



NEWSLETTER

JANUARY-MARCH 2022

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2021 Year in Review

Well, 2021 wasn’t such a bad year. We had a successful Spring sale, although we really, really miss being able to get together to admire the irises on exhibit. Hopefully we will be able to return to that soon, but apparently our pandemic isn’t finished with us just yet. Our online iris store has proven to be a wonderful way to continue our sale despite the restrictions and we can thank Brenda Griffin for taking such good care of our potted irises and allowing us to hold the pickups at her home.

We had a wonderful in-person (yippee) Rhizome sale last summer. It was great to be able to open the doors and let everyone come share the rhizomes, discuss the colors and look for special addition(s) to their gardens.

Our meetings last year were informative and always amazing when we can get together. I have said since I became a member, this is not just a group of gardeners and iris lovers, it is a group of friends.

We had a great ice cream social & photo contest in September with Gary Miller sweeping up the top win. Everyone needs to get out their cameras and shoot some photos for the contest this spring – Gary needs competition. The photo contest is being moved to June, so be ready with your camera and take photos of iris. Last year the monsoons were wonderful, so we should have an amazing bloom this spring.

We had an amazing Region 15 Fall conference. Members of the Region 15 clubs met at our rodeo grounds and had a wonderful time. Our speaker, Jim Hedgecock was awesome, and we are so happy he was able to get here from Missouri with all the travel hiccups. We have had nothing but rave reviews, so kudos to all that helped put the conference together.

Thanks to our successful online spring and summer rhizome sales, we were able to continue our \$1000.00 scholarship for Horticulture students at Yavapai College and contribute to our endowment for these students. We also contributed to the Yavapai Food Bank, the Prescott Community Cupboard Food Bank, and to the Nature Conservancy in Francelle Edwards name.

I want to thank all of our members for an amazing year and to thank you for letting me be your president that last 4 years. I look forward to continuing to work with everyone as treasurer and am excited for an amazing 2022 with Dennis Luebkin at the helm.

Sherry Williams



Raising the Bar



Global Crossing



Mauie Wowie

*Bob Van Liere’s iris introductions
photos from his website*

Presidents Message

Happy New Year and Greetings to All,

To all our previous members welcome back and to our newer members we look forward to meeting you at our February 19th meeting. We hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday season. We are looking forward to a year of being able to meet, having great speakers, activities, fun and renewed garden activities.

Last year was a busy year for PAIS with rework of the Dykes Medal Garden, and the Storybook Garden at the Yavapai College Sculpture Garden along with volunteer work at Sharlot Hall Museum, and the Hot Shot Memorial Garden at Embry Riddle.

We also hosted the Region 15 Fall Conference for AIS affiliate clubs in Arizona and southern California. I recently attended the winter board meeting for Region 15 at which PAIS was congratulated on a job well done on hosting the Fall Conference here in Prescott last October. I want to thank Brenda Griffin, her team and all our volunteers for a great job in putting on this event.

As we look at this year's plans, our focus will be several volunteer work days at our public gardens, hosting our online spring potted iris sale, our summer rhizome sale and our fall programs. Unfortunately, we are still seeing the Covid/Omicron pandemic continue and surge at this point. In that regard the board has decided not to hold the spring iris show this year to protect both our members and the public from unnecessary exposure to Covid. We request all of our members to continue social distancing and wear a mask at all PAIS events this year.

PAIS is not only an Iris Society and non-profit, horticultural organization, we are also an organization which is involved in our Tri City Community. One of our missions is to teach about the cultivation of irises which grow very well in the Prescott region. PAIS not only has the three Gardens which are highlights of the community from April to June with beautiful displays of irises, we also are involved in giving to back to the community.

The funds that we receive from the sales of our irises each year go back into the community. Portions of our funds support two current scholarship funds at Yavapai College in Yavapai County. The first is the PAIS Horticultural Scholarship of \$1,000.00 which supports horticultural students each year. More recently PAIS has established a \$10,000.00 Endowment for horticultural education named the PAIS-Francelle Edwards Endowment which is currently 60% funded. We hope to have this completely funded in the next two years. We also donate to the Yavapai Food Bank and other charities as deemed necessary each year. Portions of our fund raising also supports our three gardens for needed supplies. PAIS is one of only a few AIS affiliates across the country that has a scholarship program and public gardens. Our community has supported the work of PAIS and it is only right that we give back to our community in tangible ways.

