

REGION 15 FALL CONFERENCE

A “Rooten Tooten” Success

By Sharon Luebkin, PAIS

PAIS hosted the annual American Iris Society Region 15 Fall Conference October 9th and 10th which includes clubs from all of Arizona and Southern California. Our keynote speaker was Kelly Norris, author, director of the Greater Des Moines Botanical Gardens, horticulturalist and owner of Rainbow Iris Gardens in Iowa. He spoke about planning smaller gardens for the future with smaller available space and smaller varieties of irises.

Our Conference started with a “Meet and Greet” book signing with our speaker with an opportunity to purchase his book “A Guide to Bearded Irises” and have it autographed. The Hassayampa Inn lobby was the perfect venue. Attendees were treated to hors d’oeuvres and a birthday cake celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Tucson Iris Society (TAIS). It was a wonderful opportunity for our members to visit, relax and socialize with members of other affiliate clubs from around Arizona and Southern California. We all deserved this fun time together. Our iris friends from Arizona and California came in slowly during the evening, tired and hungry after their long drives from California of up to 8 to 10 hours . That’s dedication!!! They were tired and didn’t stay with us long so Friday was truly our party. A big thank you, to all who were there.

Saturday found many members there at 6:30 a.m. ready to setup for the Conference, Raffle, Silent Auction, Boutique and the Region 15 Board meeting. Everything was setup on time thanks to all who came and helped. We have been told that Prescott has set the bar high for future Fall Conferences.

Our Fall Conference Committee met for 2 years planning this and their hard work showed. These members, Sharon Luebkin, Kathleen Shaffer, Judy Book, Sue Crabtree, Sharon Sundvall, Jean Cole, Marge Larson, Vera Stewart, Leigh Skellenger, Dede Erceg, Carolyn Alexander, Linda Rossman and Dennis Luebkin all added their time and talents to make this a success.

A special thank you to all our members who dug, cleaned and helped sell iris rhizomes which raised the money to pay for our conference. PAIS has the most dedicated and hard working members imaginable.

Thanks a million!

