



# PRESCOTT AREA IRIS SOCIETY

## November 2013

Volume 10, Issue 7

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all,

Our year is coming to an end and the holidays are right around the corner. Our last meeting for the year will be November 16<sup>th</sup> when we will hold our elections and have a wonderful speaker on native plants in the garden. The nominating committee is diligently working on filling board positions. Some members on the board will remain others will not. In 2015 our board will be required to change based on two year term limits per our Bylaws. Yes, PAIS does have term limits unlike our government's career politicians. We work for you and iris bucks!! I would encourage our general membership to seriously consider being a future Board member or accepting a position as a Coordinator for one of our outreach programs, events or sales. It is not as ominous as some perceive it to be. We will be beginning a sign up program for members to select events and programs they wish to work on and asking that they make a commitment to that time frame or event/program. Check our calendar of events on page 2 for a listing of our activities for 2014 and decide which events you can help with. Our club is only as good as our membership's involvement. Participation in PAIS is rewarding at all levels. I have been active in PAIS for the past two years. Previously, I knew people's faces and their names but did not really know them. It was not until I took an active role in activities and programs that friendships developed. It is these friendships that make our programs and activities fun. We have meetings to learn and educate ourselves on iris and other topics, but our activities and programs are where we build lasting friendships by participation. Is it work? Yes. Does what we accomplish show results for us and the community? Yes. Do we have pride and satisfaction in what we accomplish? Yes. Be active; renew friendships, strengthen friendships, make new friendships, enjoy yourself and have fun.

We are in a time when many iris societies and other garden clubs/horticultural groups are losing membership and closing their doors. Region 15 alone has lost two affiliates this year and this is typical of AIS and other groups nationwide. PAIS however, is growing. We have 63 members, 13 of them new members. Many clubs such as ours are focused inwardly which limits them. PAIS however, has an outward focus. We reach out into our community with programs that educate, impact and beautify our community with iris. It is this outward focus that draws attention to PAIS, its events and programs. We use the focus of the iris, our favorite flower, in everything we do to encourage people that are interested in iris to join but we reach more people and build interest in iris by what we do with our programs more than many other groups. People are interested in iris but it is this outward focus which interests people enough to join.

We have been congratulated by Region 15 and by the Historic Iris Preservation Society for the work that PAIS is doing in our community and I have been asked by the Region 15 Boards Membership Chair to assist them in helping other Region 15 affiliates in expanding a program of membership development and public outreach programs. PAIS is being seen as an affiliate to watch not only for ideas but for results. I want to thank all of our members on behalf of myself and the Board for the volunteering of your time and talents to the numerous projects which PAIS has initiated and is participating in. We have received both thank you calls and communications from the Sharlot Hall Museum, The Yavapai Cemetery Association and the Friends of Yavapai Art in regard to the work we are doing at Sharlot Hall Museum on the Historic Gardens, the Restoration and Reclamation of iris at Citizens Cemetery and the expansion of plantings at the Sculpture Garden. We have also received thank you notes and cards from the teachers and students that we have taught in our school iris program "Growing Irisarians".



Brad Kasperek



The Luebkins, The Books, Kathleen Shaffer and Vera Stewart attended the Region 15 Fall Trek in Lancaster, California on October 19th. It was a good conference to attend to see how it was done, since we are going to host the Region 15 Fall Trek in 2015. Sharon, Kathleen and I took judges training on Spurias. We hope to be apprentice judges in the near future. Brad Kasperek of Zebra Iris Gardens in Utah was the guest speaker. Broken color irises are his signature

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hybrids. (See Chocolate Moose, pg. 10.) We had an opportunity for dinner with him and enjoyed spirited conversation. We are bringing back our information from the Trek for our Fall Trek Committee which is now forming. Anyone interested in participating in the committee should contact Dennis Luebkin. After seeing the Fall Trek I know that we can put on a Fall Trek that will make Prescott proud.

On behalf of the Board and myself we wish you all the happiest holiday season and blessings in the New Year.

Best Regards to All,  
Dennis Luebkin

## November 16 Meeting



Steve Miller, owner of the Native Garden, will give a presentation on native plants. Native plants that do well in our many micro climates, compliment our other plants and attract butterflies and bees will be discussed. We will meet at Yavapai Title, 1235 East Gurley at 1:30 p.m.

**REMINDER:** The "iris bucks" issued this year must be redeemed by the end of this year. They can be used for potted iris, plant markers and other PAIS items. Plan to spend your "iris bucks" at the November meeting.

