speaking from experience, I know that irises can be grown in containers from one gallon in size to very large ones so do not be afraid of using smaller ones especially if you are using them for temporary homes.

Although I have successfully used one-gallon nursery pots, my preferred size for temporary homes are three-gallon nursery pots. They provide space for the irises to increase and will allow irises to bloom over a two-to-three-year period if you want to keep them in the containers that long. Realize that nursery pots have drain holes and they will need routine watering – perhaps daily during the summer. If you provide a basin under the pots that will hold some water the irises will thank you, but they will still need daily watering during the summer.



I currently live in South Carolina near the coast and do not have to worry much about winter weather. Before moving here, I lived in Virginia with snow, ice, and freezing weather during the winter. My potted irises remained outside all year round. They did fine, but if you live in an even colder climate area you may consider locating the pots in an area where you can mulch around them. You do not have to worry about them being covered with snow; but if you are having a long dry spell during the winter, you should water them. Also, if you had basins under the pots, you should probably remove them for the winter.

Don't overlook the opportunity to use a large container if you have a place for one or more. I have used them with one variety of iris with several rhizomes to get a nice potted clump effect, and I have used them for several different varieties to include smaller dwarf irises along the outer edges and taller iris or irises in the center. And consider various types: Siberian, Louisiana, or Japanese would make great choices and for those of you who can grow Pacific Coast Natives, larger pots would make great showcases for them.

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Part Two: Container Soil by Doug Chyz

Well, did I capture your attention in part one? I hope so, because container gardening is a very rewarding type of gardening and can be used in some many instances. And iris do well in containers, especially if you provide nutritious soils. So, let's talk about soils.

As a side note, I do a lot of research for the AIS Iris Encyclopedia. As I look thru all of the old Bulletins, I find enough articles on soils that could fill a book. I am adding another one here.

Soil provides several benefits for container gardening, an important one that we normally do not think of is stability. You want a soil that will hold an iris stable, especially if it is a tall growing iris, and combined with the appropriate size container will provide an option for the roots to grow deep. My experience with container iris is that the roots will grow deep seeking out moisture and nutrients. And they will fill a pot quickly in a couple of years.

Nutrients and microorganisms in soil provide for a healthy plant which can also provide you with spectacular flower shows. Everyone I have been associated with in my 25 plus years of being hooked on iris has their own soil recipe. My soil recipe includes the following components: Sta Green Flower and Vegetable Garden Soil, composted manure, topsoil, peat moss, alfalfa meal or pellets, green sand, rock phosphate, 10-10-10 fertilizer, ironite, bone meal, lime, coffee grounds, and ground eggshells.

I mix like my mother did when she cooked, not necessarily exact measurements, and she was a great cook. So don't worry about exact when you mix up a batch, just get close. I mix in a wheelbarrow or gardening cart. The garden soil, two cubic feet, makes up about half of a batch, composted manure, topsoil, and peat moss the other half of the base mixture. Sometimes I do add a little sand. Then I start adding the other ingredients using about a two-cup measurement quantity. Four to five alfalfa meal, two to three green sand (green sand is a mineral additive), one-half rock phosphate, one 10-10-10, one-half ironite, one to two bone meal, one lime, and one each coffee grounds and eggshells if you have them. Now I mix this all together very well adding water as I go to make a moist mix but not soggy, Mixing takes a bit of time as everything needs to be distributed well and moist because there is enough soil here to fill a number of containers, and you want every container to get its fair share of all of the components, if you are using three gallon nursery pots which I use a lot.

If you use alfalfa pellets you will need to remix the batch the next day, the pellets will swell up from the moisture you added, they will look like goose poop, and will need to be better spread in the mixture.

I can guarantee you will develop your own version of this mix or come up with your own and that is great, but I hope this will get you started in growing fabulous iris in containers.



MY FAVORITE IRIS



Scoonchee DeSantis 1996 - Cynthe



Moonlit Rendezvous Johnson 2021 - Bridget



Gnus Flash Kasperek 1994- Sandra



Tiger Honey Kasperek 1994- Robin



Guadalajara Ghio 1988 - Patrick



Weedy—Notice the classy candelabra “bloom” arrangement - Marge



Vance George Valenzuela 2010- Cheryl



Chief Redskin Hamner 1984- Marge



Tinkerbelle SDB Douglas 1954
Cynthe

Orange Mammoth- Kellie



MORE FAVORITE IRIS



Ay Chihuahua Dash 2018—Cheryl



Lemon Pledge Spears 2003- Mary



Beachy Queen Johnson 2021- Jeri



Fall Fiesta Schreiner 1992- Barb



Double Agent Maryott 1988- Dennis/Sharon



Edge of the World Sutton 2010 - Vera



Royal Storm Tasco 2001- Diane



Golden Illusion AB Tasco 2021- Gary



Kathy Chilton Kerr 2006- Bill

Channeling Loretta SDB Black 2014- Loretta



Summer Iris Care

1. Remove dead leaves, cut off old bloom stalks.
2. Pull weeds and grasses.
3. Remove leaf litter which can harbor pests.
4. Compare iris marker name with description and photo on the [iris encyclopedia](#). Make sure your iris are labeled correctly.
5. When iris clumps of two different varieties are trying to grow together, tie string around one of the clumps so you will know which variety is which when the clumps are dug and divided.
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.



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: Cynthe Brush

Facebook Admin: Barb McCurry

president@prescottareairissociety.org

MEETING LOCATION

Stoneridge Community Center

1300 Stoneridge Drive

Prescott Valley

1:30 p.m.

Prescott Area Iris Society

P. O. Box 11918

Prescott, AZ 86304

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

Club website

<https://prescottirissociety.org/>