We are looking forward to a great year with the participation of our members volunteering their time and talents on committees, and volunteer days for events and workdays in our gardens to keep them beautiful for the community to enjoy.

This year we have had some changes in our Board membership. I would like to thank the following people for the wonderful job that they have done over the past several years. Sherry Williams as Past President, Eugene Zielinski as Treasurer, Barb McCurry as Director at Large. Some of our board members have moved into other positions on the board and we thank them also for their continued dedication. All of our current, past board members and committees have done a fantastic job and we thank them for their hard work.

Hope to see you Saturday, February 19 at our meeting.

Best Regards, Dennis Luebkin

CONTACTS

President: Dennis Luebkin

1st Vice President: Marty Boxer

2nd Vice President: Vicki Hughes

Secretary: Jeri Conklin

Treasurer: Sherry Williams

Director at Large: Kathleen Shaffer

Membership: Robin Walter

Publicity: Dennis Luebkin, Sandra Schilling

**Community Gardens: Dennis Luebkin , Kathleen Shaffer,
Diane Thornbrugh**

Hospitality: Deb Wade, Vicki Hughes

Newsletter: Jean Brennan

Meeting Location: Stoneridge Community Center

1300 Stoneridge Drive, Prescott Valley

Prescott Area Iris Society

P. O. Box 11918

Prescott, AZ 86304

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1048378225226372>

<https://prescottirissociety.org/>

president@prescottareairissociety.org

Bob Van Liere February 19 Presenter

Bob owns a 3 acres iris farm near Denver, Colorado where he began hybridizing iris in 1998. He has introduced 60 iris and is constantly stiving for good form, vibrant color combos, good bud count and stamina. Out of 4000 seedlings, he may keep 10-20 iris which may turn out to be worthy of introduction. He has won American Iris Society awards for Global Crossing, Sweeter Than Honey and Mayan Mysteries.

View photos of Bob's iris at:

<https://theamericanirissociety.blogspot.com/2015/08/the-tall-bearded-irises-of-bob-van-liere.html>

and visit his website Iris4U:

<https://www.iris4u.com/>



Photos by Susanne Holland Spicker from the AIS *World of Irises Blog*, August 30, 2015.

Winter Iris Care

Dennis Luebkin will also give tips for winter iris care. Plan to attend our meeting, Saturday, February 19, 1:30 pm, Stoneridge Community Center, Prescott Valley.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Jan 1st: Lori Collison

Jan 4th: Jean Brennan

Jan 11th: Barbara McCurry

Jan 24th: Angela Denis



Feb 1st: Candis Peters

Feb 3rd: Catherine Van Klombenburg

Feb 11th: Constance Van Klombenburg

Feb 17th: Bill Walter

Feb 23rd: Diane Thornbrugh

Feb 28th: Betty Ziffer

Mar 1: Cheryl Dreska

Mar 5: Marilyn Campbell

Mar 9: Stan Book

Mar 11: Loretta Bresof

Mar 12: Marty Boxer

Mar 12: Joella Cheek

Mar 13: Sherry Brown

Mar 13: Victoria Van Klompenberg

Mar 14: Vera Stewart

Mar 21: Joyce Knill

Mar 17: Judy Book

Mar 31: Loretta Lyall

Treasurer's message

At the crossover board meeting held earlier this month, the board approved the budget for 2022.

The following is a summation of the approved budget.

Income

Spring sale & Rhizome Sale	\$11,000.00	
Membership	600.00	
Misc. Income - interest, etc.	366.00	
	Estimated income	\$11,966.00

Expenses

Administrative expenses These include expenses for our meeting, rhizome sales, storage unit, P.O. Box, handbooks, our 3 public gardens & credit card fees	\$10,473.00	
Yavapai College Scholarship	1050.00	
Yavapai College Endowment	2000.00	
Other donations	500.00	
	Estimated expenses	\$14,023.00

Board and Committee Member Introductions

Barb McCurry, Photographer, Facebook Admin.

We retired from the Forest Service and moved from the Grand Canyon to Prescott Valley in 2010. Our home had trees, shrubs and grass, but no flowers. I saw irises blooming in our area and decided to attend a PAIS Iris Rhizome Sale at Sharlott Hall in 2011. I was promptly signed up as a member and thus began my education in everything iris. Since joining PAIS, I've served as secretary, vice president, director-at-large, and Spring Iris Show coordinator. I'm transitioning to iris garden photographer and PAIS Facebook administrator with Judy Book as my mentor. Irises never cease to amaze me, but even more amazing are the talented fun-loving members whom I am privileged to call my friends. With Iris Smiles, Barb McCurry.



