



AIS REGION 15
2009
SPRING NEWSLETTER
ARIZONA & SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
MARCH 2009

"Road to the Future"
2009 R15 Spring Trek
Phoenix, AZ April 17th & 18th
See last page for registration form!



"HASSAYAMPA HOLIDAY"

R15 2008 FALL TREK
PRESCOTT, AZ



The Prescott Area Iris Society hosted the 2008 Region 15 Fall Trek at the historic Hassayampa Inn in Prescott, AZ in October. The PAIS members did a spectacular job of hosting a fantastic meeting. There was a dazzling array of art, new irises, fun and practical items in their Live and Silent Auctions. A spectacular display of re-blooming irises was provided by Alex & Katie Stanton and Carole Buchheim of Mystic Lake Gardens in California. The meeting room was part of the elegant Hassayampa Inn, located in the heart of old town Prescott, near Courthouse Square and Whiskey Row. Guest Speaker Rick Tasco of Superstition Gardens gave a program on the history of Superstition and their hybridizing program, which has won many top AIS awards, including the Dyke's Medal for 'Splashacata'. Rick wore a special tie printed with images of Splashacata. Judges Training on Arils and Arilbreds was given by Kathy Chilton. New Officers were elected for 2009, including Cheryl Deaton as RVP. Thank you, Prescott Area Iris Society for a wonderful time!! See the Region 15 website for more photos!



Jane Troutman presented Rick Tasco with the Claire Barr Award which was won by his 'Absolute Treasure' at the 2008 Spring Trek hosted by Hi Desert in April .



Bonnie Haughton admires Reblooming Irises brought from Carol Buchheim's Mystic Lake Gardens in California.





REGION 15 NEWS

A Message from RVP Cheryl Deaton

Hello Region 15!

I am so pleased to be your RVP. We have an exciting future as hosts of the 2012 AIS National Convention. Thanks to all the affiliate members for attending the February Region 15 meeting in Ontario. Not only did we get an approved budget for 2009 (not always the easiest thing to do), but we accomplished quite a bit at the Convention meeting that followed. Almost every chair position has been filled by either an affiliate or an individual/team. Cooperation is the key to hosting this convention, and I can honestly say that we have loads of cooperation!



MEN LIKE ME (Deaton 2007)

As a region, membership is down a little, and this is a national concern. Many people do not have the gardens, nor the time to devote to their care. It's time for all clubs to start thinking "outside the box", and encouraging different types of irises and different growing techniques (i.e. container growing, window boxes, etc.). Make sure you have plenty of applications available for joining the American Iris Society AND your club at your Spring Shows! Get the most outgoing people to man the booth and encourage coming to a meeting just to "see how things are". Give away membership to AIS or one of the Sections as a door prize at your meetings. We all love irises, not only for their beauty but also for their ease of growing. Spread the word.

I am looking forward to meeting many of you in Phoenix for the Reion 15 Spring Trek – 'Road To the Future'. I've heard they have a good turnout, so I'll see some new faces, and renew old friendships. Come up and introduce yourself to me, and if you have any questions or concerns, just email me at region15kids@hotmail.com. I'll try my best to answer you ASAP.

Until we meet in a garden, Happy Irising!

YOUTH REPORT

by Cheryl Deaton, AIS & Region 15 Youth Chair

Hi there! This youth report will be short and sweet. We have only 3 (that's right 3!) youth members in our region. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our newest youth member, Arnold Chaney of Valley Center. I know all of you have a grandchild, nephew, or neighbor that would benefit from membership in AIS. It's only \$9 per year, and with that they get the Bulletin as well as the Youth newsletter, The Iris Fan. Couldn't you sponsor a young friend for just one year in AIS??? How did you get started growing irises? Did your grandmother or neighbor give you your first rhizome? Once you caught "the iris virus" there was no turning back. Growing things is a wonderful way to encourage a young person to enjoy nature, even if it is only radishes.

I hope many of you will take the time to mentor a young person, share a rhizome, and start a lifelong passion for growing irises. Try it!



LETTERS FROM OUR PRESIDENTS

Spring 2009

Southern California Iris Society

President Nike Monninger

Recruiting and retaining new members continues to be SCIS's number one problem. We seem to gain a few new members at our iris show but they don't come to meetings and are gone after a year.

