



# PRESCOTT AREA IRIS SOCIETY

August 2013

Volume 10, Issue 5

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to All,

A lot has happened in PAIS since the May Show. What a busy and exciting summer 2013 has been. It has been hectic, but it has been fun also, spending time together as a club and getting to know each other better. We had a Citizens Cemetery dig in June to get rhizomes for the initial plantings at Sharlot Hall Museum and for the sales. We could smell the smoke from the Yarnell fire and see the still smoldering fires on Granite Mountain, and hear the slurry bombers in the distance. It was a warm day, but we started early and were done by 9:30. We had a great turn out and many members met at JB's for breakfast after the dig.

On July 13<sup>th</sup> we had our Sculpture Garden dig to clean the garden and thin the rhizomes to be sold at the sales. Again we had a very good turnout. Thank you Bonnie, Stan and Judy for organizing that. We worked, shared, talked, and wept during our time in the Sculpture Garden as we mourned the loss several days earlier of Prescott's Granite Mountain Hot Shots and the loss of homes in Yarnell; Dan Schroeder's home being one of them. As we worked and accomplished much, we also talked about creating a memorial garden to the firefighters in the Sculpture Garden. We are actively pursuing this idea and will discuss this with the Friends of Yavapai College Friends of Art in the near future. This has been a sad time in the Prescott community and we hope to be able to honor those brave men in some small way. We look forward to your participation in the development of this memorial garden. Stay tuned for further information. Barb and Joel McCurry are assisting in this effort since they worked for the forest service and were involved in fire fighting. Keep Joel Mc Curry in your thoughts and prayers as he heals from triple by pass surgery.

Our next event was the Marking Party at the Luebkin's which was a fun event. We accomplished a great deal. Thank you Sharon L. for hosting this event. We began at 8:30 and wrapped up at 1:30. Fortunately it was a relatively cool day and most worked in the shade of the trees, under canopies and in the garage. We stopped for lunch and to celebrate Sharon Luebkin's birthday. Over 250 varieties of iris were donated from member gardens and the garden of the late Linda Smith whose husband offered to donate them if PAIS came and dug them. I would like to express my personal thanks and that of PAIS to Candi Peters, Marge Larson, and Kathleen and TG Shaffer who helped organize, dig and clean those iris for the sale. They were assisted in digging by several of the past VAIS members in the Verde Valley. It was a lot of work to do what these individuals did both for the club and for Linda's husband. Our marking party was well attended with cleaning, marking and packaging tables

*(Continued on page 2)*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### MEMBERS ONLY

August 17

**Ice Cream Social/Silent Auction  
Potted iris from the San Diego  
spring trek ready for  
transplanting**



September 21

**Photo Contest, Guest Speaker**

October 19

**Region 15 Fall Meeting  
Lancaster, CA**

November 16

**Speaker TBA  
Officer Elections**

View thumbnails of the auction iris by clicking on the pdf attachment sent with this email. For larger photos visit:

<https://plus.google.com/photos/115489023983494842295/albums/5909033640154115729>

Click on the photos to start the slide show and enlarge the photos. If you have problems, email Judy [jbook@cableone.net](mailto:jbook@cableone.net) or call 928-776-7217.

all going at the same time. We had 18 people come to help in addition to those that worked in Cottonwood digging and cleaning iris.

Our Sharlot Hall Museum sale was tremendous on July 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. Thank you Judy and Stan for organizing the sale. We had a great turnout of 22 volunteers to work the sale. People from all over the state came to buy iris. We were almost sold out by the end of the day on Saturday, so we went home and dug more irises for the Sunday sale which was also a great sales day. Again we ran low on iris and had to dig more for the Chino Valley sale.

Our next sale came on Friday August 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Lavender Tea House. It was another successful day. We had 10 volunteers for this sale. Our thanks to Linda Nedbalek for the use of the Lavender Tea House grounds for the sale. Both of the sales were financially successful and have provided needed funds to support the projects that PAIS has undertaken this year.

We have also had success with our education program in the public schools. Sharon Luebkin has been invited to teach iris curriculum at Miller Valley School. The lessons she developed include geography, history, science, music and art all revolving around the iris. It's a first step, but maybe in the future we will have a new group of young irisarians to carry on.

