

PRESCOTT AREA IRIS SOCIETY



Gardening with Stones

We in the Prescott area have stones, rocks and boulders to contend with. They are everywhere; we live with stones each day. We try to plant and run into stones. Sometimes we get frustrated and throw stones, we throw them aside and sometimes at each other and that is painful. Our lives and relationships are like our gardens, we can nurture them or neglect them and they wither. Stones are useful things in our gardens if handled carefully. They can be used to build or destroy.

What can we do with our stones? Stones can be used to build borders and walls to create a barrier or they can be used to build bridges to cross or columns to support. As PAIS continues to grow let us use our stones to build the bridges needed to connect with each other and our community and build the columns needed to support each other and our programs. The programs that PAIS has initiated in the community have stirred much interest in what PAIS does both locally and in other parts of the country. This is evidenced by newspaper articles, a TV segment, along with emails I receive and comments that I hear from community members.

At our iris exhibit I was asked by members of another iris society affiliate in Arizona how do we do what we do and why we are so successful compared to other AIS affiliates who are about to close their doors. I think the answer is simple. PAIS has a purpose, relevance and a mission in the community. We are no longer growing just our own gardens but the gardens of our community. We are no longer throwing stones but using them for building and reaching out into our community by building a bridge to teach, beautify, restore and preserve. We are building columns to support our members and our programs. We have younger members joining who are novices but wish to learn and are eager to help. We have moved from teaching just our adult members at our general meetings about iris to moving out into the community's elementary schools, boy scout and girl scout troops teaching them iris horticulture and helping plant iris gardens at the schools. We call this program "Growing Irisarians". We are lecturing at Prescott College and Yavapai College including a three part iris lecture series along with speaking at garden clubs. The younger children, young adults and seniors really enjoy the programs. It has also been rewarding to those involved in teaching these programs to see the interest generated by what they teach.

Our involvement with irises in the Citizens Cemetery, Sculpture Garden, and now the Sharlot Hall Museum has drawn much attention, interest and approval within the community. Let us use this positive momentum to continue to educate and beautify. Let us use the stones we find to build and not harm. If we need to build a wall let it be to retain good soil for planting. If we need to use stones for a border, let it be to enhance and not divide. Each one in PAIS has a particular talent to share with one another and the society. Let us build on our strengths and use our stones constructively.

I am very proud of what PAIS has accomplished and what we are doing. I hope that each of you share the excitement of what we are doing and will participate in these programs. We have much to do this year and will have much to accomplish in 2015 with the Fall Trek being an additional major event. We all look forward to full participation of the membership to accomplish our goals in 2014 and 2015.

Best regards to all
Dennis

COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS



Yavapai Hills Gardening Club

Sharon and Dennis gave a slide presentation, lecture and hands on demonstration to 31 Yavapai Hills Garden Club members. It went very well. Ruth Simons is a member along with Wendy Ratner who was a previous PAIS member. Lots of discussion, interest and positive comments. We started at 1:00 and ended at 2:30. It was fun. Looks like we may have picked up 6 new members, because of an interest in iris but more importantly what we are doing in Prescott with our outreach programs. They want to become involved.



OLLI Class: Yavapai College

The OLLI class went very well. We had wonderful comments from those present on the content and presentation. The ages ranged from mid 40's to 86. One of Vera's friends attended the class and enjoyed it very much. The participants were all very interested and asked many questions during the question and answer periods. Several expressed an interest in joining PAIS. We had 27 attend the 3 lecture series. We took the class to the Sculpture Garden after the first presentation and they loved it. It was in wonderful bloom. Many had never been there before and were delighted. The second class ended at the Citizens Cemetery after a lecture on historic iris and historic iris preservation. The third lecture on iris care was held at the May 17 exhibit.



SPRING THINGS TO SEE & DO

Prescott Garden Tour June 14, 2014

The Alta Vista Garden Club is sponsoring their 6th garden tour to five homes in the Prescott Area. Each garden has its own special design from Zen like tranquility to gardens which attract birds and butterflies. The tour is their big fundraising event for the year.

Tickets are limited. They can be purchased in advance for a \$10 donation at Bella Home Furnishings, Jay's Bird Barn, Mortimer Nursery & Landscaping, Watter's Design & Garden Center, Prescott Valley Nursery and The Native Garden. Tickets are also available by contacting Debbie @ 928-443-8909 or email: greenoldthings@hotmail.com. On the day of the tour, maps for the self-guided tour and wristband entry IDs will be available between 8 and 11 a.m. in front of the Yavapai College Performing Arts Center at Yavapai College off Sheldon Street in Prescott.

