

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF VERDE VALLEY AREA IRIS SOCIETY HELD AUGUST 27, 2008, AT THE COTTONWOOD PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING, COTTONWOOD**

PRESENT: Linda Smith, President

Sandy Kelleher, Vice President

Merlyn Brown, Secretary

Members present:13

Guests present : 6 (4 joined as members)

The President declared the meeting open at 5:40 p.m. and welcomed everybody. Guests introduced themselves, as did new members who had joined before the meeting started.

**Minutes:**

The President referred to the Minutes of the meeting of the Society held March 26,2008. These Minutes had been sent in an email to all members with email, and hard copies had been sent to members without email. The President requested a Motion to accept the Minutes as stated in the newsletter. Gerry Snyder made a motion to do so, Janet Regner seconded the Motion, which passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report**

In the absence of the Treasurer, Linda Rossman, the President informed the meeting that the Society had \$589.11 as of August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008. Nancy Floyd made a motion that the Treasurer's report be accepted, Candy Peters seconded the Motion, which passed unanimously.

The President complimented Sandy on the creation of the "rosters" and the maps showing where members lived. She asked members to look at the boards and ascertain the their "pins" are in the right place. The President thanked Mary Wagner for organizing the attractive name tags for our 37 members. She stated that if there were any corrections for the name tags, they should be reported to her and she would redo the relevant tags. She asked members to leave their name tags on the outside table so that they would be available at the next meeting.

**Old Business:**

Stands: The President reported that she had received 50 excellent stands for displaying iris at shows and fairs from Del Richards at \$1.50 each, and she thanked him in his absence. Betty Gaudy made a Motion that these stands be bought by the Society, Mary seconded the Motion which passed unanimously.

Cottonwood Fair: The President told the meeting that she and Cookie Best had donated their winnings from the fair, totaling approximately \$60, to the Society. Cookie had also won Best of Show and the President presented her with her Fair ribbons. The Prescott Fair is coming up in September and the President suggested that members of VAIS could enter items other than iris at this time of year, in order to gain experience at entering fairs.

National Convention: Due to limited time, the photos from National Convention will be shown at another time.

Program: The President presented a slide show of members' gardens or individual iris, and the applicable member talked about them. Betty Gaudy's garden was first. Betty has kindly

volunteered two rows in her garden for the Society's use. The President thanked Betty most heartily. Cookie Best's garden was next. There was some discussion about "Crimson King" iris - it is prolific and sometimes reblooms. Cookie spoke about her individual irises which were shown. Carolyn and Rose's garden was described by Rose. Mary Wagner has just started growing iris, and she described her ups and down in this respect. Del's garden in Rimrock was shown, and also Harold and Paula Ables' gardens in Flagstaff, where they use the medians in the streets. Slides of Linda Rossman's Hummingbird Iris Gardens taken in the spring were shown. Nancy Floyd described these in Linda's absence.

Alfalfa pellets were discussed at some length. The consensus seemed to be that they are useful in adding micronutrients to the soil, but care must be taken not to throw the pellets directly on top of the rhizomes as, when the pellets are wet, they disintegrate into "mush" and can rot the rhizomes. The meeting was advised NOT to use rabbit pellets due to the high salt content, but to only use horse pellets.

The President reported that she had visited the Flagstaff Iris gardens and recommended a visit to the members. She stressed the need to get iris into the community as shown in the Flagstaff slides and to encourage people to use iris in landscaping, growing at least one or two for diversity.

There was some discussion regarding the benefits of watering plants with a solution of one gallon of water with 3 tablespoons of dark molasses syrup dissolved therein, and sprayed or sprinkled over plants to kill aphids. The meeting was also advised to soak rhizomes for a few hours or overnight in just such a solution, or 'plain' water, before planting. The President stressed the importance of having the rhizome "showing" on top of the soil.

The President showed a slide of irises in a tight circle and explained that this phenomenon occurs when irises are not divided every three years.

Hats and Aprons: Merlyn told the meeting that she had made five hats and two aprons which both she and the President wore to show to the members. They will cost \$20 each.

The President also brought to the attention of the meeting several beautiful ceramic iris "boxes" that Cookie Best had painted and has contributed for the iris sale.

Iris Sale Labor Day 2008: The President informed the meeting that the marking party for this sale will be on Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, at her house, from 8:00 a.m. onwards. The actual sale will be at Mount Hope on Main Street in Cottonwood from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. So far the following members had committed to helping with the marking of the iris: Sandy, Eileen, Cookie and Merlyn.

The actual sale will be at Mount Hope on Main Street in Cottonwood from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. September 1, with set-up time starting around 7:30 a.m. at Mount Hope.

Insurance: Michelle assured the members that the Association is covered for the sale, as is Mount Hope. The President has a copy of the insurance document.

Fall Trek: this event is scheduled for October 10-11, and will take place in Prescott. She urged members to sign up for this. Rick Tasco of Superstition Iris Gardens is the featured speaker, and Michelle highly recommended him to the members. The cost of registration is \$35. Please contact Linda Smith at 567-7470 if interested in carpooling.

Nomination Committee: The President informed the meeting that we had to have a slate of officers to insert into the upcoming newsletter and asked for volunteers.

The next meeting of VAIS will be the last Wednesday in October, i.e. October 29, 2008, at 5:30 at the Public Safety Building, corner of 6<sup>th</sup> and Aspen Streets, Cottonwood, AZ 86326.

The President informed the members that they could continue their iris shopping in the back of the room, as well as bidding on iris in the silent auction, which would continue until 7 p.m.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE PRESIDENT DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 6:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Merlyn Brown - Secretary