



# PRESCOTT AREA IRIS SOCIETY

## Fall 2010

Volume 7, Issue 6

### President's Message



PAIS has had rather rocky Spring/Summer Events. Nothing seemed to be as usual this year. It fits a favorite saying of mine: "I have a rock garden and last week 3 of them died". It started with the freezing cold of April and May affecting our May 8<sup>th</sup> Iris Show with

fewer iris blooms than normal. We asked members to bring all the iris they had even if there was a little freezer burn and we pulled it off and had a terrific show with over 80 exhibits.

Next the need to change the Verde Valley & Sedona Open Garden Tour dates due to heavy rains and snow. Last minute emails were sent extending the event by one day which helped many members to be able to get out of their snow covered driveways and go see the beautiful irises.

Many disappointed members discussed their plight at the spring show and thus we had fewer members attending the Prescott and Yarnell Open Garden Days. This was frustrating for those members who had worked so hard to get their yards in tip top shape for all of us to visit. Thank you for sticking in there and giving it your best when you were crushed that the irises were late in blooming.

Then the irises didn't grow as quickly or in some cases zero growth or the rhizome rotted in the soaked beds, leaving no need in many gardens to dig and divide for the Summer Rhizome Sales. We had only about 25% of the normal volume of varieties of iris delivered to our marking party. Fears grew that we would not have enough rhizomes for our iris sales this year. Thank goodness we received an invitation to dig and divide irises at Nancy and Ray Floyd's Verde Valley garden and 11 members volunteered to help divide and label the rhizomes. Because we picked up scores of additional rhizomes, more than all we received at the marking party, we were able to support 3 rhizome sale locations without running out of rhizomes to sell.

Mother Nature was at it again with Monsoon rains at both Sharlot Hall Museum and the Growin' Crazy Rhizome Sales which put a real damper on

*(Continued on page 2)*

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 2 Fall Trek  
Huntington Gardens, San Marino, CA  
See enclosed flyer

November 13  
The Art of Hybridizing Iris  
Presented by Patrick Orr  
1:30-3:30 p.m.  
Yavapai Title

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held at *Yavapai Title*, 1235 E. Gurley, Prescott, at the Gurley at Sheldon intersection beside *Circle K*

### REBLOOMING IRIS

If you have iris that rebloom this fall, please send the name of the iris to Judy so she can add it to our record of iris that rebloom in our area.

Linda Smith reports that the iris shown below reblooms in the Verde Valley.

**Sign of Virgo**, Zurbrigg '91

Standards white, occasionally touched violet at tip; falls white, stitched violet on edge; beards yellow; sweet fragrance.



(Continued from page 1)

things. Sales were down a little over the previous year but we still had successful summer sales events. Many thanks to the sales chairs, Cam and Ray, Roger and Steve, Doris and Carolyn for our success.

Even with all of these challenges we grew our membership to 64 members, with many of the new members being brought to us by existing members or talked into it at one of our events. Thank you all for your support in making our society one of the best.

Every time we had a challenge this year our members found a way to make it work. I'm really proud to be one of the members with this terrific, dedicated group of Irisarians. Even with all we have done, I think we can make the society better with your suggestions and ideas. I'll be asking you to share those ideas at our November meeting as we start our plans for 2011.

We now have a new challenge before us to make our society known to all who are interested in irises, by obtaining a web site to display what we are all about. We have just started work on this project and we will let you know more about it at our November 13 General Meeting. I'm looking forward to seeing you there.

Carolyn



Eager shoppers



PAIS keeps getting bigger and stronger as a club that loves irises and having fun. After this summer's Membership Drive we are currently at 64 members. Some of the new members may have joined so they could get the \$10 Cash Card towards purchasing rhizomes at one of our sales. It will be up to all of us to welcome them and find out what they might like to see in an iris club and how we may provide value to their joining us. We will be discussing what all the members would like to see included in next year's club calendar at our November meeting.

Mark your calendars to save this date, November 13, Saturday 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Yavapai Title. Let's all join together in welcoming the new members and share our ideas for next year.

