

PRESCOTT AREA IRIS SOCIETY

June 2013

Volume 10, Issue 4

President's Message

Change and New Beginnings

It has been said the only certain thing in life is change. That is very true for who we are and what we do today is not what we did yesterday nor will it be the same tomorrow. No matter how hard we try to keep things the same they are not. Recently our fellow irisarians of the Verde Valley Iris Society (VAIS) disbanded and closed their doors after the passing of their President in early April. Because of this change the AIS Region 15 (Calif. & AZ) now consists of 10 members instead of the previous 11. PAIS has been in contact with Nora Graff, the interim President of VAIS, and has offered their members a new home with us until they decide what direction and new beginning they will undertake. We encourage our members especially those that know individuals who have belonged to VAIS to invite them to visit our club and join in our activities if they would like. Whichever direction the Verde Valley organization decides to go, we wish them the best.

We held our Kaleidoscope of Color Spring Iris Exhibit on May 18th. We tried some new things that we have not done in the past and changed or expanded others this year. It was a wonderful event. Congratulations to Carolyn Alexander and her team for their hard work. Although we did not have as many members volunteer as we had hoped, those that did worked hard to make the event a success. We thank all who volunteered and participated in the program.

The entire greenhouse structure was used for the event this year. We had our iris exhibit area, a beautiful display of arrangements, a central seating area for refreshments and a demonstration area showing the care of iris. We also had a large sales area for the sale of potted iris. A good turnout of people from the local area and around the state justified all the hard work. Many visitors came to see the exhibit and the Iris Gardens at the Yavapai Sculpture Garden. We hope to see more of our member's participate in this wonderful event next year.

Best wishes to our members and those in the Verde Valley.

Dennis Luebkin



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*Citizens Cemetery Dig for
Sharlot Hall Museum
planting and rhizome sales
June 29 8-ish—11-ish*

