



### PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Greetings to All,

It is amazing how quickly the month's fly by. Here we are at the beginning of June and what a busy time it has been for all of us in PAIS. April and May were a whirl wind of activities. We had a wonderful PAIS Garden Tour thanks to the efforts of Linda Rossman, Carolyn Alexander, and Sharon Luebkin. We then had our Kaleidoscope of Color Spring Exhibit which was wonderful despite all of the bad weather of high winds, rains, snow, freezing temperatures, hale, more heavy rains and high winds again. Our poor irises were battered and beaten but the public still loved what they saw. We had 100 fewer entries this year than last year. Our potted iris sale was a wonderful sell out before noon. We had several hundred irises available from historic to current introductions. Everything sold. A big thank you to Barb McCurry, Kathleen Shaffer, Judy Book and so many other volunteers who manned the exhibit to make it a success and helped with the setup and tear down.

The Region 15 Spring Board Meeting and Spring Trek was held in Burbank, California for two days on April 15 and 16. It was a great event of education, garden tours, conducting Region 15 business and an awards dinner. As president of PAIS I am also a board member of Region 15. A big thank you and congratulations to the San Fernando Valley Iris and Day Lilly Society for hosting this wonderful event. Four beautiful gardens were on the tour.

On June 18<sup>th</sup> we will have a wonderful speaker from the Southwest Monarch Butterfly Project who will speak to us concerning how to establish Monarch Butterflies habitats and way stations for migrating Monarchs. With climate change, the Prescott area is now a major migration route for the Monarchs. Our general meeting will be held in the Mall Community Meeting Room at 1:30.

Our next major event will be the Marking Party to be held at Linda Rossman's and our summer rhizome sale which has been moved from Sharlot Hall Museum this year and in the future. It will be held at Yavapai Title this year in the meeting room and parking lot. Although it is not an open air sale as it has been for the past ten years, we will be in an air conditioned building with the availability of the kitchen, rest rooms and AV equipment. We will not have to worry about the heat or thunderstorms. It has its pluses!! Please consider volunteering your time and talents to make these two events a success.

The sculpture garden at Yavapai College has received a very prestigious certification from the American Iris Society in May. See this and other articles in the newsletter for PAIS happenings.

Best Regards to all and happy gardening,

Dennis Luebkin

President

### Coming Events

**June 18 —Gail Morris, Creating A Monarch Way Station**

*Prescott Gateway Mall, Community Room at 1:30pm.*

**July 23—Marking Party —Hummingbird Iris Garden**

**July 30-31—Rhizome Sale—Yavapai Title**

## ALTA VISTA GARDEN TOUR

Alta Vista Garden Club, Prescott, Arizona, presents its biennial garden tour on Saturday, June 18, 2016, from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Guests will experience creative blends of perennials, annuals, native plants and vegetables located in six private gardens in Prescott Area’s varied landscapes.



All gardens will include professional discussions of the techniques used, as well as local artists and musicians to add ambience to each garden setting.

On the day of the tour, the program with maps and wristband entry IDs will be available between 8:00 and 11:00 AM in front of the Yavapai Performing Arts Center at Yavapai College off of Sheldon Street in Prescott.

Tickets are limited. They must be purchased in advance for a \$15 donation at several Prescott area merchants or visit [www.altavistagardenclub.org](http://www.altavistagardenclub.org). and click on the “Garden Tour” tab to purchase your tickets using the PayPal account on the website.

Proceeds from this event go toward the Alta Vista Garden Club’s work in local education, conservation and beautification projects. For more information about the Alta Vista Garden Club, visit-<http://www.altavistagardenclub.org/>

### KALEIDOSCOPE OF COLOR IRIS EXHIBIT

Our spring exhibit this year was smaller than usual due to the early bloom season and the illness of several members who were unable to exhibit their blooms. We had 80+ iris exhibited, 4 youth entrants and several first time member entrants.

The weather went from sunny to windy, to showers and thunder, but thankfully the Mortimer Nursery shade structure was covered so the flowers and guests fared well.

