



AIS REGION 15
2004
SUMMER NEWSLETTER
ARIZONA & SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
AUGUST 2004

California Dreamin'
American Iris Society Convention, Fresno CA, April 2004

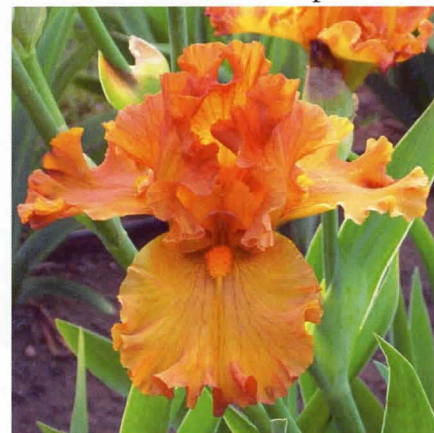
Franklin Cook Memorial Cup



PAUL BLACK (T. Johnson 2003)



President's Cup



GOLDEN PANTHER (Tasco 2000)



Reinharts, Joyce Bertram, Piersons & Paul Black



Francelle Edwards, Randy Squires, Snyders & Kathy Chilton



American Iris Society National Convention

Hosted by Region 14
April 19-24, 2004 Fresno, California
(by Kim Ung and friends)

[I just want to let you know this is one of the very few times I get up before sunrise. It better be great or I'll demand a refund.]



Day One: I'm tossing and turning at about 4:30 am. Guess I'll be getting my California Dreamin' while I'm awake. Everything is packed, including a hat, sunscreen and allergy medication. It's iris convention time! Zooming quietly through the light fog (or smog) on the empty Hollywood Freeway and streets during the early dawn, I arrive at my first stop at 5:30 am: picking up **Marilyn Pecoraro** at her daughter's place. We greet, load, say good-bye to her daughter, and off we go to see the irises. Fresno, here we come! Why don't you come along for a joy ride?

We hop back on Hollywood Freeway 101 north, change to 170, end on to I-5, split to 99, and take 65 to Porterville. We can't wait until the official tour begins. So, we stop at the Sutton's Iris Gardens and then receive great directions from **Margaret Sutton** to the gardens at St. John's Episcopal Church and Church of Christ. After we have seen enough irises to wet our appetite, we zig-zag back to Highway 99 and dart straight for our Motel 6 in Fresno. We ask the employee for the direction to the convention center. For someone who goes home the same way as the convention center every day, he's a lousy direction giver. Finally, we see the Radisson Hotel. We're here!

We go in the hotel to register. The convention tote bag stuffed with stuff: garden spiral notebook, weekly planner, name tag, pens, California Dreamin' convention pin, St. Louis 2005 'The Heartbeat of America' pin, lists of attendees, and more.. We pick up catalogues and brochures from the information tables while saying hellos to everyone. We also check out the iris show. A species wins Best Specimen of Show. The oohs and aahs here are for the true turquoise color in PCN seedlings. Afterward, the four of us go out to have a Basque dinner. Good night. Tomorrow, Marilyn and I will be on the Yosemite trip. It will be my first time.

Day Two: It's a warm, sunny morning. Yosemite shows me the glory and beauty that has been leaving people speechless since the first eyes gazed upon it. As the prairie disappears in the bus rear view mirror, we are welcomed by bigger, bigger, bigger and taller majestic trees. It's a sign that we have arrived at the famous Yosemite. We use the Park south entrance. Our bus winds through the narrow roads to arrive at our first stop: Big Trees. We have about 30 minutes to rush to the restroom, take a few pictures with the giant trees in the background, buy a few souvenirs, and be back on the bus. I can't help myself so I hug a tree and Marilyn snaps a picture as evidence. I also get a cool "Yosemite" sweater that is Made In U.S.A. because the price is so very right. Marilyn pays retail for a mug.

After going through the famous tunnel, we have an even quicker stop at the Bridal Veil Fall. The water sprays white as it tumbles over the skyward cliff, which conjures the namesake. Cameras are clicking. People stand in awe. The grandest view is El Capitan and its surrounding neighbors. You've seen them in books, films, etc., but nothing compares to seeing them in person. They have a way of making you feel so small and forget your troubles. Blood pressure drops; stress dissipates in to the fresh air. Many "Wow!"s are everywhere. Cameras can't snap fast enough. Click! Click! Click!

As promised, we arrive at the Ahwahnee for lunch. The white, fluttering blooms of the dogwood trees guard and reflect on the pond next to the hotel entrance. We're all somewhat exhausted and hungry by now. Maybe that's why the food tastes so good. However, I was forewarned that the food here is marvelous. We have salad with peanut base sauce and trout. There are two irises at our table. We have the pleasure of having and meeting **Iris Larson** from Southern California and **Iris Clarke** from United Kingdom. Their parents sure know how to pick a name.

The last stop of the trip is a stop at the Yosemite Falls. It consists of an upper and lower falls. Marilyn opts from going up close because she had mistaken it to be a major climb like when she was last here. While my eyes are hypnotized



Hall Bradshaw and Ardi Kary
at the Giant Sequoia

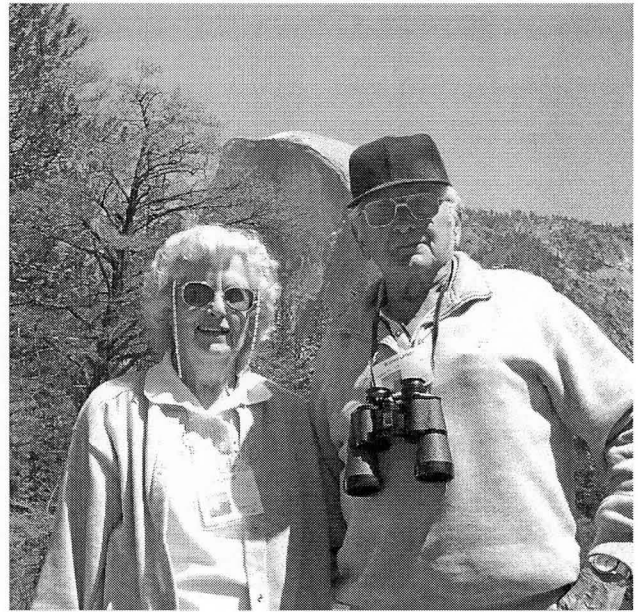
Fresno Continued

by the 12 o'clock falls, my feet walk the long, straight and paved road. With a short low incline, I arrive at the base of the lower fall. Standing on the bridge, light cool sprays wash over everyone each time there's a breeze. It feels so good and carefree and to be one with nature. The sound is music to one's ears. Then a glance at the watch says it's time to head back home.

The bus ride back is quiet. Some have a whispering conversation and others nap. We try to snap some photographic memories of all the spectacular sights as we pass each previous stop. At one point of the ride, I wearily turn to Marilyn and say "Well, I think I've seen enough trees for a lifetime."

We signed up for the whole convention package. We attend the opening ceremony—meet a few people, judges trainings—learn a few things, silent auctions—bid against a few people (Marilyn gives one of her winning bids, one of Monty Byers catalogs, to her competitor.)

Tour Days: Since we had a choice of either the Red, Blue or Green bus (the color determines which gardens you visit on which day), I picked Green #1 to ride on. After a little chaos of getting on the buses, we are off to see the wonders that are irises. Cheryl Deaton and Winona Stevenson are our fearless bus captains. There are prize drawings and games to solve. I hope you breeze through the North American Dykes Medal Winners, 20 Questions—A Game by yours truly, because some of you have seen it before. Marilyn and I spend the entire convention bus trip trying to unscramble one word; the other 24 words are quickly solved.



Iris and Warren Larsen with Half Dome in the background. Warren climbed (backside) of Half Dome when he was 17 years old.

Now let's feast our eyes on irises. Debbie, what's the word on the Ward's garden?

Ray's Iris Acres (Ray and Diana Ward)

The Ward garden was one of the four gardens we visited on the first day of the trek. The guest irises were planted in raised beds with each being well spaced apart. There were many irises in peak bloom, and it was nice to see so many colors on display.



In just about every garden I visit on treks, I find an iris I really want and this garden was no different. This is where I first saw CHOCOLATE MOOSE (Kasperek '03) in full bloom. I also noticed DANDY CANDY (Ernst '01). The violet standards and pink falls with a violet wash around the rim and the bright orange beard complimented the flower's form. The last iris added to my list was a 2002 introduction by Jack Worel named GYPSY GLITTERS. Its bright yellow standards and falls of the same yellow with a deep violet rim made it stand out amongst the blooms it was planted next to, which included one of Jack's named RUSH CREEK ('99). When viewed with the right amount of sun behind it, it looks almost red.

After viewing the guest irises, I enjoy **Diana Ward's** wheelbarrow collection. Each one was a different model and all were filled with soil and planted with various annuals, perennials and other bedding flowers. Some had no wheel and were planted into the ground. Diana even had her father's wheelbarrows included in the collection. After that, I was off to smell the roses. In addition to iris, the Ward's had a very nice bed of roses. I like to view them, smell them, and then try my luck at the name. Sometimes I'm right.

Well there goes the whistle. Time to head back to the bus and go to another garden. Am I having fun or what!?

--- **Debbie Babuscio**

What. I guess you didn't get a chance to get on the tractor or sit in their Japanese-style lath house and view the guest iris. Marilyn snaps a picture of me, and vice versa, hitchhiking by their signpost, which has markers pointing to different iris gardens. PICASSO MOON (Schreiner '00) is shining bright.

Fresno Continued

Let's see what John is up to. What's your observation?



The Martin Garden (Kurt and Paula Martin)

This was a nicely landscaped residential garden and very well kept. Besides the planting for the convention trek and their own iris, Kurt and Paula Martin have a broad planting of roses to add a color pallet and fragrance to the senses in their front yard. Here are a few of the TB irises and one BB iris I found interesting: Terry Aitken's lilac FRIENDLY SEAS; Paul Black's inky dark purple blue DEEP DARK SECRET; Rick Ernst's violet amoena WHITE-CAPPED WAVES; Jim Hedgecock's yellow self MAKING SMALL TALK (BB); Gerald Moorhead's light lilac SEEDLING 98-107; Oscar Schick's light pink ASPECTS OF LOVE; Schreiners' yellow and rosy magenta bicolor SUNNYSIDE DELIGHT; Don Spoon's pink self MY GINNY; Harold Stahly's violet amoena BACK ROADS; George Sutton's white space age ALABASTER UNICORN and reblooming black BYE BYE BLACKBIRD.

In the rear of the Martin home, they have a good view of the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. In that area we enjoyed a brunch table full of delightful treats. An interesting activity at the Martin's was their children showing off their pygmy goats for a 4-H project. This garden visit made for a great experience on a beautiful spring morning in the Central Valley.

--- John Wight

It's true, John. Too bad the temperature wasn't over a hundred degrees. If it were, we could have a pool party and view the guest irises along the edge simultaneously. Schreiner's' 2004 CAN'T TOUCH THIS tempted me to touch it. It's white with broad ultramarine blue band on the falls. Don't confuse this one with Cayeux's 2002 FUTURISTE, which has blue violet band.

So Angie how's your trip so far?

Lone Oak Iris Ranch (Jennifer Smith/Jane Giffin)

Well, I definitely know this was a memorable convention for me. I'm in my wheel chair, and the irises are in full bloom. As we ventured in to the gardens of the growers of irises, the **Smith/Giffin** garden stands out in my mind. Why? Twofold. First, as you step off the bus you hear this beautiful music from the fiddler playing the Tennessee Waltz and other songs. When he played a different fiddle, the music gave a different sound. Second, you see an intriguing array of color in the field. The fields were producing loads of iris blooms. It looked like a flower factory. What a combination and what a setup! The sound of music filled the air and breathtaking flowers painted the mind.

The iris that caught my eyes was a space age FLOR-ENCE DATON (de la Motte '02). It has white standard, plum falls with white rim, and plum horns with white tip. Oh so pretty! CAROUSEL WALTZ (Helsley '96, BB) was big and bright with its yellow tan standards and light maroon falls with wide yellow edge. Then there was a very striking EXPOSE' (Ghio '04). The white standards, yellow background with purple veins falls, and bright orange beards was a knock out. This one looked best in this garden.

Just think. This family (mother **Jane Giffin**/daughter **Jennifer Smith**) started with a few irises then expanded to mass a production after planting 3256 irises the first year. When the wind picked up and blew dust, I looked to the opposite side of the field. To my surprise, I noticed the irises planted were labeled alphabetically on a large board at the end of each row. What a profound thought. It is evident that this family enjoys their creation of love of the iris. What a wonderful afternoon seeing irises all in their colorful glory.

--- Angie Fierro



Fresno Continued

Hey Mike and Elaine! What tickles your fancy at the Nicholson's Woodland Iris Garden?