Linda Rossman and Carolyn Alexander offered the new members guidance with planting and caring for their new rhizomes and transplanting their older irises at the President's home on August 11th. They had an opportunity to receive some left over rhizomes from the our iris sales and some potted irises from Carolyn left over from the Ice Cream Social.

**A hearty welcome to PAIS to those in attendance were:**

Margaret Brautigam	Dennis Beard & family	Valerie Casale	Linda Coppola	Cathy Craig
Phyllis Ferguson	Lynda Hoyt	Carol Thomas	Dawna Thomas	

**Welcome to new 2010 members that were unable to attend:**

Dolly Branski	Ellen Buchholtz	Marianne Fannin	
Elaine Fleming	Donna Gordon	Pauline Hagler	Brian Kloft
Darla Lindberg	Dennis Luebkin	Barbara McLandress	Nola Mertes
Nancy Owens	Eleanor Pritchett	Jeanne Sands	Carolyn Sheley

**Bylaws Changes**

We will be voting on bylaws changes to our November 13 meeting. See proposed changes on page 8.

**IRIS DRAWING**

Drawings will be held for three 2010 irises. Don't miss the 11/13 meeting! Save the date.

## November 13—The Art of Hybridizing Iris

Patrick Orr is to be our speaker at the November 13<sup>th</sup> general meeting.

As I stare at my blooms in the spring, I often-times marvel at the beauty of the flower we all love. Why is this iris ruffled, how did they get the falls to be a different color, why are the stalks on this iris so strong, why does that one bloom more profusely?

Well, my friends! It is all in the breeding. Genetics do tell!

And who does all of this? The hybridizers, of course! Those talented people who have patiently spent years cross breeding iris “x” with iris “y” in hopes that something tremendously exciting will happen. Sometime it does... and sometimes it doesn't.

Patrick Orr, who was one of the judges for our May 8<sup>th</sup> *Iris Impressions* show this past year, has graciously agreed to be our guest speaker. Patrick has spent several years working to hybridize new varieties. (Perhaps he will come up with a “true red”, if he is patient.) He is eager to share his knowledge of this specialized art.

What does it take to become a hybridizer?

How do you do it?

What tools do I need?

What if I want to breed a bi-colored, space age with ruffles and a strong stalk?

Has this iris been created before?

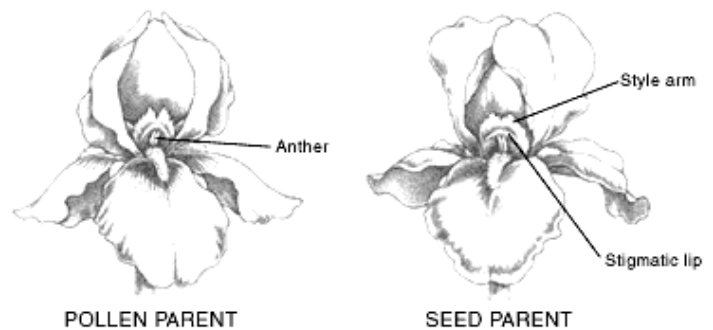
What are the best varieties to select as parents?

How many more thoughts and questions do you have when you gaze at your iris bed? Patrick will be here to answer all of those questions. To be prepared, he would like our questions in advance, so he can provide concise and informative advice to us wanna-be hybridizers. OF COURSE WE CAN DO IT!

Please contact me by telephone at 442-2498, or better yet, E-mail me at [rogerosgood2005@yahoo.com](mailto:rogerosgood2005@yahoo.com) with your questions and we will include them in our newsletter with a forward to Patrick.

This promises to be an exciting, end of year meeting, so do plan on being there.

.....Roger Osgood, Vice-President/Program Chairperson



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To view the list of the 2010 AIS awards and see photos of the award winning irises, click on the link below.