The winning entries are listed here and photos appear on our website:

[http://prescottirissociety.org/past\\_events/2016\\_exhibit/](http://prescottirissociety.org/past_events/2016_exhibit/)

Grandma’s Garden  
Katy Standhardt

Youth Winners—Cierra Bryant  
Constance Van Klompenburg,  
Victoria Van Klompenburg



People's Choice Winners
<b>Best of Show</b>
Aleutian Islands -Darol Juran
<b>Best Tall Bearded</b>
Richard B Harris - Sharon Luebkin
<b>Median</b>
Concertina - Jean Cole
<b>Historic Iris</b>
Jesse's Song—Janis Keeling
<b>Arilbred</b>
Rare Breed - Katy Standhardt
<b>Space Age</b>
Bye Bye Blues - Loretta Bresof
<b>Best Black</b>
Sable Night - Jo Cheek
<b>Best Youth</b>
Dialect - Cierra Bryant
<b>Beardless</b>
Janice Chesnik - Darol Juran

Mortimer  
Nursery

Mortimer  
Nursery



### PAIS MEMBERS GARDEN TOUR

The garden tour was a wonderful success, even though we missed peak bloom at most of the gardens. In addition to the iris blooms, Carolyn shared her home and studio filled with her paintings, Linda proudly displayed several of her newly blooming seedlings and the Luebkins garden on the golf course was a true delight.

### *Welcome New Members*

JANNETT (JAN) CONWELL

KATHY SISLEY

CRISTINA ZEPEDA

### PAIS OUTREACH PROJECTS

By Dennis Luebkin

PAIS has become a model to Region 15 and the national AIS on what can be accomplished when an organization is focused outwardly on community outreach and not inwardly on just the club itself. That success is due mainly to the willingness and focus of PAIS members to go outside the box to bring to fruition our mission statement to teach iris horticulture and the beauty of growing irises to the public.

We have been successful in those endeavors from the Marcusen Sculpture Garden at Yavapai College, the Memorial Garden at Embry Riddle, and even Sharlot Hall Museum. At each of these locations the public and staff of each venue enjoy the beauty that PAIS has helped to create in a cooperative effort with the community. We have recently been asked by both Yavapai Community College and Embry Riddle University to expand the gardens which we have implemented. The spring bloom at these two locations and at Sharlot Hall Museum was beautiful this year. I have received comments from staff and visitors concerning the beauty at each location.

Our work at the Citizens Cemetery, teaching about irises in the local elementary schools and Yavapai College classes on irises for the Olli Group has been very successful in the past and we have been asked to continue these programs this year and into the future. I want to thank the members of PAIS for their dedication to our community projects. We have been asked again to speak about irises to various garden groups both in the Prescott area and in the Phoenix area.

PAIS has recently received two prestigious designations for our work in the Sculpture Garden. Please see the article below which is a reprint of the Courier May 27<sup>th</sup> item regarding the Sculpture Garden.



### RICHARD MARCUSEN SCULPTURE GARDEN RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS AIS DESIGNATION

The Richard Marcusen Sculpture Garden, at Yavapai College in Prescott, has just received two prestigious designations by the national American Iris Society (AIS). The first designation by the American Iris Society is that of an AIS National Display Garden for the sculpture garden's combination of low water use iris plantings

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provided by the Prescott Area Iris Society in conjunction with the display of sculptures of local and nationally recognized artists. A plaque with the designation will be provided to PAIS to place in the garden. The garden has also been designated as a national Historic Iris Preservation Display Garden for its collection of the William R. Dykes Medal irises. The William R. Dykes Medal is the highest award that can be achieved by iris hybridizers for the development of a new and unique iris variety. Along with plantings including the children's Story Book Garden, the Black Iris Garden and the Francelle Edwards iris collection, the sculpture garden provides a unique blend of native and naturalized plant materials, walkways, seating areas and mountain vistas. The Yavapai College Foundation, the Friends of Yavapai College Art and the Prescott Area Iris Society, a combination of public and private cooperation, have contributed to creating a place of beauty and enjoyment for the college community and the public. These prestigious designations were formally announced by the President of the American Iris Society at their 2016 National Convention in Newark, New Jersey in May. The gardens peak bloom season is during mid-May to the end of May. PAIS has the only two display garden designations in the southwest United States.



### Thank You from Embry Riddle University

From an email received by Dennis Luebkin on May 10, 2016

Dennis and Dede,

Just wanted to pass on to you that the Iris Garden is in full bloom at the Chapel. We held a family memorial this morning. The flowers are beautiful.

Thanks to you and the other members of the Prescott Iris Society for your forethoughts, generosity and efforts in creating a wonderful addition to the campus.

