



# Prescott Area Iris Society

Volume 16 Issue 2

April 2019

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## *Presidents Message ~ Sherry Williams*

Hummingbirds, butterflies, & flowers – OH MY! This is going to be an amazing spring. With all our rain and snow, everything is happy. Our lakes are full, our rivers & creeks are running, the buds are starting, our trees are flowering & the bees are buzzing. What a wonderful year. But, make sure you get all your babies fertilized, we recommend a 6-24-24 now. Check for aphids and thrips – they love all the new growth also. We also have heard that the gophers have already started their ‘harvesting’ of our lovely rhizomes, bulbs & roots.

With all the new growth expected we are going to have a spectacular year at our public gardens. Saying that – we also need to make sure we keep them cleaned up, weeded, fertilized, trimmed, etc. We have a clean-up scheduled at the Yavapai Sculpture Garden on the 12th. We have done one clean-up and it’s been fertilized, but we need to make sure it looks great for the AAUW event. ALL volunteers are welcome! (We’ll have donuts, if that helps get you to join us.)

Our Spring Show is May 4th at Mortimer’s Nursery in the greenhouse. We will be looking for volunteers at the meeting on the 13th for set-up, for the show and for tear-down. This is a great fundraiser for us and helps us fund our scholarships, education programs & the Yavapai Foodbank, so this is an all hands-on deck event.

We are known for our Show/Exhibit and folks come from all around the state to Prescott for this event. We have hundreds of potted iris we will be selling that were left from last year’s rhizome sale (we potted approx. 1000 and we know that most made it through the winter). Kudo’s to Brenda Griffin for babysitting our little ones since last September.

We hope that everyone will enter numerous iris varieties to bring to this year’s event. You can bring irises to enter the People’s Choice Exhibit, and Floral Arrangements or just share some of your beautiful irises on the Granny’s Table Display. The more the merrier. All are welcome!!

See everyone on April 13th at the Stoneridge Community Center



### IRIS NEEDED

#### *‘Ready Set Show’*

*- Iris demo -*

Dennis has requested if any PAIS members have irises in bloom to use for the demonstration, please bring them. Cut the stalks as close to the rhizome as possible.



*April 13th*  
**Spring Potluck Lunch**  
1:30PM to 3:30 PM  
Stoneridge Community Center

**CONTACT US**

**President:** Sherry Williams [duckwalkdesigns@gmail.com](mailto:duckwalkdesigns@gmail.com)  
**1st Vice President:** Kellie Smith [mrsautowizard@hotmail.com](mailto:mrsautowizard@hotmail.com)  
928-237-6019  
**2nd Vice President:** Kathleen Shaffer [koicats@sbcglobal.net](mailto:koicats@sbcglobal.net)  
928-642-4594  
**Secretary:** Robin Walter [redstickrob@gmail.com](mailto:redstickrob@gmail.com)  
**Treasurer:** Eugene Zielinski [eez55@earthlink.net](mailto:eez55@earthlink.net)  
**Director at Large:** Barb McCurry [bj4mccurry@hotmail.com](mailto:bj4mccurry@hotmail.com)  
**Membership:** Loretta Bresof [bresof@cableone.net](mailto:bresof@cableone.net)  
928-775-8701  
**Publicity:** Bill Walter [Tasmania@cox.net](mailto:Tasmania@cox.net)  
**Sculpture Garden:** Dennis Luebkin, [dluebkin@g.com](mailto:dluebkin@g.com)  
**Hospitality:** Joanne Moorhouse 928-445-2559

**Newsletter:** Vicki Hughes [vimticki@hotmail.com](mailto:vimticki@hotmail.com)  
Cynthe Brush [mudwoman@greyvisual.com](mailto:mudwoman@greyvisual.com)

**PAIS website:** <http://prescottirissociety.org/>  
Prescott Area Iris Society  
P.O. Box 11918,  
Prescott, AZ 86304



**2019 PAIS  
General Meeting  
Please Join Us for our**

*General Meeting  
& Pot Luck*

**April 13, 2019  
1:30PM to 3:30 PM  
Stoneridge Community Center  
1300 Stoneridge Dr.  
Prescott Valley, AZ 86314**



*'Ready, Set, Show'  
selecting & preparing  
iris for the exhibit  
Our Presenters:  
Dennis & Sharon Luebkin*

