



The
American Iris
Society

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Region 15

Fall 2015 Semi-annual Report

YOU'RE INVITED!

AIS REGION 15 FALL MEETING

Hosted by the Prescott Area Iris Society

OCTOBER 9-10, 2015

PRESCOTT, ARIZONA

www.region15ais.org

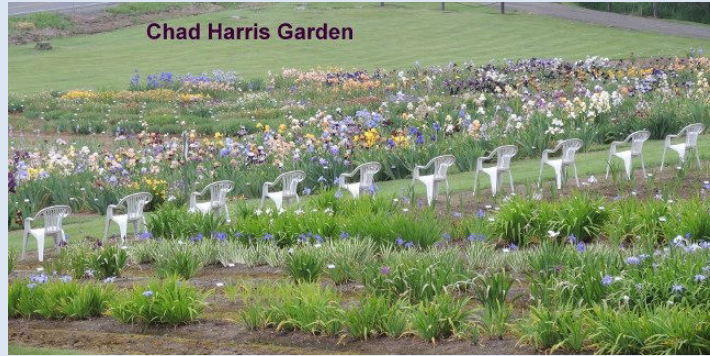
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PICTURES FROM THE AIS CONVENTION IN PORTLAND MAY 18-23, 2015



Aitken Garden



Chad Harris Garden



Kathleen Lang in Keith Keppel Garden



Miller's Manor Garden



Kevin Vaughn Succulent Bed



Leigh & Brian Moon

Beth Berry

Aitken Garden



Nancy Bernstein & Cheryl Deaton at Schreiner's Garden

Letter from the Interim Editor

It is August 10, 2015 and LIGHT SABER (Sutton) is still blooming in my garden in Glendale, CA. Never before and probably never again. I had more Tall Bearded bloom in May in our garden than in April. Weird weather.

I am filling in for Editor Beth Train while she is on a month long hiking vacation. Thanks much to you Beth for all of the files, material and helpful hints you sent for preparing my first Region newsletter and in learning Microsoft Publisher. If the newsletter doesn't look as fancy with fonts and borders etc. it is my fault not Beth's. I also take credit for all typos I didn't catch. I always miss a few. If I left out any photo credits or got something wrong, let Beth know and corrections will be in the next issue.

I received affiliate reports from all but Lompoc and Sun Country. I did receive an extra long article from Claire Schneider (SDIS) on her First AIS Convention in Portland in May. Jan Lauritzen (SFVIS) provided lots of pictures from the Convention including the Award Winners.

There is a financial report from Treasurer Carol Huffman in this issue for the period January 1—August 1, 2015, but there are no minutes of the Region Board. As Debbie mentions in her RVP Message, there was no Spring Region 15 General or Board meeting since a lot of Region members went to the Portland Convention.

Early last year, I was invited to judge the Franciris Competition 2015 in Paris, France. It ran the same dates as the Portland AIS Convention so you know which one I chose to go to! Included in this newsletter is an article and pictures of my fabulous experience there and the gorgeous iris.

Other items of note in this issue:

****REGISTRATION FORM FOR THE FALL REGION 15 MEETING IN PRESCOT, AZ.**

****Calendar for 2015 & 2016.** Please note that THREE affiliate shows are scheduled for the same weekend in April next year. Many judges will want to enter their own shows, so book your judges early!!

****Information about GOING EAST IN 2016**—The AIS National Convention to be held in Newark, New Jersey.

Thanks for Reading.....Jill Bonino (SCIS & SFVIS)

Cover photo from Parc Floral Gardens, Paris by Jill Bonino

READ THIS ISSUE ONLINE AT
www.region15ais.org

Please send updates and corrections to aisregion15editor@gmail.com

AIS Region 15

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**American Iris Society
Region 15
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Committee Chairs

Awards: open

Editor: Jill Bonino (Interim)
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Historian: open

Membership: Patrick Orr
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Nominating Committee:
Claire Schneider
itsaclearday.claire@gmail.com

Ways and Means Committee: open

Youth Program: Cheryl Deaton
region15kids@hotmail.com

AIS Region 15 Trek Wheel

Event	Trek Host	Location
2015 Fall Meeting	Prescott Area Iris Society	Prescott, AZ
2016 Spring Trek	San Fernando Valley Iris Society	Burbank, CA
2016 Fall Meeting	Lompoc Valley Iris Society	Lompoc, CA
2017 Spring Trek	Hi Desert Iris & Daylily Society	Lancaster, CA
2017 Fall Meeting	Southern California Iris Society	
2018 Spring Trek	Sun Country Iris Society	Phoenix, AZ
2018 Fall Meeting	San Diego Iris Society	

Get more info about upcoming Region 15 Treks
from our website

www.region15ais.org



Photo

From

Mid-

America

Garden

By Jan

Lauritzen



AIS Region 15 RVP Message

By Debbie Babuscio-James, Region 15 RVP

Spring came and went with a blur and now summer is underway. The temperature outside is increasing and the humidity from the strange and unheard of July rain we had is now gone. Since the Region did not have a spring trek, and the decision was previously agreed upon, irises were ordered from four hybridizers for the Region Auction Fundraiser. The hybridizers were very generous with the rhizomes they sent and I'm sure they will get a good return.

The Iris in Portland at the AIS National Convention could not have been any better in my opinion. I was so glad to go, because I have always wanted to go to Mid-America Iris Garden. I've wanted to stand behind the big sign and take a photo ever since I first saw it in a catalog. I enjoyed the guest irises and began meandering throughout the rest of the grounds. I saw so many different peonies, I had to

smell every one of them. And then the roses and other fragrant flowers wanted me to smell their fragrance too. I was so intoxicated with smells, I missed the bus. I heard the bell ring and took off running. But I was too far away, and when I got to where the bus was parked, it was gone. I almost panicked, but then Tom Johnson gave me a ride to the lunch stop, Adelman's Peony Farm where I smelled even more peonies. Only this time I stayed real close to the bus.

The Fall Meeting is coming up quickly and I hope to see you all in Prescott, AZ. We may have a lot to discuss since we didn't meet in April. I'm looking forward to seeing Kelly Norris again. I enjoyed the talk he gave last time I saw him speak. So until we meet again, Happy Gardening.