Nicholson's Woodland Iris Garden (Gordon and Lorraine Nicholson)

This is a commercial garden owned by Gordon and Lorraine Nicholson. They are very AMIABLE and retired in 1993 to work from SUNUP TO SUNDOWN.

We awoke Friday JUST BEFORE DAWN. Bus loading was a CIRCUS CIRCUS, repeating Thursday morning chaos. Traveling BACK ROADS to Nicholson's Woodland Iris Garden we saw a SPRING FANTASY. Gone was Thursday's WILD WEST WIND blowing dirt and rampaging like a T-REX trying to BREAKOUT of JURASSIC PARK. The front garden was a VISION OF SPRING, over 600 guest irises and over 400 roses created an ARTIST'S PALETTE.

Steve and Sharlynn Rocha were assisting the Nicholson's; Lorraine is Steve's aunt. It was a MAGICAL ENCOUNTER to see friends before their departure to Region 14.

JUMPING from the buses we were like a SUMMER TSUNAMI flooding the garden. **Pete DeSantis** was like CRUSADER RABBIT looking for his babies: RESEDA MOON, RESEDA SUNSET, and JACKIE HORNDEN. **David Kennedy** also looked for his THORNTON'S GOLD. Saw TOM JOHNSON but PAUL BLACK missed the bus!

SIMPLY DELICIOUS drinks and snacks awaited us but the best was outside: CAJUN COOKING, PEPPERMINT CREAM, CHOCOLATE ECSTASY, NUT AND HONEY, SPUDS AND BUTTER. These names make me hungry; back for more snacks! Lucille the German shepherd checked out the menu but didn't like our choice of DANDY CANDY.

MY FRIEND DICK, a CLASSY FRIEND with a DEVILISH NATURE wanted to see the Louisianas in pots, which are ready to sell. I said BINGO BANGO BONGO sounds too good to miss. We were like JUMPIN JACK FLASH running and yelling NOW SEE THIS a SPOUTING HORN in UNCHARTED WATERS. Watch out for the 'SHORE PATROL!

Elaine pointed out some of her favorite guests: WHITE CAPPED WAVES, REVERE, SUN ADA BEACH. She is also making a list for her friend KINDHEARTED LADY JANE. No blues or purples for her. Pinks, yellows and rebloomers preferred: PINK FLYAWAY, PEACHES AND DREAMS, HER PINKNESS, PINK MILLENNIUM, HALLOWEEN MOON and SYMPHONY OF LIGHT. That is plenty to choose from.

It was hot like CANNED HEAT; we felt like MELTED BUTTER. Some ITALIAN ICE would have been a 'Pleasant Surprise'. Where is a MANGO SMOOTHIE when you need one? "GOT MILK?" I asked. No, but try RASPBERRY SORBET.

We overheard some golf talk. Hey, that new course is a GOLFER'S DELIGHT. No, it's a HACKER'S DELIGHT, replied another. What do you know, you missed the CHANGE OF MILLENNIUM; probably think a SUNNYSIDE DELIGHT is a BOOM BOOM BLONDE.

We found some of **Rick Tasco's** best: BROADBAND, MARIPOSA AUTUMN, and SPLASHACATA. Guess GOLDEN PANTHER ran away.

We found a shady place among the Christmas trees. Wouldn't a bit of MERLOT or RASPBERRY WINE add a MAGICAL GLOW? Relax, close the eyes, and let your mind wander. Here are nice cooling thoughts: a SOFT RAIN, floating ABOVE THE CLOUDS, BUBBLING SURF, and standing on GLACIER POINT. Drifting deeper and deeper imagined DIZZY MISS LIZZY, a NATURAL BLONDE, singing a NASHVILLE HIT as her LAST SONG.

WHHEEEEE!!! The whistle blew! CODE RED! CODE RED! Search for that RARE FIND. Maybe a WILD DISCOVERY is in the next row! Here is HEARTSTRING STRUMMER, surely an INSTANT HIT! It was worse than PENNANT FEVER scrambling along the rows. Hardcore irisarians paid LIP SERVICE to the whistle and needed DYNAMITE to make them leave.

I never did find BINGO BANGO BONGO, not even in the LOST AND FOUND. It's just a FANCY NOTION probably not to my taste anyway. Leaving the Nicholson's I was struck with the BLOWOUT of colors; a MAGIC PALETTE suitable for a catalog COVER PAGE. HOT PROPERTY, indeed!

--- Mike and Elaine Monninger

Wow! What a creative response. When I was here, there was an incident that dumbfounded me. I was showing a kid (not a conventioner) around the guest iris. At one point when I turned around, a conventioner lightly slapped the kid's hand and said "Don't touch." because the kid was touching the iris. Please note that not everyone knows the garden etiquette. One should have used this opportunity to educate rather than alienate. Another thing, if an iris crumbles by a touch, then it doesn't pass the durability test and shouldn't be introduced. On a happier note, T-REX stumped the competition under the bright KILIMANJARO SUNRISE in this garden.



Fresno Continued

Let's see how Lynn is teeing off on the iris greens. Swing away Lynn!

Iris Greens (Ron and Lori de la Motte)



This was the third and last garden I visited on the second day of garden touring. It's a commercial iris garden. The name is derived from their love of golf. They actually have a tee box and flag, with rows of iris growing between. They practice golfing when the irises are not in bloom. There is also a Biblical Garden, with plants from Bible days and quotes from the Bible. Here there are benches to sit and rest, with the iris fields in the background.

I approach the garden in two ways. First, I check the guest beds for seedlings of Region hybridizers (**Pete DeSantis, Ken and Christy Pierson, Richard Richards, and Jerry Moorhead**). Second, I look for the newest creations that I don't currently grow. Some things I saw and liked that I don't have in my garden yet were these: DANDY CANDY (Ernst '01), CRYSTAL GAZER (Keppel '02), OVER ALASKA (Schreiner '03), PERFECT UNION (Schreiner '01), FIRST WAVE (Tasco '03), and IRISH GOLD (Lauer '04).

Okay I've seen enough. Time to hit the refreshment table (cookies, fruit, nuts, and cold water).

--- Lynn McIlwain

Great idea Lynn. It's time to refuel and for me to reflect. It is befitting to have DALAI LAMA (Williamson '03), a large clump and the tallest guest, overlooking the guest irises. The hole-in-one for me is AURELIE (Cayeux, registered TB). Think of CONJURATION (Byers '89) with purple violet bands on the falls. It's my favorite iris during this convention, and I can't order it yet! Oh why do the Fates torture me so?

So Faith, how much faith do you have in the irises at the Church of Christ Garden?

Church of Christ Garden (Host: Gloria Haggard)

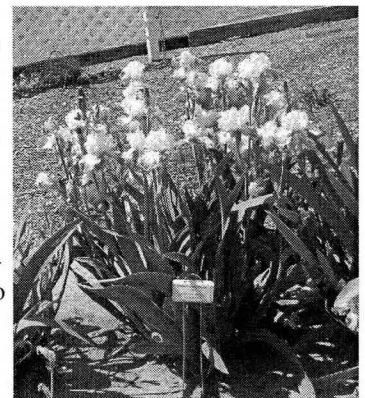
How lucky can one place of worship be---having the **Jim Gibson Iris Society** available and willing to devote ingenuity and energy in the person of their President, Gloria Haggard, and her family and fellow irisarian, **Mary Lou Polek**,--- to morph an unkempt city lot into something beautiful. This church is in possession of the empty lot adjoining the actual ministerial structures. We all know how the usual empty area appears.

Not this empty lot. It ahs become the pride of the neighborhood. Using scraps of fencing, old railroad ties and much imagination (and physical labor), a lovely place evolved. Two rows of historical, new and guest irises rimmed the U-shaped lot. There were also plantings in the small raised plots dotting the center area. The irises appeared to be at peak with no weeds and with no sign of a wayward gopher. On what was a VERY hot day, the many blues seemed to appeal to me, especially SPOUTING HORN (Johnson '01), DEVIL'S LAKE (Schreiner '99), METOLIUS BLUES (Schreiner '00) and the big red purple SALSA RIO (Schreiner '00).

As an added bonus, we were served a refreshing, full buffet luncheon by our hostesses in one of the church's social rooms. Visalia is the better for having this beautiful plot of land so creatively engineered.

--- Faith Nixon

I agree. Here are my "sins": (1) I'm jealous that I don't have an open space to give my rhizomes the recommended 2-foot spacing. (2) I would kill to get my hands on MYSTIC DRAGON (Cadd '02); it's a lighter THORNBIRD (Byers '88) with great branching. (3) I must have WHITE-CAPPED WAVES (Ernst '02), as they're blooming tall and gently waving at passers-by. (4) I wanted to steal a bouquet of ORANGE BLOSSOM SPECIAL (Schreiner '99), but snapped a picture of it instead. (The caterer quit two days before the convention began! I hope they have a good explanation when they are knocking on heaven's door.)



WHITE CAPPED WAVES
(Ernst 2002)

Fresno Continued

Now it's my (Kim's) turn.

St. John's Episcopal Church Garden (Hosts: Robert & Cathie Sutton and Bruce Rybnikar)

Here's a garden that reminds you of someone who gave up their vegetable garden and opted for iris instead—simple straight rows of plantings in an almost square area. The soil must be virgin, because the irises just love it. Two-year clumps are large and blooming away. Yes, there were signs of gopher damage, but who cared. Standing tall here, as well as at other gardens, is Larry Lauer's TICKET TO RIDE ('02) with its chrome yellow standards and rose purple falls with deeper edge and yellow rim. It got my vote for the President's Cup. (And HEARTSTRING STRUMMER (Johnson '01), white with varying shades of blue on the falls, got my vote for the Franklin Cook Cup.)

A cool clump of ARCTIC AGE (Schreiner '99) appears like an iceberg. One of the few medians blooming here is the stunning MASLON (Spoon '02, MTB), bright primrose yellow standards and velvety purple falls with narrow white rim—very eye catching. And a few clumps down the row from it is Bob Annand's THREE STRIKES ('98). It strikes a lot of "ooh and aah" nerves. It stopped many trekkers in their tracks. The attention grabber is the dark violet purple stripe that runs from the beard to the tip of the fall on an otherwise yellow gold self. After we are all strike out, it is time to leave.



Well hello Laura Ellen and George. It must be very relaxing sitting on the bench and absorbing the colorful surrounding. Would you care to comment on it?

The Kreps' Garden (Michael and Susan Kreps)

When the busses arrived at the Visalia garden of **Michael and Susan Kreps**, we got the perfect California greeting - a bank of California poppies in full bloom. We proceeded past the grassy lawn under the shade of several large walnut trees to the guest iris. We admired the birds and bird nests they glued on top of the fence posts. (*Marilyn and others are going to "steal" this idea.*) The Kreps had replaced much of their vegetable garden with the guest irises. Here and there, asparagus, squash and Brussels sprouts peeked through. They incorporated many perennials to their guest iris display beds. The word here is color; it just overwhelms the senses. You might have seen some spurias still labeled with seedling numbers from a previous trek. The hybridizer was our own **Pete DeSantis**. At the back of the property was a breathtaking display of their own irises. Each cultivar is planted in large section. The massive display just makes you want to put each cultivar on your want list.



George and I have been searching for a good orange iris and we found two here: LOVELY SENORITA (Schreiner '03) and a seedling L97-7 (Lesley Painter). Although it is not orange, we will also have to find out about Pete's spuria seedling 84-406.

When the Kreps moved to the property, they said it was rock hard soil. They added tons of compost. Today they use mostly compost as very little fertilizer is needed. They sure know how to whip this ex-roofing storage property into a garden paradise. The place is definitely not an eye sore anymore.

---Laura Ellen and George Speck

*Have you walked through the middle garden? It's a wild flower garden. Of interest to the conventioners is the pond filled with **Mary Dunn's Louisiana irises**.*



Fresno Continued

OK Marilyn, it's your turn. Give me the 411 on the James' garden.

The James' Garden (Ken and Sue James)

Living in urban paradise may be easy for some members of the Ken James family; Sue James admits it is all of her husband's effort to maintain the 400 plus varieties of irises on their Modesto acre. With massive bloom, it was a satisfying garden visit for the American Iris Society 2004 conventioners. As for the other members of the James family, their noses were a bit out of joint because they had to get out of Ken's way for the two-year project. So, Josh, Julia and Sharpshooter...wait a minute, Sharpshooter? Oh, yes Josh is a dog, Julia is a potbelly pig, and Sharpshooter is a miniature horse. Two cats, some Bantam chickens, two mallard ducks, a turtle and Koi all share the James' lovely yard.

Our tour started in the front yard where rose bushes were interspersed with iris clumps. The path beside the house led to the "first" back yard that had cooling grass, a swimming pool, and a miniature house perfect for their grandchildren. Ken gave up his vegetable garden to contain his personal irises while growing the convention irises. The "second back" yard was a half-acre rectangle of neatly mowed grass dotted with poplar trees and California poppies. Edging the half-acre is a white wood and wire fence with a raised planter where his own irises used to be. Now 362 guest iris and seedling clumps fill that raised planter. Some rhizomes will be returned to the hybridizers, but Ken will get to keep many. CARNIVAL RIDE (Ernst '02) and FIERY TEMPER (Keppel '01) are two of his favorites. I agree that CARNIVAL RIDE is lovely, but my absolute favorite is PAUL BLACK (Johnson '03). It has been wonderful in every garden.

