



The American  
Iris Society

# Region 15

Fall 2011 Semi-annual Report

**SAVE THE DATE!**

## AIS REGION 15 FALL TREK

HOSTED BY INLAND REGION IRIS SOCIETY

**NOVEMBER 11-12, 2011**

AT MYSTIC LAKE GARDENS  
NUEVO, CA

(SEE PAGE 2 FOR DETAILS)

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**American Iris Society  
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**www.region15ais.org**

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# Letter from the Editor

by Katharina Notarianni

I hope you have all enjoyed a wonderful summer. Below you'll find preliminary information about the upcoming Fall Trek, so be sure to mark your calendar for November 11-12. In this issue, Jill Bonino shares her fantastic experience and photos from the 2011 AIS convention in Victoria. As co-chair of the 2012 AIS National Convention that we are hosting, Jill has provided more info.

This report focuses on celebrating the achievements of our very own Region 15 iris hybridizers. Each hybridizer has shared their creative process and photos of the many quality irises coming out of their efforts. Some of you might even be inspired to try your own hand at hybridizing.

I am very grateful to Andi Rivarola for contributing articles about Region 15 hybridizers Eric Nies and Peter DeSantis, and to Christina Kary for her article about her grandfather, Les Peterson. In addition, Richard Richards, who we can always count on to be in good humor, has contributed 'Confessions of a Backyard Hybridizer' and a poem 'Yellow Iris'. For those of you who are interested in growing irises in combination with other plants, Renee Fraser has contributed an article on planting irises with dominant colors. The photos of Brenda Fox's garden are inspiring to say the least. Thanks to Mary and Al Escarcega for sharing photos of 'Kathy Chilton' and their garden in Quartz Hill, CA. Please email photos of your reblooming irises and articles you would like to publish in a future newsletter to AISregion15editor@gmail.com.



The American  
Iris Society

**Region 15 Fall Trek**  
Hosted by the Inland Region Iris Society

at *Mystic Lake Gardens, Nuevo CA*  
**NOVEMBER 11-12, 2011**

Please mark your calendar for the next Region 15 Trek. We will meet on Friday evening, November 11th and all day on Saturday, November 12th.

### Agenda

**Friday November 11, 2011**

afternoon - Region 15 Board Meeting  
evening - Riley Probst Judge's training  
Dinner on our own

**Saturday November 12, 2011**

Bus tour of gardens  
General Membership meeting and installation of officers  
Guest speaker Chuck Chapman of Chapman Iris  
*The 2012 Convention meeting of all affiliate representatives and committee chairs is planned for either Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning (TBD).*

Hotel, registration information and the final agenda will be provided by the host, Inland Region Iris Society. Please contact: Carole Buchheim, Inland Region Iris Society - cbuchheim@verizon.net. Registration Forms will be sent out prior to the meeting with all the details, and will be available to download from our website at [www.region15ais.org](http://www.region15ais.org)

# *AIS Region 15 Update*

*by Cheryl Deaton, Regional VP*



Hello Everyone! I hope your bloom season gave you pleasure and the desire to add more beautiful irises to your garden. I have to say goodbye to old friends in order to gather new ones, but I still keep a few special "oldies". Crimson King, an IB introduced in 1836, is in bloom right now. It bloomed in March, and even though it is one of 'grandma's old flags', I still get pleasure seeing it bloom this late in the season. More than likely it will bloom again in the Fall.

Just like our irises, club members become old friends, but it is always wonderful to meet new friends to share our love of our favorite flower. Our region has lost 38 AIS members since the beginning of the year, and we really need to encourage new membership. New members bring a new perspective, which can only be a good thing. Please bring a friend or neighbor to a meeting....they don't have to join the club to enjoy an interesting program, and they might just WANT to join.

Many clubs change officers at this time of year, and it is extremely important to notify me, our webmaster, Tim Valenzuela, and our editor, Katharina Notarianni, of these changes. Updates are sent to the AIS website so that people moving into our area can contact their local club. Don't forget!

This is my final term as your RVP. At the Fall meeting in November, a new slate of officers will be installed. We are looking for a new Assistant RVP, who is in charge of the Judge's Training program. It's mostly keeping track of the judges' training records that the judges report to you and reporting to the National Judges' Training Chair once a year. You also need to make sure that the judges have paid their AIS dues on time. Interested? You don't have to be a judge to do this job, but you do have to be an AIS member. Give me a call at (661) 252-6771.

As you know, our region is hosting the 2012 AIS National Convention, April 16 – 21, 2012, in Ontario, California. Many things have been accomplished to bring this dream to reality, but much more needs to be done. WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!!! Don't think negatively and say "I Can't". Think positively and say, "Yes, I will!" We will need:

- Bus Captains – tell folks about the area, give out prizes, have fun meeting people (get the front seat of the bus every day!) Cell phone required
- Bus Escorts – follow the bus to & from the garden in case there is any type of emergency – cell phone required
- Refreshment Suppliers – we need donations of snacks and bottled water. Everyone has too much zucchini, so make zucchini bread and freeze it (pumpkin bread, banana bread, cookies, crackers & cheese, chex mix, etc. would be good too!)
- Garden Hosts – spend time answering questions, serving refreshments, helping out
- Boutique Workers – take a shift or two in the boutique
- Garden Set Up – set up (and take down) of tables, chairs and tents in the garden before and after tour days
- Table Decorators – place flowers in a vase or bowl at each table for the 2 banquets (we provide the supplies)
- Hospitality – greet and help our visitors, and answer questions in the hotel. Wear a HUGE "ASK ME" button!
- Rhizome Wranglers – diggers, taggers and cleaners in all the gardens after the convention. 2 of the gardens have space for RVs so you could spend your vacation there! June & July 2012. This is a great club activity and these volunteers get free rhizomes!

Most of our clubs have volunteered to take on some aspect of the convention, but there are many more small but important jobs that need doing. Check with your club President to see what your club is doing, but you don't have to limit yourself to just that. I've signed up as a Bus Captain and one shift as Garden Host. Think about the above list, decide what you want to do and let me, Jill Bonino or Kathy Chilton know your preference. The best jobs go quickly so don't hesitate. IT'S IMPORTANT!

## **AIS Region 15 Local Chapter Presidents**

### **Hi Desert Iris & Daylily Society**

Gail Lofdahl  
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### **Inland Region Iris Society**

Carol Morgan  
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### **Lompoc Valley Iris Society**

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### **Orange County Iris & Daylily Club**

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### **Prescott Area Iris Society**

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PAIS Website

### **San Diego Iris Society**

Bill Molnar  
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SDIS Website

### **San Fernando Valley Iris Society**

Andi Rivarola  
SFVIS Facebook & SFVIS Website

### **Sonoran Desert Iris Society**

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### **Southern California Iris Society**

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### **Sun Country Iris Society**

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SCIS Website

### **Tucson Area Iris Society**

Dian Curran  
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TAIS Website

### **Verde Valley Area Iris Society**

Betty Gaudy  
VAIS Website

# Victoria Canada Convention 2011

By Jill Bonino with photos by Kathy Chilton and Jill Bonino



DAZZLING (Black IB 2008) won both the President's Cup and the Hager Cup at the 2011 AIS National Convention held in Victoria, Canada. And that, in one word, was my experience of 9 days in May-June.

The ivy covered Empress Hotel with a view of the Harbor was the Convention Hotel. Built in 1905, it is a wide ranging place of multi-levels, and you needed a map to get around the first few days. It has old wood floors that creak when you walk down the hall. Our room even had drapes and a bed ruffle with flowers - including a large iris - in the pattern. There was a bed of Siberian iris planted at one end of the Hotel and a mixture of Tall Bearded iris on the other side. The TBs and Sibs were finally in bloom the last couple of days we were there.

From the Hotel, we could easily walk around Victoria to find cheaper places to eat and souvenir and book shops. The weather was overcast a lot of the time. But we had a couple of days of blue skies, and no actual rain while we were out in the gardens.

Finnerty Gardens and Woodlands was our first Convention garden to visit. Several PCIs, such as BANNER FOR IONA (Prothero PCN seedling) and PACIFIC GLAZE (Aitken PCN seedling) were in bloom, but the Tall bearded iris except for a couple were still in bud. Winding paths led through blooming ferns, hostas, groundcovers, and many different wildflowers. Rhododendron plants in colors ranging from white to deep magenta popped up all over the place. Finnerty Gardens is supported by University of Victoria alumni and community members.

The second garden was in Hatley Park. This garden was established in 1910 by the Dunsmuir family, and the ivy covered family castle is still on the grounds. The castle and gardens are now a National Historic Site of Canada. The gorgeous Japanese Garden was a large pond surrounded by flowering cherry, azaleas, and Japanese maples. The Guest Iris were planted in a walled area previously used for vegetable, fruits and flowers to supply those living on the estate. Many large clumps of Median iris were in full bloom like LIMONADA (Keppel IB 2007) and MAN'S BEST FRIEND (Black IB 2008). The grounds of the Park also included several native Pacific Coast Native iris in full bloom.

The third garden was Glendale Gardens and Woodland which is the Horticulture Centre of the Pacific. This garden also had a nicely trimmed and tailored Japanese garden, an Italian garden and a charming children's garden with gnomes, a play house and lots of garden ornaments. The Guest Iris garden had more Tall Bearded iris blooming in it such as CELTIC WOMAN (Aitken 2009). The garden weather on the day we were there was quite cold, but not raining. In the general display gardens there was a black siberian iris in full bloom. Very unusual.

*2011 American Iris Society National Convention in Victoria (continued)*

Click here to view more AIS Convention irises: <http://www.bc-iris.org/AIS2011Convention.htm>

The last Convention garden was Government House Gardens. This house was purchased in 1865 and is used now as the residence of the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia. The formal plan for the gardens did not begin until 1911 but now includes an Italian Garden, a large pond with fountains and pseudacorus, wild Garry Oak woodlands planted with gorgeous Dutch Iris among the rocks and lupine, and many rhododendrons. The Guest Iris included many blooming iris species, species crosses, siberians, and PCNs.

And last and the most stupendous was Butchart Gardens, arguably the most famous garden in Canada. My husband and I saw it twice, the first visit was a half day afternoon on the busses with the Convention participants and again after the Convention was over. Butchart Gardens was created by Jennie Butchart over an old stone quarry that the Butchart family had tapped out behind their large residence. It began in 1904 and is still owned and operated by family members today. Hanging baskets, trash cans with mini gardens planted on top, various size pots planted with various annuals (fragrant stock and nemesia) and perennials (tulips, geraniums, asters), including iris popped up all over the various gardens. Winding paths took us through the Japanese garden, with wonderful waterfalls and BLUE Poppies. The rose garden was not in bloom yet but the Italian garden had wonderful waterlilies and statues near the old Butchart residence. The sunken garden is the most well known part of the place and it took a whole morning of our second visit to walk through it. A large pond with a weeping willow and maples was tucked behind a large lookout (we had to walk up some very narrow stairs) that gave you a few of the entire area. Color was everywhere we looked. We could stop and rest here and there on many benches placed throughout the garden.