### Call for Trek iris:

We have begun our work on the 2015 Region 15 Fall Trek which PAIS is sponsoring. One of the items that PAIS is going to provide for the Trek visitors are iris to be raffled. The theme of the Trek is going to be western. We are looking for donations of iris, 2 to 3 rhizomes of each variety that you may have. The iris should be of the following topic names:

**Cowboy or cowgirl theme names such as:** Brown Lasso, Ringo, Cowgirl, etc

**Western Place names such as:** Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, Grand Canyon Sunset, Painted Desert, etc.

**General Western names such as:** Desert Sunset, Mariposa Skies, Dance Hall Dandy, Desert Peace, Desert Lullaby, Canyon Mist, etc.

**Indian names or themes such as:** Navajo, Navajo Jewel, Apache, War Chief, etc.

There are many other names out there that you may have.

We would like to obtain rhizomes of these iris and pot them this summer so that the potted iris will have a full year to mature in the pots and look good for the Trek. If you have any of this type that you can donate, please contact Dennis Luebkin at [dluebkin@q.com](mailto:dluebkin@q.com). We are compiling a list of the names and who has them so we can follow-up this summer when we dig and divide our iris.

### 2014 PAIS Calendar

2/15	General Meeting 1:30 p.m.	5/17	Iris Exhibit Mortimer Nurscry
3/13,14	YCSG Garden Cleanup	6/7	Sharlot Hall Musuem Planting
4/11	Region 15 Spring Trek	7/12	Citizens Cemetery iris dig for sales
4/26	General Meeting 1:30 p.m.	7/16,17	YCSG rhizome dig for sales
5/3	Sharlot Hall Musuem Planting	7/19	Marking Party
5/7,8	YCSG Garden Cleanup	7/26	Sharlot Hall Musuem Planting
5/ 2	Yavapai College Ollie Lecture Series	7/26, 27, 8/2	Rhizome sales
5/ 9	by the Luebkins	7/31	Cemetery rhiizome dig for schools
5/17	Lecture series at Mortimer Nursery	8/16	New Member Training
5/16	Setup iris exhibit Mortimer Nursery	9/20	General Meeting 1:30 p.m.
		10/1,2	YCSG Garden Cleanup
		11/15	General Meeting 1:30 p.m.

PAIS Iris Photo Contest—Fifth Annual—9/21/2013  
Photo essay—Carolyn Alexander



Photos placed on tables by participants in 4 categories. Before Voting Started



Voting of members one row at a time at the beginning of the meeting



Members waiting their turn to vote while enjoying refreshments



Dan & Bonnie voting for their favorites



Voting continues. It is hard to decide so many beautiful photos—33 entries in all.



Most have voted now. About ready to start program with guest speaker

## Photo Contest 9/21/13 Results

### First Place

A-Landscape	Darrell Levi
B- Single iris or cluster	Dennis Luebkin
C- Artistic, close-up or Photoshop	Sharon Luebkin
D- Iris w/insect, animal, people, other	Sharon Luebkin

### Second Place

A-Landscape	Judy Book
B-Single iris or cluster	Ruth Simons
C-Artistic	Victoria Van Klompenberg
D-Iris w/insect, animal, people, other	Sharon Phelps

A fun time was had by both entrants and voters. Looking at beautiful iris photos can't be beat.

There were 33 photos entered in 4 different categories. A total of 24 people voted and submitted their secret ballot. We had four first place winners and 4 second place winners who choose their potted iris from the 8 prizes. There was one second place tie that was broken by allowing the audience to re-vote between the two. Thank you all for your participation. ~~~Carolyn Alexander



Landscape—1st place



Artistic-1st place

Single Iris—1st place



Iris other-1st place





Landscape—2nd place



Artistic-2nd place



Iris other-2nd place



Single Iris—2nd place

### PAIS BYLAWS dated November 17, 2012...clarification of Article 5 Dues

The 2013 PAIS board is proposing a recommendation to provide clarification of Article 5, Section 5.2 of our bylaws which were adopted on November 17, 2012. The section in question currently reads ***"Any new member paying dues after July 1 and before November 1 in any given year shall pay only one-half the annual dues."***

The following addition is needed to clarify the dues charged to a new member paying for a single or household membership for one year. The proposed change has been the practice and our intent, but we have recently discovered that our bylaws dated November 17, 2012 do not clearly state this policy.