While Ken and I talked, Josh (the dog, remember?) autographed my convention tote bag, signaling time to go. A stop at the refreshment stand for a good-bye to hospitable Sue James and the crew of Region 14 volunteers ended one of the nicest stops on the convention tour.

--- Marilyn Pecoraro

Ditto. Now it's my turn to yap again.

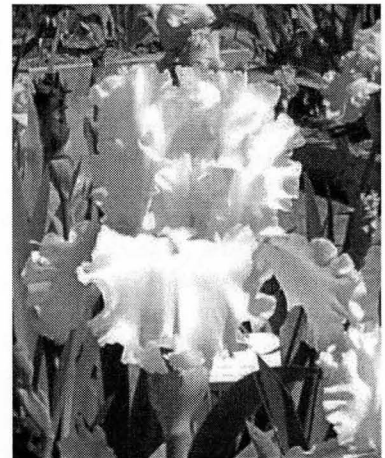
Sutton's Iris Gardens (George, Margaret & Michael Sutton)

It is the southernmost garden on the convention tour. Many of you are familiar with the Sutton commercial gardens; you have been here a number of times before. When we arrive, the thermometer is creeping up. A large clump of BYE BYE BLUES (Sutton '97), a lighter HONKY TONK BLUES (Schreiner '88) with spoons, is happily greeting us by the entrance to the guest iris garden. Most of the conventioners make a quick walk around and then find a cool place to relax. Brad Kasperek's KILIMANJARO SUNRISE ('03) is the brightest color break I've seen and like—sunshine yellow standards and shoulders and



TROPICAL DELIGHT
(M. Sutton 2002)

violet blue falls streaked pale yellow. Even though it isn't at its best, a single bloom of GOLLY GEE WHIZ (Burseen '03) down in the foliage causes a lot of commotion. The color contrast is unique: light lavender blue standards, bright rust red falls, and yellow beard. The one I like best is Tom Johnson's FUNDAMENTAL ('02), crystalline rim both the ice white standards and light violet falls, rich gold beards end in short violet horns, and great branching. If you happen to find Mr. Sutton's 2004 introduction beds, you will agree that his reblooming and great branching STAR DOCK, coral standards and beetroot falls with straight up flounces, should be on your wish list. I wander over to listen to **Kathy Chilton** giving judges training on seedlings. I guess everyone passes. For the first time I see a broken color space age seedling and possibly a rebloomer, too. Wow. What will the hybridizers come up with next?



DEVONSHIRE CREAM
(G. Sutton 2000)



Fresno Continued

The joy ride is almost over. We just have one more garden to go. Let's tag along with Derry.

Superstition Iris Gardens (Rick Tasco and Roger Duncan)

I have visited Superstition many times. Each visit the anticipation builds: the 20 miles from Highway 99 towards the Sierra Nevada, the beautiful rolling hills, the rock formations, the cattle, and the coyotes. Then the lovely country road . . . around each curve "are we there yet?" and then . . . there they were, the field of iris.

The garden is always well grown, but these were two-year clumps. And what a show!

I ran to the far end of the six convention beds, where it wasn't so crowded. I was overwhelmed by Joe Ghio's BEWITCHMENT ('04), a pink with purple grey infusion; his BUBBLES GALORE ('02), is an aptly named white and very ruffled. Then, there was his REVERE ('02), white standards with a gold halo, white falls with blue rim and gold beards.

(Yes, Derry, this is the first time I see REVERE and I must have it.)

Keith Keppel's BROAD SHOULDERS ('01) caught

my eye. It has lavender tan standards with port wine-purple falls and henna brown beard. I liked the broad falls. His DRAMA QUEEN ('03) got my attention with its dark purple standards, falls tan ground a wide border of dark purple lined in gold and orange brown beard.



REVERE (Ghio 2002)

Terry Aitken's NUT AND HONEY ('01) has orange-brown standards and the falls are brown with orange rim – very interesting. I noted Paul Black's ALL ABUZZ ('00) a grey IB with purple edge, falls were purple with white veining. Tom Johnson's PAUL BLACK ('03) was gorgeous, with very ruffled dark purple with bright, bright orange beards. Larry Lauer's JUKE BOX HERO ('03) has blue standards, and darker blue falls; the bright yellow shoulders took my eye and the yellow-orange beard finished it off.

Then I came upon the Schreiner entries – where do I start? FADE TO BLACK ('02), a very large tall ruffled black; HIGH STAKES ('99), a nice royal blue self; SAVANNAH SUNSET ('00), beautiful orange; and cover girl WORLD PREMIER ('98) were putting on a show. These are only a few of my favorites. I could go on and on. But all good things must come to an end. It was time to board the bus. I heard they had tables of food.

Fortunately, we returned the day after the convention and I was able to see all of Rick and Roger's commercial garden and their seedlings. My only complaint was "I don't want to

leave!"

---Derry Gerald

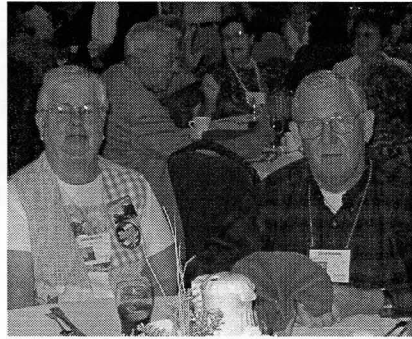
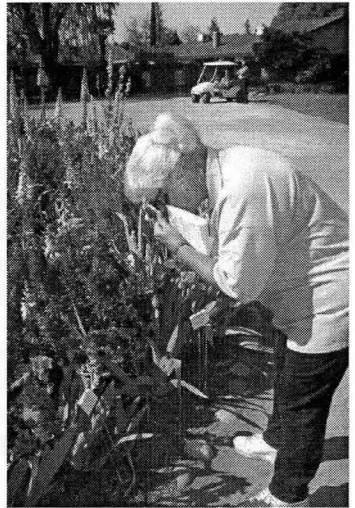
There are just too many great clumps of irises in bloom here to select the crème-de-crème. But, if your enquiring mind wants to know I will rave on the following quartet: FREEDOM SONG (Schreiner '03) clean raspberry violet plicata; SLOVAK PRINCE (Mego '03) white standards with gold rim and dark velvety blue purple falls with lighter rim; SUN FUN (Johnson '02) bright medium yellow standards, white falls with medium yellow band, and great branching; and yes I revere REVERE (Ghio '02).

Grand Finale: We finish off the convention with the Awards Banquet—meet a few more people. The banquet is interrupted by a non-conventioneer gentleman who needs help. Best regards are offered while he is escorted out by the hotel security; it's a big reality check. The keeper gifts are cool: wooden cut out medallion of an iris bloom stalk and Yosemite. Many awards are handed out. For the President's Cup (in Region 14), the winner is GOLDEN PANTHER by Rick Tasco. Then it is announced that the winner for the Franklin Cook Cup (out of Region 14) is TOM JOHNSON ('96) by Paul Black; Paul accepts the trophy. People are stunned but know better. A moment later it is corrected that the real winner is PAUL BLACK ('03) by Tom Johnson. It's bound to happen. Here's a challenge for the judges: can you tell the differences between the two cultivars?

And my answer to the question whether I would demand a refund is "Yes, I demand a re-FUN!"



Region 15 at Fresno





Convention Memories

REMEMBER YOUR FIRST?

By Jeanne Comeaux

Yes, it was my FIRST...but won't be my LAST!!!!

The National Convention of the American Iris Society, April 19-24 in Fresno, CA was a great big pleasant surprise and soooo much FUN! I had the opportunity to go this Convention because I, as Vice President of the Sun Country Iris Society, attended in place of our President LynnAlison Martin, who had a conflict of obligations during that time. I requested the application, sent it in with the registration fee and waited with wonderment for the time to arrive.

Marge Larson, one of our SCIS members, and I traveled together to Fresno. I knew when we got on the plane that it was going to be a good flight. We had a female pilot, female co-pilot, and female attendant...we were in very good hands. We arrived at Fresno and checked in at the Radisson Hotel. We went down to the lobby and picked up our registration packets. What a bundle that was! We got a beautiful blue carryall bag, which was decorated with embroidered Iris and strong enough to carry as much as you could possibly stuff into it. There was a 202-page Convention Booklet, a complete guide to all events. We each received a hanging handpainted name badge, our ticket to everything.

I could hardly believe all the meetings, Boutique, Silent Auction, Judges Training, dinners, banquets, receptions, Yosemite Tour, and garden tours-- as many as four gardens per day for Thursday, Friday and Saturday. It took some doing, but I made my choices. Some hours of the day had as many as four options. This was all new to me! No one had ever come back from a previous Convention with a report that there was so MUCH to do!

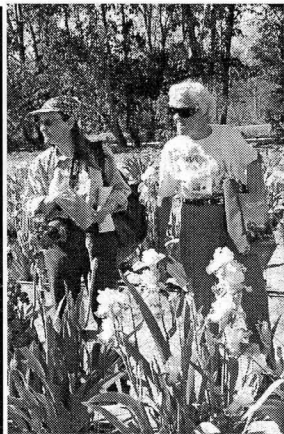
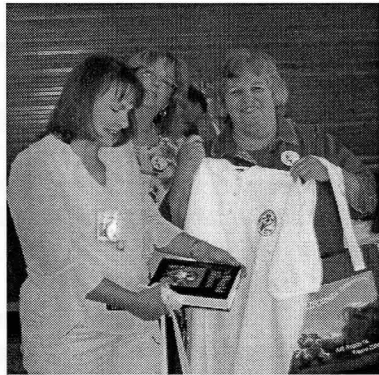
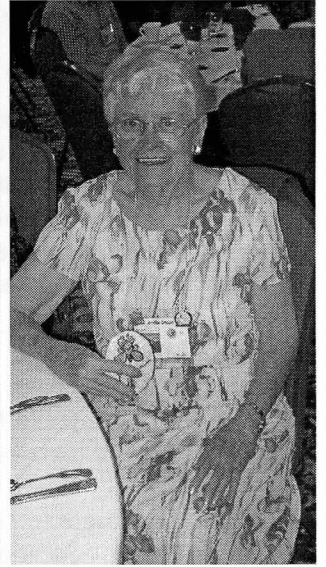
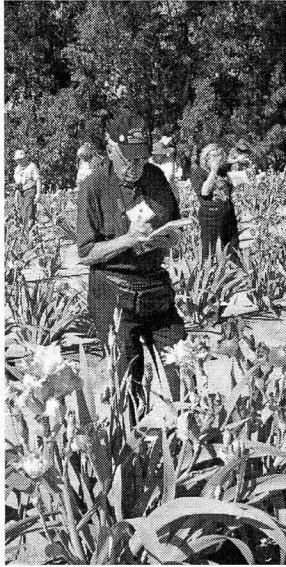
I took the Yosemite Tour on Tuesday, boarding the bus at 7:30am and returning at 6:30pm (a half hour late). Breathtaking, educational, beautiful, matchless scenery! I had never been there before, either. GREAT!

As noted, I was late for the Region 15 Board and General Meeting at 6:00pm. After the Region 15 meeting, I went to peruse the Region 14 Silent Auction items. On Wednesday, I enjoyed the Region 14 Fresno Iris Society Iris Show in the lobby of the hotel. I met so many people, putting faces with the voices I had only heard over the phone. That was soooo much fun! After that, I visited the Historic Iris Society Program and auction. I became a member. After that was the Aril Society Program, with gorgeous slides. Then on to the Reblooming Iris Society Program, and after that, on to the Society for Louisiana Irises Program, all with slides, and note taking. Then, at 6:30pm, was the Reception and Welcome Dinner. Who knew there was soooo much FUN here?

Before I knew it, it was Thursday...the first Garden Tour day! Get on the bus at 7:00am; stay with the same color through all three days. We went to the Smith/Giffin, Ward, Martin, and Tasco Gardens. Each was different in many ways, but each had hundreds of gorgeous, beautiful irises in bloom for us to enjoy. Each was excellent in its own way. I could go on for pages describing each garden in detail and the things I liked most about them, but I'm sure the Editor has other things to print. So I'll suffice it to say...just image seeing beautiful Irises, Roses, Wildflowers, Vines, Butterflies, Birds, and Bunnies...mix them all together with the most wonderful people, and you get the picture. Besides that, we had the BEST Bus Captains! Friday's gardens were Sutton, Kreps, Church of Christ, and St. John's with more of the same descriptives as above. Saturday, we enjoyed Nicholson's, De la Motte, and James gardens. Whew! I filled an entire notebook of things I loved, names of iris I want to buy, names of people I met, and ideas I want to incorporate, such as yard art I saw some places.

