

AIS REGION 15 2003 SPRING NEWSLETTER

ARIZONA & SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
MARCH 2003

2002 Region 15 Fall Meeting Phoenix, AZ

By Darlene Kaiser

Hosting the **2002 Region 15 Fall Meeting** was a first opportunity for the members of **Sonoran Desert Iris Society** to work together on a region project. I believe that I speak for all of our members when I say that we had a great time preparing for the meeting and watching the day unfold. Most of our planning was done on Sunday afternoons amid bountiful refreshments at the home of **Don and Bobbie Shepard**. Bobbie is our treasurer and registrar, and Don always made us feel welcome.

It was at **Patrick Orr's** suggestion that we invited **Don and Ginny Spoon** from Cross Junction, Virginia, as our speakers. He issued the invitation and made their travel arrangements. Patrick wore many hats for he, alone, contacted hybridizers and organized the raffle, which he operated most proficiently. He also spent a great deal of time digging and potting rhizomes.

Darlene Kaiser, our president, single-handedly collected all of the items that she used to fill the pretty registration bags which she donated. We had many door prizes, all of which were donated by our club members or by other region members. Although **Carole** and **Jerry Spiess** were out of town and could not attend the meeting, they stored most of the door prizes and auction items for many months. During that time, Carole kept an up-to date inventory. She also potted and watered about fifty irises.

The beautiful centerpieces at the luncheon were all made by our talented **Frankie Johnsen**, who also painted and decorated each of the bird houses. Her equally talented husband, **Larry Johnsen**, made all of the iris pins that each of us received as a luncheon favor, as well as the iris magnets.

When Larry was not at the registration desk with Frankie, he and **Debbie Zimmerman** were taking pictures of those attending the meeting. They took some wonderful photos with their little disposable cameras. Some of those pictures are on the Region 15 web site and others are in this issue of the Region Newsletter. I think that there is a picture of each person who attended.

Brett Cameron provided the slide projector for the speakers and made sure that it was set up properly. He was also the auction chairman. Brett and the other auctioneers, **Charles Howard**, the clock man, and **Patrick Orr**, did a great job. After the Camerons completed



Clockwise from left: Ginny Spoon, Sun Country Pres. Darlene Kaiser, Don Spoon, RVP Gerry Snyder, and Fall Meeting Chairperson Betty Howard

the enormous task of transporting them to the hotel, **Kathy Cameron** was in charge of distributing the door prizes. Kathy and Brett Cameron, along with **Darlene Kaiser**, were efficiency personified as they did the drawings.

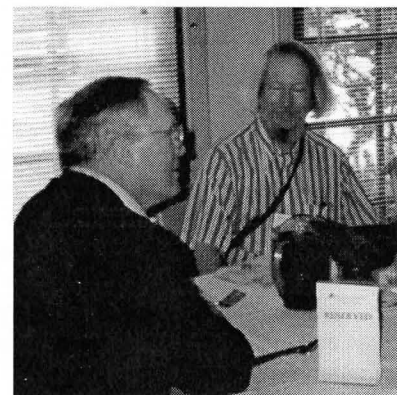
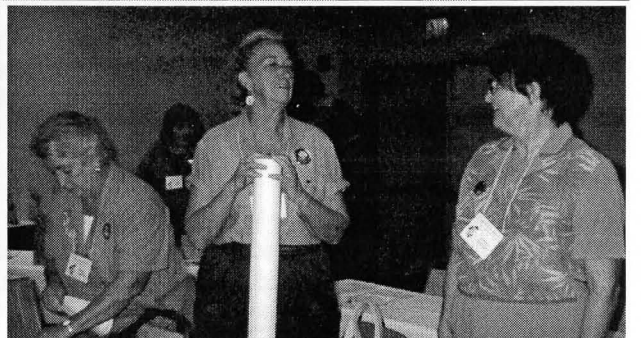
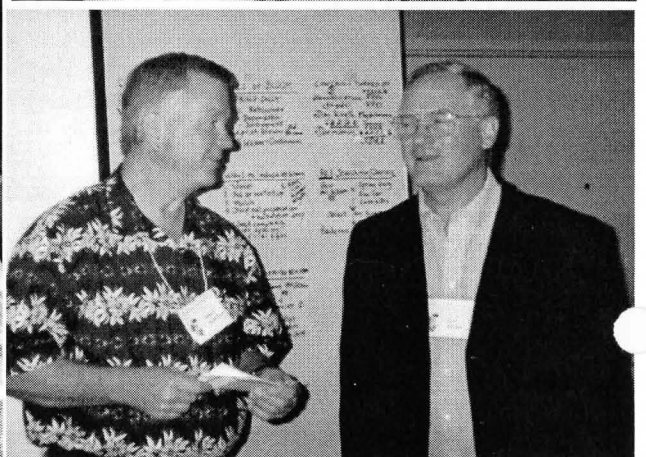
Thank you to all who donated iris artifacts, rhizomes or money. Thanks, also, to the generous hybridizers, who provided so many of their recent introductions.

The people with whom we worked at the Red Lion Hotel were a delight, and **Dr. and Mrs. Spoon**, our guest speakers, were wonderful. With their energy, enthusiasm and knowledge, Ginny and Don educated, inspired and motivated us. To the forty-five people who attended, including **Karen Bergamo** from Albuquerque, thank you for coming! It was you who made the day a success! Because you were there, each of us had the opportunity to make new friends, meet old acquaintances and renew friendships, which is, I think, the real measure of any meeting. We hope that when the beautiful iris, **MESMERIZER**, blooms for you in the spring, you will not only remember **Gerry Snyder**, who provided the rhizomes, but will also recall a pleasant fall day in Phoenix and the **2002 Region 15 Fall Meeting**.



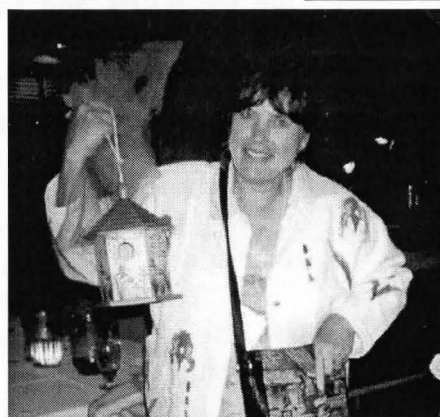
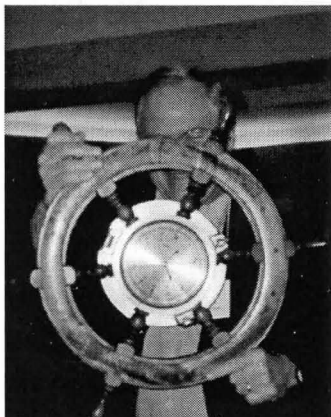
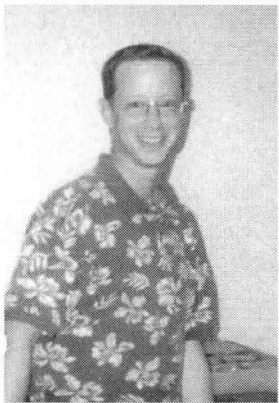
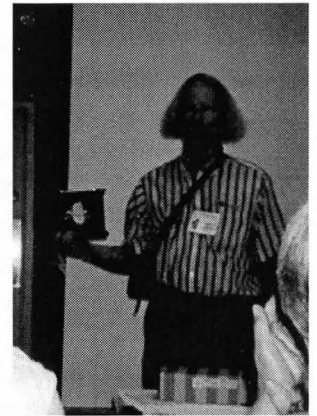
2002 Region 15

Fall Meeting





2002 Region 15 **Fall Meeting**





REGION 15 NEWS

A Message from new RVP Jim Giles

The iris beds are starting to require a little more work as we all work on growing that stalk to win "Best of Show". You will have two chances if your local show is on a day other than April 12th to take home the "Best" because you will have the opportunity to enter the show hosted by Sun Country at this years Spring Trek. **Bonnie and Hooker Nichols** will judge the show on the afternoon of April 12th. So let's see if those of you from societies other than Sun Country can take the blue ribbons home with you. Get your registrations in early for this year's trek because it is going to be a fun filled weekend in sunny Phoenix. (See the flyer in this newsletter.)

The Region 15 Executive Board met on February 1st, and had a full day of work. I would like to thank the board for preparation and work they put into this meeting. I would also like to welcome our newest members of the board. **Winona Stevenson** has accepted the Membership Chair and is off to a great start. This position has been vacant for a couple of years and she has jumped in with both feet to get us back on track. **Patrick Orr** has accepted the Awards Chair and will take on that responsibility at the Spring Trek. **Jimmy Jones** has accepted the task of creating a new chair – Jimmy will be the new Region 15 Historian. **Joyce Poling** is going take the place of our outgoing Ways & Means chairman, **Pete DeSantis**. She knows that she has some big shoes to fill, but she presented the board with some very good ideas for the coming year. I think that position will continue be in very good hands. Please thank these new members as well as the incumbents for the great job they are doing.

