



PRESCOTT AREA IRIS SOCIETY

N E W S L E T T E R

PAIS 2025 Spring Show & Sale ~ Well Done!



Display table of winning iris & floral design entries. | Photo by Gary Miller

I'm sure I speak for all of us, when I say we just had our favorite month of the year. May, of course, when all our iris are in bloom and the gardens are full of color. I still have some late bloomers opening, but for the most part the show is over in the iris bed.

Speaking of shows, we again managed to have a successful iris show and potted iris sale on May 10, 2025. I want to thank the members that did "babysitting" of the potted iris through the winter season. Because of you we had a fantastic sale and sold every single iris we had, YEAH! I also want to thank the dedicated members that helped us on Friday to begin the set up and those members that came Saturday morning the day of the show and sale.

Our team work and group effort always pulls us through to a successful event; regardless of your role, big or small, the tasks are all important for the best end result. There are many names that come to my mind for gratitude, but I do want to give a special thanks to our President, Sherry Williams for her guidance and leadership, and to

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PRESIDENT SHERRY'S MESSAGE

It's summertime and the living is easy – or so the song goes. However, those of us in know realize we have only just begun. Spring was beautiful, but with rather inconsistent results. Some of our gardens were exuberant, while others were a little slower, not quite as tall or no shows. We are hoping for an amazing monsoon this year, much needed, much desired. Coming soon – that good old summertime – is the start of our iris digs. Right after the July 4th celebrations we begin digging irises that have multiplied to a point they need to be divided. We have some in our public gardens, and many of our members have some in their private gardens. If you need/want help let us know. We're happy to help if you have named varieties that need digging.



Our spring sale & exhibit on May 10th was wonderful. We had so many people visit us to exhibit and *ooh & ah* over the lovely displays. We made very good sales of our potted plants – Sold Out! This year, we had many wonderful people volunteer to help set up – a huge thank you to everyone!!

We have had a couple of unique iris buying opportunities this year. Two iris farms – Bluebird Haven Iris Garden and C&T Iris Patch have reduced their plantings or closed, providing an opportunity to buy rhizomes at tremendously discounted prices. We have purchased from both and already received a portion of the rhizomes from Bluebird Haven. We will use the rare cultivars for Guardian Gardens. Others will replace those missing from YCSG.

Our June meeting date has been moved to the 28th at the Stoneridge Community Center. The schedule change is due to Alta Vista Garden Club having their popular Prescott area Garden Tour. This is a great opportunity for you to visit five amazing gardens in our area. (See the flyer in this newsletter on page 9 for more info.)

June 28th is our annual PAIS members' photo contest & ice cream social. Bring your photos and your appetite. See you at the meeting.

~ Sherry Williams, PAIS President



CALENDAR & ANNOUNCEMENTS



2025 PAIS Calendar of Events

Unless otherwise noted, all events will be on Saturdays and held at:

Stoneridge Community Center ~ 1300 Stoneridge Drive, Prescott Valley AZ 86314

The Board of Directors meets at 11am in the Stoneridge Community Center kitchen on the day of the general club meeting next to the room where we hold our regular PAIS meetings from 1:30pm-3:30pm. **Remember!** All members are invited to join us at board meetings. Your comments are always welcome.

Speakers and Guest Speakers will be updated as they are confirmed.

Public Garden Maintenance projects will be scheduled on an as needed basis.

February 15 ~ General Club Meeting: "Is Your Iris Bed Ready for Spring?" - Lisa Fahey, owner of Bloomer-Rang Iris Farm

April 19th ~ General Club Meeting: "Preparing for the Iris Show" - Isabel Olsen | "Photo Contest Tips" - Cynthe Brush

PAIS members "Share your Favorite Snacks" sweet & savory refreshments potluck followed by a tour of the Yavapai College Sculpture Garden Iris Beds

May 9th (Friday) ~ Spring Show & Sale Set-Up, 4pm-7pm

May 10th ~ Spring Show & Sale: Final Set-Up, 7:30am-9:30am. Public Entry 10am-2pm. Clean-Up 2pm-4pm

June 28th ~ General Club Meeting - Photo Contest - Ice Cream Social **DATE CHANGE!!**

July 19th ~ Rhizome Marking Party

July 25th (Friday) ~ Rhizome Sale Set-Up 11am-4pm

July 26th ~ Final Set-Up 9:30am. Public Entry 10am-2pm. Clean-Up 2pm-4pm

August 9th ~ Rhizome Potting Party of unsold rhizomes for our 2026 Spring Sale

September 20th ~ General Club Meeting. Iris Silent Auction Fundraiser.