Can you see why I had soooo MUCH FUN? You can take it to the bank, this was my FIRST National Iris Convention, but IT WAS NOT MY LAST!

Region 15 at Fresno





REGION 15 NEWS

A Message from RVP Jim Giles

Well, the iris world has slowed down a little - now that the bloom season is over, the shows are over and the treks are over. Now, all that is left is the weeding, cleaning, watering, digging, auctions, sales and planting. Judges have to complete their ballots and file their activity reports, but other than those things, it has slowed down a little bit. Oh, add the symposium to your list, too, because that will be coming up soon, also. Well, I thought this was *supposed* to be the slower time of the year for iris lovers. It is always said that "being busy keeps you young," so that is one consolation of loving iris.

Region 15 had a very good turn out at the National Convention this year. There were a lot of pictures taken at Fresno, so look for familiar faces in this bulletin. Region 14 did a great job hosting the National Convention. The side trip to Yosemite was well worth getting up early for. The water was flowing well in all the rivers and falls, the forest had a very fresh smell and the air was crisp. What a beautiful park. I was talking to Warren Larsen when we were looking up at Half Dome and he told me that he had climbed that when he was 17 years old. That must have been 5 or 10 years ago, 'huh' Warren?

We had to leave Saturday morning because of an emergency back home, so we missed the last day of the gardens, but what we did get to see was a very beautiful assortment. I believe that the love of iris makes the growers very creative, because there were some great things on display in these gardens besides the iris, - some very beautiful, some very cute and some just plain unique. This was a great convention.

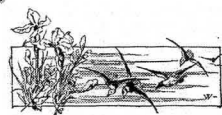
Speaking of Conventions, I have seen the tentative schedule for the combination **Region 15 Spring Trek and SLI Convention**. It looks like it is going to be another great meeting, so make your plans now for Tucson next spring.

Also don't forget to get your reservations in for the **Fall Trek hosted by Hi Desert October 9th** in Palmdale. **George Sutton** will be sharing his wit and wisdom with those in attendance. It looks to be a very good meeting and I hope to see you there.

Jim



Janet and Jim Giles at the
AIS Convention in Fresno, CA.



From the Editor:

I want to send a huge "THANK YOU" to everyone who contributed photos, articles, and information for this newsletter.

I couldn't do it without all of you!

Kathy Chilton, Editor

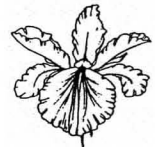
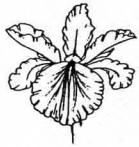


REGION 15 NEWS



WAYS AND MEANS

Joyce Poling



*The Region 15 Auction is fast approaching.
We have irises coming from these great gardens.*

- SUPERSTITION IRIS GARDEN
- LAUER'S FLOWERS
- BAYVIEW/JOE GHIO
- MID-AMERICA
- SCHREINER'S
- KEITH CHADWICK
- ANNA AND DAVID CADD
- TOM BURSEEN
- ARGLYE ACRES
- COMMANCE ACRES/JIM HEDGECOCK
- WINTERBERRY IRIS GARDENS/DON AND GINNY SPOON
- LAKESIDE IRIS GARDEN
- SUTTON'S
- LOWELL BAUMUNK
- ZEBRA IRIS GARDENS/ BRAD AND KATHY KASPERECK
- AITKEN'S SALMON CREEK/TERRY AND BARBARA AITKENS
- WOODLAND IRIS GARDENS/LORRAINE NICHOLSON
- COOLEY'S IRIS GARDENS
- KEITH KEPPEL
- SNOWPEAK IRIS GARDEN/DENISE STEWART

*That's 20 gardens! We also have a box coming from the **Median Iris Convention in Portland, OR.** It will arrive about the first week in July and I'll pot and hold them till time for the auction. If you do not want Medians in the auction for your group, please let me know. These will be some of the newer varieties as seen in Portland at the Convention.*

The irises will be arriving at my house by Aug 26th and will be reboxed and shipped out the following Monday. My goal this year is to get the rhizomes to the different societies as fresh as possible. There will be no pictures this year, because we never know what is coming in till it arrives. There will be a handwritten list of the contents and that is about all. If the gardens send catalogs or pictures, I'll include them. This is going to be a tough year because of no guest irises coming from Region 15.

***Kathy Chilton** has already given me a copy of the guest irises for 2005, and we are working together on pictures so next year will be better.*

*Next year at Spring Trek we will have the rest of the items from the **Marion Walker Family.** So far, we have gained a nice increase in our region 15 budget, thanks to the Walker Family. We have some really nice things left, including another set of dishes.*



REGION 15 TREK WHEEL

SPRING

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

FALL

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



Region 15 Youth News

E-mail: region15kids@hotmail.com

REGION 15 YOUTH NEWS

By Cheryl Deaton

Unfortunately, none of the Region 15 youth members were able to attend the **AIS National Convention** in Fresno, CA, but I met some wonderful young people from New York and Canada who did attend. **Amanda Cummings** from Region 2 was named the **Clark Cosgrove Award Winner for 2004**. Amanda was at the convention with her great-grandmother, **Anna Mae Cummings**. It was Anna Mae who got Amanda interested in irises initially, and they both share a fondness for the Historical irises. Amanda also enjoys karaoke, and she serenaded her fellow bus passengers on the daily tours...what a treat! **Emily Ives** lives in Canada, and although she is only 13 years old, she is a director of the Re-blooming Iris Society.

In our own region, many youth members enjoyed success at local iris shows. **Amanda Nolan** of Sun Country Iris Society won in both Artistic and Educational divisions. At the San Fernando Valley Iris Society show, **Katherine Lee** entered the Horticultural division. In the Artistic division, there were 9 youth entries. **Christie Branch** won Best Design and the Artistic Sweepstakes. **Taylor Branch** and **Katherine Lee** also won artistic awards, and **Girl Scout Troop 921** also participated in the Artistic Division. Congratulations to all of you.

The CIP Jr. Girl Scout Troop in Tucson, sponsored by **Kathy Chilton**, is going strong. The girls had an exhibit at the TAIS show again this year. Sun Country's **LynnAlison Martin** has a group of young people at her school who are tending an iris bed on campus. While not an "official" CIP yet, we are hoping it becomes one really soon.

I am encouraged by the interest shown by Inland Region Iris Society and Hi Desert Iris & Daylily Society in starting a CIP. When school starts up again in the fall, we might just have two or three more CIPs in our region. Wouldn't that be just terrific?



Christie Branch, SFVIS Show

As I always say, get a young person involved in iris! It's so easy to do, especially if you like/love iris like I do. A moment of your time might just change someone's life – who knows? You might just encourage that one person who will develop a RED iris! Stranger things have happened.

Contact me at:
region15kids@hotmail.com
or (661) 252-6771. I'll be happy to send information on starting a CIP, answer questions, or just chat.

Take care, and Happy Irising!



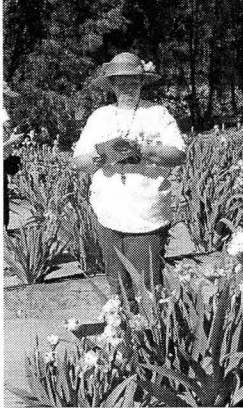
Tucson Jr. Girl Scout Exhibit



LETTERS FROM OUR PRESIDENTS

Summer 2004

Hi Desert Iris & Daylily Society **Cheryl Deaton, President**



We have been a busy bunch of irisarians in 2004. Nine of our members attended the AIS National Convention in Fresno. What a wonderful experience – irisarians are the nicest people in the world! We have had two very successful events, the annual Home & Garden Show in March, and our own annual show in May. We sold out of potted iris twice at the Home and Garden Show, and we signed up some new members. Our annual show on May 1st was a little bit later than usual, but we had a wonderful newspaper article appear in the local paper that brought out many, many people to see our beautiful exhibits. Congratulations to **Leigh Moon** for winning Best Specimen of Show (and just about everything else on the show bench), and to **Joyce Bertram** for winning the Artistic Sweepstakes.

We are looking forward to hosting the Region 15 Fall Meeting on October 9th. **George Sutton** will be our guest speaker. We will be raffling 2 iris quilts, so make sure you buy your tickets early AND OFTEN!!! The yellow quilt can be won by anyone in the region. (You do not need to be present to win.) Our members have been working very hard to make this an enjoyable experience for everyone. There will be LOTS of door prizes and raffle items so everyone has a chance to go home with something terrific. Send your registration forms to **Winona Stevenson**, 8280 Entrada Blvd., Lake Isabella, CA 93240.

Hi Desert has just found out that we came in 2nd again in the affiliate contest sponsored by AIS (always the bridesmaid, never the bride!). This year we will receive 12 rhizomes donated by hybridizers – 9 are 2004 introductions and 3 are 2003 introductions. Thanks to **Darlene Pinegar, Larry Lauer, Dave Nishwonger, George Sutton,** and **Rick Tasco & Roger Duncan** of **Superstition Gardens** for their generosity to the affiliate contest.

Some Hi Desert members will be going to **Superstition Iris Gardens** in Cathey's Valley to dig the guest rhizomes in July. It looks like it will be a fun weekend, even though we will be working hard. As always during the summer we will be having our "potting parties" as often as we need to. Our meeting in August is planned especially for our new members who joined during the Home & Garden show and our show – it's called "Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Iris....." Experienced members share their knowledge and get to know the new folks. September will be our Region 15 auction using our 'Rhizome Rubles'. A very special guest, **Jim Hedgecock** of **Comanche Iris Gardens** will be our guest speaker on October 16th. He will be giving a JT on Spurias, which do very well in the desert. Everyone is invited to attend this meeting. It's Jim's birthday, so we'll be serving cake to celebrate. Our November meeting is when we elect our board members for the coming year. In December we have our potluck holiday party and gift exchange along with the installation of officers. And we hit the ground running for 2005. **Brad Kasperek** will be our special guest on March 5th. Our annual spring show will be held on April 16th and 17th.

We hope you will join us at the Fall Meeting on October 9th. Please come!

(Editor's Note: Please find the Fall Meeting Registration Form on the last page of this newsletter.)



LETTERS FROM OUR PRESIDENTS

Summer 2004

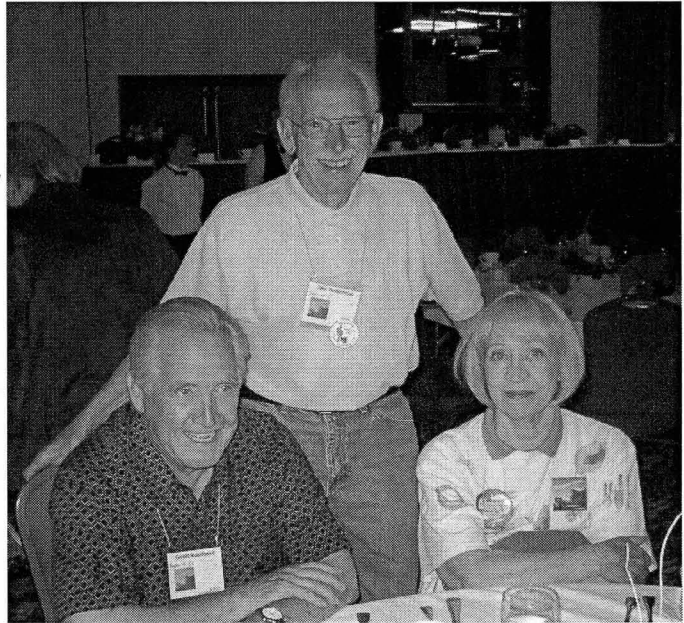
Inland Region Iris Society **President John Reinschmidt**

Since the Region 15 Fall Meeting in October, the time has flown by much too fast.

*Our November meeting was given by **John Schoustra**. He gave a very interesting program on "Landscaping with Daylilies and Iris."*

The December Holiday Party was fun with the gift exchange.

*In January, we had AIS president **Terry Aiken** as our guest. He gave a total of 3 hours of judges training. It was almost like a Region meeting as we had guests from Phoenix, SCIS, SFVIS, Hi Desert, and Orange County. Our program chair, **Carole Buchheim**, did a sensational job. The gifts bags, door prizes, raffle prizes and table favors were very special.*



*In February, we moved our meeting place to the Sizzler in Fontana. The Sizzler at Clay & Van Buren in Riverside was remodeling the meeting rooms. We be meeting in Fontana through July. **Rick Tasco** presented his program "Superstition Gardens, Its history, unique growing techniques and hybridizing".*

*In March, we had a full house with many visitors who came to see and hear **Brad & Kathy Kasperek**. "Iris of a Different Stripe" was very interesting.*

*April is our busiest month. **Eileen Fiumara** gave a program on design and encouraged members to enter a design in our Spring show. Our Spring show was on the 17th & 18th at the Redlands Mall in Redlands. We had about 100 entries on the show bench. On the 20th, **Joe Daugherty** invited all to his garden for judges training in "Aril & Arilbred Iris".*

*At our May meeting, we will be presenting the show awards to the winners and enjoy a special presentation by **Dr, Paul Buchheim**, featuring the National Convention held in Fresno. May 22 & 23, we will have a booth at the Jurupa Mountains Cultural Center selling potted iris.*

*June is election time and a program by **Richard Richards** on "Pacific Coast Irises." July is installation of our new officers and our "Great Iris Trade." August will be the Members Only Iris Auction. September brings Region 15 Iris Auction and Iris Sale to the public at Landscape California Style. More about the rest of the year at a later time.*



LETTERS FROM OUR PRESIDENTS

Summer 2004

Orange County Iris & Daylily Club

President Derry Gerald

I'm still reeling from all of the beautiful irises at the convention. It was so nice to see so many of our Region 15 friends. A big thank you to Region 14. You did a stupendous job.