During the sale at Sharlot Hall Museum on Saturday morning four volunteers began the work of amending the beds and planting the first of the new Sharlot Hall Museum Historic Iris Gardens at the museum. We planted a portion of the area between the School House and Fort Misery with iris from the years 1500 to the late 1800's. Thank you to the volunteers that assisted in that project. We received many positive comments from both the Sharlot Hall Museum staff and visitors to the museum who commented they couldn't wait to come back in the spring to see the bloom. The staff at the museum is very excited to see the



Photos by Kathleen Shaffer

project get in the ground. The Sharlot Hall Museum Historic Iris gardens project has really taken

off. The Historic Iris Preservation Society (HIPS) was contacted and placed notices on their website to explain what PAIS was doing at Sharlot Hall Museum. The response has been overwhelming with PAIS receiving free donations of historic iris from all across the US and Canada for only the cost of postage. Sharlot Hall Museum may become the premier public historic iris gardens in the Southwest showcasing iris from the year 1500 to 1943. We will have two articles this fall in the Region 15 fall publication and two articles in the HIPS *Roots* fall publication. Keep your eyes open for them.

We want to thank all those members, spouses, non members and Master Gardeners who have volunteered for these events and projects. It is through your response and efforts that the events and projects are successful. We have gained several new members this summer. We look forward to meeting the new members and to seeing you all at the Silent Auction and Ice Cream Social on August 17<sup>th</sup> at Sharon Phelps home. (See page 5 for details.) We will have some spectacular new iris from Region 15 to auction off. Check the newsletter for other meetings and activities in the coming months.

Best Regards to All,  
Dennis Luebkin

**Welcome New Members**

Jean Cole  
Sue Crabtree  
Cheri Ditto

Dede Erceg  
Carol Hartivigsen

Judy Reynolds  
Leigh Skellenger  
Sharon Sundvall

## RHIZOME SALE SHARLOT HALL MUSEUM



Photos by  
Kathleen Shaffer

WOW! Thanks to so many of our members, we have earned well over \$8,000 in sales this year of rhizomes and potted iris beginning with the sales at Farmer's Market, potted iris which were sold at our Iris Show in May and ending with the three different sale days of rhizomes at Sharlot Hall Museum and Chino Valley. AFTER EXPENSES OF ABOUT \$1300 (including a \$400 donation to Sharlot Hall Museum for use of their wonderful facility and returning a portion of potted iris sales to Region 15). YEAR-TO-DATE WE HAVE NETTED OVER \$7,000 IN INCOME.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF YOU WHO DONATED AND POTTED RHIZOMES, SPENT TIME CLEANING AND MARKING RHIZOMES AND WORKED THE SALES. YOU ARE FABULOUS. A special mention of Dan Schroeder, who although he was having to deal with the fire in Yarnell that destroyed his home, found time to dig and contribute 95 iris rhizomes to our sale. Those particular iris that survived the Yarnell fire were sold rapidly the first day at Sharlot Hall Museum.

Twenty-five volunteers worked tirelessly during the 3 days of rhizomes sales plus more members who handled the Farmers Market sale in May, helping to sell at least 266 varieties of rhizomes. Customers came from Phoenix, Flagstaff, Kingman and cities and towns in between. GOOD JOB DENNIS, getting the word out! And a special note, historic iris dating from 1848 and 1860 dug at the Citizens Cemetery in Prescott were also made available for the sale. If you missed purchasing iris that were available this year, you may have another chance to find some of those next year at our Iris Show. We have potted rhizomes that were not sold this year. *Sharon Phelps*

## Why Sharlot Hall Museum?

On the first day of our sale at Sharlot Hall Museum, while helping to plant the first of the historic iris garden, I was asked by a young woman who was visiting the museum why we would plant iris gardens at the museum. I'm sure there are others who have asked the same question, so let me lend some background to why PAIS has selected to develop these Historic Iris Gardens at Sharlot Hall Museum.

PAIS and the Sharlot Hall Museum have a long standing relationship. We hold our largest annual two day sale at the museum each year and make annual donations to the museum. My wife and I are both members of the museum and volunteers. Several of our members are also members of the museum and/or volunteers there. Many of the staff at the museum are interested in iris and ask me questions on how to grow them each time I visit. They recognize me as being from PAIS and call me the "iris man".