<http://wiki.irises.org/bin/view/Main/InfoAwards2010>

*2010 Dykes Medal Winner*

Paul Black, 2002, Johnson



*2010 John C. Wister Medal*

Decadence, 2004, Blyth





## Can a Legendary Iris Garden Survive?

*From the New York Times, May 18, 2006 by Ann Raver*



DRIVING along a four-lane highway, 10 miles from the Capital Beltway, it is easy to miss the acres of irises and peonies blooming on the north side of the road. The traffic runs heavy and fast, and the bright colors — like dabs of paint in a green field — appear suddenly. An 1880's farmhouse stands to one side with a patch of green stretching from the road to a line of pines providing the backdrop to the irises.

"When we moved here 44 years ago that was an unpaved highway," said Margaret Thomas, 88, one May afternoon, nodding toward Lawyers Road in Herndon, Virginia. She and her husband, George, a transit bus driver, had a small farm then, but in 1973 the couple sold all but 5.4 of their 33 acres. The next year, after Mr. Thomas died of a heart attack, she began raising bearded irises in earnest, selling the rhizomes clumps for 75 cents.

Over the years her collection became a local legend. People would check out their favorites among the thousands blooming in her garden in the spring, then return in the fall to buy the rhizomes and plant them in their own gardens. The garden supports itself by growing and selling irises to local gardening enthusiasts. There are over 2,000 different irises growing.

An organization, Friends of Margaret's Gardens, has been set up to help keep the garden open and available to the public and contributions are tax-deductible. ❧❧❧



*In 2009, Donald Spoon, hybridizer and owner of Winterberry Gardens introduced an iris in her name "Margaret Wilson Thomas". It's a rebloomer in light lavender-blue and PAIS has it potted in a 2 gallon can. It could be yours, remember this story and come to the next general meeting on November 13 to find out if you qualify.*

### Iris Society Contacts

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### September October Birthdays

Patrick Beatty	Roger Osgood
Cathy Craig	Linda Rossman
Ruth DeVries	Robert Smith
Doris Elevier	Carol Thomas
Ken McGraw	Kevin Thomas
Joe Mertes	

### Seed Swapping for the Adventurous.

At our last ice cream social, Cookie Best, from Sedona, brought packets of seeds from her garden, all nicely labeled as to variety and color. As I examined the names of hollyhocks, I asked, "Do you have any pink?"

That made me realize that so many of us in the iris society also grow many other flowers and vegetables, and what a wonderful resource seed swapping would be for our group, to find things on our wish lists..... everything from aquilegias, to hollyhocks to zinnias.

Why not prepare a list for our next publication, of seeds you can pick from your own garden, and submit it for publication. Perhaps you have heirloom tomatoes, or a beautiful purple zinnia. From that list of available seeds, you can prepare a list of seeds you wish to obtain.

This does not need to be limited to our club. Perhaps, in time, we could eventually outreach to other garden groups in the area to include them. They in turn, may want some of our iris. Everyone benefits and we get to know other gardeners.

The possibilities are endless. Needless to say, not only will you be acquiring new plants, but you may make some new gardening friends.

My short list of available seeds to offer, as my garden is only two years old:

#### Flowers:

MARIGOLDS- thousands! yellow, orange  
ZINNIAS- thousands! All colors and heights  
FOUR O'CLOCKS- White, red, yellow, pink  
BATCHELOR BUTTONS- Blue

#### Veggies:

POBLANO CHILI SEEDS  
YUKON GOLD POTATO SEEDLINGS (next spring)  
PONTIAC RED POTATO SEEDLINGS (next spring)  
GARLIC

#### Plant starts:

GERANIUM- creeping vine (red) Great for hanging baskets  
COREOPSIS- Yellow

#### Wanted:

Day lily starts  
Heirloom tomato seeds

If you think this might be interesting and a bit of fun, contact me, or Judy (our newsletter editor) with your list and we'll see if we can't get this project going. It only takes a

few of us. Send your lists ASAP so we can start this at our November 13 meeting.

