



PRESCOTT AREA IRIS SOCIETY

June 2011

Volume 8, Issue 4

President Message

Thank you to all the members who brought irises to our May show and/or helped with the shows activities. Our show was a success in spite of the snow storms in April. Our weather pattern nearly matched 2010 activity with snow on April 22/23 & again on April 28-30, 2010. It's amazing this would happen two years in a row. We had a total of 107 entries—83 tall bearded entries compared to 81 last year. Special thanks go to Nancy Floyd from the Verde Valley, who not only brought the most irises but they were gorgeous, large and beautiful. It is a good thing that we have several different towns in our society so we can take advantage of the different climate zones when needed.

Most of us our gardens have reached peak now with the different weather patterns we experienced this spring. It's hard to believe we had three freezes April 9 & 30 and again May 9, 2011 with snow, sleet, rain and hail on May 10. My iris just didn't know what to do bloom, die or stagnate. I lost a few buds to each of the freezes but most came through without much damage. It did stunt the growth with many of the iris showing smaller blooms and shorter plants. Victoria Falls was the exception with a height of 4 feet and an abundance of really large late blooms. (Photo at right taken after garden tour.) Thank you, Nancy Floyd, as she gave us each a Victoria Falls rhizome for helping dig and divide her irises for the summer rhizome sale last year.

Many of your iris have sent up bloom stalks, so be sure to verify that what you have listed is the correct iris. I had one purple 'Exotic Star' that bloomed right in the middle of my orange and yellow iris bed. It was left over from a prior years digging and missed being taken out. What I do is mark the stalk with blue painters tape and write on the tape the name and location it needs to be moved to. This really helps when the iris are close together so you get the right one dug up. Another technique is to tie string around all of the fans that belong to one variety and put a piece of blue tape on the string with the variety name. This is helpful if the clusters of iris have grown together so that it is hard to distinguish one variety from another. If I'm planning on moving only one clump I'll put a piece of painters tape around the base of each bloom stalk that is to be dug up to ensure I don't dig the other variety right next to it. You will be able to quickly identify those clumps that will be dug out later this summer by seeing the painters tape.

After the bloom has finished, break or cut off the spent bloom stalks at the base, unless you are growing a pod for hybridizing. I hope those that went to Linda Rossman's Hummingbird Gardens to learn how to hybridize iris from Patrick Orr will give it a chance just to see what it is all about. Pick out 2 iris and go for it! Take the pollen from one iris and place it on the stigmatic lip of another iris with a wet toothpick. If you are lucky you just might see a seed pod develop in a few days.

We finally have a breather between doing all iris related garden activity, taking photos, logging iris blooming activity and can begin to look after the remainder of the garden. My poor rose garden took a real beating this year with all those icy cold spring days. I lost 5 rose bushes that just couldn't take it and died including my Lady Banks Yellow Climbing Rose Bush. I've replaced them all and just planted the new Lady Banks today. Hopefully we won't have this problem next spring or I'll have to consider yanking out the roses and make another iris bed.

See you at the rhizome sales,
Carolyn

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 9

Marking Party

Patrick Beatty residence
1167 Morning Glory Lane
Prescott

Iris Rhizome Sales

Prescott

Sharlot Hall Museum
415 W. Gurley

July 16 11 am- 5 p.m.

July 17 12 - 4 pm

Chino Valley

Warren's Hay 'N More
694 N. Hwy 89

July 21 10 a.m.—2 p.m.

Yarnell

Dan's Garden
17618 Foothill Road
July 23 10 a.m.—2 p.m.



Victoria Falls

Marking Party and Rhizome Sales

This is our only fund raiser so please help PAIS.

Thank you Patrick Beatty for volunteering to collect member's rhizome donations at your home for the Marking Party, Saturday, July 9, at 1 p.m. Patrick's address is 1167 Morning Glory Lane, Prescott. See directions below. Phone-928-541-9086. Bring your **cleaned** rhizomes either on the day of the marking party or several days early, if you can't attend, so they will be fresh for the sales. When buying groceries, ask for brown paper bags for storing your rhizomes to bring to the marking party.

We need volunteers to clean and label the rhizomes. One of the advantages of volunteering for this spot is you get first chance to buy the choice rhizomes and you will also get one free rhizome for helping out. We hope to have the NIIP rhizomes available by then for you to choose your favorite, if you are qualified.

Roger Osgood has volunteered to Chair the Sharlot Hall Museum two day event for rhizome sales on July 16 & 17th. He is splitting the time slots so no one has more than a 2-3 hour shift. Please email your choice of Saturday or Sunday and morning or afternoon. We decided after the last two years of Monsoon rains during our sale we might do better if we had 2 days to choose from and maybe the weather would cooperate on at least one of the days. We have also moved the event earlier by two weeks for the same reason. Contact Roger at: rogersgood2005@yahoo.com or phone 928-442-2498 to **volunteer for the sale and marking party**.