At our November 16, 2013 general membership meeting we will be asking those members present to vote on inserting the following addition to this section which is shown in red caps:

***"Any new member paying dues **FOR ONE YEAR FOR A SINGLE OR HOUSEHOLD MEMBERSHIP** after July 1 and before November 1 in any given year shall pay only one-half the annual dues."***

We appreciate your attention to this matter. If you find that you do not have a current set of bylaws, please let one of our board members know ASAP so that we can get a set to you.

### Sculpture Garden Update

If you want to view reblooming irs, Skywatch in the Dykes Medal Winners garden has several blooms and should open next week. Victoria Falls also has several buds.

This week, while the weather is still warmish, is an excellent time to work on removing dead leaves from the iris clumps and picking up fallen tree leaves which cover the iris. Katy Standhardt has recently cleaned up all the individual clumps and we need someone to work on the Dykes Medal Winners bed. So grab a friend, spouse, or another club member and hurry on out. This is the last opportunity to earn "iris bucks" this year. Let Bonnie [bsekenske@gmail.com](mailto:bsekenske@gmail.com) know when you plan to work. Thank you.

## PAIS Education Program “Growing Irisarians”

The PAIS Education Program “Growing Irisarians” started this year. As is common with most garden clubs and horticultural groups, our average age of membership continues to get older and we ask how we can change this trend. It is my hope that by teaching about iris to children in K to 4 in the Prescott area, PAIS will inspire “baby irisarians” to love and cultivate iris and perhaps gain interest from their teachers and parents in PAIS and AIS.

I started with the old Classroom Iris Program (CIP) materials provided to me by Judy Book off the AIS Website, no need to reinvent the wheel. A copy of these materials and other supplemental material currently used in the PAIS program were presented to Region 15 of AIS at the Fall Trek. AIS is looking at adopting some of the PAIS materials.

I started by visiting with the principal of the oldest public school in Prescott (Miller Valley School) to discuss the program. PAIS has had several members volunteering in various capacities at the school; it is a friendly location. I asked Principal Lane what he would like to see in the curriculum so that we would be invited in to teach. Teachers are under considerable pressure to meet all the curriculum guidelines for their grade level, and any curriculum materials used must be aligned to the Arizona State Education Standards.

Prescott, AZ has the Highland Learning Center which teaches about native plants and habitats. They have a program of planting native gardens on school sites and have their own curriculum, so the PAIS curriculum also needed to take into consideration this program to avoid redundancy. If planning something similar in your area, visit a friendly school and find out what guidelines need to be considered. Most State Standards are on-line and if you're a retired educator like me you are used to tying lessons to curriculum. All parts of the curriculum can easily be modified for K through 4<sup>th</sup> grades. Most states have similar guidelines, especially for science and plant physiology. The CIP material is great for this section. I prepared a teaching, step-by-step guide on half the page with the standards that are taught on the second half. To make our materials a little different I included a history and map lesson of how the iris got to America. I also included a song sung to the tune of “I’m a Little Teapot” to help students remember and review the history and map lesson. The song is greatly enjoyed by the younger children! I leave a copy of the song for their Poetry or Song folder that many younger grade teachers have in place. The “World of Iris Map” I developed and its curriculum is best taught with an assistant, one writing and the other pointing to a large world map which works best for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and above. We review plant physiology by coloring and labeling. The remainder of the CIP materials are left for the teacher to use or to invite us back to continue the lessons.

The favorite part of the program for the children is the gift we leave for them to take home. We bring 2 pots for the classroom (from the \$1.00 store or a thrift store). We demonstrate by planting 1 iris rhizome and 1 daffodil bulb, after comparing for likenesses and differences between rhizomes and bulbs, the children are encouraged to vote as to

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### PAIS Board Members

President : Dennis Luebkin [dlobkin@q.com](mailto:dlobkin@q.com) 623-980-6627

Vice President : Kathleen Shaffer [koicats@sbcglobal.net](mailto:koicats@sbcglobal.net)

Secretary: Barbara McCurry [bj4mccurry@hotmail.com](mailto:bj4mccurry@hotmail.com)

Treasurer: Sharon Phelps: [ssphelps12@gmail.com](mailto:ssphelps12@gmail.com)

Membership: Sharon Luebkin [sluebkin@q.com](mailto:sluebkin@q.com)

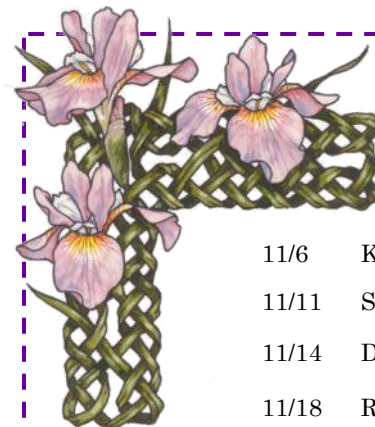
Sculpture Garden Coordinator: Bonnie Sekenske [bsekenske@gmail.com](mailto:bsekenske@gmail.com)

