

AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY
REGION 15

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA • ARIZONA

~~SPRING~~ 1989

Fall
NEWSLETTER



Gayle

This Newsletter is published in the Spring and Fall each year. It is distributed to all member of the American Iris Society residing in Arizona and Southern California. Annual subscription rate to others is \$1.50. Editorial office is at 5244 W. Sunnyside Dr., Glendale, AZ 85304

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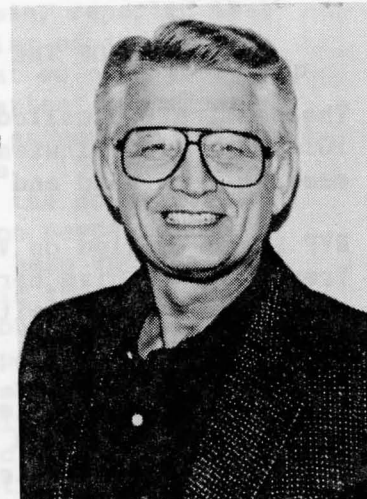
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I hope that everyone has had a wonderful iris season and Summer. Fall is here and you should have your new purchases in the ground and growing. Before we know it the bloom season of 1990 will be here. Before that happens we have some exciting events to look forward to.



Our Fall Region 15 meeting will take place October 21 and will be hosted by the Hi-Desert Iris and Daylily Society. This is a new club and this is their first time as Region host. I hope that all of our members will do their best to support the meeting with their presence. It is quite an undertaking to assume, only a year after the formation of the society. Be sure to see their invitation elsewhere in the newsletter. They have a lot of exciting things planned.

I certainly have enjoyed the Region auctions this year. I got to go to most of the clubs and it is inspiring to see the support that the members have given the Region. I thank all of you. Even those who didn't buy but did make the auction fun. San Fernando again was the top money making auction, but several others were close. I thank you, our Treasurer, Pete DeSantis thanks you and the Region thanks you.

I would like to give Ralph Conrad a special word of thanks for all of the effort he has put in as Chairman of Judges Training. You have no idea of the amount of paper work and letters he has to send to keep all of the judges up to date.

I would also like to thank Bob Brooks for serving as Chairman of the Nominating Committee for the past few years. He has done a very valuable job. Sara Holk has consented to take the job of Chairman until the next committee is formed.

I hope to see many of you at the Fall Meeting, October 21st in Lancaster. Be there!!!!!!!!!!!!

Ralph

MINUTES OF THE WINTER BOARD MEETING 1989

The meeting was called to order by RVP Ralph Strane at 10:15 AM. The minutes from the October 8, 1988 Board meeting were read and approved as read.

RVP Strane called on Vicki Day, out-going Regional Treasurer, to give her final Treasurer's report. It was approved as submitted.

It was moved by Vicki Day that \$6,177.22 of the Region 15 RVP Fund be invested in a Certificate of Deposit for a 12 month period and that \$700 of the RVP Fund be deposited into an interest bearing checking account for use in the current year to cover the RVP's 1989 National Meeting expenses. The motion was seconded. Motion carried.

RVP Strane called on HiDesert Iris Society President, Cal Bostwick to tell of the progress of our newest local affiliate.

In reporting on our LA County Fair booth, RVP Strane suggested that a booth at the Fair could be a valuable way to get our literature before the public. The consensus was reached that we should be involved in the LA County Fair next year.

RVP Strane brought up the need for a Region 15 brochure. Bill Rinehart moved that a maximum of \$200 be allocated to spend on a Regional brochure and that the expense be shared equally by all Region 15 clubs. Jay Conklin seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

Assistant RVP, Bobbie Shepard, restated her request for club presidents to send her a list of successful programs and/or favorite speakers enjoyed by their club. To date her only response has been from Lynn McIlwain of Southern California Iris Society.

LaVern Conrad suggested that minutes from the previous meeting be sent to all Board members before the next scheduled meeting to serve as a reminder of Board actions. The Board agreed.