I have to mention the efforts of my good friend **Pete DeSantis**. Pete was involved with the Region 15 Board when I joined Inland many years ago. Pete has always been a great support to the local societies with his programs, participation at local meetings and showing everyone how to win that blue ribbon. He is very active in San Fernando and has been a mainstay in the Region for years. Somebody stated that Pete has done more for Region 15 than any of the other members of the board includ-



ing the RVPs, and I have to agree with that statement.

Pete is a great mentor and friend and I am sad that he is taking a well deserved respite from office. I suspect that Pete will be back in some capacity for the Region because that is the way he is, if he sees something that needs to be done, he jumps in and gives a hand.

Thank you, Pete, for all you have done, for your quick wit, your smile and your friendship.

I hope to see you all in Phoenix in April.





Region 15 Bylaws

-PROPOSED CHANGE IN BYLAWS-

The Board of Directors of AIS Region 15 have voted to propose a change in the Bylaws. Please study the proposed change and be prepared to vote on it at the 2003 Spring Trek General Meeting. **The word (THREE) would be stricken from the paragraph.** This change would have the effect of removing the limit on the number of standing committee chairmen who may be voting members of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS

Section 1. The governing body shall be a Board of Directors, also known as the Executive Committee, comprised of the four elected officers and a representative from each affiliated club in the Region and the **(three)** standing committee chairmen. They shall be expected to attend all meetings and exercise voting privileges. (All affiliated clubs must apply for affiliation and be approved annually by the AIS Chairman of Affiliates)

Region 15 Board Notes

REGION 15 HIGHLIGHTS EDITED FOR NEWSLETTER
From Secretary Cheryl Deaton's Original Minutes on File

AIS Region 15 Board Meeting

October 12, 2002

Phoenix, AZ

The Meeting was called to order by RVP Gerry Snyder. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as published.

Treasurer Avery Poling reported General Checking balance \$7,534.32, CD account \$12,068.04, RVP CD \$7,440.29.

Judge's Training Jim Giles recommended 5 members for apprentice judges, and 2 members for Garden Judges.

Nominations Jeanne Plank reported the slate of officers to be voted on at the General Meeting: Jim Giles, RVP; Jane Parks, Asst RVP; Avery Poling, Treasurer; and Cheryl Deaton, Secretary.

Ways & Means Pete DeSantis is retiring, and will be replaced by Joyce Poling.

Youth Cheryl Deaton reported 28 Youth members in Region 15. Beth Rocha placed second in the Clark Cosgrove Memorial Award & received a cash award. LaVerne Conrad Award nominations due Dec. 31st.

New Business

The Board approved designating 10% of the Region Rhizome Sales for Youth Activities.

The RVP Allowance for travel was raised to \$1000.00.

Marion Walker, former AIS President & RVP recently died, and his widow donated his Iris Collectibles to Region 15 for fund-raising. Pete collected the articles and Joyce will catalog them for Silent Auctions at future events.

There will be no Region 15 Spring Trek in 2004, but we plan on doing something in conjunction with Region 14, who is hosting the National AIS Convention in Fresno, even if it is only holding our board and general meetings there.



Region 15 Board Notes

REGION 15 HIGHLIGHTS EDITED FOR NEWSLETTER From Secretary Cheryl Deaton's Original Minutes on File

AIS Region 15 General Meeting

2:55 PM, October 12, 2002 - Phoenix, AZ

- The meeting was called to order by RVP Gerry Snyder, who thanked the Sonoran Desert Iris Society for their hospitality.
- The Minutes of the last meeting were approved as published & Avery Poling gave the Treasurer's Report (see bd min.)
- The Slate of Officers was presented, being no nominations from the floor, Jim Giles, RVP; Jane Parks, Asst. RVP; Avery Poling, Treasurer; and Cheryl Deaton, Secretary, were unanimously voted into office by acclamation.
- Jeanne Plank presented outgoing RVP Gerry Snyder was with a clock bearing the image of his favorite iris, Mesmerizer. Kathy Chilton thanked Gerry for all of us.
- Affiliates were introduced and their members were asked to rise and be recognized.
- Secretary Cheryl Deaton summarized the Board Minutes.
- Sun Country Iris Society invited all to Spring Trek 2003 in Phoenix and handed out registration forms. An Iris Show will be held in conjunction with the trek.
- New RVP Jim Giles presented Gerry Snyder with an RVP pin. Past RVPs Bobbie Shepard and LaVerne Conrad were in attendance, along with visiting RVP Don Spoon.

AIS Region 15 Board Meeting

Grand Terrace, CA – February 1, 2003

Attendees Jim Giles, Mike Monninger, Kathy Chilton, LynnAlison Martin, Arki Kary Debbie Babuscio, Ken and Christie Pier-son, Pete DeSantis, Avery and Joyce Poling, John Rienschmidt, Winona Stevenson, Jimmy Jones, and Cheryl Deaton. RVP Jim Giles called the meeting to order at 9am. Secretary Cheryl Deaton's minutes were approved as published.

Treasurer Avery Poling reported General Checking balance of \$14,350.01, CD \$12,149.22 & RVP CD \$7,490.34. The Treas-urer's Report was accepted for audit.

Budget An increase in the amounts allotted to affiliates for the treks was approved, with Spring Trek receiving \$800 and Fall Treks \$600. The travel expense allowance for elected officers was increased to \$500 per year. Projected income is \$5420, with a reserve forwarded of \$4455, and expenditures were projected at \$9875. The total budget of \$9875 was approved.

Judges Training Jim Giles distributed an updated list of judges and apprentices for the region. Clubs are urged to include apprentice training at their spring shows.

Historian A new position of Historian for Region 15 was created & will be filled by Jimmy Jones.

Awards Patrick Orr is our new Awards Chairman.

Newsletter Editor Kathy Chilton will mention the passing of Marion Walker and Claire Barr in the newsletter. She wants to investigate bulk mailing regulations to see if money can be saved on postage. Out of Region subscriptions to the newsletter were raised to \$5 per year.

Membership New Chairperson Winona Stevenson reported a total of 417 AIS members in Region 15 and urged all members to renew AIS memberships promptly. Send copies of local memberships to Winona & she will identify the AIS members, as well as let you know when any new AIS members move to your area.

Ways & Means Outgoing Chairman Pete DeSantis was thanked for his years of hard work. New Chair, Joyce Poling, reported 20 banners left, and 28 items from Marion Walker's Estate to be sold at silent auction – 14 at Spring Trek in Phoenix and 14 at the Fall Trek. Rhizome sale: Clubs will be given the option of a Full Order of 80 or 1/2 order of 40. Clubs that raise \$700 or more will receive 10% of the funds raised back to their club.

Nominations Jeanne Plank's request to purchase more clocks for RVP gifts was approved. Bob & Jeanne Plank are moving to Region 14 & will be missed!!

Bylaws Change A proposed change to Article 4, Section I was approved to allow all committee chairmen to attend as voting members of the board (see p. 5 of this newsletter for the wording). It is to be voted on at the 2003 Spring Trek general meeting.

Affiliate Reports were given. Jim Giles requested that all affiliates send him copies of their newsletters.

Youth Cheryl Deaton reported that no qualified applications for the LaVerne Conrad award were received by the deadline.

AIS Insurance has been changed. (See page 25 of this newsletter for the details.)

Fall Trek 2003 will be hosted by Southern California Iris Society at the Huntington Garden in San Marino on October 4.

AIS Fall Board Meeting 2003 will be held in Tucson Nov. 7-9 at the Best Western Inn at the Airport. Final budget was much lower than anticipated.

AIS National Convention 2004 Region 15 hopes to offer assistance to Region 14 & Chair Betty Coyle, possibly helping with registration and packet preparation.



REGION 15 NEWS

Membership Report

by

Winona Stevenson, Membership Chair

Feb. 1, 2003

As of 1/23/03, Region 15 has the following:

417 members - 298 single members

79 dual

30 youth

Of these members, 97 have an expiration date of 12/31/02.

There are 10 Affiliates in the Region.

I will be receiving a list of additions and corrections during the first week of the month. In January & July, I will receive a complete listing of all Region 15 members. In February, I will be receiving a list of those members who have not yet sent in their renewals. Then, at the end of March, I will receive a list of members who have been dropped for nonpayment of dues.

We need to urge all members who have not paid their dues to do so quickly. Also, each Affiliate should become a member of AIS if it is not already a member. Our AIS membership secretary has requested that if the Affiliates receive the checks for their members' AIS membership, that all checks be sent in as they are received and not held until several are ready to go.

In order to help the Affiliates with their membership, I would respectfully request a copy of their membership roster from each of them. I can identify AIS members from the master list that I have and perhaps we can correct any lack of information as has been in the past. If I can contact the membership chairman of each Affiliate, it will be an easy job to keep them up to date. A phone number, FAX number or email address will be helpful.

I have opened a line of communication with Mary Brown, AIS membership Secretary, and we can learn together what needs to be done. We should encourage all of our Affiliate members to join AIS, as the information received through the bulletins and newsletters is priceless.