**Best Wishes to our friends with  
April & May Birthdays!!!**



- |       |    |                  |
|-------|----|------------------|
| April | 5  | Bridget Bernardi |
| April | 12 | Amy Williams     |
| April | 15 | Robin Walter     |
| April | 19 | Cynthe Brush     |
| April | 22 | Dennis Luebkin   |
| April | 24 | Adrian Lane      |
| May   | 22 | Emily Lane       |
| May   | 24 | Helene Rupp      |
| May   | 24 | Vicki Hughes     |



**Next PAIS Cleanup ~ Sculpture Garden, April 12th**  
**PAIS Member Volunteers Needed!**  
~ Dennis Luebkin

A Sculpture Garden Cleanup has been scheduled for April 12<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 to 11:00 am. This cleanup will be prior to the big AAUW scholarship fund raiser in the garden; so we want the garden to look great for the event. Although, we have a scheduled date which we hope many of our members will attend, there are also other opportunities before then to assist in the cleanup. If anyone can spend a few hours during the week to clean up the irises; please feel free to go to the Sculpture Garden and do some cleanup. Any time you can spare will help and be greatly appreciated. Thank You for your cooperation. Keep track of your time at the garden and contact Dennis at [dluebkin@q.com](mailto:dluebkin@q.com) and we will get you your **Iris Bucks**. Sherry Williams will be heading up the clean up on April 12<sup>th</sup> please contact her at [duckwalkdesigns@gmail.com](mailto:duckwalkdesigns@gmail.com) and let her know if you can be there.



***Notice for the Spring Exhibit*** ~ Dennis Luebkin

For all members who are sitting pots or are contributing potted irises to the Spring Exhibit and potted iris sale; please send a list of your irises to Judy Book [jbookaz@gmail.com](mailto:jbookaz@gmail.com) indicating the name of the iris and the quantity of each you are providing. If you do not have the name, but know the color, give the color on the list. All irises must be received on Friday May 3<sup>rd</sup> at Mortimer's for sorting and placing on tables.

We also need everyone's help to volunteer for setup on Friday, work the exhibit/sale and tear down on Saturday. Please see (page 4) the information in this newsletter concerning positions to fill and times. A sign-up sheet will be passed around at the meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup>. If you are not



**Kaleidoscope of Color Iris Show  
May 3-4, 2019**

**Exhibit Volunteers**

Activity	Time	Name-AM	Name-PM
Transport supplies from storage in PV to Mortimer's starting at 9:00 AM	May 3rd at 9:30 AM	Kathleen, Sherry, Barbara, Judy	X
Transport pots from Brenda's to Mortimer's starting at 9:00 AM	May 3rd at 9:30 AM	Kellie, Bill, Dennis, Brenda	X
Show setup - tables/chairs/coolers arriving at 11:00 AM	May 3rd at 11:00 AM until complete		X
<b>Day of the show on May 4th</b>			
Take in new entries	8:00-9:30 AM		X
Staging display tables	7:45-9:45 AM		X
Greeters and clicker counters	9:45 AM-3:00 PM All day		
Potted plants Arranging & restocking	10:00 AM-3:00 PM		
Planting demo			
Iris display mentoring	10:00 AM-3:00 PM		
Kids/education/ membership	10:00 AM-3:00 PM		
Cashiers	9:30 AM-12:30 PM 12:30 PM-3:00 PM		
Talliers to assist cashiers	9:45 AM-1:00 PM 12:30 PM - 3:00 PM		
Select winners/staging iris inventory	2:00 PM-2:45 PM		
Awards presentation (1)	2:45 PM		
Photographers	All day		
Cleanup crew	3:15 PM		

