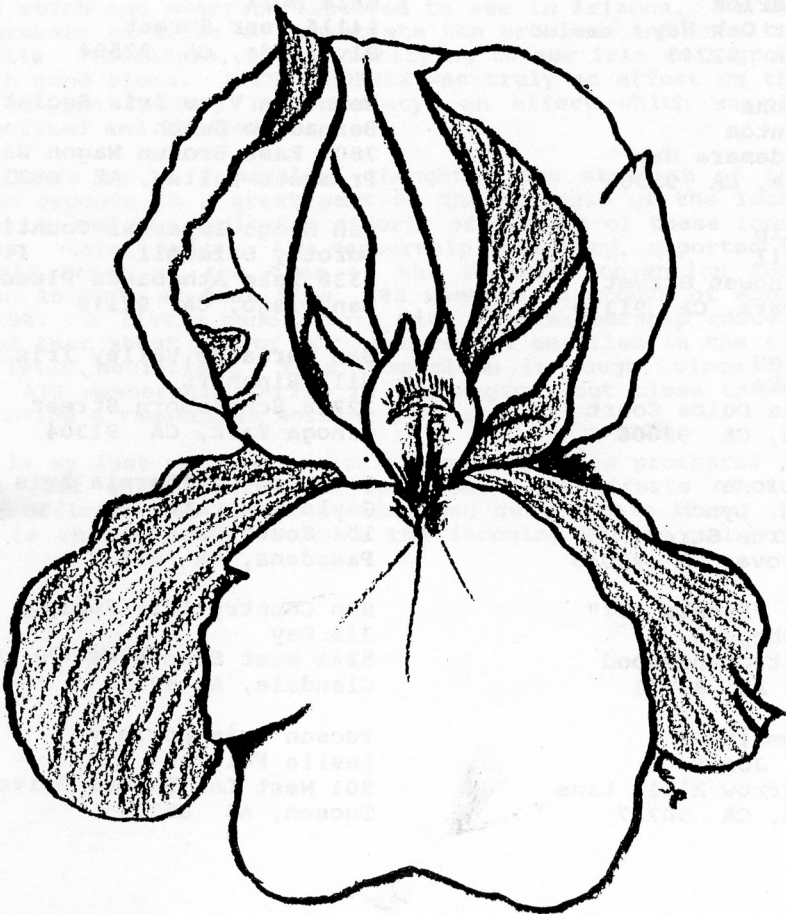


AIS Region 15 Newsletter

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA • ARIZONA

FALL 1987



This Newsletter is published in the Spring and Fall each year. It is distributed to all members of the American Iris Society residing in Southern California and Arizona. Annual subscription rate to others is \$1.50. Editorial office is at 3225 Citrus Street, Lemon Grove, CA, 92045.

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THE REGIONAL

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Each National Convention has its own particular air and personality. FIESTA PHOENIX, I am sure, will be remembered, among other things, for its quantity and quality of bloom-bloom which not everyone expected to see in Arizona. We are all growers of iris; we appreciate the problems and know the pitfalls. Therefore, it is gratifying to see iris well grown and in good bloom. FIESTA PHOENIX was truly an effort on the part of Sun Country Iris Society; an effort which we all appreciated and enjoyed.

This leads me to a parallel thought - the strength of the Region depends to a great part on the strength of the local societies and the dedicated efforts of members of these local groups. Carol Ramsey, AIS Membership Secretary, reported to the AIS Board at the time of the Phoenix convention that Region 15 had, at that time, 482 members, a growth of about 3.9%. A little pencil work with your membership rosters showed that about 75% of our members are enrolled in the six affiliated societies. This comparison is rough, since the total AIS membership varies in the Region, but close enough to provide a reasonable working statistic.

This is my last message to you. The Region has prospered in these last three years. I appreciate the efforts of the other officers and committee chairmen during this time. My wish is that you will support the incoming RVP as you have me.

HOWARD GOODRICK

BALANCE SHEET AS OF APRIL 12, 1987

BEGINNING BALANCE		
Checking Account	2173.40	
2 Certificates of Deposit	2284.18	
Accounts Receivable	500.00	

TOTAL		4957.58
RECEIPTS		
Advertising Income		180.00
Interest		
Checking Account	56.77	
Certificates of Deposit	225.29	

TOTAL RECEIPTS		282.06
		462.06
DISBURSEMENTS		
Revaletter		
Spring '87 Labels	14.55	
Spring '87	300.00	

		314.55
Mailing Labels-Region Meeting		29.76
Loan to Fiesta Phoenix (CD)		1225.32

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		1569.63
BALANCE AS OF APRIL 12, 1987		3850.01

Checking Account	2065.86	
1 Certificates of Deposit	1284.15	
Accounts Receivable	500.00	

TOTAL		3850.01

Submitted 4-15-87
Vicki L. Day, Treasurer

REPORT OF THE REGION 15 SPRING MEETING

The annual Spring meeting of Region 15 was called to order by RVP, Howard Goodrick, at the Pointe Hotel, Phoenix.

The minutes, prepared by Peg McCroskey, were read by Ralph Strane. The minutes were approved as read.

Howard Goodrick introduced Walter Machulak, the AIS RVP Counselor, who was visiting our meeting. Mr. Machulak declined to make a speech, and said that he was just visiting. Mrs. Machulak, who is RVP of Region 8, was also visiting. Also visiting were Mr. and Mrs. Marium Walker.

Vicki Day presented copies of the Treasurer's Report and read it to the meeting. The report was approved as read.