OCI&DC had **Brad Kasperek** as a speaker. He put on an interesting program about his hybridizing and **Zebra Gardens**. In April, we brought irises for "Show & Tell." I think it inspired many of our new members and was very informative. Greenscene was scheduled at the same time as the national convention. This is our one-time fundraiser. The members that didn't go to convention did a wonderful job of manning our booth and preparing the irises and daylilies. Our sale was a success. In May, our own **Pat Dobbins** gave a talk all about her passion, Epiphyllums. She also brought the lovely blooms for us to drool over.

In June, all of us that were able to attend the convention spoke of our experiences and brought photos to share. In July, we will not have a regular meeting, as we will be co-hosting the American Hemerallis Society Region 7 meeting. It will be at the Huntington Library. A big thanks to **Nancy Webb** and **Mike Boess** for their organizing this event.

Of course, all our new members look forward to our members-only iris and daylily sale in August along with a potluck. (Some have been accused of coming just for the potluck!) Ha! Ha!

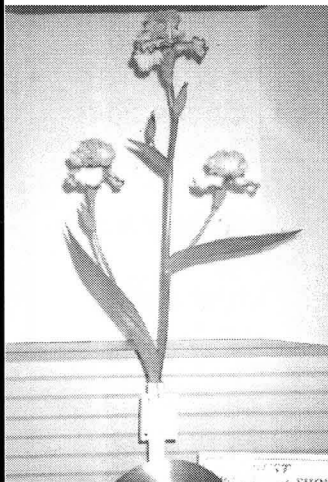
We feel very fortunate that our club is growing with so many new members.

Southern California Iris Society

President Mike Monninger

2004 has been a great year for Southern California Iris Society (SCIS). Our major fundraiser at the Southern California Spring Garden Show on April 1 through April 4 was successful. The fourth day of sales was not appreciated, but that is out of SCIS's control. This year the Garden Show was scheduled for the same weekend as our regular iris show at the Los Angeles botanic Gardens. Since our membership is insufficient to run two major events concurrently at different venues, the show at the Los Angeles Botanic Gardens was cancelled. We were fortunate to receive permission to have our show at the Garden Show. It was a big hit with the public and successful due to the efforts of all our active members and especially **Leigh Nicoli-Moon** and **Brian Moon** as Show Co-chairs.

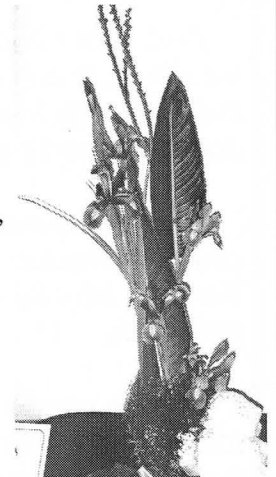
There were over 140 entries in Horticulture and 10 in design. The winners are as follows: 'Best Design of Show' was "Ocean Paradise in the Florida Keys" entered by novice **Angie Fierro** (she now is in the advanced class); 'Design Sweepstakes' by **Derry Gerald** with 2 first place designs, 'Silver Medal' (14 first place) by **Lynn McIlwain**, 'Bronze Medal' by **Kim Ung** (13 first place), 'Best Specimen', 'Best Tall Bearded', and 'Best Tall Bearded Plicata' was MOMENTUM entered by **Kim Ung**, 'Best Aril or Arilbred' was DESERT PLUM entered by **Lynn McIlwain**, 'Best Median' was BLACK CURRANT entered by **Leigh Nicolai-Moon**, 'Best Louisiana' was DECLASSE' entered by **Shirlee Lewis**, 'Best Space Age' was WINGS OF PEACE entered by **Lynn McIlwain**, 'Best Historic' was "GOING MY WAY entered by **Kim Ung**, 'Best Spuria' was ALPHASPU entered by **Lynn McIlwain**, 'Best Tall Bearded Self' was YAQUINA BLUE entered by **Kim Ung**.



MOMENTUM
Entered by Kim Ung

The new officers for 2004 – 2005 are: **Marilyn Pecararo** - President, **Mike Monninger** - Vice President, **Shirlee Lewis** - Treasurer, and **Angie Fierro** – Secretary.

I conclude this message as my last as SCIS President. Term limits have caught me and I now get to rest a bit. I was fortunate during my three years to have a very supportive board and SCIS membership.



"Ocean Paradise in the Florida Keys"
Angie Fierro



LETTERS FROM OUR PRESIDENTS

Summer 2004

Prescott Area Iris Society

President Stan Book

The Prescott Area Iris Society Iris Exhibit held May 15 and 16 at Watters Garden Center in Prescott was extremely successful. We had 94 entries almost evenly divided between flower arrangements and single stem irises. The awards were based on popular vote by the public and prizes were awarded by the Iris Society as follows:

Francelle Edwards – 1st place; **Jim Hughes** – 2nd;

Diane Clarke – Floral Arrangement;

Gloria Hertzler – President's Award- Most Unusual Iris, **SIX PACK**, a pale, violet-blue bearded iris with six petals and no standards called a flattie.

Additional prizes were awarded by Watters Garden Center:

Grand Prize, Best of Show, **CHARIOTS OF FIRE** was exhibited by **Francelle Edwards**.

—Francelle also won the prize for Most Color in a single iris with **SYNCOPATION**.

2nd Place, Best of Show was **WORLD CLASS** submitted by **Jim Hughes**.

Most Vivid Color was won by **FIREBREATH** submitted by **Lee Morris**.

Largest Bloom was a frilly white iris, **SKATING PARTY** entered by **Charles Maxwell**.

Marianne Smith's flower arrangement of **LIASON** was awarded Most Beautiful.

Diane Clarke won Most Imaginative Design with her arrangement of "Wake Up Diane"

—she was also awarded Best Floral Design with "Designing Women".

Smallest Iris was awarded to **Katy Standhardt**.

Thanks to all who participated and to Watters for hosting the exhibit.



CHARIOTS OF FIRE
Best of Show
Francelle Edwards



SIX PACK
President's Award—Most Unusual
Gloria Hertzler



LETTERS FROM OUR PRESIDENTS

Summer 2004

San Diego & Imperial Counties Iris Society

President Ted Howse

Despite the unusual weather of the past year, we had a wonderful May Flower Show at Balboa Park in San Diego. There were many participants, but top honors went to **Ken & Christie Pierson** who won 'Best Specimen of Show' with **BEGINNER'S LUCK**. They also won 'Best White' with **GOLDKIST**, 'Best Plicata' with **ART DECO** and 'Best Seedling', as well as the Silver medal. All this after their home and gardens were devastated (completely burned out) during last October's firestorm. Ken was able to give us a talk on soil preparation at our June meeting, which you can believe we took notice of, after their having achieved such fantastic results. Other winners at the show were **Ted Howse**, who won 'Best Red' with **MULLED WINE** and 'Best Yellow' with **HONEY MUSTARD**, he also won the Bronze Medal. 'Best Spuria' was won by **Joella Olson** with **SUN OF SON**. **John Miller** won 'Best Arilbred' with **KALIFA'S ROBE**, while 'Best Artistic Design' & Artistic Sweepstakes went to **Mary Lou Gibson**.



BEGINNER'S LUCK and SON OF SUN

We had a great presentation at our March meeting by **Dee Brooks** who demonstrated the fine art of artistic design. In April, **Lotta Hogwash (AKA Joella Olson)** instructed us on "*What Not to Do*" when preparing your bloom stalks for entry in a show. Despite the hogwash, a lot of fun was had by all.

In June elections were held for our new board. **Ted Howse** was elected President, **George Bange** - Treasurer, **Christie Pierson** - Secretary and **Joella Olson** acting Vice -president. **Leon Vogel** is continuing on as our most excellent Newsletter Editor. We want to thank our past board for all the excellent work they did, especially past president **Pat Brendel**.

We are looking forward to a great year, starting with our annual Rhizome Sale September 12th at Balboa Park and hope to have some excellent speakers. We want to encourage all members to participate in the activities of the club as we continue to promote our love of that remarkable flower - Iris !

Desert Sunset Iris Society

President Joyce Poling

The first part of the year has been good with new members and good programs. Two of our members gave a great program about Floral Arranging from things they learned in their Ikebana classes. We're planning our second Rhizome Sale in October at the Sun Bowl in Sun City. Last year's sales helped our small budget a lot and got a several people in Sun City thinking about Irises.

*Members are now growing named varieties and even bringing some rhizomes in to be shared with other members. **DEVIL'S LAKE**, **SKATING PARTY**, and **JUICY FRUIT** are some of the Irises that have been shared.*

*We also joined Sun Country on their bus trip to Payson to see gardens there. It was a delightful day in the cool pines with a great lunch at **Hall Bradshaw's** house. The Iris colors were so bright and vivid in the cool mountain air.*

Due to the fact that some of our members are 'snow-birds,' we will not be meeting in July and August. But, after a summer break, we'll be all refreshed and ready to start .

Some of the programs members have asked for are Hybridizing and Drip Irrigation, so we have a good start for the fall.



LETTERS FROM OUR PRESIDENTS

Summer 2004

San Fernando Valley Iris Society **President Jan Lauritzen**

The San Fernando Valley Iris Society has always been a very active club and we have been steadily growing in size. We currently have 142 members. Our youth division is growing as well.

Our 2004 Spring Show, "Through Time with Irises," was held at the Westfield Promenade Mall. We had 31 exhibitors with 232 entries (plus the 30 irises on the exhibition table). These were divided into 190 entries in Horticulture and 42 in Artistic.

The Horticultural Queen of Show was TOUCH OF MAHOGANY, a TB entered by **John Reeds** of San Juan Capistrano. **Mary Anne Abrahms** earned the Silver Medal and **Leigh Nicolai-Moon** the Bronze. The Section Awards were as follows. TB - TOUCH OF MAHOGANY (**John Reeds**); IB - GEISHA (**Leigh Nicolai-Moon**); Novelty (S.A.) - THORNBIRD (**Kim Ung**); SPU - FINALLY FREE (**Loren Zeldin**); LA - DURAL WHITE BUTTERFLY (**Mary Anne Abrahms**); SEEDLING - 2K-189 (**Randy Squires**).

The Artistic side of irises was well represented with 42 exciting arrangements depicting "Through Time with Irises". **Eileen Fiumara** won the Best of Advanced Section and Best Design of Show with her "Industrial Revolution." She also earned the Artistic Sweepstakes and the Theme Award.

The Section Awards were: Novice - "The Dark Ages" (**Pat Tjosaas**); Intermediate - "The Silk Road" (**Freida Wills**) and Advanced - "The Industrial Revolution" (**Eileen Fiumara**). **Christie Branch** won both the Best Design of Youth with her "The Stone or Bronze Age" and the Youth Sweepstakes. It was a beautiful show and every member who helped deserves congratulations.

In June we held our annual Awards Potluck and also elected our new officers. I was re-elected and my officers are: Vice President - **Michelle Snyder**; Secretary - **Pat Tjosaas**; and Treasurer - **Mary Anne Abrahms**.

July brought us **Lili Singer** speaking on "Garden Insects - Friend and Foe." August is our 2004 Trek slide presentation by **Jill Bonino**. She always has a beautiful show on the National, Regional, and Local treks of the past spring. Jill also visited an iris show in England. She says that they do things quite differently and her pictures will have some surprises for us.

In September we will have both the Region 15 Auction and our SFVIS Auction. Everyone enjoys these opportunities to update the irises in their garden. September is also the month for our Fall Sale. It will be at the Topanga Mall on September 18th and 19th.

At our October Games Night meeting, we play Iris Bingo and win bags of irises which did not sell at the Fall Sale. Veteran members quickly sort through their bags for "finds". Newer members sitting nearby are often rewarded with those rhizomes the veterans already grow. A good time is had by all. The club benefits because many of these irises multiply and reappear as donations for the spring sales. November will be Historic Gardens presented by **Kathleen Slater**. December will be our Annual Holiday Potluck meeting. Iris people do enjoy good food and they are some of the best cooks in the world.