PAIS has been investigating and seeking a venue for the creation of a Historic Iris Garden in the Prescott Area for several years. Although other locations have been investigated, PAIS felt that Sharlot Hall Museum was a top contender and a most desirable location. Although there are a few non-commercial iris gardens across the country, iris gardens in public venues are few. Historic iris gardens are quite rare. There are no public historic iris gardens in the Arizona and none in the southwest. Most of the public iris gardens occur in the Midwest, East Coast states, the Northwestern states and California. Venues which have iris gardens see several hundred to several thousand people annually come through the gardens during the bloom season which is generally April through June. People love iris. Iris are nostalgic and they remind people of earlier times, of parents, grandparents and great grandparents that grew them. Our iris displays at the Sculpture Garden at Yavapai College are a favorite venue during the bloom season with staff, students, and visitors from both in state and out of state coming to enjoy the display.

Iris have a long history in America. The settlers of the west brought iris with them from their homes in the east. Iris, from the late 1700's to the mid-twentieth century, were the most popular flower in any garden of that period. They were the Queen of the Garden for 150 years. Nearly every garden of that period had iris. They were planted in home gardens, ranches, farms, wealthy homes and poor shacks. They were the hardiest of plants and flowers, being able to adapt to almost any climate. The first record of iris in America dates back to the Jamestown Colony in Virginia. The iris in use at that time had origins that were as early as the year 1500. Those same iris traveled west with the settlers of the Prescott area and some of these earliest varieties can now be found today in the old Citizens' Cemetery in Prescott.

In deciding to create the historic iris gardens, Sharlot Hall Museum was selected by PAIS for several reasons. The Sharlot Hall Museum offers the historical and cultural emphasis which matches the time frame of the historic iris suggested for display. The climate of the museum site is a more temperate climate in the area, not excessively cold nor excessively hot and dry. The elevation of approximately 5200 feet is desirable for growing iris of many varieties that have difficulty growing in other areas. It is also a venue where the iris can be displayed appropriately by time period along with the architecture and culture of that period. Sharlot Hall Museum provides a unique opportunity to display and enhance the museum campus by providing a historic garden setting. Existing iris gardens display only iris without their relation to the period architecture or culture of the time. The location of the venue is also in the heart of the tourist district. The museum's location provides a unique a place to display these gardens and the iris contribute an additional draw for the museum during the bloom season.

Historic iris, especially some of the older varieties, are difficult to come by. Numerous varieties that will be planted at Sharlot Hall Museum are considered rare, some very rare. Upon investigating certain iris varieties, it was thought by some experts at the [Historic Iris Preservation Society](#) (HIPS) that several of these varieties had been lost or were no longer available. PAIS did in fact locate some of these older iris varieties that were thought to be unavailable. It is for these reasons that PAIS decided to proceed with this historic garden project. This project has gained the interest of both the American Iris Society and HIPS. After placing a description of what was proposed at Sharlot Hall Museum on the HIPS website, the flood gates of response opened. PAIS has received donations of historic iris for this garden project from numerous private and public sources across the US and Canada. PAIS thanks the HIPS and AIS Region

*(Continued on page 5)*

15 communities for their response and support of this project. These gardens, when finished, will truly be a showcase garden display for our community as is the Sculpture Garden at Yavapai College. We consider this historic iris project and our relationship with Sharlot Hall Museum to be important and a project of note in beautifying our community which we can all take pride in. This long term project will take several years to complete.

One of the donors to this project is Barrie Freeman currently of California. He is a member of HIPS. He grew up in Prescott and his father was on the Sharlot Hall Museum Board of Directors in years past. He heard about this historic iris project and was delighted to send a donation of many historic irises to be planted at the museum in memory of his father who loved the museum.