Committee reports were made by Ruth Goodrick, Judge's Training, Ralph Brooks, Nominating Committee, and Bobbie Shepard, Fiesta Phoenix.

Gale Westrate, President of the Southern California Iris Society, spoke to the question of insurance for the AIS clubs. A sincere interest was expressed by many in attendance. It was moved that the problem be explored so that insurance will be available to all of the clubs. It was suggested that the question be presented to the AIS Fall Director's Meeting for exploration.

LaVerne Conrad moved that the RVP appoint a committee to explore the insurance situation. Motion was seconded by Ralph Strane. Motion carried.

Howard Goodrick asked that the dates for Region 15 meetings be filled. A long discussion concerning the rotation system took place.

Ralph Strane spoke on the Newsletter. He reported that the bulk postage rate permit has been obtained. This will save a great deal on postage costs. The members expressed their pleasure with the job done by the new editor, Janice Lynch. LaVerne Conrad questioned the need for ads to support the Newsletter, when the auctions were held to support it. Bill Rinehart also felt that there were enough funds available to produce a newsletter, and that they should be used for the purpose. A lively discussion followed. It was finally stated that the ads were not a necessity, but were an additional service to the members.

No further business being presented, the meeting was adjourned.

Because of the absence of the Secretary, the minutes were recorded by Ralph Strane.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Bob Brooks, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, reports the following nominees for 1988:

RVP	RALPH STRANE
Assistant RVP	BOBBIE SHEPARD
Secretary	JANE FELDMAN
Treasurer	VICKI DAY

Elected officers may serve for three years, but are re-elected each year. This is especially true of the RVP, who must be elected each year, and his (her) election is subject to approval of the AIS Board of Directors at their November meeting.

REVISED SCHEDULE FOR REGION MEETINGS

	<u>Spring</u>	<u>Fall</u>
1988	Southern California Iris Society	San Diego-Imperial Counties Iris Society
1989	Inland Iris Society	Southern California Iris Society
1990	San Fernando Valley Iris Society	Inland Iris Society (suggested)
1991	Sun Country Iris Society (suggested)	San Fernando Valley Iris Society (suggested)

1988 SPRING TREK DATES ANNOUNCED

George Sherman of the Southern California Iris Society has announced the dates of the Regional Spring Trek to be April 22-23, 1988. Headquarters will be the Holiday Inn in Monrovia. Judges training will be held on the evening of April 22, and Ron Mullin will be the speaker at the banquet on Saturday evening. Local Societies please take note in setting show dates for 1988.



REGION 15 SHOW RESULTS



(Queen of Show)

(Silver Medal)

(Bronze Medal)

INLAND IRIS SOCIETY

GEMINI (BB) (Cal Dixie Gardens)	Cal Dixie Gardens	Hamners Gardens
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SAN DIEGO-IMPERIAL COUNTIES IRIS SOCIETY

IMPERIAL SUN (E. McCown)	P. McCroskey	D. Driscoll
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SAN FERNANDO VALLEY IRIS SOCIETY

TITAN'S GLORY (W. Rinehart)	P. DeSantis	M. Hood
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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA IRIS SOCIETY
(early show)

LOVE FLIGHT (AB) (P. DeSantis)	P. DeSantis	D. Eader
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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA IRIS SOCIETY
(late show)

RHETT (LA) (G. Sherman)	G. Sherman	G. Shelby
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TUCSON IRIS SOCIETY

HEATHER BLUSH (G. Carruthers)	J. Simski	L. Follet
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NUMBER OF JUDGES INCREASES IN REGION 15

As I have been preparing my report on judges training to the AIS Judges Training Chairman, I have been pleased to note the hours of training most of the judges and apprentices have participated in this past year. Only a very few have not taken advantage of the opportunities which have been offered. Participation by so many has been encouraging to those who have planned and given the training sessions. And more importantly, I think all will be more qualified to judge iris in the garden and on the show bench, having had this training.

Region 15 has had fewer judges than our quota; however, we are making progress. An increase in the number of judges should alleviate the problem of securing judges for the shows. This year four Apprentices have completed requirements and will be recommended to the AIS Board of Directors as Garden Judges. Eleven in the training pool have completed ten hours of training and successfully completed an open book exam on the Handbook and will be recommended as Apprentice Judges.

Regretfully, we will lose one or two judges who have not met all the requirements to maintain their judgeships. It is very necessary that those who are Garden Judges and Apprentices make sure they do meet the AIS requirements as stated in the Handbook.

I am looking forward, and hope that other others are also, to the Judges Training Session at the Fall Meeting. "Rocky" Rockwell is well qualified, and what's more, a very interesting person with a wonderful sense of humor. See you at the meeting.

RUTH S. GOODRICK
Judges Training Chairman

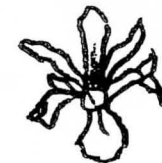
AIS LIFE MEMBERSHIP IN REGION 15

Penny Bunker, of the San Diego-Imperial Counties Iris Society, recently contacted Howard Goodrick, to determine how many members of our Region were Life Members of AIS.

Mr. Goodrich furnished her with the following list:

MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM BARR
BOB BROOKS
PENNY BUNKER
MR. AND MRS. REAVIS CARRINGTON
HAZEL CARLSON
MR. AND MR. RAY CHESNIK
BILL GUNTHER
ELEANOR MCCOWN
GRACE NEWMAN
ARCHIE OWEN

All of these individuals are to be congratulated for their dedication to AIS and their local Societies. Penny proudly points out that over one-half of these individuals are members of the San Diego-Imperial Counties Iris Society, and calls to our attention that ART DAY and WALTER BUNKER, both of whom are now deceased, were also life members.