Publicity: Dennis Luebkin [dlobkin@q.com](mailto:dlobkin@q.com)

PAIS website: <http://prescottirissociety.org/index.htm>

Iris Encyclopedia website: <http://wiki.irises.org/bin/view/Main/WebHome>

Friend us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/PrescottIrisSociety>



### November/ December Birthdays

11/6	Katy Standhardt
11/11	Shirley Eitner
11/14	Darrell Levi
11/18	Roselyn Turner
11/27	Carol Hartvigsen
12/10	Marge Larson
12/20	Carolyn Alexander
12/22	Sandra Kelleher
12/30	Mary Thompson

which plant will flower first and “which one will win”. These are left for the teacher to use in the plant physiology lesson. We give each child a paper bag containing 2 rhizomes, Crimson King, from the, Citizen’s Cemetery restoration project and a Bumble Bee Delite from my assistant’s yard, a daffodil bulb, a bag of alfalfa meal (zip lock bag labeled-so there is no question as to contents) and a plant marker for 1 rhizome. The children are very excited about receiving the plants. You’d think we were giving out \$100.00 bills. The children are elated to get their very own rhizomes, fertilizer and plant marker. We encourage them to go home and share what they have learned and plant them at their home. We also include a tri-fold information pamphlet on iris and our club and the instruction sheet on “how to plant and care for iris” prepared by our club. This is when the children start sharing who likes and cares for flowers in their homes. Because Prescott is an old pioneer town there are irises planted everywhere, often growing wild. Many people buy their homes and inherit iris on their property. We don’t know where this will take us as this is our 1<sup>st</sup> year of doing this. However, the response from children, teachers and parents has been positive. The teachers were given a curriculum packet with a letter introducing the program and letting them know that August is iris planting time in Prescott. These packets were distributed at 3 schools Miller Valley School, Mountain Oaks Charter School and Christian Academy of Prescott.



PAIS was invited into 7 classrooms to teach the program with 111 children attending the program and receiving gift bags after the lesson was taught. We will be doing more in the spring as we had such a short planting time in the fall and most schools just started in August. We will be inviting the children, parents and teachers to our spring iris exhibit and continue with lessons. We had much fun with the children. It does however take some time to prepare the gift bags for the children but it is worth it. The program will be expanded to other schools next year.

A big thank you to Sue Crabtree and Lucille Houston for their assistance in putting student packets and materials together, assisting in the classrooms, and supporting the education program.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Sharon Luebkin  
 PAIS Education Program Coordinator

### Yarnell Workday

We had a most productive workday at Dan's. The weather started out very cool with a breeze, but as the day progressed, we were taking off layers and even sat in the shade of the fifth wheel (Dan's temporary abode) to eat lunch.

The big task at hand was to make garden beds surrounded by cement blocks, as well as transplanting some iris. We had a jolly, hard working crew and finished the work shortly after our lunch break.

Dan served delicious sloppy joes for our potluck. Thanks to PAIS for supplying water and table service and to the workers for contributions to the potluck.

Dan graciously gave each volunteer an iris as a thank you gift. Speaking of iris, *Immortality* had another bloom stalk with two open flowers!! The largest was at last 5 inches across.

Thank you to the following members who gave their time and talents to this endeavor: Dan, Patrick, Darrell and Lavon, Sharon Sundvall, Sharon and Dennis, Stan and Judy. ~~~Judy