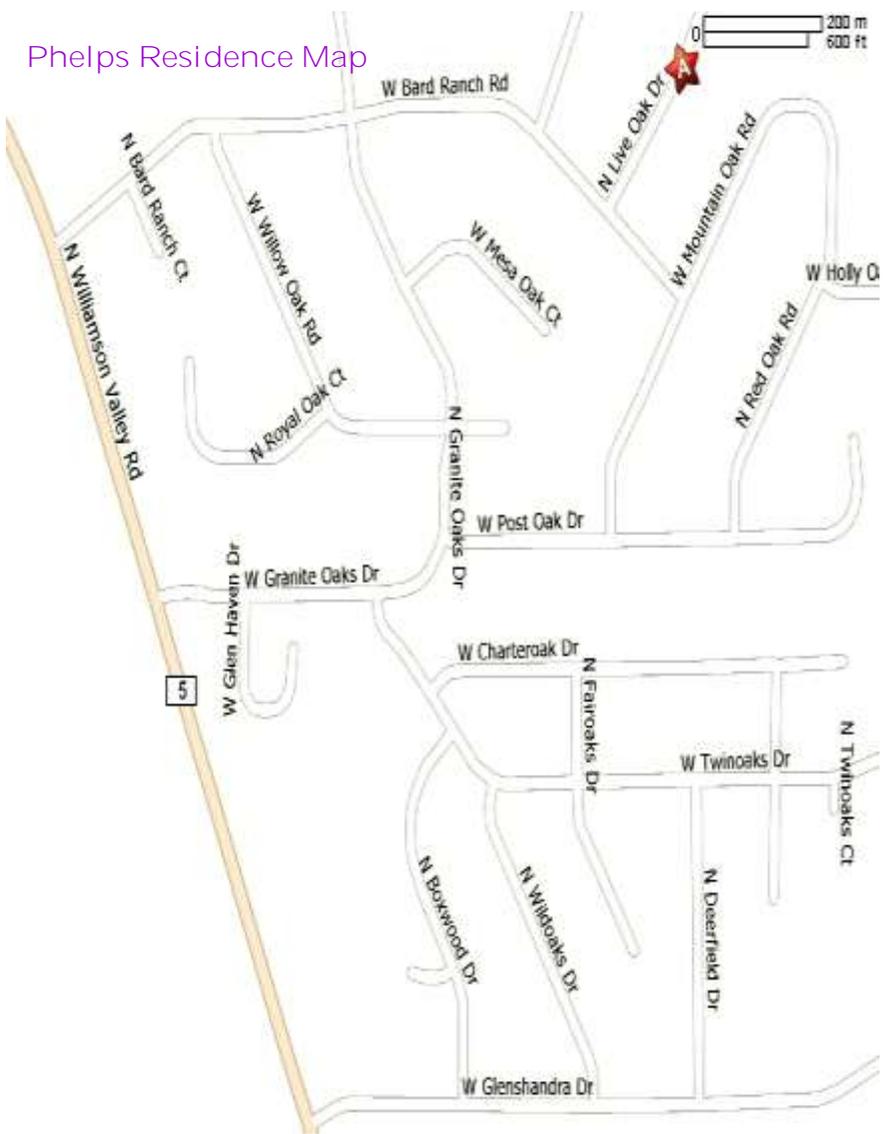
Oh, and by the way, after the explanation I gave to the young woman who originally asked the question of why gardens at Sharlot Hall Museum, she introduced herself as a member of the Parks Board for the City of Glendale, AZ and asked if we could do gardens at one of their historic park sites for the City of Glendale. Upon hearing that I thanked her for the interest in the project, but I politely said no, we only do this volunteer work in Prescott.

If you are interested in assisting in this project please contact Dennis Luebkin at [dluebkin@q.com](mailto:dluebkin@q.com) . One requirement for volunteering for this project is that you must also be on the volunteer list at the Sharlot Hall Museum for their insurance purposes. No cost involved. You can contact Dennis to pick up a copy of the volunteer form or contact Gayle Yungman at [gayley@sharlot.org](mailto:gayley@sharlot.org) and tell her you're with PAIS on the iris project and she will send you a form. We thank you for your support on this project. Dennis Luebkin, PAIS President

**AUGUST 17**  
**ICE CREAM SOCIAL/ SILENT AUCTION**  
**Don't miss the social event of the season. Meet and greet new and old members, set aside your diet and splurge on some ice cream with out of this world toppings. Then mosey over to the silent auction table to view the potted iris and their photos. These newly introduced iris sell for \$20-\$50, but our bids start at \$5. Don't miss this opportunity to make new friends and buy several more outstandingly gorgeous iris at bargain prices.**

**View the photos of the iris:**  
<https://plus.google.com/photos/115489023983494842295/albums/5909033640154115729>  
See page 8-9 for a list which you can use to create your "bid" sheet.