Ralph Conrad, Judges Training Chairman, reported that the information is out on the standing of judges training candidates. Ralph said that we need to set up a program that will speed our apprentice judges along. Region 15 has 17 apprentice judges, an unusually large number compared to other AIS Regions. 10 of these 17 were recruited by and reside within the domain of the Sun Country Iris Society. The Region needs to find a way, especially for Sun Country, to help apprentice judges fill their requirements within the three year time limit. Bill Rinehart pointed out that the one important thing the Region is in a position to do is to coordinate all the activities necessary to provide apprentice judges with the opportunity to fulfill their requirements. RVP Strane reiterated that when a club is scheduled to host a regional meeting, to best serve the Region's needs, the person in charge of the judges training portion of that meeting should contact the Region's Judges Training Chairman (Ralph Conrad, currently) to make sure the judges training program planned for the meeting is needed and is worthwhile.

Bill Rinehart said that SFVIS is contemplating a simulated AIS show for the 1990 Spring Trek, Friday night Judges Training program, and he questioned why it couldn't be an AIS sanction show.

Meeting was adjourned for the lunch break.

RVP Strane began the afternoon session of the meeting by having Vicki Day, new Regional Newsletter editor, give her report.

RVP Strane asked Joe Daugherty to give his report on preparations for the '89 Spring Trek which will be hosted by the Inland Iris Society.

Membership Committee Chair Jim Jones reported that there is a definite need to stimulate AIS membership but no clear cut "best way". Suggestions included: the new brochure; communicating the value of the AIS Bulletin; bringing attention to the AIS members in each local club by having an asterisk beside their name in the club directory; an article in the Region Newsletter dealing with the benefits of membership; awarding AIS memberships to club members with good attendance; introduce new AIS members at meetings; have someone interview the new AIS member or a name bingo mixer.

RVP Strane brought up the need to address the order of Regional Meeting assignments. The suggestion was made that after checking first with Tucson by telephone, Hi-Desert be asked to host the 1989 Fall meeting. The meeting schedule calendar is as follows:

Fall 1989 HiDesert
Spring 1990 San Fernando
Fall 1990 Southern California
Spring 1991 Sun Country
Fall 1991 Inland
Spring 1992 San Diego
Fall 1992 San Fernando

Rvp Strane announced that we need an audit of our Treasurer's books under Article 9 of our Regions By-laws. LaVern Conrad agreed to perform the audit.

RVP Strane requested that money from sale of AIS calendars be turned in to him.

All the iris for the 1989 Region Auction are growing in RVP Strane's garden.

RVP Strane asked for new business. Vicki Day requested a \$400 advance for Newsletter publication. It was moved by Dorothy Driscoll that Vicki be given a \$400 advance for Newsletter publication and seconded by Bill Rinehart. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Jeanne Clay Plank
Recording Secretary



SPRING TREK

The activities began Friday night, April 21st with a judge's training session on ethics featuring Strane's Strange Group and a speech by Hilda Crick, Chairman of the AIS Committee for Judge's Training.

Saturday morning began early with bus boarding at 7:45 AM. The trek might be referred to as a three-wine event since the buses were named Chardonnay, Burgandy and Chianti. The Chianti bus was driven by Frank Mather, captained by Dick McCullough and Ollie Rust was in charge of onboard raffles and FUN!

Our first destination was Rancho Cucamonga, site of Ralph and Maxine Strane's garden which is wrapped around an 80 year old house originally from Sears-Roebuck and due to be reroofed shortly.

Iriswise, the garden was past peak primarily because of installation of street and parking lot lights and almost predictably unusual weather which caused early bloom. Many recent cultivars were still flowering, however, and the roses put on an outstanding show. Also of interest were Ralph's collection of exotic birds, a tibouchina tree, and other interesting plant material.

The second stop was not a garden but the Opici (say o-peachy) Winery in Alta Loma. We were greeted by some rather sullen sheep engaged in methodically destroying the vineyard, now condemned to make way for construction of a new school.

The proprietors were inside selling an assortment of gifts, boxes, barrels and a variety of vintages. Most noteworthy of these was on Orvieto Classico in a green, fish-shaped bottle which caught Peggy Carpenter's eye and started a run on it. That is not to say that a large volume of other happy hour raw materials did not leave the rustic, flower-covered tasting room in the hands of trekkers after a spirited tasting session.