*Sculpture Garden Dig
July 12-13*

All hands on deck

Marking Party

July 20

Luebkin residence

Bring your iris for sale prep

Rhizomes Sales

*July 27 10 am—4 pm July 28
12 pm—4 pm*

Sale and historic iris planting

*Sharlot Hall Museum
Prescott*

Friday, August 2

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Lavender Tea House

1097 N. James Drive

Chino Valley

Saturday, August 3

10:00 am—2:00 pm

Dan's Garden

17618 Foothill Rd.

Yarnell

*Ice Cream Social/Silent Auction
August 17*

*New iris from the spring trek
Join in the fun, save the date*

2013 KALEIDOSCOPE OF COLOR



Marge Larson
Best Artistic Design



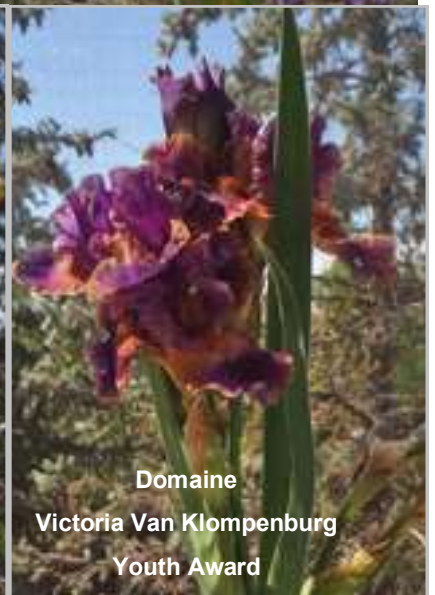
Phantom Ship
Linda Rossman
Best of Show



Gnu Flash
LaDean Ashby
Most Unusual



Elixir
Marge Larson
Best Spuria



Domaine
Victoria Van Klompenburg
Youth Award



Upper Hand
Linda Rossman
Best Bi-Color



Battleship Atlantic
Barbara Kyte
Best Space Age



Victoria



LaDean, Victoria, Barbara



Marge and Linda



**Beverly Sills
Best Historic
Linda Rossman**



**Gypsy Lord
Best Tall Bearded
Marge Larson**



**It's All Right
Best Median
Linda Rossman**

Exhibit photos contributed by
Kathleen, Dennis & Judy



PAIS PURPOSE AND RELEVANCE

Several weeks ago I received an email from the President of The Valley of the Sun Gardeners a garden club in Phoenix. After hearing what PAIS is doing in our Prescott community their President had to congratulate us on the purpose and relevance of the projects that PAIS does and is doing in our area. It was heartening that people around the state, at the Region 15 Spring Trek and the Historic Iris Preservation Society (HIPS) are looking at what PAIS is doing in our community.

PAIS is among the few clubs in AIS and Region 15 that have reached out into the general community in meaningful ways by virtue of our horticultural beautification projects in public places. We just don't plant Iris and flowers in our own gardens and learn about iris for our own benefit, we have been and remain an organization of outreach that shares our knowledge and shows the beauty of what we have learned with our community by creating public display gardens and our education programs.

For the past six years PAIS has developed the Wm. R. Dykes Medal Iris Gardens and other plantings at the Yavapai College Sculpture Garden which has become a wonderful display of Iris bloom in both the spring and fall. The proof and recognition of this project can be seen in the Article that AAA High Roads Magazine did entitled "Petal and Metal" in the May-June 2013 issue of High Roads. Because of this article PAIS has had communication from people across the state concerning the Sculpture Garden and Iris Gardens there. We had many out of town visitors who came to see the sculpture and iris displays during our Farmers Market Sale on May 11th and our Kaleidoscope of Color Iris exhibit on May 18th.

We have now begun several other outreach projects which are gaining interest in our community. PAIS has embarked on an educational program in the Prescott schools. Our first venture is at the Miller Valley School where Sharon Luebkin made a presentation to school administrators and teachers from grades 1 to 4 on an educational program based on iris that includes history, geography, science, music and art revolving around our favorite flower. The educational material was well received and it is hoped that Sharon will begin assisting teachers with these lessons in the fall of 2013.

We will be initiating our Phase 1 historic iris plantings at the Sharlot Hall Museum on July 27 and 28 along with our iris sale to begin the new Sharlot Hall Historic Iris Gardens. Please contact Dennis Luebkin at dluebkin@q.com if you can contribute historic iris or help in the planting program.

We have also been moving forward on our work at the historic Citizens Cemetery in Prescott. We have photographed the iris in bloom there and have sent the photos to the Historic Iris Preservation Society for identification. We have completed our first dig at the cemetery and will be doing another dig June 29 from 8-ish to 11-ish to obtain iris for the Sharlot Hall Museum plantings and our rhizome sales. Please contact Dennis Luebkin at dluebkin@q.com if you can assist with this dig.

We look forward to your support and participation in these projects. Stay tuned for dates and more information about the digs and plantings times. Check your emails.