We were pooped when it was over and actually lost 5 pounds each from walking so much!! Great vacation.



MTB 'Color By Twos' 2009 Fisher



IB 'Man's Best Friend' 2008 Black



PCI sdlg 'Pacific Glaze' Aitken



AB 'Brash and Bold' 2009 Black



TB 'I'm Back' 2007 Johnson



IB 'Midnight Ice' 2007 Sutton

AB = Arilbred, IB = Intermediate Bearded, MTB = Miniature Tall Bearded, TB = Tall Bearded, PCI = Pacific Coast Iris

# *Treasurer's Report by Acting Region Treasurer Jill Bonino*

For Region 15 Operations from 1-01-11 to 4-30-11

Financial activity has been minimal in the first 4 months of the fiscal year. Two Auction checks from 2010 sales were deposited along with minimal interest income. The Spring newsletter was issued. Expenses were paid and ad income deposited.

There will be no further Auction Sales this year. The Region 15 Spring Trek will be viewing Guest Iris sent for the National Convention 2012 at the Stanton Garden. These irises will not be dug and distributed to the Region affiliates until the summer of 2012.

## **REGION 15 AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 1-01-11 to 4-30-11**

<b>CHECKING ACCOUNT - BALANCE 1-01-11</b>			\$ 7,385.31
DEPOSITS			
4-08-11 Auction Sales			
	SCIS	\$400.00	
	SFVIS	687.00	
Ad income		\$ 160.00	
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>			<b>\$ 1,247.00</b>
CHECKS			
Spring Newsletter		\$ 396.15	
<b>TOTAL WITHDRAWALS</b>			<b>(\$ 396.15)</b>
<b>CHECKING BALANCE 4-30-11</b>			<b><u>\$ 8,236.16</u></b>
<b>BANK OF AMERICA CD--RVP CD - Balance 1-01-11</b>			<b>\$ 8,989.32</b>
	Interest Jan 2011	\$ 4.48	
	Interest Feb 2011	5.45	
	Interest Mar 2011	4.65	
	Interest Apr 2011	2.89	
	<u>Total Interest Earned</u>		<u>17.47</u>
<b>BANK OF AMERICA CD BALANCE 4-30-11</b>			<b><u>\$ 9,006.79</u></b>
<b>EDWARD JONES MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT - Balance 1-30-11</b>			<b>\$ 12,761.32</b>
Receipts:	Jan 2011 M/M interest	\$ .03	
	Feb 2011 M/M interest	.05	
	Mar 2011 M/M interest	.04	
	Apr 2011 M/M interest	.04	
Total Receipts			\$0.16
Total Withdrawals			(\$ -0- )
<b>EDWARD JONES MMA Balance 4-30-11</b>			<b><u>\$12,761.48</u></b>
<b>CHASE BANK 2012 CONVENTION CHECKING 8-31-10</b>			<b>\$ 5,101.66</b>
<b>TOTAL REGION 15 ASSETS AT 4-30-11</b>			<b>\$35,106.09</b>

**REGION 15 AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY  
2011 INCOME & EXPENSES January 1 to April 30, 2011**

	APPROVED BUDGET 2011	01-01-11 TO 4-30-11 ACTUAL	OVER UNDER BUDGET 2011
<b>INCOME</b>			
Advertising Income	\$ 550.00	\$ 160.00	\$ (390.00)
Region Auctions**	600.00	1,087.000a	487.00
CD Bank Interest:			
Bank of AM CD		17.47	17.47
Ed Jones MM		0.16	0.16
Other		0.00	0.00
Donations for Website	1500.00	0.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 2,650.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,264.63</b>	<b>\$ (1,385.37)</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Newsletter	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 396.15	\$ (1,603.85)
RVP Travel	0.00	0.00	0.00
Officer Fund	1,000.00	0.00	(1,000.00)
Spring Trek	0.00	0.00	0.00
Spring Trek Shipping	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fall Meeting	500.00	0.00	(500.00)
Memorials	200.00	0.00	(200.00)
Reg 15 Website	495.00	0.00	(495.00)
Miscellaneous	100.00	0.00	(100.00)
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 4,295.00</b>	<b>\$ 396.16</b>	<b>\$ (3,898.85)</b>
<b>NET INCOME (LOSS)</b>	<b>(\$ 1,645.00)</b>	<b>\$868.48</b>	<b>\$ (2,513.48)</b>

\*\* a- Includes \$1,087 of 2010 Auction proceeds rec'd in 2011.



Mary & Al Escarcega's Garden  
in Quartz Hill, CA

## AIS Region 15 Trek Wheel

Event	Trek Host	Date	Location
Fall 2011 Trek	Inland Region Iris Society	Nov 11-12	Nuevo, CA
Spring 2012	AIS 2012 National Convention	Apr 16-21	Ontario, CA
Fall 2012 Trek	San Fernando Valley Iris Society		
Spring 2013 Trek	San Diego Iris Society		
Fall 2013 Trek	Verde Valley Area Iris Society		
Spring 2014 Trek	Southern California Iris Society		
Fall 2014 Trek	TBD		

## Yellow Iris By Richard C. Richards

The sun  
stings  
the ground  
In dazzling beads of sweat  
And oppression.

The ground cringes  
and burns.  
Turing hard and insensitive.

The sun grinds on  
Promising that August  
will never end.

The earth generates  
a vibrant  
yellow iris blossom  
For reply.



Reblooming Iris 'Pure As Gold'

### *Membership Report by Asst. RVP Winona Stevenson*

At our February meeting, our Reg. 15 membership was at 278. That's the lowest it's been in many, many years. However, we've gained five renewals and 3 new members since then, so we're on the upward swing. Our affiliate members still need to know of the benefits of being an AIS member and the benefits to the affiliate.



### *Judge's Training Report by Asst. RVP Winona Stevenson*

Judges Training - HOW GREAT! We have three students ready to be appointed to Apprentice status, and there are several members who are just starting as students. Training schedules are hard to set up. Many judges and affiliates are not able to plan far enough in advance to know when they will have a JT. So I would encourage all to keep on having these JT's so all our students can get the required number of hours to advance. And, please don't forget that once you are a judge, you need to continue your education at the rate of five hours every three years (3 classroom and 2 in-garden) to maintain your judge status. Master judges need two hours classroom and one hour in-garden every three years to maintain their status.

DON'T FORGET TO RETURN YOUR ACTIVITY REPORTS BY JULY 30. Thanks, Winona

Correction to Region 15 Spring Report on Judge's Training (page 27):

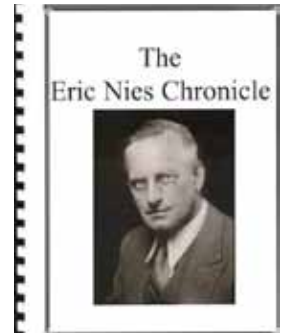
**...you will also need two 2-hour sessions of in-garden training under two different judge-instructors." This will complete the ten hours of apprentice training (2 awards & ballots, 4 show bench and 4 in-garden trainings).**



# A Hollywood Hybridizer

By Andi Rivarola

Being a lover of Spuria irises, I finally picked up the booklet *The Eric Nies Chronicle*, published by the American Iris Society, compiled and written by Mr. Nies' granddaughter, Nancy Nies. What a wonderful collection of stories and life experiences about someone so recognizable, but yet very much unknown to iris lovers of my generation. Reading it gave me a sense of loss in a way, for the great man, and for the inability to say, "Mr. Nies, I have a question for you about those Spurias you created." How many other early manipulators of iris genes (artists, really) were out there, whose dedicated lives are lost, except in the memory of early American gardeners (few of whom) are still with us? One of the most surprising pieces of information about Eric Nies is that he lived and created his irises right here in my town, Los Angeles. Secondly, what came to mind while reading this Chronicle is, why is it that Spurias have not taken off in popularity given the amount of work and dedication from early hybridizers? I don't really know.



Eric Nies was born in 1884 at Saugatuck, Michigan, and was one of thirteen children. His parents were immigrants from Holland. In 1913 he moves with his family to Los Angeles. He starts his hybridizing work in 1920 (what about this year, that so many important events start surfacing in the world). As a supervisor of an elementary school's agricultural center in Los Angeles, Mr. Nies first comes into contact with Spuria irises.

"During his life time, my grandfather," says Nancy Nies, "received numerous awards and honors for his iris, on both the local and national levels. These included eleven Honorable Mentions and four Awards of Merit from the American Iris Society. One of the latter, presented to 'Bronzspur,' had the distinction of being the first AIS Award of Merit ever given to a Spuria; another, awarded to 'Orchid Sprite,' was the first AIS Award of Merit ever won by a Pacific Coast native iris."

The chronology presented by Nancy Nies says that in 1933 Eric Nies joined the AIS, helps establish the Southern California Iris Society (still functioning today), and the Annual Hollywood Iris Show. Imagine that, an iris show around the glamour and seduction of those Hollywood days. Because he lived in the heart of Hollywood, entertainment stars were part of his iris-fan base and more so, after he named at least one of his bearded irises after one of them. The Hollywood Citizen News for April 21, 1944 reads, "Iris Named For Actress."

I was also happy to read that as late as 2002 the Nies/Walker Spuria cultivar, 'Driftwood' received the Royal Horticultural Society's Award of Garden Merit. Ironically, the American Iris Society awarded the Hybridizer's Medal to Eric Nies in 1952. He never knew he had received it though, since he died in January of the same year.

Marion Walker, who took over some of Eric Nies' work after his passing, said in the 1952 Bulletin, "His interest in botany led to his becoming an outstanding landscape architect. He had an exceptional love of beautiful flowers and plants, especially the delicately textured ones such as the bearded iris."

From the Bulletin of the American Iris Society #141 (April 1956) 36-39: "Although the catalogues of one of the pioneer commercial growers in Southern California, Mrs. Jennett Dean of the Moneta Gardens, offered Spuria hybrids for use in perennial borders, it was not until a chance break caught the attention of Eric Nies in the late 1930s and started him on a serious breeding program, that interest in this member of the iris family was revived. The species *ochroleuca* had been planted generously in home gardens and estates for its foliage accent and wealth of bloom in season, but the use of the newer hybrids has been a slow but steady climb into popularity. At present time Spurias are being used in planted coves along the freeways leading to the heart of Los Angeles, and in greater number in the parks and in private gardens. Interest in them has spurred the members of the Southern California Iris Society to grow all the available species in that section... The standard of perfection as set by Eric Nies for himself and now followed by others has improved the offerings."

Eric Nies goal was to develop, "a well-formed, reasonably tall blue Spuria," that he could use as a landscape architect, but that didn't deter him from producing and introducing what seems to be the first brown Spuria, 'Bronzspur.'

Marion Walker wrote as part of a published obituary, "He was looking forward to 1956, when the AIS [National Convention] is scheduled for Los Angeles, with the keenest anticipation, and had been exhorting the local growers to place more emphasis in their plantings on the native varieties for that event."