AIS Region 15 Treasurer's Report

January 1, 2015 to August 1, 2015

Checkbook Beginning Balance \$20,699.17

Income:

Hi Desert Iris & Daylily Society Auction \$500.00

San Diego Iris Society Auction 231.00

Ad Revenue 130.00

TOTAL INCOME \$861.00

Expenses:

Board Meeting Rental/Canoga Park Wom Club \$ 60.00

Printing 5.50

Refreshments for February 7, 2015 Bd Mtg 69.91

Travel Expenses, Region Secretary 154.41

Travel Expenses, Region Vice President 499.24

Website 495.00

Newsletter Spring 2015 673.36

Bank Fee/Checks 26.00

Rhizomes Purchase 1,000.00

TOTAL EXPENSES \$2,983.42

Checkbook Ending Balance \$18,576.75

Edward Jones Account—Beginning Balance \$12,763.62

Interest .14

Balance March 27, 2015 \$12,763.76



AIS Judges Training

By Sue Brown, Region 15 Asst. RVP and Judges Training Chair

Hello Region 15, Fall is approaching. I hope you are making plans to plant all the rhizomes you have acquired from the hybridizers and growers. Because of the drought, my lawn is almost dead. However, most of the irises survive the hot, dry summer. I am hoping in the Spring, the drought is over and bloom season is long and glorious. It is also time to consider becoming a judge.

It is sad for me to report that Region 15 will have less judges next year due to declining health. However, there are 15 students. I am excited, by 2018, Region 15 will have 15 new judges.

The requirements to be a student are: 1) Member of AIS. 2) Copy of the latest edition of AIS “Handbook for Judges and Show Officials” and 3) Application for entry into Judges Training program. Students attend Judges Training classes at their local club or nearby clubs. Students must complete the annual activity report with information of all classes attended. The application form is on the Region 15 website in the Spring 2013 newsletter, or you can email me at irisfor15w@gmail.com to request a copy. I am hoping to see new applications.

Sue Brown



AIS Youth Program Report

By Cheryl Deaton, Region 15 and AIS Youth Chair

Currently, we have 31 youth members in our Region: 27 are in the Cub Scout CIP in Prescott, Arizona; 2 are in California (my grandchildren—Makayla & Logan); and 2 live in Chandler, Arizona (Victoria Von Klompenburg—granddaughter of Dennis & Sharon Luebkin, & Daxton Stevens). Our newest member is Daxton, who moved here recently from Illinois. He is a 9th grader and his grandmother is my best friend. Welcome to Region 15 Daxton!

The Youth newsletter, The Iris Fan, was mailed out a few weeks ago. The Arizona kids started school in late

The coloring contest is just one of the requirements for the AIS Youth Patch, which the scouts are working towards. You may have seen some of them in the photos in the Spring 2015 issue of The AIS Bulletin volunteering with the Prescott Area Iris Society members at an historic cemetery.

I believe that young people are the future of our Society, Kids love digging in dirt, planting things and seeing them grow, whether it is radishes or flowers. Some of the newer discoveries in medicine involve botanists & biologists and I bet they grew plants when they were kids! Won't you give the gift of a few rhizomes to a young person and encourage them to plant a garden. Remember irises are drought tolerant plants, grow well in desert environments, and are a colorful addition to a xeriscape project. They are easy to grow, take minimal care, and rebloomers do very well in our region. Get a kid involved in growing irises—you will be glad you did.

Happy Irising!

Cheryl Deaton

AIS MEMBER RATES ARE GOING UP OCTOBER 1, 2015

After 10 years and much economic change, the AIS must raise Member Dues. Single dues will be \$30 from \$25; Dual will be \$35 from \$30 and Triennial will be \$70 from \$60. RENEW YOUR AIS DUES — UPGRADE TO A TRIENNIAL MEMBER—BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2015 TO RETAIN THE OLD RATES!!!!!!



Check AIS membership status:

www.aislookup.org

Renew membership
(pay by check, Visa, or Mastercard)
www.irises.org

The American Iris Society

Membership Rates:

Annual Single \$25/Dual \$30
Triennial Single \$60/Dual \$75
Life Single \$1000/Dual \$1500
Annual E-membership \$15
(online Bulletin, no printed copy)
Life Senior (65+) 15% discount
Youth (< 19 y/o)
with Bulletin \$9
without Bulletin \$5

Send payments to:

Tom Gormley

P.O. Box 177

DeLeon Springs, FL 32130

Email: AIMemsec@irises.org



www.AISYouth.com

Please include youth's name,
address, email, and birthdate.

AWARD WINNERS FROM THE 2015 AIS PORTLAND CONVENTION—*photos by Jan Lauritzen*



President's
Cup
Winner

FOOTBALL
HERO
Miller '15



1st Runner Up
President's Cup
BLACKWATER
Schreiner '14



Franklin Cook Cup Winner

SWANS IN FLIGHT
Hollingworth '06 SIB



TIJUANA TAXI
Kaharowski '14

Franklin Cook Cup
1st Runner Up



Ben Hager Cup Winner - MOOSETRACKS Miller '15 MTB



1st Runner Up
Ben Hager
Median Cup

SARI'S DANCE
Spoon '08
MTB

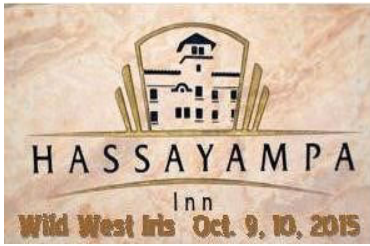


Zurbrigg-
Mahan Sdlg
Cup Winner
ROYSTON
RUBIES
Cordes TB



1st Runner Up
Zurbrigg-
Mahan Sdlg
Cup

RUBICON
Lankow
SPECX



Prescott Area Iris Society

welcomes you to

WILD WEST IRIS

AIS Region 15, 2015 Fall Meeting

Friday Oct.9 & Saturday Oct.10

Oct 9, 5:00-8:00 p.m.

Early Registration, Meet & Greet plus Book Signing with Kelly Norris

Oct. 10, 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Featuring Guest Speaker & Judges Training

Kelly D. Norris



"Intermediates and Border Bearded Irises"

How to Sort them Out

At the Hassayampa Inn, Marina Room, 122 E. Gurley Street, Prescott, AZ

(Limited parking on the East side of Marina across from the hotel)

Re-bloomer Celebration Display: October is re-bloomer season. Let's celebrate our second bloom by bringing your rebloomers to the Fall Meeting. Attach Iris names to stalk.

REGISTRATION FORM

Registration Fee: Adults-\$45, Youth-\$20. Registration includes: Friday evening snack; Saturday Continental Breakfast, and Buffet Lunch.

Name (s) of Attendees: _____

Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Email: _____

Local Iris Society Affiliation: _____

Judge's Training: YES () NO () Please indicate if you plan to participate in judges training.

I will be staying at a local hotel (name): _____

Amount of enclosed check: \$ _____. Number attending: _____. Please make checks payable to **Prescott Area Iris Society**; registration must be received by, September 30, 2015. Please mail check and a copy of this registration form to: **Sharon Luebkin, 10 Cienega Drive, Prescott, AZ 86301**

Questions contact Sharon Luebkin (623)-628-4860 (Cell), or Dennis Luebkin (623)-980-6627 (Cell);

E-mail: dluebkin@q.com . Visit our Website at <http://prescottirissociety.org> for more information.

