



AIS REGION 15
2009
SUMMER NEWSLETTER
ARIZONA & SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
AUGUST 2009

AIS Region 15 2009 Fall Trek October 9 & 10

“Valley of Arts and Flowers”

Presented by Lompoc Valley Iris Society

Don't miss it!! Registration information on back page.

2009 R15 Spring Trek "Road to the Future"
Hosted by Sun Country Iris Society



HERB HOLK AWARD
RACHEL JULIA (Edwards 2009)



BEST SPURIA
LEMON SUNTEA (Cadd 04)



CLAIRE BARR AWARD
RED SKIES (Ghio 2007)



HAMNER AWARD Best In-Region Seedling
EDWARDS # 18-24 B



BEST LOUISIANA
KRISTIN NICHOLAS (Albers/Wilhoit 2007)



BEST OUT-OF-REGION SEEDLING
BAUMUNK # 21-24 N



REGION 15 SPRING TREK

KARY GARDEN



ARDI KARY



IMPERIAL BRONZE (SPU)



RENEGADE LADY (Deaton 2009)



DESERT CELEBRATION (AB)



PICTURE BOOK (Ghio 2007)



NIGHT MOVES (Lauer 2006)





REGION 15 SPRING TREK **EDWARDS GARDEN**



FRANCELLE EDWARDS



CORAL DANCER (Edwards seedling)



FLIGHT OF FAIRIES (Edwards 2009)



Kathie & Brad Kasperek



REGION 15 SPRING TREK

PETTERSON GARDEN



DOUBLE RINGER (Ernst 2007)



IN GARDEN JUDGES TRAINING
BY KATHY CHILTON



PEP RALLY (Ghio 2008)



REGION 15 SPRING TREK

WEBER GARDEN



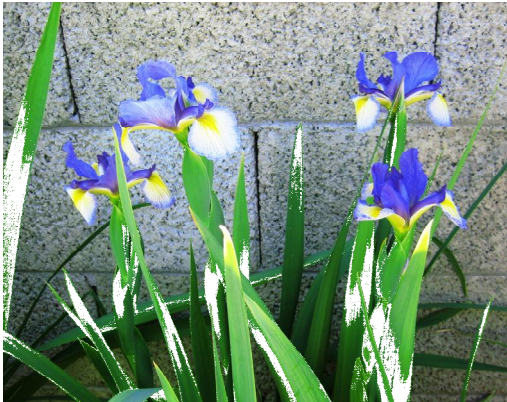
JACK WEBER



SKY'S THE LIMIT (Valenzuela 2008)



MONEY IN YOUR POCKET
(Black 2007)



COSMIC IMPACT (Cadd 2006) Spuria



CHRISTMAS PRESENT (Ghio 2007)





REGION 15 SPRING TREK

SUN COUNTRY IRIS SOCIETY

By President Ardi Kary

Sun Country Iris Society was pleased to host the Spring Trek for 2009. We feel that we owe a lot to the hybridizers who create the new varieties for us to plant in our gardens. We thank them for their overwhelming response to our request for guest irises. Thirty-five hybridizers sent 251 varieties for a total of 652 rhizomes. Most were Tall Bearded with a few Spurias, Medians, Louisianas, and Arilbreds. Most were 2004 or newer which goes along with our club's plan to plant and grow new and newer varieties. Our four trek gardens belong to Francelle Edwards, Jack and Bev Weber, Gary and Sharon Petterson, and Ardi Kary. Our Thanks to Brad Kasperek for his wonderful presentation and judges training and to Kathy Chilton for her valuable garden judging training. Francelle wrote a summary of the trek and I am including it here.

NOTES ON THE APRIL 18 REGION 15 IRIS TREK

By

Francelle Edwards

Our trek was blessed with perfect weather this memorable April Saturday. The temperature was only in the upper 60s when the two busses with over 100 iris enthusiasts arrived at the first garden, that of Francelle Edwards. She had one row of forty guest irises, most of which were blooming. Her own, with the exception of Flight of Fairies, were mostly finished, but three of Ghio's were outstanding, Christmas Present, Forever Blowing Bubbles, and Red Skies. Also notable were Lauer's And Away We Go and Mike Sutton's plicata, Straight Up. Beyond the guest row a field of seedlings, mostly in full bloom, provided a background of color.

Jack and Bev Weber's garden was second on the tour. He had put a massive amount of work into building three large raised beds with decorative blocks to enclose 180 guest irises. They were showing their appreciation of his care by being at top bloom. Such masses of beautiful blossoms made it difficult to pick out favorites. I checked Baumunk's Elizabethan Age and Phantom Ship, Black's I Love a Parade and Money in Your Pocket, Cadd's Italian Ice and Polish Princess, Johnson's Milan, Lauer's Staying Alive and Painter's River Romance. One could have spent the whole hour admiring these, but there was more in the back yard. The medians had mostly finished blooming, but here we found Valenzuela's Pirate's Den, a nice blue plicata and Van Liere's Pilgrims Progress, a lovely pink/lavender bicolor.

Too soon, we had to board the busses for the long ride to Gary and Sharon Petterson's home in a semi-rural area of Gilbert. Despite breakfast goodies at Francelle's and fruit and vegetable snacks at Jack's, we were hungry again and appreciative of the excellent country dinner of roast pork, rolls, salad and lemonade that Gary and Sharon provided for us. Another treat awaited us out back, a field of magnificently grown irises. They were later here than in my Glendale garden, so that the early ones were still blooming well. My seedlings, 18-24 B and Coral Dancer, were showing off along with Burseen's Abby and Me and Comangetit, Cadd's Copper Bubble Bath and Elegant Girl, Ernst's Double Ringer, Lauer's Heaven and Earth, George Sutton's Achy Breaky Heart and over 200 others. Also along one side stood a long, tall, thick row of spurias. The sun grew hotter as we walked up and down this big garden, but many withstood it to benefit from Kathy Chilton's informative class on garden judging.

