

**VAIS meeting 8/27/09  
Cottonwood Public Safety Meeting  
Cottonwood, AZ**

Pledge of Allegiance. Welcome by Linda Smith who called the meeting to order. There were 9 members present. 5 guest –Total 14.

- **Approval of Minutes**

Elected secretary, Devon Artrip, resigned due to job conflict.

The minutes from the last meeting were distributed, Betty Gaudy moved to accept minutes as written; Dana Brush, seconded. The minutes were approved by acclamation.

- **Treasurer's Report**

Linda Smith gave the Treasurer's Report. The balance is \$1370.48, the same as last month. The bank will allow VAIS to have a checking account for \$2 per month. The savings account was closed due to inactivity.

- **Old Business: Iris Display Event and Review**

The Verde Independent covered the meeting and took pictures of the Iris Display event. The winners were: Janice Montgomery for "Afternoon Delight"; Velda Bice for "Joyce Terry"; Nancy Jenner for "Cherry Glen"; Yolán Kreuzer for "Pris Miss"; Janet Regner for "Rustler"; Alyssa Munoz for artistic division with 3 flower arrangements; There were two other entries: Joanne Bazzill, Barbara Marshall. Thanks were extended to many members who helped with displays, setups, photos, voting, etc. The Club brought in \$100 in potted iris sales from the event.

- **Companion Plant Report**

Linda talked about the fact that Iris can be planted nearly year round, even in the summer time. They are very hardy and can take a lot of abuse. Larkspur is a companion plant to iris, but sometimes conflicts with Irises blooming. Hollyhocks come up a little later than the iris bloom. Also zinnas and marigolds.

- **New Business –**

Notation made for need of secretary position opened and need of chair person's for various activities.

- **Program and discussion**

Linda demonstrated how to trim an iris before replanting. Trim back the roots if you like. Trim the leaves to 3-4 inches. By trimming up, you are forcing the plant to put out more leaves, babies, etc. Be sure you cut off the new babies and discard the old rhizome as it will not cause anymore blooms – it will rot.

Be sure when you plant the rhizome not to bury the rhizome, or it might cause rot. If you allow the sun to shine on the rhizome, then it will grow well and increase. Be sure you cut and divide at least every 3 years, preferably 3 years. The best time for replanting, dividing, marking, etc. for this area are August and September. When you replant, plant three together a foot apart, arranging the rhizome in the way the you want the increases to grow.

Linda recommended using the alfalfa (horse) pellets to help supplement the soil. If you use whole, sprinkle around iris (not on top!) or work into soil, or make a tea out of the pellets. Another good item to put in a garden is evaporative cooler pads with dirt sprinkled on top. Irises were put on sale for the group.

*Respectfully submitted, Janet K. Regner: Edited by Linda Smith.*