Happy gardening,

Roger Osgood (rogerosgood2005@yahoo.com)

Judy Book (jbook@cableone.net)



*Rippling Waters, Fay '61  
Dykes Medal 1966*

### Sculpture Garden Planting

It's finally done! The Dykes Medal Winner Garden is planted at the Yavapai College Sculpture Garden after a couple of years of planning. Thank you Doris for maintaining and keeping the irises for many months while we waited to get the area at the college ready. The iris for this project which began in 2007, were donated by Linda Rossman and by Mystic Lakes Iris Garden. We have left room to add the iris which are missing from the collection. A BIG Thank You to Cam and Ray for getting the necessary approvals and organizing the planting of the bed and getting the watering system arranged. Thanks to all the volunteers that helped with either digging, planting or both. Thursday's digging crew: Cam, Ray, Patrick, Roger, Steven, and Stan. Friday's planting crew, Cam and Stan again plus Judy, Linda and Carolyn. Thank you, Thank You, Thank you. The garden looked marvelous when we left today and we couldn't have done it without everyone's help. Next spring when it blooms we can all be proud of our work. ....

### Dykes Medal Rhizomes Wish List

We still need to add the following Dykes medal Winners so if you are growing any of these in your garden and wish to make a donation, please let Carolyn know.

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Allegiance 1964	Splashacata 2005
Coralie 1933	Stepping Out 1968
Elmohr 1945	Swan Ballet 1959
Everything Plus 1991	Violet Harmony 1957
First Violet 1956	Wabash 1940
Hello Darkness 1999	The year following the variety is the year the iris won the Dykes Medal.
Mary Randall 1954	Photos of many of the Dykes Medal Winners can be viewed here:
New Moon 1973	<a href="http://wiki.irises.org/bin/view/Main/InfoMedalAmericanDykes">http://wiki.irises.org/bin/view/Main/InfoMedalAmericanDykes</a>
Pacific Panorama 1965	
Paul Black 2010	
Rameses 1932	
The Red Douglas 1941	
Ruffled Ballet 1983	
Skywatch 1970	

### More Sculpture Garden Plantings

Another exciting addition to the Sculpture Garden is a bed of the iris hybridized by Francelle Edwards, an Arizona hybridizer and honorary member of our club. Francelle was one of the Phoenix Sun Country Iris Society's members who came to Prescott to give programs about iris to a small group of iris enthusiasts before PAIS became an AIS affiliated club.

The following paragraph, describing one of Francelle's first introductions, appeared in a recent AIS Bulletin. *RACHEL JULIA* was the best seedling viewed during the Austin Convention. Registered in 2006, it is scheduled for introduction by Kary Iris Gardens (Scottsdale, AZ) in 2009. It is a lovely, refreshing bicolor, with clean light to medium yellow standards; the falls a tapestry of colors in orchid and tones of red and brown, then banded distinctly in tan-brown. Although from the super-parent, 'Conjuration' (Byers) it doesn't produce a Space Age appendage – just a bright yellow beard to complement the color array.

### September/October Iris Culture

1. Continue watering deeply every 7 to 10 days. This encourages the development of the fans and the continued growth of the rhizome. Regular watering may be discontinued when most leaves have died, usually in late November after several frosts.
2. Keep your iris beds free of dead leaves and weeds
3. When leaves die, pull them off.
4. When pulling off the dead leaves, make sure the tops of the rhizomes are not covered with dirt.
5. Also be on the lookout for soft rot and treat the rhizome immediately. (See below for specific instructions.)
6. Check plant markers for placement and legibility. If they are faint now, it will only be worse next spring.

### Iris Rhizome Soft Rot

It happens once in awhile to everyone who grows irises. A fan will fall over, its base has turned mushy and stinks. Left unchecked, this bacterial rot will destroy the entire clump. It requires immediate action. Here are two recommended courses of action.

- If the rot is confined to one part of a clump, you may have good luck with just cutting out the affected parts, back to firm, white rhizome, and liberally dusting the wounds with Comet or Ajax or some other chlorinated cleaning powder. The chlorine disinfects, and the powder acts as a drying agent, too. Leave the newly cut rhizome exposed to air for several days.
- If the damage to a clump is extreme or if the soil is still very wet around the clump, it is better to lift out the clump. Carefully cut the infected rhizome out of the clump and discard it. Then disinfect the rest of the clump by drenching it with a solution of one part bleach to nine parts water. Follow this by dusting the clump with Comet cleanser. Let it dry for a day or two and replant in a drier location, if possible.

