



# PRESCOTT AREA IRIS SOCIETY

March 2009

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## Reticulata

Reticulata are a native flower of the Caucasus -- Iran, Iraq, Turkey and Georgia and are sometimes referred to as an introduced weed in the saffron fields of Kashmir.

Reticulata are miniature bulbous iris with a netted covering on the bulbs. Cantab grows taller than many varieties, but it is still only 6-8 inches high.

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They are among the earliest irises to bloom, often blooming with the crocuses. The 'Cantab' reticulata iris are blooming in Vera's garden

David Nicholson is also enjoying and growing reticulata. Middle left to bottom, "Katherine Hodgkins", "Alida", unidentified yellow dwarf iris.



## April 25 Meeting

A how-to prepare iris for a show demonstration will be presented at the April 25th meeting, 2 p.m., Yavapai Title at the intersection of Gurley and Sheldon. Come and learn how to prepare your prize winning irises and create artistic design arrangements for entry in our first AIS sanctioned, judged Iris Show May 9. It's easier than you think!

We encourage all members to enter at least 1 iris stalk. The success of this show depends on your participation. Join us in this exciting venture. Ribbons and AIS medals will be awarded as well as gift certificates from a local nursery and local iris gardens.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 28—9 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Early Iris Exhibit, Phoenix  
Baker Nursery 3414 N. 40th St.

April 17-18 Spring Trek  
Phoenix, AZ

April 25—2 p.m.  
Preparing and arranging iris  
for the spring show

May 9— Spring Show  
Mortimer Nursery

May 11-16 -AIS National  
Convention, Kansas City, MO

May 16— PAIS Garden Tour

July 25— Rhizome Marking Party

August 1— Rhizome Sale

September 5 —Rhizome Silent  
Auction/Potluck

October 9, 10—Fall Trek  
Lompoc, CA

November 14— TBA

## ***President's Message***

Spring has finally sprung as is evidenced by the beautiful reticulates shown on page one. These are the first opportunities of the season to enjoy iris blooms. Share with us what you have planted in your garden for the first blooms of spring. Now's the time to start your wish list for next year.

Now is also the time to share the springtime opportunities that will be coming your way with PAIS. We are starting this year's season of events with our first ever AIS sanctioned, juried iris show on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Come to the April 25<sup>th</sup> meeting to get all the details on entering, get some great pointers on how to display your single stems and how to make beautiful award winning arrangements. This is an opportunity to show off all the hard work you have put into your gardens throughout the year and have some fun doing it.

The Region 15 Spring Trek is an opportunity close to home to see some of the valley's best iris gardens. We are organizing a car pool for Saturday to visit with our hosts the Sun Country Iris Society. Give me a call if you want to ride along. You can register for just the bus tour. See attached Spring Trek registration form. Don't delay.

The opportunity to see iris right here in Prescott will occur when you attend the annual Garden Tour on May 16<sup>th</sup>. There will be some new additions this year so stay tuned!

And as always, to become involved with our group, share your expertise and get to know other members, we welcome you to join the volunteer opportunities that are offered.

Thank you and Happy Gardening! . . . . . Diane

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### **Committee Volunteer Opportunities - Call to become involved.**

Sculpture Garden – Ruth Devries – 771-1051

Spring Show – Vera Stewart – 445-8132

Garden Tour – Linda Rossman – 777-8110

Rhizome Sale – Diane Clarke – 237-6285 & Cam Waguespack – 776-8660

Dyke's Garden at Yavapai College Sculpture Garden – Stan Book – 776-7217

Farmer's Market Rhizome Sale – Doris Elevier – 636-9610

Publicity – Audrey & Victor Velonis – 776-4263

Newsletter – Judy Book – 776-7217

Membership – Doris Elevier – 636-9610

### **New Member Welcome**

**Annette McDonald**

#### **Sculpture Garden at Yavapai College**

Ruth and Bonnie have been busy cleaning out a heavy layer of dead leaves and old stems around the club's iris at the Sculpture Garden this month. We also fertilized and watered the iris, and put up new markers. We found the iris plants in a most unsightly condition, which is not a good thing for the iris or for the visitors and students who are constantly walking through the garden.

When dead leaves cover the rhizomes they remain damp and then the rhizomes are at a high risk of rotting. Fortunately, we found very little rot and no bugs or insects so far. We have uncovered the rhizomes, so they can enjoy the sun.

Ruth is asking for volunteers to sign up for one month a year to help maintain and clean the iris clumps. It is not a hard job when each of us takes a turn. Please call Ruth at 928-771-1051.