The *Courier* article has additional details: <http://www.dcourier.com/main.asp?SectionID=74&SubSectionID=107&ArticleID=131246>

MOONLIGHT MADNESS

The Yavapai County Master Gardeners' sale at the [Prescott Rodeo Grounds](#) is an event you will not want to miss. Plants, garden art, tools and who knows what else. Come early for the best selection. There is usually a long line of folks eager to attend. Saturday, July 12, 7:30 am to 1:00 pm

Workdays

Sharlot Hall Museum

June 10, July 8, July 26 - 8-11 am

YCSG

June 9, 8:30-11:30 am garden cleanup

July 15 dig for sale
8:30 am

Cemetery Dig for rhizome sale

July 12 8:30 am

Rhizome Marking Party

At the Luebkins', 10 Cienega Dr.
near the airport

July 19 9:00 am

Rhizome Sale Sharlot Hall Museum

July 26- 7:30-4:00

July 27 10:45-4:00



Help your club and earn "Iris Bucks" New members, please join us, no experience necessary

ON THE EDUCATION FRONT

Each year we are developing relationships with new schools who would like their students to learn about and experience iris first hand in our new program, "Growing Irisarians". This year we were blessed with 2 new younger adult members, who are helping to lower our average ages of club members quite a bit. As luck would have it they have 2 boys attending Sacred Heart School and both boys are Cub Scouts. These wonderful new members are Mary and Joe Meinholz. Mary is an almost stay at home mom who volunteers at the school and with her son's Boy Scout Troop. We were invited to come and share our iris curriculum with some of the staff and they invited us to present our classroom program in August. This program gives every child an iris rhizome or two and a daffodil bulb for comparison. This year they will be receiving Othello, an 1848 iris, dug last year at the Citizen's Cemetery. Sue Crabtree, Lucille Houston (our newest teacher) and I will be preparing these classroom bags for each child and giving a 45 minute to 1 1/2 hour long presentation including history, geography, music, art, plant physiology and planting instructions.



Mary has also contacted both the Sacred Heart Boy Scout and Girl Scout troop leaders about our programs and other public outreach programs and both are interested. Hopefully our club will be helping to sponsor iris club memberships for both troops. Scouts often need service projects and we think we can keep them busy with our many projects. 2014-2015 is certainly looking like a year full of promises on the education front. Two new youth members are Peter and Matthew Meinholz , ages 10 and 7 respectively. Both boys and their Mom came to help us with our Exhibit set-up and Peter won the youth award for his entry, Champagne Elegance.

This year we helped twenty five 4th graders at Miller Valley School plant a memorial garden for two of their educators who passed away. After Sharon and Sue taught a short lesson on



irises, our members took groups of 3 to 5 students and helped them plant irises in their memorial garden. We have been asked back to the school to help their school garden club learn more about irises. We are also looking at starting this program of teaching iris in the classroom along with potentially sponsoring children in other garden clubs to learn more

about irises at Abia Judd and Taylor Hicks Elementary Schools.



We also have a new 3rd grader who joined our club at the show. Madison Kruse attends Taylor Hicks Elementary. We hope to be presenting lessons there next August, starting in Madison's classroom. We now have 4 youth members, Victoria Van Klompenburg , a 3rd grader who lives in Chandler and gets rides with her grandma and grandpa, Sharon and Dennis Luebkin. And yes, we will also give lessons in Chandler for Victoria's classroom. We are making inroads in the schools and look forward to an August full of teaching about iris. We are busy raising the next generations of irisarians. Now that's progress!!!!!!

Sharon Luebkin
PAIS Membership and Education Coordinator

GARDEN TOUR 2014



Blazing Beacon



Dede's Garden



Plum Fun



Autumn Sunset



Wabash



Carolyn's Garden



Luebkins' Garden



Fun Lovin



Double Agent



Thanks to our garden hosts: Dennis, TG , Sharon, Carolyn , Dede and Kathleen for a wonderful "Gaze and Graze" Photos by Kathleen, Darrell, Judy

MAY 17 EXHIBIT

2014 IRIS SHOW SALES WENT GREAT!

Income:

retail sales-markers, post cards, iris cultural booklets =	\$ 114.00
146 potted iris originally donated last summer by members=	\$ 850.00
56 potted iris original source was from Region 15	\$ 445.00
7 memberships (included 3 new youth @\$5)	\$ 63.00
Net income-% of sales donated from Carolyn Alexander's prints	\$ 17.10
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,489.10



Expenses:

Gift certificates for 10 winners @\$25 each	\$ 250.00
16 Tables rented (Mortimer's supplied 14 & chairs)	\$ 151.28
Supplies: printing ballots, info, signs, entry forms, etc.	\$ 318.17
Advertisement	\$
38.00	
50% of Region 15 potted iris sales returned to them	\$ 221.50
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 978.95

Thanks to Barbara McCurry and Ruth Simons for collecting the money and keeping track of the income. Barbara Kyte was a whirlwind, selling those potted iris. And, thanks to all of you who originally donated the iris! Selling these potted iris has again helped to cover the Iris Exhibit expenses. GOOD JOB!!Sharon Phelps

In spite of our worries about early bloom and a late exhibit date, we had more entries than in years past.