Also located in Alta Loma was the next stop, the Daugherty Garden. This is a basic two-level garden with some additional sloping areas. Railroad ties are used to establish levels and outline planting areas.

The first eyecatchers in the garden are a series of outstanding Siberian clumps at the lower or entry level.

The main garden is a few steps higher and begins with a patio on which container grown cymbidiums and monstera among others are grown. Just off the patio is a fountain around which the rest of the area is structured.

The garden features PCN's, seedlings, pansies, calla-lilies, amaryllis, and a number of other specimen plants. The slope area is stabilized by an attractive honeysuckle and bottlebrush planting. A back corner fruitless mulberry shelters a number of Iris Tenax clones.

Color on blooming cultivars was good as was garden grooming in general.

The next destination was the Rains House, an 1860 residence now maintained as a museum. Costumed docents were on hand, a restored antique carriage was outside and the historical gardens are being re-developed.

Of perhaps equal and more immediate concern was the availability here of a delicious catered buffet with seating at tables under spreading shade trees. It seemed about time for a brief respite from iris watching.

The first post-lunch stop was the garden of Joseph and Frances Romozi in San Bernadino. The shaded entryway opened into an outdoor shaded area where food and drinks were available. Especially impressive in this area were amaryllis and epiphyllum specimens. Here too was a pond fed by a waterfall and some aviaries.

While bamboo screen (living) shaded the area from one side, overhanging trees (pine, sycamore, orchid, fig, magnolia, jacaranda and avacado) converted the garden into something of a haven from increasing temperatures.

Also prominent, in addition to iris concentrated in a rear-yard area, were bottlebrush, shrimp plant, pomegranate, fern, brunfelsia, crinum and philodendron.

If you like iris, a trip to the Hamner garden is always a pleasure. You always seem to find superb, row-crop irising. It does seem strange to look at flowers as so much frosting on the cake, the foliage on all cultivars was a tribute to outstanding cultural practices.

And the bloom, despite recent heat was also on the spectacular side. Some of the more mature clumps were responding with a real profusion of bloom.

A predictable highlight was the trip behind the fence into the seedling patch in which things to come receive careful scrutiny over a period of bloom seasons. It would seem that good things...more of them...are still to come.

Down the road a piece at Cal-Dixie, the iris were alphabetized and overwhelming. A historical approach was possible as iris through decades were in evidence. Literally waves of cultivars made it seem much like eating a ten-course meal and then having somebody offer you seconds... just too much to digest. Another appropriate comparison might be the kid in the candy store having to make choices-very difficult to do because you found yourself moving from one you needed to see to another you couldn't miss and then realizing you'd somehow managed to miss two entire rows.

There seemed not enough time to take it all in, especially when lack of sleep and a long day on your feet were beginning to give the "I need a rest" feeling. Tall, cool drinks and some munchies helped to revive bodies and spirits for the ride back to the hotel and the banquet.

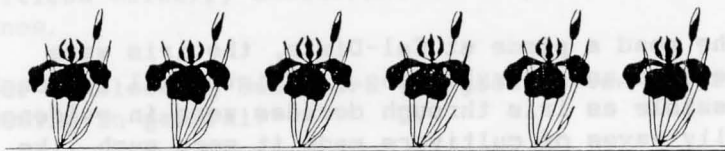
During the evening banquet session, SFVIS President Bill Rinehart issued a cordial invitation to all present and friends to be among those attending next year's combined Region 14-15 trek sponsored by SFVIS.

Featured speaker Rick Ernst of Cooley's Gardens in Silverton, Oregon, detailed the development of the firm during its 60-year history.

What remained of the trek for the good bus Chianti was the two commercial gardens: Hamner's and CalDixie.

With slides of the current operation and impressive statistics on numbers of rhizomes produced and the extent of mechanization, Ernst pointed out that Cooley's is now the largest iris nursery in the world.

Taken from The Irisarian published by San Fernando Iris Society, story by Jim Weinstock



JUDGES TRAINING UPDATE

Success of the 1988-1989 Region 15 judges training program will add several advancements as a result of decisions by the AIS Board at its Fall meeting in November. These are based on our recommendations sent through RVP Ralph Strane. The list includes:

One new apprentice judge, seven apprentices completing requirements for becoming accredited judges, and one reaching Master Judgeship. There are currently six apprentices who should be able to complete their requirements during next year's iris bloom season.