REGION 15 TREK WHEEL

SPRING

FALL

2002 Sun Country AZ
2004 (AIS Nat'l Fresno)
2005 Tucson AZ
2006 San Fernando CA

Southern California CA 2003
Orange County CA 2004
Hi Desert CA 2005
Southern California CA 2006



Region 15 News

IRIS HYBRIDIZERS OF ARIZONA

By Margie Valenzuela

On January the 11th, 2003, the Iris Hybridizers of Arizona (I.H.A.) met at the Mountain Oyster Club in downtown Tucson. The meeting began at 2:00 pm and was headed by Margie Valenzuela. Those who attended were: Francelle and Marvin Edwards, Joyce Poling, Avery Poling, Carol Morgan, Fred Thorpe, Doug and Perri Larson, Patrick Orr, Charles Jenkins, Tony and Melania Kutz, Jan Hueller, Kathy Chilton, Hall Bradshaw, Ardi Kary, Margie Valenzuela, and special guests Rick Tasco and Roger Duncan.

Minutes were read and the drawing for the 8 door prizes took place next. Avery Poling won the most desired door prize: a \$50.00 gift certificate from Superstition Iris Garden(donated by Rick Tasco and Roger Duncan).

The first order of business was to vote on the name for our group. The final choices were narrowed down to two. 1.) The "I.H.A." or the "Iris Hybridizers of Arizona," and 2.) The "Desert Pollen Dusters." The vote was 11 to 5 – in favor of I.H.A. (Iris Hybridizers of Arizona). Three chose not to vote. It was then suggested that we look into what it entails to become an affiliate of the AIS.

Next, the question of whether or not to charge dues or a registration fee to help cover costs and possibly to bring in speakers was brought up. Suggestions were made and included: a 50/50 drawing; asking everyone to chip in \$25.00 to start up a fund for this group; and having a "passing of a hat". Any of these would entail appointing a treasurer for the I.H.A. This discussion was tabled and will resume at the next meeting.

The body of the meeting took the rest of the afternoon. All who were present and wished to - asked a question pertaining to hybridizing. Some of things we all learned were: ground treatment; when to transplant seedlings; the time WHEN an iris blooms all depends on its genetic make-up. (And an interesting follow-up: If one were to breed a cold climate iris or heavier Fall bloomer - like Autumn Circus - than your heaviest bloom will be in the fall-winter.) We also learned: – if you soak your seeds for 2 weeks, instead of a couple of days you'll get a higher percentage of your seeds to germinate the **FIRST** year, rather than the second; And – the reason the red iris is so elusive is because the red pigment has never really existed in the natural iris.

Other interesting revelations: Rick Tasco made the comment that when he crossed 2 horned/flooned irises together – sometimes those seedlings ended up with deformed petals. And at the closing of the meeting, Charles Jenkins had about 5 slides that showed how **ONE** iris seed produced 2 plants. (I hope I am relating this correctly). There were several *individual* seeds which produced 2 plants. These seeds were a cross between the Lactea Iris and a Spuria Iris. Fraternal twins (if you will) – excepting for the fact that they were from the **SAME** seed. One plant was a shorter Lactea-type plant, and the other plant (from the same seed) was a taller Spuria leafed plant (but not *as* tall as most Spurias). We're all eager to see the final results of this cross and what the iris flowers will look like.

The meeting concluded at 4:55pm. The next meeting will be in June, following the Iris season, Treks, and Convention. Think about joining us – there's a lot to learn. Until then.....Happy Hybridizing!





LETTERS FROM OUR PRESIDENTS

Spring 2003

Tucson Area Iris Society

President Jane Parks

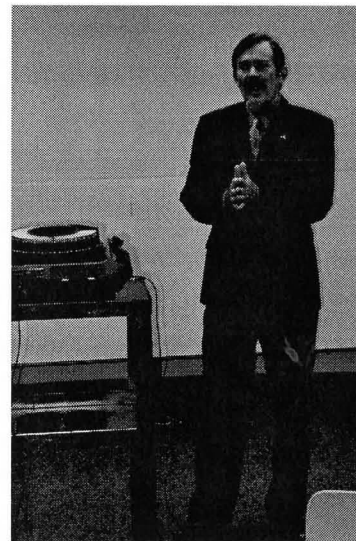
Our final meeting for 2002 was held in October, with a slide show of the Region 15 Spring trek, the AIS convention in Memphis, Tennessee, The Region 14 Spring meeting in the Sacramento, California area and the Region 18 Spring meeting in Springfield, Missouri. Officers for the 2002-2003 year were elected with myself continuing as President as well as **Perri Larson** as Vice-President, **Ruth Cely** as Secretary and our new Treasurer, **Doug Larson**. Perri Larson is in charge of our new iris program, and she did a marvelous job!! We draw two tickets for door prizes at each meeting as well as use the new iris for show awards. Also, they reward members who really make a huge contribution (working hard, not a monetary contribution!!) This year nobody went home empty handed. We have a great group of members. Many, many thanks to all of the hybridizers who helped us out.

Our normal November board meeting didn't pan out, but we managed a last minute board meeting in January. This is where we decide the budget and calendar for the year. The big hit at the meeting were the Krispy Kreme donuts!! We just recently got the first Krispy Kreme in Tucson.

At the January meeting, our guest speaker was **Rick Tasco** from **Superstition Iris Gardens**. He spoke about Historic iris, which is a category at our show each year. Afterwards, he and **Roger Duncan** were treated to lunch, and then they joined the Iris Hybridizers of Arizona for a meeting. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend, as I was visiting grandchildren in Virginia. Speaking of Virginia, that is where the AIS convention will be this year. I encourage you to go if you can. It will be spectacular!!

At the February meeting, we had **Fred Kerr** from **Rainbow Acres Iris Garden** as our guest speaker. A lot of you have probably seen his beautiful QUEEN'S CIRCLE at conventions or treks.

Our March program will be a program given by **Kathy Chilton** on how to groom iris and win awards!! She has a lot of experience in grooming and winning. She won almost everything at our show last year!!



Rick Tasco captivates his audience in January with his program on Historic Irises, featuring lovely photos in chronological order.



Tucson members enjoy refreshments with Spuria hybridizer, Charles Jenkins.



LETTERS FROM OUR PRESIDENTS

Spring 2003

TAIS Report Continued

Recently several of us got together and tended to the iris garden at the Tucson Botanical Garden. We cleaned it up, planted some container grown iris, fertilized and watered. Not many places could you do that this time of year. What a glorious day it was!! (More Krispy Kreme donuts!) **Carol Morgan** has agreed to keep an eye on our garden – Thanks, Carol!

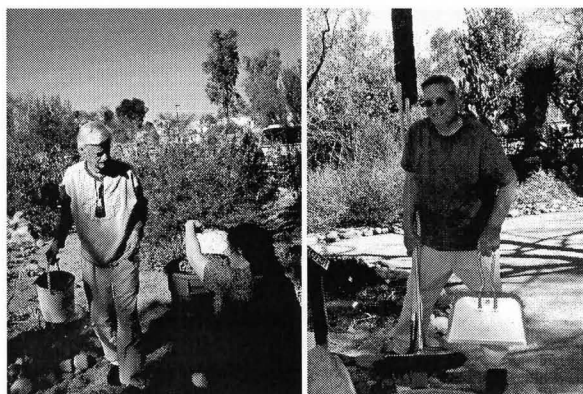
We are on track to having an “Easter Parade of Iris” show this year. **Kathy Chilton** has once again agreed to chair our show. The board decided to have it Easter weekend, since the ideal weekend will be the Region 15 Spring Trek in Phoenix. We felt it was too early or too late to hold it the other weekends. The first year I was a member of TAIS, we had it Easter weekend, and it was a huge hit. I remember taking left-over iris to a home for older women called St. Lukes. You would have thought I was the Easter Bunny!! The show will be held at El Con Mall. Unfortunately, it will be a one day show held on Saturday only, as the mall will be closed on Sunday. **Joanne Miller** is designing our schedule, and has also agreed to be the chairperson for the artistic division. **Perri Larson** will host the judges, and I will do the awards. We have a great club and everyone will pitch in and help!! It is work, but it is very rewarding and great fun. We hope that our judges will help several Apprentice Judges fulfill part of the Apprentice judging requirement.

The board decided to have more meetings this year. In addition to the extra meetings, a barbeque is planned the home of **Doug & Perri Larson** in Safford, Arizona, as well as a December holiday party at the home of **Sandy Britain!!** I wish that the Larsons could be on our 2005 Spring Trek tour, but they live about two hours from Tucson. If you stay any extra time, it would be well worth the drive to see their garden.

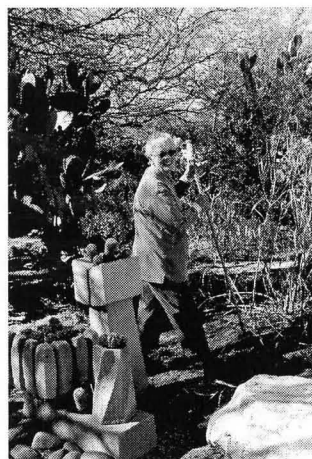
We will be hosting the **AIS Fall Board Meeting** in November. **Lucille Skerston** has done a marvelous job as the chairperson. I'm looking forward to attending at least part of it, to see how it all works. Spring is just around the corner, feels like it already. We have had almost no Winter and no rain. I hope it doesn't snow on Easter like it did a few years ago!! I always look forward to seeing all of you at the Spring Trek in April.