Recommended Hotels:

Hassayampa Inn: Historic hotel (Special rates available for AIS/PAIS Fall Meeting attendees, must book before 9/19/15) 122 E Gurley Street Prescott, AZ 86301, (1-866-599-6675); <http://www.hassayampainn.com/default-en.html>

Spring Hill Suites Prescott: (best for handicapped accessibility, ½ mile from Hassayampa Inn) 200 East Sheldon Street, Prescott, AZ 86301, (1-866-699-9805); <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/hotel-deals/prcsh-springhill-suites-prescott/>

Hotel St. Michaels: Historic hotel (Three Blocks from Hassayampa Inn along Whiskey Row) 205 W. Gurley Street, Prescott, AZ 86301, (1-866-281-6817); <http://www.stmichaelhotel.com/> Other accommodations are available in the area.

Closest Airport: Phoenix-Sky Harbor International Airport

Shuttle service: From Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport to Prescott is available via **ARIZONA SHUTTLE** (928)-442-1000 option 31.

The **Prescott Area Iris Society** welcomes you to the **AIS Region 15 2015 Fall Meeting** in beautiful and historic Prescott, Arizona. Located in the central mountains of Arizona 90 miles north of Phoenix, Prescott has a diverse climate variation based on altitude from approximately 4,000 ft. to 8,000 ft. within a radius of 40 miles making for a very diverse environment for growing Irises. Prescott founded in 1864 along with historic Fort Whipple has a rich history of mining and ranching. Whether you will be here for our Fall Meeting or will extend your stay over the longer weekend, there is much to see and do in the Prescott area and the surrounding country of Northern Arizona. Below are some suggested activities which might interest you during your stay with us. We look forward to seeing many of our AIS Region 15 friends from around Arizona and California. Join us for a weekend of fun, learning, and friendship.

Our guest speaker **Kelly D. Norris** is an author on iris horticulture, hybridizer, the former editor of "Irises, The Bulletin of the American Iris Society" and the current Horticultural Manager, Des Moines Botanical Garden in addition to growing his own iris gardens. He will be speaking on Intermediate and Border Bearded Irises and how to sort them out. Kelly will also be doing our judges training session. Our judges training is open to all whether you are in judges training or just want some valuable information on intermediate and border bearded irises.

Schedule of Events

Friday October 9th, 5:00-8:00 p.m.

Hassayampa Inn Main Lobby

5:00-8:00 p.m. Early registration: Visit our registration table located in the side Parlor off the lobby.

6:00-8:00 p.m. Meet and Greet: A light snacks, not dinner, and bar will be available in the lobby.

6:00-8:00 p.m. Book Signing: Kelly Norris will be available to talk with us and to sign his book "*A Guide to Bearded Iris*".

Saturday, October 10th, 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Marina Room (adjacent to the hotel)

8:00-9:00 a.m. Registration, Complimentary Continental Breakfast, Boutique open

8:30-9:30 a.m. Region 15 Board Meeting

9:30-10:30 a.m. General Meeting

10:30-12:00 p.m. Speaker: Kelly D. Norris, Intermediate and Border Bearded irises 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.

Buffet Lunch

1:00-2:30 p.m. Indoor Judges Training: Intermediate and Border Bearded Irises

2:30-3:30 p.m. Raffle and Silent Auction

3:30 p.m. End of meeting! Boutique Closes. Enjoy your weekend!!!

Prescott area sites to see

Courthouse Square, Whiskey Row, Downtown Historic District Shops, Galleries, Antique Shops and Eateries "Fall Fest in the Park" Arts & Crafts Festival, Court House Square (Saturday, Oct. 10th and Sunday Oct. 11th), Sharlot Hall Museum

Phippen Western Arts Museum

Highlands Center for Natural History, Prescott National Forest, Lynx Lake

Smoki Museum

Sculpture Garden and Iris Gardens at Yavapai College

Northern Arizona sites to see

Sedona, Oak Creek Canyon and the Red Rock Country

Verde Valley Scenic Rail Road, Clarkdale, AZ

Grand Canyon Rail Road, Williams, AZ (1-800-THE TRAIN)

Grand Canyon National Park

Tuzigoot National Monument Indian Ruins, Clarkdale, AZ

Flagstaff, Arizona Snow Bowl and San Francisco Peaks

Painted Desert and Petrified Forest National Monuments, Holbrook, AZ

Phoenix area sites to see

The Desert Botanical Gardens and Heard Museum

Here's a personal invitation from all of us: Become a NEW member of the Spuria Iris Society, and as a token of our appreciation a recently introduced spuria iris (2010 or newer) will be mailed to you FREE (U.S. only).

Free Spurias will be by David Niswonger, Lee Walker, Nancy Price, and Terry Aitken. Offer deadline is October 1, 2015 and while supplies last.



Jim Hedgecock
President



Andi Rivarola
VP



Debbie James
Treasurer



Kate Brewitt
Secretary

<http://www.spuriairissociety.org>

2015

Spuria Iris Society



Spuria iris 'Remembering Vic' by Lee Walker (2004)

Region 15 Presidents' Reports

Hi Desert Iris and Daylily Society Report

By Dan Dourney, President

Hi!

Officers:

President - Dan Dourney

Vice President - Pam Montelongo

Secretary - Chris Kretel

Treasurer - Annmarie Wren

We have started receiving iris for the 2017 Spring Trek. Our host gardeners started their gardens two years ago. The drought will not stop us from giving a Great Trek.

The first of the year we had our Home Show and Show & Sales (donations). Both were a great success.

Coming events will be our Iris Give Away in August.

In September our Iris Ruble Auction members spend their rewards for their hard work potting iris and other tasks in the Club.

In October we elect officers for 2016. They will be sworn in at our party in December.



Inland Region Iris Society Report

By Cathy Coache, President

The Inland Region Iris Society is alive and well in Southern California. We have maintained all of our Elected officers with the exception of one of our co-presidents. She decided to retire as she was moving and downsizing to a new city making the trek expensive gas-wise, not to mention mileage-wise.

We start off our new year with having a “Members’ Only” auction in August. This year we ordered upwards of \$800 of rhizomes from MidAmerica, Stout and Tom Burseen. This auction is always well received and is fun to see who will spend the most money!