Sincerely,

Steve Bobinsky

Executive Director of Development

**Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University**



Hotshots Memorial outside the Hass Memorial Chapel, Embry Riddle University



Rare Quality—Hass Memorial



Ascent of Angels—Hass Memorial

## REGION 15 SPRING TREK 2016

By Dennis Luebkin

As President of PAIS I am also a member of the AIS Region 15 Board. Being an R-15 Board member gives me the wonderful opportunity to meet and discuss ideas and opportunities with other R-15 Presidents, officers and club members from other AIS affiliates. Having attended these meetings two to three times a year for the past 4 years has given both Sharon and I along with other PAIS Board members the opportunity to make new friends in other iris communities. It has given us the opportunity to listen and learn along with answering questions from other affiliates on what we do and why PAIS is so successful. On April 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Sharon and I had the opportunity to attend the Region 15 Spring Trek hosted by the San Fernando Valley Iris Society in Burbank, Ca. The weather and the gardens were beautiful. Four gardens were visited by bus during the Trek. Each wonderful in its own way.

Last year PAIS had the opportunity to host the Region 15 fall trek which is mostly an educational event. Many of you were involved in this event and are aware of the two years of preparation and work that it took to put this event on. The Spring Trek is an even larger event with iris hybridizers donating enough new iris introductions and seedlings of theirs to be planted in four gardens in a particular geographic area for two years in differing area microclimates both in temperature, elevation and rainfall so



Renee Fraser's Garden

that their performance in varying gardens can be judged both for beauty of the bloom and performance in the garden. The gardens we visited by bus were the Randy and Betty Squires garden in North Hills, CA; The Kathleen Lang garden in Northridge, CA; the Rene Fraser garden in Simi Valley, CA; and the Loren and Helen Zeldin's garden in Reseda Ranch, CA. Approximately 90 iris introductions and seedlings were displayed in these gardens to be judged. Hybridizers contributing to the judged displays were Ghio, Hedgecock, Kasperek, Deaton, Lauer, Moorhead, Piscitello, Squire, Sutton, Duncan, Edwards, Price and Tasco.



Kathleen Lang's Garden

The speaker for the event was Dell Perry from Plano Texas who is an expert on Arils and Arilbred Irises. There were three judges training sessions for those looking to be AIS Judges. Sharon and I attended these sessions and have now moved from student judge to apprentice judge.

The weekend event consisted of the garden tours, judge's trainings, banquet dinner, awards and speaker program, a raffle and silent auction running from 7:00 am to 10:00 pm. Long days but well worth it. On April 21-22, 2018, Sun Country Iris Society in Phoenix

will hold the hold the spring trek. Save the date and be sure to attend this wonderful event. They are very informative and beautiful garden events. You get to exchange ideas information make friends and just have a good time.

## PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE MARCUSEN SCULPTURE GARDEN

BY DENNIS LUEBKIN

PAIS has been invited to two meetings with the Yavapai College Foundation this year to discuss expansion of iris plantings in the Sculpture Garden. Patrick Beatty and I attended those meetings. Several things have come out of these two meetings. The College wishes to expand the plantings of irises throughout the existing Sculpture Garden. The College will be expanding in the near future the size of the Sculpture Garden to include the area west of the



existing wash and would like PAIS to assist in the planning of additional iris plantings in that area. The existing irrigation system in the current Sculpture Garden will be reworked to include new larger irrigation lines and drip system for the additional irises and other plantings. The College will create raised beds made from native rock and imported soil to accommodate new iris plantings throughout the garden.

We have suggested that several different types of irises be included in the new plantings which would add diversity to the garden and extend the bloom season. 1) Adding additional Irises to the Francelle Edwards collection. 2) Introducing additional varieties. These proposed varieties would include Historic Iris, Species Iris, and Spurias hybridized by the late Dr. B. Charles Jenkins. Some of these iris would be donated by Darol Jurn of Sedona, a current

member of Sun Country Iris Society in the valley. The majority of the Spurias will be donated by the family of world renowned educator, researcher, agriculturalist, geneticist, author and hybridizer Doctor B. Charles Jenkins. Dr. Jenkins is responsible for development of numerous strains of grains and wheat including the development of Triticale.

Dr. Jenkins was a prolific hybridizer of Spurias as his hobby. The species called Spurias are quite beautiful but look and grow differently from the tall bearded varieties. They have flowers of a different shape and the plants are taller with leaves (fans) somewhat grass like, being thinner and ranging in height from 2 to 5 feet. They provide a distinctive height factor and bloom versus being low and spreading like the current bearded iris in the sculpture garden. Although the soil amendment and growing conditions are similar to the TB varieties Spurias do not increase as quickly and only need to be divided once every 6 to 10 years.