*Immortality* reblooming in Dan's garden -at least 5 blooms in mid-October

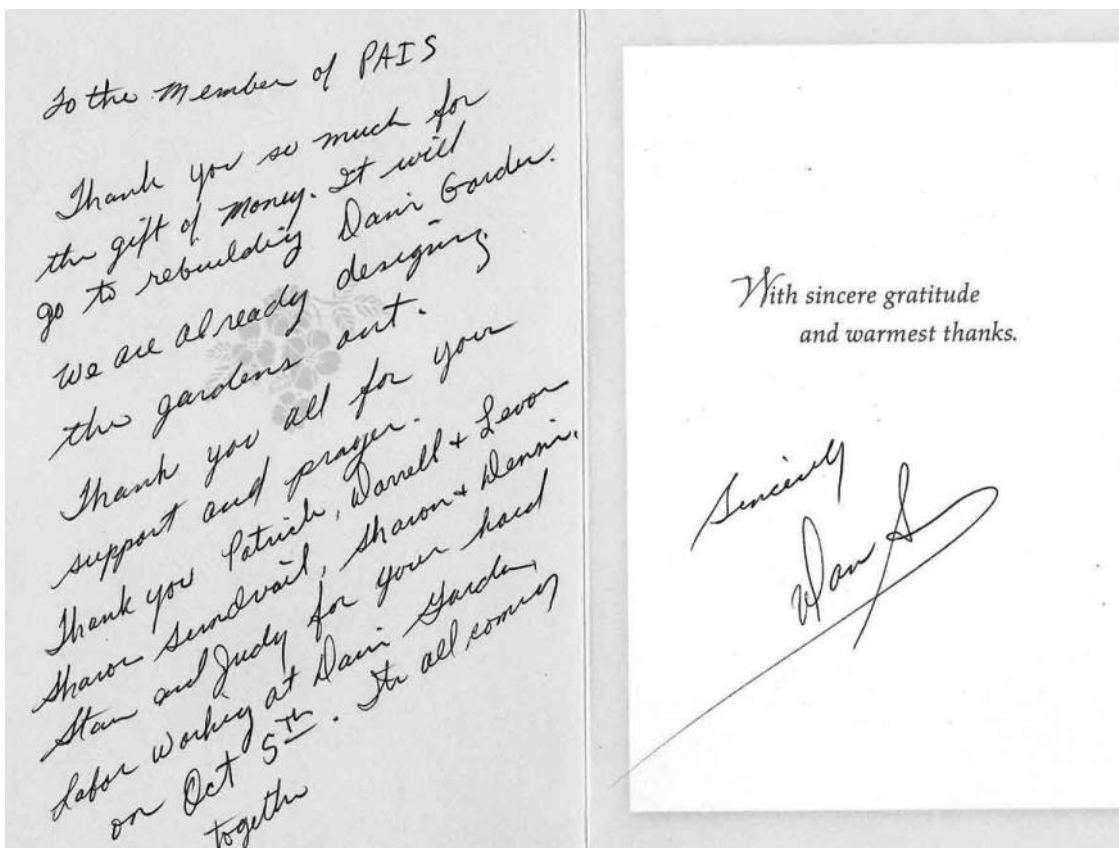
Yarnell is about 35 miles south of Prescott, the first third on twisty, twisty mountain roads, then through high desert, and some beautiful ranch country (land barons!) in Peeples Valley, just north of Yarnell. Yarnell is usually just a place we drive through on highway 89 on our way to California, and we've never stopped there before. The main street of the town appears undamaged and the usual tourists and motorcycle riders (they love the twisty roads) were stopping to eat and shop. Once we ventured into the residential area in the SW part of town, surprisingly nice where it wasn't burned, we began to see the destruction. The fire showed its capriciousness. Dan's home was completely destroyed, as were houses on either side of his, but the house across the street from Dan's appeared untouched, partly protected, by a huge mound of granite boulders on its west side.

Apparently Dan's Garden, so named on a plaque outside, was and will again be quite a local attraction. Dan is an avid gardener, growing a lot of decorative plants, vegetables (a neighbor came and got a couple of cabbages), as well as many irises. He hosts one venue of the annual PAIS rhizome sale in July and plans to do so again next summer.

Dan was quite upbeat during our work, full of plans, stories, jokes and so forth. He did say that when you go through something like the Yarnell Hill fire, losing home and much of your garden, you experience many moods..

A former neighbor of Dan's moved to Oregon after the fire and informed Schreiner's, a major iris grower, about Dan's loss. Schreiner's contributed a couple of dozen rhizomes to Dan and Dan shared some surplus iris with the work crew. He plans to share rhizomes with the town, establishing planters outside local businesses on Main Street. It will be interesting to see how that develops.

~~~~Darrell Levi





# Yarnell Workday



The remains in July after debris clearance



Setting concrete blocks for vegetable garden beds, Dan's temporary home in the background



Dan's front yard mid-July after debris removal



Dan's front yard flower beds with blooming Cana in October; plants rejuvenated on their own after the fire

# Reblooming Iris



Jean's Cantina



Luebkin's - Autumn Tryst, Ruffled Goddess



Vera's iris

Left to right:

Chocolate Moose

Autumn Tryst

Naughty Goddess

Cool Character

Earl of Essex

Champagne Elegance



Barb's Rosalie Figge



10 Joella's Crimson King??



Dede is hoping that someone can identify these rebloomers