

Vol. 1 Issue 1 Jan. 2008

Verde Valley Area Iris Society

Table of Contents

Announcements
Topic Next Meeting
Roster
Presidents Message
Minutes of Meetings
Suggested By-Laws
ID of Iris



Calendar of Local Events

1/30/08 **VAIS** Meeting
2/16/08 **PAIS** Meeting
Speaker Bob Van Liere
3/26/08 **VAIS** Meeting
VAIS Members Only Tour
Date to be announced
VAIS Exhibit Tentative
5/10//08 **PAIS** Exhibit
Mortimer Nursery Prescott
May **PAIS** Garden Tour

Other Events

4/14-19/08 **AIS National**
Convention Austin, Texas
4/25-26/08 **Region 15**
Spring Trek - CA
4/28-30 **Aril & Median**
Trek -NM



VERDE VALLEY NOW HAS IRIS SOCIETY

by Merlyn Brown



We know that living in our area is good for our bodies. But the Verde Valley's climate is also conducive to growing almost any plant. One of the plants that thrive in our warm atmosphere is the iris. The newly-formed Verde Valley Area Iris Society's main aim is to promote learning about, and growing this remarkable flower. Nobody could really call an iris rhizome (the tuberous root) attractive, and yet with minimal care, this "ugly duckling" turns into a beautiful "swan" - sometimes in as little as one year, as can be seen from the picture. Did you know an acre will almost grow 17,000 clumps of different iris and that there are over 70,000 different iris? Did you know there are Reblooming irises?

Come to the meeting, join the VAIS, grow and learn with us. Find out how many different named irises are already successfully grown in our valley and how many more can we grow.



HISTORICAL IRIS SPEAKER - CANDIS (CANDY) PETERS

The topic for January's meeting will be "Historical Irises" and will be presented by Candis Peters.

She fell into growing iris when her mother dug up some of her own irises and passed them on to her. Who knew that it would not only turn into a passion, but also become her obsession?

Candis has given away many historical irises to local people and they are having great success growing them. She will also give good advice on how to build soil and make use of the desert in order to grow this drought-tolerant plant, that not only brings great beauty to the garden, makes a gorgeous cut flower, but is also good for controlling erosion. A bonus is that iris just love our alkaline soil conditions. Candis is a wealth of information concerning growing iris, and we urge all

IRIS LOVERS TO ATTEND.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



We are off to a great start with 13 paid members, and people so interested they decided to have an extra meeting in 2007 to get things underway.

I've had great help - getting the roster done, getting speakers lined up, and even having a newsletter created and distributed! This newsletter - our first - will deal with more organizational matters than I would have liked, but "we gotta do it", so please hang in there!

The By-laws are the main thing at this point. They need to be established in order for lots of other things to happen. This letter will include suggestions, mostly along the lines of what AIS suggests will meet requirements for the IRS and our club needs. Any good organization is only as great as the people involved. If the enthusiasm I've received so far is any indication, I think we will be more than okay.

I'm excited to be elected your President, and welcome all suggestions. Feel free to share your questions, photos, and knowledge of iris by contributing to the newsletter. If there is one thing I've learned the past few years, it is that iris people have many different ideas as to what works and what doesn't, for them. This is exactly what we need to know. In reading the recorded history of iris, I found that there is not much information from Northern Arizona. We are breaking new ground here, and have the perfect place in which to do so - the Verde Valley. We truly have a unique environment, and have not even begun testing the ground (so to speak) as to what we might be able to achieve here.

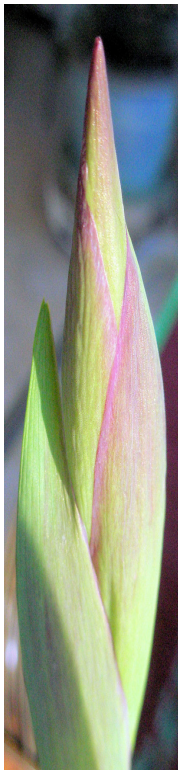
So happy growing to all - in both iris and the spirit thereof.



Linda Smith

Members of VAIS

First Name	Last Name	Address	City	Phone	Email Address
Rotraut (Cookie)	Best	695 Brewer Road	Sedona	282-5970	sedonarotraut@aol.com
Merlyn	Brown	173 So. 8th Place	Cottonwood	649-9290	merlyn2@q.com
Erni	Escalante	860 So 12th Street	Cottonwood	649-3468	n/a
Nora	Graff	PO Box 3652	Camp Verde	567-6703	mesquitez@hotmail.com
Jane/Ken	McGraw	215 Cathedral Rock Drive	Sedona	284-5305	jsmcgraw@csupomona.edu
Candy	Peters	1550 E. Regge Way	Cottonwood	646-0233	geop@commspeed.net
Judy	Reinhardt	1811 Gold Rush Road	Cottonwood	646-5392	n/a
Marna	Roden	1652 S. Rainbow Drive	Cottonwood	634-6740	marnaroden@juno.com
Diana	Smith	2035 S. Agua Fria Drive	Cottonwood	634-7102	dcsmith1949@msn.com
Linda	Smith	2290 W. Running Iron	Cottonwood	567-7470	irisgrower@cableone.net
Michelle Gerry	Snyder Snyder	225 Sky Line Drive	Sedona	282-5867	SAMMYGIZ@aol.com mesmerizerfan@gmail.com



MINUTES OF MEETING OF VERDE VALLEY AREA IRIS SOCIETY HELD OCTOBER 23, 2007

The Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by President Linda Smith, who introduced herself to those in attendance, followed by all present introducing themselves. In all there were 11 present, including three visitors: Richard Sauck, Nora Graff and Rita Galstaun. Nora joined. A list of existing members was distributed to check for any corrections, and for members to add their birth dates.

Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting were read by the President. They were accepted unanimously with no corrections or additions. (*The minutes of first meeting will be included in this newsletter also.*)

Treasurer's Report

Since no Treasurer had been elected prior to this meeting, the President gave the Treasurer's report, indicating that we have 12 paid members and a total of \$160 being held by the Prescott AIS Treasurer. The President informed the meeting that the dues we are paying now will be good through 2008. The dues are \$15 for a single membership, and \$20 for a couple. Gerry Synder informed the meeting that the American Iris Society dues are free to us for the first year.

OLD BUSINESS

The President asked if any member had done his or her homework which was provided in the handouts from the first meeting, i.e. identifying the meaning of each color type of iris; coloring the iris picture and the word-find puzzle. Nobody had done so. The President also reported that she was having trouble getting publicity for the Society with the area newspapers. She asked for help in this regard from the members.

NEW BUSINESS By-Laws

Before the election of officers, the By-Laws for the organization and the duties of the officers were reviewed.

Election of Officers

The following members were elected as officers:

President - Linda Smith Vice President -

position yet to be filled

Secretary - position yet to be filled

Treasurer - Judy Rhinehart

Committee chair persons are as follows:

Historian - Candy Peters Scrapbook - Candy

Peters and Diana Smith

Photographer - Diane Smith Sunshine -

position yet to be filled

Newsletter - position yet to be filled Publicity -

position yet to be filled

Vacant positions will be voted on at the next meeting.



Presentation

A presentation on growing iris from seed by given by the President. The presentation was informative with demonstrations, photographs and many suggestions for ways to prepare the seeds. After the presentation, the President gave seeds to anyone who wished to grow iris from seed. The President also brought in examples of dirt/sand from both Bedrock and Gary's Landscaping, where she buys that kind of material. It was passed around and discussed. Various members shared what they add to improve quality of their soil.

The next meeting of VAIS will be held on Wednesday, January 30, 2008.

(venue yet to be determined)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Notes by *Diana Smith*
Respectfully Edited &
Submitted by *Meryln Brown*



Minutes of 1st VAIS Meeting – Sept. 19, 2007

Meeting held at Cottonwood Library and opened by organizer, Linda Smith. Brief introductions by all, and handout booklets given. All present introduced themselves. Slide Show of various PAIS members irises shown and talk by Barry Golden concerning how iris groups get started.

Overview of what AIS and VAIS is and purpose of group. Introduction of events that could be expected. Information concerning entering iris in Cottonwood Fair included. Discussion of what Fan, Fancier or Fanatic about iris means and each person told a little of their history growing iris and why.

An overview of Iris parts and types. And words about Rebloomers from Linda Rossman from PAIS. Iris books discussed that are available through library system. Demonstration of way iris can be displayed for iris shows and method to get iris to show safely.

Brief discussion on dues, by-laws, and election of officers. It was motioned by Diane Smith that we have a meeting in Oct. to elect officers and 2nd by Erni Escalante, and carried by group. Also, vote on whether to keep meeting at same time but change venues if possible. Merlyn Brown suggested we meet at Cottonwood Police Station on 6th St. if possible. Copies of generic by-laws and PAIS newsletters were made available. Unanimous to keep meeting at 5:30 PM on Wednesday. Date of Oct. 24, 2007 agreed on for next meeting.

Meeting adjourn. Submitted by Linda Smith



Zunk = NOID = UNKNOWN

You might ask, what is it? That's the question often raised concerning iris.
Do I care if it has a name?

Sometimes in the desert environment I am so happy to have anything growing, especially something that blooms without sticking me, is enough. If you've gotten this far in this newsletter though, I would bet you are getting the iris virus and want to know the name.

What can I do to ID an iris?

How to give enough info to people "in the know" that might help.

Of course, always a good photograph, with special attention to different views. Plus making sure the color of the falls and standards match, in your camera, as close to actual color as possible. Maybe even break off a fall and do a close up. Rulers are always helpful in a photo. The beards alone are fascinating to me. They each have a character of their own.

Another often overlooked clue is the fans. By focusing on the fans there's information to help the experts. Notice whether the bases are green or if there's some purple or red. Maybe the purple or red extends up the fan. Maybe it is only that way certain times of the year. This helps narrow the search considerably.

Another often overlooked clue is the rhizomes. The size, shape and increase are all points to be considered. Then there's the stem. By noticing the height, branching and general character of it will be another indication of what it might be.

The bud can also have indicators. By noticing the number on each stem and what the spathes are like will further narrow the search.

And don't forget to check out the anthers. Notice the length and texture. And of course notice the bloom period. Is it Early, late or somewhere between, and does it bloom again in the fall?

In other words, it can be daunting if you really get too serious about that old iris out in your yard that everyone loves. But take it slow, just enjoy your iris whether you have a name at the moment or not. It's ok if it's a Zunk (NOID = unknown). You have something growing in the desert that loves our way of life and helps us by giving us beauty. So have fun!!!!

By Linda Smith 8

Verde Valley Area Iris Society Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

City -ST -ZIP _____

E-MAIL _____

PHONE

DUES: Regular \$15 or Dual and Youth \$5
_____ (circle choice, write amount)

Mail to: Linda Smith
2290 W Running Iron
Cottonwood, AZ 86326

Comments concerning your iris and reason for joining

Questions? Please call Linda Smith 928 -567-7470 or
e-mail: irisgrower@cableone.net