Carol Morgan lends a hand at the Tucson Botanical Garden clean-up.
(PS: Inland - you can't have her back!!)



TAIS members Bert Detwiler, Jane Parks, and Earl Fifer pitch in to clean up the iris garden.



Lucille Skerston wields a rake and a smile. She is also planning the Fall AIS Bd. Meeting!



LETTERS FROM OUR PRESIDENTS

Spring 2003

San Diego & Imperial Counties Iris Society

Ken Pierson, President

We have been working very hard in San Diego on some basic needs for our Society. We finally found a wonderful meeting place after not really having one for several years. We are now meeting at the Escondido Country Club (recommended by member **Margaret Yorio**), located in the northern part of San Diego, which makes it easier for other affiliates to attend our meetings. (We would love to see you!) These meetings are catered as part of the cost of the room, which eliminates the need for hauling all the refreshment paraphernalia needed at a meeting. Everyone can come on in and just enjoy the meeting. WHEW !!!

We have also been focused on getting our 501C3, non-profit status. We are almost there and would like to thank **Bob Plank** for his suggestions regarding wording etc. on presenting the paperwork for approval.

Now that those important things are behind us, it's time to focus on the future. I would love to see the San Diego members get more involved regionally, attending Spring Treks etc. They are GREAT FUN & educational too.

We started out the fall with a bang, after being dark in July & August. Our September rhizome sale was a huge success, thanks to the generosity of **Herb & Sara Holk** of **Cal Dixie Gardens**. Many more members than usual showed up to help with the sale and to educate the public regarding iris culture. We thank everyone who brought iris to share, especially **Leon & Norma Vogel** (pots, pots & more pots of iris). **George Bange** deserves thanks for bringing Louisiana irises, setting up & organizing the sale and picking up the irises from Cal Dixie. **Paul Potter** brought many reblooming irises the public seems to grab first!! Thank you all!!

October was a real treat. **Bill Rinehart**, speaker extraordinaire, came to give us a great program on re-blooming irises. We also got to visit with his wife **Bobbie**, who has relatives around the corner from our new meeting place, the Escondido Country Club.

December was our Christmas/Holiday Party. Members donated enough canned goods etc. to fill two large barrels of food for the local food bank. We also had a trivia contest with two first place winners: **Steve Rocha** and **Joella Olson**. As always, lots of fun and good eats.

January was our cultural meeting featuring **Walt Brendel**, **George Bange**, **Richard Richards** and myself - I didn't know we knew that much!!

In mid January, we lost a very special member and former AIS President, **Claire Barr**. Any meetings she attended seemed like SPECIAL occasions. She will be truly missed.

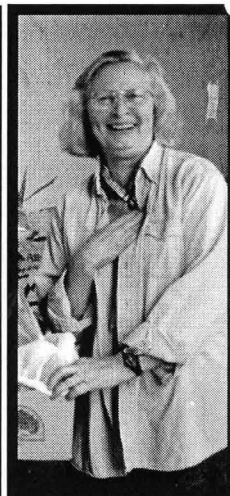
We are really looking forward to celebrating our 40th year as a Society. We are flying in **Jim Hedgecock**, of **Comanche Acres Iris Gardens** (Missouri), as our special speaker at the

A CUTE STORY

June Anderson, one of our newer members, came to the rhizome sale in September to help with the sale and to shop. After carefully shopping for her special irises (at least 3 hours), she went to "pay the piper".

She was really shocked that she went so far over her budget and said she was going to put some back.

When asked later how many she had put back, she answered, "One." !!!



party. He is the president of the **Spuria Iris Society**, and we are looking forward to learning more about this beautiful iris and its culture. We are lucky to have two founding members of our society attending our party, **Hazel Carson** and **Thelma Carrington**. Thank you both for making the San Diego & Imperial Counties Iris Society a reality!!!

In March, we are lucky enough to have **Keith Keppel** speaking to us on Australian seedlings as well as his own introductions and seedlings. A SPECIAL THANKS to **Cheryl Deaton** for coordinating a Region 15 tour for us, featuring Keith Keppel. What a thrill for the various Societies to have him as a speaker.

In April, we will get members pumped up for the show. We are having a mini iris show, complete with accredited AIS Judge **Joella Olson** critiquing the irises and letting us know what we can do to make an iris a "Queen." We will also be having a floral design lecture and tips on entering the show.

May 3 & 4 is our big show held in Balboa Park. We invite you all to come and enter!! Iris can be placed Friday evening, May 2nd. Bring your seedlings, too. We had quite a large seedling section last year and three of our members were given "EC" awards.

June is awards month and election of a New President and Vice-President. I have had a great time as President and have enjoyed the support and help of longtime members such as **Ruth Bryce**, **Dorothy Driscoll**, **George Bange**, **Walt Brendel** - the list goes on and on. I'm certain the next officers will get lots of help from our membership, too. "Many hands make light work!"

I hope to see you all at the Spring Trek and many other iris functions in 2003.

If you need any information on San Diego events, call or e-mail me.

ken112@abac.com
(760) 765-3434



LETTERS FROM OUR PRESIDENTS

Spring 2003

Hi Desert Iris & Daylily Society

Cheryl Deaton, President

The HDI&DS ended 2002 with a member potluck luncheon and installation of new club officers:

President **Cheryl Deaton**, VP **Linda Trustman**, Treasurer **Pat VanGorder** and Secretary **Debbi Steffen**. Outgoing President **Winona Stevenson** was presented with an iris plate and vase, and given a standing ovation for her wonderful leadership.

We began 2003 with one of our favorite speakers, **Rick Tasco**. He did a lovely program on Historic Irises, and we are hoping that his program on Arils will be ready for our November meeting.

In February we will be having a demonstration on preparing iris for the show bench, then on to the BIG event of the year, **Keith Keppel** on March 15th. Keith will be talking about median iris. March is also when we will be having our "members only" potted iris sale for \$1 per pot (we have over 4000 potted iris) and our booth at the Home & Garden Show March 21,22,& 23. April is going to be a blur because we have the Spring Trek, our show on April 19 and 20, and our own mini trek on the 25th & 26th.

The first weekend in May is devoted to our bus trip to **Lakeside Iris Gardens** on the 3rd. Members will board a charter bus for the 2 hour trip to Lake Isabella, where they will enjoy the beautiful gardens and an alfresco luncheon. We are hoping to convince some AIS judges to join us so that an apprentice or two can get some garden training in. (See p. 21 for the details.) Our May meeting will discuss Ponds in the Garden.

June and July are waiting for their confirmations, but the speakers we have in mind are always entertaining. August is a busy digging month, and then we have our Region auction in September.

Our program in October has yet to be decided, and in November we are counting on Rick to educate us on Arils. December will be a potluck luncheon once again with the installation of our officers.

It looks to be a wonderful year.

Inland Region Iris Society

President John Reinschmidt

Inland Region Iris Society has had a great time since our last report at the Fall meeting.

We started out our November meeting with a program about "Tools in the Garden" to be presented by **Bob Denman**. It would have been memorable if he had arrived. He forgot that he was to be there!

In December, we had our Holiday Party, with 32 people attending. The bidding was competitively fast. Our members also brought enough canned food to fill 15 bags, plus a bag of knitted hats and miscellaneous children's items and 2 women's lapel pins. These were donated to Lutheran Social Services Transitional Living Program.

In January we were treated to "Growing Citrus" by **Ottillia "Toots" Bier**, complete with samples of seedless tangerines and the sweetest pummelos.

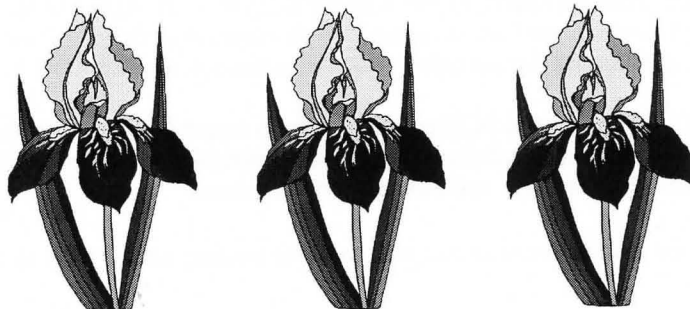
In February, our own **Jim Giles** will present "Iris Jeopardy", testing our knowledge of iris information.

March will bring **Keith Keppel**, presenting his introductions and seedlings.

In April, we will be busy getting ready for our Spring Show.

In May, **Ralph Strane** will give us the Show results and Awards.

June is our election time and July is installation of officers.





LETTERS FROM OUR PRESIDENTS

Spring 2003

Orange County Iris & Daylily Club President Marilyn Pecararo

There was a big benefit having a warm, sunny and rainless January, all the irises got groomed and the yard was weeded. What we needed was rain and that happened in a deluge this week. April has got to be great! Orange County had a good year with past President, **Mike Boess**. A change in his work schedule prevented him from continuing this year. **Sue Boess** was happy to pass on editorship to Carol Richmond. The bulletin is such a hard job. My thanks to both.