Hope these few glimpses of this pioneer of our iris world will inspire you to read more about him or earlier iris hybridizers. Information about *The Eric Nies Chronicle* may be found through the Spuria Iris Society. Other Historic Chronicles may be obtained from the Historic Iris Preservation Society. *This article was originally published March 24, 2011 on **The World of Irises - American Iris Society Blog.***

# Region 15 Youth Report

by Cheryl Deaton

American Iris Society Youth



[www.youth-iris.com](http://www.youth-iris.com)

When enrolling a youth into the American Iris Society Please include your youth member's name, address, email and birthdate. A youth is defined as a person under 19 years of age.

Our 2 youth members, Makayla & Logan, didn't have much luck this Spring. None of their irises bloomed, but they are growing very well. Grandma's irises had quite a few bee pods, so they will be taking care of the seeds once they ripen and waiting to see what grows. Maybe a future Dyke's Medal winner? You never can tell. Right now they are excited about the watermelon vines that are growing in the iris garden. They are looking forward to attending the August & September meetings of Hi Desert where they just might bring home a new iris to grow if they are successful bidding at the club auction!

We are hoping to get a Girl Scout Troop as a Classroom Iris Project. Region 18 is digging the "Storybook Garden" at the Missouri Botanical Garden and will send you irises for your youth group if you just pay the postage (around \$20 for the flat rate box). These irises have names that are either titles or characters in children's books.

Theme gardens are a wonderful way to encourage young people to grow irises. Recently a "patriotic themed garden" was planted at the Veteran's home in Lancaster, and I know of a church group that has a "religious themed" iris garden (think Immortality, Misty Miracle, Flash of Light). Can you think of a youth group that might enjoy planting a themed garden as part of a community service project? With all the cutbacks that cities are experiencing, they might welcome a beautification project such as an iris garden, especially since irises are drought tolerant and take very little care. Give me a call at (661) 252-6771 or send an email to [region15kids@hotmail.com](mailto:region15kids@hotmail.com) if you are interested in getting one of these groups started.

Youth dues are only \$5 per year, or \$9 if they want to receive the AIS Bulletin, IRISES, and I know that many clubs have extra rhizomes they could give to encourage young people to grow irises. If you get the kids interested, you just might get their parents interested as well, and getting new members is a good thing!



'Kathy Chilton' blooming in Mary & Al Escarcega's garden in Quartz Hill CA

## SPURIA SALE

We are glad to offer you these two new Spuria Irises that will enhance your Iris collection. These two new 2011 Spuria introductions from hybridizer Jim Hedgecock are available for only \$50 for the pair (shipping included). Please send your check to: The Spuria Iris Society  
c/o Debbie Babuscio  
6634 Gaviota, Lake Balboa, CA 91406



'Caribbean Blue'



'Cheyenne Sun'

# Les Peterson

By Christina Kary

Les was born in the small rural town of Logan Utah. In a time and place where families grew up on farms that supported themselves and their communities. A place where someone of today would imagine it to be a slow easy country lifestyle. Les probably didn't think it was easy to grow up like that.. growing up in a secluded valley. Walking to and from school in the snow. Coming home to spend the rest of the afternoon working on the farm, plowing fields, milking cows, collecting eggs...

Family histories and early twentieth century census records show Les as a farmer, working on his step-father's farm until he joined the Navy, at age 20, in 1917. Farm life quickly changed into a military life during that time of World War One. After serving in the Navy for 2 years, Les returned to Logan Utah and farming. In the early 1920's he met Edna. She was a pretty girl from the Smithfield/Benson area about 10 miles up the road. This was also the time of "Roaring 20's". We don't know just how "roaring" these little farm towns got to be, however the town histories all indicate the grand movie houses, dance halls and roller skating rinks were the place to be! Les and Edna married in 1922 and they moved to Salt Lake City, Utah. They lived in a little rented place. Edna worked dipping chocolates while Les secured a job with the United States Post Office. He kept this job all thru the Great Depression era and longer. After forty-two years, Les retired from the Post Office. By 1933, Les and Edna had saved enough money to buy their own house on 1 acre of land in an old farming area of Salt Lake City. They settled in, started a family and started their own farm with animals, crops and flowers. When Les and Edna purchased their house, it was small and sat near the front of a deep narrow plot of land. Their property was barren pasture land - a clean slate upon which to create their own beautiful garden and farm.



OGB arilbred 'Bold Sentry'  
awarded William Mohr  
Medal in 1990



OGB arilbred 'Silent Tears'  
awarded William Mohr  
Medal in 2000

Over the next twenty years, they built a barn, garage and additions to the house. They added fruit and shade trees and vegetable patches. The rest of the yard evolved into a beautiful sanctuary of intricate rose and tulip gardens, beds of columbine and alliums, lush green lawns, walkways, a pond surrounded by ferns, and beds of iris. Tall bearded iris, Median iris, and Les' favorite the Arilbred iris. Aril and Arilbred irises originated in the Near East deserts. A hardy and handsome flower, a plant that could withstand the hot dry air and soil and still produce beautiful delicate blooms. Les was told it couldn't be done, so he tried and successfully grew Arilbreds in his Northern Utah garden, his garden far away from the Arilbreds' native dry soils and air. His interest in these flowers and in other types of iris led him to join the American Iris Society. Here he learned about hybridizing, patiently waiting two years for the results, naming, registering and introducing the new flowers. In 1954 Les introduced his first iris, an Arilbred he named 'Short Song'. It was beautiful with lavender-blue standards and falls. In 1956, 'Young Brave' a large, bold, velvety smooth two-toned richly colored red Tall Bearded, was introduced. This iris went on to be recognized with the American Iris Society's Honorable Mention award. In 1960 he introduced 'Main Event' and



OGB arilbred 'SoniCe'

'Wham'. Many more iris were soon to follow.

Over the next three decades Les enjoyed his gardens full of irises. Among his favorites of all irises were the red ones. Les' challenge, one he was not alone in, was to create the perfect "red". In 1976 Les introduced a beautiful Tall Bearded iris with rich red falls and deep red standards. This was his masterpiece red. This iris he named "Le Sedna" after himself and his wife Edna. He introduced 120 iris in his lifetime and received 42 awards. Today, the passion for iris and gardening is carried on though Les and Edna's daughter Ardi, in Scottsdale Arizona, and with their granddaughter, Christina, in Smithfield Utah.

*Les Peterson's irises are grown by Ardi Kary and can be purchased through Kary Iris Gardens and on the web at [www.karyiris.com](http://www.karyiris.com).*

# Iris Hybridizer: Peter DeSantis

by Andi Rivarola

Pete DeSantis was born February 28, 1917 in the town of Long Branch, New Jersey to Italian parents, who were avowed gardeners. His father grew tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, all salad plants and pole beans. His mother had her own flower garden with all types of flowers including iris. In those days iris were called blue flags and one could only find blue, white and yellow iris. As a child, Pete loved to work in the garden, helping his father and mother. He also liked to read all types of books. His favorite was about Luther Burbank, who was a hybridizer of fruits and vegetables. Burbank's work fascinated him.

Pete's first gardening experience started when his father gave him a small plot of land and told him that he could plant anything he wanted. Pete chose to plant popcorn. The popcorn plants grew tall and plentiful and it was a big success. Several years later Pete served in the U.S. Army for four years during World War II, including eleven months on Okinawa, Japan. Even after returning to New Jersey, his heart was still on California where he had spent time training in Camp Santa Anita before going overseas. Pete finally returned to California where he married Frances, who unknown to Pete was also an avowed gardener. He purchased a home in Reseda with a nice backyard and started a garden.

Pete and Fran were invited by her sister (also an iris grower) to an iris show at the Los Angeles Botanical Gardens. There were all types, colors and arrangements of iris, and as of that moment they were hooked. They went home and planted all the iris they had purchased. In the early 70's through Fran's sister, Pete and Fran joined the Southern California Iris Society and that started what Pete called "the wonderful world of iris." They also joined a new Iris Society in the San Fernando Valley, closer to their home in Reseda, where they attended all the functions and activities. Later they became officers.

Before becoming a hybridizer Pete first participated in the artistic arrangements section of the annual iris shows. At one of the first shows they attended, Pete and Fran saw an iris arrangement. In Pete's opinion, it was awful and in a loud voice said to Fran, "it was an awful arrangement." Unbeknownst to Pete, the woman who made the arrangement was next to him and in an unfriendly voice said, "I suppose you can do better?" Pete replied that he had never made an arrangement, but that he thought he could. Being a fierce competitor, he started looking up books on flower arrangements and at the next show he entered seven arrangements. To his amazement, he won best of show, sweepstakes, and best theme. The woman (who later became a good friend) said to him, "you don't have to get so mad that you win everything." Pete later gave up arrangements and let Fran take over so he could focus on the horticulture section and hybridizing of irises. Since the late 1970's to early 1990's Pete received 14 silver medals, 13 bronze medals, 3 queens of show, hundreds of ribbons, and a showcase full of trophies. He also hybridized and introduced 12 irises. The most well known tall bearded iris Pete has introduced is 'Scoonchee', named after his granddaughter. Pete also introduced the following Spuria Irises: 'Franakins', 'Hasarya', and 'Hocka Hoona'.



TB 'Scoonchee'



TB 'Reseda Moon'



Spuria 'Hocka Hoona'



Spuria 'Hasarya'

Frances has passed away and Pete at age 91 does not compete but helps his granddaughters make iris arrangements. He still grows iris and has Spuria and Tall Bearded Iris seedlings, which he continues to work on.

Pete is a life member of the Southern California Iris Society, the San Fernando Valley Iris Society, and is a member of the Aril Society International, the American Iris Society, the Spuria Iris Society, the Louisiana Iris Society and the AIS Region 15.

# *Iris Achievements : Celebrating Region 15 Hybridizers*

by Katharina Notarianni

As I participated in the various Region 15 Treks, the greater my curiosity has become regarding the hybridizers behind the irises and their creative process. In this article, many Region 15 iris hybridizers have generously shared their motivations and inspirations in an update of their current hybridizing efforts. They have also shared photos of some of their introduced irises as well as seedlings. You may have some of their beauties already growing in your own garden. We will get to see some of their irises growing in the guest gardens at the 2012 national convention. I am particularly interested in growing irises from Region 15 because I am confident the irises will thrive in the too hot summers and not very cold winters of Southern California. For those of you who are interested in hybridizing, see Richard Richards' article "Confessions of a Back Yard Hybridizer" on page 24 and the Resources for Beginning Hybridizers on page 25. In addition, Andi Rivarola contributed two articles he recently wrote: one about Eric Nies, the Hollywood Hybridizer (page 10), and one about long-time hybridizer Peter DeSantis (page 12). You may have Pete's prolific purple iris 'Scoonchee' in your garden. I can confirm it grows particularly well in Ramona, CA. Christina Kary, who is related to well-known arilbred hybridizer Les Peterson, celebrates her grandfather's iris achievements (page 11). I am sure you too will be inspired by the achievements of our Region 15 hybridizers.

## *Cheryl Deaton*

*(aka The Iris Terrorist - nickname given by Keith Keppel)*

"I started hybridizing out of curiosity after Keith Keppel encouraged everyone to 'just try it' in his catalog. It's fun. I have a goal - a plicata space-ager in any color other than purple. But I keep getting sidetracked by what grows in my garden!

