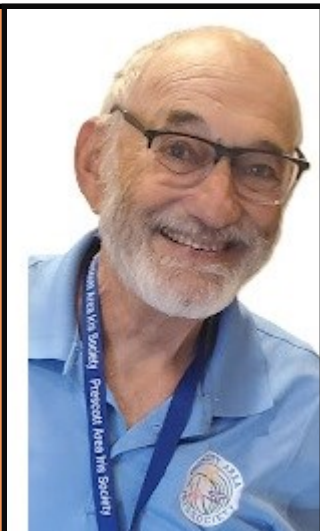




Prescott Area Iris Society

President's Message



—Very excited/ anxious about our upcoming event, “Iris in the Pines,” on October 12. Kathleen Shaffer and her committee have been working for months to make sure we have a fun and informative day. We will be hosting iris lovers from Southern California, New Mexico, and other parts of Arizona at the beautiful Highland Center near Lynx Lake. There will be silent auctions on fabulous objects, and raffle items galore. Breakfast, lunch, and a goodie bag for all... and of course, hybridizer Rick Tasco presenting.

If you haven't yet registered, the cost is only \$35 for PAIS members... (the registration form is page 9) Join us!

~Marty Boxer

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Bonuses and Gifts

It seems as if summer was the gift-giving season for iris lovers. Everyone loves the surprise iris bonuses that come with many purchases. This year has had many different surprises—Bloomer-Rang Iris Farm gave out a cute koozie; Ozark Iris Farms gifted a packet of fertilizer (which has been used on some of my potted irises). Stout Gardens at Dancing Tree delivered an enormous, very impressive



coffee mug. My favorite, though, is Lori Rhodes at Crafton Hills Iris Farm and the iris-shaped purple paper clips. It seems as if it is a holiday every time I open a box of irises.

~Barbara Walls



Gardening Tips Late Summer/Fall Iris Care

Dennis Luebkin

Here we are at the end of summer. It's September and we are wrapping up summer and looking ahead to fall and cooler weather. This year's predictions are for an La Nina winter which for us in the Prescott area could mean colder wetter weather with rain and snow. Early frosts and freezing could come earlier. We are nearing the end of our planting season so timing is important. Some of us have still been digging and dividing our gardens or have purchased irises at the sales or commercially and have not yet planted them. It is important to get our treasures in the ground before the middle of September. It takes 3 to 4 weeks to establish new roots before cold weather sets in to get them ready for winter. Here are a few tips.

Planting: Go to the PAIS website <http://prescottirissociety.org> to view the “How to Grow Irises in the Tri City Area.” If your rhizomes have been out of the ground for a while and are looking dry, soak them for 3 to 4 hours in a bucket of water. You can also add some vitamin B1 in the water to rehydrate them before planting. Based on your soil condition, amend your soils with All Purpose Soil Conditioner and Seed Cover (or similar product) and alfalfa meal while digging and replanting.

Cleaning: 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. Leave about the top 1/4 to 1/3 exposed. Remember the rhizomes like some light and air. This will also help prevent rhizome rot. If you should notice any soft rhizomes during cleanup or detect a rotten odor you can apply some Ajax or similar chlorinated cleaner on top and around the rhizome. The chlorine will assist in killing the bacteria causing the rot. Weeds and grasses are a problem after our summer monsoon. Remove weeds and grasses so they do not compete with the irises.

Fertilizing: If you have not fertilized your irises you can use Best 6-24-24 (nitrogen-phosphorus-potassium) fertilizer around your irises especially if you have re-bloomers. You can also use a good rose food for strengthening the rhizome and root system for the winter months. If you have re-bloomers this will also help them re-bloom. A good 10-10-10 general garden fertilizer with other trace elements and minerals such as iron, calcium, magnesium, sulfur, boron, manganese, copper, zinc also are helpful for the overall health of the irises. Irises are heavy feeders. 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 for re-bloomers and for the following spring.

Pest control: Thrips and aphids lay their eggs at the base of the fans so be sure to clean out the dead fans and leaf debris.

Watering: With the warm dry summer we have had, continue watering through the warm weather twice a week to establish newly planted rhizomes and then begin to cut back on the watering to once a week. 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. After the first freeze cut back watering to an as needed basis. Happy gardening!!