So far we have the following months covered: March- Diane Clark, September-Valerie Phipps, November-David Nicholson, December-Stan Book. The following months are available: April, May, June, July, August, October. Ruth will be calling the volunteers with instructions. A big thank you to those who have volunteered already. Ruth De Vries

#### **Identify Your Iris**

Possibly the most important step before entering a bloom stalk in the show is to correctly identify your iris. Take the time to use some reliable source to verify the correct variety name. The AIS Registrations and Introductions list a description of iris blooms. They are available at club meetings and at the Prescott Public Library. Another good source is color catalogs from iris growers. The internet is another valuable source, especially if you visit respected growers sites, such as Accent Iris Garden, Aitken's Salmon Creek Garden, Suttons, Cooley's, Schreiner's, Mid America, Zebra Gardens, Rainbow Acres , or Chapman Iris.

## More Board Member Introductions

The following paragraphs were written by board members as a means of introducing themselves to you.

**Carolyn Alexander**—When I was a kid my Mom always had Iris growing in her yard but I thought they were not that interesting because they bloomed only once and we had so many other flowers that bloomed almost year around in southern California. When I got my own home in Orange County I planted a few Iris in between other flowers but they were always secondary to the flowers that bloomed more frequently in the rich soil and mild climate.

After moving to Prescott 3 ½ years ago, I learned to love Irises as they were my only choice for successful flowers between the wild animals digging up or eating everything I planted and the cold nights freezing whatever survived the animals. In the beginning I didn't concern myself with their names or their colors I just planted any Iris someone would give me or I could buy at the local nursery. The first year I had blooms but nothing spectacular.

That all change when I joined the Iris Society the second year I was in Prescott and went to the Bearded Iris Show at Mortimer's Nursery and on the Iris Garden Tour. That's when I started learning about all of the variety of Irises available and the beauty they bring to the garden. Needless to say I became hooked on selecting the most unusual and gorgeous Bearded Iris I could find. At about the same time I started taking photos of Iris and oil painting them. I've been an artist for about 35 years but had never thought about painting an Iris until after I moved to Prescott.

I've acquired about 130 named Bearded Irises that are now in my garden and I fully intend to continue to add to this collection as the years go by. I now believe their beauty is unsurpassed by any other flower.

**Judy Book**—Stan is the avid gardener in our family but we did not grow iris in California. However when we moved to Prescott, we saw an iris display by members of the Sun Country Iris Society and were awed by the beauty of iris. They were holding meetings in Prescott and invited us to attend. Barry Golden would call us prior to each meeting and Stan was the first to attend. He then urged me to accompany him and we were soon infected by the iris virus. We visited Golden's Iris Garden, bought some rhizomes and eagerly watched them bloom. We were especially enchanted by the Medians. We transferred our small iris collection into pots when we moved and they remained in pots until we finished building a new home. We now have Stan's iris garden in front of the house and my iris garden in back of the house just outside my office/studio. We deal with deer, rabbits, javelina and this winter gophers have moved in and have not been kind to the rhizomes, but we are undaunted and are looking forward to another bloom season.



### Iris Trivia

Iridaceae, the family of plants to which iris belong, have many other members including crocus, gladiolus, freesia and Tigridia. The photo, moraea polystachya, sometimes called African Iris, is now blooming at the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix.

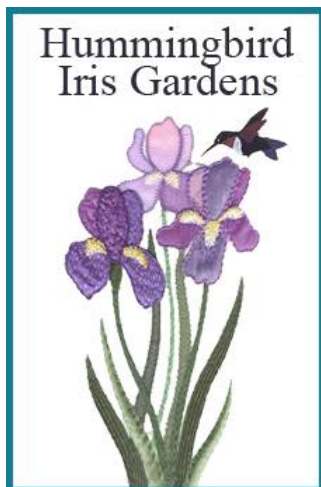
Moraea are most frequently found in tropical countries of sub-Saharan Africa and are adapted to cool, moist winters and warm, dry summers. Moraeas have flowers that strongly resemble iris, although the 3 petals corresponding to standards are reduced in some varieties to inconspicuous bristles.

The African Iris has two inch flowers with a bright yellow signal on each of the three outer, horizontally flaring petals. The inner petals have no signal spot. Each flower lasts 3 days and the twenty four inch stems carry three to four branches and produce 30-60 flowers over 8 weeks. Sword shaped leaves sit at the base of the flowering stem. Moraea are perennials grown from corms and grow best in USDA zones 9b-11.

For an in depth article on this species, read *A Glimpse at Moraea, an Iris Relative* by John Weiler, AIS Bulletin, July 2000.