All members are invited to join our Region's Judges Training program. Information on this may be requested from the Judges Training Committee Chairman or through your local society President.

Ralph Conrad

HOW TO HAVE FUN ON A BUS TOUR

The Chianti bus was blessed with a "loud talkin', tall, skinny" provider of fun named Ollie Rust. She said she was here because "her family paid her to leave the house!" She added much laughter and good times to the travel time between gardens. She kept reminding us that "I'm good" and "I didn't do nuthin'" while we were awarded such surprises as card games - Crazy Eights and Go Fish; Coloring Books and Crayons; Comic Books; Squirt Guns; and Paddleballs Toys. I am sure that Pete DeSantis had great use for his plastic shovel, rake and water pitcher. Our Captain received Travel Tic-Tac-Toe. There were more useful gifts such as rhizomes, gift certificates for iris at the Hamner's and visors and caps. In all it was a good time for all.

So if anyone is planning a trek and they need someone to show them how to entertain the troops on the bus just ask for Ollie Rust! She loves just being herself.



HI-DESERT IRIS AND DAYLILY SOCIETY

Dear Irisarians:

The Hi-Desert Iris and Daylily Society invites you to come to the Fall Region 15 meeting to be held October 21, 1989 at the Desert Inn, 44219 Sierra Highway in Lancaster, CA.

Please note that the date is the third Saturday in October and not the traditional second Saturday. October, in the High Desert is a month of great activity. The weather is usually very nice, schools, clubs, organizations of all kinds are back in session and weddings are in full swing. We simply were unable to obtain suitable quarters on the second Saturday in which to hold our events.

Our meeting place, the Desert Inn, is on Sierra Highway in Lancaster. Down the road a couple of miles is Air Force Plant 42 in Palmdale. This is where the Space Shuttles, the B-1 Bomber, the B-2 Stealth Bomber, etc. are assembled and flight tested.

On Sunday, following our Saturday meeting, the National Chili Cookoff Championships will be held at the Tropico Gold Mine. This is located about 12 miles north of the meeting place and draws people from all over. We therefore urge you to make any hotel reservations early, directly with the motel. Many of you might wish to visit the mine and take in this event while you are here. I think you will find it very interesting.

Hotel rates at our meeting headquarters, The Desert Inn will range in price from \$53-56 single and \$58-61 double. The phone number is 805-942-8401.

There are a number of new budget motels, especially in Palmdale, where room rates range between \$30-40. Their phone numbers are: Motel 6 805-824-4571; Palmdale Inn 805-273-5106; EZ-8 805-273-6400 and Super 8 Motel 805-273-8000.

Cal Bostwick

ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____
 LOCAL CLUB _____
 THE DESERT INN
 44219 SIERRA HIGHWAY
 LANCASTER, CALIF. 93530
 (805) 942-8401
 ENCLOSURE

OCTOBER 21, 1989
 AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY (665-10)

AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY (REG 15)

Annual Fall Meeting

October 21, 1989

to be held at:

**THE DESERT INN
44210 Sierra Highway
Lancaster, Calif. 93534
(805) 942-8401**

Our Hi-Desert Iris and Daylily Society is only one year old, but we are proud to be hosting this Regional Meeting. We hope to welcome many of you to the Antelope Valley for the day. Most of our time will be spent on the Spuria Iris. This Iris will grow well on our desert and in most all of Region 15.

Our speaker is to be Mrs. Ramona Howard, The Regional Vice President of Texas. She has been growing TB Iris since 1960 and Spurias for the last 15 years. Ramona is an active member of AIS and has been a judge since '71. She will be giving a talk and slide presentation on the Spuria Iris.

Our Judges Training will be conducted by a panel of judges. They will be covering how to become an AIS Judge and how to judge Spuries and Bearded Iris in the garden.

We have a full day planned and hope many of you can join us. Because the next day is the big Chili Cookoff at Tropic Gold Mine, you will need to make any necessary room reservations as early as possible.