Our members only auction pleased everyone and we had the added bonus of getting the region iris just in time to auction them off the same day. This left a hole for September when we usually do the region auction but it was more important to get the iris into the members hands in the best condition.

Louisiana iris are usually in the October beardless auction but I was able to get a smoking deal from Aitken's Salmon Creek Garden. They had to dig all the Louisiana iris and if I let them ship at their convenience then I could get a deal. The result was 29 Louisiana iris for \$120.

We are moving our iris show back to the Los Angeles Arboretum after 5 years at the South Coast Plaza. The show will be held the first weekend of April. SCIS big iris sale is April 23 through April 26 at South Coast Plaza. We anticipate weaker sales this year compared to last year which was down 15%-20% from 2007. SCIS has enough financial cushion for several years if the weak economic conditions continue. The good news is we won't have to work as hard digging rhizomes and marking rhizomes.

SCIS January ^{meeting} featured Richard Richards giving a program on iris bloom around the calendar.

The February meeting will have Kim Ung giving a program of his trip to Iris Paradise (Schreiner's, Cooley's, et al) in 2008.

Fred Kerr has agreed to give a program in March on his hybridizing program and looking into the future.

April of course is filled with shows, sales, and treks, but is dark for a meeting.

May is dark.

June is our annual elections and show report

July is dark

August and September are for members only and Region 15 Auctions.

October is the annual beardless auction

November is dark.

December is the Christmas luncheon. The last 2 years we have been at The Old Spaghetti Factory and have really enjoyed it. We hold a gift exchange where the gift can be stolen twice.





LETTERS FROM OUR PRESIDENTS

Spring 2009

Prescott Area Iris Society

By President Diane Clarke

The PAIS would like to thank all those who participated in the 'Hassayampa Holiday' Fall Trek held in Prescott in October. The event was a great success thanks to the co-chairs Marge Larson and Stan Book and the dedicated members of our club. The Judges Training by Kathy Chilton was eye opening and may have encouraged a couple of our members to attempt to grow Arils again! Rick Tasco presented to us the mind blowing amount of work that it takes to grow iris commercially. Thanks to all those who attended to help make our event a success. With all the accounting finally tabulated we are pleased to announce that we were able to return the starter money to Region 15 and that we made \$1,147.44 that will help further the education and appreciation of iris in Prescott. We are all looking forward to going to the Spring Trek in Phoenix hosted by Sun Country so we can relax and enjoy their beautiful iris.



At our November meeting we were pleased to present a professionally produced slide show of our Annual Spring Exhibit held on Mother's Day weekend. The photos were taken by professional photographer Jennifer Franks-Ciolino who happened to be visiting her mother-in-law in Prescott. The slide show is set to music and reminded all of us what we love so about iris – the glorious array of blossoms! It's good for those of us at altitudes to watch in the winter months since we don't have blossoms in the winter.

We are going to celebrate our iris blossoms this spring in a big way with our first AIS Show 'Symphony in Color'. Vera Stewart will chair this event with help from our local expert and iris judge Marge Larson. There is no doubt that planning will run smoothly, we will just hope the weather cooperates and gives us all some beautiful blooms to enter. Our April program will be geared towards the proper presentation of single stems by Marge Larson and professional ideas on arrangements presented by our new VP Carolyn Alexander.

Planning has already begun on the Dyke's Medal Winner's Garden to be planted in the Yavapai College Sculpture Garden. The Sculpture Garden has taken on a life of its own – and it's getting bigger than anyone had even dreamed of! More land is being donated, more uses are being thought of, more people are participating and it is becoming a 'must see' when coming to Prescott. PAIS is pleased to be part of this in order to fulfill our community outreach goals.

Our winter has been relatively mild with rain and snow scattered throughout. The creek that is usually dry most of the time has had water running in it since early December. That's a first since I moved here in '01. I have noticed new growth on the rhizomes that I bought at our Annual Region 15 Rhizome Sale and then potted. That should mean that it will be a great year for iris in the Prescott area this coming year.