Our club offers varied programs covering all areas of gardening. Last September members were thinking only irises. **Pete De Santis** and **Bill Rinehart** directed the yearly auction to support Region 15 activities. Little ole' OCIDC bought over \$1000.00 worth of wonderful irises.

Bob Hunt, of Orange County Rare Fruit Growers, gave us a citrus tree talk, but we did not let him go until we asked about all fruit trees. Our November speaker was **John Schustra** of Greenwood Garden. He attended the Perennial Plant Association annual meeting in and around Chicago. John talked about new developments in the commercial nursery business. December was the holiday party and the best potluck in the West. We did not get enough of Bob Hunt. He was back in January to demonstrate scion grafting. **David Maislen**, of OCRFG, is a beekeeper, too. His February talk was about the history of bees, their society and their importance to our society.

Our spring months include preparation for the club's money maker sale at the end of April. That will be at the Fullerton Arboretum's Green Scene. Every second Tuesday of each month OCIDC meets at the First Presbyterian Church 11832 Euclid at Garden Grove. All Iris friends are welcome. Call Marilyn at 562-697-8141 for directions.

Southern California Iris Society President Mike Monninger

SCIS holds its (SCIS members only) bearded iris auction in August and region iris auction in September. The bidding action was brisk at both auctions; lots of iris and newer varieties. Certain members known for their selectiveness caused price spikes with their bids. The region auction netted a record amount from SCIS members.

The SCIS beardless iris auction in October included 59 iris: Japanese, Louisiana, Spuria, Pacific Coast natives, and various species. Two of the spuria irises, HOCKA HOONA and HASARAVA, are **Pete DeSantis** babies. Interest was very high in the beardless iris and more will be procured next year to better spread them among the members.

The Christmas Party was at the Olive Garden in Arcadia on December 8. The gift exchange, where a gift can be stolen twice, was very entertaining. **Debbie Babuscio** had the privilege of opening the most gifts. What a good sport she is!

Our January program was about taking close-up photos using a hand held flash synchronized with the camera. The flash can be aimed for different lighting effects; and used for pictures of night blooming plants. The program also had an unusual slide show running automatically and accompanied by soothing music.

We are having a special meeting for **Keith Keppel** on Saturday March 8th @ 10 AM. Keith is a top hybridizer of tall bearded iris (also IBs and SDBs) and we are eagerly awaiting his program. Our regular March meeting is on the 22nd and will be devoted to show preparation for award winning iris exhibits.

Iris Madness Month begins with the SCIS show on April 5th and 6th in Ayers Hall at the Los Angeles County Botanical Gardens (Arboretum has been dropped from its name) in Arcadia. Four days later, Thursday, April 10th, is set-up at the Southern California Spring Garden Show which runs through Sunday April 13th. This is SCIS's only fund raiser for the year.

This May, several SCIS members plan to repeat last years mini-trek to **Superstition Iris Gardens**. This garden is always perfectly groomed and displays the iris beautifully. Other gardens that can be seen are **Nicholson's Woodland Iris Gardens**, **Lauer's Flowers**, and **Sutton's Iris Gardens**.

Our year comes to an end with the June meeting which is the election of officers and presentation of show awards.



LETTERS FROM OUR PRESIDENTS

Spring 2003

Sun Country Iris Society

President LynnAlison Martin

We are looking forward to another great year here in Phoenix. It is definitely going to be a busy one. In January, we had a wonderful slide presentation of reblooming iris. Many of our members have them in their gardens, so we are enjoying blooms most of the year. In February, we are lucky to have Charles Jenkins come to share his knowledge of Spurias and hybridizing with us.

The main thing taking a lot of our time now is preparing for the **Region 15 Spring Trek** and our AIS sanctioned Spring Show. We look forward to all of you joining us for both. It is wonderful to work with the people in our society because they are so willing to go the extra mile to organize and plan activities. Being new at this job, I am finding that everyone makes it easier by being team players. We have six gardens that have been worked on for 2 years, and are looking very beautiful. The registration form is in this newsletter, so please join us for the great weather and bloom in Phoenix.

In March, for our newer members, we will be reviewing the way to enter a show. We will be holding our Early Iris Exhibit this month, too. In April, one of our newer members, **Gene Koonce**, will be sharing Daylilies with us through a slide show. May is our celebration of our spring activities. In June, we will have a slide show of some of the 2002 of Tall Bearded Iris introductions. July, we will see "The Best of the Year" from **Francelle Edwards'** trip to Eastern Europe. In August, **Avery and Joyce Poling** will be hosting an "Iris Show" for the non-blooming season! Not sure what this will be, but I know they will make it very interesting. In September, we will be marking our iris and in October, we will hold the Region 15 Auction. In November, **Rick Tasco** will be joining us for an informative program and, finally, we get to celebrate again in December.

As you can see we have a busy and fun year planned. Please try to join us for any of our meetings! We love company. We all hope you have a wonderful "bloom-erific" year!



Sun Country Iris Society Officers

Clockwise from top left:

Ardi Kary -Director
Jeannie Comeaux -Vice President
Lorna Corlett -Secretary
LynnAlison Martin -President
Joyce Poling -Director
Al Sturgeon -Treasurer
Avery Poling -Director



LETTERS FROM OUR PRESIDENTS

Spring 2003

Desert Sunset Iris Society

President Joyce Poling

We have had the following programs the last 6 months:

July - Question and Answers/ Computer

August - Dig and Divide

September - Planting / Orders

October - Potluck/Region 15 Auction

November - Rebloomers

December - Spurias

We are not growing at the rate we would like, so in March we are going to have a membership drive with guest speaker and a major publicity push. Also, in the fall, we will have a rhizome sale to entice more people to grow irises and join our group. We hope this helps our number grow. The members are willing to work to this end. Wish us luck.

Sonoran Desert Iris Society

President Darlene Kaiser

I am thrilled to announce a few of the activities we have planned for this upcoming year.

We will be putting on an Iris show at the **Shepard's Iris Garden** in April. We plan on getting our hands dirty making stepping stones, having a Bar-B-Q, and learning new things. We have speakers and slide shows lined up for other meetings throughout the year. As always, we end the year with a great Christmas party, pot luck dinner and gift exchange.

As you can see we have a full year of fun events ahead of us....

We have many Phoenicians who do not believe that one of the most beautiful flowers in the world will grow right here in Arizona..... Included in our plans is to educating the public and continuing to encourage our youth program here in Phoenix. On the subject of education, we have the pleasure at each meeting of having **Don** and **Bobbie Shepard** share information with us on "what we should do in our gardens". This information is so very helpful to all of us. Happy Irising!

San Fernando Valley

Iris Society

President Debbie Babuscio

Since last summer the SFVIS has had some great programs and events.

In September we held our Annual Fall Rhizome Sale. It was a very successful two days, which was nice since it is our biggest fundraiser. From there, the left over rhizomes get potted and are handed out to several members to take care of until the Annual Spring Show and Sale in April. This year's show date and place have been confirmed and now all we need are the iris to grow and the entrants to bring them.

In November, we had **Kathleen Slater** give us a program on gardens, including Longwood Gardens.

The first program for 2003, we had our own member **Jeanne Clay Plank**, who gave us a great program on Beardless Iris.

In February, we will have **Lynn Finkel** give us a program on Louisiana Iris.

In March, we will have **Keith Keppel** as the guest speaker. He will show us some of his new introductions and seedlings.

April just so happens to be the busiest month in the iris garden world. The first week we have our monthly meeting. Several club members will demonstrate their tips and techniques for Horticulture and Artistic Entries. The second week in April is the Region 15 Trek. The third week we will have the SFVIS local garden trek. It is really nice to go and see some of the other member's yards and the see what kind of iris they grow. And last but not least the fourth week is the **SFVIS Annual Spring Show**. This year it will be at the Westfield Shoppingtown Promenade Mall on April 26th and 27th.

In May, we will welcome **Ardi Kary**, who will be giving a program on Aril and Arilbreds.

June brings the end to my term as President of the San Fernando Valley Iris Society as well as the Annual show awards and potluck dinner. Everyone attends so we can have a nice dinner and get a recap of the number of ribbons and awards that each member received at the Spring Show. To me, it's almost like winning the awards twice.

In July, we are featuring Mr. Fertilizer, brought to us by Bayer Advanced Garden Products. He has over 40 years experience in the Garden Industry and will share information about soil amendments, insect control and most of all, fertilizers.

So until the next issue, Happy Gardening!

Growing Medians in Hot Climates



By Joyce Poling... suncitymom@aol.com

Reprinted from "*The Medianite*" with permission from the author.
"*The Medianite*" is the publication of the Median Iris Society, a Section of
the American Iris Society

I just received a copy of *The Medianite* and was eager to look inside to see what grows well for other people that might do as well in my garden. Then I noticed the reports from other gardeners from my zone, and was surprised when the report stopped at zone 7. No reports from zone 8 or 9! Disappointed, I checked around only to find out Medians are not supposed to do well in zone 9, especially SDB's. Well, the 150 I have in my backyard should not be there, but they are doing so well, I think I'll leave them! The last two years we haven't even had frost, let alone a cold spell. This year we've had eight or ten nights with frost. I'm waiting to see if it changes what blooms and what doesn't, so it will be an interesting year.