From there we went to the final garden, that of Ardi Kary. From the moment we got off the bus we were impressed with her beautifully kept yard, irises and companion flowers blooming along inviting walks. In the carport, we were met by a dessert buffet which made death by chocolate a real possibility, definitely a peril to a chocolate addict like me. Beyond the gate lay another exquisite guest iris garden. Again it was just impossible to choose favorites. We just walked about enjoying them. She had 206 TBs plus a few of every other common iris class. Most were blooming beautifully. The air in the enclosed area was perfumed by their fragrance. Tired, I found a seat to rest and look at the irises as a lowering sun intensified their colors. It was a perfect finale to a perfect trek.

Thanks, Francelle, for the beautiful summary. And now we are busy digging and shipping rhizomes to the Region clubs for the Region Rhizome Auctions. These rhizomes will give everyone a chance to update their gardens with "new and newer" varieties. Thanks to everyone who attended. We enjoyed seeing and visiting with you and look forward to seeing you at the next trek.



REGION 15 NEWS

It's July and it is SO HOT! I do not want to get out in my garden, but if I don't the weeds will take over for sure! My only consolation is to remember back to the Spring, when all of our irises were in bloom and we could enjoy their beauty. I hope many of you were able to attend the Spring Trek in Phoenix, Arizona, "Road to the Future". What a wonderful experience. The members of Sun Country Iris Society were very gracious hosts, providing us with lovely gardens, many varied silent auction items, tempting raffle prizes, educational judges training, and the always entertaining Brad Kasperek as keynote speaker.

I hope many of you did what I did and wrote down those irises that really caught my eye in the four gardens. Fairly soon we will have the opportunity to get one or two of those irises at the Region 15 auctions. I know the members of Sun Country are busy digging and marking all the extra guest irises for distribution to the many clubs in our region. These auctions are the only way the Region raises funds to support the activities of our region. I know times are tough, but where else can you get a 2009 introduction, normally priced at \$50, for a fraction of the cost? THE REGION 15 AUCTIONS! Please participate at your club event and help our region at the same time.

Plans are going forward for the 2012 AIS National Convention to be held in Ontario, California. There are still a few jobs that need a club/people to chair, so consider volunteering. Together we can put on a terrific convention. Contact Kathy Chilton at ranchiris@aol.com or Jill Bonino at aistreas@earthlink.net.

Many of you may not know that our former Historian, Jimmy Jones, died and most of our Region archives were lost. We are hopeful that some documents were not "thrown on the rubbish heap" as the attorney said some 'old iris papers' were treated, but as of yet we do not have anything. If you are cleaning out your closet and come across some old region/club newsletters, photos, newspaper articles, please consider donating them to the region archives. Linda Smith of Verde Valley Area Iris Society is our Historian, and she is able to scan documents and burn them onto discs to preserve our history. If you would prefer to keep them, please make a copy and send it to Linda at 2290 W. Running Iron, Cottonwood, AZ 86326, or email her at irisgrower@cableone.net. We need to gather as much of our history as we can.

I hope you will be joining me and the Lompoc Valley Iris Society in October at the Region 15 Fall Trek. Lompoc is one of the largest flower growing regions in the world. Lompoc Valley Iris Society is one of our newest affiliates, and very bravely volunteered to host our Fall event. I've been told they are excited and plans are made to make it a very enjoyable time for all. The registration form should be somewhere in this newsletter, but if you have any questions, just call Ben Schleuning at 805 733-4081, or check out the Region 15 website.

I am so fortunate to be the RVP of such a wonderful and diverse region, full of beautiful flowers and even more beautiful people. Sadly, we lost one of those beautiful people, Avery Poling, last week. He was a very special man who gave the greatest hugs. I'll really miss him.

Happy Irising, Cheryl

REGION 15 YOUTH

By Cheryl Deaton

Currently we have 5 youth members in Region 15. If you attended the Spring Trek in Phoenix you may have met one of them, Amanda Nolan. She and some friends created the t-shirts and bags that had screen printed irises on them. They were selling them and also taking orders in the Petterson garden. I wish I had gotten one of the order forms before I left. I am hoping that they will put the order form on the Region website so everyone can take advantage of their creative efforts. Amanda is home schooled and a past winner of our Region youth award. She also was the 'namesake' for the blue spuria iris, Amanda's Eyes.

Our newest youth member is Joseph (Joey) Mallyon, a member of Hi Desert Iris & Daylily Society. Joey's grandparents, Al & Mary Escarcega, have brought him to quite a few meetings over the years, but he just recently decided to join. He is always willing to help, especially as a runner during the annual auction, and I look forward to seeing him at more meetings in the future.

Long time youth member, Taylor Branch, is Pete DeSantis' granddaughter, so she grew up at her grandpa's knee in the iris beds. She has been a member of San Fernando Valley Iris Society for quite a while and is an active participant in the artistic division of SFVIS shows, winning many blue ribbons over the years.

I don't know much about the other two youth members, Arnold Chaney and Stacey Copeland, both of whom joined our region in February. Arnold lives in Valley Center, which is near Escondido. Stacey lives in Lompoc, and I hope she will attend the fall meeting in October so that I will get a chance to meet her.

Many of you might know a young person who would love to grow some irises in their garden, attend a meeting, or become a member of AIS. Full membership in AIS is only \$9 and entitles the youth member to 4 issues of the Bulletin, the Youth packet about growing irises and 2 issues of the youth newsletter, The Iris Fan. That's one of the best bargains in town! Won't you think about mentoring a young person by sharing some of your extra irises, bringing them to a meeting when your club has an interesting program, or even giving them membership in AIS. You'll be so glad you did, and we will all benefit from their membership.



LETTERS FROM OUR PRESIDENTS

Spring 2009



**POSIEDON—Best Arrangement
Exhibited by Elaine Monninger**



**REVERE—Best Specimen
Exhibited by Kim Ung**

Southern California Iris Society **President Nike Monninger**

Southern California Iris Society (SCIS) elected officers in the June meeting. There are no new officers as the existing ones agreed to serve again. Membership is our most pressing problem. We are at a low level, still able to function but not growing. This is a common trend among plant clubs, not just iris clubs.