Happy Gardening



LETTERS FROM OUR PRESIDENTS

Spring 2009

San Diego Iris Society

Edith Schade, President

The San Diego Iris Society started the 2009 year with a Roundtable Discussion in January on “Growing Iris – Part 1”. Our new meeting place has a room large enough that we could set up the tables forming a rectangle. This made a more informal and congenial setting, just perfect for a Roundtable Discussion. With all the knowledge and experiences in our membership, it was an informative as well as an enjoyable meeting. Some came away with a solution to their problem and others got answers to their questions.

We congratulated Leon Vogel on his 90th birthday.

Katharina Notarianni presented a copy of her newly published book, The Beauty of Irises, to Norma and Leon Vogel. Norma and Leon first introduced Katharina to growing iris.

Our 46th Birthday Party will be held at the Seven Seas Lodge on February 14th, which is a Saturday. Normally, our meetings are the second Sunday of the month. We’re looking forward to an informative as well as an entertaining program presented by Brad Kasperek of Zebra Gardens.

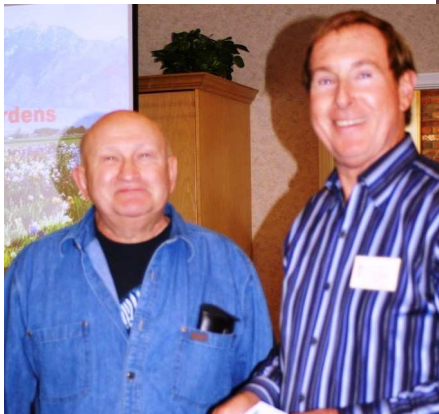
In March, we will have the second part of the Roundtable Discussion on “Growing Iris”. We will continue where we left off in Part 1 and go into more depth. These discussions are not only beneficial to those members who are new to growing iris in their gardens, but to those of us “old timers” as well. You always learn something new.

We plan to have a booth at the Home and Garden Show which is held at the Del Mar Fairgrounds. This is a three day event February 27-March 1. There we will spread the “iris bug” by selling rhizomes, giving out iris growing information, and answering questions.

At the April meeting, Ted Howse of Iris Howse and Gardens will teach us Hybridizing from Pollenization to Bloom. Also at the same meeting, we will cover how to get your blooms to the show in good condition.

The annual Spring Show and Sale will be May 2-3 in Balboa Park. This is another way we spread the “iris bug”. Who could resist after seeing all those beautiful show blossoms!

In June, we present trophies to the winners from the May Show, elect new officers, and will have our first ever member iris exchange. We have planned a busy but fun year.





LETTERS FROM OUR PRESIDENTS

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Sun Country Iris Society

President Ardi Kary

Sun Country Iris Society is busy getting ready for our big event in April --- the Region 15 Spring Trek. Everything is getting done as scheduled. We are still looking for raffle and door prizes, abut they are coming in. The four Trek garden owners are Francelle Edwards, Jack Weber, Gary and Sharon Petterson, and Ardi Kary We have over 200 varieties/seedling from 36 hybridizers. It should be a very good show. We are looking forward to seeing everyone at this Trek. 27 have signed up already.

Please ask the club presidents to start thinking about how many rhizomes they want for the Region Rhizome Auction in the fall. We'll check with them again at the Spring Board meeting.

Hoping to see everyone in April.

Sonoran Desert Iris Society

President Darol Jurn

The Sonoran Desert Iris Society held their annual birthday and bingo party during the July meeting. Everyone enjoyed the festivities, many prizes were available.

The December meeting was held at the Marie Calendars restaurant for the club's annual holiday dinner and gift exchange. The formal meeting was short which included a confirmation of the 2009 officers. The restaurant provided a wonderful meeting space and great food for our dinner followed by a gift exchange. The evening events were enjoyed by all of those present. The 2009 elected officers are:

President: Darol Jurn

Vice President: Darol Jurn

Treasurer: Darlene Kaiser

Secretary: Donna Brower

A significant topic of discussing during the fall/winter meetings was the future meeting dates and agendas for 2009. The Sonoran Desert Iris Society is focusing most of our resources on supporting a spring flower show at the Beatitudes Campus with no more than 6 meetings scheduled during the 2009 calendar year. Because the residents of the Beatitudes Adult Campus responded well to our 2008 show, the club membership voted to hold a non-AIS Sanctioned the show at the Beatitudes Adult Campus on April 14, 2007. Judging will be conducted by a popularity vote.