November 15th ~ General Club Meeting. 2026 PAIS Board Election.

All updates and announcements will be emailed (and included in the newsletter when possible). So be sure not to miss out on all PAIS happenings by keeping your email address up-to-date.

(Left to Right) Judy & Stan Book doing planting demos for new iris growers. Bouquet of historic irises from Sharlot Hall Gardens. Robin Walter & Amy Williams with Cashier duties. Photos Courtesy of Sandra Schilling & Gary Miller via the PAIS Facebook page.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS & BIRTHDAYS

CONTACT US

President: Sherry Williams duckwalkdesigns@gmail.com

Vice President: Isabel Olsen isabelolsen.nmgc@gmail.com

Secretary: Kellie Smith mrsautowizard29@gmail.com

Treasurer: Eugene Zielinski eez55@earthlink.net

Past President: Marty Boxer martin.boxer@asu.edu

Director-at-Large: Kathy Sisley kathy.sisley@gmail.com

Membership: Robin Walter redstickrob@gmail.com

Publicity: Sandra Schilling sschilli9151@gmail.com

Newsletter: Cynthe Brush cynthe.brush@gmail.com

Hospitality: Ida Montgomery & Paula Garat

Membership Database: Bill Walter

tasmania.bill@gmail.com

PAIS Facebook: Barbara McCurry

bj4mccurry@hotmail.com

Historic Iris Society Liaison: Cynthe Brush

YC Sculpture Garden: Marty Boxer & Kellie Smith

Embry Riddle Hotshot Memorial: Kellie Smith

Sharlot Hall Museum Historic Irises: TBA

Prescott Area Iris Society (PAIS):

PO Box 11918 Prescott, AZ 86304

BEST WISHES TO OUR MEMBERS
WITH MAY & JUNE BIRTHDAYS!!!

MAY



Bob Knill ... May 4
Johanna Van Klompenburg ... May 15
Vicki Hughes ... May 24
Helene Rupp ... May 24
Yvonne Morlan ... May 29

JUNE



Linda Gombos ... Jun 2
Sherry Williams ... Jun 3
Greg Glassco ... Jun 6
Mark Reinhold ... Jun 6
David Walls ... Jun 6
Susan Gall ... Jun 14
Gary Miller ... Jun 17
Michelle Snyder ... Jun 17
Isabel Olsen ... Jun 20
Barbara Kyte ... Jun 23
Gerald Rogers ... Jun 29

PAIS 2025 SPRING SHOW & SALE

Article continued from page 1

Kathy Sisley for jumping in wherever needed. Those two ladies wore many hats that week. A big thank you to Angela Denis for running the kitchen and keeping us all fed.

This year Judy and Stan Book gave the demonstration on 'How to Plant Iris Rhizomes' for the new gardeners that attended.

As always, Linda Davis and Heather Blakley welcomed the public that came to the iris show. We had 333 attendees and 128 iris and design entries.



Irises on display in the show venue, potted irises for sale, iris show visitors & shoppers being assisted by PAIS members
Photos courtesy of Gary Miller, Sandra Schilling



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PAIS ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST

**16th Annual
Photo Contest
& Ice Cream
Social**



**Saturday
June 28th 2025
at 1.00pm**

- *Only PAIS members are eligible to enter.
- *Photos must be 8" x 10" and unmatted.
- *Photos can be taken anywhere, anytime but must be taken by the entrant.
- *Photos may only be entered once.
- *You may enter one photo in each of four categories, which are...