## Spring Iris Care ~ by Dennis Luebkin

It is now the beginning of April and spring has sprung in the Prescott area. Our daytime temperatures are warm, night temperatures for the most part are mild. Flowers are blooming, the trees are leafing out and our irises are showing substantial growth either blooming (Crimson King) or showing bloom stalks. We have had a wonderful moisture this winter which is wonderful for our irises. With our irises growth increasing so are the things we need to do in our gardens. Here are a few tips:

**Cleaning:** If you have not cleaned around your irises now is the time to do that. Remove dead fans and old bloom stalks. Also clean any leaf debris from around the rhizomes and remove any soil from the tops of the rhizomes caused by freeze thaw. Remember the rhizomes like some light and air. This will also help prevent rhizome rot. If you should notice any soft rhizomes during cleanup you can apply some Ajax or similar cleaner on top and around the rhizome. The chlorine will assist in killing the bacteria causing the rot. Remove weeds so they do not compete with the irises. Remove dead flower stalks. Keep weeds and grasses under control.



**Fertilizing:** If you have not fertilized your irises you can use Best 6-24-24 (nitrogen-phosphorus-potassium) fertilizer around your irises. A good 10-10-10 general garden fertilizer with other trace elements and minerals such as iron, calcium, magnesium, sulfur, boron, manganese, copper, zinc also is helpful for the overall health of the irises. Nitrogen promotes good overall growth and green fans. Phosphorus and potassium help in the development of a strong root system, resist disease and produce abundant bloom.

**Pest control:** Thrips and aphids lay their eggs at the base of the fans and with the warmer weather they are beginning to become active. See above for the Bayer fertilizer. You can also direct spray Malathion on the infestation of insects. Soap and water will also reduce, but not eliminate, the insect problem.

**Watering:** With the weather becoming warmer we need to watch our watering for the bloom season. We have been blessed with gentle rains this spring but with the onset of warmer weather watering will need to be more frequent to produce good bloom, about once a week. If the ground begins to look dry check 3 inches below the ground to see how moist the ground is if it is dry water with a deep soaking.

This should be a great year for bloom. Happy gardening!! See you at the next meeting and the Spring Exhibit.



Cherry Tart SDB ~ Brenda's



Eleanor Roosevelt ID ~ Cynthe's



Wine Spritzer SDB ~ Barbara's

## How Do Our Gardens Grow? ~ Dennis Luebkin

Part of the mission of the Prescott Area Iris Society (PAIS) is to “stimulate an interest in irises throughout the Prescott area ... and by holding public exhibits. What better way to achieve this than to create public iris gardens for the community to enjoy. We now have three: the Sculpture Garden at Yavapai College, Sharlot Hall Museum Historic Iris Garden, and the Fire Fighters Memorial Garden at Embry-Riddle University.

Our gardens are not only known in the Prescott area but also in AIS Region 15, and nationally by the national American Iris Society. PAIS has received accolades nationally for its volunteer work in creating these unique gardens. This year Sherry Williams submitted The Sharlot Hall Historic Gardens to the Historic Iris Preservation Society and we recently received the official designation as a National Historic Iris Display Garden.

It is the time of the year to look at doing our spring cleanups for our bloom season in our public gardens. We are expecting many visitors to see the blooms at the Sculpture Garden, Sharlot Hall and Embry Riddle University. The Sculpture Garden will be open to the AAUW, Arizona Association of University Women. Who will do their annual Spring Scholarship Fund raiser in the garden. We will be providing docents at this event to tour the gardens with the participants of this events. We need to do a clean up prior to this event.



Our gardens grow with our care. We have had one cleanup and fertilization event at the Sculpture Garden and a cleanup and planting at Sharlot Hall. The weather both days was beautiful and perfect. Having driven up from the valley to work on



both days; it was truly disheartening and sad to see that the four hardy regular volunteers were the only ones that came to both events. The saying ‘many hands make light work’ is true only if everyone shows up. There are things that each one of us can contribute at each cleanup. We have another cleanup at the Sculpture Garden on Friday April 12th to finish the cleanup of the irises prior to the AAUW event. We hope that more of our members will join us to make the irises look good. Bill Walter will lead this event since Sharon, and I will be at the funeral of a family member on that day in the valley. If you can attend, please contact Bill Walter or Sherry Williams. We need your help. Volunteer days are a time to learn, share, meet others, and enjoy the gardens.