We lost a great member recently to a long battle with cancer. Joan Lavery was one of those individuals who provided the bedrock that a club can anchor itself to. She participated in every club function she could, grew iris for herself and the club, and took care of her mother. Her and her husband Jack joined the club at one of our spring sales. Their only condition was they be able to get on the other side of the table and work the event. A prized member was Joan Lavery. We are lucky that she is survived by her husband Jack, also a prized member and a piece of bedrock for SCIS.

We were worried about our spring sale being much lower due to the bad economy. We needn't have worried as sales were up from last year. Saturday which is usually the big sale day was the lowest day for sales but Sunday was a great day. We have signed up for the 2010 sale which is April 22 through April 25.

In August we will have the auction of iris on this years Region Trek in Phoenix and also our members auction. October will be our members beardless auction.

We anticipate a favorable outcome to the audit of our books by the California State Tax Board.

SCIS Show Report taken from "Iris Notes", the SCIS newsletter:

Photos are from the Southern California Spring Show held on April 4 & 5th.

We had a huge amount of entries this year, 130 entries plus 6 seedlings... but a pleasant surprise to have that many. The early show increased the aril/arilbred section with a monstrous 25 entries...wow! Two new horticultural exhibitors this year, and many of our traditional exhibitors showing off their blooms in sections other than tall bearded – I am so happy to see these sections growing as well as your gardens! We also had more exhibitors with seedlings than we have seen on recent years.

The artistic theme this year was "The Mythology of Iris" allowing our creative members to pay tribute to the Greek Gods and Goddesses we all had to study in our Mythology classes. Once again another Friday night (and Saturday morning) we were worried that we wouldn't have any floral arrangements, but by late morning 16 outstanding gorgeous displays were brought out, probably our largest turn out in artistic in recent years – just like the horticultural division



LETTERS FROM OUR PRESIDENTS

Spring 2009

Prescott Area Iris Society

By President Diane Clarke

As iris lovers, this is our busy time of year! We dig, divide, replant, mark and prepare for our big sales. This year we decided to try and have our Region 15 Silent Auction early to catch our monsoon rains and avoid having to pot and wait till fall. Our public gardens at Yavapai College also need dividing this year for the first time, so we were a very busy club this summer.



Carolyn's Dig & Divide Demonstration

Our Region 15 Silent Auction was accompanied by an Ice Cream Social in the beautiful gardens of Carolyn Alexander, our Vice President. We had a great turn out and raised more money this year for Region 15 than in years past. We also were able to avoid the cost and time of potting by having the auction early in our planting season which took advantage of our monsoons - the few we have had anyway. Carolyn also add a great dig and divide demo so our members could go home and use this knowledge in their gardens.



Marking Party

With our public garden plantings turning 3 years old this year it was time to dig and divide. We managed to get 5 beds dug and replanted and ended up with piles of iris for out sale. There are still several beds that need dividing but we have a sale planned for every Saturday in August so we will have a fresh supply of Rhizomes.

This year's Annual Rhizome Sale was bigger and better than any year so far. We sold over 300 hundred varieties of iris and will make about \$3,300. This year's group of workers was one of the best and it showed by our increase in sales. The Co-chairs Cam and Ray Waguespak did a fabulous job.



Sale with over 300 varieties

Our sale always attracts new members and we have grown the club by a dozen new members this summer. The Prescott Area Iris Society's roots are spreading to include Yarnell, Wickenburg, Sedona and Camp Verde. With this expansion we feel we should have rhizome sales in these areas. We will have our first sale out of town sale in Chino Valley on the 8th and will be planning another in Yarnell on the 22nd. Everyone is getting the iris virus!

All of this work can only be accomplished by a very dedicated group of iris lovers. PAIS members are hard working, fun loving and deserve a big round of thank yous!



LETTERS FROM OUR PRESIDENTS

Spring 2009

TUCSON AREA IRIS SOCIETY

By President Kathy Chilton

TAIS sponsored a small but successful show in April at Foothills Mall. Gordon Jensen won the Silver Medal and Best Specimen with 'Afternoon Delight.' At a well attended summer board meeting, we made plans for a busy fall calendar. Our annual Potluck and Region Auction will be August 22nd at Tucson Botanical Garden. In September, we will need lots of volunteers to dig the iris garden at TBG. Member Stan Jankowski has done such a good job that the irises are overflowing! We will replant and update the collection and use the increase for our Sale to be held at TBG on September 25-26. October will bring our election of officers and a program on the International Iris Competition in Florence, Italy.

Next April 17th, we are hosting a "Low Tech Trek" here in Tucson. This is a trial concept that will minimize club expense in hosting a regional trek. There will be no "official" host hotel or busses. All attendees will make their own plans for accommodations and transportation. We will supply a list of potential hotels and maps of the garden locations. We have 4 wonderful gardens on tour, with some optional gardens, as well. The guest irises are growing well & there will be a lot of lovely newer irises to see. More info to come later! We look forward to seeing you in Tucson in 2010.



Ginny Hester & Best Median 'Special Kay'



Gordon Jensen and 'Afternoon Delight'



Maxine Fifer & 'Arctic Express'



LETTERS FROM OUR PRESIDENTS

Spring 2009

San Diego Iris Society **President Janis Shackelford**

Our June meeting featured a potluck luncheon, awards to trophy winners from our annual spring show, the election for officers, and a new event for us, Iris Trading. The Queen of Show Trophy went to Iris Howse and Gardens with Spuria "Elixir". The new officers for 2009/2010 are: President, Janis Shackelford, and Secretary, Benne Hanenburg. Bill Molnar was re-elected to a second term as Vice-President, and Pat Wurtele re-elected Treasurer. We then had our first ever Iris Trade with members swapping iris. For members without iris to trade we offered grab bags with 5 iris per bag for \$5.00. The bags included both older iris and recent introductions which the member could choose to keep or swap.