Program

8:30 a.m.	Region 15 Board Meeting	
9:00	Registration Begins	(Coffee & Donuts)
9:30	Judges Training	
11:30	Lunch	
12:30 p.m.	Business Meeting	
1:30	Guest Speaker	
3:30	Adjournment	

REGISTRATION FEES: \$20.00 (Luncheon Included) DUE BY OCTOBER 1ST

Please Make Checks Payable to: Hi-Desert Iris & Daylily Society

Mail to: Angel Ferber (805) 256-4825
P.O. Box 996
Rosamond, Calif. 93560

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

LOCAL CLUB: _____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY (REG 15)

Annual Fall Meeting

October 27, 1989

FOCVT *CFNB* ... ENCLOSED

THE DESERT INN

4200 Sierra Highway

Lancaster, Calif. 93535

FOOHEES:

MYNE:

LANCASHIRE CALL 53096

Our meeting is only one year old, but we are proud to have a reputation for the best meeting in the Antelope Valley for the day. Most of our time will be spent in the garden. We have a lot of planned activities if you can join us. Because the job is the big thing, we have a lot of judges and judges training will be conducted by a panel of judges. They will be covering now to become an AIS member. This is a great opportunity for you to make an early registration. We have a lot of judges training will be conducted by a panel of judges. They will be covering now to become an AIS member. This is a great opportunity for you to make an early registration.

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SAN FERNANDO HOSTS REGIONS 14 AND 15

If you are an addicted "trekkie" (don't bother to look it up), you can't miss the joint 1990 Spring Meeting of Regions 14/15 hosted by the San Fernando Valley Iris Society on Friday and Saturday, April 20 and 21 at the Airtel Plaza Hotel in Van Nuys. New highs in nonabusive activities are promised.

Starting feverishly with an AIS sanctioned Show (horticulture only) on Friday afternoon the intensity increases at nightfall. Simultaneous region meetings, and an ambitious and not-to-be-missed judges training on all iris classes highlight the sponsored portion of the festivities.

Saturday's bus tour of Valley gardens starts early and promptly from the hotel parking lot, strongly suggesting that accommodations at the hotel on Friday night be seriously considered. Breakfast will be served on the busses a la Memphis. Four gardens are scheduled to be visited in the morning with a full course luncheon provided at the Airtel at noon. Four additional gardens are on the afternoon schedule. All gardens are in the Valley and no long bus rides are necessary.

The highlight of Saturday evening will be the banquet with Ray Schreiner, of the Schreiners, sharing the billing with the hotel's justly celebrated cuisine.

Registration fee will be \$50 (\$60 late) per person. Hotel rooms will be bargain priced at \$65 double occupancy.

Registration forms will be made available through society presidents and by mail for AIS members. Consider early registration as the banquet will be on a first come first served basis up to a rigid maximum seating.



INLAND IRIS SOCIETY

YOU ARE INVITED TO INLAND IRIS SOCIETY

The Inland Iris Society has two especially interesting programs planned for the 1989/90 fiscal year. We hope that you will be able to attend them. The dates and the speakers are firm so that you can mark your calendars and make travel arrangements now. The time of day and the exact hotel has not been firmed. Your Iris Society president will be notified of these details as soon as the time and location have been confirmed.

The first of these two special programs will feature Steve Varner, noted hybridizer, on November 5, Sunday afternoon. Steve will discuss some of the techniques of hybridizing and growing Siberian Irises. Steve will also show us some slides of the beautiful Siberian Irises.

The second guest speaker will be Joseph Mertzweiller on January 7, Sunday afternoon. Joe is a hybridizer and is a noted writer and has published an informative book on Louisiana Irises. Joe will give us a very interesting presentation including some technical information on the hybridizing, showing and growing Louisiana Irises.

In addition to the interesting subjects that these speakers will bring to the Inland Empire and to Region 15, you can get credit for judges training for these two sessions. If you would like additional information, you may write me at 5572 Amethyst Ave., Alta Loma, CA 91701.

Joe Daughterty



SAN DIEGO-IMPERIAL COUNTIES IRIS SOCIETY

The San Diego - Imperial Valley Iris Society members have been very active this past year.