Dennis Luebkin

Welcome New Members

Lucille Houston

Mary Thompson

Victoria Van Klompenburg

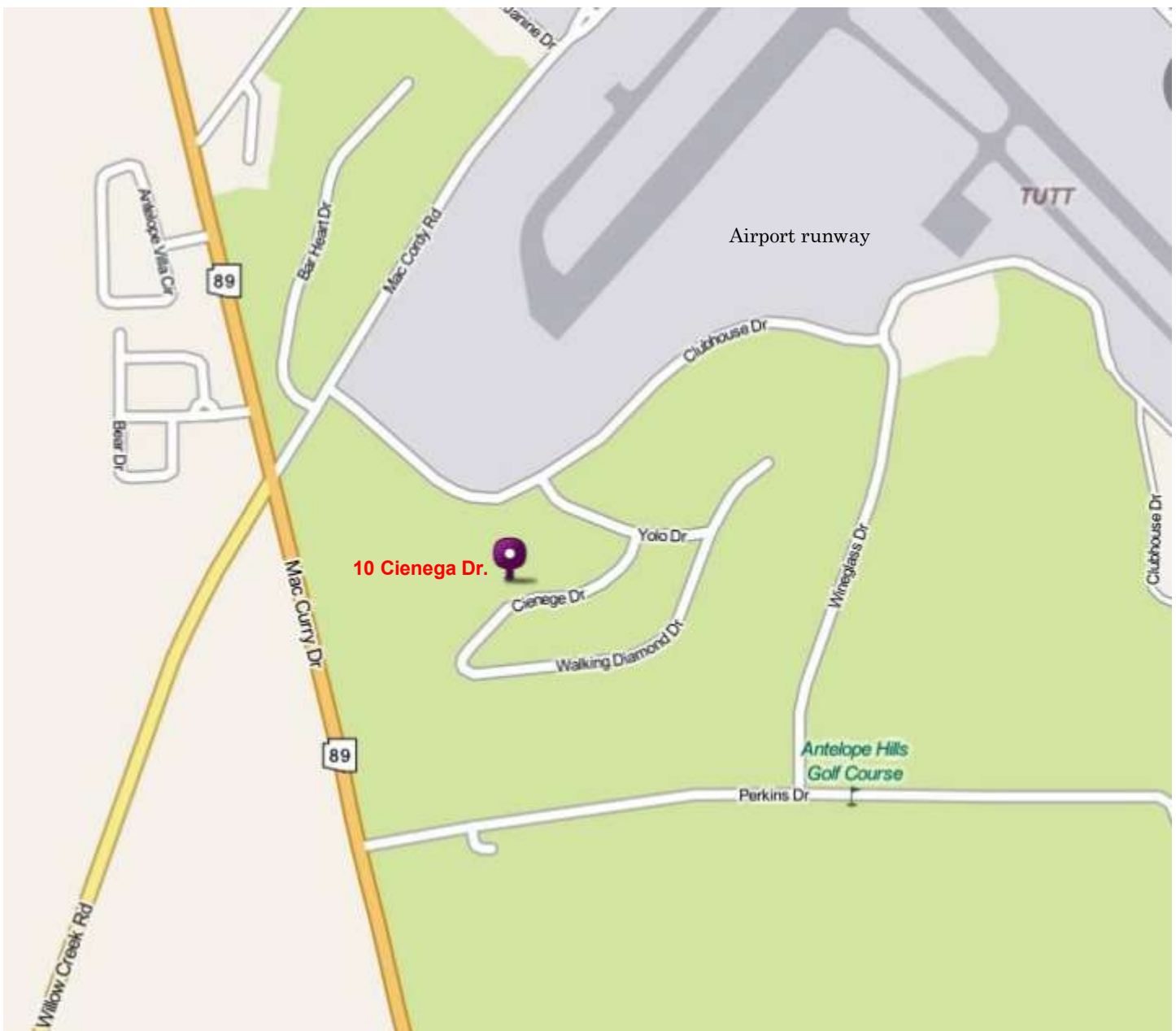
5/29 Don Walker	Happy Birthday	7/23 Sharon Phelps
6/1 Michael Morgan	6/24 Lavon Levi	7/25 Valerie Phipps
6/12 Ray Floyd	6/29 Lucille Horton	7/26 Judy Morgan
6/17 Gerry Snyder	7/7 Mary Moskop	7/26 Victor Velonis

MARKING PARTY AND IRIS SWAP

Come to the Luebkin's at 10 Cienega Drive in Antelope Hills by the Golf Course on July 20th at 9:00 AM to help prepare our PAIS rhizomes for sale. Lunch will be provided courtesy of Costco and your previous hard work. This year we are going to have a rhizome swap. Bring three of your increases (labeled) and trade with a friend. Barb, your, "Afternoon Delight" will be waiting for you. Make sure you know the name. No Crimson King please as we will all be getting plenty of that beautiful, fragrant, historic when digging the Citizens Cemetery.