Composting in the Off Season

As fall approaches and our iris begin a period of dormancy, composting can begin for our winter mulching and next years growth. Composting emulates how nature works. In wild native areas, stems, leaves and other vegetative matter fall to the ground and rot, amending the soils from the top down. To follow nature's lead, mulch poor soils with organic matter such as iris debris, leaves, hulls, barks, wood chips. Cedar, Juniper or Pine are good.

Use what Organic material is most available in your area. Whether its leaves, pine needles, hulls, thin layers of newspaper, cardboard or other vegetative matter, (add coffee grounds, cedar or juniper needles, vegetable kitchen scraps) it is all useful composting and for soil improvement.

When using leaves for composting, mulch and amendments chop them with a lawn mower or chipper. Chopped leaves stay in place, are more weed smothering and break down more quickly.

Apply top-down soil amendments in layers only 2 to 3 inches deep to allow rain and snow to percolate through. A **light** sprinkling of Epsom salts and Ridex over the composting material will help break down the composting material adding minerals, enzyme's and needed bacteria to the mix.

Employ the power of roots to break up heavy soils and add organic matter. Plant annuals such as marigolds, zinnias, or other annuals in the garden, cutting them off at ground level at the end of the season, leaving the roots to rot in the soils and improve soil structure.

Happy gardening!!

Dennis Luebkin



What has happened to the Sculpture Garden?!

Our PAIS Sculpture Garden at Yavapai Colleges main campus needs major help and renovation. Dennis, Kelly, Heather, Stan and Judy were out at the Sculpture Garden on Sunday morning from 9 A.M. till 11:30 A.M. to do an inspection and begin a cleaning of the iris for the fall conference. We were alerted by Katy that there were problems with the iris and irrigation in the Garden. Well, there certainly is!!! To be honest the Sculpture Garden is a mess, enough to make a grown man weep. Years of work gone. What we found was that animals have decimated the pride and Joy of the PAIS Public Gardens. It appears that skunks, javelina, pack rats, gophers, voles and others have dug up entire areas of the garden. Irises are dead or missing; name tags are gone!

It has been a long hot summer with very little rain in the garden records were broken for dryness and heat. These animals feed on grubs, worms, cicadas and other insects where it is moist. Unfortunately, the iris plantings are where the most moisture was, and they dug up entire areas of iris looking for food and water. In the 20 or so years the sculpture garden has existed, we have never had this much widespread destruction. Not only did they dig up the iris, but they messed with the irrigation system to get water.

We had hired an irrigation person to do work in the garden to replace lines, take care of leaks and put in new irrigation to the new iris beds. However, the individual never came or returned calls, emails, and texts. Needless to say, there is a lot of work to do in the Sculpture Garden.

Included herein is a long list of the irises that are missing or dead. Please look at the list and see if you have any of the irises listed that you can share with PAIS to re-establish the garden. Please contact Dennis Luebkin at 623-980-6627 or dbluebkin@q.com if you have any of the listed irises. Unfortunately, we have also had a similar situation at Embry-Riddle University.

We need the assistance of all our members to restore this garden.

~Bill Walter

Missing irises from the Sculpture Garden

September 2024

About Town
Ancient Echoes
Anne Murry
Ardent Dancer
Art Center
Art Deco
Art Form
Artic Song
Artistic Dreams
Black Mercury
Bold Patterns
Circus Dancer
Color Splash
Color Strokes
Concertina

Dime a Dance
Disco Music
Drama Queen
Emperors Concerto
Ensemble
Fifth Dimension
Foundation
God's Handiwork
Grand Old Opry
Grateful Red
Holiday in Mexico
Hollywood and Vine
Houdini
Instant Hit

Jazzed Up
Keeping Up With
Appearances
Lullaby
Magic Man
Midnight Kitty
Opening Act
Painted Picture
Poem of Ecstasy
Private Treasure
Purple Pleaser
Red Masterpiece
Ruby Mine
Sharp Dressed Man

Show Finale
Standing Ovation
Strictly Jazz
Superstition
Symphony of Light
Timeless moments
Undivided Attention
Waltzing Princess
Yellow Design