Iris Introductions by Cheryl Deaton: So far I have introduced 7 irises: 'Puzzling Allure', 'Horny Persian', 'Naughty Goddess', 'Men Like Me', 'Winona's Choice', 'Renegade Lady' and 'Avery's Hugs'. Not one of them is plicata although some have it in their parentage.

Seedlings: "I have a couple of seedlings that have nothing in common, but I am encouraged. One of them, my first rebloomer, will be introduced in 2012 as 'Feeling Spicy Tonight'. It's a burnt orange bitone with bright orange beards. 2 other seedlings were in Tucson, LFDR 27B and TROS 8, and I can't make up my mind about TROS 17 - it grows great but it's another purple, good bud count and branching, but it's another purple. Another one is BTMM 221 - plicata breeding but I got a confused space-ager out of it - it can't decide whether to have horns, spoons or flounces, sometimes on the same flower!"



TB 'Men Like Me'



TB 'Renegade Lady'



Above: Deaton Seedling  
BTMM221



Right: Deaton Seedling  
'Feeling Spicy Tonight'



TB 'Avery's Hugs'

*Richard C. Richards*

"I work with the TB group and the PCIs. It's fun to see what can be produced from two parent plants. I almost always get something I don't expect. At present I am working with pollen from the native Californicae I. hartwegii australis, growing in the Southern California mountains. Plus I am trying to produce a good white with violet or blue style arms. In addition, I am trying to produce a reblooming greenish TB, or a non-reblooming greenish TB, since the available parents are very limited."

Iris Introductions by Richard Richards:

PCI 'Clarice Richards' (1983). TB 'Amethyst Winter' (1998), TB 'Bernice's Legacy', (2000, registered for Bernice Miller), TB 'Marty Richards' (2005), and TB 'Easy Being Green' (2009).

Seedlings: "I have a registered seedling, TB 'Classical Brass', not introduced. 'Classical Brass' is still being evaluated. It's a good iris, from my green line naturally, and can be up to 50" and have four or five branches, with up to 12 or 13 flowers when it is happy, in other words quite a showman. I have some interesting greenish seedlings, mostly children of 'Easy Being Green', but nothing as good as EBG so far. EBG did produce an interesting reblooming bicolor, yellow and blue, so you just don't know what breeding for green will produce."



Reblooming TB 'Marty Richards'



PCI 'Clarice Richards'



Richards TB Seedling 'Classical Brass'



TB 'Easy Being Green'

*Janis Shackelford*

"I started hybridizing after reading an article in an AIS bulletin on how to make crosses. There was also a description of how to successfully germinate seeds. This was sometime around 1999 and by 2001 I had my first hybrids. Initially I crossed whatever was blooming in my garden with no real goal in mind. But the excitement of seeing your own blooms is addictive. My worst problem is a lack of space to accommodate all the crosses I would like to make. After ten years I have only a couple of hybrids that I continue to evaluate and am now much more critical in deciding which flowers to cross and which hybrids to keep, looking for rebloomers with modern form and high bud count."



Shackelford iris garden

## Ted Howse

After some years of hybridizing irises, Ted and Rose Howse started Iris Howse and Gardens in 1999 as a forum to introduce Ted's varieties of bearded, pacific coast, Louisianas and spuria irises. One remarkable trait of his irises is that they consistently grow well in the more temperate San Diego coastal area of Bonita as well as in the more extreme temperatures of inland regions, like Ramona.

Iris Introductions by Ted Howse:

TB 'On Eagle's Wings' (2006), TB 'Created by Him', TB 'Through the Veil' (2006), space ager TB 'Speaking of Living Water' (2008), PCI 'Love is Kind' (2008), PCI 'Love is Patient' (2008), PCI 'Love's Not Jealous', and most recently TB 'Humbed by Grace' (2009), TB 'I'm Blessed' (2009), and MTB 'Streets of Pure Gold' (2009).

Seedlings: Ted is currently hybridizing TBs, Louisianas, spurias and PCIs.



TB 'I'm Blessed'



PCI 'Love is Kind'



PCI 'Love is Patient'



Space ager 'Speaking of Living Water'

## Jerry Moorhead

"I was always fascinated with iris since I was a young child. I am now about to turn 79. When I was 13 my mother ordered iris from Cooley's. When the next year's catalog came I went through it from cover to cover checking the iris I hoped my mother would buy. One that I wanted was that year's introduction, but knew my mother would not pay that much for one plant. I did notice that it was a cross from two iris that we had. So I thought I would make the same cross and would not have to buy the one I wanted. Little did I know, you don't always get the same results...and I didn't. But that is what started me in hybridizing."

Iris Introductions by Jerry Moorhead: TB 'A Star Is Born', available through Mid America Garden. To quote Paul Black, "We fell in love with this gorgeous creation of Gerald Moorhead's when it bloomed as a guest at the 2006 AIS convention. We wanted to make sure that as many people could enjoy it as possible and asked him if we could introduce it. He agreed. Gerald is working for dark brown to black beards and 'A Star Is Born' is a solid accomplishment in that direction. Standards are yummy mid champagne peach which is repeated over the hafts and paler diffuse



TB 'A Star is Born'



Moorhead Seedling 91-26



Moorhead Seedling 'Home Before Dark'

bands around pale butter champagne falls. Spectacular dark reddish sienna beards are the piece de resistance. A Star Is Born offers exciting breeding possibilities with its well-branched show stalks having 3 branches and 8-9 buds."

Seedlings: "I am interested in light colored iris that either have multi-color hairs in the beard AKA blue, red and purple or dark brown or black beards. Seedling 91-26 is one of the parents of 'A Star Is Born'...I personally think it is a better iris than it's child, but of course does not have the darker beard like its child. When 'Home Before Dark' first bloomed I was very excited about it, but that soon turned to sadness when I found out it did not like to grow any where but Southern California, it did not even like Oregon."

*Ken and Christie Pierson*

"We started hybridizing just for fun in 1999 but really enjoyed the research process. We were really interested to find out about layering colors, i.e., purple over non-water soluble yellow to get brown, but if blue/purple were present in both irises you could get purple falls edged brown!! That's what happened with the cross of Corona Gold x Jurassic Park. Alas that beautiful iris was lost after the fires of 2003. It was awarded an EC. We will repeat that cross!

Irises introduced by the Piersons: TB 'Chad Curry', TB 'A New Song'

We have two irises that were awarded an EC that are commercially available this year from Iris Howse and Gardens. Both were featured at the last Spring Trek in San Diego. One was noticed by a judge who insisted it be a write-in for Best Seedling.

'Chad Curry', whose garden name was Tower of Power, features purple black velvet falls, gold beards, lighter purple standards, 9-13 buds, 4 flowers open at once, and showstopper stalks. One of our members came over and said "You have to let Ted introduce this iris!" We named it in honor of our friends' lovely and fun-loving son up in Heaven now whose motto was "Never Give Up!" Our other intro, 'A New Song' is a large pink ridiculously

fertile and vigorous iris that was noticed at the National Convention in Fresno because it looked like a 4 year clump compared to its neighboring smaller clumped iris planted at the same time!



TB 'A New Song'

*Gary Miller*

"I like to consider myself as a hybridizer, or at least a novice at it. In 1983 I made my first cross and in 1987 I introduced my first iris through Shepard's Iris Gardens 'Imogene Pearl' - this iris was a living memorial named after my mother that had died in an auto accident in 1973. Until now it was my only introduction. For various reasons I got out of irises in 1995 and only had a few spurias left growing and didn't pay much attention to them. In 2008 I retired from the postal service after 43 years of government service. I decided I would get back into irises once again. Shepard's had retired and moved, so I went to Ardi Kary and purchased some irises. While the irises were blooming in 2010 a couple of seed pods formed on their own on 'Mohric Art', an Arilbred. I had two SDB irises blooming so I thought I would make a cross and a seed pod formed. As the pods ripened and were about split I put some small netting bags over them in order to catch the seeds when the pods opened. I planted the seeds in one gallon pots and waited. From the "Mohric Art" pods I have 5 seedlings coming up which is a little disappointing as there was over 60 seeds from 2 pods. From the SDB pod I have 17 seedlings coming up. I hope to see bloom in the 2012 season. I haven't made any other crosses as yet but have taught a few people how to do it. Aril/ Arilbred irises do very well here and I just may hybridize them the most. I was told SDB's don't do well in our Phoenix valley climate but I will be working on the ones that can grow in our climate."

Irises introduced by Gary Miller: TB 'Imogene Pearl'



TB 'Chad Curry' aka Tower of Power



Christie proudly shows Edith Schade her seedlings



Miller's TB 'Imogene Pearl'



## *Iris Achievements: Celebrating Region 15 Hybridizers (continued)*

### *Margie Valenzuela*

"I hybridize Bearded, and just recently a few Arilbred x TB, for a couple of reasons:

1.) To bring both beauty, and if possible, something new and unusual into the world ...for both my enjoyment and for the enjoyment of others. 2.) I'm awestruck with the first time opening of seedlings. They are like gifts (that exist only in my backyard at the time) which have been entrusted to me and are initially for my eyes only. 3.) Genetics, the combination thereof (when parent irises are crossed), and the end results of a cross - just fascinate me so much and produce such a great sense of accomplishment and satisfaction. Initially I had set goals, but.....what actually materialized were beauties that left me going in other directions. So, in the last few years I have set simpler goals that are broader based w/ some specifics like luminatas, new colors in plicatas, Aril-bred x TB mixes, some new 4-4-4 formed TB's, hoping that some of these will also have rebloom capabilities. Margie Valenzuela Introductions: Thus far my first 17 introductions have been through Nola's Iris Garden located in Northern California. Rockytop Iris Gardens also carries some of my introduced iris varieties. These introductions include: 2 rebloomers - 'Sedona Sunset' and 'Elegant Dancer'; A 4-4-4 petaled bearded iris named 'Grand Canyon Gold', which unfortunately doesn't seem to bloom with all it's 4 parts in some areas of the U.S.; and an iris which has won the 2010 AIS Region 15 (joint) award for "The Best Introduced Cultivar" on the Trek 'Birthday Magic'. Some other favorite and popular introductions include: 'Easter Wonder', 'Secret World', 'Your Highness', 'Hidden Gem', 'Your Majesty', 'Salt and Pepper', and 'Vance George'.

Seedlings: I have a couple of seedlings that I'm excited about which are distinctive. I have two other TB 4-4-4 formed seedlings growing; one very unusual TB seedling that looks similar to an arilbred,



Valenzuela's reblooming BB luminata seedling

but has no arilbred breeding in its genes (which I almost lost to harvesting ants, but is now increasing again); a Border Bearded (BB) soon to be introduced which is a reblooming luminata; a gold seedling, named 'Calizona Gold' that has the (red) "lines and speckles" pattern and is the name-sake iris for the 2012 AIS Convention - this iris will also be introduced in 2012 through Stanton Iris Gardens; a lovely yellow/pink-purple pastel beauty with great form, and lots of lace and ruffles; another distinct looking seedling with an unusual color pattern in the falls, as well as a wide rich yellow rim on the standards; a stunning golden shimmery pearl-like seedling; and last, but not least, the first pastel luminata of its kind! You'll be able to see many of my iris seedlings, introductions and possible future introductions at the 2012 AIS convention."