April 29 - 30, we had our Annual Iris Show. The Queen of Show was Sky Hooks exhibited by Linda Moore. The Silver Medal was won by Bob Brooks and the Bronze by Linda Moore. Best Artistic Design was awarded to Dorothy Driscoll. We had 248 entries, 201 cultivars and 21 artistic entries.

At our May meeting Bill and Claire Barr presented a slide program of the gardens at the Memphis National Convention.

July 16th, we had a potluck luncheon at the beautiful new home of Bob Brooks. The new officers were installed. They are President, William Barr; Vice President, Glenn Haugh; Secretary, Alice Myers; Treasurer, Dena Daugherty and Corresponding Secretary, Peggy McCrosky. Show awards were presented to the above mention winners. Immediately afterwards we had our Region 15 Auction which was quite successful.

August 20th we had our annual Iris Sale which was the biggest and best sale yet. It was schedule to go from 10 to 4 but we were sold out by 2 p.m. It was held at Balboa Park in San Diego.

On September 17th we are looking forward to a slide program by Walter and Mildred Gorrell about the Spring Trek.

Our meetings for the rest of the year are in the process of being formulated but we have some prominent irisarians booked.

We are looking forward to the Fall Regional meeting and hope to meet you there.

William E. Barr

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA IRIS SOCIETY

This past year the Southern California Iris Society put on two shows. The early show April 1st and 2nd at the Arboretum gives people an opportunity to exhibit early blooming iris varieties. This year we had nearly 100 aril and arilbred entries. It seems to be growing in popularity as 342 specimens were entered by 28 exhibitors. The Silver Medal winner was Judy Mogil, with the Bronze Medal going to Pete DeSantis. Queen of Show went to John Wight for Desert Sands, a half-bred aril.

Two weeks later another show was staged at the Santa Anita Fashion Park Mall. The mall had been recently remodeled so the usual set-up had to be modified to the new surroundings. Here we had 21 exhibitors entering 159 specimens and 13 flower arrangements. The Silver Medal went to John Wight and the bronze Medal to Duncan Eader. Queen of Show went to Maxine Gould for Soft Skies, a Tall Bearded.

We will be putting on two shows again next Spring. An Early Show at the L. A. County Arboretum, Arcadia, on March 31st and April 1st and a second show at the Santa Anita Fashion Park Mall on April 28th - 29th.

We meet the fourth Saturday of January, March and June and the first Saturday of November at the L. A. County Arboretum, Arcadia. Our next meeting November 4, 1989 starts with a potluck luncheon at 12:00 noon. At 1:00 PM our program will be by Mr. Bob Brooks of Cordon Bleu Nursery on Spuria and Louisiana iris. This will be followed by a beardless iris auction.

We extend an invitation to all regular members, new members, guests, and members of other clubs to attend our meetings!

Lynn A. McIlwain



SUN COUNTRY IRIS SOCIETY

Greetings from Sun Country!

Our Spring Show at Valley West Mall was capped off by an awards banquet held on April 15th at the Valley Garden Center. Awards were presented to Charlene Errigo for Queen of Show and Best Spuria for Cinnamon Roll and Best Median Little Willie; Best Louisiana award went to Vicki Day for King Creole; Best Aril, Syrian Sunset, and Best Tall Bearded Anabelle Babson went to Gary and Jan Meeker. Best Seedling of the show went to Donald Shepard for his Louisiana LA89515; Youth Best specimen to Jennifer Mosca for Color Carnival and Best Youth Design to Cristal Parkinson. Best Design for adults went to Clemence Newcomb and Artistic Sweepstakes to Clarice Maben. We feel it was a very impressive show and was well received by the Public.

Our plans for this year include working more with the youth of our club - kids and grandkids. We seem to be acquiring more grandkids lately. We had a hybridizing seminar with hands on training in April with several kids really getting with the program.

We are also planning an educational display along with several Valley Garden Societies and the Men's Garden Club Show in November to let the public know that iris can be grown successfully in Phoenix.

That's about all our plans for the Fall. Hope everyone else has a successful year.

Carole Spiess



The loveliest of gardens
Is the one where friendship grows;
For friendship cultivated
Is as lovely as a rose.