Missing irises from the Sculpture Garden

September 2024 continued

Dykes Medal Iris Garden

Argus Pheasant
Blue Rhythm
Bottle Rocket
Cherie
Chivalry
Coralie
Crowned Heads
Daring Deception
Dividing Line
Eleanor's Pride
Elmore
Great Lakes
Hello Darkness
Honky Tonk Blues
Mary Geddes
Mary Randal
Missouri
Pink Taffeta
Prairie Sunset
Queen's Circle
Reckless Abandon
Red Douglas
Sable Night
Sierra Blue
Swans Flight
Wabash
Whole Cloth



Tasco Iris Beds

Angle Of The Garden
Aztec Prince
Barnum's World
Better Than Ever
Bold Awakening
Boogie Woogie
Button Wood
Care to Dance
Chocolate Mint
Color Watch
Confederate
Cool Morning
Dragon's Eye
Enduring Beauty
Exotic Treasure
Just for Ken
Love Unlimited
Lucky Dragon
Moment In the Sun
Musician
New Vision
Noble Warrior
On The Web
Perfect Touch
Rare Breed
Royal Flame
Sand and Snow
Shaman Magic
Signal Butte
Violet Storm
Vivid Dreams
White Noise
Warrior Prince

Don Shepard Iris Bed

Flutter Bug (SPU)
Grape Champagne
Latin Jazz
Midrib Magic
Our Cindy Ann
Pee Wee Pete (SPU)
Splash of Blue

Whiting Iris Bed

Arab Chief
Crepe Suzette
Rea Jean

Western Iris Bed

Brown Lasso
Double Shot



September General Meeting

At the PAIS General Meeting on September 21, many of the potted plants found the babysitters needed over fall and winter so that the pots can be sold at the Spring 2025 sale. Peggy adopted dozens of potted irises to nurture for half a year.



The meeting also featured a wonderful spread with Isabel, Katie, Ida and Cynthe providing snacks at the meeting. Everyone appreciated the good food.



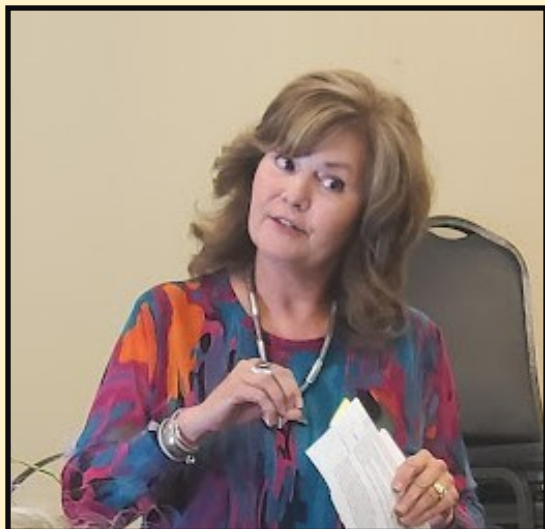
PAIS Member Isabel Olsen then presented an informative and fun lecture on the Elements and Principles of Design (next page).

Last but not least, the silent auction was held feature many recent cultivars, even two which haven't been released yet (but will be in 2025) The silent auction helps raise needed funds for the group.



Joanna Morehouse and Cynthe Brush review the iris offerings.

Isabel Olsen Presents Elements and Principles of Design



Isabel Olsen possesses a dynamic and entertaining means for educating members on design elements and principles. Her passion and creativity inspire.

With better knowledge, entries for next year's Kaleidoscope of color should be vastly improved. Topics included the explanation and importance of color, form, light, line, pattern, size, space, and texture. Design features balance, contrast, dominance, proportion, rhythm, and scale. Isabel has a knack for finding and using everyday materials from the house and yard and transforming them into floral displays. She discussed the importance of following the thematic directions for entries, but doing so with creativity.



Left: dried mullein creates movement and adds texture Right: houseplants and yard foliage add balance, contrast, and proportion. Note the unusual "non-vase" holder.



Below left: tool box and yard sale finds add color and interest.



Center: simple packing materials create interesting forms. The weed whacker line adds color and movement.



Right: contrasting forms are presented but tied with color



Elements and Principles of Design

Isabel explains how centerpieces can be created from inexpensive objects—coffee cans, vinegar bottles, spray paint and the concept of odds for the number of irises or features. (To the right, she has repurposed and remolded base board materials for a modular creation.

Below is her display table with notes on what the parameters of the entries entailed.