We have been enjoying our summer break but are now preparing for two sales in September. September 13th we will be at Balboa Park for our annual rhizome sale. Members will be digging from their gardens for this sale and for a 3-day sale the following weekend at the Del Mar Fall Home and Garden show. We find these sales increase both our treasury and our membership, and we provide lots of iris culture information at both events.

At the October meeting we will have our Members Only iris auction. With over 130-potted iris from the 2009 Spring Trek, we expect to have a very exciting meeting with lots of competitive bidding for some wonderful iris.

Our November meeting will feature a discussion on Louisiana Iris culture. Members bring iris or other, usually unique, plants from their gardens that are raffled off at our meetings and I expect Louisianas will be a featured plant at this meeting.

December is our annual potluck Holiday Party and we have some great programs planned for next year.

We now have a Lending Library in place for members with 12 books on Iris culture, 5 on Flower Arranging, and various Society Journals including AIS quarterly bulletins dating back to 1927.

Hi Desert Iris & Daylily Society **By President Bill Van Gorder**

I want to take this opportunity to give "kudos" to Sun Country Iris Society in Phoenix for hosting this year's Spring Trek. We had a wonderful time and the guest gardens were a delight to see.

The program at our February meeting was presented by HDI&DS members Al & Mary Escarcega. Al told how he got into raising iris and how he laid out their garden. Those of you who attended the 2008 Spring Trek might remember Al & Mary's garden. Even though they did not have guest iris, their garden was included on the tour because of its beauty.

March saw Jeanne Plank with her talk on Japanese iris and how to grow them in our high desert climate. Many of our members do not have JI and have indicated a desire to now add some to their gardens.

The same weekend as our meeting saw us at the annual Home & Garden Show at the local fairgrounds. We had a successful sale and had several new members fill out membership applications.

April was a busy month for us. Club member Joyce Bertram gave a presentation on how to groom iris for the horticultural divisions at a show and also a segment on flower arranging at the club meeting. The following weekend was our annual show and sale at the Palmdale Cultural Center. And, wonder of wonders, we almost emptied our club potted rhizome nursery, a very successful sale. The general public enjoyed the irises on exhibit at the show.

And of course, April was the Spring Trek in Phoenix that six of our members traveled to. At our May meeting, we showed one of the AIS programs on the Conventions. Our members really enjoyed seeing the pictures of the many guest gardens and the newer iris.

June's meeting program brought the ever-popular Kathy Chilton with her presentation on arilbred iris. This is another iris that many of our members have not tried growing yet (but I think they caught the arilbred fever as well.)

July brought us the hot weather and what is better than salads when the weather heats up? Our meeting was our annual "Salad Spectacular" and the members once again proved their creativity providing a large variety of salads for all to enjoy. We invited the new members that had joined since the first of the year by letter and gave those who attended a gift bag of rhizomes. This idea we picked up from another club to get new members to their first meeting. Sorry to say I don't remember which club it was, but, thank you, the idea worked. We had 12 new members attend their first meeting.

Now everyone is planning to dig and split their iris. Getting it done in the heat is somewhat of a challenge for us here in Region 15, we all live in "Hot Weather zones. But getting up at 5:30 and digging a few every day seems to work for me.



LETTERS FROM OUR PRESIDENTS

Spring 2009

Inland Region Iris Society **President Carole Buchheim**

Inland Region Iris Society has been a bee hive of activity over the last several months. In April we had our Spring Iris Show and Sale at the Inland Center Mall with Best Specimen of Show going to Kim Ung for 'Gallery' TB (T. Johnson '05). 'Gallery' also won Best Tall Bearded and Best Plicata. Irene Benton won Best Louisiana with 'Dorothea K. Williamson' LA (E. Williamson 1918). Paul and Carole Buchheim won Best Seedling with a golden yellow TB #06-043. Joyce Dean won Best Floral Display with her arrangement, "Mother and Daughter".

It was unfortunate that the Riverside Flower Show was on the same day as our Spring Show at the mall and our team was divided for the two events. Thanks to De Dixon for being show chairperson for our Spring Show and to Carol Morgan, Ways and Means chairperson, for heading up the Riverside Flower Show.

In May we had no regular meeting scheduled due to multiple iris events. Several of our members attended the AIS National Convention in Kansas City, MO. On May 9 we had a booth at the Green Faire at the Jurupa Mountains Cultural Center where we also have our club display garden, the Holk Memorial Iris Garden. May 15-17 found us at the 7th Annual Yucaipa Iris Festival. The Iris is Yucaipa's City Flower and though it's late for iris bloom we had plenty of stalks to draw attention to our booth and loads of rhizomes for sale.

In June, Alex Stanton gave a PowerPoint program on "Highlights of the 2009 AIS National Convention. We also had our I.R.I.S. board meeting with nearly all officers continuing in their current positions: Carole Buchheim, President; Alex Stanton, 1st VP, Program Chairperson; Carol Morgan, 2nd VP, Ways and Means; De Dixon, Secretary, and Naomi Hildreth, Treasurer.

At our July meeting we had two events, our Installation of Officers given in poetic cadence by Rich Richards and our Great Iris Trade. The Great Iris Trade was a lot of fun. I didn't see a whole lot of trading going on but there was a frenzy of buying. Different members brought in irises from their gardens for sale or trade. Members' lists of available irises and their wish lists were posted in the Newsletter. Members had tables set up and loaded with their irises. It was like a mini sale with individual "booths". Our newer members especially enjoyed the event because there were so many irises available for very good prices.

Our August meeting will be our Members Only Auction and Potluck Dinner at the Sims' Tree Learning Center. Irises have been purchased by the club from half a dozen of our favorite hybridizers and will be available for auction to those who have current memberships.

In September we will have our first meeting at our new location, the Janet Goeske Senior Center, 5257 Sierra Street, Riverside, CA 92504. We also have a new meeting day, the first Tuesday of the month, and a new time, 6:00 p.m. The first program at the Goeske Center will be our Region 15 Auction on Tuesday, September 1, at 6:00 p.m.