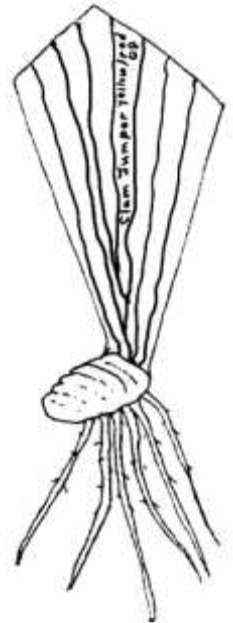
See page 6 for instructions for cleaning and preparing your iris for the rhizome sale. We will only be marking and trimming, if necessary, at the party. If confused, call an experienced member to walk you through your first dig or help dig iris at the sculpture garden July 12 and 13 and get first hand experience. The community enjoys the iris we dig for the sale, the price is right and they are assured these iris grow well in our area.

We look forward to seeing you at the Luebkin's. Please RSVP so we know how many there will be for lunch. Call either Sharon at 623-628-4860 or Dennis at 623-980-627 or email Dennis at dbluebkin@g.com. We're easy to find off Hwy 89. Turn into the airport onto Mac Curdy Drive and make the first three right turns. 1st right at Club House Dr., 2nd at Yolo and the third at Cienega Dr. (See map below.) We are at 10 Cienega Drive, a white house with burgundy shutters on the right with an iris flag in the front. Park on the street. Don't miss this opportunity to earn Iris Bucks!



Digging and Preparing Iris To Donate For The PAIS Rhizome Sales

1. Usually, about 3 years after planting, clumps of garden iris become somewhat overgrown, and should be restored to encourage vigorous new growth and continued blooming. After digging and dividing, plant 3 rhizomes after reconditioning the soil.
2. Choose only named varieties to donate to the sale. The rhizomes should be healthy showing no signs of disease damage. Also, they should be large enough to have the potential of blooming the following year.
3. Please dig the clump within 3 days of the marking party so they will be fresh for the sale
4. Clip leaves to about 8-inches long and into a fan shape. Cut roots to 4 inches. (See illustration) .
5. Wash ALL residual dirt from the rhizomes, roots and leaves. We suggest swishing rhizomes up and down in a 5 gallon bucket of water. It is important to have clean plants for sale.
6. OPTIONAL: Soak the rhizomes for 10-15 minutes in a bleach solution of 1 cup bleach to 1 gallon water. Wear rubber gloves to protect your skin! Finally, rinse the rhizomes well in clear water.
7. Let the rhizomes dry completely outside in the shade. After several hours, turn the plants over so both sides dry thoroughly.
8. Store rhizomes in a cool, dry protected place in a single layer until the day of the marking party. They may be placed in cardboard or plastic nursery flats.
9. Bring your rhizome donations to the Marking Party in grocery bags or boxes – one variety per container with the variety, year of introduction and type written on outside of bag. Place the fans down and the roots up (up-side down) to avoid trapping moisture between the leaves. [NEVER STORE IRIS IN PLASTIC BAGS!! - Moisture can cause mold and rot.]
10. Marking Rhizomes:
Rub off the white, waxy coating on the leaf with a paper towel or soft cloth before writing on the leaf. Mark the **middle leaf** of the iris with a black permanent marker as follows:
Write the name of the variety, year introduced, if known and type. For other than tall bearded, write the type: MDB, SDB, IB, BB, MTB. Indicate space age (SA), reblooming (RE)
11. Photos: If possible, include a color photo of the iris. Write the variety name, date of introduction, if known, and type of iris on the back of the photo. Record the same information on the paper bag.
12. Bring your cleaned, trimmed and marked rhizomes to the marking party at 10 Cienega Drive, July 20, 9 am. Scissors and marking pens will be provided.
13. If you cannot attend, make arrangements to deliver rhizomes to Dennis 623-939-4250 before the marking party.



Other delivery options: Stan & Judy Book in southwest Prescott, jbook@cableone.net, 928-776-7217.