September is a busy month for us. We start with the Region 15 auction. Hopefully, our members have money left over from the August auction to purchase more on their wish list. It is, also, our first sale of the new year at the Landscapes Southern California style Water Conservative Garden at the western Municipal Water District in Riverside. We are hoping to make up some of our lost revenue by not having a spring sale in Yucaipa last year with an onslaught of advertising a week before the sale. Maybe all those Yucaipians who missed us in Yucaipa will drive to Riverside!

We ring in the holidays with our traditional Christmas feast and gift-giving. Other than that we will be having a program on designing flower arrangements and a games nite. They are TBA.

We wish the rest of the needed wet winter!



Region 15 affiliates a much

Visit the Inland Region Iris Society on



MORE PICTURES FROM INLAND IRIS SOCIETY ACTIVITIES

 TICKLE MY FANCY Hybridizer: Black Intro: 2015	 ARTS AND CRAFTS Hybridizer: T. Johnson Intro: 2013	 OUT OF TROUBLE Hybridizer: Worel Intro: 2015	 RAINBOW POWER Hybridizer: Lauer Intro: 2014	 BEST FRIEND Hybridizer: Mullin by Williams Intro: 2011	 PINCH OF NUTMEG Hybridizer: Black Intro: 2014	 BRAVERY Hybridizer: Ghos Intro: 2012
 BRIGHT ON TOP Intro: 2014	 ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS Hybridizer: Beckmark Intro: 2014	 COMMANDING PRESENCE Hybridizer: Black Intro: 2014	 FOOTBALL HERO Hybridizer: L. Miller Intro: 2015	 DARING DECEPTION Hybridizer: T. Johnson Intro: 2012	 BAND OF BROTHERS Hybridizer: VanLere Intro: 2015	 GOLDEN SNITCH Hybridizer: Stapp Intro: 2014
 FOREVER MY LOVE Hybridizer: Veleckere Intro: 2015	 I'M ALL SHOOK UP Hybridizer: Black Intro: 2013	 AUCKLAND Hybridizer: T. Johnson Intro: 2013	 GOOD MORNING SUNSHINE Hybridizer: T. Johnson Intro: 2014	 HELEN'S MELODY Hybridizer: Stock Intro: 2014	 DON'T STOP BELIEVING Hybridizer: T. Johnson Intro: 2013	 KING'S REIGN Hybridizer: T. Johnson Intro: 2015

INLAND REGION IRIS SOCIETY
MEMBERS ONLY AUCTION
August 4, 2015



IRIS MEMBERS AT THE PORTLAND CONVENTION

Orange County Iris and Daylily Club Report

By Lois Farr, President

Irises are more complex than they appear. I suppose if it were easy, these blooms would not captivate the way they do. To make a short report, Orange County Iris Club continues the quest to know more.

Our guest speakers throughout the year included two hybridizers — Hugh Stout and Paul & Carol Buchheim. We never tire of slide after slide of irises and commentary. Thank you for any and all information we learn about irises. Master Gardeners taught us about soil care, upcoming trends, complimentary plants and animals and water usage.

We look forward to our Annual Auctions — Tall Bearded in August, Beardless in September, and Daylilies in October. Followed by traditional holiday festivities and Election of Officers.

Also looking forward, we want to grow and find ways to do it. Reading everyone's newsletters really helps us know what is possible and what really works. Thank you for sharing your ideas. October in Prescott will be another highlight of finding our iris friends, just as Portland was.

What an absolutely heavenly time that was. Looking forward to seeing my iris friends soon.



Prescott Area Iris Society Report

By Dan Schroeder, President

Our plans for a very informative, fun and exciting Western Fall Trek in historic Prescott continues. The Trek will occur October 9th and 10th. In this issue, you will find information on the Fall Trek and Registration. Our current membership as of January 2015 now stands at 76 adults, 2 regular youth and 27 youth Scout members, for a total of 105 members. Our new PAIS Executive Board for 2015 consists of:

President- Dan Schroeder, Vice President-Barb McCurry, Secretary-Joella Cheek, Treasure-Eugene Zielinski. Dennis Luebkin remains on the Board as Past President in an advisory capacity.

Our goal to create a learning experience educating our members and the public on iris culture continues. Our society has remained very active in our public service projects along with our

1. **Yavapai College Sculpture Garden:** Continue with the maintenance and improvements to the Dykes Medal Iris Garden and other garden areas.
2. **Sharlot Hall Museum Historic Iris Gardens:** Continue maintenance and expansion of the historic iris plantings.
3. **Citizens Cemetery Restoration and Iris Reclamation Project:** Continuation of support for this restoration project in the removal, replanting, and sale of the irises to support the restoration.
4. **Growing Irisarians Youth Education Program:** Our PAIS youth membership program continues to be successful both in the schools and with Scouting groups.
5. **Guest Lecture Series:** We are again presenting a three part iris lecture series at Yavapai College for the OLLI continuing education group in April and May.
6. **Garden Tour:** Independent home garden tours will be offered this year in April and May.
7. **Kaleidoscope of Color:** The Kaleidoscope of Color Festival of Iris and Potted Iris Sale will be held May 2nd.
Iris care classes will be held during the exhibit.
8. **Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Memorial Gardens:** The New Fire Fighters Memorial Gardens to the 19 Prescott fire fighters killed in the Yarnell Fire began in October of 2014 will be dedicated this Spring. Additional irises will be added this spring to complete the memorial.

9. **Our schedule of other events include:**

Marking Party will be held on July 18.

Sharlot Hall Rhizome Sale will be July 25 and 26

Yarnell Rhizome sale will be August 1.

Iris care class and new members training will be August 15.

Ice Cream Social, Silent Auction and Photo Contest will be September 19.

Fall Rebloomer's Potluck will be November 7

Several plant-and cleanup will be held at Sculpture Garden, Sharlot Hall Museum, and the Citizens Cemetery during the

ing days the den, Mu- etery year.



Visit the Prescott Area Iris Society on
and at prescottirissociety.org





San Diego Iris Society Report

By Claire Schneider, President

Here's what's been happening since the Region 15 Spring Newsletter.

Our Spring Show and Sale 2015 was the first weekend in May. We had even fewer flowers than last year probably due to the lack of rain. (We're really looking forward to El Nino.) Queen of Show was one of those, "We only entered this flower stalk as an after-thought, never thinking it would win Queen of Show." Congratulations!! To Edith and Jim Shade for their winner BABY's BUM. At our June meeting, we elected new officers, handed out awards from the Spring show, had the regular door prize give-away and ended with an ice cream social. There are no meetings in July and August.

The Fall Rhizome Sale, held in Balboa Park, will be September 13 and 20th. We sell Tall Bearded, IB, BB and a few varieties of Louisiana and Spuria iris. All the rhizomes come from member gardens. Not only is this sale one of our major fund raisers, but we also usually enroll a dozen new members. It was interesting to hear other clubs discuss declining membership at the AIS Convention in Portland because our club seems to be growing albeit slowly.

