



Verde Valley Area Iris Society

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Donate IRIS
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Calendar of Local Events

Aug 27 VAIS Meeting 5:30
Cottonwood Police Station
(Corner of 6th & Aspen)
Aug. 29 Marking Party at
2290 W. Running Iron
Sept 1 – Labor Day
Rhizome Sale
Mount Hope

Other Events

PAIS Silent Auction
and Potluck –Sept.6
PAIS Hosting Fall
Trek Oct. 10-11 2008
AIS National Convention
May 11-16 2009
Kansas City, MO

Contacts: Editor and President, Linda Smith 928-567-7470; Sandi Kelleher V. Pres. 928-634-6241; Merlyn Brown Sec. 649-9290; Linda Rossman, Treas. 928-777-8110




PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings to all this HOT August Day, (and my air conditioner is out), Our only money maker of the year is coming together nicely. Many have answered the call for help and donations. We also have ordered from Mid America some new varieties, and have invited anyone with Iris related products ; like **ceramics, hats, bags, stained glass, and paintings to participate**. This sale will have a patriot theme honoring Labor Day, and will take place on the sidewalk outside at Mount Hope (which is a fitting name for this event in these times, ("**HOPE**"). This should be a fun day!

Iris, you either love them or hate them. If you are receiving this e-mail, it probably means you grow and care for or have an interest in iris – a labor of love for sure. My zinnias, marigolds, and dahlias are filling in until frost, then it's time for pansies and cold weather vegetables. For those of us who like a little color year around, irises are a great choice because you can grow other things beside them while you wait for their main show in the spring. I've had reports from Janice and Janet of unknowns (zunks) iris blooming in their yards in July. I had one also that seemed to be confused, Calling Card.



Hope to see you soon at our meeting the Wed. before Labor Day, and some of you at the Markings Party and hopefully all of you at the sale. Please send pictures of your gardens and/or companion plants. This meeting is important as we will learn about each other's gardens. Donated iris can also be brought to the meeting and there will be time afterwards to purchase. Please have your iris labeled and groomed.



Linda Smith

Topic of August Meeting

Your Gardens



The pictures you have sent in will be on a power point display for you to elaborate and tell us about your garden. If you have more pictures or haven't sent them yet, please send to irisgrower@cableone.net by August 15.

Grooming an Iris for Sale



My Method

I dig up a clump and shake as much dirt off as possible. Then I take it to a shady area, where I have a large trash can. I hand break it over the trash can to save as much dirt as I can and break it into single rhizomes pieces. Then the fans are cut down 6"- 8" tall and roots are given a haircut to 4"- 6". I write the name or color on the fan with a black sharper. I rinse roots and lay the batch in a ventilated bucket or on a wire rack. I leave in a well ventilated cool place for at least 3 days. They are then ready to be sold or replanted. The trash can is then dumped into a compost pile. Note: they can be stored in a cool dry area for several months if needed. I find when I plant them, they still usually grow.

by Linda Smith

Minutes of Meeting of Verde Valley Area Iris Society Held March 26, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 6 P.M. by President Linda Smith. There were 17 members present, and 22 guests.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the last meeting had been distributed to members via VAIS newsletter. Gerry Snyder moved that the Minutes be accepted as distributed.

Michelle Snyder seconded the motion. A member stated that there had been an omission from the Minutes. At the last meeting, there had been discussion relating to an officer's inability to join AIS from a financial standpoint and that VAIS might could pay AIS' dues for that officer. A vote had been taken to NOT do so. This occurrence had been accidentally omitted from the last minutes. After some discussion the motion to accept Minutes w this correction was passed unanimously.



Treasurer's Report

The President reported that we had \$373.28 in the savings and checking accounts.

OLD BUSINESS

Officers



The President stated that Sandy Kelleher has agreed to be Vice President and Linda Rossman has agreed to be the Treasurer. Both are currently members of AIS which is required for officers. Michelle Snyder moved that both Sandy and Linda be appointed as Vice President and Treasurer respectively. Mary Wagner seconded the motion which was then passed unanimously. The President thanked Sandy and Linda for volunteering to be on the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

The President showed the plant markers that are available for purchase. She suggested that members get themselves a label maker. Once label is made and mounted on marker, it could be sprayed with a UV clear spray to prevent fading.

Linda Rossman noted that there are weather-proof tapes also.

Home Tours

These have not been organized as yet until all the officers were appointed. The President told the meeting that members should call her and let her know time and date of their home tour.



Stands for Exhibits

Del Richards brought example stands that could be made for exhibits. They will cost about \$1.50 each. The President stated that we would need 50 of these. The President thanked Del for his efforts.

Exhibit Opportunities

The President reported the stands will upgrade our display iris exhibits at the Cottonwood Fair, to be held May 3. All entries for Cottonwood Fair must be in on April 28 from noon till 6 PM. Only one entry per color will be allowed. All monies won have to be picked up from the Fair Office before Fair officially closes on May 4. The Prescott exhibition is on May 9 and she encouraged all members to attend & participate in both exhibits.



FERTILIZER and ASSOCIATED PRODUCTS

Len Nelson of Earthheart Naturals Inc., out of Lequot Lakes, MN, addressed the meeting on his various products. These can be ordered online from www.earthheartplus.com. His e-mail address earthheart@tds.net. There was some discussion about various forms of animal problems in our iris beds and how to control them.



PAIS

Linda Rossman presented a check of \$50 to VAIS from PAIS. The President thanked Linda and PAIS for the generous gift. Linda also informed us about a luncheon with the PAIS garden tour at her home May 3. Members were asked to let her know if they planned to attend. Linda's phone number is 928-777-8110. A sign-up sheet was passed around to those attending.

Odds and Ends



The President showed several iris-related items - some of the beautiful fabrics she found on-line; and an unusual iris vase from Windmill Nurseries in Cornville. Linda Rossman also noted a good site for iris-related items: called the Bradford Exchange.

Velda Bice addressed the meeting concerning her up coming classes in gardening with Ollie School at the Yavapi College. Janice Montgomery explained her workshops in gardening on Mar. 29.

A question was raised as to why today's meeting started at 6 instead of 5:30. The President explained the Public Safety Building had a conflict, but future meetings would be started at 5:30, unless there's another conflict. The time change had been noted in the cover letter to last newsletter.



PROGRAM

Gerry Snyder presented a wonderful slide show. He started with historical iris moving on to many examples of the various iris that are available, ranging from tiny dwarf iris to the very tall bearded iris, Siberian, Louisiana and arils. There was a great deal of discussion and questions asked of Gerry, who was very informative. He also discussed what judging of an iris entails. The President thanked Gerry for his very interesting and knowledgeable presentation.

Closing



There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45. The next meeting of VAIS will on Aug. 27, 2008 at 5:30 P.M. It will be held at the Public Safety Building, corner of Aspen and 6th Streets in Cottonwood, AZ. unless otherwise notified due to last minutes conflicts.

Submitted by Merlyn Brown, Sec.



Please notify VAIS of known iris growing in your garden and if they rebloom. I'm developing a data base of cultivars that already grow in the Verde Valley. We continue to work on our goal of increasing varieties that will grow in this area.

Golden's Iris Garden

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928-445-0503
barrygolden@hotmail.com

Hummingbird Iris Gardens

5942 Old Black Canyon Hwy., Prescott
928-777-8110
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Windmill Nurseries

9550 E. Cornville Rd
Cornville, AZ 86325
928-649-9177

New Beginnings Greenhouse & Nursery

129 S.Main Cottonwood, AZ 86326
928-634-3700

Happy Growing of Iris