Innovator spuria—Marge Larson

PAIS appreciates the opportunity to continue a growing relationship with Yavapai College and the Foundation to enhance the beauty of the Sculpture Garden and provide a place of beauty for the Prescott and Yavapai College Community. See the article herein concerning AIS display garden certification of the sculpture garden.

## SUMMER IRIS CARE

DENNIS LUEBKIN

Our spring bloom season is just about over and the warm dry weather is here until July when we will receive our monsoon rains. Our irises have spent a lot of energy to produce bloom and are now taking a rest. Irises are in a phase of rejuvenation. They are producing food and replenishing the plant sugars and energy spent during the bloom season. They will begin their summer growth period producing additional increases off of the mother rhizome so don't divide them yet. It will take about 30 to 60 days to complete this process. Here are some things to consider for summer care.

**Cleaning and Weeding:** Cut down spent bloom stalks about 3 inches above the rhizome. Keep your iris beds free of dead leaves and weeds. Cut off any seed pods since they rob the plant of energy.

Remove the dead fans by pulling or cutting. Leave all green growth on the plant. One thing to note is that the fans that are not dead or dying back are still producing food for the rhizome during the summer. If the fans are dead remove them since the dead fans will harbor the eggs of Thrips and Aphids.

Check the rhizome and either uncover the top of the rhizome or push the rhizome back into the ground and cover the roots but keep the top of the rhizome uncovered.

Look for root rot. As you clean, check for the smell of rotting fans and rhizomes. If the rhizome is soft, take action immediately. Comet or Ajax cleanser is good to use on the rhizome. Sprinkle the cleanser on top of the rhizome which will help dry out the rhizome and kill bacteria and fungus.

**Fertilizing:** If you grow re-bloomers, you can give them a dose of fertilizer now and water them thoroughly.

A multi-purpose food such as Arizona's Best all purpose food 10-10-10 is still recommended or use Best 6-24-24XB which also contains sulfur and iron which is wonderful for strengthening the irises during this dormancy and increase process. All purpose rose foods are also good.

**Watering:** Watering is dependent on our weather. With our hot dry weather setting in keep your irises watered once a week until monsoon rains begin in July. Check the soil moisture by digging down about 3 inches if the ground is dry give the iris a deep watering. You may need to do this more frequently as temperatures begin to warm, especially if you are at a lower elevation.

**Composting:** Composting you have done during the winter you can use in your irises beds when you dig your irises beginning in July. Good composting provides you with good vegetative matter to add to your beds in the summer when you dig, divide and transplant your irises.

**Digging and Dividing:** July is the time to begin digging and dividing your irises. July 4<sup>th</sup> is a good gage for starting your digging and dividing. Our summer sale is coming July 30 and 31 so be sure to separate some for the marking party and sale. See our web site <http://prescottirissociety.org> or look at your iris care sheets on how to dig, divide and separate your irises. For those not sure what to do, watch for additional information prior to the Marking Party.



Seed pod on Scoonchee-Vera Stewart



Get Back- Ruth Simons

Rare Breed Arilbred-Katy Standhardt

## Members Iris—Spring 2016



Kissed by the Sun—Barb McCurry



Slovak Prince—Bill Walter



Avery's Hugs—Bill Walter



Pinky Ring SDB—Barb McCurry



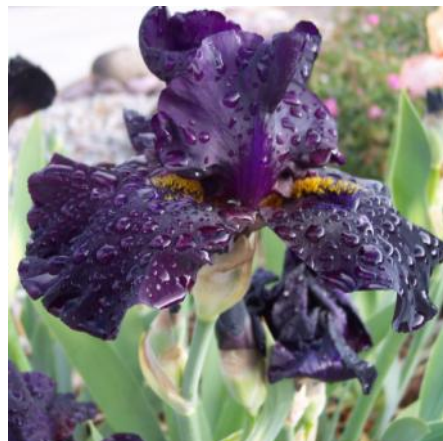
Coffee Song—Kathleen Shafer



Dawn of Change—Kathleen Shafer



Buckwheat—Jean Cole



Old Black Magic—Jan Conwell



Dawn Glory—Jan Conwell