REGION 15 AT THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY FAIR

Region 15 has an opportunity to present a half-hour program on iris and the local chapters of the the American Iris Society at 7:00 p.m. on the evening of September 26, in the Flower Building of the world's largest county fair.

We can pass out information on the national and local organizations. Clubs with brochures on their meetings and activities should get them to Ralph Strane by mail or by bringing them to the Fine Arts Building that day. Anyone who would like to be a part of the program, please meet Ralph Strane in the Fine Arts Building before 6:00 p.m. on September 26.

We will present slides of iris, and hope that some of the members will have an iris or two in bloom to show that day. We can make a valuable experience of this, if you will help.



AIS AWARDS AT NATIONAL CONVENTION

The American Iris Society awards two cups each year for the best iris, as voted by those attending the Convention. The President's Cup is awarded to the best iris introduced by a member of the host Region.

The winner was: SON OF SUN (Wickenkamp)

Runners up were: SPLASH OF WINE (Shepard)
EXQUISITE LADY (A. Owen)
CHIEF REDSKIN (Hamner)

The other cup, the Franklin Cook Memorial Cup, is awarded to the best iris introduced by someone from another Region than the host region.

The winner was: AUTOGRAPH (Luihn, Region 14)

Another ballot was provided to those attending the Convention to vote for the favorite iris seen at the Convention. The winner was Wickenkamp's SON OF SUN, followed closely by Luihn's AUTHOGRAPH. Other Region 15 winners were Archie Owen's EXQUISITE LADY, Don Shepard's SPLASH OF BLUE, Valera Chenoweth's BLUEBONNET SUE, Wickenkamp's KITT PEAK, and Bernard Hamner's CHIEF REDSKIN and TIDE CREST. The voting on these was close, indicting that the choice among these was difficult.

I have just receive Mr. Waite's preliminary report on the voting on the National Awards. Floyd Wickenkamp's SON OF SUN won the Eric Niles Award.

Congratulations to these hybridizers for these fine iris!!!

HOWARD GOODRICK

REGION 15 GARDEN ACCLAIMED IN LOCAL NEWSPAPER

The SUN newspaper, in Riverside, recently did a feature article on the garden of Sarah and Herb Holk (Cal-Dixie), Riverside. The following are some excerpts from this article.

Lacking a little color in your life?

If so, consider a stroll through a technicolor world of passionate purples, glittering golds and brilliant oranges sprinkled with a liberal blend of pastel hues at the Holk garden.

For Sarah and Herb Holk, their garden is not only home, but a full-time hobby, considering all the weeding and watering that has to be done. In whatever spare time they have, the Holks try to develop iris with new colors, textures, and characteristics - a process called hybridization.

The couple enjoy sharing the fruits of their labor, and there is no charge for strolling through the gardens, which feature approximately 3,000 varieties of iris. And, should you see something you like, the Holks will gladly sell you an iris and throw in some advice as well.

Not only will visitors see new plants, but some unique plant names as well. There's the "Crowd Pleaser" with its red-toned orange with grayish-purple markings, and the "Ecstatic Echo" whose light orchid-colored upper petals fade to white while its three lower petals reflect a red cast with a blue flush. The "Avenging Angel," on the other hand, boasts a ruffled burgundy, while the "Smoking Volcano" is of a lightly laced smoky lavender with a cream flush.

"The only colors you won't find here," said Mrs. Holk, "are what we call a red-red and a grass-green. Apparently there is a lack of pigment to produce those two colors."

Mrs. Holk said she first became interested in irises when she saw the plants in bloom along a Northern California parkway at the University of California, Davis, where her son attended school. When the couple moved to the Inland Empire, her husband took her to Valley's End Iris Garden in Yucaipa, where he brought her 65 plants as a Mother's Day present in 1976.

When the Valley's End Iris Garden closed about a year later, the couple and two partners bought all the plants. The next year, when Mr. Holk retired from the Air Force, the couple purchased their current two acre parcel and established Cal-Dixie Gardens.

After that, his interest in flowers really began to

bloom.

"I was married to the guy 35 years before I realized he like flowers," she said. "He's really protective of the plants and insists that it's wonderful therapy just to walk through the garden."

Mrs. Holk is President of the Inland Iris Society, which has about 100 members, and she and her husband judge iris shows. They also sell and ship flowers worldwide, as well as locally.

"Creating new irises can be exciting," she said, "in that you never know what you're going to get." She said iris come in three basic "flag" colors: purple, white and yellow. To achieve a "new" iris, one must cross the pollen, plant the seeds, and wait a minimum of three years before putting it on the market.

The first year the plant is too small and hasn't matured to its proper form and color, she said. By the second year, there's a pretty good indication of what the outcome will be. The third year really determines whether the plant is good enough to sell.

Once a new iris looks promising, a name has to be selected. Mrs. Holk said three names are submitted to the American Iris Society, which picks the one that can be used. If none of the three can be used, three more must be submitted.

In hybridization, duplications can happen, she said, but more often there are slight differences in each plant.

At this year's annual convention, she said 88 varieties were introduced. At Cal-Dixie, the varieties range from those introduced in 1927 to 1987.

Iris are among the perennial plant family - those that bloom one season each year. However, certain rebloomers produce flowers several times each season.

"Iris are a very easy flower to grow," she said, "and can be grown nearly everywhere." In North America the bloom season generally extends from April 1 through June 1.

"They aren't a troublesome plant," she said, "and they don't require a lot of water . . . just minimum maintenance."