In the spring we will be having **Jim Hedgecock**, and **Rick Tasco & Roger Duncan**, and **Brad Kasperek**. SFVIS has a very busy year planned.



"Industrial Revolution"
By
Eileen Fiumara



LETTERS FROM OUR PRESIDENTS

Summer 2004

Sonoran Desert Iris Society **President Kathy Cameron**

We have had a wonderful year so far in SDIS. Our first AIS-sanctioned iris show was a success. It was held in April at the **Shepard Iris Garden**. 43 bloom stalks were submitted by SDIS members and members from other Arizona clubs. And, the winners were:



BEST SPECIMEN OF SECTION

Tall Bearded	ARIZONA SANDSTONE	Kathy Cameron
Spuria	KIT PEAK	Carole Spiess
Arlbred	DESERT MOONLIGHT	Kathy Sturgeon
Seedling	#99041	Bobbie Shepard

SWEEPSTAKES

Queen of Show	ARIZONA SANDSTONE	Kathy Cameron
Silver Medal	Bobbie Shepard, 8 Blue & 3 Red Ribbons	

We couldn't have picked a more beautiful setting for our show or had better weather. Visitors to the Shepards' garden stopped by the display tables and voted for their favorite blooms. RARE TREAT (**Darol Jurn**) won first place by a landslide! Second place went to SAVANNAH SUNSET (**Bobbie Shepard**), and third place to ARIZONA SANDSTONE (**Kathy Cameron**).

A celebratory party followed the show. The judges, **Avery Poling**, **Don Shepard**, and Apprentice Judge Joyce **Poling**, complimented everyone on the show. Avery discussed the importance of proper stalk placement in the vases, and Don explained the importance of presenting the best side of the blooms toward the judges. Joyce noted that only two irises were disqualified; one was misnamed, the other had beautiful buds, but no blooms. She also mentioned that among those attending the show were people from **Desert Sunset Iris Society**, **Sun Country Iris Society**, **Prescott Area Iris Society** and ladies from The Red Hat Society.

We have had two excellent presentations so far this year: **Eloise Koonce** spoke to SDIS about daylilies. Her presentation included a slide presentation showing how beautiful daylilies were used as a major part of gardens. Eloise also showed slides that demonstrated how to dig, divide, plant and care for daylilies. She suggested planting the daylilies in an area where they will receive morning sun and afternoon shade. **Don Shepard** mentioned that he grows some of his daylilies in full sun, but, during the summer months, he mists them two or three times each day.

Avery Poling talked about Africanized honeybees. He reported that an estimated 95% to 98% of the bees in Maricopa County are Africanized; in Pima County the estimate is 100%. Avery discussed the life cycle of a hive and said that the queen lays from 900 to 1800 eggs per day during her life span of 2 ½ to 3 years. It was reported that, although the Africanized bees will eventually eliminate the European honeybees, the new bees will, after several generations, become calmer. In the meantime, beekeepers in the United States will continue working with pre-mated queens to produce less aggressive hives. Avery distributed a paper entitled "The Life of a Honeybee" and gave each member a drawing that showed potential nesting sites that we might find around our homes. He warned us to stay away from any location that a swarm of bees decides to inhabit and to hire a professional to remove them. He emphasized that any loud noise or vibration will agitate the bees and may trigger severe or fatal stings. We will close out the first half of this year with our second annual bingo party, followed by cake, ice cream, other refreshments, and prizes.

SDIS meetings are held at 7:00 PM on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the **Shepard Iris Garden**, 3342 W. Orangewood in Phoenix. Visitors are always welcome. Contact Kathy Cameron at (623)412-1939 or at kathycameron1@cox.net if you need directions or further information.



LETTERS FROM OUR PRESIDENTS

Summer 2004

Sun Country Iris Society **President LynnAlison Martin**

The year seems to be flying by. We have had a great bloom season here in the Valley of the Sun as well as another successful Spring Show. Some of us are still seeing great bloom due to our reblooming iris. I particularly love having an extended bloom season.

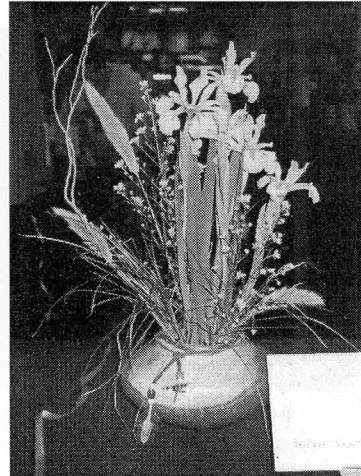
We had a wonderful bus trip up to the White Mountains to see some of our members gardens up there. The trip included video of past AIS National Conventions—what a treat, as well as great food and company. **Jeannie Comeaux** has done a superb job of organizing a great line up of guest speakers and programs. We have been very fortunate in that regard.

A number of our members were able to attend the National Convention and I must say they are still talking about it. What a success it was. I wish that I would have been able to go myself, but maybe that will happen another year. The gardens I heard were fantastic and so were the tours.

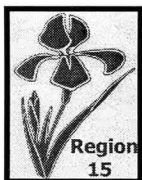
We are looking forward to our yearly Region 15 Rhizome Auction and our Members' Sale, as well as the five rhizomes sales that we have planned. As usual, it is always a pleasure to work with our wonderful group of people in Sun Country.



Sun Country Iris Society members enjoy visiting gardens in Payson, AZ.



Amanda Nolan, age 8, won the AIS Youth Division Best Design at the SCIS Spring Show. Her design used blooms of "Amanda's Eyes," a Spuria hybridized and named for her by Charles Jenkins.



LETTERS FROM OUR PRESIDENTS

Summer 2004

Tucson Area Iris Society

President Perri Larson

We are trying to concentrate on our one main priority here in Tucson, the **Region 15 Trek and Society for Louisiana Irises Convention** we will be hosting next April 21-23, 2005. We are excited to be inviting everyone to see our combination of Tall Bearded iris, Louisiana iris, Spuria iris and cactus bloom (all under one big sunny sky.) The gardens looked wonderful this past Spring, but given another year of growth, the bloom should be extremely spectacular! We tried to personally invite everyone in Fresno to visit the Old Pueblo next Spring, and made the trip to Dallas to invite the Society for Louisiana Iris at their convention in May. We are collecting prizes and auction items to add to the Trek fun. **Kathy Chilton** is chairperson and has this Trek on target.

I can't begin to tell you what a multi-talented group TAIS is. If one member gets knocked down, another will jump up and take the ball and run. I am so impressed with the teamwork of this group. I know this because I have personally been knocked down a couple of times recently, yet TAIS somehow stays on track.

We started off the year with over 800 potted iris, left over from the Fall sale. I didn't think we could ever sell them all. **Maxine Fifer** organized two spring sales, and they are all gone. In fact while I was secretly planning to give away left over iris after our show, we in fact had run out and could have sold more. A huge round of applause for Maxine.

Our show was a huge success! It was a one day show because we were all in a rush to get to Fresno. **Carol Morgan** did a masterful job orchestrating the show at Foothills Mall, which was dedicated to the memory of **Earl Fifer**, at almost no cost to TAIS. Another huge round of applause for Carol, who we are already missing so much. We will see her back next spring as a bus captain, and by the way, she will not be able to escape her "see ya later" party then.

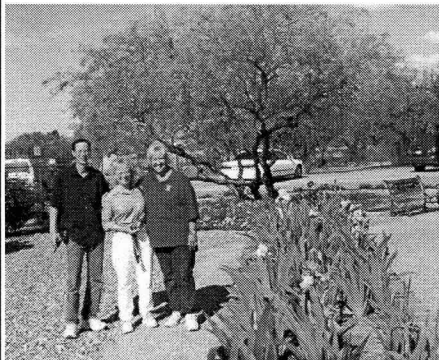
Kathy Chilton took the most blue ribbons at our show (again!) for the Silver Medal, and won Best Specimen with HELLO DARKNESS. Joanne Miller won the Bronze Medal & brought in a Guest Seedling, NOBODY'S PERFECT—a *Siberian* to win Best Seedling. (applause!) And a huge thanks to Jane Parks for recouping our awards for the 2003 show that we almost didn't get credit for. (More applause!)

The Earl Fifer Memorial Donations for this year's show were very generous. And since we were able to have a lovely show this year and also keep the costs low, we are rolling those extra funds over into the funds for next year's Trek and Show. We were so worried about funds last year at this time, but our membership again stepped up.

We had several new members sign up at the show and right after. Two new members, **Lee Barron** and **Joyce Morningstar**, have volunteered to take over the work at Tucson Botanical Gardens. (Applause!)

Our members have also stepped up to save cost of speakers this year with Carol Mossholder presenting a program on floral arrangements, **Bert Detwiler** for a Round Table Discussion on Landscaping with Iris, and **Jane Parks** will be presenting her extraordinary slides of the recent conventions in July. We will have our annual Dig and Divide Demo on August 14th. September 5th our Pot Luck and Auction will be held at **Joyce Slekar's**. Our Fall Sale will be September 25th at Harlow's Nursery. Elections and New Iris Awards will be October 9th. And our final meeting of the year (last is best) will be November 13th featuring guest speaker **Marky Smith**.

Don't forget to mark your calendar for April 21-23 for the "Sonoran Desert Trek!" We want you all to come see us in Tucson, "*Irisona!*"



Patrick Orr, Margie Valenzuela & Peggi Ishman
TAIS Mini-Tour of Guest Gardens
Ishman Garden



MIDNIGHT THUNDER
Guest Louisiana Iris
Bert Detwiler's Garden



Margie Valenzuela at the Forestal Gardens
First year growth on Guest TBs



AVONA
TAIS Show Special Award
Best Pink

Sonoran Desert Trek 2005



Hosted
by
the

Tucson
Area
Iris
Society

Region 15
Spring Trek
&
Society
for
Louisiana
Irises
Convention
and Show

April 21 –23, 2005

Don't miss the excitement!

Garden Tours
Judges' Training on Louisianas
SLI Symposium
2 Silent Auctions
Judges' Training on Spurias
Raffles
Door Prizes
Louisiana Show
Special Guest Speaker: Ray Schreiner

Check Tucsoniris.org for updates!

WHAT DID YOU SAY?

By Ray Keisling
(Printed in TALL TALK March 1998)

We, as iris enthusiasts, sometimes forget that the novices among us may not be familiar with the language of iris. Imagine what newcomers to our clubs may visualize as we wax eloquently about our wonderful world of iris.

Iris – part of the eye

Standard – what a flag hangs from

Self – me, myself and I

Bicolor – what you say to a colorful bloom that is fading

Bitone – two part harmony

Black spot – a beauty mark

Leaf spot – what's left on the page after spilling food on your book

Nematode – frog's knees

Tall bearded – a tall man with a beard

Miniature dwarf – a leprechaun

Fall – this happens when you lose your balance

Beard – fuzzy stuff on a man's chin

Bore – someone who makes you yawn

Fan – what shy women used to use to cover their face

Style arm – the latest fashion in sleeves

Style crest – classy royals use this to seal their envelopes

Lace – what grandma makes with her crochet hook

Halo – the round circle over an angel's head

Mid-rib – the center of your rib cage

Peppering – what waiters do when they sprinkle black stuff on your salad

Beardless – clean shaven

Arilbred – conceived in an airplane

Ruffles – the bottom edge of a baby's dress

Midline stripe – the line in the middle of the road.

Branch – an appendage of a tree

Stitching – what you use a sewing machine for

Rhizome – the area on the farm where rye grows

Stigmatic lip – a mouth puckered up for a kiss

Blend – scotch and soda

Stalk – what cats do when hunting for mice

Shoot – what deer hunters do when they see a deer

Mite – maybe

Fluting – performed by a member of the orchestra

Haft – do I haf' ta'?

Spur – what cowboys wear on their boots.



Region 15 Board Meeting Minutes

Highlights from Secretary Jeanne Comeaux's Official Minutes on file.

Region 15 Spring Board Meeting Minutes February 28, 2004, Grand Terrace, CA

Attendees: RVP Jim Giles, Treasurer Cheryl Deaton, Secretary Jeannie Comeaux, Winona Stevenson, Jan Lauritzen, Joyce Poling, Avery Poling, LynnAlison Martin, Judy Book, Stan Book, Pat Brendel, Walt Brendel, John Reinschmidt.

Meeting was called to order at 9 A.M. by RVP Jim Giles. Region 15 affiliate applications were handed out to be completed and returned to RVP Jim Giles, along with membership roster. Each affiliate must meet the requirement of 50% AIS membership or else pay \$50.00. The minutes of the last meeting were published in the Region 15 Newsletter, therefore, not read at this meeting.

Treasurer, Cheryl Deaton, presented copies of the 2003 year ending Financial Statement submitted by Avery Poling, previous Treasurer. Income and Disbursements were itemized. Combined Total for regular checking and CD accounts is \$24,697.93. RVP account CD total is \$7,654.00. An overview of the 2003 Budget, both proposed and actual, was presented, followed by discussion of the 2004 Budget, including continuation of the 10% to the Youth Fund from auction income. Joyce moved and Winona seconded the 2004 Budget proposal be approved.