Some of the best are Weiler's PLUM WINE (86) that blooms from Thanksgiving till warm weather. Also, DARK CRYSTAL by Byers (87) blooms regularly during the winter. HALLOWEEN RAINBOW, another Weiler (97), is blooming now in mid January. It has one stalk up and is sending up another. HOT (Byers 91) bloomed this month also. Rick Tasco's SKY RAY (96) is running away with increases. When it blooms it will be beautiful.

Our soil is mostly clay with alkaline tendencies and low phosphate. When planting, I spread bags of mulch on the ground, place the rhizomes on the mulch, and press firmly till only the top is showing. I keep the soil moist (not wet) till new growth is seen. Watering is done twice a week for 25 minutes in the winter and 55 minutes in the summer. That sounds like a lot of water, but because of our dry climate (humidity usually less than 20%), it evaporates quickly. With temperatures of 100-115° in the summer, it is a good idea to keep the roots moist!

The SDBs really enjoy this time of year, and reward me with blooms from Thanksgiving until warm weather. The best bloom is in March, and bloom ends in late April. Since I grow irises to show, my iris feeding program is done three times a year, but this year I'm starting a fourth feeding.

CHICKASAW SUE (J.Gibson 83, BB) and JAZZAMATTAZZ (H.Blyth 86) have won Best of Section for me in our Spring Show. But because I've never had a Queen of Show, I'm going to step up the feeding program to see if I can get that bigger, more lush bloom. I've found a new 11-52-0 fertilizer, and will feed it in January, 0-46-0 in March, 11-52-0 in June, and 0-46-0 in September.

So far there's been very little rot, because of our dry climate and keeping the dead brown leaves pulled off. We also have no iris borer or scorch. Our hot dry climate just discourages them from bothering the plants. I've always believed irises are survivors and will live in spite of us. You can't kill an iris, but you sure can love it to death. Irises should be fun and not a lot of work. Enjoy their beauty, share or trade their increases with friends and neighbors. Take a bouquet to a sick friend and infect the whole world with the Iris Virus – it is so much fun! Here's hoping we can get more people in the Desert Southwest growing medians. They are so cute and have so many increases each year that everyone should try them!

JOIN THE MEDIAN IRIS SOCIETY SDBs – IBs – MTBs – BBs

To join the Median Iris Society,
send your name and address, with your check to:

Rita Gormley, Membership Chair
8717 Martha Drive
Cedar Hill, MO 63016
Phone 636-274-7435
E-mail: GormleyGreenery@aol.com

Dues:
Single annual-\$5.50, triennial-\$15.00
Dual annual-\$6.50, triennial-\$17.50
Youth annual-\$4.00, triennial-\$10.00
Overseas, add \$5.00 per year for extra postage.
Life membership:
Single—\$150 Dual—\$175 Overseas—\$250



IN MEMORIAM



Early this year, the American Iris Society and Region 15 lost two of our most prominent Irisarians. Both Claire Barr and Marion Walker served as President of the American Iris Society, and their passing is a great loss to us all.



Special Silent Auction at Spring Trek

By Joyce Poling, Ways & Means Chairperson

Following is a list of the items for the Spring Trek silent auction. The majority were generously donated to Region 15 by Dorothy Walker from the estate of former AIS President, Marion Walker. Herb and Sara Holk donated iris motif tablecloths, and Patrick Orr donated two books. The proceeds of Patrick's books are designated to go to the Region Youth fund. The rest of the Walker Donation will be in the Fall Trek silent auction except for some books I will take to the AIS Fall Board meeting. If you are cleaning house and find some collectibles or memorabilia, please don't throw them away. Someone might treasure things from the early days of AIS or Region 15.

1. Iris needlepoint 14x14 no glass - starting bid \$10.00
2. Iris watercolor framed with glass 12x16 - starting bid \$15.00
3. Iris watercolor framed with glass 12x16 - starting bid \$15.00
4. Japanese Iris framed with glass 14x14 - starting bid \$15.00
5. VAN GOGH Iris print framed with glass 24x36 - starting bid \$10.00
6. Iris of China by Waddick & Zhaoyu Tang starting - bid \$5.00
7. The World of Iris by Warburton & Hamblen - starting bid \$5.00
8. Medium Ceramic Pot 6x6 - starting bid \$5.00
9. Black acrylic Iris Tray - starting bid \$5.00
10. Large Ceramic Platter 16 inches in diameter - starting bid \$15.00
11. Stained Glass Iris oval 4x5 - starting bid \$3.00
12. Stained Glass garden stake - starting bid \$3.00
13. Silver Plated Sugar & Creamer with tray - starting bid \$25.00
14. Small Iris Pitched starting bid \$3.00
15. Small Ceramic Bud Vase - starting bid \$3.00
16. Dark Purple Dinner set 10 plates, dessert dishes, coffee cups, saucers, 3 large platters, 3 bowls, creamer, sugar bowl - starting bid \$35.00
17. Oriental teapot, spout broken at tip
18. Oriental sugar bowl with lid - starting bid \$5.00
19. Oriental tea cup and saucer starting - bid \$5.00
20. Oriental Plates - starting bid \$3.00
21. Oriental saucer - starting bid \$3.00
22. Bathroom glass with matching dish - starting bid \$5.00
23. Blue Iris cups (4) - starting bid \$5.00
24. Vinyl Iris Tablecloth 52x52 - starting bid \$5.00
25. Vinyl Iris Tablecloth 52x70 - starting bid \$5.00
26. Vinyl Iris Tablecloth 5x90 - starting bid \$5.00
27. AIS membership book from 1979 - starting bid \$5.00
28. Handbook for Judges from 1969 - starting bid \$5.00



Events

2003 SPRING TREK

Sun Country Iris Society

Presents

A WALK IN THE SUN

Region 15 Spring Trek - April 11, 12 & 13, 2003

Crowne Plaza Hotel and Resort
2532 W. Peoria Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85029
(602)943-2341



Guest Speakers and Judges Trainings

HOOKE & BONNIE NICHOLS

Garden Tours will be Saturday and Sunday mornings

Show at the hotel - Entries Sat. afternoon

All attendees encouraged to enter!!

For More Show Information, contact Show Chair

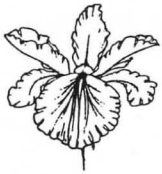
Patrick Orr

Irisdude@msn.com

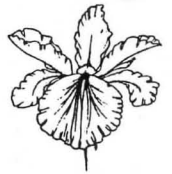
See Registration Form - Last page in this Newsletter!



Events



SPURIAS FROM AROUND THE WORLD



National Spuria Convention & Garden Tour
St. Joseph, MO - June 6, 7, & 8, 2003

Sponsored by the Pony Express Iris Society

Lots of flowers, fun and fellowship including:

7 gardens on tour over 2 days

Slide show - Banquet

2 Auctions,

Judges Training by Jim Hedgecock

Featured Speaker:

Charles Jenkins, noted Spuria hybridizer

Convention Headquarters:

Ramada Inn

4016 Frederick Ave. - St. Joseph, MO 64506

Mention: Pony Express Iris Society / Spuria Society

800-748-0036 or 816-233-6192

Rates: \$66 per night - single or double / \$76 per night - triple or quad

Full breakfast buffet included in room rate

Registration:

\$85 postmarked by 4/01/03

\$95 postmarked after 4/01/03

Make Checks payable to Pony Express Iris Society

Include printed name(s), address, phone, and, if available, email address

Note: If registering after May 25, contact registrar

before mailing registration for bus & banquet count

Registrar:

Judy Keisling

12119 County Road A

Liberty, MO 64068-8114

816-792-1848

Email: keisling@swbell.net



Events

KEITH KEPPEL

MARCH 2003 TOUR OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

SPEAKING TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Keith will be presenting a DIFFERENT PROGRAM at each meeting!

- March 6 San Fernando Valley Iris Society
"Keppel Past, Present, and Future"
7:30 P.M. @ The Canoga Park Women's Club
7401 Jordan, Canoga Park
(corner of Valerio and Jordan)
- March 8 Southern California Iris Society
"Australian & New Keppel Introductions"
10 A.M. @ The First Presbyterian Church
101 East Foothill Boulevard, Monrovia
- March 9 San Diego Imperial County Iris Society
"Australian and New Keppel Introductions"
1 P.M. @ The Escondido Country Club (760) 743-3301
1800 Country Club Lane, Escondido
Directions to Escondido Country Club —Going south on I-15, take the El Norte Parkway off ramp and turn right onto El Norte Parkway. Stay on El Norte Parkway for approximately one and a quarter miles or until you come to Country Club Lane, turn right. Country club lane will take you right into the parking lot of the Country Club. We will be meeting in the building on the left. (Look for Iris banner).
- March 10 Inland Region Iris Society
"Keppel, Past, Present and Future"
6:30 P.M. @ The Sizzler restaurant
(corner of Van Buren and Clay)
Riverside
- March 15 Hi- Desert Iris Society
"Medians and More"
1 P.M. @ The Palmdale Cultural Center
Palmdale



Events

NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK, APRIL 13th-20th, 2003

To offer gardeners across the country the opportunity to celebrate, the National Gardening Association will be hosting a Web site, "Celebrate the Power of Gardening," for the entire month of April 2003. We envision the National Garden Month Web site as a place for Garden Clubs, Community Gardens, Botanical Association, Educational Organizations, Youth Programs, and Senior Centers to list local and regional activities and events. We also plan a registry where organizations may inform the gardening public about their missions and create links directly to their sites. NGA cordially invites your organization to share your gardening activities and celebrations in the calendar and registry.