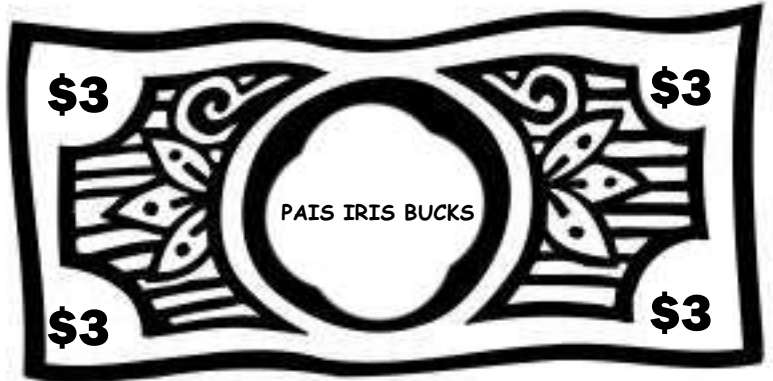
If you cannot attend the marking party, please clean, trim and mark all irises as indicated above before delivering your iris.
If you have not signed up to work the marking party, call Dennis 623-939-4250.

To sign up to work the rhizome sales, please call Sharon Phelps 928-717-1951 or Dan Schroeder 602-300-5791.

\$3.00 Iris Bucks Are Coming

\$3.00 Iris Bucks are on their way and there won't be anything phony about them!!!! Starting with the June 29 cemetery dig, anyone volunteering for any event will be paid in "Iris Bucks".

Their value is \$3.00 and they can be exchanged at any of our sales just like cash. Anything that PAIS is selling can be purchased, excluding items from outside vendors.



Besides the opportunity to work with your iris buddies at our volunteer events you'll be getting paid. What could be better? Your first opportunity to earn these fabulous bucks will be at the June 29 Citizens Cemetery dig. Your second opportunity will be the July 12 & 13 sculpture garden dig. The more you volunteer, the more you earn toward your PAIS purchase of iris and other PAIS items. See the calendar on page 1 and make your plans now to volunteer. Contact any of the board members below to sign up.



PAIS CONTACTS

President - Dennis Luebkin dluebkin@g.com 623-939-4250
Vice President - Kathleen Shaffer koicats@sbcglobal.net
Secretary - Barbara McCurry bj4mccurry@hotmail.com
Treasurer - Sharon Phelps ssphelps12@gmail.com
Membership - Sharon Luebkin sluebkin@g.com
Newsletter Editor - Judy Book jbook@cableone.net
Sculpture Garden - Bonnie Sekenske bsekenske@gmail.com
Rhizome Co-Chairs -- Sharon Phelps ssphelps12@gmail.com
Dan Schroeder dan@mccoyetc.com

Summer Iris Culture

- * Remove bloom stalks
- * Continue pulling weeds and removing blown in leaves
- * Water deeply once a week
- * Fertilize with 10-10-10 after the bloom has stopped
- * Decide which iris have enough increases that the clump needs to be divided—dividing a clump is recommended every 3-4 years
- * Get first hand experience digging and dividing iris June 29, Citizens Cemetery, July 12 and 13 at the sculpture garden and earn "iris bucks"
- * Donate your surplus iris for our rhizome sales and dig just before the July 20 marking party. See the rhizome prep article on page 6.
- * Dig, pot, and donate "black" iris for the sculpture garden.
- * Visit the link below for a dig and divide photo essay



A freshly dug iris clump before dividing.

Notice the remains of the bloom stalk in the center. The new rhizomes will be broken off and replanted. The mother rhizome, the one with the bloom stalk, will be discarded.

<http://www.aisregion17.org/dividing.html>

Iris Exhibit A Blooming Success

Thanks to the planning and hard work of Carolyn Alexander and her committee and the outstanding publicity by Dennis Luebkin, the iris exhibit was enjoyed by visitors from all over Arizona. Twelve floral arrangements and 131 iris stalks were on display and the public was wowed by the iris grown by club members.