WHATS NEWS FROM SAN FERNANDO

San Fernando Valley Iris Society members are spent, but self-satisfied and rightfully so. The Spring issue of the Region 15 Newsletter listed many, but hardly all, of the then future activities of the SFVIS. All of those which have taken place have proved to be successful - tiring, but triumphantly successful.

April activities began with the annual SFVIS Spring Trek on the 8th. Members and their guests toured eight local gardens. Five of these had not been scheduled on any of the previous treks. As usual all gardens met and exceeded all standards and expectancies.

However, for many SFVIS members April iris activity began on the first day of the month. San Fernando member Judy Mogil won the Silver Medal and perennial winner, Pete DeSantis, gracefully settled for the Bronze at the Early Show co-sponsored by Aril Society International and the Southern California Iris Society. Jim Weinstock took best TB with Jessies's Song and the best beardless with Iris Japonica Nada.

The annual Spring Show, April 14 was embarrassingly successful. Even after containers were borrowed from the Hi Desert Iris and Daylily Society, there were not enough to accommodate all the potential entries. Nevertheless a record number of showstalks, almost 500, were judged. Queen of Show was Bob Dunn's Jazz Jubilee exhibited by Myrna Hood. Sweepstakes award for Artistic Arrangements was won by Joan Vance.

Because of the donation of the collection of iris from "Daisy's Everlasting Iris Garden" by the heirs of Daisy and Jack Bennie, the society sold rhizomes concurrently with the Spring Show for the first time in recent years. The whole collection sold out in two hours and additional rhizomes, hurriedly dug at the Braithwaits, were literally seized before they could be placed on the table.

More than 30 SFVIS members enjoyed the gracious hospitality of the Region 15 Spring Trek sponsors, the Inland Iris Society, on April 21 and 22.

The smallest SFVIS contingent in recent years attended the National Convention in Memphis, but after putting together a coalition of Region 15 attendees was no less conspicuous.

On May 20-21, a rhizome sale was conducted at the Sepulveda Garden Center. There was an improvement in revenue received which will continue as additional clientele are developed at this venue.

The San Fernando Valley Iris Society was asked to participate at the June 3, 4 anniversary celebration at Northridge Park. The return to Northridge after a hiatus of almost 15 years netted \$1100 and an opportunity to be visible in an untapped area in the Valley.

New this year was the SFVIS Popularity Poll. Winners of the first and second spots were Jim Gibson's Pink Swan and Bernard Hamner's Royal Kingdom.

The Region 15 auction on July 12 realized \$502 which is a new record for SFVIS and for the region.

The 1989 Raffle/Auction, August 9, recorded a new record net profit of \$1188.

Monthly meetings continue to be well attended. After eight months the average turnout is above 50 per meeting with three of the biggest draws yet to come.

Whew!!

Bill Rinehart



The fairest flower in the Garden of Life
Is the fellowship of friends.
Time but glorifies its beauty
With a fragrance that never ends.

No cloud can shade its loveliness,
No storm its petals part.
For the flower of friendship dwells forever
In the shrine of the human heart.

PHOTOGRAPHING IRIS

By Dave Niswonger

Reprinted from Region 18 Bulletin, Spring 1989

The two main deficiencies that I see when looking at prints or slides are that the irises are either too far away or over-exposed.

In dealing with the first problem of being too far away, I must say that "instamatic" type cameras are not good for close ups of irises. They may be okay for clumps of iris in some instances, garden shots, or those of iris friends. The 35mm single reflex lens type cameras are the most common in use. Macro lens is preferred so close ups can be taken, but extension tubes or rings can be used to get close up to an individual bloom.

When taking a close up of a bloom or an individual stalk, the most common mistake is shooting down on the iris. I suppose many of us are getting older and hate to stoop over or squat down on the ground, but to get the best picture and to do the iris justice you should shoot directly into the iris. In other words, your camera should be horizontal to the stalk or bloom that you are taking. When taking a single bloom, you should shoot straight into a fall or the stigmatic lip. If you want to show the ruffles or lace, you might angle the camera slightly from side to side, but usually taking a picture sideways of the iris does not do the iris justice. Most people like to see the width of the falls and whether they are touching at the hafts. Your goal may be to give the best rendition of the particular variety you are taking or your goal may be to make the iris look as good as it possibly can. In the case of haft marks, you may want to shoot up rather than shooting down which will hide the haft marks to some extent if you wish to do this.