**Phelps Residence Directions**  
8480 N. Live Oak Dr. 717-1051  
Bard Ranch Road from Iron Springs and the Wm Valley Road intersection is north about 7 miles. Turn east on Bard Ranch, left on Live Oak, to the fourth house on the left. 8480 N. Live Oak. THERE IS A CIRCLE DRIVEWAY SO DRIVE ON IN THE OPEN GATE AND ENTER OUR HOUSE THROUGH THE DOUBLE WOODEN GATES



## LATE SUMMER IRIS CULTURE

- \* Remove any brown leaves, leave the healthy green leaves.
- \* Divide crowded Iris beds and replant (every 3-4 years)
- \* Reblooming iris: divide and transplant every year or two for better results.
- \* When transplanting, apply bone meal and/or superphosphate and a light application of fertilizer (10-10-10) to help give the plants a healthy start in their new location. Some members have had excellent results adding alfalfa meal to the soil.
- \* When planting new iris and your divided iris clumps, label your iris with weather-proof plant markers. Create a map of your garden beds to help identify your iris year to year.
- \* We will have plant markers for sale at the August 17 meeting, 25 @ \$10.00.
- \* Keep Iris beds free of weeds. With our recent rains, I am sure you have a bumper crop of weeds.

### PAIS CONTACTS

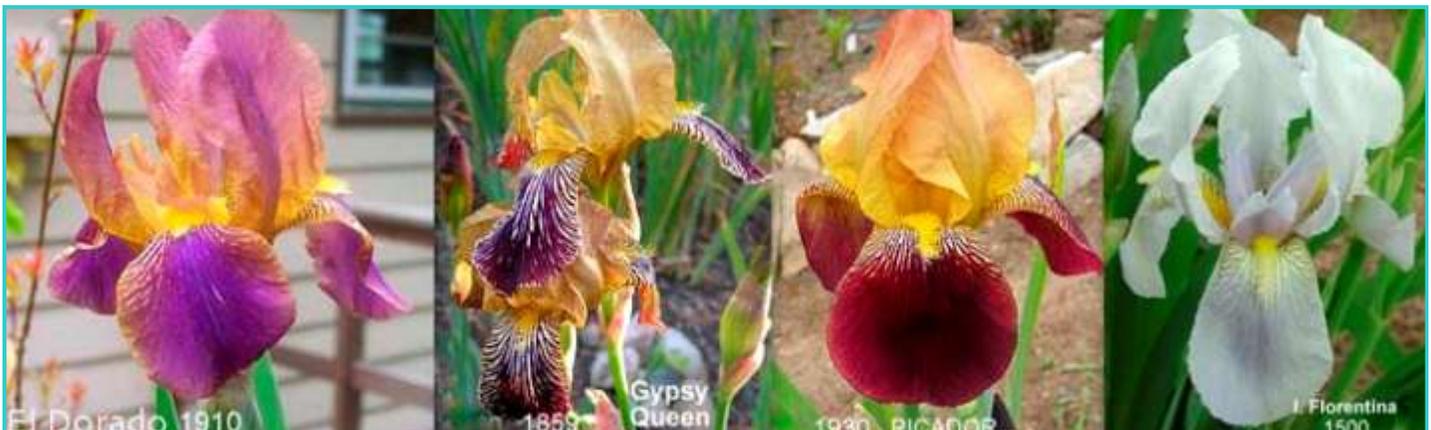
President - Dennis Luebkin [dlobkin@q.com](mailto:dlobkin@q.com) 623-980-6627  
 Vice President - Kathleen Shaffer [koicats@sbcglobal.net](mailto:koicats@sbcglobal.net)  
 Secretary - Barbara McCurry [bj4mccurry@hotmail.com](mailto:bj4mccurry@hotmail.com)  
 Treasurer - Sharon Phelps [ssphelps12@gmail.com](mailto:ssphelps12@gmail.com)  
 Membership - Sharon Luebkin [sluebkin@q.com](mailto:sluebkin@q.com)  
 Sculpture Garden - Bonnie Sekenske [bsekenske@gmail.com](mailto:bsekenske@gmail.com)  
 Newsletter Editor - Judy Book [jbook@cableone.net](mailto:jbook@cableone.net)  
 PAIS website: <http://prescottirissociety.org/index.htm>  
 American Iris Society website: <http://irises.org/>  
 Iris Encyclopedia <http://wiki.irises.org/bin/view/Main/WebHome>