Category A: Habitat - Iris landscape or iris scene

Category B: Individual iris

Category C: Artistic – Macro and/or photo-shopped enhancement of iris

Category D: Iris & Others - irises with insects, animals, people...any or all, your choice

Entrants, please come to the 'Photo Contest Registration' table to submit your photo(s), which you have written on the back - your name and the category you are entering it in. Soft pencil or a sticky note will work, so long as it is legible.

No photographer's name will be displayed as it is a 'popular choice' contest.

Everyone who comes to the meeting will be given a voting slip to choose their favorite in each category.

When voting is finished, there will be tallying by our 'very talented talliers'.

Winners & runners-up in all categories, will be announced and prizes will be awarded.

Kellie Smith

PIONEER HOME IRIS GARDEN



A little history about the Arizona Pioneer Home, which sits on a hill at the end of McCormick Street in Prescott. The Pioneer Home was established for aging pioneer miners that could no longer work and had no place to live after contributing so much to Arizona's economy. A bill was introduced in 1909 and signed into law, contingent that the land was donated. Frank M. Murphy donated a 4.5-acre parcel on July 9, 1909 and the building was completed in January of 1911. On April 8, 1916 an addition was opened at the Pioneer home to host twenty (20) women. In 1926, a hospital wing was constructed increasing the floor space of the facility to 53,564 square feet. Today a person must be at least 70 years old and a resident of Arizona for 50 years to be eligible to live at the home. It houses approximately 152 residents, five of whom are miners.

The newest of the PAIS Iris Gardens is at the Pioneer Home, however it is not a public garden. PAIS members donated approximately thirty-four historic and western themed iris for the garden. As of April, the donations have been planted. The current garden being utilized is temporary until the Pioneer Home completes construction of the new iris bed, which will be located just above the current site.



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PIONEER HOME IRIS GARDEN

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SOME IRISES IN THE PIONEER HOME COLLECTION



I. Plicata (aka Swerti)



Melanie



Coronation

Photos Courtesy of
Bluebird Haven Iris
Garden (Rodeo & Snow
Goddess), Nancy
McDonald (Melanie &
Princess Beatrice), and
Cynthe Brush.



Rodeo



Princess Beatrice



Easter Bonnet



China Maid



Sable Night



Snow Goddess

AVGC PRESCOTT GARDEN TOUR



Prescott GARDEN TOUR

Saturday, June 21st

8:00 am - 3:00 pm

- 5 uniquely original home gardens in Prescott

Get Your Tickets Now!

Tickets available starting April 1st online:

- www.AltaVistaGardenClub.org
- \$21 donation via PayPal

Tickets available in person (\$20 donation) starting April 1st at the following locations:

Prescott:

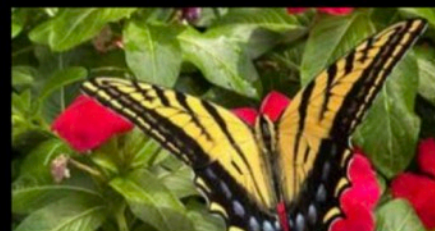
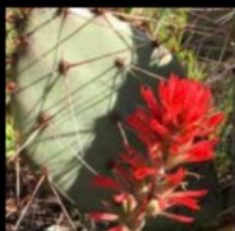
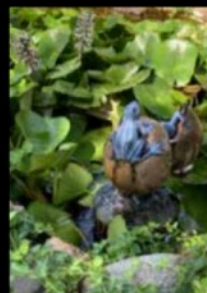
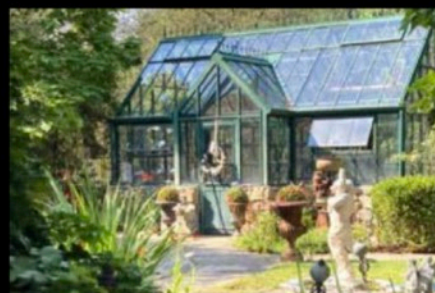
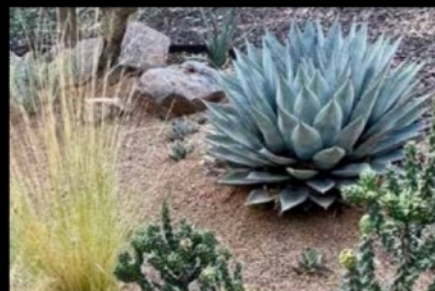
- The Lookout
- Watters Garden Center
- Mortimer's
- The Native Garden