Below: note how each display features three irises but are vastly different because of the elements and principles of design.



It's NOT Too Late! Sign Up for the Fall Conference

Prescott Area Iris Society

welcomes you to

'Iris In The Pines'



Fall

8:30 AM—4:00 PM

at the

Highlands Center of Natural History

In the Prescott National Forest

Featuring guest speaker & Judges training

Rick Tasco



RICK TASCO

Newcomers to the garden -

Registration Form

Registration fee: Adults	Registration received by September 14th	\$70.00
	Registration received September 15 thru October 12	\$75.00
	Youth	\$35.00
PAIS Member registration:		\$ 35.00

Name(s) of attendees: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Local Iris Society Affiliation: _____

Judges Training: Yes () No () Please indicate the number attending judges training. _____

Please make checks payable to Prescott Area Iris Society. Mail registration check & registration form to Sherry Williams, 6571 E. Dalton Way, Prescott Valley, Az 86314.

October Survey: What keeps you busy in your iris garden in the fall?

Cleaning the dead leaves and giving it a little haircut.

~Isabel Olsen

The main thing I have been doing is watering my irises, thinning, planting.

~James Obermeyer

Keeping plants and planting new ones .

~Gary Miller

Penni Davey and I are in Sun City, so we are still waiting for things to cool down. Fall weather has not arrived yet and our plants suffer if we try to do too much too early.

~Vi Zepeda

Making sure the sprouts I got during my August replant are going to make it in my new 6A-6B zone during the winter.

~Jeri Tory

I'm always busy—from taking a hatchet to silver nightshade and pulling bindweed to creating new iris beds and planting arrivals. I'm just starting to pull dead leaves and clear out acorn



seeds that have begun to fall (I don't want animals rooting around). I pulled the iris seeds out of the refrigerator and planted on the first day of fall. We'll see

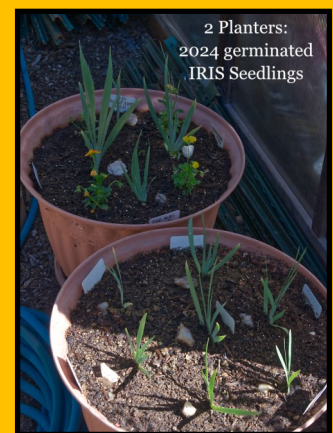
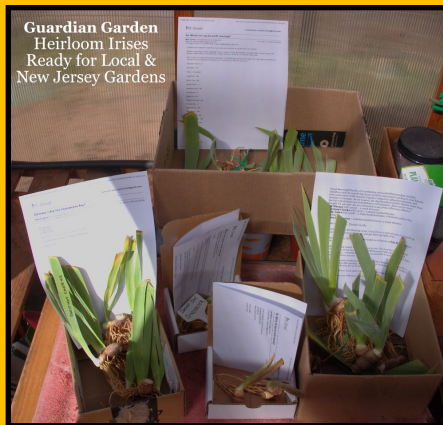
what happens.

~Barbara Walls



I've been busy with the following: grooming iris: pulling off old leaves, trimming brown edges; prepping root cages and planting spaces for new purchases & trades; mulching beds with a topping of compost & pine needles; spot watering; planting 2024 germinated iris seedlings; keeping an eye on 2023 germinated seedlings; dividing late season clumps; and this year, rescuing a Guardian Garden of historic irises from a friend who's selling her property before a move to Colorado.

~Cynthe Brush



2 Planters:
2024 germinated
IRIS Seedlings



Violas to Brighten
my Winter IRIS Garden



Duo IRIS Beds
w/Mushroom
Compost Mulch

October Survey: How late have you been able to plant with success? What city or zone are you in?



I'm in Prescott Zone 7ab. Depending on the year, I can plant 'til mid October since our ground doesn't freeze very deep and not until late November / December.

