Reflections on the AIS Region 15 Fall Meeting

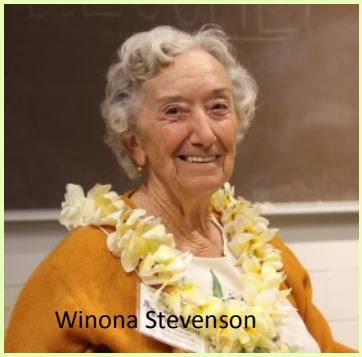
By Lois Farr, President, Orange County Iris and Daylily Club

It was our club's privilege to host the 2014 Fall Meeting on September 27, 2014. We enjoyed the entire process from the thoughtful planning, the exciting roll-out, to the lasting memories of a day well spent.

Initially, as a novice president, I doubted our club, and thought this event way too large for a club of our size. This assignment tested and exemplified the strength of our team. I enjoyed the steady guidance of our executive board as we systematically walked through the process. Thank you to Mike and Elaine Monninger, Jeanie Moeckel, Peggy Sheldon, Bobbie Hogancamp, Derry Gerald, Marilyn Pecoraro, and Fran and Joe Gionet for consistent strength. Thank you too to every club and region member who attended and all who keep this organization churning.

The Huntington Library graciously opened their doors and provided a beautiful setting with full access to their famous gardens. We thank them for more than we could imagine. Adding to that, a picturesque day, what a great time to gather iris friends.

Winona Stevenson directed the business meeting. Each club shared a report of their circumstances, events, challenges and goals, and we discussed region business and needs. It is value added to physically meet and stay current with each other.



Winona Stevenson

Our featured speakers, Riley and Shirley Probst, addressed our questions while tantalizing us with slide after slide of their beautiful reblooming irises. When running short of time, Riley considered interrupting the slide show… but the crowd wouldn't have it. So, happily, we zipped through the entire range of iris slides. What a fabulous way to spend an afternoon – viewing and dreaming of irises, irises, irises actually existing and blooming for many days!

Riley and Shirley Probst

Thank you to the overwhelming generosity of many who gave beyond measure. Paul and Carole Buchheim of Mystic Lake Gardens, Riley and Shirley Probst of Fleur De Lis Gardens, donated many rhizomes, allowing each attendee to carry home samples to tend and care for in their own private gardens. What another privilege.

Thank you too to Cheryl Deaton for her new introduction iris and Rick Tasco and Roger Duncan of Superstition Iris Gardens for gift certificates for 2015 Introductions. Can't wait to see those.

Altogether, a wonderful time. I apologize for failing to mention anyone … so much good will surrounded us, I know much is unaccounted for.

Just as pollination brings new life, so do these iris friends gatherings. We look forward to the next one .. buzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzz ……..

Paul and Carole Buchheim

Photos by Beth Balaney-Train