* * *

SPURIAS IN JULY
(IN IMPERIAL COUNTY)

By Eleanor S. McCown

Summertime! All I really want to do is estivate! But even though the temperature is predicted to reach 110 degrees, the garden demands attention. With the humidity practically nil, it dries out fast, and I am irrigating every five to seven days. This, of course, keeps the weeds growing, especially what we call "water grass," a kind of crab grass that can really take over if not nipped out.

The Spurias are more or less dormant, now that the bloom season is well over and the blooms stalks dried out. Since they are planted helter-skelter in the rest of the "Topsy" garden, they receive constant watering along with the roses, etc. In areas where the watering can be controlled, they require very little water by August, but should never be completely dried out. One of my tasks now is to cut back all the bloom stalks, except the very few that have marked buds of crosses I have made. In late August or early September, I will cut off all the old leaves of the established clumps. Seedlings in their first year, now about ten inches tall will not be transplanted until October, when they will be separated and planted about a foot apart. Since in this area it takes three years usually for the first bloom, they must have room to grow.

Anytime from September on, Spurias can be transplanted, so this is the time I'll dig up the few Spurias I saved from this year's bloom and replant for future selection. Usually, I dig up as soon as bloom occurs (usually in April) the many seedlings that I do not wish to keep. I must find some place, sunny, for this year's batch of seeds. These I will plant in a row in late October at the same time that I will be planting other bulbs and annuals. Since Spurias really resent being out of the ground, rhizomes must never be allowed to dry out, and, if replanting is not possible, they should be stored in moisture, such as damp sphagnum moss, until planting is possible.

Some of my older clumps are getting too thick, and I must dig into the oldest part and throw away the stack of rhizomes that have grown one on top of the other. If left for ten years, it would take a back-hoe to get them out. This is usually another summertime chore.

From late Fall to early Spring, Spurias being to grow, and, with ample water, some fertilizer and cultivation, reward me with good bloom starting in late March through

April. Spurias are very hardy here and seldom need spraying for insect or fungus damage. My biggest problem with some of my seedlings has been "bloom-out," when every rhizome sends up a bloom stalk, leaving none for increase.

The choice of Spurias for the garden today is quite wide, with colors ranging from an off-white, yellow, blue, purple, and bronze. Form also can be quite varied from the spidery forms with narrow standards and falls, to the very wide rounded flowers. Most selections today are quite tall, four feet or better. One of my goals has been to get a shorter variety that does not have to be "relegated" to the back of the garden.

Spurias are quite tolerant of boggy conditions, and do make nice clumps near a pool.

For hybridizers, there is still a long way to go to achieve new varietes. An all-white has yet to be achieved. True pink is still in the future. With Mr. Ferguson's late introduction, CROW-WING, we now have an almost black. Unfortunately, it is, for most, a weak grower, but later crosses have been introduced that do better. Size and form can be changed, more ruffling, or edging of a different color.

Some things must always be kept in mind when introducing a new variety. A good variety should have at least four bud placements, with two buds in the placement. These should be spaced apart so that, when in bloom, they do not clump together. Of course, growing conditions sometimes make a good variety clump. Some varieties, such as ARCHIE OWEN, have branching, and this could be developed.

All in all, it's like Christmas in April, when the new buds open, and I can find something different among my Spurias.

Eleanor S. McCown is a member of the San Diego-Imperial Counties Iris Society, and has won many awards for her achievements in the hybridizing of Spurias. She is known and loved by all.

INLAND IRIS SOCIETY

The Inland Iris Society conducted a mini-trek of nine gardens on May 2, 1987. Iris lovers met at a small Grange hall in San Bernardino at 8:00 a.m., and were warmly welcomed with hot coffee and donuts.

First stop on the trek was the Romozi Garden, on Adams, San Bernardino. Beautiful bloom was everywhere, and one could not help but notice that this was a "garden lover's" yard. Shade, spots for sitting and visiting, a fish pool, aviaries, and orchids made this a spot hard to resist.

The beautiful brick Ollis home, and garden, on W. Fairmount, San Bernardino, was next. Again, we picked the right time to visit. Peak bloom everywhere! An inviting small swimming pool, snacks, and roses. Irisians truly love all flowers (but prefer the iris).

On to the Kotner garden, on Tresa Lane, Yucaipa. Here we were greeted by a patch of intense colored Dutch iris. This beautiful, interesting garden was divided into centers of interest. Each large, square patch had a wisteria, mock orange, or fruit tree as its center, and iris were planted around each tree or shrub, making many individuals "gardens." The industrious Kotner family was involved in irrigating a hillside and planting additional iris there. From the Kotner house and its beautiful swimming pool, we could see gorgeous rows of iris blooming, in masse, on the next hillside. We were told that this was the neighbor's yard which had been planted from "spare" rhizomes donated by the Kotners when dividing clumps. All those on tour immediately signed up to become a Kotner neighbor.

Next was the Champion garden, on Seventh Street, Yucaipa. Ms. Champion had dug huge gardens in a slopping field, single handed we were told, and planted iris there which she first dug up from her large garden in San Bernardino and transported to Yucaipa - carefully making a chart of all varieties. No small task, digging one garden and replanting it to a second one. Stalks and bloom size were enormous, due to the virgin soil - not to mention good gardening practices, and TLC, I am sure. Here we also got to see numerous Louisianas and Siberians, and well as tall bearded.