As you are doing your fall cleanup, remove dead leaves and sniff their base. The scent should be earthy. The slightest smell of rot means it is time to take action before any visible damage occurs.



## Photo Contest Winners

One of the highlights of the July Auction/Ice Cream Social was a photo contest. We had ten participants who entered more than a dozen photos. The winners: received a 2010 iris. Get your camera ready and plan to participate in the contest next year.

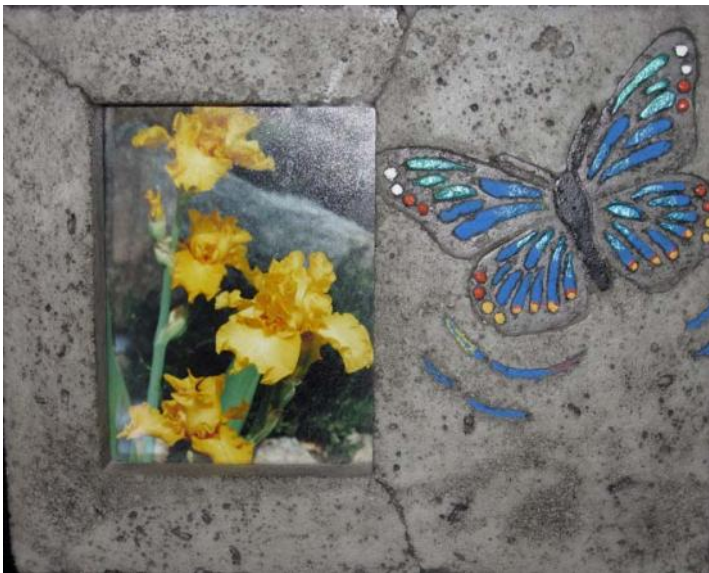
Section A – Landscape - 1<sup>st</sup> – Ray – 2<sup>nd</sup> Vera  
Section B – Individual iris – Tie – Ray and Roxanne  
Section C – Artistic – 1<sup>st</sup> –Judy – 2<sup>nd</sup> –Roxanne  
Section D – Something else 1<sup>st</sup> –Vera, 2<sup>nd</sup> Candy



Individual Iris –Ray Waugespack



Landscape – Ray Waugespack



Something Else—Vera Stewart



Artistic – Judy Book

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## AIS Youth Program

by Cheryl Deaton, Region 15 RVP

Our region has very few youth members, just over 1% of our total membership. One of the recurring topics I hear is how the American Iris Society is aging, which is why membership is declining. I got my interest in irises from my grandmother, and her love of gardening. Many of you have grandchildren, but they are NOT members of AIS. WHY??? It can't be the cost, because a youth membership is only \$5 and youth members receive their own newsletter, THE IRIS FAN, twice a year, plus they can participate in yearly contests for cash prizes. It can't be because you don't have any irises to share. We all have extras in our gardens. And it can't be that you don't want to spend time sharing one of your passions with your grandchildren, because they know just how much you love irises. So WHY?

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My challenge to all of you is to sign up JUST ONE YOUTH MEMBER. It can be a grandchild, a neighbor, or another relative. Give them one of your extra rhizomes to plant – if they live in an apartment, plant it in a pot. Take them to one of your club meetings when you have an interesting program, so they can learn and be entertained. Give them a 2ft.square in your garden for their plants, and let them care for it. Let them choose an iris from a catalog for their very own. Let them get their hands dirty working alongside of you in your garden...all kids LOVE to play in the dirt! And they love to spend time with us. Get them infected with ‘the iris virus’. Some of them will prove immune, but many of them will have wonderful memories and experiences that they can share with others.

Encourage them to invite their friends to join.4-H groups, Brownies, Girl Scouts, and Boy Scouts, and Horticulture classes in high schools can benefit from an iris experience. Offer to donate rhizomes, give a demonstration of planting, flower arranging, or landscaping possibilities. Everyone has busy lives, and working in a garden is a great stress reliever. Being with your family is priceless. Can you think of a better investment of \$5?