We usually auction the Region 15 Guest iris at our October meeting. But, because of the AIS Convention, we're not sure if there will be iris for an auction or if we'll be doing something else. To avoid a conflict with the Region 15 Fall Meeting 2015, we have moved the date of our October meeting to Sunday, October 18th. We're still planning the program for the November 8th meeting. Our annual Holiday Party will be December 13th, a potluck with door prizes of about thirty potted iris plus one grand prize of a one-year AIS membership.

If you have any questions about the events of the San Diego Iris Society, check out our website at <http://www.sandiegoirissociety.org/>

Visit the San Diego Iris Society website at

[SanDiegoIrisSociety.org](http://www.SanDiegoIrisSociety.org)



San Fernando Valley Iris Society Report

By Debbie Babuscio-James, President

The San Fernando Valley Iris Society has its fiscal year end and the changing of Officers in June each year. I am serving as President for my last one-year term, according to our Bylaws.

We had our annual Show Awards Potluck in June, and in July we had Cheryl Deaton give her program "Sex in the Garden" which is all about hybridizing. It was very informative and I loved the huge iris she uses when demonstrating the technique used by Cheryl (and I would think almost every other hybridizer) when making iris crosses.

In August we had Jill Bonino give a program on her recent trip to France to judge the iris competition there. She also attended the Region 14 Spring Trek and showed photos of that as well. September is our Auction month, Our club auction is one of our biggest fundraisers. We also have the Region Auction the weekend following our regular meeting.

In October we will have our annual Games Night, where members can win a grab bag or two of iris rhizomes. Everyone loves to win and we all enjoy the fun together. The November program has not been decided yet, but in December we have our annual Holiday Potluck. This year we will be entertained by Glendalf, who is both comedian and magician.

Until then, stay cool andHappy Gardening



Festive cupcakes by Jill Spady at July meeting



Visit the San Fernando Valley Iris Society on
and at SanFernandoValleyIrisSociety.org





Southern California Iris Society Report

By Mike Monninger, President

Southern California Iris Society (SCIS) held a very good iris show. We have had more entries in prior years, but the ribbon count was high. Leigh Nicolai-Moon won the Silver Medal (15 First Place ribbons) beating Lynn McIlwain whose heels she has been nipping for several years. Lynn took the Bronze Medal and he also returned to the show bench with the Best Aril Bred iris, best Tall Bearded Plicata iris and the best TB self. Mike Monninger won Best Specimen with the Louisiana iris BAYOU GYPSY. Angie Fierro had the Best Design of the 20 entries. Mike Monninger won Design Sweepstakes. There were 6 design categories and several exhibitors entered 5 or 6 of the categories.

The above are brief show results and other members won awards and made it to the show bench.

I want to thank all the SCIS members who worked and exhibited at the iris show. They really do the club proud. Special kudos go to Show Chairman Leigh Nicolai-Moon for another great iris show,

We grossed \$1,200 at the iris show and are investigating selling rhizomes at the Rosebowl to add to the club's anemic sales caused by the loss of the four-day sale at the South Coast Plaza in April. We still have a healthy bank account but are taking steps to reduce club expenses.

Another and continuing challenge is getting more efficient use of the water we use in the garden. Water retention properties of pots and various soils and mixes have been and will be discussed. Some members have already received warnings and/or fines from their water companies.

All of the officers agreed to stay for another year.

Our Bearded Auction is in August and the Region and Beardless auction are in September.

Visit the Southern California Iris Society on





Tucson Area Iris Society Report

By E. Kristee West, President

October 2014 meeting, following the election of officers TAIS held a round table discussion where each member spoke about growing iris in Southern Arizona. Several of our new members were grateful to hear advice of the seasoned iris growers in the group.

At the January 2015 meeting, a PowerPoint presentation was given by one of our members, Jan Campbell, describing the various types of iris that grow successfully here.

In February we hosted Riley Probst and saw a great variety of Reblooming Iris that do well here in Region 15.

In March, President Kristee West spoke about Preparing Iris For Show.

The weather in our area was warmer than usual, so we were concerned about the number of flowers that the members would have to display in our show entitled "50 Years and Growing Strong". Those attending judged the entries and voted on their favorite iris. We were fortunate to have 50 entries. We hope to grow enough iris in future years to go back to AIS judged shows, but for now we are grateful to share our love of iris with over 100 people.

In May, Hector Campoy, from the Tucson Master Gardeners, gave a presentation on how the 2 groups could work together to promote gardening in our area.

Here is the Schedule through the remainder of 2015:

Aug 22—Potluck & Reg 15 Auction at Tucson Botanic Garden

Sept 19 — Iris Sale at Harlow Gardens

Oct 10 — Jacqueline Soule at Eckstrom-Columbus Library

Nov 14 — Potluck TBA

At this time we don't know our schedule for 2016. One of the issues we have with scheduling is that we meet in public libraries. We can schedule only 90 days in advance.

By the time you see this, we will have conveyed Life Membership on Maxine Fifer. She is the only current member who has been in TAIS since 1965. Thanks, Maxine.

I also want to thank all the officers and committee chairpersons for all of their contributions in 2015.

**Visit the Tucson Area Iris Society website at
TucsonIris.org**



Kristee's entry REVERE (Ghio) received the most votes again for a 2nd year.



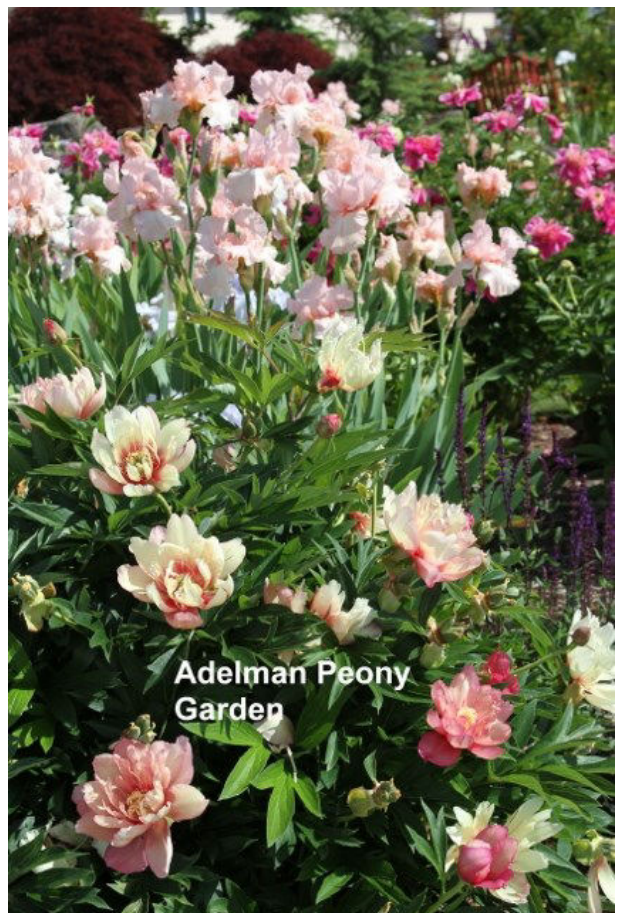
Vice President, Kevin Karchner's entry, BYE BYE BLUES (Sutton) received a 2nd.