LETTERS FROM OUR PRESIDENTS

Spring 2009

Sonoran Desert Iris Society

President Darol Jurn

The Sonoran Desert Iris Society held their 2009 iris show on April 11 at the Beatitudes Adult Community in Phoenix. There were a total of 35 horticulture entries of Tall Bearded (23 entries), Spuria (10 entries) and Aril Bred (2 entries). Show judging was based on a public popularity vote. The winners in order of votes are first place: Scoonchee (12 votes - TB, Donna Brower), second place: Scoonchee (18 votes - TB, Larry Johnsen), third place (3-way tie): Fire Beard (3 votes - TB, Betty Howard), Well Endowed (3 votes - TB, Darol Jurn) and Crow Wing (3 votes - SPU, Carole Spiess).

In lieu of a May meeting, the members had a pot luck on a Saturday evening on May 9th at one member's home. Mother nature accommodated our gathering with mild temperatures, a good time was had by all. There was plenty of great food, including home-made peach ice cream provided by the host.



COPPER BUBBLE BATH
(Cass 2002)



FACE OF AN ANGEL
(Black 2007)



EASY BEING GREEN
(Richards 2009)

Orange County Iris & Daylily Society

President Ramona

In April we had daylily procurements for members to grow on for Greenscene sales. We are having 3 potlucks outside and also 3 iris auctions. Our club is losing sources of plants to sell. One member just offered her rural property and her time to grow our iris. Named rhizomes were given to her by six members to grow for Greenscene. This Fall has a variety of Programs-Sept is composting, October is Steve from Buena Creek Gardens, Nov. is Fairy Gardens, and Dec will be our annual Christmas party.. Hope to meet some of you in Lompoc.



LETTERS FROM OUR PRESIDENTS

Spring 2009

San Fernando Valley Iris Society **President Steve Fletcher**



This year's Membership Meeting schedule has included several presentations. Our March meeting featured guest speaker Rick Tasco of Superstition Iris Gardens with a very informative program on Historic Irises. In May, Jan Lauritzen narrated the AIS program on Spurias. And in July, thanks to Kathy Chilton's recommendation, we flew in Patrick O'Connor of Zydeco Louisiana Iris Gardens, whose presentation was on the Origins of the Louisiana Iris.

April was our Spring Show Prep program, with Randy Squires on Horticulture, Jan Lauritzen on Artistic, with hands-on member participation following each.

The Show was April 25-26 at the Promenade Mall. Show Chair was Mary Anne Abrahms, with Peggy Carpenter Horticulture Chair and Jan Lauritzen Artistic Chair. Horticulture Division had 17 entrants with 127 entries, and Artistic 9 entrants with 35 entries. Best Specimen of Show was won by Harriet Uhl, who also took the Silver Medal, with the Bronze going to Mary Anne Abrahms. In Artistic, Best Design was by Carole Kyle, and Theme Award was won by Pat Tjossas.

Our local Spring Tour was in between the Prep program and the Show. We saw a good combination of small to large settings. The gardens were those of members Jill Bonino, Andi Rivarola, Betty & Randy Squires, Maryilyn Morgan, Hellen & Lauren Zeldin, John & Carol Huffman and Dorothy Appleby.

In June, our election retained me as President, Andi Rivarola as VP, Carol Huffman as Secretary and Mary Anne Abrahms as Treasurer. The Awards Potluck was gratifying but lightly attended. It turns out that a Lakers playoff game was major competition for that time slot!

Our August meeting will feature Jill Bonino's annual slide show review of the National and Regional treks, plus a few commercial gardens. Then, both our Club Auction and our Fall Sale are scheduled for September.

Lompoc Valley Iris Society **President Ben Schleuning**

Hello to all from the wonderful Lompoc Valley! Many of you will have the opportunity to evaluate the "lovely" for yourselves in October.

It seems that 2009 is just flying by. We have been busy doing all the things that all of you have been doing; iris show, rhizome sale, digging, planting, etc.

Our show, on the last weekend of April, was a huge success even though we did not have a "juried" show.... Oops! We did have one of the best bloom seasons this year to my recollection of the past 20 years.

We had our annual rhizome sale on the 25th of July; took in \$1,780. This was a few hundred dollars short of last year but still a wonderful success for a three hour event.

We are all in the business of keeping our local businesses in business through the purchasing of top soil and various amendments as we prepare to replant all the rhizomes we dug and separated. Each year, our fear is that we will run out of garden space before we finish our tasks.

Now that two of the major events of the year are done, it is time to party! We will be having our potluck picnic on 9 August. At this event, we will be distributing all newly purchased "club iris" to qualifying members for them to grow for next year. We will also have an auction of rhizome increases from last year's club iris. Our auction will be enhanced this year by the rhizomes gifted to us by Inland Valley Iris Society. Our new members will be in for a treat with the great selection to bid on! A BIG and SINCERE "Thank You" to IVIS for their gift!

Last, but certainly not least, we are all diligently working on our various committees for the Region 15 Fall Trek. Everyone is having a fun time planning and working together. We are looking forward to seeing all of you October 9th



LETTERS FROM OUR PRESIDENTS

Spring 2009

Verde Valley Area Iris Society

Linda Smith – President

VAIS had their 1st Sidewalk Iris Display this spring. Great weather, and great turn out, with over 100 viewers and 8 people entering. Even manage to sell quite a few potted plants to help cover cost. Thanks to Donna Peterkin for potting and Sharon Smith for her great sales skills. See photo.

My thanks also go to Sharon Smith for helping with signs for the event. Nancy Jenner did a great service of counting votes in a very efficient manner.

And it couldn't have been done without Alyssa Munoz (youth) that worked night before and day of event. I also want to thank Alyssa for entering the flower arrangement division.

It's August and we are busy getting ready for our 2nd annual rhizome sale held on Labor Day at same venue: Sidewalk next to Mount Hope Foods on Main Street in Cottonwood, AZ.

I really want to thank the Ables of Flagstaff for their wonderful donations of their divide. And to Margie Velanzuela for donating Toastmaster and other interesting iris. Toastmaster has been a hit with the Toastmaster group. We could use more rhizomes from any club with oldies but goodies they would like to share.