The second event is co-chaired by Valerie Phipps and Bob Smith in Chino Valley on Thursday July 21. They too could use some help with set up of tables, rhizomes and sales. Call or email Bob piegeon-man@cablone.net , 928-636-2287 or Valerie vphipps1@commspeed.net to **volunteer**.

The last sale will be in Yarnell at Dan Schroeder's home on July 23, Saturday; Judy & Stan Book have volunteered to chair this event.

It would be helpful if we could get an idea of how many rhizomes you will be generously donating to PAIS. Please walk your yard and see how many clumps are overgrown and crowded and let us know **now** what we can expect. Last year many of you were unable to dig and divide the rhizomes because of our freezing cold spring so maybe now they are in dire need of digging. If you have a photo please attach it to the bag with the rhizomes, if you don't please give Carolyn the name of iris, date and hybridizer if known and we will look up the iris on the internet. Reply to artwest@cablone.net or phone Carolyn 778-1551.

Thank you for your help as PAIS is only as strong as its members involvement.

REMEMBER TO BEING YOUR NIIP IRIS INCREASES TO THE MARKING PARTY.

Take Willow Creek Road north past Embry Riddle and the Doggie Dude Ranch and turn left into Pinon Oaks subdivision. Turn right onto Honeysuckle and left onto Morning Glory Lane and 1167 is at the top of the hill on the left. Click the link below for a Google map of the route to **Patrick's home**.

http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&sugexp=ldymis&xhr=t&q='1167+Morning+Glory+Lane,+Prescott,+AZ'&cp=39&rlz=1R2GGIE_en&bav=on.2.orr.gc.r.pw.&biw=1022&bih=615&wrpid=tljp1307231456687078&um=1&ie=UTF-8&hq=&hnear=0x872d2fee80eaa95d:0x1bf42856efe7adbc,1167+Morning+Glory+Ln,+Prescott,+AZ+86305&gl=us&ei=28TqTaT1LISsAOYt9zoDQ&sa=X&oi=geocode_result&ct=title&resnum=1&sqj=2&ved=0CBYQ8gEwAA

Dykes Medalists

The Dykes Medal Winner iris were planted at the Sculpture Garden at Yavapai College in September 2010. Many of you were able to see them on garden tour on May 14th. We wish more were in bloom for you but for first years planting and our freezing spring weather conditions they are doing fairly well.

Thank you for the replies we received to our last newsletter as we have a revised, shorter list of those still needed. Please check your yard and see if you have any of these iris that you can split and share with us. You can email Carolyn Alexander at artwest@cablone if you have any of these irises so we can determine how many we need to purchase from commercial iris gardens. If you can supply any of these rhizomes, please let Carolyn know immediately before we place an order.

To complete the garden we still need these Dykes Medal Winners:

1932 Rameses	1933 Coralie	1940 Wabash	1939 Rosy Wings
1940 Wabash	1941 The Red Douglas	1945 Elmohr	
1948 Ola Kala	1956 First Violet	1957 Violet Harmony	
1959 Swan Ballet	1964 Allegiance	1965 Pacific Panorama	

People's Choice Awards, Spring Exhibit

Award	Exhibitor	Variety Name
Best Tall Bearded	Joella Cheek	Cruise Control
Best Median	Audrey/Victor Velonis	Delirium
Best Historic	Vera Stewart	Wm. A. Setchell
Best Arilbred	Audrey/Victor Velonis	Oyez
Most Unusual	Nancy/Ray Floyd	Spiced Tiger
Best Bi-Color	Nancy/Ray Floyd	Ancient Echoes
Artistic Design	Sharon Phelps	Celebration Song



Cruise Control



Delirium



Carolyn, Vera



Wm. A. Setchell



Audrey



Oyez

People's Choice Winners cont.



Spiced Tiger



Nancy



Ancient Echoes



Sharon



Celebration Song



Linda, Roger



People's Choice Winners



Patrick

Carolyn's Garden



Celebration Song, Superstition,
Dusky Challenger, Midnight Oil



Tom Cat



Role Model, In Your Dreams



Angel Blush'-left 'Copy Right'-yellow, & 'Soto--on right

Garden Tour

May 14, 2011

The wind was blowing 40+ mph on Friday and it was blowing 40+ mph on Sunday, but it wasn't blowing on Saturday when we had our garden tour. We sure dodged the bullet there! This was first time in 2011 that Mother Nature was on PAIS side. Thankfully it was sunny, not too warm and beautiful for our day in the garden.

I missed the first two stops as I was getting food ready for the third stop at my home. I did visit the Sculpture Garden before and after the tour day and was aware that not as many iris were in bloom as previous years. The cold freezing weather had definitely slowed down the number of blossoms and the Dykes Medal Winners were struggling in the first year's growth. I expect great things for next year when all the Dykes have had nearly two years growth.