### 2008 INCOME & EXPENSE RECAP\*

2008 STARTING BALANCE	\$6235.59
<b>INCOME**</b>	<b>\$5617.50</b>
Membership	\$575.00
Rhizome sale and Farmers Market	\$3662.00
Sale of Culture Books, Calendars and notebooks	\$38.00
Plant Markers	\$140.00
Region 15 Auction	\$265.00
Advance for Fall Trek	\$600.00
Garden Tour	\$165.00
Miscellaneous	\$173.00
<b>EXPENSES**</b>	<b>\$5326.96</b>
AIS	\$ 93.00
Region 15 Auction Donation	\$368.00
Community Outreach	\$92.00
Newsletter	\$401.00
Plant Markers	\$263.00
Travel and Reimbursement	\$350.00
Rhizome Sale costs	\$846.00
Farmers Market costs	\$215.00
Spring Exhibit	\$420.00
Garden Tour	\$208.00
Supplies	\$242.00
Program expenses	\$65.00
Membership costs	\$53.00
Advance to Fall Trek	\$1500.00
Miscellaneous expenses	\$505.00
TRANSFERRED FROM FALL TREK ACCOUNT	\$1997.38
PROFIT FROM FALL TREK	\$1147.44
**Income and Expenses do not include outstanding checks and deposits at year end.	
Balance as of 1-1-09	<b>\$8,693.18</b>



5942 Old Black Canyon Hwy.  
Prescott AZ 86303  
928-777-8110  
Linda Rossman  
[lindarae@cableone.net](mailto:lindarae@cableone.net)

### Designing Arrangements & Grooming Iris for a Show

Carolyn Alexander has training in floral arranging and design and she will be demonstrating the techniques you need to create winning floral designs for your show entry. If you have never entered an iris in a show, this is your chance to find out how to do it.

If you know someone who might be interested in entering an iris in the May 9 show, bring them to the April 25 meeting. Carolyn and Judy will provide all the information needed for entering your iris in our first judged show.

### Barry's Golden Wisdom

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 now and water in the fertilizer. Use a low nitrogen fertilizer like 5-10-10 or 10-10-10. Avoid putting the crystals in direct contact with the rhizomes.
6. Water the iris regularly every 7-10 days if it has been dry, to insure good bloom.

### GOLDEN'S IRIS GARDEN

4564 Robin Drive Diamond Valley  
928-445-0503  
[barrygolden@hotmail.com](mailto:barrygolden@hotmail.com)



**Your Full Service Garden  
& Landscape Center**  
3166 Willow Creek Rd.  
Prescott 776-8000  
[info@mortimer-nursery.com](mailto:info@mortimer-nursery.com)