Please mail to: VAIS - Verde Valley Area Iris Society
%Linda Smith
2290 West Running Iron
Cottonwood, AZ 86326

Our next meeting is last Wed in August (26th) at Cottonwood Public Safety Building at 5:30 PM. If you are over this way, please stop in. We will be auctioning the Region 15 rhizomes, plus many interesting iris from Paul Black.



In Memoriam Leon Vogel (1919-2009)

By Janis Shackelford, President of the San Diego Iris Society

Leon Vogel, our good friend and former SDIS president and editor, sadly passed away on March 28th. He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Norma; their daughter Vicki; their son Terry, his wife and family; and Leon's sister and two brothers. Leon and Norma are proud grandparents of four grandsons and two great-grandchildren.

Leon was passionate about everything he did. Norma says it started with the gift of guppies that her mother gave them. Before they knew it, they had a basement full of tropical fish. Norma's mother gave them a gift of a violet and they soon had over 300 varieties of violets which Leon tended with loving care. Then

one day, Norma's mother gave her some irises to plant in the garden. As Norma tells it, she could hardly get Leon to dig places in the garden for them. He was not enthusiastic at all about irises. This was back when they lived in Danville. Norma had been around irises her whole life and once she had them in their garden, she moved them everywhere they lived. When they moved to San Diego, they got involved in our iris society and that did it. Leon got the iris bug. And ever since, their focus has been on irises. Every morning Leon would be first to see what was blooming in the garden. Leon's favorite irises are *Bowled Over* and *Louisa's Song*.

During his fifteen years with the San Diego Iris Society, Leon and Norma introduced many ideas that resulted in improvements to the club. Their idea to sell potted irises and rhizomes to the public to raise money has provided the club with a solid financial standing which allows us to enjoy notable speakers and other benefits such as new introductions that are raffled to members. Leon also spent much energy on promoting irises by speaking at local gardening clubs. Most recently he presented to the La Jolla Garden Club. He was always thinking in terms of how to benefit the San Diego Iris Society and encouraging us to do the same.

Leon's list of prior achievements is long. Leon served four years in the Navy, an experience he said he wouldn't trade for anything, and then worked in the printing industry for many years. After his retirement, he chose to work as a rural mail carrier. Leon served as president for several unions - the printers union, the postal union and the musicians union. In the 1950s, he had his own dance band and was able to play many instruments and write his own music. Leon showed horses together with Norma for many years, including organizing the Indy 500 parade, and they often won Best in Show. Leon was also instrumental in setting up the Food Bank at St. Vincent de Paul in Temecula.

Leon won awards for his prize-winning irises in San Diego, Fallbrook and Temecula. He served as the SDIS editor for nine years and we have all reaped the rewards of Leon's passion in the form of an exceptional society newsletter. His experience came from serving as editor of the Mail Carrier newspaper. As you may have guessed, Leon won many national and state awards for his writing.

As Leon's passion for irises grew, he focused fully on promoting irises. He and Norma gave irises to members of the Temecula and Murrieta garden clubs to get them excited about growing irises. In March, they donated fifty prize-winning irises to The Rose Haven Heritage Garden in Temecula. In addition to designing the layout, they supervised the planting of the rhizomes.

Leon and Norma often tended hundreds of one-gallon pots of irises in preparation for the Spring Show & Sale. They also dug rhizomes from their garden and generously donated them to the SDIS for the Fall Rhizome sale. They currently have 400 cultivars growing in their garden. Many of us have had a chance to see their lovely garden in prior years when Leon and Norma generously hosted SDIS events at their home in Murrieta.

Leon's passion, commitment and wit will be missed. His enthusiasm to spread the word about how wonderful irises are has inspired all of us.





Region 15 Board Meeting Minutes

April 24, 2009

Crowne Plaza Hotel - Phoenix, Arizona

Attendees: Cheryl Deaton, Region 15 RVP, Hi Desert; Winona Stevenson, Ass't RVP/Judges, Hi-Desert; Jill Bonino Region 15 Treasurer, SFVIS; Bill Van Gorder, Hi Desert President; Pat Van Gorder, Hi Desert; Edith Schade, San Diego IS President; Jim Schade, San Diego IS; Ardi Kary, Sun Country President; Vera Stewart, Region 15 Secretary, PAIS; Linda Smith, VAIS President; Mike Monninger, SCIS President; Michelle Snyder, SFVIS/VAIS; Jane McGraw, VAIS/PAIS; Kenneth McGraw, VAIS/PAIS; Gerald Snyder, SFVIS/VAIS; Philip Donnan, SFVIS & AAIS Region 23; Patricia Randall, SFVIS & AAIS Region 23; Karen Bergamo, SFVIS & AAIS, MVIS, TBIS Director, Region 23 Judges Chair; Kathy Chilton, TAIS President; Bill Van Gorder, Hi-Desert President; Pat VanGorder, Hi-Desert; and Janis Shackelford, SDIS.

Call to Order: The Spring Board Meeting for Region 15 was called to order by Regional Vice-President Cheryl Deaton at 5:36 p.m.

Announcements: After welcoming all those attending Cheryl relayed news of the deaths of two longstanding and valued irisarians: Leon Vogel, Past President of the San Diego club died in March, and Luella Davidson also died recently.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the last Board Meeting – October 11, 2008 – were printed in the current Region 15 Newsletter. There were no additions or corrections. A motion by Kathy Chilton was seconded by Jill Bonino to approve the minutes as printed; motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Jill distributed copies of the Treasurer's Report, commenting that this is the time of year when the Region incurs expenses but receives little to no income. The trophies approved at the Winter Board meetings were ordered and paid for, although somewhat above budget. To cover expenses in March, \$2500 was transferred from the Edward Jones Money Market account to the Bank of America checking account. In addition, when the \$3,000 Republic Bank CD matured in March, a new CD was purchased at Capital One Bank for \$5,000 since the M/M Account was earning so little interest. The new CD has a coupon rate of 4% a yield to maturity of 2.65%, better than the .01% the M/M Account was earning as of March 31, 2009.