TREKKING IN PORTLAND: MY FIRST AIS CONVENTION

By Claire Schneider (SDIS)

The American Iris Society's 2015 Convention ended May 24 and for all my challenges getting there, it was well worth it. Over three days we walked through six incredible gardens: Mid-America Garden, Schreiner's Iris Garden, Aitken's Salmon Creek Garden, Miller's Manor Garden, Mt Pleasant Iris Farm and Wildwood Gardens. Multitudes of flowers to see, sniff, and touch. Needless to say, the iris were just, just, just amazing!! Indescribable colors, patterns, ruffles and fragrances. One of the detours, actually a lunch stop, was to the Adelman Peony Gardens where the peonies were the size of dinner plates! Schreiner's and Mid-America had the most impressive companion plantings, worthy of a separate article. But I digress; this is about iris.

The major purpose of the convention being to evaluate the newest iris, we were asked to examine in each garden approximately 800 guest iris. On the final day each attendee submitted a Ballot with a vote for the best seedling iris (Zurbrigg –Mahan Cup), best Median iris (Ben Hager Cup), best iris from outside this region (Franklin Cook Cup), and best iris hybridized in this region (President's Cup—See page 9—10 for pictures of Award Winners). Trying to choose four iris out of 800 made my head spin! Later, while looking through my notes, there was this thought. To win the category the best iris hybridized within this region, Region 13, one is competing against Schreiner, Keppel, Aitken, Black, Johnson, Lauer and Ernst. All of their iris were so amazing! If I were a hybridizer living here, I'd seriously consider packing up my rhizomes and moving to a different region.



Another purpose of the AIS Convention is to share information. One of the judges training sessions was titled, "Are These Really Rules?" It should have been titled "Are You

Kidding?” The session leader, Dell Perry, spent 90 minutes pointing out inconsistencies, misinterpretations and flaws in the Judges Handbook. One had to smile or just shake one’s head at the examples she described. Ready for a few of her examples?

All of these statements would begin, “According to the Judges Handbook (published by the American Iris Society)...

True or False, show judges cannot enter an iris in a show they are judging.

Trues or False, only members of the host society can enter iris in their show

True or False, to win a show ribbon there must be at least three exhibitors in the section.

True or False, flower entries by youth are ineligible for “Best Specimen of Show”

True or False, iris seedlings are judged only on condition and grooming, not on culture.

True or False, flower containers at the show must be opaque.

True or False, to earn full point values, the iris stalk must stand vertically in the show container.

True or False, fingerprints on the stalk of an exhibition iris warrant severe penalty in grooming.

True or False, final rulings in a sanctioned iris show come from the Judges Handbook.

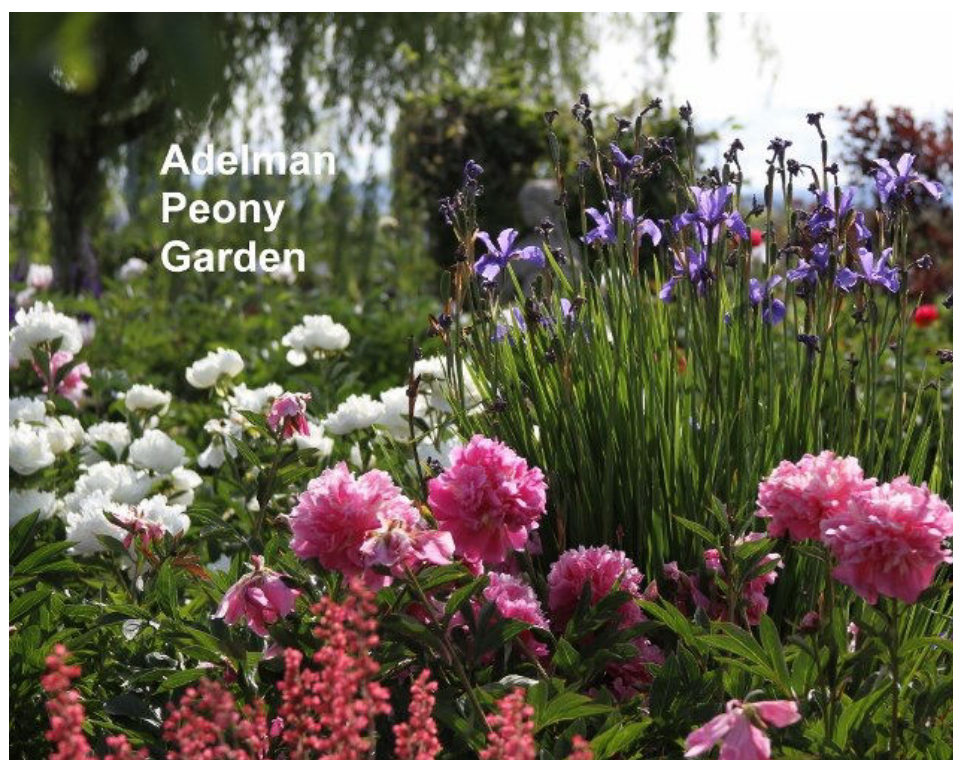
The highlight of the convention was seeing, YES! SEEING, the three hybridizing masters sitting together at the front table. That seminar featured Joe Ghio, Barry Blyth and Keith Keppel answering questions from the audience. Oh my, you talk about an experience! To accommodate the overflow of people, the walls were folded back to double the size of the room. Eventually the seminar began and I expected to hear detailed questions dealing with hybridizing techniques. Nope! Instead, the questions were personal such as “Which of your iris would be favorite?” “When do you accept that a specific hybridizing goal is unattainable?” and “What would you like your legacy to be?” Oh, so very interesting. The trio stayed until the audience ran out of questions. I hope someone videotaped that session. I’d like to see it again. We also attended a seminar “Looking for Love—Finding Fertility in Unexpected Places” by Paul Black. I learned that most of the crosses involving median iris produce sterile plants, making it tricky to find love (of a particular iris) and fertility. Undoubtedly, this could be an axiom for life.