You may access the National Garden Month site at <http://www.nationalgardenmonth.org> or through <http://www.garden.org> to add your information for the month of April.

JOIN HI DESERT FOR A TOUR OF

LAKESIDE IRIS GARDENS

Saturday, May 3, 2003

Join Hi Desert Iris & Daylily Society for a wonderful day at Lakeside Iris Gardens in Lake Isabella, CA. The bus will leave at 8am from Lancaster (location to be determined) for the 2 hour trip. Upon arrival, you'll be enthralled by all the iris in bloom, and are free to wander to your heart's content.

Our hostess, Winona Stevenson, will serve a lovely alfresco luncheon on her patio around noon for everyone to enjoy. After lunch, if you have the energy, you will be able to once again stroll through the gardens, enjoying the roses, ponds, and other features of Winona's garden.

You might also participate in a scavenger hunt! We are hoping to have a judge or two available for one-on-one garden training with apprentice judges.

At around 3pm, we will once again board the bus for the trip back to Lancaster, arriving at approximately 5pm.

Cost is \$10 per person and seats are limited, so make your reservations early. Call Cheryl Deaton at (661) 252-6771 for further information.

Reservation for Lakeside Iris Garden Bus Trip

Name(s) _____

Phone # _____

Amount enclosed _____

Mail to: Cheryl Deaton
27218 Walnut Springs
Canyon Country, CA 91351-3314



Irises OnLine

WEBSITES

Looking for when the next meeting will take place? What's the schedule at the National Convention? Need growing tips for your area? Do you just want to look at some beautiful iris photos, or see what happened at the last Spring Trek or Fall Meeting? You'll find what you're looking for on the internet! Check out these fabulous sites!

American Iris Society

<http://www.Irises.org>

Lots of info & links to clubs, gardens, etc.

Region 15 Website

<http://www.srocha.com/region15.html>

Lots of pictures & event information.

Tucson Area Iris Society

<http://www.TucsonIris.org>

Iris photos, local hybridizers, events & more!

San Fernando Valley Iris Society

<http://www.sanfernandoiris.org>

Meeting and membership information.

San Diego Iris Society

<http://www.geocities.com/RainForest/7679/>

Photos from the Spring Trek, club info & more.

Sun Country Iris Society

<http://www.suncountry.org>

Events, club information & more.

Shopping, anyone??

<http://www.AISGiftShop.com>

100's of Iris Motif items!

ATTENTION YOUTH MEMBERS

Stay in touch by e-mail
at: Region15kids@hotmail.com

Statistically Speaking

By Margie Valenzuela

WEBSITE STATISTICS can be quite interesting... due to the fact that (to a point) it gives an insight to what people are doing and when. The **Tucson Area Iris Society** website statistics are no exception.

FOR INSTANCE: More people than ever are viewing the TAIS website. In May 2001 (when the site first went up) we were just under 4000 hits a day. By April of 2002 - there were 7001 hits, and by November 2002 it had reached 9787 hits.

THE BUSIEST DAYS on the website has mostly been on weekends and the days surrounding major iris events. Other busy days are in connection with website updates.

THE BUSIEST HOUR, (or the hour with the highest total number of hits) - - has ALWAYS been from Midnight to 1:00 in the morning! I didn't realize there were so many "night owls". The website is also frequently visited between the hours of 3:00 to 4:00 pm in the afternoon and 5:00 to 8:00 pm in the evening.

MOST VIEWED WEB-PAGES were the Iris Photos. Next items of interest were the Events page and the Iris Art pages.

OTHER THAN THE USA, Belgium, France, and Australia are the top three TAIS website-user Countries. In the month of November 2002 Belgium came in with 304 hits; France with 243 hits; and Australia with 235 hits. Other countries are as follows: Hungary with 85 hits, Singapore with 74, Canada with 71, Greece with 67, Germany with 46, Mexico with 36, Japan with 28, Denmark with 27, Iceland with 26, Spain with 25, Poland with 18, Estonia and Italy with 17, Chile with 12, Switzerland and New Zealand with 10, Seychelles with 2, and Bolivia and the Netherlands with 1.

As you can see - - these statistics give insight into who, what, when, where..... and we all know the reason WHY!





Announcements

Request for Guest Bearded Irises

Region 15 Spring Trek and Society for Louisiana Irises Convention Tucson, AZ 2005

The Tucson Area Iris Society of Tucson, AZ in Region 15 and the Society for Louisiana Irises will host a joint Region 15 Spring Trek and Society for Louisiana Irises Convention in the year 2005. Hybridizers are invited to send guest rhizomes of recent introductions and seedlings of bearded irises under consideration for introduction. Please observe the following guidelines when sending guest irises:

1. Up to three rhizomes of each variety may be shipped.
2. Guest Irises from the U.S.A. will be accepted from Sept. 1 – Oct. 15, 2003. Australian irises will be accepted at their normal shipping time for North American orders.
3. All official guest irises must be shipped to:
Kathy Chilton, Guest Iris Chair
14333 S. Stagecoach Rd.
Tucson, AZ 85736
(520)822-1497
ranchiris@aol.com
4. The name of the variety or seedling number must be clearly marked on each rhizome. In addition, the following information must be clearly marked for each plant on a *Separate Packing List*.
 - a. Hybridizer's name, address, phone number and email (if available).
 - b. Name or seedling number of the variety
 - c. Type of iris (TB, BB, IB, SDB).
 - d. Height, color, and bloom season (E,M,L).
 - e. Year of introduction (if introduced).
5. If a guest seedling is named, it is the responsibility of the hybridizer to notify the Guest Iris Chairperson not later than December 1, 2000.
6. A receipt will be mailed to all contributors. Shortly before the convention, contributors will be asked for instructions regarding the distribution of the plants. Failure to reply by June 15, 2005 will be interpreted as permission to destroy all seedlings and distribute named varieties, one to the garden owner, and the rest to the Region 15 Auction.
7. All official guest plants which are to be returned will be shipped postpaid, except to foreign addresses.
8. The Trek/Convention Committee and owners of tour gardens will follow the Code of Ethics as printed in the AIS Convention Handbook.
9. The Guest Iris Committee will not be responsible for losses beyond its control, and only irises received through the Guest Iris Chairperson will be listed in the convention booklet.

Special note to Hybridizers: This trek has been scheduled for what is normally Mid-Late Season for Tall Bearded Irises in our area, which coincides with Mid-Season for Louisiana Irises. Please give extra consideration to submitting Mid and ML blooming cultivars, as these should have the best chance at being in bloom during the trek tours. (As you know, the exact timing of bloom season is beyond our control!) Also, we will endeavor to provide growth and bloom reports to the hybridizers. Thank you for your generous support!



Announcements

From the

American Iris Society

AIS INSURANCE COVERAGE

By Michelle Snyder, Insurance Chair

As many of you may already know, the AIS has a new insurance carrier. I have broken out the most important changes and have provided a brief explanation. If anyone has a specific question that is not answered below please do not hesitate to contact me by phone at 818/352-7018, or via email at, sammygiz@aol.com

INSURED

The named insured is The American Iris Society. However, the policy lists as additional insured's, All Regions, Sections, Affiliates and all members thereof. This means that everyone who is a member of a Region, Section or Affiliate is covered under the policy, even if they are not members of AIS.

AMOUNT OF LIABILITY COVERAGE

The policy has primary coverage of \$1,000,000 and an additional \$4,000,000 under what is known as an Umbrella policy.

This \$5,000,000 in coverage should meet the needs of the clubs in New York and California where various venues are now demanding this amount of coverage.

WHAT IS COVERED

As respects liability, the policy automatically covers all general meetings and board meetings. Local one and two day shows and sales are also automatically covered and need certificates of insurance only when the venue requests to be named as an additional insured on the policy. JT's, if held during a regular business meeting are automatically covered. JT's at an outside garden would not need a certificate, since only "insured's" attend the JT, unless the venue asks to be named as an additional insured.

WHO CAN MAKE A LIABILITY CLAIM UNDER THE POLICY

This question comes up all the time. The policy IS NOT for the benefit of any insured. It protects the insured against a claim brought by a third party. Examples of a third party would be a guest at one of the meetings who falls and injures themselves and brings a claim against the club, or a shopper at a mall who falls during a show/sale.

CERTIFICATES OF INSURANCE

Whenever a venue asks to be named as an additional insured or for proof of insurance, these are the steps that need to be taken:

Call 1-800-457-2379. You will get a recorded message giving you various options. Press #3, insured, and then you will hear another message. Press #1 and you will be transferred to a representative who will help you. You will need to identify yourself as the insured, The American Iris Society, and provide them with the insurance policy number of 72SBAAB0649. You will then need to give them the name and address of the venue, where your event is being held, the date(s) of the event and where you want the certificate sent. If you want it faxed directly to the venue you will need to provide the name of the individual and their fax number.

THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR THIS CERTIFICATE. Again, if anyone has any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

Join the AIS

Membership Office address is:

Mary E. Brown
Membership Secretary,
The American Iris Society
PO Box 2968
Baltimore MD 21229 USA
aismemsec@earthlink.net

AIS Membership Rates

Annual	Single:	\$20.00
	Dual:	\$25.00
Triennial	Single:	\$43.00
	Dual:	\$54.00
Life	Single:	\$360.00
	Dual:	\$435.00

Senior Life (age 65+): 15% discount, single or Dual. Both members must be 65 or older for discount to apply under Dual.

Youth Rates

Youth, without Bulletin:	\$ 4.00
Youth, with Bulletin:	\$ 7.00

Overseas Rates

Annual	Single:	\$25.00
	Dual:	\$28.00
Triennial	Single:	\$54.00
	Dual:	\$65.00

Calendar year memberships. May be paid by check, VISA, or Mastercard.

Overseas memberships include first class postage, and are payable in U.S. currency.





KARY IRIS GARDENS

6201 East Calle Rosa
Scottsdale, AZ 85251
ardikary@aol.com
Tall Bearded-Arilbred-Median

Commercial Gardens



CAL-DIXIE IRIS GARDENS
Great Selection of Bearded Iris
Old & New – Large & Small
Reasonable Prices
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12312 So. Wilson Rd.
Los Banos, CA 93635

GOLDEN'S IRIS GARDEN
4564 Robin Dr.
Prescott, AZ 86301

KARY'S IRIS GARDEN
6201 East Calle Rosa
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

LAKESIDE GARDENS
8280 Entrada Blvd.
Lake Isabella, CA 93240

SHEPARD IRIS GARDEN
3342 W. Orangewood
Phoenix, AZ 85051-7453

The American Iris Society Region 15 Newsletter

is published twice a year
and is available to commercial gardens.

Advertising should be
submitted copy ready.

Make checks payable to Region 15 AIS.

ADVERTISING RATES

<u>Size</u>	<u>Cost per Issue</u>
Full Page (8 x 11")	\$50.00
Half Page (4 x 5")	\$25.00
Business Card (3 x 2")	\$15.00
Directory Listing (3 lines)	\$10.00
Additional lines (ea)	\$5.00

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES

SPRING ISSUE

<u>Deadline</u>	2/1
<u>Issue Date</u>	3/1

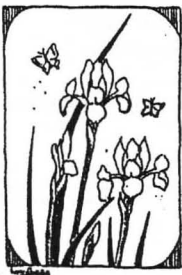
SUMMER ISSUE

<u>Deadline</u>	7/1
<u>Issue Date</u>	8/1

The American Iris Society Region 15 Newsletter is published in the spring and summer of each year.

This publication is distributed to all members of AIS residing within the boundaries of Region 15. All others may subscribe to this publication at the annual subscription rate of \$5.00 per year. Checks or money orders should be made out to Region 15 AIS and sent to the circulation manager.

The editor welcomes all correspondence for the newsletter. Any letters or articles submitted may be published if space is available and content is appropriate. The editor reserves the right to edit for clarity and length. Permission is granted to non profit organizations to reprint original material appearing in this Bulletin, on the condition that both the author and the publication are credited, and a copy of your publication is sent to the editor.



Shepard Iris Garden

3342 W. Orangewood Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85051



2003 INTRODUCTIONS

DEBUTANTE'S DRESS - TB-38"-E/M Gorgeous bicolor! The heavy ruffled stands are champagne-yellow with a blush of violet. Falls are a rich dark violet. Bushy beards are old gold.

98014 Sib:((Swing N'Sway x Stairway to Heaven) X Grape Champagne).....\$45.00

KARAMEL PIZAZZ - AB-38"-E/M Standards cinnamon gold with veins of purple-brown around fluted edges. Falls are cinnamon gold brushed heavily with purple-brown. Style arms are bright yellow extending into a bright gold beard over a burgundy signal.

98018-9601: ((Persian Berry x Battle Royal) X Prince Thou Art).....\$30.00

KORENA - TB-39"-M Very ruffled bright purple-grape self. The beard is a very dark purple reaching to mustard gold in the throat. Around the wide standards and falls is a transparent edge appearing to be a silver gilt edge.

(Epicenter X 98012-9602:(Swing N'Sway x Stairway to Heaven)).....\$40.00

LATIN JAZZ - TB-40"-E/M Standards are cinnamon lightly flushed with burgundy. Style arms blend nicely of the same colors. Falls have light yellow ground with ½" wide dark burgundy rim and burgundy freckles. Old gold beards swing with jazz. (Epicenter X Grape Champagne).....\$45.00

MONA LORRAINE - TB-40"-M A granddaughter asked us to name this beautiful cultivar in honor of her much loved grandmother. This bi-color has golden-yellow standards that are brushed lightly with bronze. The midribs are shaded a light purple-red. Style arms are the same color as the standards. Falls are deep burgundy with a violet stripe down the center of the fall. Rich gold beards put the final touch on "Mona".

(Flamenco Whirl X (Bronze Lace x Hamner 87-3)).....\$30.00

RASPBERRY WHISPERS - TB-44"-M Very ruffled mid raspberry blending to dark raspberry. Style arms are raspberry with a golden glow. Midribs of falls are light raspberry pushing out to much darker edges. Bushy root beer beard accents the center of this beauty.

(Battle Royal X 97050-9501(Dances With Wolves x Lake Park)).....\$35.00

SPACED OUT - TB-38"-M Dark lavender stands and falls. Standards are very ruffled around the edge and the center has a lighter midrib. The bright gold-orange beard extends into a white horn.

(Alabaster Unicorn X Devil's Fork).....\$30.00

SWEET SUNSHINE - TB-38"-ML Domed standards of pastel creamy-white are ruffled with a slight yellow splashing in the base. The style arms are soft yellow. The creamy-white falls have a bright yellow shoulder that bleeds to the bottom of the falls like spilled paint. A wide orange gold beard tops off the complete package.

(Chosen One X Grape Champagne).....\$45.00

SPECIAL: Collection price for Karamel Pizazz, Mona Lorraine, Raspberry Whispers, and Spaced Out...\$100.00

Ph/Fax: (602) 841-1231 shepardiris@aol.com



Region 15 Directory

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**REGION 15 SPRING TREK 2003
HOSTED BY
SUN COUNTRY IRIS SOCIETY
PRESENTS**

"A WALK IN THE SUN"

April 11 – 12 – 13

Guest Speakers and Judges Training Sessions

Hooker and Bonnie Nichols

Crowne Plaza Hotel and Resort

2532 West Peoria Avenue (Northeast Corner I-17 & Peoria)

Phoenix, AZ 85029-4709

Single or Double rate: \$85.00-until March 11, 2003

Hot Buffet Breakfast Served 6AM Saturday & Sunday - \$6.95

Reservations: 602-943-2341-Ask for Iris Society Rates

(Ask for inside room overlooking Iris Show)

Friday, April 11 – Check-in starts 2 PM,

Board Meeting 5-7 PM, Judges Training 8:30-9:30 PM

Saturday, April 12 – Garden Tours – 7:30 AM,

Judges training 7-9 PM

Sunday, April 13 - Garden Tours – 7:30 AM

Luncheon and Keynote Speakers

(Additional Information on the reverse)

REGISTRATION FORM

On or Before March 11, 2003- \$75.00

After March 11- \$85.00

Fill out form, make checks to Sun Country Iris Society & mail to:

Al Sturgeon, Registrar

2940 West Hartford Drive, Phoenix, AZ 85053-2011

Telephone (602) 993-9253 E-mail: alskath@aol.com

Name: _____ Telephone: _____ E-mail _____
(as you wish it to appear on your name badge) (E-mail will be used for confirmation)

Additional Names: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ ZIP: _____

Place Initials by Luncheon Preference:

_____ Pasta Santa Fe (vegetarian) _____ Mango Pork Loin _____ California Chicken
(SEE ADDITIONAL REGISTRATION INFORMATION ON REVERSE SIDE)

Enclosed is my/our registration fee in the amount of \$ _____ Check # _____

Sun Country Iris Society will also present its' 33rd Annual Iris Show
April 12-13
at the
Crowne Plaza Hotel and Resort.

Free Exhibit to the Public
Saturday April 12 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Sunday April 13 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Those attending the Region 15 Spring Trek are also encouraged to participate in
the Spring Show

If you would like more information pertaining to the Iris Show, or a Show Schedule,
contact

Patrick Orr

Irisdude@msn.com

REGISTRATION INFORMATION CONTINUED

Full Registration \$75.00 on or before March 11, 2003; \$85.00 after March 11, 2003

Includes all meetings, activities, bus tours and Sunday banquet.

Partial Registration:

1 Day bus tour only on either Saturday or Sunday of Guest Gardens: \$40.00

2 Day bus tour only of all Guest Gardens \$55.00

Please indicate your choice:

Full Registration: _____

2 Day bus tour of all Guest Gardens: _____

1 Day Bus tour on Saturday April 12, 2003: _____

1 Day Bus tour on Sunday April 13, 2003: _____