The second stop was to Lee Morris's garden in Chino Valley and even though his garden had peaked the week before, there were still many beautiful, huge clumps of iris to behold. Lee entered many large, gorgeous iris in the iris exhibit when his iris were at their best. Thank you Lee, for sharing your garden with our group.

Wow! Did we have a large group (30+) at the Alexander's for the opportunity to have a great potluck lunch on the patio and a chance to see over 250 iris varieties in bloom on that beautiful day! Surprisingly many members inquired about the tree that was blooming behind the iris beds. It seemed to get more attention than the irises and was a lovely backdrop. For those that didn't ask but wanted to; it is called a 'Golden Chain Tree' (see photo) and it always blooms at the same time as the iris.

We saved the best for last with the fourth stop at Hummingbird Garden's for an opportunity to let Linda show us all the iris in bloom (way too many to count). We had a small group of 8 stay to witness demonstration of pollinating an iris to create seeds for future NEW Iris. Patrick Orr did a wonderful job of showing and telling us how the hybridizers create new irises.

Iris are just amazing and resilient plants. Iris keep shooting up stalks & buds in the spring only to have the cold freeze many of those buds (three times in Prescott from April 9, 30 & again on May 9th and they still recover to send up more buds. We had plenty of fresh new blooms to see and marvel at on our garden tour. What a joy to see and behold.

Iris are still in bloom at the Alexander's with new blooms coming out each day that haven't bloomed yet this season. The irises are slowing

down and will soon stop blooming until the rebloomers arrive in the late summer. Soon we will be into digging, separating, marking and planting iris. See you soon at the marking party and iris rhizome sales.

Carolyn

Lee's garden



Ostentatious

Golden Chain Tree



Lee's garden

Chasing Rainbows



Hummingbird Iris Gardens



Stepping Out

Yavapai College Sculpture Garden



Bess Cheevers



Vanity

Question: My purple iris turned white. Why did my iris change color?

Iris do not change color - not on a permanent basis, anyway. It is possible that herbicide drift can cause temporary changes in iris pigmentation (do you use Round Up or have a nearby neighbor who does?). If that is what happened to your iris, they will probably return to normal color next year, assuming they are not subjected to herbicide again. I don't believe there are any nutritional factors that can completely change an iris's color pigment, though growing conditions can certainly influence color saturation. It wouldn't hurt to have your soil analyzed for any possible nutrient deficiencies. The amount of available sunlight and ambient temperature can also influence color intensity to some degree, though not to the point of turning one color into an entirely different one i.e. purple iris turning white.

There are, however, other possible explanations for these apparent flower color changes:

1. Iris often do not bloom every year. It is possible that your dark colored irises neglected to bloom this year, while lighter ones (perhaps left by a previous owner) within the same planting area did bloom.
2. If you dug your original iris from a bed where only purple iris were blooming, perhaps you assumed that you dug only purple iris. However, there may have been a number of other colors of irises in the original bed that weren't blooming at the time you dug but that did bloom later in your own garden.
3. If you dug and replanted a bed within the last several years, it's possible a tiny piece or pieces of a previous iris planting remained in the bed and has now matured to blooming size.
4. An animal or child may have uprooted a rhizome from elsewhere and dropped it into your garden without your knowledge, or a neighbor may have tossed unwanted rhizomes over the fence into your yard where they took root. It happens.
5. Certain cultivars are far more vigorous growers than others, and in closely planted beds, the more vigorous growers will almost inevitably choke out the less aggressive iris over time.
6. Your original iris may have been bee-pollinated within the last few years. The seeds from those crosses may have ripened, dropped, and germinated among the original plants, and now you have a bunch of new seedlings blooming within your original clumps. Iris seed does not grow true to the parent plant and may well have produced some new colors in your iris bed.
7. On *extremely rare* occasions an iris may "sport", meaning the iris may produce an offset that differs noticeably in appearance from the original plant. HONORABILE is one well-known example of a cultivar that has produced several sports in its long history. A sport offset, however, does not change the color or appearance of the original plant.

The only way to get all of this sorted out is to place a tag around each bloom stalk to identify its color, then dig and divide all of the rhizomes 6-8 weeks after bloom, replanting each color separately about 2 ft. apart so they won't crowd each other too soon. Remove any seed pods that may form before they have a chance to ripen to avoid a repeat of this problem in your garden.

Information taken from: <http://lfrazier.com/iris/faqcolorchange.html>

June Birthday Greetings

Valerie Casale
Ray Floyd
Gerry Snyder

New Member Welcome

Vickie Fogarty
Reggie Hill
Anthony Romero

Iris Society Contacts

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