Rebloomer 'Sedona Sunset'



TB 'Secret World'

### *Randy Squires*

Randy Squires of SFVIS has been hybridizing irises since 1978, and is a serious backyard hybridizer with hundreds of crosses and thousands of seedlings under evaluation. Randy won the Hamner Award for Best In-Region Seedling at the 2006 Region 15 Spring Trek for 'Hawaiian Rain', introduced in 2008. Seedlings that were judged at the 2010 Region 15 Spring Trek in Tucson included a beautiful pastel spaceager and a bold plicata.



Squires seedling 01-25



Squires seedling 3-82



TB 'Hawaiian Rain'

### *Alex and Kitty Stanton*

Located in Valley Center, Alex and Kitty Stanton of Stanton Iris Gardens grow over four acres of iris cultivars including new introductions from Kerr, Keppel, Ghio, Blyth and Lauer and over 170 reblooming iris varieties. Stanton Iris Gardens will host Guest Iris Master plantings of the 2012 AIS National Convention. The 949 guest iris that have been planted include Tall Bearded, Intermediate Bearded, Border Bearded, Standard Dwarf Bearded, Aril and Aril Bred Iris, and Spuria iris. There will be a Blind Iris Judging during the 2012 AIS National Convention in the Stanton Iris Garden. See more about their irises on Facebook.

Focus & Seedlings: Both Alex and Kitty have been hybridizing irises over the past few years. They currently have under evaluation a stunning mauve colored vigorous rebloomer, ST07-555, which has bloom stalks year-round (see page 36), as well as a very nice red iris.



Stanton seedling

Stanton seedlings

Stanton seedling

### *Carole and Paul Buchheim*

Well known for their dedication to growing reblooming irises, Carole and Paul Buchheim established Mystic Lake Gardens in Nuevo, California and grow over 2000 different iris cultivars and feature a Dykes Medal Winners garden. According to the Reblooming Iris Recorder, which Carole publishes for the Reblooming Iris Society, several irises rebloom almost continuously in Region 15. It is wonderful that at the 2012 AIS National Convention the committee will be noting for the first time guest irises which have reblooming characteristics.

Mystic Lake Gardens is hosting the Guest Iris Master Planting at the 2012 AIS National Convention. In the early fall of 2010 just under a thousand guest irises were planted including nearly all classes of bearded irises and more than a dozen Louisianas.

Seedlings: Carole and Paul's hybridizing efforts focus on reblooming traits.



Buchheim seedling 05-285

Buchheim seedling 05-141

Mystic Lake Gardens

## *Bill Molnar*

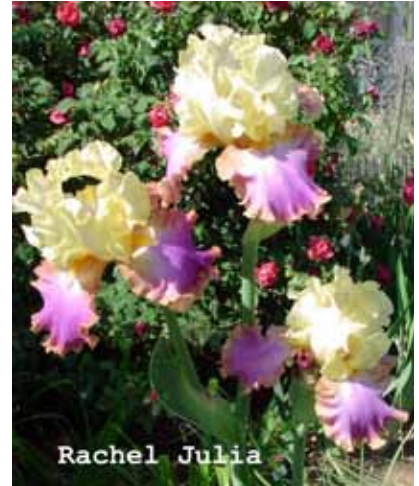
"I know that I cannot compete with the incredible "once a year bloomers" out there. My goal however is to create a line of everblooming tall bearded iris with a flower count of around 12-15 blooms per stem that will perform in most parts of the country. My belief is that once there are several year round blooming iris, the fancier patterns will eventually be bred into them. Still no success, but I keep trying."



Potted seeds



Molnar's seedling



## *Francelle Edwards*

"The Joy of Hybridizing: To me the fascination of hybridizing lies in its diversity and creativity. When I plant commercial rhizomes, clones of introduced varieties, I know exactly what I am getting. They can delight me with their beauty, but they can't surprise me, and I love surprises.

Just as no two people have ever been born exactly alike, no two irises grown from seed are ever exactly alike. The range of diversity that one gets even from the same pod is amazing. I find this keeps hybridizing addictively surprising. Nevertheless, by choosing parents with characteristics that I want, I increase the chance that those characteristics will appear in the seedlings.

When I first started hybridizing I had no idea of goals and just crossed pretty with pretty. Some results were nice; some were ridiculous. I quickly learned some basic knowledge of dominant and recessive traits, and settled on a goal of developing vigorous, unique pink irises. I also had reinforced what I already knew, that I don't create these irises; God does. The best of my first efforts were not pink, but they incorporated an even more desirable characteristic; they proved to be rebloomers.

From the best of these reblooming seedlings, a regal white that I have introducing as Cloud Reflection, (Mesmerizer X Pink Champagne) I am developing a line of reblooming pink seedlings that I hope will meet my goal. I don't hesitate to introduce a seedling that is neither pink nor reblooms if I am sure that it is a superior iris that meets my standard of being an improvement over each of its parents.

Arthritis has slowed my garden work in the past couple of years, but I have over two hundred pink seedlings from some exciting crosses that will start blooming next year. This is a prospect that keeps me going."



Francelle with TB 'Sarah Rose'



TB 'Anasazi Legend'



# Irises in the Garden: Planting with a Dominant Color

By Renee Fraser

Irises are the perfect beginning gardener's plant. Tall bearded irises in particular grow in most areas of the country, have low water requirements, need little fertilizer, and reproduce perfect copies of themselves.

Irises are also the ideal garden flower for those of us who are color-challenged. By matching companion flowers to the color of the iris, beautiful garden planting schemes can be achieved even by those of us who wear stripes with checks. The beauty of irises is accentuated when they are set against other perennial flowers, bulbs, shrubs and foliage, or even grasses.

The classic companion for irises is roses. Note the perfect matching of reblooming iris 'Total Recall' with 'Julia Child' floribunda rose. 'Sweet Musette' looks great with alstroemeria. *Limonium perezii* (also known as *Statice*) has the same water requirements as tall bearded iris. 'Designer's Art' with *limonium*.



'Total Recall'

Perennials and bulbs are good choices as companions in colder climates. Brenda Fox gardens

on 40 acres of land in Western New York. Her first gardening love was irises, and she plans her gardens around the use of a dominant color in each bed. You can see her masterful use of color and design in the garden. She uses 'Gypsy Romance', her favorite iris, with *malva mauritania* and lupines. She says the photo is "photoshopped"; the iris really is this bright.



'Sweet Musette'

*Nepeta* 'Walker's Low' combines well with tall bearded iris 'Dover Beach'. Her talent with color is shown by her combination of dwarf iris with *Salvia eveline*, *Persicaria bistorta*, and pink forget-me-not. And for those of you who love brightly colored foliage, take a look at Brenda's combination of 'Samurai Warrior' and red barberry. The blue-green color of iris foliage works well with most any color of foliage. In a California garden, 'Lady Friend' is pictured with new rose growth.

Annuals are another choice that can work well in the garden with irises.

Nasturtiums are lovely companions but can smother iris rhizomes, so be careful.

'Cajun Rhythm' is pictured with 'Apricot Trifle'. And rebloomer 'Frequent Flyer' goes well with annual *paludosum* daisies, which reseed. Grasses are a nice contrast to the ornate flower form of irises. 'Rip City' combines well with Japanese blood grass, and try enchanting, muted 'Thornbird' with *juncus* and *artemisia*. Some of the most beautiful and surprising uses of irises, however, show a cheerful disregard for color coordination. However you use them in your garden, irises provide a rainbow of color.



'Designer's Art'

*This article reprinted with permission from the author, Renee Fraser; originally published June 13, 2011 on **World of Irises - The Blog of the American Iris Society**. Photos by Brenda Fox.*



'Dover Beach'



'Lady Friend'



'Gypsy Romance'



'Samurai Warrior'



'Frequent Flyer'



'Rip City'



'Thornbird'



'Cajun Rhythm'

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*Early Registration Discount Valid until February 1, 2012*

# *More Information About the AIS National Convention in 2012*

By Jill Bonino, Convention Committee Co-Chair

By the time you read this, we will have all enjoyed the flowers, gardens, and Canadian hospitality at the AIS National Convention in Victoria. How could we ever top this??? Well, Region 15 of the AIS, which covers the southern California and all Arizona affiliates, is stepping up to the plate. Calizona Gold 2012 will be happening from April 16 thru 21, 2012 in Ontario, California.

Our Convention Hotel is the Doubletree Hotel Ontario Airport....No, not in Canada, but in Southern California, in the heart of the Inland Empire. It is located at 222 North Vineyard Avenue, Ontario, CA 91764. Reservations can be made by calling toll-free 1-800-222-TREE (1-800-222-8733, or by calling the direct line at 1-909-418-4848. You will be able to make on-line reservations directly with the Hotel from their website: <http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/O/ONTO-DT-AIS-20120414/index.jhtml?WT.mc.id=POG>.

Our Convention reservation system is up and running now. The group code word for the Convention is "AIS". The cut-off date for Hotel reservations is March 15, 2012. Our group rate for the Hotel is \$125 plus local tax and will hold for up to 4 people in a room. In addition, this room rate will be applicable for 3 nights before and after our Convention dates of April 16 - 21, 2012.

Many, many amenities come with the DoubleTree Hotel.

- The Ontario International Airport is just down the street. All major airlines fly into Ontario and the Hotel has a FREE SHUTTLE to and from this airport. You do not need to hassle with the Los Angeles Airport (LAX) and pay for a shuttle bus to the Hotel. The Hotel lobby also has a monitor with the current flights and gates leaving Ontario Airport and you can print your boarding pass FREE.
- Each room in the Hotel has a microwave, small refrigerator, coffee maker and TV at no extra charge. You do not need to rent anything extra.
- The Hotel has FREE parking should you decide to drive to the Convention or rent a car from the airport. The Hotel also has a car rental desk if you decide you want to do any spontaneous excursions on your own.
- There is FREE Internet in the spacious lobby and lounge area as well as the nearby Business Office.
- The Hotel is Pet-Friendly. A \$50 non-refundable deposit will allow your pet in your room if it is under 25 lbs.
- There is a FREE SHUTTLE to Ontario Mills Mall, a huge multi-store indoor shopping mall near the Hotel. It has a large Food Court, all of the usual large anchor stores, as well as a movie theatre.

The discounted cost for early registration for the 2012 AIS National Convention will be \$299 for Full Registration until February 1, 2012. Full registration includes two banquets, 3 full days of garden tours including one full day at the The Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens, transportation to the gardens, one breakfast and 3 lunches in the gardens...among many other things. The Registration form is included with this publication and will also be published in the October issue of the AIS bulletin, IRISES. The form is also available online at [www.region15ais.org/convention](http://www.region15ais.org/convention). If you have any questions, registrars John and Carol Huffman can be reached at [chuffy@gmail.com](mailto:chuffy@gmail.com).