Board and Committee Member Introductions Cont.

Dennis Luebkin, Current PAIS President.

Dennis worked in Civil Engineering for 42 years before retiring in 2009. Dennis was previously President of PAIS from 2013 to 2017. He also has done publicity for PAIS since 2012 to present and has been Sculpture Garden Chairperson for the past three years. He teaches iris classes at Yavapai College with his wife Sharon in April and is an American Iris Society Show and Garden Judge. His interest in Irises and horticulture began at an early age through his aunt and father in New York who grew irises during the 1940's and 50's. After a hiatus of 20 years from gardening Dennis was attracted to the beautiful iris gardens at Shepard's Iris Nursey in Phoenix in the mid 1980's. He caught the Iris Virus of which there is no cure shortly thereafter. Dennis has been a member of PAIS since 2010 with his wife Sharon.



Luebkin garden 2013,2014

Sharon Luebkin, Education Chairperson

Sharon worked as a teacher for 25 years before retiring. Sharon's interest in iris developed with Dennis and her mother who grew irises in Prescott. She established the PAIS Youth Educational Programs "Growing Irisarians" which PAIS conducted in public and private schools in the Prescott area prior to Covid. Our iris education program is one of only a hand full in the country. Our education program will hopefully continue next year. Sharon also co-teaches iris classes with Dennis at Yavapai College. She is an American Iris Society Show and Garden Judge. Sharon has been a PAIS member since 2010.



Sandy Schilling, Publicity Committee

My grandma in Oregon sent me irises from her garden over 20 years ago. I didn't know it then but she had grown iris all of my life! I grew my historic iris (poorly) in Phoenix. It's amazing wrong. After moving to Chino Valley, I found about 100 rhizomes on the vacant land that I bought. I did more research about how to care for them and, of course, my Mom and I had to plant them all including our Phoenix survivors! We had no idea what we were going to get the next spring. Every single rhizome grew and flourished - 100's of white iris! I found PAIS as the iris bloomed and discovered the thousands of options we had. I am hooked but still have so much to learn from our amazing members. It's such a pleasure to be able to volunteer to help at the Sharlot Hall Museum and the Yavapai College Sculpture Garden. I'm excited about spreading the word about PAIS.



they survived. I know now that I did everything



Board and Committee Member Introductions Cont.

Jeri K Conklin, Secretary of PAIS

I have always admired irises and had them at most every place we have moved. Being military and moving every 2 years, I really didn't get to see them bloom more than once or twice. At our last home prior to moving to Prescott Valley, I had these gorgeous irises and got to watch them bloom for 4 years. I brought one rhizome with me to here and am hoping it blooms here this year. I never knew there were iris societies and all that goes with them! I happened to see the advertisement for the July 2021 rhizome sale and came just to see what it was. Needless to say, I collected a large number of rhizomes that day and met some of the nicest people. Everyone was so welcoming and ready to share information with a newcomer. I of course joined PAIS and have not looked back. I currently have 300+ rhizomes planted and hoping most will bloom this year. Someone suggested I keep diagrams of what I plant where for future use when they bloom, and the name tags are missing. So, I did and 8 beds later, I have it all documented. This is the iris that started it all. I believe it is called "Fall Fiesta" though I am not sure. I am looking forward to being your secretary for the next few years and learning all I can about growing irises.



Robin and Bill Walter, Membership Chairman & Database Manager

We are Robin & Bill Walter, a refined and cultured Australian and a hillbilly from the Ozarks. After sweltering in Baton Rouge for 50 years (Bill for 42 & Robin for 8) we moved to Prescott - 'from the swamps to the desert'. Bill, an American Camellia Society National Judge, couldn't get camellias to survive out here for more than a few weeks. So, the obvious next choice was IRISES. So, how do you get all the information on iris care? Obviously by joining PAIS.



I'm a 'black thumb' gardener, but who doesn't like being among some of the most stunning flowers in the world? So I decided to go to some events and really enjoyed them. One of the nice people we met, who's initials are *Judy Book*, called me one evening asking something about crafts and then sneaked in, "you know PAIS is in need of a Secretary". She was so sweet, how could I turn her down? In the meantime, Bill had started an Access database for membership. After a couple of years, I resigned from my position as Secretary and took over the Membership Chair, which works really well as we live in the same house!