Next to the Bromberger garden, on W. Sunset, Redlands. The Brombergers are "retired" college professors. So everyone that is retired takes over seven acres and plants two or more with iris, fruit trees, arbors, lathe houses, split rail fences, and irrigation. The results are magnificent. This young garden, already with much bloom, bears watching for another trek. Mrs. Bromberger promised us that they would have walks built over the acreage for us next time (as they

THE ANNUAL FALL MEETING
OF REGION 15
AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

will be held
at

THE SPORTSMEN'S LODGE HOTEL
12825 Ventura Blvd.
Studio City, CA 91604

on

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1987

PROGRAM

- 9:00 A.M. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS MEET
- 9:30 A.M. Registration
Coffee and Breakfast Rolls Available
- 10:00 A.M. JUDGES' TRAINING SESSION led by
Mrs. C.C. Rockwell jr.,
Immediate Past Chair Judges Training
American Iris Society
- 12:00 P.M. LUNCHEON- Welcome: Bill Rinehart, Pres.
SFVIS- Your Hosts
- 1:00 P.M. REGION 15 MEMBERSHIP MEETING
conducted by
Howard Goodrick, RVP

Election of Officers
- 2:00 P.M. GUEST SPEAKER- John Weiler,
President, Reblooming Iris Society

REGISTRATION FEE \$20.00 includes luncheon. DUE OCT.1,1987.

REGISTRAR Bobee Rinehart (818) 346-1912
22218 Schoenborn St,
Canoga Park, CA 91304

NAME(S) _____ PHONE _____

STREET _____ CITY _____

LOCAL AFFILIATE _____ AM'T ENCLOSED _____

have much spare time and energy). Here we also were privileged to see a collection of rare rose bushes, as well. Picture a wide lane nearly one-fourth mile long, lined with young trees, and iris blooming the entire length on each side, and you have seen merely a minor portion of this garden.

This preceding portion of the trek covered the morning, and brought us to the Holk garden (Pear Street, Riverside) and lunch. Here we were graciously served a splendid, gratis lunch by Sarah and Herb Holk and the Inland Iris Society, and got to view the garden in all its splendor. A sea of bloom hardly describes what we saw. If it is an iris in existence, it is there! The visit there seemed all too short.

Next at the Hamner garden, on N. Perris Boulevard, Perris, we got to see the latest Hamner introductions, as well as beautiful bloom of existing varieties. Mrs. Hamner conducted a judge's seminar for a small group needing garden training. The Hamners also gave us a tour of their seedling garden, which was enormous and in full bloom, as well. One look at the seedlings assures us irisians that we are have got a lot of treats in store for us in the future.

The last, but not least, garden on the trek was that of the Daughertys, on Amethyst, Alta Loma. This beautiful, Spanish style home was justly the proud residence of its owners. The view of the mountains from the back yard was unequalled. There were many iris beds. Iris in bloom were complemented by beds of ground cover in bloom. The Daughterys have the distinct pleasure of just being able to go into the back yard and dig up a bed of ground cover and plant iris when they need the space. Until then, they have the enjoyment of watching the beautiful ground cover bloom. Hospitality abounded here, as well, and refreshments of cold fruit and soda were served.

The trek ended at approximately 4:30 p.m., some eight hours and 150 miles later. It was a day enjoyed by all. Those who were not able to attend missed a great deal. The common vein among irisians seems to be that they obviously love nature, and are not afraid of hard work. Taking on two acres at a time is not uncommon. As a matter of fact, they don't even realize it is work(?)

As I wearily, but euphorically, sank into bed that evening and pulled the covers up around me as I counted iris, I smiled and couldn't help think that people traveling the main road must have wondered what Lillian Champion was doing out in the middle of that big, open field digging two virgin acres by hand - but then, you and I know!

* * *

YE ED

SAN DIEGO *

IMPERIAL COUNTIES

The San Diego-Imperial Counties Iris Society held its Spring show on April 25 and 26, 1987, with a bumper crop of entries and many "ooh's" and "aah's" from the public, as they viewed the beautiful blooms.

In May, 1987, we joined the Mini-Trek of Inland Iris Society, and visited many outstanding gardens in that area.

Our June, 1987, meeting was a run-down of convention happenings in Phoenix, with slides taken by Bill Barr, and comments from several of the conventioners.

The Regional and Society iris auctions were held in July, 1987, at Cordon Bleu Farms, along with a very tasty potluck, followed by the presentation of show awards.

The annual Society sale was held on August 16, 1987. We had the biggest and most successful sale ever, with many happy customers loaded down with more iris rhizomes than they have space for growing them.

DOROTHY DRISCOLL, PRESIDENT
San Diego-Imperial Counties Iris Society



★ 1987 SAN DIEGO-IMPERIAL COUNTY IRIS SHOW TROPHY WINNERS ★

AND THE WINNERS ARE ---

Queen of Show	IMPERIAL SUN	Eleanor McCown
Silver Medal Winner	Peg McCroskey	
Bronze Medal Winner	Dorothy Driscoll	
Best Seedling of Show	WY-44	Valera Chenoweth
Best Spuria	IMPERIAL SUN	Eleanor McCown
Best Spuria Seedling	86-1	Eleanor McCown
Best Louisiana Iris	ELUSIVE BUTTERFLY	Al Fedlman
Best Plicata	BLUE STACATTO	Peg McCroskey
Best Red	BANG	Ursula Stronski
Best Blue TB	ICE SCULPTURE	Peg McCroskey
Best Arrangement of Show	Glenn Haugh	
Educational Award	Thelma Carrington	

The San Diego-Imperial County Iris Society show had a total of 21 exhibitors, with 208 entries. The number of cultivars exhibited was 176. In addition, there were 13 artistic exhibitors, with 35 artistic entries. Dorothy and Paul Runde, long-standing members of this Society, have graciously donated a silver plated pitcher to establish an award for the Best Pink iris (any variety). This award will be presented beginning with the April, 1988, show.