There will be TWO Guest Iris Master plantings, one at Mystic Lake Gardens and one at Stanton Iris Gardens. The 949 guest iris include Tall Bearded, Intermediate Bearded, Border Bearded, Standard Dwarf Bearded, Aril and Aril Bred Iris, and Spuria iris. The Huntington Gardens has a guest iris planting of about 450 iris and the Herb & Sara Holk Memorial Garden at Jurupa has about 500 guest iris. Several In Garden Judges Training sessions are planned in more than one garden. In addition, there will be a Blind Iris Judging at Stanton Iris Gardens. The Herb & Sara Holk Memorial Garden at Jurupa Cultural Center also has a Louisiana iris area.

Please mark April 16 - 21, 2012 on your calendar for Cali-Zona Gold 2012 - Visit the convention website at [www.region15ais.org/convention](http://www.region15ais.org/convention)

*Region 15 Proudly Hosts*

**AIS National Convention**  
**Cali-Zona Gold 2012**  
**APRIL 16 - 21, 2012**

'Cali-Zona Gold' iris by Margie Valenzuela



find us on  
**Facebook**





# Confessions of a Back Yard Hybridizer

By Richard C. Richards

Confessions as a literary form are supposed to give the whole truth about a topic. You probably don't want to hear the whole truth, and I probably can remember no more than half, but I will try to present the joys and disadvantages of hybridizing irises in your back yard.

In this case my back yard is a large one, by suburban Southern California standards, but it contains my cottage, which takes up a lot of space. At any given time my garden contains around 250 irises, sometimes less, especially after the spring blooming season. During the spring I dig out seedlings that do not fit in with what I am doing or are not improvements in what is available in the trade. So my beds have gaps in them, like the smile of a prizefighter after a particularly brutal bout.

## *The Joys of Hybridizing*

The joys of hybridizing are many. There is nothing quite like the appearance of a new stalk on a seedling you have planned, daubed the pollen, harvested the seed, planted, and put the seedling into the ground. I have stood transfixed in the garden when the bud, showing color, on a good stalk on a good plant, finally opens and it takes my breath away. "I did that," echoes in my mind. I know it's good and it's what I planned for, and I am slightly more than human at that moment, though considerably less than divine.

OK. It may not be quite what I planned for. I was planning for green, and this seedling is brown. But it's good and I'll take it anyway.

I am not going to mention the many, many more times I have bloomed a seedling that is going to redefine the word "ugly." Or at least "very, very ordinary." One more doggy purple. As if the world really needs that.

## *The Truth about Back Yard Hybridizing*

To create a really good iris, you have to be lucky. The more seedlings you can raise, the better your luck will be. You with your back yard simply cannot raise as many as the major hybridizers, and you will get their best irises on the market for your hybridizing efforts years after they have used those introductions in their own hybridizing programs. There are probably still some good irises in that DNA, however.

Low volume of seedlings is both a weakness and an opportunity.

Most of the major hybridizers support themselves by means of their iris businesses, and so they are tied to their gardens. Their business efforts can consume their time, their attention, and their lives. If you have a back yard garden, you are as tied to the soil as you want to be. Your livelihood does not depend on it so it can remain fun. You can pursue lines of breeding that the major hybridizers cannot or will not.

Most of the major hybridizers have multiple lines of breeding going. They have to produce the mandatory blue iris, the mandatory white, the violet, the plicata, the red, the dark purple, etc. each year. Their customers expect it. They really don't have much time to play and enjoy their hybridizing. Their garden consumes them.

Nor do they have much time or energy for long-term projects that won't produce salable results soon. You do, in all likelihood.

Now let's say you want to produce a really nice blue iris. It is not a military secret that all the major hybridizers produce blue irises. The competition is fierce. But let's say you want to produce a blue iris with a bright red beard. Most of the big guys don't have time for that, but you do. Do you want rebloom too, which is the wave of the future? Fine. You can breed for that in addition. The big guys are pretty much locked into traditional breeding programs, and that leaves a lot of specialized goals they do not have the time for or interest in. They are wrapped up in friendly competition with each other to produce the latest tocatta-manicotta-terracotta-pixicata, and don't



## *Confessions of a Back Yard Hybridizer continued from page 24*

have the interest or the time to seek a reblooming red-bearded blue.

You can make your contribution to the iris world by pursuing a very specific goal that the major hybridizers cannot or do not pursue.

The example of the reblooming red-bearded blue is just off the top of my head, but have you seen such an iris lately or at all? Want to talk a reblooming red-bearded yellow or just a good green? I can use some help in the area of breeding for green. That's the rock I'm enjoying pushing up the hill.

Another advantage you have is that you can form a quasi-personal relationship with your best seedlings. You watch them, you remember them, and you plan for them, year after year. If you had a thousand or more seedlings you have re-selected, you most probably cannot do that.

### *The Down Side of Back Yard Hybridizing*

I started hybridizing in the 1980s, and my first efforts were extraordinarily ordinary. The problem was that I had no real goal. I crossed whatever caught my attention, and I produced a few generations of spectacularly mediocre irises. But I learned a lot. I learned you need a goal or two, and no more. I had ten goals for a while. You cannot handle ten breeding lines in a back yard garden. Space limitations will not allow it. Now I am down to two, or maybe one, since the two are now blending.

Decide what you really want to do, find out if it has been done before, modify it so that your goal has not been achieved, and go for it, but do not expect instant success. It may take a few generations. Or in my case of breeding for green, it may be impossible. You never know until you try. And then you may not know for sure.

So if you are tempted to do some hybridizing, and have at least a grassy back yard, go ahead. There is nothing quite like it. Dreams of a Dykes Medal should be limited since your chances of getting the top awards are microscopic, but the fun factor is huge, and you're already digging in the dirt anyway.

If you need help, advice, encouragement, or someone to console you as you view your latest offering to the Great God of Ugliness, there are plenty of back yard hybridizers out there, and most of us are very generous with advice, encouragement, and even seedlings from our own gardens.

The friendships you form, the joys you experience, and the sense of accomplishment you gain when you succeed in producing something pretty good, are among the wonderful feelings this life has to offer. But you can't put starting off forever. Hybridizing takes time, it takes years, and you have only a limited time to do it.

Is it time to start?

## **Resources for the Beginning Iris Hybridizer**

There are several references you can turn to if you are just starting out. Firstly, ask a hybridizer in your local iris club for advice. If you prefer to have a step-by-step guide, there are a few online, just following the links:

**10 Steps to Hybridizing Irises** from San Diego Iris Society website - <https://sites.google.com/site/sandiegoirissociety/iris-links/10-steps-to-hybridizing-irises>

**3 Steps to Pollinating Irises** from Region 18 website - <http://www.region18.com/hybridizing.htm>

**Try Your Hand at Hybridizing with Irises** from Fine Gardening website, excerpted from William Shear's The Gardener's Iris Book - <http://www.finegardening.com/pages/bg0002.asp>

# President's Report Hi Desert Iris and Daylily Society

by Gail Lofdahl

As of July 1, 2011, our club has 57 members, including four youth members. Of that total, 15 are members of the American Iris Society. HDI&DS participated in the annual Antelope Valley Home Show at the Antelope Valley Fairgrounds from March 18-21.

Cheryl Deaton gave several presentations on "Drought-Tolerant Irises" to encourage the public to propagate irises. For the past several years, iris sales at this show have been our secondary fundraiser. Despite cold and blustery weather, our plant sales were strong.

Our annual show and sale was held this year on Saturday, April 16, and Sunday, April 17 in the Antelope Valley College (AVC) Horticulture Building and greenhouses. Despite cool weather, which caused our irises to bloom later than usual, we had excellent participation in the show. Three feature articles—including color photographs—about our club and the show and sale were published in our local newspaper, the Antelope Valley Press. Thanks to such excellent publicity—plus warm and sunny weather on the weekend of the sale—we sold approximately 1,500 potted irises. As always, AVC horticulture students helped us move and load pots for customers during our sale, and we gave them their choice of iris in return. Two new members joined at the show and sale.

We held our annual "members only" progressive dinner and garden tour on Saturday, April 23, visiting five club members' gardens. We ate soup and salad at the first garden, the main course at the third garden, and dessert and coffee at the fifth garden—with stops at two other gardens between courses. Thirty members participated.

We continue our support of the William J. "Pete" Knight Veterans Home in Lancaster, weeding the garden area as required. The veterans home members are maintaining the elevated planter boxes by themselves, but we help by maintaining the areas they'd have difficulty reaching. The irises came through the winter perfectly, and several are sending up bloom stalks.

Our club took its annual "garden tour" on June 26 to the Tillman Water Treatment Plant Japanese Garden in Sylmar, California.



**Best Design  
Congratulations  
Sue Yi Brown**



**Best Specimen of Show  
'Sunset Point'  
Congratulations Kim Ung**

# President's Report Inland Region Iris Society

by Immediate Past President Carole Buchheim

Springtime in the iris beds was wonderful this year with cooler temperatures and more rain. We began April with a bang. The very first weekend we had our Spring Iris Show and Sale at the Inland Center Mall. Everyone seemed nervous about having enough irises for the display tables and though we didn't have as many entries as usual there were plenty for the public to enjoy. The Spring Show winners were as follows: Steve McCullough, Silver Medal (most blue ribbons), Best Self and Best TB; Della DeCorse, Bronze Medal (2nd most blue ribbons); Kim Ung, Best Plicata; Alex and Kitty Stanton, Best Intermediate and Best Seedling; and Joyce Dean, Best Artistic Design and Artistic Sweepstakes (most blue ribbons).

On April 5th, just two days after the Spring Iris Show and Sale, Riley Probst gave our program, "Irises from A to Z", a grass roots show-and-tell PowerPoint program with informational handouts especially geared for new iris growers. I was delighted to see a number of new members who signed up at the show. On the second weekend of April we had a sales booth at the Riverside Flower Show.

For our May meeting, Carole Buchheim gave a PowerPoint program on the AIS Dykes Medal Winners. A display of the Dykes Medalists is grown at Mystic Lake Gardens and many stalks, particularly historic, were brought to the meeting for members to see. In the latter part of the month we hosted two sales, one at the Yucaipa Iris Festival and another at the Green Faire at the Jurupa Mountains Discovery Center.

In June, Paul and Carole Buchheim gave a video program on Buchart Gardens. The video is the official presentation prepared by Buchart Gardens showing the plantings over all four seasons as well as information on its history and growth over the years. Visiting Buchart Gardens was one of the highlights of attending the 2011 AIS National Convention in Victoria, British Columbia.

In July we had our annual "Great Iris Trade" which many look forward to each year. Members came early to begin wheeling and dealing for irises of interest. Irises were bought, sold, traded, and shared. New members were gifted with irises. Our club has been doing this event for five or six years now and though it took several years to get it off the ground, now the "Great Iris Trade" has become a looked-forward-to tradition. July also brought in a new slate of officers for Inland Region Iris Society: President, Carol Morgan; 1st V.P., Scott Snethen; 2nd V.P., a team of three, Cathy Coache, Lee McCool and Michele Nichols; Recording Secretary, Patty Movius; Treasurer, Claudia Dean, and Editor, Kitty Stanton.