In getting the proper exposure on the iris, you need to know whether your built-in light meter is taking a reading from a spot in the lens or whether the entire light coming through the lens is controlling the light meter. In most cases, I like to underexpose the iris about one-half stop. If you are taking a light colored iris, you may want to cut it back as much as one full stop. If the iris is real dark, you may want to shoot

it at the normal exposure rate or overexpose it to perhaps one-half stop. The other thing to consider in doing this is the background. If you are taking the picture with a white house or white fence in the background, you may have to take this into consideration as you set the exposure.

There are other considerations that could also be utilized, such as, in my opinion, the best time of the day to take a colored picture of an iris is around 10 o'clock in the morning. If you should happen to have overcast skies at the same time, this makes it even better, especially if you are trying to take a blue iris or a blue beard on an iris. Most of the time you cannot pick and choose the time of the day or the kind of weather you are going to have that particular day in taking your picture. But if you are doing this in your home garden, you can be a little careful in the time you select to take the picture. If there is any chance for glare, you may want to use a polarized filter in case there are cars in the background or metal objects that could reflect light. Skylight filters are all right to use if you are taking pictures of people and their faces, which gives their face a more rosey color. You would not particularly want to use this filter on irises unless you want to emphasize the pinkness of the iris. It will make irises usually look pinker than they really are. I keep an ultraviolet haze filter on my camera at all times. If you are wanting to take a picture of a blue iris so that it will look blue and not purple, you may wish to use a filter. I like to use a blue filter, such as Olympus No. 82C. You can get a comparable filter by mentioning this to your camera dealer. Again, if you could use a filter on a cloudy day, the irises are apt to look more blue than if you have a glaring hot sun or if you try to take it late in the evening.

I hope these tips will be useful and some of you other photographers may have other items that you could add to this. I am sure the editor would appreciate receiving responses and further comments on this article.

BALANCE SHEET AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 1989

BEGINNING BALANCE AS OF 2/6/89

Checking Account	1712.39	
1 Certificates of Deposit	5077.56	
RVP Certificate of Deposit	6177.72	
RVP Savings Account	700.00	

TOTAL		13667.67

RECEIPTS

Iris Auction Receipts		
Inland Iris Society	243.00	
San Fernando	501.00	
San Diego/Imperial Valley	300.00	
Sun Country	353.00	
Southern California	247.00	
Subtotal Iris Auction Receipts	-----	1644.00
Interest		
RVP Fund Savings Acct	12.65	
Certificate of Deposit	185.18	
Refund from Spring Newsletter	53.14	
TOTAL RECEIPTS		1894.97

DISBURSEMENTS

Iris for Spring Trek '91	301.50	
AIS Fall '88 Mailing Labels	17.36	
Inland Spring Meeting	150.00	
Judges Training	34.85	
RVP Expenses - Memphis	596.21	
Spring Newsletter	400.00	
AIS Spring '89 Mailing Labels	15.40	
Bank Charges for checks	11.27	
Cal. Franchise Tax Board	25.00	
Interest from CD	77.56	
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		1629.15

BALANCE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 1989 13933.49

Checking Account	2639.33	
Certificates of Deposit	5000.00	
RVP Fund	6177.72	
RVP Savings	116.44	

TOTAL		13933.49

Submitted September 1, 1989
Pete DeSantis, Treasurer

A WALK IN THE IRIS GARDEN

By Katherine Tutin

The Iris is a flower of love.

It comes so close to those above.
It gives and gives and has no care,
But offers all it has to share.

Its colors glint, glow and gleam;
They mock the stars, throw back its gleam.
To sunlight's sparkle they employ
To give to all an added joy.

A favorite color you implore?
Then search the garden back and fore.
Each Iris holds up its sweet face;
All show their charms with pleasing grace.

Each has its virtues, great and small,
Be they elegant, graceful, short or tall.
How can I choose one I like best
When all have been so richly blest?

So up the garden path I go,
But never, never seem to know
The color, form, strong or slender,
Ruffled, fluted, laced or plain,
So I go back and look again.



AIS NEWSLETTER
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