Judges Training Chair: Jane Parks was absent, therefore no Judges Training Report. However, there was discussion on Apprentice Judges. Question asked why Joyce was not listed on Page 17 of the Region 15 Newsletter. Question asked, "who are good Artistic Judges?" since most Judges are not trained in this category. Carolyn Harkins and Irene Benton were suggested as qualified Artistic Judges.

Awards Chair: Patrick Orr reports we have sufficient awards in all categories for next four years, no need to budget funds for same.

Historian: Jimmy Jones absent, no report.

Editor & Circulation: Kathy Chilton was absent but submitted her report. Thanks to all who contributed to the Region 15 Newsletter. Kathy submitted receipts for reimbursement, \$914.37 total. Also, \$210.00 income from advertisers.

Membership Chair: Winona Stevenson reports there are 417 members in the 11 Affiliates. Discussion followed on renewals and losses. Winona requested each President check the current roster for names of past and/or current members.

Nominating Chair: Avery Poling was welcomed back to the Board. Nominee possibilities for future Region 15 Officers was presented and discussed.

Youth Chair: Cheryl Deaton gave verbal report on what is necessary to have an active Youth Department. Full information on AIS participation in the Youth Program, contact Cheryl Deaton. Extensive information in the Region 15 Newsletter, Spring issue.

Ways & Means: Joyce Poling gave verbal report. If your Club Auction rhizomes arrive early, pot them to hold for Club Auction date. If your Auction income is more than your designated donation, send the overage to Region 15. More info in Region 15 Newsletter.

Affiliate Presidents Reports:

Desert Sunset Iris Society: Joyce gave verbal report. Club is growing, gaining new members.

Hi Desert Iris and Daylily Society: Cheryl notes they are in the top 10 in the affiliate contest again and she expects to win. Cheryl handed out 2004 Region 15 Fall Meeting fliers to be held in Palmdale, hosted by Hi Desert and Daylily Society. There will be two Iris Quilts raffled. Don't miss out.

Inland Region Iris Society: John gave an oral and printed report, featuring the events scheduled including guest speakers, slide shows, judges training, and other happenings for a very busy year.

Orange County Iris and Daylily Club: Derry absent, no report.

Prescott Area Iris Society: Stan presented verbal and printed report. They are a year old now and have become an official AIS affiliate. They, too, have an active agenda, and will be busy all year, growing and learning as they go.

San Diego & Imperial County Iris Society: Pat reported their Club enjoyed their 41st Birthday Party in February.

San Fernando Valley Iris Society: Jan gave an oral report and a printed copy, refer to the current Region 15 Newsletter.

Sonoran Desert Iris Society: Kathy Cameron mailed a report with monthly activities, including their AIS judged show on April 3rd.

Southern California Iris Society: Mike was absent. Report appears on page 11 of the Region 15 Newsletter.

Sun Country Iris Society: LynnAlison gave a verbal report regarding the many special guest-speakers in the lineup for this year.

Tucson Area Iris Society: Perri absent. No report. Turn to the Region 15 Newsletter to find out what's happening in Tucson.

Old Business: Trek Wheel: San Diego moves from 2007 to 2010 for Spring Trek. Inland moves up to 2007; Sun Country will be 2008; HiDesert in 2009; San Diego in 2010. Also, add Desert Sunset to the Fall Trek Schedule in 2011. There will be future discussion to add Prescott to Fall Trek rotation.

New Business: Region 15 Spring Meeting on April 20th at 6 P.M. at the National Convention in Fresno.

Avery -Proposal regarding Las Vegas membership. Should Las Vegas area memberships be transferred to Region 15? Discussion followed. Decision made to permit Avery to pursue project, contacting the Las Vegas Club President, and make follow-up report.

Joyce -Display screens will be on display at the Convention. These are backlit screens for your use at rhizome sale booths, spring shows, etc.

Winona -Needs new membership rosters from every affiliate.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeannie Comeaux, Secretary



Region 15 Board Meeting Minutes

Highlights from Secretary Jeanne Comeaux's Official Minutes on file.

Region 15 Meeting Minutes April 20, 2004, at National Convention, Fresno, California

Attendees: Jim Giles, Cheryl Deaton, Winona Stevenson, Jan Lauritzen, Jimmy Jones, D.D. Herman-Walker, Shirlee Lewis, Carol Croy, Pat Brendel, Kathy Chilton, Joyce Poling, Avery Poling, Ardi Kary, Pat Van Gorder, Bill Van Gorder, Joella Olson, Francelle Edwards, Perri Larson, Jane Parks, Paul Croy, Walt Brendel, Hall Bradshaw, Jeannie Comeaux.

The meeting was called to order at 6:10PM by RVP Jim Giles. Minutes & Treasurer's report were approved

Committee Reports:

Judges Training: Jane Parks Region is losing 3 judges; Rochas are moving. Encourage all members to go to judges training sessions. It's OK to set up a "mock show" for apprentices. New revised Judges Handbook coming in 2005, hopefully.

Historian: Jimmy Jones requested money for storage files, \$100.00 approved. Historical items are requested.

Editor: Kathy Chilton requested pictures from gardens with Region 15 members in them.

Membership: Winona Stevenson reported Region 15 is the fourth highest in number of members.

Youth: Cheryl Deaton reported there are 12 youth members at present. Three CIPs in process of being set up by LynnAlison Martin, John Reinschmidt & Winona Stevenson.

Ways & Means: Joyce Poling reported the offer from R14 to purchase guest rhizomes. The board voted to stick to the original plan to purchase rhizomes and to do away with minimum bid for Region 15 Auction. American Iris Society back-lit screens available to Societies for display at events. Postcards and outdated calendars also available.

Affiliates President Reports:

Desert Sunset Iris Society: Joyce Poling stated they have two new members. All are looking forward to 2011.

Hi Desert Iris and Daylily Society: Cheryl Deaton reports the Home & Garden Show netted \$2200 from potted Iris sales, plus three new members. Cheryl reminds everyone that two Iris Quilts will be raffled at the Fall Region 15 Meeting they will host in Palmdale, Ca. on Oct. 9th.

Inland Region Iris Society: No report

Orange County Iris and Daylily Club: No report

Prescott Area Iris Society: PAIS Show was invited by two commercial nurseries to use their space.

San Diego & Imperial County Iris Society: Pat Brendel reported they potted many Iris last fall from those gardens which were burned out.. They have about 40 members & are updating their bylaws.

San Fernando Valley Iris Society: Jan Lauritzen said they sold \$1900 worth of potted Iris, and increased their membership to 140 with 7 new sign-ups at their spring show.

Sonoran Desert Iris Society: In Kathy Cameron's absence, Avery reported their first AIS sanctioned show had 43 entries. They gained 5 or 6 new members at the show and have a full schedule of Guest Speakers.

Southern California Iris Society: Sale and Show at the Costa Mesa Plaza gained 4 new members. Facilities were great, ten times more foot traffic than last year, invited back for next year.

Sun Country Iris Society: Written report from LynnAlison Martin. An full lineup of speakers is scheduled. The Show at AZ Mills Mall had 62 entries. Club trip to Payson is planned.

Tucson Area Iris Society: Perri Larson reports 300 potted Iris sold at sale in Tucson at the Botanical Gardens. The show garnered 6 new members. A mini tour to preview gardens for 2005 was held.

AIS Report: Joyce Poling: AIS has purchased a Digital Projector, which is available to Region Affiliates to rent for \$25.00 plus shipping and insurance. There is a move on to make Historics date back 50 years, not 30 years. Jeannie Plank is President Elect of AIS.

Old Business: None

New Business: The current Website Managers, the Rochas, are moving to Region 14. Jim Giles will take over and move Website to another location. Jim's daughter is a Web-site designer. Cost is under \$100 first year, \$75.00 per year thereafter.

(Note: I would like to thank Winona Stevenson for taking the minutes for the first half hour of the meeting because I was late due to the fact that I had taken the trip to Yosemite, and the bus was late getting back. Thank you.)

Meeting adjourned at 7:20pm

Respectfully submitted,
Jeannie Comeaux, Secretary, Region 15



Region 15 News

Region 15 Historian Jimmy Jones is searching for old Newsletters, Trek booklets, photos, and anything else that may be lurking in the back of your closet or files. Please contact Jimmy at (562) 634-5596, if you have any Region 15 items to donate.

IRIS HYBRIDIZERS OF ARIZONA

By Margie Valenzuela

It's nearly that anticipated time of year. The Iris Hybridizer's of Arizona (IHA) has scheduled its' next meeting and anyone who may be interested is invited to attend. It will be held on Saturday, November 6th, 2004, at 12:30 pm. in the Casa Grande Library located at 449 N. Dry Lake Street (in Casa Grande, AZ.). It is scheduled to conclude at approximately 4:30 pm. Door prizes are welcomed.

Topics for discussion will include:

- a.) The ever-eluding red iris
- b.) Preserving a seed pod which has broken off early
- c.) Sharing our seedling photos from this past spring

At our last meeting, we decided to get together for lunch prior to the IHA meeting. Once the restaurant is decided upon – it'll be placed on the TAIS website (click on the "Upcoming Events" page). Check www.tucsoniris.org for all IHA updates, as well as directions to the Casa Grande Library.

Here is a recap of the last IHA Hybridizer's meeting held in Casa Grande, on March 6th, 2004. The eight of us in attendance were:

Melania and Tony Kutz
Francelle and Marvin Edwards
Hall Bradshaw
Ardi Kari
Patrick Orr
Margie Valenzuela

Our time together began with lunch (about 11:00 am) at the Cracker Barrel Restaurant in Casa Grande. Following our lunch, at about 12:30 pm., the IHA meeting began with door prizes. Among those who won were: Melania chose FLOORSHOW, an iris donated by Evelyn Wallman, I picked up a small iris figurine, and Patrick Orr won the \$35.00 gift certificate to Ardi Kary's garden. Discussions included registering and introducing irises; good hybridizers and their stock; our personal goals; and lastly photos of iris seedlings by Francelle. The meeting was quite informative and interesting!

I do hope you will plan to attend our next meeting, as there is always something to see and learn! I can't help but think you will enjoy it as much as we do.



American Iris Society Region 15



In Memorium...
Lynn Rae Finkel
1944 - 2004



Lynn Rae Finkel, 60, died of cancer at her home in Battle Ground, Washington, on June 18, 2004.

Born in Maryland on 1-9-44 to the late Dorothy and Joseph Kaplan, Lynn moved to the West coast at age five. The second of three children, she grew up in the Los Angeles area with two brothers, Stan and David Jay, and graduated from Venice High School in 1960. A long-time Los Angeles and San Fernando Valley area resident, Lynn would also live in Santa Barbara, Thousand Oaks, and later, Battle Ground, Washington.

Survived by loving husband Barry, September 5th, 2004 would have marked their 40th wedding anniversary. Her immediate family also includes two sons, Scott Jay and Jeffrey Allen, daughters-in-law Michele and Leslie, and grandson Lee Khayman Finkel.

Lynn spent her early adult years in support of her family, helping to see Barry through college and raising their two sons. Upon relocating to Washington in 1996 she founded Isle of View Iris Garden. Lynn would go on to become a well-loved and influential member of the Pacific Northwest and worldwide Iris community. She served as the Assistant Regional Vice President of Region 13 of the American Iris Society, and was certified as an American Iris Society Judge. Lynn's love of these beautiful flowers would be a significant source of learning and joy throughout her later years.

Graveside funeral services were held June 23 at Eden Memorial Park in Mission Hills, California. A memorial service will be held July 11 at 1 P.M. at Holman's Funeral Service, 2610 S. E. Hawthorn Blvd. in Portland.

Donations may be made in Lynn's name, in lieu of flowers, to Hospice Southwest at P.O. Box 1600, Vancouver, Washington 98668.

Join the AIS

Membership Office address is:

TOM GORMLEY
P. O. BOX 28
CEDAR HILL, MO 63016-0028
E-MAIL: aismemsec@earthlink.net
Phone: 636-274-6149
Fax: (same) 636-274-6149

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.