We have had some fun times and have made some great friends by being a part of this wonderful group!

The American Iris Society

...is generously offering **one FREE year of membership** - valued at \$30 - to any **NEW** members joining the Prescott Area Iris Society between March 1st, 2022 and May 31st, 2022. This offer is only open to new members. So, encourage your iris friends to join us.

ITALIAN BREAKFAST CASSEROLE

INGREDIENTS

1 lb pork sausage
8 eggs
3 cups milk
8 cups (about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch) cubed French bread
2 cups of shredded Italian blend cheese, divided
1 cup fresh mushrooms, sliced
1 tomato, seeded & chopped
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup chopped green bell pepper

SEASONINGS

2 tsp dried parsley
1 tsp sugar
1 tsp coarse ground fennel seeds
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp coarse ground black pepper
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp salt
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp garlic powder
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp onion powder
 $\frac{1}{8}$ tsp ground nutmeg
Small amount red pepper flakes (optional)



Preheat oven to 350° F. Cook fennel seeds in a large skillet over medium-high heat for 2 minutes to release the fragrant aroma, add remaining seasonings and sausage, cook for around 10 minutes or until cooked through, stirring frequently.

Beat milk & eggs in a large bowl until well blended. Add bread cubes, stir gently to coat all. Stir in sausage, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup cheese, mushrooms, tomato & bell pepper.

Pour into lightly greased 13" x 9" baking dish, sprinkle with remaining cheese.

Bake 45 - 50 minutes or until knife inserted in center comes out clean. Buon Appetito!

From Robin Walter, Membership Chairman.

Deconstructed Chili Relleno Breakfast Casserole

prep time 10 mins

Course: Breakfast, Main Course

Cuisine: Mexican Servings: 10 cook time 45 minutes

Ingredients

2 14.5-ounce cans diced green chilies

1 lb. Monterey Jack shredded

1 lb. cheddar Colby jack cheese shredded

½ cup Colby jack or Mexican blend cheese shredded

5 large eggs

¼ cup flour

1 ¼ cup milk

1 teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon powdered dry mustard or 1 tbsp of Dijon mustard

Cooking Spray



Preheat oven to 350 degrees and spray a 9x13 glass dish with cooking spray

Open & drain each can of chilies. Pour the diced chiles into the bottom of the dish.

Sprinkle the Monterey jack cheese on the chilies

Sprinkle 1 ½ cups of the Colby jack cheese on top of the Monterey Jack

In a separate medium size mixing bowl combine eggs, flour, milk, salt, and dry powdered mustard (or Dijon) and whisk until most of the clumps are gone (some may remain)

Pour over egg mixture & chilies

Bake uncovered for 40 minutes. Add ½ cup of Colby jack or Mexican blend to the top of the casserole and return to the 350-degree oven for an additional 5 minutes or until firm

Remove and allow to sit for 5 minutes before serving.

Note: This can be prepared the night before, covered and refrigerated overnight and baked the next day.

Submitted by Sherry Williams

Winter Fruit Salad Recipe

Prep Time: 15 minutes

Total Time: 15 minutes

Author: Natasha of NatashasKitchen.com

Calories: 211

Servings: 6 as a side salad



Ingredients

Winter Fruit Salad Ingredients:

1 lb 5 count Clementine oranges, peeled and separated into segments
2 pears, cored and sliced
2 apples, cored and sliced
1 large pomegranate, to get 1 to 1 1/2 cups arils or seeds
4 kiwis, peeled and sliced

Lemon Lime Syrup:

3 Tbsp honey
2 Tbsp fresh lime juice, from 1 medium lime
2 Tbsp fresh lemon juice, from 1 medium lemon

Instructions

In a large mixing bowl combine all prepared fruit - 5 segmented clementines, 2 sliced pears, 2 sliced apples, pomegranate seeds, and 4 sliced kiwis.

In a measuring cup, combine: 3 Tbsp honey, 2 Tbsp lemon juice and 2 Tbsp lime juice, until honey is dissolved. If honey is not dissolving easily, warm for 10 seconds in microwave.

Drizzle dressing over salad and toss gently to combine. Serve right away or cover and refrigerate if not serving right away.

Recipe Notes

On Substitutions: Adding banana is an inexpensive way to bulk up the salad for a larger crowd. The color and flavor of mango would be a nice add-in here as well.

Submitted by Sherry Williams