This year Mortimer Nursery made available the entire greenhouse which allowed us to spread out the exhibits and add a demonstration area showing iris care along with a seating area where visitors could enjoy drinks and popcorn. That left plenty of room for our potted iris sale which netted \$899.29. (See page 9).

We now have our first youth member, 7 year old Victoria, who entered an iris stalk and an arrangement. We gained 3 new members in May via Farmers Market and the exhibit.

Thanks to the generosity of Bob Van Liere and Iris4U we had 10 iris gift certificates to award to the Peoples Choice winners. We appreciate the work of LaDean Ashby in procuring these awards.

Best Artistic Design	Spuria	Marge Larson
Best of Show	Phantom Ship	Linda Rossman
Tall Bearded	Gypsy Lord	Marge Larson
Most Unusual	Gnu Flash	LaDean Melby
Bi-Color	Upper Hand	Linda Rossman
Space Age	Battleship Atlantis	Barbara Kyte
Historic	Beverly Sills	Linda Rossman
Spuria	Elixir	Marge Larson
Median Iris	It's All Right	Linda Rossman
Youth Award	Domaine	Victoria Van Klompenburg

Of course none of this would have been accomplished without volunteers. We are grateful to the following members who greeted visitors, arranged, toted, setup, cleaned up, cashiered, sold potted iris, verified bloom stalk entries, demonstrated, answered questions, tallied votes, photographed the exhibit and sold and served refreshments.

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Carolyn Alexander | Patrick Beatty | Barbara/Terry Kyte |
| Ruth Simons | Jo Cheek | Barbara McCurry |
| Kathleen Shaffer | Sandra Hennigan | Vera Stewart |
| Katy Standhardt | Sharon Luebkin | Linda Rossman |
| LaDean/Lee Ashby | Dennis Luebkin | Judy Book |



Farmers Market Sale May 11



GROSS INCOME GENERATED BY Potted Iris Sale -FARMER'S MARKET

5/11/2013:

66.00 Presale purchase
88.00 presale purchase
216.00 27 Region 15 potted iris @\$8 each=\$108 to Region 15 & \$108 to PAIS**
534.00 89 PAIS member potted iris @\$6 each

904.00 Total potted iris sold

GROSS INCOME GENERATED BY SPRING IRIS EXHIBIT 5/18/2013

7.30 20% donation to PAIS from Alexander card sales
318.00 53 member potted iris @\$6 each
792.00 **99 Region 15 potted iris @\$8 each=\$396 to Region 15 & \$396 to PAIS
24.00 popcorn & drink donation
3.00 misc. income

1144.30 Total sales

EXPENSES RELATED TO SPRING IRIS EXHIBIT 5/18/2013 & Farmer's Market 5/11/2013

36.30 Peoples choice voting supplies
53.03 Laminated exhibit poster
19.10 Ice
38.61 Drinks
33.05 Sculpture garden poster
3.84 Gift certificate mailing
5.25 Publicity supplies, postage
265.73 Table rental popcorn machine, popcorn
38.00 Yellow Sheet Advertisement
222.01 Printing bookmarks, membership brochures, flyers

\$714.92

Actual Exhibit & Farmer's Market income of: \$2,048.30 - expenses \$714.92=net - income \$1333.38

****\$548 being sent to Region 15 for their share of 50% of sales of Region 15 potted iris**

GRAND PAIS NET INCOME \$785.38

Fall Trek 2015—Prescott, AZ

I know that the 2015 fall trek is a ways off, but I think that PAIS needs to begin thinking about it. At the spring trek this year many of the raffle prizes were potted iris. It would be nice if we could do something similar and use gift iris with western theme names or Arizona theme names such as Fort Apache, Arizona Moon, Grand Canyon Gold etc. While you are digging your iris this summer, consider this request and pot several iris with this event in mind. Dennis