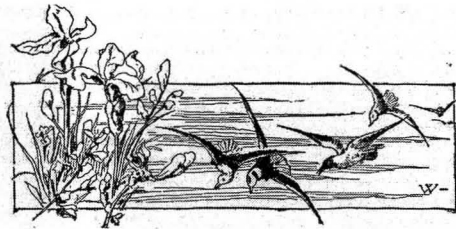




Region 15 Commercial Gardens

FORTE'S IRIS GARDEN

12312 So. Wilson Rd.
Los Banos, CA 93635
(209)826-4850



GOLDEN'S IRIS GARDEN

4564 Robin Dr.
Prescott, AZ 86301
barrygolden@hotmail.com

LAKESIDE GARDENS

8280 Entrada Blvd.
Lake Isabella, CA 93240
lakesideiris@aol.com

KARY'S IRIS GARDEN

6201 East Calle Rosa
Scottsdale, AZ 85251
ArdiKary@aol.com

SHEPARD IRIS GARDEN

3342 W. Orangewood
Phoenix, AZ 85051-7453
shepardiris@cox.net



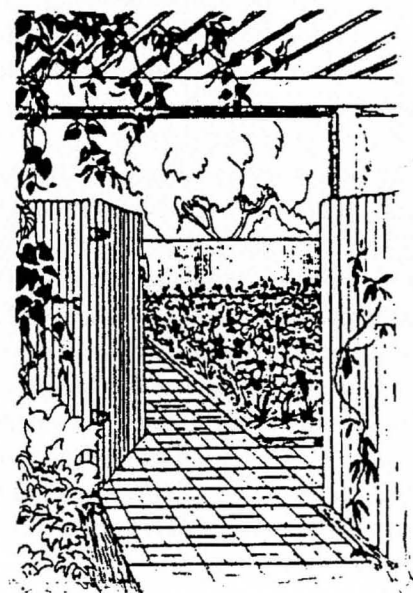
is pleased to offer the introductions of Peter DeSantis.

Winona Stevenson
8280 Entrada Blvd.
Lake Isabella, CA 93240-9371
email: lakesideiris@aol.com
(760) 378-3841

WHIPPERSNAPPER, Del Judge by P.D.,
R'97 - Sdlg 79-1R, TB, 40" (102cm), Em.
S. Wisteria blue, dark violet centerline; style
arms wisteria blue; F. velvety plum purple to
brown markings on white ground; beards
yellow, tipped purple; slight fragrance; well
branched, large blossoms with wide velvet falls;
8-10 bud count, very vigorous.

RESEDA MOON, P.D. '03 - Sdlg 90-6, TB,
38" (97cm), E.
S. Light Cream, base darker, faint light yellow
rim; style arms light yellow, dark yellow stripe;
F. off - white, hafts light yellow, faint light yellow
rim, reverse with light green stripe; beards
orange; laced; slight fragrance; well branched,
medium blossoms, 5-7 bud count & very
vigorous.

Above Irises are \$40. each, includes postage.
Checks payable to Winona Stevenson



KARY IRIS GARDENS

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



Region 15 Directory

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Irises On Line

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.geocities.com/sfvis>

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.suncountryiris.org>

Events, club information & more.

ATTENTION YOUTH MEMBERS

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

“It is good to love flowers... they have been with us from the very beginning.”

.....Vincent Van Gogh

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 (4 lines)	\$10.00
Additional lines (ea)	\$5.00

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES

SPRING ISSUE

Deadline 2/1

Issue Date 3/1

SUMMER ISSUE

Deadline 7/1

Issue Date 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.

AIS AWARDS 2004

*Number of votes listed first

DYKES MEMORIAL MEDAL

59 CROWNED HEADS (Keith Keppel)

Runners-up:

44 TOM JOHNSON (Paul Black)

37 JURASSIC PARK (Larry Lauer)

JOHN C. WISTER MEDAL (TB)

123 SPLASHACATA (Richard Tasco)

62 WORLD PREMIER (Schreiner)

45 POEM OF ECSTASY (Ben Hager)

Runners-up:

44 FOGBOUND (Keith Keppel)

42 ROMANTIC EVENING (Joseph Ghio)

41 SWINGTOWN (Schreiner)

KNOWLTON MEDAL (BB)

88 ORANGE POP (Larry Lauer)

Runners-up:

73 LITTLE MARY SUNSHINE (Elvan Roderick)

65 APRICOT TOPPING (Paul Black)

HANS AND JACOB SASS MEDAL (IB)

87 GNU RAYZ (Brad Kasperek)

Runners-up:

85 LONDONDERRY (Keith Keppel)

70 FATHOM (Marky Smith)

WILLIAMSON-WHITE MEDAL (MTB)

106 MERIT (Kenneth Fisher)

Runners-up:

82 MINI-WABASH (Riley Probst)

73 WISTFUL WISTERIA (Opal Wulf)

COOK-DOUGLAS MEDAL (SDB)

52 MINIDRAGON (Marky Smith)

Runners-up:

35 RUBY ERUPTION (Chuck Chapman)

29 FOREVER BLUE (Chuck Chapman)

28 BLACKBERRY JAM (A. & D. Willott)

CAPARNE-WELCH MEDAL (MDB)

57 DINKY CIRCUS (Paul Black)

Runners-up:

48 LITTLE DRUMMER BOY (A. & D. Willott)

40 GNUZ SPREAD (Brad Kasperek)

CLARENCE G. WHITE MEDAL

(AR & AB) (Pure aril and 1/2 or more aril content)

42 CHOCOLATE MINT (Richard Tasco)

Runners-up:

25 OMAR'S VALOR (Carl Boswell)

15 DESERT ATTIRE (Howard Shockey)

WILLIAM MOHR MEDAL (AB)

(Arilbred irises of 1/4 but less than 1/2 aril content)

20 DESERT CELEBRATION (Lin Flanagan)

Runner-up:

13 DESERT JUBILEE (Lin Flanagan)

FOUNDERS OF SIGMA MEDAL (SPEC)

22 CHINA WEST LAKE (James Waddick)

Runners-up:

21 KING CLOVIS (Eric & Bob Tankesley-Clarke)

19 SUSLIK (John Burton II)

SYDNEY B. MITCHELL MEDAL (CA)

25 RASPBERRY DAZZLER (Vernon Wood)

Runners-up:

13 AIR SHOW (Lois Belardi)

12 MANTRA (Joseph Ghio)

12 PACIFIC SNOWFLAKE (George Shoop)

DEBAILLON MEDAL (LA)

34 HOT AND SPICY (Heather Pryor)

Runners-up:

33 RED VELVET ELVIS (Keith Vaughn)

27 AUNT SHIRLEY (Joseph Mertzweiller)

MORGAN-WOOD MEDAL (SIB)

91 BLUEBERRY FAIR (Robert Hollingworth)

Runners-up:

61 RIVERDANCE (Schafer and Sacks)

55 SPRINKLES and John Coble

53 MESA PEARL (Bob Bauer and John Coble)

ERIC NIES MEDAL (SPU)

59 MISSOURI RAINBOWS (O.D. Niswonger)

Runner-up:

58 SUNRISE IN SONORA (Floyd Wickenkamp)

PAYNE MEDAL (JI)

Results after August 1, 2004

WALTHER CUP

(Most HM votes in any category)

129 CAT'S EYE SDB (Paul Black)

Runners-up:

100 PUDDY TAT SDB (Paul Black)

81 WINTRY SKY TB (Keith Keppel)

80 MASLON MTB (Donald Spoon)

AWARD OF MERIT

TALL BEARDED AM

195 GOLDEN PANTHER (Richard Tasco)

170 STARRING (Joseph Ghio)

162 HAPPENSTANCE (Keith Keppel)

131 QUEEN'S CIRCLE (Frederick Kerr)

110 MY GINNY (Donald Spoon)

108 DEVONSHIRE CREAM (George Sutton)

100 MILLENNIUM FALCON (Brad Kasperek)

98 RING AROUND ROSIE (Richard Ernst)

75 LAST LAUGH (George Shoop)

67 SHARPSHOOTER (Keith Keppel)

61 VIENNA WALTZ (Keith Keppel)

52 GHOST TRAIN (Schreiner)

52 KEEPING UP APPEARANCES (Paul Black)

49 FASHIONABLY LATE (Keith Keppel)

46 CANDY APPLE CLASSIC (William Maryott)

45 IN YOUR DREAMS (Lynda Miller)

45 LET'S BOOGIE (Schreiner)

45 SOCIAL GRACES (Keith Keppel)

45 VIBRANT (Paul Black)

44 DREAM EXPRESS (Richard Tasco)

44 HABIT (Paul Black)

Runners-up:

43 BOLD VISION (Frederick Kerr)

43 CHARIOTS OF FIRE (J.T. Aitken)

42 LARUE BOSWELL (Vernon Wood)

41 BARBARA MY LOVE (William Maryott)

41 DEVIL'S LAKE (Schreiner)

41 MILLENNIUM SUNRISE (Schreiner)

41 MONET'S BLUE (Schreiner)

BORDER BEARDED AM

61 TEAPOT TEMPEST (Lynn Markham)

60 CLASSIC NAVY (Carol Lankow)

Runners-up:

54 BORDER CONTROL (Tom Johnson)

44 MAUI DAWN (J.T. Aitken)

44 ORANGE PIECRUST (O.D. Niswonger)

INTERMEDIATE BEARDED AM

72 BLACKCURRANT (Marky Smith)

71 MING (Mark Smith)

Runners-up:

58 DEVIL MAY CARE (Paul Black)

53 SONORAN SANDS (Richard Tasco)

MINIATURE TALL BEARDED

87 BLUE CHIP STOCK (Paul Black)

73 YELLOW FLIRT (Kenneth Fisher)

Runners-up:

72 FESTIVE GLOW (A. & D. Willott)

60 PINK-ALL-OVER (Kenneth Fisher)

STANDARD DWARF BEARDED

42 CACHET (Paul Black)

40 YIPPY SKIPPY (Paul Black)

39 DENALI (Marky Smith)

38 JUST A CROC (Brad Kasperek)

Runners-up:

37 ARTFUL (Paul Black)

36 NEAR MYTH (J.T. Aitken)

36 SABRINA'S KISS (A. & D. Willott)

36 SNICKERS (Keith Keppel)

MINIATURE DWARF BEARDED

66 YAK ATTACK (Brad Kasperek)

42 TINGLE (Paul Black)

Runners-up:

39 SELF-EVIDENT (Ben Hager)

39 TICKLE ME (Chuck Chapman)

ARILBRED (Arilbred 1/4 - to less than 1/2)

61 WALKER ROSS (Walker Ross)

45 HAKUNA MATATA (A. & D. Cadd)

Runner-up:

31 SUE BEE (Susie Kammer)

ARIL AND ARILBRED (Pure aril and arilbred irises of 1/2 or more aril content)

75 OMAR'S STITCHERY (Carl Boswell)

45 OMAR'S EYE (Carl Boswell)

Runner-up:

31 LUELLA DEE (G.F. Wilson)

SPECIES

57 BAYOU BANDIT (Jeff Weeks)

39 SYLVANSHINE (Mahan & Warner)

Runner-up:

25 GORDONVILLE WHITE (O.D. Niswonger)

CALIFORNICA

14 PACIFIC SNOWBALL (J.T. Aitken)

10 BABY BLANKET (Joseph Ghio)

10 UMUNHUM (Joseph Ghio)

Runners-up:

8 DEEP MAGIC (Lois Belardi)

8 DISTANT NEBULA (Vernon Wood)

LOUISIANA

30 PEACHES IN WINE (Heather Pryor)

28 JAZZ HOT (Heather Pryor)

Runners-up:

18 PRIX D'ELEGANCE (Heather Pryor)

16 HUSH MONEY (Mary Dunn)

SIBERIAN AM

64 FOND KISS (Schafer and Sacks)

62 SOMEBODY LOVES ME (R. Hollingworth)

Runners-up:

57 CARMEN JEANNE (Calvin Helsley)

50 BUTTER AND CREAM (Currier McEwen)

SPURIA AM

42 MISSOURI MOONLIGHT (O.D. Niswonger)

39 MISSOURI ORANGE (O.D. Niswonger)

Runners-up:

30 ELFIN SUNSHINE (B. Charles Jenkins)

30 MISSOURI AUTUMN (O.D. Niswonger)

2004 Region 15 Fall Meeting

Saturday, October 9th, 2004

Hosted by the Hi Desert Iris & Daylily Society

RAMADA INN PALMDALE
300 W Palmdale Blvd
Palmdale, California

Room Rates are \$59 per night
Phone (661) 273-1200
Ask for special Iris Society rates

Our guest speaker will be
George Sutton of Sutton's Iris Gardens in Porterville, CA.
His topic is "Where Are We Going From Here?"

Tentative schedule of events:

- 7:30am – Continental Breakfast for all registrants
- 8:00am – Board meeting for Region officers, presidents & others
- 9:30am – Judge's training by George Sutton
- 11:45am – General Business meeting
- 12:00Noon – Buffet luncheon and program by George Sutton
- 2:00pm – Door prizes and raffle
- 3:00pm – Possible one hour judges' training
- 4:00pm – Meeting adjourns

\$45 per adult \$20 per youth

Registration Form

NAME(s) _____

E-MAIL _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE () _____

Number of Adults ____ @ \$45=\$____ Number of youths ____ @ \$20=\$____

Please send checks payable to HDI&DS by Sept. 25th, 2004 to:

Winona Stevenson
8280 Entrada Blvd.
Lake Isabella, CA 93240