~Cynthe Brush



End of September, in Williamson Valley area.
~Isabel Olsen

Found a sack with rhizomes I had bought in 2021 and planted in 2023 and they bloomed in 2024.
~Jeri Tory

When I moved from Phoenix to Prescott four years ago on November 10, I brought my irises with me and planted them toward late November and didn't lose one. In fact, I think they all bloomed in the spring.
~James Obermeyer



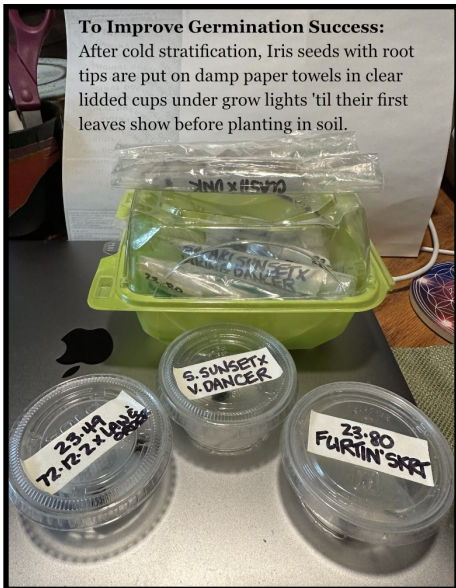
I try to plant in September so roots establish before a freeze.
~Gary Miller

The latest I have planted in the Phoenix area was in mid November but it varies year to year.
~Vi Zepeda

I am in what is now 8b up in Pine. I planted mid November last year and they did fine. I listened to David Toth's advice that you can plant late, and it seems to be true. It probably helped that these are next to some rocks, which tend to keep things a bit warmer in winter. These had fantastic blooms in the spring as well. I'm so encouraged that I put in another order with Toth last week that I'll be planting soon.
~Barbara Walls



October Survey: What iris tidbit have you learned this year that has been helpful or interesting?



Once iris seeds have germinated with root tips showing, after cold stratification in the refrigerator, put those seeds in clear lidded plastic container on a damp paper towel under grow lights until their first leaves begin to show. Then plant them in small 3" pots with as many as 6 seeds per pot. This increases the germination / seedling survival success rate substantially.

~Cynthe Brush

I had no idea that adding alfalfa pellets could help the soil, especially with water retention. I'm experimenting now with a few areas, but I'm afraid of animals digging and rooting around. I worry that elk might go pellet hunting. I also had a duh moment with hybridizing that when soaking seeds, I needed to frequently change the water to prevent mold and a gelatinous mess.

~Barbara Walls

Update: There was rooting around, as pictured. However, acorns are starting to fall so that could have contributed to this mess.



Never put them in a plastic container with a lid! Even the deadest ones can bring forth new sprouts. Miss you all!

~Jeri Tory

Plant iris rhizome toe to SW.

~Gary Miller

Not sure I learned anything new but I just keep getting more irises that I didn't have—Over 50 varieties now. Buy more!

~James Obermeyer



I like to add organic matter to my iris beds each year to improve the soil; the skunks and javelinas like to dig looking for worms so I need to be more cautious.

~Isabel Olsen

We have struggled to keep things alive the past 2 summers with the intense heat. We cannot expect to get good results from iris that bloom late. So we have to try to plant early, maybe mid-season bloomers so shopping for rhizomes is tedious if the info isn't provided up front.

~Zi Zepeda

Happy PAIS Birthdays

Sept 29	Kevin Richards
Oct 3	Penni Davey
Oct 8	Frank Giovenco
Oct 10	Faith Chaney
Oct 10	Deb Wade
Oct 16	Patrick Beatty
Oct 16	Gayle Coyne
Oct 16	Val Maxey
Oct 16	Sheila Segien
Oct 19	Gina Kessler
Oct 25	Dede Erceg
Oct 25	Kathy Sisley
Oct 30	Kurt Conklin
Oct 31	Heather Blakley



New Member Welcome

Nancy L Maurer
Kevin & Louise Richards
Olga Zimmerman

2024 Calendar of Events

Unless otherwise stated, all events will be held at Stoneridge Community Center, 1300 Stoneridge Drive, Prescott Valley, 86314

October 12 Region 15 Fall Conference at the Highlands Center of Natural History Registration form & more details in future newsletters.

November 16 General Club Meeting and 2025 PAIS Board Election Guest Speaker: Kathy Chilton – who has the distinction of an iris named in her honor.

General meetings are 1:30 - 3:30 P.M. Speakers & Guest Speakers will be updated if there are any changes. Board meetings are at 11 A.M. on General Club Meeting days. All updates and announcements will be emailed (and included in the newsletter when possible), so be sure not to miss out on all PAIS happenings by keeping your email address up to date.