After this first AIS Convention, I wrote a list of reminders for the next one. Double check that all my arrangements and reservations have been made. (I had plane and hotel reservations but had forgotten to mail in my convention registration form. Unbelievable!) Ignore all weather forecasts and pack clothing for hot and cold, rain and shine, windy and

calm. Ditto for events: pack both casual and elegant clothing. Leave the extra reading material at home because there's no time or energy for extra reading. (We were on the buses at 7:30 AM and finished each seminar and judges training around 9:30 PM). Forget the vow about not buying any more plants! Take an extra carry-on case for transporting home all my new plants. Pack very comfortable walking shoes and extra pairs of socks and remember that there's mud everywhere. Replace the umbrella with a rain poncho. It's impossible to hold an umbrella AND the camera, notebook with pencil and cup of coffee. Take a long lens for the camera for crisper close-up photos of Janis and Bill, my iris pals from San Diego.

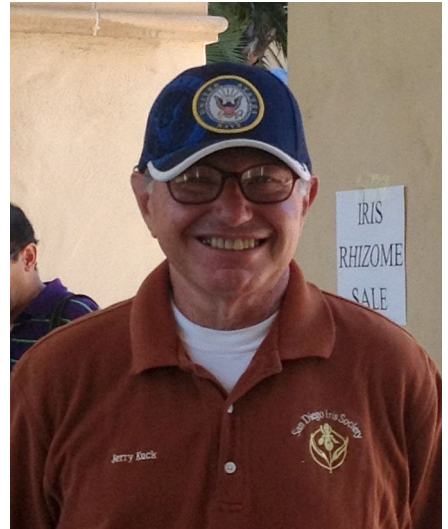
I had a great time attending my first AIS Convention and plan to attend another. The bus rides were pleasant, the food was good and the seminars were impressive. Much of my enjoyment came from chatting with folks about soil fertility, irrigation systems and of course, iris. The report to my home town club members was this. If you want to see some incredible iris and their companion plants, attend an AIS Convention. If you want to have a GOOD TIME at the convention, attend with a few of your iris pals. Overall, it was a wonderful experience; I highly recommend it.....*Claire Schneider, San Diego Iris Society*

P.S. All of the statements in the little quiz could be true or false. What I learned from Dell Perry is that the Judges Handbook is a guide for creating a show program. Thus, any of these statements could be included in a particular show program or not.



MEMORIAL TO JERRY KUCK, SAN DIEGO IRIS SOCIETY

It is with great sadness that I inform you of the passing of our dear friend and fellow SDIS member, Jerry Kuck. Jerry brought much joy to us all with his welcoming smile and good humor. In fact, many of us became members due to Jerry's persuasive charm. Jerry never missed a meeting, iris sale, spring show or spring trek in all the time I knew him. His love of iris and his friends and family was always foremost in his mind. His contribution to our club as Membership Chairman was enormous and we will forever be grateful for his efforts. I was touched by the sermon given by the pastor of Jerry's church — it truly captures Jerry's dedication and caring spirit (see below). He will be missed and will continue to live on in our hearts and memories.....Katarina Notarianni



“Jerry was usually the first to arrive at church on Sunday morning. He went straight into the sanctuary and began to read his Bible. I have no idea what he read, but I imagine he was giving prayerful thought to how God cared for the birds and flowers...and him and you, too....death came like a thief in the night for Jerry....Those who gathered at Christy's Donuts every day thought he owned the place...he was so gregarious and friendly! He was not there so much to eat donuts and drink coffee as to enjoy the camaraderie of friends and strangers....to talk! (For us) in the Iris Society: what will (we) ever do without (our) membership chairman extraordinaire? And at First Lutheran, (they) will miss Jerry's smiling face and his kind words as he brought donuts for the homeless on Friday morning and stuffed (their) Sunday bulletins. How could he be so humble, so kind, so gentle? He knew canaries and irises. He had spent a lifetime watching God protect such simple things and if God tended to the irises and the canaries, then God would certainly tend to Jerry. The words must have rung in his ears on those final days, Jesus' words: 'Therefore do not worry—but strive first for the kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.' I can hear Jerry now as he looks at you with a twinkle in his eye and the ever present sweet smile, saying to you, 'Do not worry...If God watches over the birds of the air and the flowers, God will certainly watch over me and you.' Jerry Kuck was

CHANGE IN AIS FOUNDATION SEC'Y/TREASURER

The Secretary/Treasurer of the American Iris Society Foundation has changed. Gary White will become AIS President in November, 2015 at the Fall AIS Board Meeting. **Effective now, please send your checks for memorial donations to Jill Bonino, 3110 Kirkham Drive, Glendale, CA 91206.** Make all checks out to "The AIS Foundation" and either mark on the check or on an attached note which AIS or AIS Foundation Restricted Fund(s) you would like the money to be posted to. If no Fund is indicated, the money will be posted to the AIS General Fund. The AIS Foundation Funds are the Library and Scientific Research.

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AIS Region 15 - 2015 -2016 Calendar

Month	Day	Event	Location
2015			
AUGUST	2	PAIS Yarnell Rhizome Sale	Prescott, AZ
	4	IRIS Members Only Iris Auction	Riverside, CA
	8	TAIS Region 15 Iris Auction	Tucson, AZ
	16	LVIS BBQ, distribution of new rhizomes & door prizes	Lompoc, CA
SEPTEMBER	1	IRIS Region 15 Rhizome Sale	Riverside, CA
	13 & 20	SDIS Fall Rhizome Sale at Casa del Prado, Balboa Park	San Diego, CA
		PAIS Ice Cream Social, Silent Auction & Photo Contest	Prescott, AZ
	19	IRIS Annual Fall Rhizome Sale at WMWD	Riverside, CA
	19-20	LVIS Program by Bonne Scott	Lompoc, CA
	20	SCIS Meeting at the Bamboo Room, LA Arboretum	Arcadia, CA
	26	AIS Region 15 Fall Meeting hosted by the Prescott Area Iris Society at Hassayampa Inn	Prescott, AZ
OCTOBER	9-10		
2016			
APRIL	9-10	Hi Desert & Daylily Iris Society Show	Lancaster, CA
		San Fernando Valley Iris Society Show	Canoga Park
		Southern California Iris Society Show	Arcadia, CA
	15-16	Region 15 Spring Trek—hosted by SFVIS Dell Perry, Speaker	Burbank, CA
MAY	23-28	GOING EAST IS 2016—AIS NATIONAL CONVENTION www.irises.org—click on Member Serv then Conventions	Newark, NJ

AIS REGION 15 AFFILIATE SOCIETY MEETINGS

Hi Desert Iris & Daylily Society (HDIDS) meetings : 1-3 pm on the 3rd Saturday of the month at the Antelope Valley College Agriculture building TE-3, 3041 West Avenue K, Lancaster, CA unless otherwise stated.