SAN FERNANDO VALLEY IRIS SOCIETY

The San Fernando Valley Iris Society is pleased to host the Fall 1987 Region 15 Meeting on Saturday, October 10.

Fall Meeting Chairperson, Judy Mogil, announces the selection of the Sportsmen's Lodge Hotel from among the outstanding array of hostels available in the Valley. This conveniently located venue, 12825 Ventura Blvd., Studio City, is freeway accessible for those who will be driving, and operates courtesy van service to both the Burbank and Los Angeles Airports. Informal, casual, and completely charming, Sportsmen's Lodge maintains a full range of services. Those who seek overnight accommodations are invited to call (800) 821-8511 for information or reservations.

Our presenters are also informal, casual, and completely charming, but experienced, articulate, and knowledgeable, and "full-service," as well. Ellene "Rocky" Rockwell is the Immediate Past Chairwoman of Judges Training and Judges of the American Iris Society. She has made an invaluable contribution to the preparation of the Judges Training Handbook, and is a widely sought consultant on its intent and its contents.

Dr. John Weller, of California State University, Fresno, President of the Reblooming Iris Society, and highly successful iris hybridizer, by the nature of his training, experience, and interests, is prepared to discuss a variety of iris-related topics. A true "friend" of many of the members of Region 15, his friends will be pleased to be with him again.

Bill Rinehart, President of the host San Fernando Valley Iris Society, who developed the agenda with RVP Howard Goodrick, reminds members of the American Iris Society living within Region 15 that this is an opportunity to exercise their right of franchise in selecting and in directing the leadership of the Region. He also asks them to consider the potential for strengthening the networking of local affiliates.

Those who will attend are requested to register prior to October 1, so that every detail necessary to their comfort and benefit can be covered.

Forms will be included in the Fall Region 15 Newsletter, and in the September SFVIS Irisarian.

Submitted by
Bill Rinehart, President
San Fernando Valley Iris Society

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY IRIS SOCIETY

The members of the San Fernando Valley Iris Society are proud of their achievements, and are grateful for the opportunity to share these successes. A major positive development has been the sharing of activities with our near neighbors, the Southern California Iris Society. We enjoy their company.

These two affiliates first shared a bus on a trek to the Cal-Dixie and Hamner Iris gardens on April 29. Our thanks to Bernard and Celeste Hamner, and Herb and Sarah Holk, for their hospitality, and the opportunity to share the beauty of their plantings. We also are grateful to the irrepressible Conrads, LaVerne and Ralph, for arriving in time to backup Sarah Holk at lunchtime.

So successful was the above excursion, that we invited ourselves to Cordon Bleu Farms, and to Judy's Perennials next door. Consummate host, Bob Brooks, even managed to have tall beared ALPINE JOURNEY blooming among the daylilies on June 20.

These joint ventures were preceded on April 1 by a caravan to the Conrad's home in the hills of Bonsall. No fools we, for the gods smiled brightly in clutches of Pacific Coast Natives among the indigenous oaks and the imported flora.

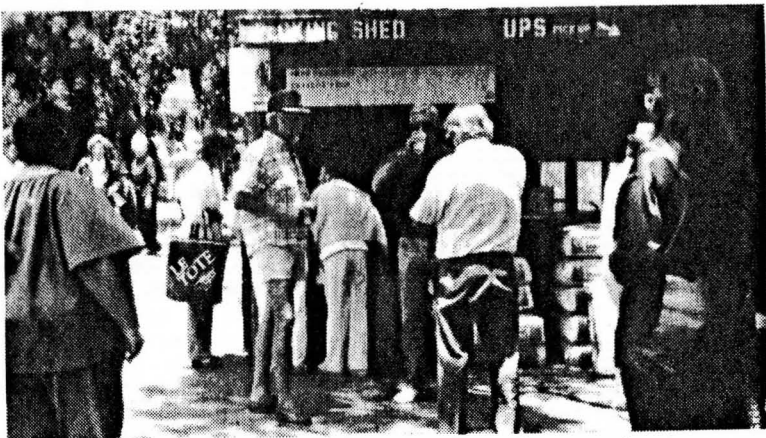
On April 11, the annual trek among gardens entertained SFVIS members and their guests. Two of the seven gardens, the Hannahs and Thoringtons, were on the trek for the first time. Our thanks to garden chair, Loren Zeldin, for another delightful experience.

The following day, open house was held at the lovely Canyon Country estate of Mary Ann Spurlock. As usual, the bass lake encircled by naturalized Siberians and Louisianas was a gemstone in a skillfully crafted setting.

The Annual Spring Show on April 24-26 was celebrated by a record number of entries in the floral competition. The number of stalks entered exceeded 350 for the first time ever. Congratulations are due Pete DeSantis for his second Silver Medal of the Spring. Sixty seven beautifully constructed artistic arrangements made an additional impact.

The SFVIS is presently preparing for the Annual Raffle/Auction/Picnic to be held on September 13, the sale of rhizomes on October 2, 3, and 4, the Region 15 Fall Meeting on October 10, and an additional sale of rhizomes at Descanco Gardens on October 11.

For details concerning SFVIS activities, please call Bill Rinehart (818) 346-1912.