Prescott Valley:

- Rafter Eleven
- Prescott Valley Nursery

Chino Valley:

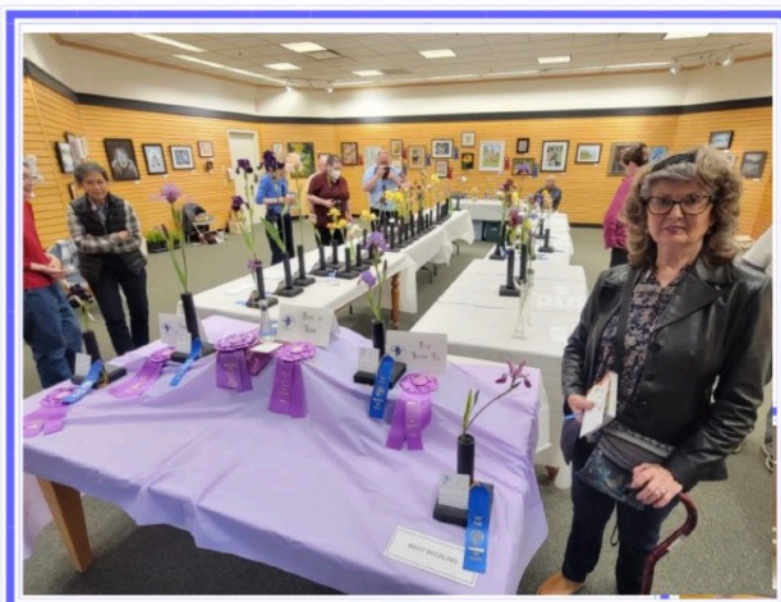
- Earthworks



OTHER NEWS

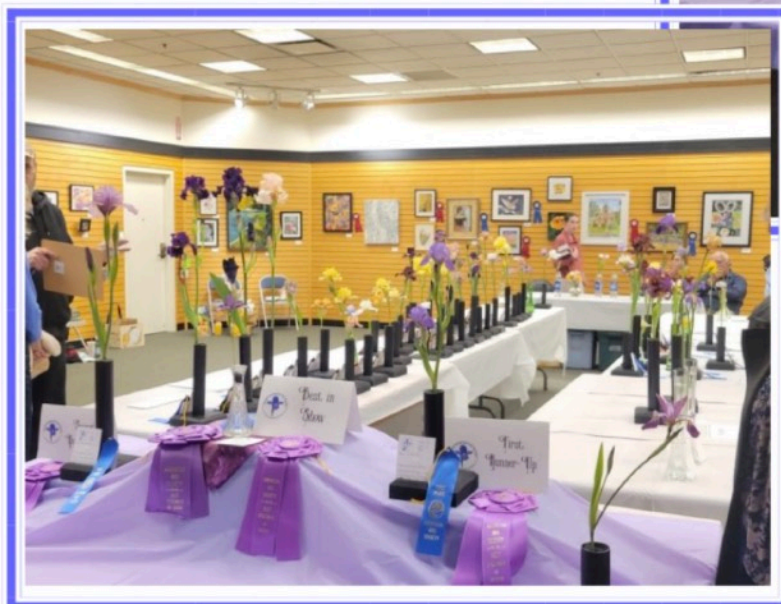
Rochester, NY - Iris Society Show

Sunday, May 25th, 2025



Kathleen Shaffer, Life Member of Prescott Area Iris Society, moved back to her home state of New York where she is very happily settling in, surrounded by family and friends.

She misses her PAIS 'family' and friends so when she learned of the Rochester Iris Society Show, she decided to check it out!



The Show was held in the Community Room of Barnes & Noble.

Kathleen said there were not a lot of blooms on display, but she was surprised by some really different varieties of irises that she had not seen in the West.

Perhaps she will investigate further...hmm!