Liquid cash to pay bills is down to \$2,873.59 until the 2009 Trek Auction sales start coming in. Total assets as of March 31, 2009 are \$25,812.24. Jill asked anyone having bills to submit them to her. A motion made by Winona Stevenson and seconded by Kathy Chilton for the Treasurer's Report to be accepted and filed was approved. A copy is attached and made a part of these minutes.

Assistant RVP/Judges Training: Winona Stevenson announced that two more individuals have applied to be judges, and reminded those present to advise her of any changes in their Judge status.

Membership: Winona Stevenson reported that as of February 7, 2009 there had been 16 more losses in AIS memberships, and that all those present should encourage others to become AIS members or to rejoin. She expressed appreciation for those who had sent in their membership rosters; she actually has received 100% of affiliate rosters.

Awards: Jane Troutman, Awards Chair displayed the new trophies, ordered from G & W Trophies last year. There are now enough for six years, and as commented earlier are over budget, but the consensus of the Board is that the money was well spent. Name plates for winners will be added for a minimal fee.

Editor of Newsletter: Kathy Chilton reminded affiliates that they need to send her their e-mail address to receive the Region 15 newsletter electronically. The newsletter is displayed in full color on the Region 15 website, and will print in color unless one receives it via postal mail in which case it is black and white only. Kathy inquired the wishes of the group as to the next issue. Bill Van Gorder moved, seconded by Linda Smith, that the Spring 2009 issue be distributed via e-mail; motion approved unanimously. Kathy displayed newsletters from Region 14 and 17, and encouraged each affiliate to post more information to the Region website about their club other than just names of officers. This information may be sent to her or Webmaster Tim Valenzuela.

Youth: Cheryl Deaton announced that only three youth members remain from Region 15. One incentive suggested by Kathy Chilton would be for affiliates to pay the \$9 fee for a youth to receive membership and quarterly Bulletins. Host affiliate Sun Country has a teen group that has designed t-shirts; the shirts will be for sale and included as raffle items during the Trek.

Historian: Linda Smith related that the gentleman previously Historian had died and that papers relating to Region 15's history were a part of the estate and difficult to retrieve. Cheryl designated Jill Bonino to pursue the search for any documents that are part of the estate. Cheryl also instructed affiliate presidents to investigate their records for older documents that may pertain to Region 15 history, and send copies to Linda. To assist in this endeavor it was suggested she put an announcement in the R 15 newsletter; this would include a request for each affiliate to send copies of old Trek folders to her.

Spring Board Meetings Minutes continued.....

Affiliate Reports: As submitted. prior to meeting, and attached to these minutes.

Old Business: Trek Wheel

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Spring</u> | <u>Fall</u> |
|--------------|------------------|---------------|
| 2009 | Sun Country | Lompoc |
| 2010 | Tucson | Orange County |
| 2011 | Inland - Preview | San Fernando |
| 2012National | AZ Affiliate? | |

New Business:

Fall Trek: The flyer for the Fall Trek in Lompoc was distributed: “Valley of Arts and Flowers” presented by Lompoc Valley Iris Society October 9-10, 2009 at Best Western O’Cairns Inn in Lompoc, California. Highlights include Judges Training by Eileen Fiumara on “Iris Arrangements” and Keynote Luncheon Speaker George Sutton on “Hybridizing”.

Ethics Judges Training: The potential topic of a Judges Training on Ethics was discussed briefly, as part of the Spring Trek program at Tucson in 2010. Karen Bergamo, Judges Chair in Region 23 and member of San Fernando affiliate, who was present for this meeting agreed to present the training.

Auction of Guest Iris from 2009 Trek: Ardi mentioned that attendees should track their favorite guest irises on the Trek, record them and then request those to be sent from Sun Country to their affiliate for Silent Auctions in the fall.

Announcement re Region 23 Activity: Patricia Randall from New Mexico (also San Fernando member) invited attendees to Santa Fe, New Mexico September 18-19, 2009, where Dr. Edwards will be a guest speaker on Judges Training in display gardens, where no irises are in bloom. Check the Region 23 website for details.

Adjournment: After a motion for adjournment was made by Winona and seconded by Kathy the Board voted unanimously in approval – at 6:24 p.m.

Recorded by Vera Stewart, Secretary for Region 15



Region 15 Newsletter ON LINE

A FULL COLOR edition of this newsletter is available

on the Region 15 website:

www.region15ais.org

 Would you would like to receive your R15 newsletter electronically
 instead of a hard copy by snail mail?

 If so, please email Ranchiris@aol.com with “newsletter” in the
 subject line & include your name and address.

 This will save a lot of paper and postage cost,
 and you will get it in **FULL COLOR!**



American Iris Society Region 15

Region 15 Commercial Gardens

Golden's Iris Garden (928) 445-0503
Barry Golden
4564 Robin Drive
Prescott, AZ 86301
barrygolden@hotmail.com

Hummingbird Iris Garden (928) 777-8110
Linda Rossman
5942 Old Black Canyon Hwy.
Prescott AZ 86303
lindarae@cableone.net

Iris Howse and Gardens (619) 479-3887
Ted and Rose Howse
3915 Vista San Miguel
Bonita, CA 91902
tedandrose1@cox.net

Kary Iris Gardens (480) 949-0253
Ardi Kary
6201 East Calle Rosa
Scottsdale, AZ 85251
ardikary@aol.com

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

Mystic Lake Gardens (951) 928-2337
Paul & Carole Buchheim
22177 Polley Street
Nuevo, CA 92567
paulbuchheim@verizon.net
cbuchheim@verizon.net



Rainbow Vista Farms (760) 723-2929
Al and Victoria Salsgiver
4343 Rainbow Vista Drive
Fallbrook, CA 92028
asalsgiver@msn.com

Squires Iris Garden (818) 892-1516
Randy Squires
15906 Chase Street
North Hills, CA 91343-6306
randysiris@juno.com