Packing shed @ Cordon Bleu
SFVIS trip
Bob Brooks in shorts



PCN seedlings @ Conrads
SFVIS trip

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA IRIS SOCIETY

REPORT FROM THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA IRIS SOCIETY

Our main activity this year has been preparation for hosting the Spring, 1988, Regional Trek. The steering committee meets formally on a regular basis; informally, in an ongoing series of phone conversations, as we push, prod, wheedle, panic, soothe, and generally refine the myriad details that go on in organizing one of these events.

We have four private gardens and one public on our Trek. It was clear to us from the outset that within our club we no longer have the large old estates that graced so many major garden tours. However, it seemed inappropriate to simply abandon the treks. There are several things to be gained from touring other people's gardens:

The convivial gathering of old friends and the discovery of new ones;

The chance to see a wide range of iris varieties growing under diverse conditions;

A opportunity to share culture tips, and to see how others have dealt with landscaping esthetics.

This last one was what convinced us. Our private gardens reflect our lives today. We have no major growers in our area, no "factory gardens." What we have selected for you to tour are clever, inspiring examples of what any of us normal mortals here can achieve.

Farthest south, is the tiniest, Estelle Trammell's. Her triangular garden boasts about 100 of the most enormous fans, however; astounding proof of carefully executed beds, enrichment, and irrigation. A few minutes away, Nancy Webb's Santa Ana garden has about 150 iris tightly integrated with daylilies, succulents, and roses. Up in the northwest quadrant of SCIS territory, George Sherman and Kay Yee are just starting a new household, remodeling the house and garden together as a setting for their artwork. Their garden has well over 300 varieties of iris, plus seedlings, and includes several dozen non-bearded. Next, Jeanne Plank really has two gardens: our fourth private one, and Descanco, the large public garden on our tour. Her personal garden of over 250 iris flows back along a hillside and uses roses and chapparal grasses as a backdrop. But her most spectacular achievement remains the ten newly renovated beds at Descanco.

These provide a glimpse into the past, with a fairly complete series of the Dykes winners, as well as some generally famous ancestors to our modern, wide beauties. Species iris are being tried here, and each of the main non-bearded and smaller bearded (so seldom seen in this area) has a space of its own.

Donated and guest iris are to be found in each garden -- a golden opportunity to see what's new.

We have gained, too, in producing this Trek, and we cordially invite you to come share it with us on Friday and Saturday, April 22 and 23, 1988. (Registration forms will be included in the Region 15 Spring Bulletin.)

Submitted by:
Gayle Westrate, President
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA IRIS SOCIETY



SPRING TREK
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA IRIS SOCIETY

The Southern California Iris Society is pleased to make an initial announcement of the 1988 Sprink Trek for Region 15, which we will host. It is set for Friday and Saturday, April 22-23, 1988, with headquarters at the Holiday Inn in Monrovia. Ron Mullin will be the featured banquet speaker on Saturday evening, with judge's training being given on Friday evening.

The trek will feature four home gardens, plus the newly installed iris beds at Descanso Gardens. The four home plantings are diverse, both as to growing conditions (location, climate, soil) and the philosophies of the gardeners. The two gardens in north-central Los Angeles County are both in hillside (but accessible) locations, but the nature of the neighborhoods and growing conditions vary. The two gardens in northern Orange County are also quite different, although not far apart. One is small, but intensely cultivated to make best use of the available space, while the other is larger and uses a wide range of unusual plants. The beds at Descanso have been designed to demonstrate to the public the wide range of options available in choosing and growing iris.

Transportation between the trek sites is by chartered bus, with lunch provided at the halfway point.

Because it is the intention of the host society to keep participation in the trek to a manageable size (thus insuring the best possible experience for all attending), early registration is urged. Detailed information on the registration fee, hotel accommodation arrangements, and judge's training will be forthcoming soon. Participants will find that logistics have been planned to provide maximum enjoyment and learning.

We are alerting you and your members to set aside these dates as you lay out your calendar of events for 1988. You will not want to miss what promises to be a rewarding and educational experience for all, from long-time growers to members new to the world of iris!

GEORGE SHERMAN
TREK CO-CHAIRMAN

SUN COUNTRY

FROM THE DESK OF BOBBIE SHEPARD

Ardi Kary has faithfully reported the activities of the Sun Country Iris Society. I would like to add that guest iris were processed from twelve gardens here in our area. All have been dug as of mid August, except for the beardless.

All the iris were gathered at the Shepards, sorted, and returned to the hybridizers - some 150 boxes. I was very proud of the quality of the rhizomes that we returned, in comparison to some that we received to grow.

The beardless will all be dug and returned in September.

Perhaps by November, I can close the FIESTA PHOENIX book, and say it was a job well done by all.

Special thanks go to Carolyn Sutherland, again, for all her efforts in making the silk iris for the banquet tables. I also wish to thank everyone who made the wonderful goodies for the garden refreshments.

See you in October!

* * *

SUN COUNTRY IRIS SOCIETY

1987-88 PROGRAMS

October 6, 1987	"Anatomy of An Iris"	Bobbie Shepard
November 3, 1987	"Historical Background of Plicatas"	Keith Keppel
January 5, 1988	"Reblooming Iris"	Dr. John Weiler
February 2, 1988	"Arils and Arilbreds"	Luella Danielson
March 1, 1988	"Spurias"	Dave Niswonger

Submitted by
Gloria M. Beatty
Program Committee
SUN COUNTRY IRIS SOCIETY

THANK YOU FROM SUN COUNTRY IRIS SOCIETY

We want to thank everyone for all the help with the 1987 AIS National Convention, FIESTA PHOENIX. Our special thanks goes to Carolyn Sutherland for the beautiful silk iris she made, more than 1,000 of them, that were used in the table decorations for the Awards Banquet. Thanks also to the various members who contributed to the food that was served at the convention gardens. The cookies and goodies were abundant and delicious. The Boutique was a complete success. Thanks to all the artists and craftsmen who offered their items for sale.