Inland Region Iris Society (IRIS) meetings: 1st Tuesday of each month at 6 pm at the Janet Goeske Center, 5257 Sierra Street, Riverside, CA. [facebook.com/Inland Region Iris Society](https://www.facebook.com/InlandRegionIrisSociety) or www.inlandiris.org

For Lompoc Valley Iris Society meetings see above calendar and visit [facebook.com/Lompoc Valley Iris Society](https://www.facebook.com/LompocValleyIrisSociety)

Orange County Iris & Daylily Club (OCIDC) meetings: 2nd Tuesday every month at 7:30 pm at the 1st Presbyterian Church, 11832 Euclid Street, Garden Grove, CA.

Prescott Area Iris Society (PAIS) meetings are held from 1:30-3:30 pm (except as noted above) at Yavapai Title, 1235 E. Gurley at Sheldon intersection Prescott, AZ. Calendar of events posted to PAIS website at www.prescottirissociety.org Visit their [facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/PrescottAreaIrisSociety).

San Diego Iris Society (SDIS) meetings: 2nd Sunday of most months of the year at 1 pm (unless a special event is planned) at 9906 Maine Avenue, Lakeside, CA. No meetings in July and August. www.sandigoirissociety.org

San Fernando Valley Iris Society (SFVIS) meetings: 1st Thursday of each month at 7 pm at the Canoga Park Women's Club, 7401 Jordan Avenue, Canoga Park, CA. sanfernandovalleyirissociety.org or [facebook.com/San Fernando Valley Iris Society](https://www.facebook.com/SanFernandoValleyIrisSociety)

Southern California Iris Society (SCIS), holds regularly scheduled meetings at the Los Angeles Arboretum in the Lecture Hall (known as the Bamboo Room) at 10 am. Meetings are on the 4th Saturday in the months of January, February, March, June, September and October. The Los Angeles Arboretum is located at 301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia, CA. See [facebook.com/Southern California Iris Society](https://www.facebook.com/SouthernCaliforniaIrisSociety)

Sun Country Iris Society meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month at 7 pm at the Valley Garden Center, 1809 N. 15th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ. www.suncountryiris.org

Tucson Area Iris Society (TAIS): See schedule above. Calendar of events posted to the TAIS website at www.tucsoniris.org

MY JUDGING ADVENTURE AT FRANCIRIS 2015

By Jill Bonino

In early 2014 Kathy Chilton (past Region 15 RVP and Judge Extraordinaire) emailed me with an invitation to judge Franciris 2015. She had judged there in 2012, had been asked to judge again and to find another American judge. It was an offer I couldn't refuse.

Roland Deloux, President of the French Iris Society and his wife Annick were wonderful hosts. They and Kathy met Joe and I at DeGaulle airport and drove us out to an old (300+ years?) 5 bedroom house in the French countryside east of Paris in La Houssaye en Brie. All of the judges and some members of the French Iris Society members stayed there and we had a great week together. A couple from Holland, a couple from Spain, Roland and his wife and several others. We had cocktails and appetizers (many different wines from many different countries), and they took turns cooking dinner for us that we ate about 9 PM each night. The conversation ranged from English, French, Italian, and Spanish.

The competition iris were planted in winding semi-circular curved rows in the Parc Floral, a botanic garden on the east side of Paris. There were 113 varieties planted in 2-year clumps. The bloom was not quite at peak. The 5 judges picked 62 of the 113 to judge, which included several irises that were "showing color" and we hoped would be open before the end of the week. Two of the 5 judges I had judged with in Florence, Italy in 2012, August Bianco from Italy and Zdenek Seidl from the Czech Republic. The 5th judge was the veteran French judge Sylvain Ruaud. What a kind and wonderful gentleman. He drove Kathy, Joe and I to the garden and back every day (a 45-60 minute drive each way).

On Wednesday we had "a day out". After a little morning judging, we took the Paris Metro to the Eiffel Tower where we got on a bus for a 2-hour tour of the City. Joe took many pictures from the bus. I just enjoyed the air and the City. For dinner, we were treated to a dinner cruise up and down the River Seine. Another fabulous meal but a very long day.

Thursday was back to the final pass through the irises, and in the afternoon the 5 judges gathered in a Parc Floral pavillion lent to the French Iris Society for the week. There was an iris art exhibition there, we did our final compilation of the scores, and on Friday, the Awards Ceremony and lunch were held here too. All of the judges agreed on the Gold Medal 1st prize winner, #79 BARBE NOIRE by Richard Cayeux. The irises that received the top ten number of points were the final winners. We only learned the names of the winners. All of the judging was done under a Number system. It turned out that all of the 10 winners were from European hybridizers. In fact three of the winners were seedlings from an up and coming French hybridizer, Monsieur Boivin.

Joe and I took hundreds of pictures and the ones on the next page are just a sample. Joe and I spent a few more days in Paris after the competition. We toured the Musee D-Orsay and the Louvre, both full of great paintings and sculpture and lots of people!

PICTURES FROM FRANCIRIS 2015—photos by Jill & Joe Bonino

FRANCIRIS 2015.
GRAND PRIX DU PUBLIC

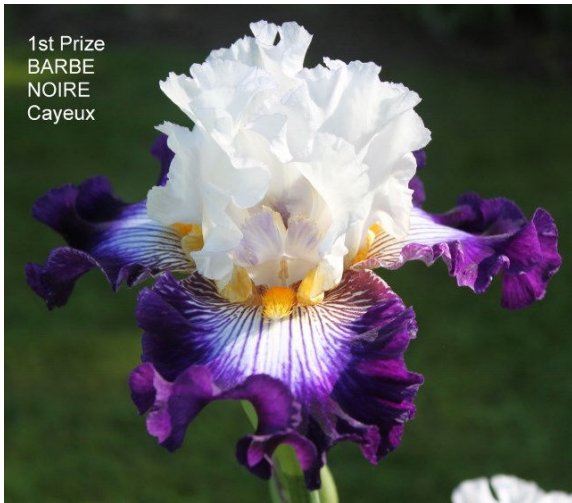
À l'occasion de FRANCIRIS 2015, les visiteurs du Parc Floral de Paris sont invités à élire leur iris préféré.

Remplissez le bulletin de vote en notant les numéros de vos trois iris préférés et en indiquant vos coordonnées.

Un classement sera réalisé grâce à vos votes



Un tirage au sort désignera les dix heureux gagnants qui recevront chacun un bon d'achat de 50 € offerts par les adhérents professionnels de la Société Française des Iris et Plantes Bulbeuses



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