Join the AIS

Pay Online at
www.irises.org

Membership Office address is:

TOM GORMLEY
10606 Timber Ridge Street
Dubuque, IA 52001-8268
E-MAIL: aismemsec@irises.org
Phone: 563-513-050436-274-6149

AIS Membership Rates

| | | |
|--------|---------|---------|
| Annual | Single: | \$25.00 |
| | Dual: | \$30.00 |

| | | |
|-----------|---------|---------|
| Triennial | Single: | \$60.00 |
| | Dual: | \$75.00 |

| | | |
|------|---------|----------|
| Life | Single: | \$450.00 |
| | Dual: | \$545.00 |

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: | \$ 5.00 |
| Youth, with Bulletin: | \$ 9.00 |

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



Region 15 Directory

Elected Officers

Region 15 Vice President

Cheryl Deaton
deatons@earthlink.net

Asst. Region 15 RVP/Judges

Winona Stevenson
lakesideiris@aol.com

Secretary

Vera Stewart
fiwrlvr@cableone.net

Treasurer

Jill Bonino
aistreas@earthlink.net

Committee Chairs

Awards

Jane Troutman
irisjane@roadrunner.com

Editor & Circulation

Kathy Chilton
Ranchiris@aol.com

Membership

Winona Stevenson
lakesideiris@aol.com

Historian

Linda Smith
irisgrower@cableone.net

Nominating

Open

Committee Chairs Continued...

Youth

Cheryl Deaton
Region15kids@hotmail.com

Ways & Means

Ardi Kary
ardikary@aol.com

Affiliate Presidents

Hi Desert Iris & Daylily Society

Bill Van Gorder
hidesertiris@msn.com

Inland Region Iris Society

Carole Buchheim
cbuchheim@verizon.net

Lompoc Valley Iris Society

Ben Schleuning
Ben.floppyjo@comcast.net

Orange County Iris & Daylily Club

Ramona Richardson
Rr4flowers@aol.com

Prescott Area Iris Society

Diane Clarke
agosseris6@yahoo.com

Affiliate Presidents Continued...

San Diego Iris Society

Janis Shackelford
jgshackelford@cox.net

San Fernando Valley Iris Society

Steve Fletcher
(818) 592-0358

Sonoran Desert Iris Society

Darol Jurn
djurn@prodigy.net

Southern California Iris Society

Mike Monninger
regomdm@yahoo.com

Sun Country Iris Society

Ardi Kary
Ardikary@aol.com

Tucson Area Iris Society

Kathy Chilton
Ranchiris@aol.com

Verde Valley Area Iris Society

Linda Smith
irisgrower@cableone.net



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!

Region 15 Website

<http://www.srocha.com/region15.html>
Lots of pictures & event information.

American Iris Society

<http://www.Irises.org>
Lots of info & links to clubs, gardens, etc.

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://sites.google.com/site/sandiegoirissociety>
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 B/W (8 x 11") | \$ 50.00 |
| Full Page Color | \$250.00 |
| Half Page (4 x 5") | \$ 25.00 |
| Business Card (3 x 2") | \$ 15.00 |

EDITOR

KATHY CHILTON
14333 S. Stagecoach Road
Tucson AZ 85736
Ranchiris@aol.com
Ph: (520) 591-1729

PUBLICATION DEADLINES

| <i>SPRING ISSUE</i> | |
|---------------------|-----|
| <u>Deadline</u> | 2/1 |
| <u>Issue Date</u> | 3/1 |
| <i>SUMMER ISSUE</i> | |
| <u>Deadline</u> | 7/1 |
| <u>Issue Date</u> | 8/1 |

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

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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.

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TBIS Fall Board Meeting

November 13-14 in San Diego

Friday:

See the **Fall Rebloom**
at **Stanton Iris Gardens**

Saturday:

Board Meeting
Hybridizers Round-Table Discussion
Powerpoint Presentation
Silent Auction
Regular Auction

Contact **Alex Stanton** for more information:
stanton-ad-kw@juno.com

RSVP:

At least 40 Days in Advance at the

Hilton Garden Inn

858-676-1880 (mention TBIS)

\$89 per Night

Come a week early and enjoy San Diego!





Lompoc Valley Iris Society
Cordially Invites You to Attend
API Region 15 - 2009 Fall Trek
Valley of Arts and Flowers
October 9 & 10, 2009



Schedule of Events:

Friday Evening, October 9, 2009
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Join us for the Welcome Reception with complimentary light refreshments and early registration.

Saturday, October 10, 2009
5:00 am - 9:00 am

Complimentary, Full Breakfast for registered guests of Best Western O'Cairns Inn.

7:30 am on
8:30 am - 10:00 am
10:00 am - 12:00 pm
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
1:00 pm - 1:30 pm
1:30 pm - 2:30 pm
2:30 pm - 3:00 pm
3:00 pm - Finish

Registration
Region 15 "Breakfast" Board Meeting
Judges Training by Eileen Fiumara "Iris Arrangements"
Lunch
Region 15 General Meeting
Keynote Speaker - Mr. George Sutton "Hybridizing"
Break - Final time to shop.
Raffle Drawings and Live Auction

Bring your iris in bloom for a non juried exhibition (display vases will be provided)

Motel: Best Western O'Cairns Inn
940 E. Ocean Ave.
Lompoc, CA 93436
Telephone (805) 735-7731
Fax: (805) 737-001

Rates: \$119 plus taxes
Ask for Lompoc Valley Iris Society (LVIS)
Rooms blocked until September 25, 2009

If you have any questions please contact Ben Schleuning at (805) 733-4081



Registration Form

Name(s) _____

Address _____

E-Mail Address (for confirmation) _____ Phone _____

Iris Club Affiliation _____

Registration: # _____ @ \$35 Total \$ _____.

I/We plan to attend the Friday night reception--- Yes # _____ No

Please make checks payable to **Lompoc Valley Iris Society**, and send by September 30, 2009 with registration form to: **Leonard Todd, 210 So. "E" Street, Lompoc, CA 93436-7312**