PAIS 2025 SHOW & SALE

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Top winner of our show was **Loretta Bresof**, winning Best Tall Bearded Iris for 'Silver Skate', Best Peach/Orange Iris for 'Peach Royal', Best Novelty Iris for 'Bye Bye Blues', and Best Artistic Design, Class B 'Sunsets & Nature'.

Isabel Olsen won Best Tall Bearded Iris for 'Splashcata' and Best Median Iris for 'Panshini Charm'.

Olga Zimmerman won Best Tall Bearded with her stunning 'Anvil of Darkness,' which received the most votes from the show visitors.

Sandy Schilling won Best Historic Iris for 'Lemon Mist'.

Marge Larson won Best Beardless for her NoID Spuria Iris.

Katy Standhardt won Best Artistic Design, Class A 'Spotlight'.

Congratulations to all of the winners! Plus a big thank you to everyone who entered the show, making it so delightful for the attendees. **KUDOS to all!!!**

REPORT by Isabel Olsen, PAIS Vice President



(Left to Right):
Loretta Bresof,
Isabel Olsen, Olga
Zimmerman,
Sandra Schilling,
Loretta's 'Sunsets &
Nature' design,
Katy Standhardt.
(Top) Marge
Larson. Photos of
PAIS members and
their winning
entries by Isabel
Olsen & Sandra
Schilling

PAIS APRIL 2025 BOARD MEETING

Meeting, Saturday April 19, 2025 ~ Minutes submitted by Kellie Smith
Meeting Location: Stoneridge Prescott Valley, AZ 86314

The meeting was called to order at 11:08AM by Sherry Williams, PAIS President

February 15, 2025 PAIS meeting minutes were presented by Kellie and approved by the board.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Eugene Zielinski and approved by the board.

During the April general meeting, Isabel Olsen will be handing out '*Ready, Set-Showtime for Irises*', which is a list of do's and don'ts for the Iris Show and Sale on May 10, 2025.

Beans and zip lock baggies will also to be handed out during the general meeting, for members to prepare for the Iris Show and Sale.

Isabel and Cynthe are the guest speakers for this general meeting.

Kathy Sisley, the PAIS Director at Large, has most of the Certificates of Insurance updated for 2025 and will continue until completed.

Cynthe Brush is in charge of the PAIS Newsletter. She will reach out to PAIS board members and other members before the next general meeting, to obtain news worthy ideas. In addition, PAIS members voted during the general meeting to have a summarization of the meeting minutes included in the newsletter.

Robin Walter of membership reported that PAIS currently had 66 family members and two new members.

Soon, PAIS members will be able to securely login to the club's website and find a list of current members' names, email addresses, and phone numbers.

Angela agreed to cover the hospitality duties for the May 10, 2025 Iris Show and Sale.

Garden updates: Sherry handed out signup sheets for each of the PAIS gardens requesting team members to help with clean ups, digs, etc.

Kellie reported that a small group of PAIS members met at the Yavapai College Sculpture Garden (Marty Boxer, Cathy Sar, Cynthe Brush, Heather Blakeley, and Kellie Smith) to remove leaf litter and fertilize all the iris beds. During the cleanup it was noted that several iris clumps would need to be divided before the 2025 Rhizome sale. The irrigation system at YCSG has been fixed and is up and running as April 24, 2025.

The Embry Riddle Aeronautical University Iris Garden has been fertilized and leaf litter cleaned by Kellie Smith and Heather Blakeley. Three of the iris were missing and should be replaced this year.

Sharlot Hall Museum's Iris Garden Beds have been cleaned and fertilized by PAIS members Cynthe Brush and Katy Standhardt and Sharlot Hall's maintenance personnel.

The newest of the PAIS Iris gardens is at the Pioneer Home, however it is not a public garden. PAIS members donated approximately thirty-four (34) historic and western themed iris for the garden. As of April, the donations have been planted. [Read article on pages 7&8 of this newsletter.] The current garden being utilized is temporary until the Pioneer Home completes construction of the new iris bed, which will be located just above the current site.

Meeting adjourned at 12:50PM