August brings us to our Members Only Auction and potluck dinner at the Sims Tree Learning Center on August 5, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. In order to participate in the auction, attendees must have their membership current. A thousand dollars worth of new, newer and newest irises have been purchased for this event. Let the bidding wars begin!

The Inland Region Iris Society will be hosting the Region 15 Fall Meeting in Ontario, CA on Friday evening November 11 & Saturday, November 12, 2011 (agenda on page 2). The focus will be on reblooming irises and Saturday will feature a bus tour to Mystic Lake Gardens in Nuevo, CA. Out of nearly 1000 irises being grown for next year's 2012 AIS National Convention almost 100 have been designated as rebloomers. Several hundred other tall bearded and median rebloomers are grown there as well. Region 15 normally has their fall meeting the first or second weekend of October but has postponed this event until November to showcase the National Convention rebloomers as well as many others. We would be delighted to have you visit our monthly meetings. We meet on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Janet Goeske Center, 5257 Sierra Street, Riverside, CA 92504.





Lompoc Valley  
Iris Society

## President's Report Lompoc Valley Iris Society

by Ben Schleuning

The Lompoc Valley Iris Society started 2011 with a well attended meeting featuring guest speaker Rick Tasco. This meeting was open to our public and we were pleased by the response.

LVIS held our Annual Iris Show on April 30 and May 1 in the Grossman Gallery of the Lompoc Public Library. Following a long-standing tradition, the people who attended the show were asked to vote for their one favorite iris from the hundreds of beautiful varieties on display. It was not found to be an easy task, as shown by the fact that over seventy different

flowers were picked as personal first choices. The three winners, however, dominated the voting. First place went to "Temptone" (grower, Holly and Jeff Palmer), a rich deep blue with impeccable form. Second place went to "Lord of the Night" (grower, Leonard Todd), as lustrous a black as you will ever find in a flower, with a velvety finish to give it mysterious depth. Third place by a nose was "About Town" (grower, Leonard Todd), a sprightly, multicolored flower with energy and great charm. Seventy-nine growing plants were given away as free door-prizes, and the plants that were on sale were quickly sold out. Having a plant sale in conjunction with our show is a new venture for us; we started very small two years ago to test the idea, added a few more last year and we were nearly in short supply this year as the sale gained momentum. Some attendees were visibly more excited about the opportunity to purchase plants than in the blooms on display! As always there were people who were looking ahead and planning to acquire root-stock of their favorite varieties. Cameras were almost outnumbered by pencil and paper lists. This advance planning is expected to pay off at the Society's Annual Rhizome Sale to be held on July 23. We are all beginning to dig in preparation for this event.

Our June meeting was highlighted by the awarding of our "Perpetual Optimist" award to Mr. Leonard Todd. This award is for the person who brought the most iris to the show. It is a fun incentive award for our members.

We are looking forward to our August meeting where we will enjoy a wonderful BBQ and receive our newly purchased rhizomes to grow for the society.



Leonard Todd being  
presented award by VP  
Marie Jacobsen



Winners of Popularity Vote at Lompoc Iris Show (L-R): 'Temptone',  
'Lord of the Night' and 'About Town'

## President's Report Prescott Area Iris Society

No report

<http://prescottirissociety.org/>

# President's Report Orange County Iris and Daylily Club

by Barbara Kline

We had a very successful Green Scene 2-day event at the Fullerton Arboretum in April. The weather did cooperate, in fact it was pretty warm for us. We did have a nice location with shade and had a fun time selling almost all the iris and daylilies that the members had grown and prepared for the sale. The entire process was also a great learning experience for those of us that are new to the club.

One of our club members, Herb Mauner, had about 100 common iris that he brought to the Green Scene and those were given away for free when customers purchased three to five named iris. We had a large color picture on the bag and customers were very pleased to get them.

The iris and daylilies that were left over were donated to the Norma Gibbs Monarch Butterfly Over-wintering Park in Huntington Beach. Leslie Gilson, who volunteers her time to renovating the park had given a wonderful talk to the club about the Monarch Butterfly and her park renovation.

Our little club is moving right along with a few new members this year. Our last meeting was our first round table discussion of the year and I think everyone learned a great deal about iris and daylily care.

The next few months are our Potluck Socials; one with a special large Plant Table and then two with iris auctions. Just like Sothebys!



# President's Report San Diego Iris Society

by Bill Molnar

San Diego's Spring Show was a great success. We sold a record amount of iris to help fill the treasury for activities next year. This year as President, I challenged each member to bring in at least one iris stalk to our Spring Show, even if they had to pick it from their neighbor's yard. The challenge was accepted and we had the largest number of individuals entering that we could remember. Three entrants from our show that stand out are (1) Ted and Rose Howse who won the major number of trophy's at the show, (2) Leif and Jennifer Fisher, first time entrants who accepted my challenge to just bring an iris and won the trophy for Best Red, and (3) Kim Ung who transported his iris all the way from Los Angeles to San Diego keeping them in perfect condition to win Best of Show. In addition, Kathy Taylor won Best Design. A slideshow of the best of show winners is on the SDIS website at [www.sandiegoirissociety.org](http://www.sandiegoirissociety.org).

Our upcoming year through March 2012 will start with our rhizome sale in Balboa Park for two Sundays in a row during September. Then, two months of guest speakers, a Christmas Party, two more educational months of guest speakers, plus our clubs annual Birthday Party in February. Our featured guest speaker in February will be iris hybridizer Douglas Kanarowski. You may have read about him in the April 2011 AIS IRISES magazine on pages 34-36. He is actively breeding iris for light transparency, quadruple terminal buds held in three planes, rootbeer brown color iris, watercolor-like pigment application, and continuous rebloomers. We are anxiously looking forward to hearing about his successes.

## SDIS Spring Show



Most Blue Ribbons  
and more!  
Ted & Rose Howse

Best Red Iris  
'Dynamite'  
Leif and Jennifer Fisher

Best Specimen of Show  
'Rare Treat' and more!  
Kim Ung

Best Design  
Kathy Taylor

Visit the San Diego Iris Society Website at  
[www.SanDiegoIrisSociety.org](http://www.SanDiegoIrisSociety.org)

# President's Report

## San Fernando Valley Iris Society

by Andi Rivarola

facebook



San Fernando Valley  
Iris Society

It is with great pleasure that I write my first message as president of the San Fernando Valley Iris Society.

A very grateful salute to Steve Fletcher for serving as President for several years, and big thank yous also to my co-horts in this new endeavor: VP Debbie Babuscio, Secretary Lira Vickers, and Treasurer Jan Lauritzen. Also, to our new Irisarian Editor, Mary Anne Abrahms. The rest of the members of the Board, I appreciate your efforts and dedication too.

I am filled with inspiration from the recent American Iris Society National Convention held in Victoria, British Columbia. The gardens were outstanding, packed with all kinds of plants. Since their bloom season was two weeks late, Tall Bearded irises were just starting to bloom during our week there, but there were lots of median and Siberians in full bloom, which were a real treat for us since normally we cannot grow these types of irises ourselves due to – mainly – climate conditions. Several of our SFVIS members were at the National Convention and it looked like they were having lots of fun.

Last weekend we had our second Iris Sale at the Encino Farmers Market. Both on Sundays, June 12 and 26, were very successful sales. We had lots of members contribute their rhizomes, and we also had lots of buyers. So, thank you to our members for being so generous with their irises and time to help.

Bob Sussman will be giving the next presentation at our next general meeting on Thursday, July 7th and the subject is "How to Successfully Grow Pacific Coast Irises." Bob is the new president of the Society for Pacific Coast Native Irises, and an ongoing hybridizer of PCN irises for several years.

I am happy to report that we're finally catching up with technology. As of July SFVIS newsletter, the Irisarian, the format is now a PDF, which is emailed to many of our members. It's in full color, and with that the goal is to make an attractive product that can serve as a tool to gain new members. Our new Editor, Mary Anne Abrahms is responsible for this and I want to personally thank her for accepting the challenge and for putting a lot of time and effort into it.



Show Judges

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Queen of Show 'Glacier Point'



Visit the San Fernando Valley Iris Society Website at  
[www.SanFernandoValleyIrisSociety.org](http://www.SanFernandoValleyIrisSociety.org)

# President's Report Southern California Iris Society

by Mike Monninger

This was our best year for iris sales to the public. We sold newer iris from members gardens and those with 'Wow' factor or newer were priced at \$10 each for bareroot rhizomes. Sales were higher with less product. We didn't offer discounted iris on the last day, and remaining rhizomes were taken home and planted for next year.

Membership remains a critical problem. We need to explore using the internet to attract new members.

Our active members only auctions for bearded and beardless iris are planned for August and September, respectively. There are no region iris to auction his year but next year will provide a surfeit of region iris donated by hybridizers from the guest iris at the AIS convention in Ontario. We may consider reducing the number of iris we order for the members auction because of the large number of region iris.

SCIS held its iris show April 9 and 10 at the L.A. Arboreteum in Arcadia. We had over 100 entries in horticulture and about 15 in design. Kim Ung, a totally unknown talent outside of Southern Calif., had the best specimen. Angie Fierro had the best design. Lynn McIlwain won the Silver Medal (21 blue reibbons), Kim won the Bronze Medal. Derry Gerald won the Artistic Sweepstakes.

We also had high sales for a show at the Arboreteum exceeding \$1,000.



Best Design  
'Michelangelo'

Angie Fierro



Best Specimen  
'Rare Treat'

Kim Ung



Winner of AIS Photo Contest  
'Gypsy Geena' at Mystic Lake by Kim Ung

Honorable  
Mention, AIS  
Photo Contest  
'Spider on  
Mesmerizer': Kim Ung





# President's Report

## Sun Country Iris Society

by Dee Wilson

Looking back over the past few weeks, it's unbelievable the events we've all experienced. Going back through the Early Iris Exhibit March 26th; Judges' Training April 3rd; the local Garden Tours ending with another Judges' Training session the 9th; the AIS Spring Show the 16th, Board Meeting the 21st right through to the Region 15 Spring Trek April 30 – May 1 and next, the May meeting with our Photo Contest and Awards Presentations May 3rd. What a schedule!

I'm sure every other President's Message includes most of the same activities. Our society has made great strides in having successful turnouts for our meetings and new members to join us. We are now challenged to create a plan for keeping the new members interested and holding on to the members who have been around for a long time. We want to focus on letting everyone know the benefits of belonging to the SCIS as well as the AIS. Our website posts the many dates planned for our Fall 2011 Iris Rhizome Sales.

As evidenced by our irises, we are gaining on how to grow really nice plants. Our judges' training is paying off in various ways. Some of the ideas that we have learned at our Regional meetings have been implemented and we plan to incorporate more with our main goal to get more of the members involved in more of the activities. Another goal is to create a way to track our progress through the months and years ahead through attendance records and membership counts. Of course, as always, we strive to grow more irises and be happy while we do.