## 2009 PAIS Membership Directory

**This directory is confidential and is for club use only.**

Alexander	Carolyn	2555 W Green Brier Dr	Prescott	928-778-1551	<a href="mailto:artwest@cableone.net">artwest@cableone.net</a>
Baker	Claude	1395 W Ridge Dr	Prescott	928-445-9611	<a href="mailto:cvb@commspeed.net">cvb@commspeed.net</a>
Book	Judy/Stan	2175 Aspen Acres Dr	Prescott	928-776-7217	<a href="mailto:jbook@dcableone.net">jbook@dcableone.net</a>
Bigelow	Cheryle/Rodger	22715-56th Ave East	Spanaway, WA	253-847-9539	<a href="mailto:bellflower62@aol.com">bellflower62@aol.com</a>
Britton	June	7776 E Big Star Trl	Prescott Valley	928-772-4721	<a href="mailto:brittonji@aol.com">brittonji@aol.com</a>
Cheek	Joella	3275 Regegade Rd	Prescott	928-776-8745	<a href="mailto:joella@commspeed.net">joella@commspeed.net</a>
Clarke	Diane/George	1657 N Ca Tim	Prescott	928-445-7067	<a href="mailto:agoseris6@yahoo.com">agoseris6@yahoo.com</a>
DeVries	Ruth/Ted	1915 Perdido Ln	Prescott	928-771-1051	<a href="mailto:gmama14@mac.com">gmama14@mac.com</a>
Edwards	Francelle/Marvin	5017 W Banff Ln	Glendale	602-938-0703	<a href="mailto:fjmjedwards@qwest.net">fjmjedwards@qwest.net</a>
Elevier	Doris	1573 N Antelope Dr	Chino Valley	928-636-9610	<a href="mailto:doris1434@cableone.net">doris1434@cableone.net</a>
Eitner	Shirley	4536 W Old Stage Rd	Prescott	928-717-2643	
Floyd	Nancy/Ray	PO Box 2277	Camp Verde	928-567-5060	<a href="mailto:verdevista@swiftwireless.com">verdevista@swiftwireless.com</a>
Greenberg	Judy	1520 Cougar Trail	Prescott	928-713-9838	
Haughton	Bonnie/Chet	1480 Forest View West	Prescott	928-445-4357	
Jenner	Nancy	393 Quarterhorse Ln	Camp Verde	928-567-3740	<a href="mailto:DJenner@msn.com">DJenner@msn.com</a>
Johnson	O.J.	PO Box 1147	Yarnell	928-427-3604	
Kelleher	Sandy	PO Box 503	Cornville	928-273-1497	<a href="mailto:cottonbolls5@msn.com">cottonbolls5@msn.com</a>
Larson	Marge	265 Merry Go Round Rd	Sedona	928-284-1247	<a href="mailto:mlarson@esedona.net">mlarson@esedona.net</a>
McDonald	Annette	P.O. Box 1228	Camp Verde	928 567 9721	<a href="mailto:mmverde@commspeed.net">mmverde@commspeed.net</a>
McGraw	Jane	215 Cathedral Rock Rd	Sedona	928-284-5303	<a href="mailto:ismcgraw@csupomona.edu">ismcgraw@csupomona.edu</a>
Nicholson	David	918 Friendly Pine Rd	Prescott	928-541-9767	<a href="mailto:oldcoot57@cableone.net">oldcoot57@cableone.net</a>
Peters	Candis	1550 E Regge Way	Cottonwood	928-646-0233	<a href="mailto:geop@commspeed.net">geop@commspeed.net</a>
Phelps	Sharon	8480 N Live Oak Dr.	Prescott	928-717-1051	<a href="mailto:ssphelps@cableone.net">ssphelps@cableone.net</a>
Phipps	Valerie	129 N Pleasant	Prescott	928-771-0872	<a href="mailto:vphipps@commspeed.net">vphipps@commspeed.net</a>
Pospishil	Chuck	893 Grapevine Ln	Prescott	928-778-5013	<a href="mailto:cpospishil@cableone.net">cpospishil@cableone.net</a>
Rossman	Linda	5942 Old Black Canyon	Prescott	928-777-8110	<a href="mailto:lindarae@cableone.net">lindarae@cableone.net</a>
Smith	Linda/Art	2290 W. Running Iron	Cottonwood	928-567-7470	<a href="mailto:irisgrower@cableone.net">irisgrower@cableone.net</a>
Stewart	Vera	1486 Forest View West	Prescott	928-445-8132	<a href="mailto:flwrlovr@cableone.net">flwrlovr@cableone.net</a>
Velonis	Audrey/Victor	1225 Copper Basin Rd	Prescott	928-776-4263	<a href="mailto:oddvelonis@hotmail.com">oddvelonis@hotmail.com</a>
Waguespack	Cam/Ray	3066 Rainbow Ridge Dr	Prescott	928-776-8660	<a href="mailto:camw@cableone.net">camw@cableone.net</a>

Please notify Doris Elevier if corrections. are needed.

### **Planting Early Tomatoes: "It's in the Bag"!!**

When tomatoes first appear in garden shops it is much to early to set them out in the garden, so if you buy them early, you must put them in a sunny, protected place to harden them off. (A small plant from a six pack will produce just as many tomatoes as one purchased as a 1-gallon size so if you need more than one or two plants, it is more economical to get six packs).

Try replanting young tomato plants directly from the plastic six-pack container into paper bags filled with good garden soil and let them grow in the bags until it is time to plant them out. Then just plant the bags containing the young plants, which will have grown quite a bit in size, directly into the garden. This way you can plant them without disturbing the roots. Leave about a half-inch of the bag protruding out of the ground to protect the tomatoes from cutworms.

Use regular paper 'lunch bags' for the little plants. Fold the bags down about an inch to provide a little extra stability, and then fill them with garden soil to within a couple inches of the top.(Place the tomato plants deep enough in the bags so that soil covers all but the top leaves. Roots will grow from the buried stems providing a very sturdy plant.)Place the bags in one gallon nursery pots to give them extra stability during their hardening off time. Put flats of plants out in a sunny, warm place during the day (bringing them into a garage or other protected place at night) until all danger of frost has passed, and then plant them directly into the garden. Although the bags become discolored from watering during this time, they will disintegrate quickly.

Source: Cochise County Master Gardener Newsletter.