- 22 participants (3 were non-members)
- 156 bloom stalks
- 9 floral designs
- 450+ visitors
- 200+ potted iris sold
- 23 club members volunteered

At the Iris Exhibit, Carolyn Alexander presented two demonstrations showing how to dig, divide, trim, plant, feed and water irises. There were 60+ attendees that showed enthusiasm, interest in irises and were a very attentive audience. Many were learning how to plant the potted irises they had just purchased from PAIS. There were a number of OLLI Yavapai College attendees. Overall the response was favorable and everyone had a good time and learned something new.Carolyn Alexander

PEOPLES' CHOICE EXHIBIT WINNERS

Best of Show	Classic Look	Dennis Luebkin
Best Tall Bearded	Fruit of Maroon	Sharon Phelps
Best Median	Blackbeard	Barbara McLandress
Best Historic	Dream Lover	Carolyn Alexander
Best Spuria	Kaibab Trail	Marge Larson
Best Youth	Champagne Elegance	Peter Meinholz
Best Novelty	Poppa John	Barbara Kyte
Most Unusual	Announcement	Ruth DeVries
Best Bi-Color	Supreme Sultan	L Medina
Best Artistic Design	"No Black and White"	Sharon Luebkin



MAY 17 EXHIBIT WINNERS

PHOTOS BY KATHLEEN SHAFFER



Top row: Fruit of Maroon, Blackbeard, Announcement; Middle row: Dream Lover, Classic Look, Supreme Sultan; Bottom row: Floral Design, Poppa John, Kaibab Trail, Champagne Elegance



Photos by Darell Levi, Kathleen Shaffer, Stan Book

BIRTHDAY BOARD

June 7	Sue Crabtree
June 17	Gerry Snyder
June 24	Lavon Levi
June 29	Lucille Houston
July 5	Matt Meinholz
July 12	Mary Moskop
July 23	Sharon Phelps
July 25	Valerie Phipps
July 26	Victor Velonis

SUMMER IRIS CULTURE

- Continue to keep your iris beds weed free
- Cut off dead bloom stalks close to the ground
- Water at least once a week
- Use an all purpose fertilizer now to encourage root development
- If you are growing rebloomers, continue watering throughout the summer and fertilize again with triple super phosphate in July
- Make sure plant markers are correctly placed

NEW AIS SECTION FORMING - NOVELTY IRISES

Did you know it has been 25 years since a new section of the AIS was created? At the 2014 AIS Convention we heard about another one! The Novelty Iris Society is coming and you can be a Charter Member! To learn more, go to this Iris Encyclopedia [page](#) where updates will be posted.



You can learn more about Novelty Irises in this [section](#) of the Iris Encyclopedia which shows many types of novelty irises. Whether it is [horned](#), [flatties](#), [extrapetaled](#), or other novelties, there is or can be a page on the Iris Encyclopedia for it. Also, Bonnie Nichols, Acting Chairman for the Section-to-be, has a great judges training session presentation on this

very topic. You can see the presentation [here](#).

2014 AIS Photo Contest

The AIS invites you to participate in our annual Photo Contest. **Submissions for the 2014 AIS Photo Contest will be received from April 1, 2014 to June 30, 2014 (midnight).** This contest is free and open to everyone, with the exception of contest Judges and the contest chairperson who are not eligible to enter or win. The winning photo of each category will be published in the AIS January Bulletin and on the AIS web site. Complete entry information can be found on the [AIS website](#).

Prior year's winners and honorable mentions can be viewed on the AIS web site at www.irises.org.

The 2014 winner of each category will receive a 2014 introduction (within USA only). The winner of each category will also receive a single annual membership, or single e-membership or annual membership extension to AIS. Winners who are AIS life members will receive an e-membership or annual membership in an AIS Section of their choice. Runners-up of each category will receive a 2012 or 2013 introduction (within the USA only).

Additionally, there is an article on photographing irises in the Information and Reference section of the Resources link on the AIS website.