## SCIS Spring Show



Guest Andresen and Members Larry Wilson, Gary Miller, Garry Petterson, and Willard Schroder admiring Schroder's Garden



Dee Wilson presenting certificate to Sharon Petterson for her winning photo entry

Visit the Sun Country Iris Society Website at  
[www.SunCountryIris.org](http://www.SunCountryIris.org)

# President's Report Tucson Area Iris Society

by Dian Curran

As we continue with this year's programs, we have part of our attention on the upcoming 2012 national convention. Our schedule for the remaining part of the year include our annual pot luck and Auction on September 10th and our Fall sale September 24th at Harlows Nursery. We will then have our last membership meeting on October 15th when we will elect our 2012 officers and start planning our 2012 events.

One of our highlights was our Spring Show on April 23rd at Harlows Nursery. Although they are terrific hosts and the public interest as high, the weather was not a good host. Overall the show was a great success in spite of the fact that it was an outdoor venue with higher winds than we would have liked.

A special thank you to the 15 members who said "yes" when asked to assist - some staying the entire event!! And of course we really appreciate the Judges Patrick Orr and Gerry Snyder, who did the honors without gratuities.

Approximately 100 entries were judged and Harlow Gardens gift certificates were presented as follows: Kathy Chilton: Best Specimen in Show, Horticultural Sweepstakes, Best Tall Bearded, Best Bearded, Best Aril; Gordon Jensen: Horticultural Sweepstakes Runner-Up, Best Seedling; Ben Herman: Best Plicata; Kevin Kart-chner (non-member): Best Beardless. The most popular iris, won by Kathy, was Peggy Anne and other popular irises were: Air Hog, Milady Grace, Lady of the Night, and Orange King.



Best of Show  
'Sweetly Sung'

Kathy Chilton

At the June meeting Gordon Jensen gave an overview of his first convention which as we all know was held Victoria, Vancouver, Canada. He stated that the highlight was the networking he was able to do while up there, and of course the tours.

Anyway, I hope to see many of you in future events and meetings in the coming year.

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Judging by Patrick Orr and Gerry Snyder



A sample of the irises  
we were blessed with

Visit the Tucson Area Iris Society Website at  
[www.TucsonIris.org](http://www.TucsonIris.org)

# President's Report Sonoran Desert Iris Society

by Darol Jurn

This past spring the Sonoran Desert Iris Society held their non-sanctioned show at the Montecito Retirement Facility in Peoria on April 16. The show was well received by the guests that attended the presentation, the Montecito facility was very supportive by providing coffee, tea and other delights for the visitors. There were a total of 50 cultivars on display including Tall Bearded (26), Spuria (21), IB (1) and Arils (2). Placing was based on popular vote by the visitors with first place going to 'Blueberry Bliss' (D. Jurn - 34 votes), second to 'Blueberry Bliss' (K. Johnsen - 19 votes) and third to 'Kathy Chilton' (K. Johnsen).

The Sonoran Desert Iris Society held a potluck for their May meeting to share the awards from the show. The club will take the summer off with the next meeting planned in September.

# President's Report Verde Valley Area Iris Society

by Betty Gaudy

Valley Verde Area Iris Society met in January and reviewed the Cottonwood Christmas Parade, which we participated in. Several members walked from the Verde Valley Fairgrounds to Old Town Cottonwood. We gave away an iris rhizome in a bag to people on the sidelines. We ran out of bags of irises. The program for our January meeting was an interactive demonstration of common color patterns of iris.

On March 20th, we had a table display in the "Back Yard Garden Expo" in Old Town Center for the Arts in Cottonwood. The March meeting featured a slide show.

On April 16th we had our annual display at Mt. Hope. Four members showed their irises and floral displays.

On April 28-May 1, members displayed iris blooms at the Verde Valley Fair in Cottonwood, Arizona.

## VAIS Annual Display



Visit the Verde Valley Area Iris Society Website at  
[http://www.region15ais.org/verde\\_ais/](http://www.region15ais.org/verde_ais/)

# AIS Region 15 Spring Trek at Stanton Iris Gardens

Photos by Katharina Notarianni



In-garden Judge's Training



TB 'Drive My Car'



TB 'Only In Dreams'



Stanton reblooming seedling ST07-555



Inspecting first year growth in 2012 convention garden



Stanton Iris Gardens, Valley Center



In-garden Judge's Training

# AIS REGION 15 CALENDAR

Month	Day	Event	Location	Contact
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## 2011 Calendar

August	2	Program on Arilbred Irises and Rhizome Sale & Members Only Auction	SCIS Valley Garden Ctr, Phoenix	Dee Wilson
	4	The AIS National Convention in Victoria presentation by Jill Bonino	SFVIS Canoga Park Womens Club	Andi Rivarola
	5	I.R.I.S. Members Only Auction and potluck dinner	Sims Tree Learning Center Jurupa Valley CA	Carol Morgan
	9	OCIDC Patio Potluck Social and Members-only Tall Bearded Iris Auction	OCIDC	Derry Gerald
September	5	VAIS Labor Day Sale	Mt. Hope Foods Contacts: jkregner@aol.com or irisgrower@cableone.net	Janet Regner or Linda Smith
	6	SCIS Rhizome Sale & Members Only Auction	SCIS	Dee Wilson
	9	Mike Monninger's Beardless Iris Auction (LA's and Spuria's)	OCIDC	Barbara Kline
	11 & 18	San Diego Iris Society Annual Rhizome Sales at Balboa Park, San Diego	Casa del Prado in the Courtyard	Bill Molnar
October	30 to 2	SCIS Iris Rhizome Sale at the Home & Garden Show - AZ State Fairgrounds - Fri/Sat 10am-7pm, Sun 10am-5pm		Dee Wilson
	4	SCIS Rhizome Sale & Members Only Auction - Spuria and Louisiana Irises	SCIS	Dee Wilson
	9	Cheryl Deaton on 'Sex in the Garden: A Beginner's Guide to Hybridizing'	SDIS Lakeside CA	Bill Molnar
	11	The AIS National Convention in Victoria presentation by Jill Bonino	OCIDC	Barbara Kline
	November	1	Program on Spuria and Louisiana Irises	SCIS, Phoenix AZ
3		Jim Hedgecock, Comanche Acres Iris Gardens, presentation on TBs including Judges Training	SFVIS Canoga Park Womens Club	Andi Rivarola
4-6		AIS National Board Meeting	Atlanta GA	Carolyn Hawkins
8		OCIDC - Superstation Garden owners Rick Tasco and Roger Duncan present Kick-off of 2011 Daylily Procurement Program	OCIDC	Barbara Kline
11-13		AIS Region 15 2011 Fall Trek at Mystic Lake Gardens and Jurupa Mountains Cultural Center	OCIDC Inland Region Iris Society Nuevo CA	John Hogancamp Carole Buchheim cbuchheim@gmail.com
13		2011 AIS National Convention Slideshow by Janis Shackelford	SDIS Lakeside CA	Bill Molnar

## 2012 Calendar

January	8	Iris Roundtable Discussion	SDIS, Lakeside CA	Bill Molnar
February	12	Hybridizer Douglas Kanarowski presents at SDIS Annual Birthday Party	Best Western Seven Seas Lodge San Diego CA	Bill Molnar
April	16-21	AIS 2012 National Convention	Ontario California	Jill Bonino / Kathy Chilton

Please check [www.region15ais.org](http://www.region15ais.org) and local chapter websites and facebook pages for up-to-date information on scheduled events.



## The American Iris Society

**Annual Membership:**  
Single \$25 / Dual \$30

**Triennial Rate:**  
Single \$60 / Dual \$75

**Life Membership:**  
Single \$450 / Dual: \$545  
**Senior Life (65+):**  
15% discount

**Youth (<19) Membership:**  
\$5 (w/o bulletin) or  
\$9 with AIS Irises Bulletin

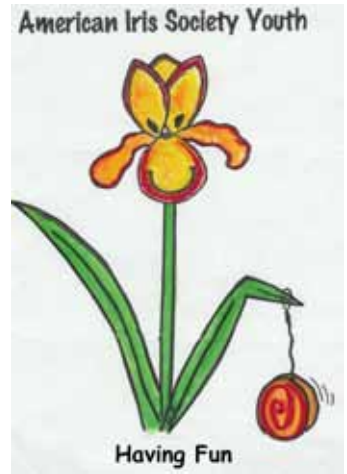
### Membership Renewals

**Check your  
AIS membership status:**  
[www.aislookup.org](http://www.aislookup.org)

**Renew your  
AIS membership:**  
[www.irises.org](http://www.irises.org)

Pay by check, Visa and Mastercard

Send payments to:  
Tom Gormley  
AIS Membership Secretary  
P. O. Box 177  
De Leon Springs, FL 32130-0177  
E-mail: [AIMemsec@irises.org](mailto:AIMemsec@irises.org)  
Phone: (386) 277-2057



[www.youth-iris.com](http://www.youth-iris.com)

When enrolling a youth into the American Iris Society Please include your youth member's name, address, email and birthdate. A youth is defined as a person under 19 years of age.

## AIS Region 15 Commercial Iris Gardens

**Cal-Dixie Iris Garden - (951) 780-0335**  
14115 Pear Street  
Riverside CA 92504  
email [cal-dixie@aol.com](mailto:cal-dixie@aol.com)

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

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

**Iris Howse and Gardens - (619) 479-3887**  
Ted and Rose Howse  
3915 Vista San Miguel  
Bonita, CA 91902  
[www.irishowseandgardens.com](http://www.irishowseandgardens.com)  
email [irishowseandgardens@cox.net](mailto:irishowseandgardens@cox.net)

**Kary Iris Gardens - (480) 949-0253**  
Ardi Kary  
6201 East Calle Rosa  
Scottsdale, AZ 85251  
[www.karyiris.com](http://www.karyiris.com)  
email [ardikary@aol.com](mailto:ardikary@aol.com)

**Lakeside Gardens - (760) 378-3841**  
Winona Stevenson  
8280 Entrada Blvd.  
Lake Isabella, CA 93240  
email [lakesideiris@aol.com](mailto:lakesideiris@aol.com)

**Mystic Lake Gardens - (951) 928-2337**  
Paul & Carole Buchheim  
22177 Polley Street  
Nuevo, CA 92567  
[www.mysticlakegardens.com](http://www.mysticlakegardens.com)  
email [cbuchheim@verizon.net](mailto:cbuchheim@verizon.net)

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

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

**Stanton Iris Gardens - (760) 415-3248**  
Alex and Kitty Stanton  
Lilac Vista Drive  
Valley Center CA  
[www.stantonirisgardens.com](http://www.stantonirisgardens.com)  
email [stantoniris@gmail.com](mailto:stantoniris@gmail.com)

# THE IRIS MARKETPLACE

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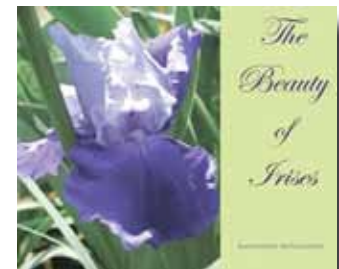


## KARY IRIS GARDENS

[www.karyiris.com](http://www.karyiris.com)  
Ardi Kary  
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Scottsdale AZ 85251  
[ArdiKary@aol.com](mailto:ArdiKary@aol.com)  
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