The Pointe really appreciated having such a well-mannered, courteous group of people at their hotel. AIS members are welcome back anytime.

Several thousand guest iris have been dug, processed, and returned to the hybridizers. The balance has been distributed between the Region 15 societies. Half the profit from the sales will be donated to the Region 15 treasury.

SCIS is now returning back to normal existence - if anything can ever be normal after such a great convention. Our two rhizome sales are planned for September, and our two Spring shows are planned for April.

We are extremely pleased with our own Floyd Wickenkamp and his success with his spuria SON OF SUN. The following write up was written for our monthly newsletter, and we would like to share it with Region 15 members:

The ERIC NIES AWARD FOR 1987

and the WINNER IS

FLOYD WICKENKAMP for SON OF SUN

Congratulations Floyd. Sun Country Iris Society is very proud to claim you as a member of our club. Receiving this award puts your SON OF SUN in direct line for the Dykes Medal.

Floyd has been growing iris for many years in Wyoming, Nebraska, and Virginia, before moving to Sun City, Arizona, when he retired in 1970 after 30 years as an electronics engineer with the Federal Communications Commission.

His article in the American Iris Society Bulletin in October, 1973, was of special interest to those of us from other parts of the country to consider

trying to grow our favorite flower in the Valley of the Sun, should we decide to make Phoenix our new home. Floyd's article made it clear that almost all kinds of iris would flourish here, if given proper treatment.

Floyd was encouraged by Janice Chesnik and Eleanor McCown to introduce a very beautiful seedling they saw that was given the name of SON OF SUN. It received its first award, the H.C., in 1982, at the Region 15 meeting hosted in Phoenix. Since then it has received more awards than any other spuria. It received the President's Cup and the Favorite Guest Iris award at the American Iris Society 1987 Convention, FIESTA PHOENIX. It had also been on the Favorite Guest Iris Award list at the convention in San Jose in 1986.

Floyd has other new introductions that will bring him more honors as they become distributed across the country. His LOVE FOR LEILA (named for his mother), DUSTY TRAILS, KAIBAB TRAIL, and his newest introduction, KITT PEAK, will make the name Floyd Wickenkamp very well known.

His introductions are available through SHEPARD'S IRIS GARDEN.

by Beverly Dopke

Submitted by
ARDI KARY
SUN COUNTRY IRIS SOCIETY

* * * * *

PLEASE NOTE



The Editor, on behalf of Region 15, wishes to thank Linda Sue Phillips, of the San Diego-Imperial Counties Iris Society, for her excellent art work for this publication.

If there is no report or news from your Society, it is because it was not submitted to the Newsletter. Please mention this at your next monthly meeting, and ask that you be properly represented.

REGION 15 MEETINGS

Inland Iris Society

First Monday, each month, 7:00 p.m.
250 E. San Bernardino, Rialto
(714) 780-0335 for information

San Diego-Imperial Counties Iris Society

Third Sunday, each month, 1:00 p.m.
Quail Gardens, Encinitas
(619) 463-6700 for information

Southern California Iris Society

Five times a year
L.A. State and County Arboretum, Arcadia
(818) 449-4977 for information

* * *



Inland Iris Society



WELCOMES YOU TO ITS MEETINGS

FIRST MONDAYS 7PM, 250. E. SAN BERNARDINO
RIALTO, CA. FOR INFORMATION PHONE (714)
780-0335. ALWAYS PLEASED TO SEE YOU!!



THERE'S MORE IRIS - "DOWN UNDER"

The IRIS SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA offers the following preliminary information about the 1988 Australian Iris Convention:

In 1988 Australia will be celebrating its Bi-Centennial, and, because of this, there will be a large number of special events organized Nation wide.

As the IRIS SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA's contribution to these celebrations, it is organizing an Iris Convention to be held in both Sydney and Melbourne. During the Sydney part of the convention, the inaugural judging of the Sydney Louisiana Iris Spectacular will take place.

If you are considering a trip "Down Under," what better time to come than in our Bi-Centennial year, and also the chance of participating in an Iris Convention held in Australia's two major cities. Another good reason to come is the extremely good exchange rate on the Australian dollar.

For those who also like horses, on the Tuesday after the close of the Iris Convention, the world famous Melbourne Cup will be run.

The dates to remember are as follows:

Sydney part of the Convention:

Thursday, the 20th of October, 1988
to
Monday, the 24th of October, 1988

Melbourne part of the Convention:

Tuesday, the 25th of October, 1988
to
Saturday, the 29th of October, 1988

The Melbourne Cup (horse race):

Tuesday, the 1st of November, 1988

By arranging your trip around the above dates, you will be able to participate in our Iris Convention and Bi-Centennial.

If you would like to be kept informed about the Convention, please write to the Convention Organizer as shown below:

Iris Society of Australia
TERRY R. NISBET, Convention Organizer
12 Normdale Road
East Bentleigh
Victoria Australia 3165

AIS Region 15 Newsletter
3225 Citrus Street
Lemon Grove, CA 92045

Pushcart 1880s

12.5



FLOYD W WICKENKAMP
10521 BELLAROSE DR.
SUN CITY AZ 85351