Our three public gardens will be exceptionally beautiful this year, having had two seasons on our plantings along with great moisture this winter. The bloom will be phenomenal! Both the bearded irises and the new Spuria’s should be in full bloom providing a spectacular display.

The Sculpture Garden with its various garden areas has done very well this year.

The Gardens at Sharlot Hall with the addition of the Grace Sturtevant Collection and 24 pre1900 and pre1910 irises will be a treat.

The Memorial Gardens at Embry Riddle, expanded last year overlooking Willow Lake, will be a feast for the eyes.



We look forward to seeing more of you at our volunteer days to keep our gardens in prime condition for our community and spring bloom visitors.

## *Report on Last Year's Rhizome Dig ~ Bill Walter*

Here are photos just so y'all can see the results of all those leftover/puny/injured rhizomes from our adventures last year in others' gardens. I didn't know that these would do much, but I'm surprised at how well so many of them seem to be doing, having had such a rocky childhood. They're mostly still puny, and I doubt there will be many blooms in the next couple months, if any. But next year should see a plethora of blooms and mayhaps a double dose of rhizomes for us to sell! Saturday I counted roughly, or I should say "roughly counted", some 450 separatable rhizomes. Iz separatable a word? It dun't have a squiggly red line under it, so I guess so. But, alas, I also lost quite a few in the monsoon floods last year...looks like about 50 (I "roughly counted" 49). I hate to haveta admit it, but about half of the deceased were from Vera's garden. 😞 Since hers were dug up after all the others, they should've been the freshest; they were certainly among the most gorgeous. All of hers were at the beginning of each of the 4 rows up to the white tags, which you prob'ly can't see. All 4 rows were raised above the rest of my 'pumpkin' patch, but apparently less so at the beginning. So I hope all the good rhizomes we potted at Brenda's last year are going gangbuster's (see photos of Brenda's).



These 4 rows are planted along my old drip lines with 1-ft drip spacings (that's when I was new and naive to think that 1-ft spacings would be enuff -- boy, it didn't take me long to learn that lesson!). Each line has 25 drip points. And there are 2 to 4 rhizomes at each drip point, except for a few that have 6. So they're going to get crowded quickly. Come August, I'll need to dig 'em up and separate them. I'd rather keep them in the ground, as they do so much better than in pots, leastwise for me, but I may have to pot some, as I don't know that I'll have enough drip points for all of 'em.



## *Potted Iris at Brenda's ~ Sherry Williams & Brenda Griffin*

Last year after the rhizome sale we potted 1055 iris. Some we know the name of, some we only have a picture of, and some we don't know what they are or what they look like (NoID). There are 30 or so Dennis is babysitting, 60 Loretta's and around 450 planted at Bill's.

That folks is a LOT of iris.

Benda says "Losses over the winter were somewhere around 65 with certain varieties hit very hard. Example: **Beverly Sills** started with 45 and lost 17. Beverly were questionable to begin with, so not surprised at the loss." Not all of these will come to the Spring sale. Those that are NoIDs will be kept until they bloom, so we can either ID them or get a picture (we don't want to sell anything that is totally unknown). Struggling iris will also be left to grow another year until they are strong healthy plants.



So what does this mean? We are going to have an awesome show & sale this year of some amazing iris. We need all hands-on deck to help us set up and manage the crowds that are going to want to see what we grew, bring theirs to show us and buy our pretties for their gardens.



See signup sheet on Page 4.

# SHARLOT HALL IRIS GARDEN HISTORICALS PRIOR TO 1900 AT THE SCHOOLHOUSE

March 26, 2019

Thank you Dennis, Diane & Katy for the new planting. Looking good!  
Here are some of these old lovelies...



Gracchus



Plumeri



Mexicana



Mrs. Horace Darwin



Cordelia



Queen of May



Fabian



Khedive

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Princess Beatrice



Mrs. Reuthe



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