**Happy Birthday**



8/2 Sharon Luebkin	8/18 Sharon Sundvall
8/3 Nancy Floyd	8/29 Susie Otter
8/5 Lee Ashby	8/29 Michelle Snyder

Below is a sampling of some of the iris which will be planted at the Sharlot Hall Museum by PAIS.



To view more historical iris photos, visit the [HIPS](http://hips.org) website.



# *We're looking to you for help!*

*Hi all! It is that time again to work in the Sculpture Garden at the College. We plan on using outside help to prep for amending beds and creating two new ones. BUT FIRST we need a couple of hours of your time to clean up the beds.*

***TWO CLEAN UPS SCHEDULED  
AUGUST 15 & 16th AND 22nd & 23rd (only if second is needed)  
7:30 am***

***NEW MEMBERS, THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY FOR SOME FUN AND GETTING TO KNOW OTHER MEMBERS!!! WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL!!***

*The following are duties for each visit:*

- *Bring gloves, small weeding tool, and perhaps shears, container for dead leaves and debris and drinking water.*
- *Remove spent bloom stalks at the base of plant and any dead leaves*
- *Make sure plant markers are standing and may be viewed. These may need to be moved if the iris stalks obstruct view. For uniformity keep all markers to the left of the plant.*
- *Pull weeds in area where iris are planted*
- *Make a note of the names of any iris that are doing poorly and notify garden chairperson immediately. Sometimes iris rhizomes are found too exposed to the hot sun or even out of the soil entirely (return them to soil)*
- *Check to be sure that the irrigation is still in appropriate places to adequately water the plants*
- \* *Check for insects*

**AS ALWAYS, YOU ARE WELCOME TO GO ON YOUR OWN.... IF YOU CHOOSE TO DO SO PLEASE...** After each visit contact garden chairperson Bonnie Sekenske, [bsekenske@mac.com](mailto:bsekenske@mac.com) so that the date of the visit is logged, problems you found can be addressed, and items needing attention can be fixed. The SG chairperson will keep the maintenance volunteers aware of any planned absence so that an alternate person can follow up as needed.