Send those AIS Youth dues to Tom Gormley, PO Box 177, DeLeon Springs, FL 32130 with the youth member’s name, address, email if you have it, and birthdate. A youth is defined as a person under 19 years of age. Multiple years can be done, so sign up your youth for a four year membership for only \$20! Let’s see how many young people we can infect with a love of iris.

Please contact me at [region15kids@hotmail.com](mailto:region15kids@hotmail.com) or (661) 252-6771 with any questions and suggestions. Happy Irising! Visit the AIS YOUTH WEBSITE: <http://www.youth-iris.com>

*President’s note: Please invite a youth to join us at our November 13 meeting.*

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**Deletions are blue and new wording is red. Italics are an explanation of proposed changes.**

## Proposed Bylaws Revisions

### Article 4 Membership

**4.1** Membership in this Society shall be open to all who are interested in the purpose of the Society. Term of membership is one year. There shall be four classes of membership: Active Member, Dual Club Member, Youth Member, Honorary Member

**4.1.1** An **Active Member** shall be an individual, household, or **youth** paying dues. *(Individual and household memberships have been separated and will be reflected in the new dues structure.*

**4.1.2** An **Individual Member shall be any person over 19 years of age paying dues.**

**4.1.3** **Household Members shall be two or more persons from the same address paying dues.**

**4.1.4** **Youth Member** shall be any person **eighteen under 19** years of age paying dues. *(This wording makes it consistent with AIS policy.)*

**9.2** There shall be **at least** four general membership meetings each year. **to be held during the months of February, April, September and November.** The exact dates shall be determined by the Executive Board.

**9.3** The Executive Board shall schedule additional activities such as **a spring iris show**, marking party, member garden tour, **digging demonstration**, **new member orientation** and rhizome sale.

### Proposed Revised Dues Structure

	<u>1 year</u>	<u>3 years</u>
Individual	12.00	30.00
Household	15.00	35.00
Dual Club	5.00	
Youth	5.00	

**We will vote on these proposed revisions at the November 13 meeting.**



# Rhizome Sale 2010 Events

Verde photos by Katy Standhart



Most of the Motley Crew, still trying to smile, after marking irises at the Floyd ranch in the Verde Valley



Marge and Carolyn admiring the size of the rhizomes



Patiently marking the irises



Our benefactors, Nancy and Ray



Roger and David washing mud from rhizomes. It rained the night before the Verde Valley dig.



Claude looking for customers



Cam organizing rhizomes



Patrick and Ray waiting to tally purchases

## PAIS Board Meeting Minutes

September 10, 2010

### **Old Business**

Reviewed and approved board meeting minutes of 6/11/2010

Reconciled differences in May Spring Iris Show accounting

Approved donation to Sharlot Hall Musuem for use of grounds for sale

Silent auction, ice cream social and photo contests attendees & results

Critiqued rhizome sales events for each location

Membership Drive 23 new members from May through August 2010. Currently at 64 members.

### **New Business**

#### Changes to 2011 dues:

Establish a youth rate? What ages – “Bylaws state 18” and under and “AIS states under 19”

Many chapters & AIS offer a triennial membership at a discount. Discount with AIS is 20% per year

Most iris chapters offer an individual membership rate and a family rate (defined as same address).

Believe we end up with members in household shown that have no interest in attending PAIS activities.

For more accurate reporting recommended we change to this system.

Regarding dues per Bylaws we will need general meeting for vote of approval in November.

Web site possibility – new member – Dennis Beard – willing to make our site for free. Board members are working on content.

Selected Nominating Committee for 2011 Officers - Diane Clarke, Doris Elevier, Roger Osgood

#### November 13 meeting –

Guest Patrick Orr, hybridizer, to speak

Have (3) 2010 potted irises as door prizes at meeting

Approved contest to win Margaret Wilson Thomas potted iris

Sculpture Garden area enlarged for iris hybridized by Francelle Edwards

51 Dykes Medal irises are now planted in Sculpture Garden

Donation approved for Yavapai Arts Foundation to offset cost of Sculpture Garden signs for Dykes Medal and Francelle Edwards areas