### Auction Iris 2013

HYBRIDIZER	VARIETY	YEAR IN-TROD.			
			BAUMUNK, L.	EL GRECO	2010
DUNCAN, R.	ARCTIC BURST	2008	BAUMUNK, L.	ELIZABETHAN AGE	2005
CADD, A.&D.	ARCTIC UNICORN SA	2008	GHIO, J.	ENJOYMENT	2011
TASCO, R.	ARTISTIC WEB	2010	BAUMUNK, L.	EXHIBITIONIST	2009
HOWSE, T.	AT THE CROSS	2013	BURSEEN, T.	EXOTIC NOTIONS	2011
DEATON, C.	AVERY'S HUGS	2011	DUNCAN, R.	FANTASY RIDE	2009
CADD, A.&D.	BALLERINA'S PIROUETTE	2004	DEATON, C.	FEELING SPICY TONIGHT RE	2012
SUTTON, M	BATTLE OF THE BANDS RE	2011	PAINTER, J.	FRENCH LAVENDER	2011
TASCO, R.	BLACK MAGIC WOMAN	2008	VAN LIERE, R.	FRESH POWDER	2012
BURSEEN, T.	BLACKBIRD LANDING	2011	SUTTON, M.	GLACIER PARK	2010
GHIO, J.	BOY GENIUS BB	2012	BURSEEN, T.	GLITTER GULCH	2009
LAUER, L.	BUTTERSCOTCH PEACH PARFAIT	2012	AITKEN, T.	GREAT BALLS OF FIRE	2011
VAN LIERE, R.	CALLING CADENCE	2010	AITKEN, T.	HARBOR BREEZE	2011
TASCO, R.	CAMERA READY	2009	CADD, A.&D.	HOPE IS EVERYTHING	2011
GHIO, J.	CARDINAL RULE	2011	BAUMUNK, L.	HOWLING AT THE MOON	2012
LAUER, L.	CARRY ON RE	2010	BAUMUNK, L.	IF NOT FOR YOU	2010
PIERSON, K.	CHAD CURRY	2011	CADD, A.&D.	INNOCENT DEVIL SA	2003
SUTTON, G.	CHARISMATIC	2011	LAUER, L.	IT'S ALL RIGHT BB	2008
PAINTER, L.	CHOCOLATTE	2011	KASPEREK, B.	KICKAPOO KANGAROO	2008
VAN LIERE, R.	CHRISTMAS EVE	2010	LAUER, L.	KING OF THE ROAD	2010
VAN LIERE, R.	COLORADO EXPRESSIONS	2012	KASPEREK, B.	KUDU'Z KUDOZ	2009
CADD, A.&D.	COPPER BUBBLE BATH	2002	CADD, A.&D.	LADY IN PURPLE	2011
SUTTON, M.	CORAL COVE	2010	LAUER, L.	LADY LEIGH	2012
KASPEREK, K.	COYOTE UGLY	2007	CADD, A.&D.	LATE SUNSHINE	2011
AITKEN, T.	CRYSTAL ANGEL	2011	HESTER, D.	LENORA SUZZETTE	2007
KASPEREK, B.	DE NILE AB	2012	BEVIER, R.	LINE OF THOUGHT	2011
SUTTON, M.	DEFINITION RE	2011	LAUER, L.	LIVING ON THE EDGE	2009
CADD, A.&D.	DEVIL DAVID SA	2001	CADD, A.&D.	LOVE IS PINK	2008
SUTTON, G.	DOCTOR WHO	2010	LAUER, L.	MAIN STREET	2009
TASCO, R.	DRAGON KING	2011	VAN LIERE, R.	MAYAN MYSTERIES	2012
SUTTON, M.	EDGE OF THE WORLD RE	2011	DEATON, C.	MEN LIKE ME SA	2007

SUTTON, M.	MIMOSA	2011
VAN LIERE, R.	MONDAY MORNING BLUES	2012
BAUMUNK, L.	MOONGLOW	2010
LAUER, L.	NICE JOB	2011
HESTER, D.	NIGHT FEVER	2007
BURSEEN, T.	NOTTA LEMON	2010
LAUER, L.	OH CAROL	2012
DUNCAN, R.	ONE MORE NIGHT	2010
AITKEN, T.	ORANGE FLUORESCENCE BB	2011
KASPEREK, B.	ORANGUTAN ORANGE	2009
BAUMUNK, L.	PALE FIRE	2009
BEVIER, B.	PARIS ROMANCE	2011
BAUMUNK, L.	PHANTOM SHIP	2007
LAUER, L.	PINK DELICACY	2011
BAUMUNK, L.	POINT COUNTERPOINT	2009
GHIO, J.	POLITE APPLAUSE	2011
CADD, A.&D.	POLITICAL ZOO	2008
DEATON, C.	PUZZLING ALLURE	2006
BAUMUNK, L.	QUEEN ELEANOR OF AQUITAINE	2007
HESTER, D.	RADIANT GARB (3)	2010
STEWART, D.	RASPBERRY LADY	2011
DEATON, C.	RENEGADE LADY	2009
PAINTER, L.	RICH GIRL	2010
PAINTER, J.	RUM AND COKE	2011
BURSEEN, T.	SAMMIE'S JAMMIES	2010
BAUMUNK, L.	SAY YOU WILL	2010
BURSEEN, T.	SEEK THE GLOW	2011
BAUMUNK, L.	SINGLE MALT	2010
PAINTER, J.	SPICE TRADER	2010
PAINTER, J.	SPLATTER MATTERS	2010

PAINTER, L.	STAN COATES	2010
BURSEEN, T.	STUD BOOK STUFFER	2009
GHIO, J.	SUPERHERO	2012
VAN LIERE, R.	SWEETER THAN HONEY	2012
BURSEEN, T.	TOBACCO CHEW	2009
PAINTER, L.	UNDER THE BOARD-WALK	2012
KASPEREK, B.	Z Z ZANZIBAR Species RE	2005