LETTERS FROM OUR PRESIDENTS

Spring 2009

Hi Desert Iris & Daylily Society

We had a very interesting second half of 2008. July brought all the digging, cleaning, splitting and marking of all the guest iris from the Spring Trek. What a job! A big "Thank you" to our own Winona Stevenson for taking care of the sorting for the clubs and all the shipping.

August we had our annual rhizome giveaway to attending club members - always a popular event.

September was the Region 15 auction of the rhizomes from the guest gardens, and even though we had the guest gardens, the auction was quite spirited at times. After the auction we had our first "Drive and Dine" event at two members homes. Was well attended and everyone there had a great time.

Our October meeting program speaker was Cheryl Deaton with her "provocative"??? Sex in the Garden presentation. And if you're sitting there saying "Whatever is that???" you need to talk to Cheryl

November brought Jill Bonino with her presentation on the recent local treks and the national convention with lots of Oohs and Ahhhs by those at the meeting. Making a new list and checking it twice and I don't mean for Christmas, but what we want for next year. WE also had the election of officers for 2009.

December was our annual holiday potluck with, as usual, way more food than we needed, the installation of new officers, and the gift exchange. It's always amazing what folks can find for \$10 or less for the gift exchange. We have some really creative people in our club.

And last but not least, in January 2009 we had a program by our very own Richard Stretz on daylilies. Richard is a former daylily hybridizer and judge and his presentation included pictures of some of his introductions and daylilies that for various reasons were tossed.

Tucson Area Iris Society

President Kathy Chilton

TAIS elected new officers in October 2008: President Kathy Chilton, Vice-President Ben Herman, Secretary Dian Curran and Treasurer Maxine Fifer. January's program was given by Patrick O'Connor of **Zydeco Louisiana Iris Garden** in New Orleans, LA. Patrick showed us some of the history of LA hybridizing, some of his own cultivars and showed us some of the damage from Hurricane Katrina and the restoration that is taking place. February brought us Gary and Sharon Petterson of Gardener's World Nursery in Phoenix. They shared information on amending desert soils and provided samples of some of their new products in a very educational program. March will be dark as we prepare for an Iris Sale at the Tucson Botanical Garden April 3/4 and our Spring Iris Show and Sale at Foothills Mall on April 11th. Several of our members potted rhizomes left from last fall, and we have several hundred one gallon plants we hope to share with the gardening public! Please visit our website: **Tucsoniris.org** for gardening information and lots of beautiful photos.



LETTERS FROM OUR PRESIDENTS

Spring 2009

Inland Region Iris Society

President Carole Buchheim

I am pleased to report that we are a growing club with a number of new members. Thanks to Carol Morgan and her awesome sales team at our September Fall Iris Sale at Landscapes Southern California Style we signed up six couples, one family, three singles, and one organization.

We've found in the past that it is a huge hurdle to actually get new members to attend meetings and become involved. This year we tried a new strategy. In October we invited all of our new members to come and receive a free gift bag of irises (provided by Mystic Lake Gardens). They were sent special invitations requesting R.S. V. P. by phone and nearly all of them came! Jill Bonino gave a very informative slide presentation entitled, "Introduction to Tall Bearded Irises". We had a plant table piled higher and deeper with rhizomes and a wonderful raffle for newer irises. It was a huge success and we have a number of active new members to show for it. We rolled out a red-carpet welcome and have been blessed because of it.

Our November program featured Fred Kerr of Rainbow Acres Iris Garden in North Highlands, CA. After a dream-filled look into the future of Fred's new iris introductions, six lucky I.R.I.S. members won gift certificates for 2009 Kerr introductions.

December is celebration time and we truly enjoyed ourselves at our Holiday party and Gift Exchange. The gift table was piled high with garden-related goodies, plants, and even a few Barry Blyth newer iris rhizomes. I might add that the plant table was also piled high and the monthly raffle featured a super selection of newer irises. We've found that providing a well-stocked plant table surely helps in keeping our new members' interest engaged. The monthly raffle and plant table sales income is an added benefit.

January always brings a time of reflection, new resolutions, and big dreams. For us irisarians it's also a time for garden planning. I hope that the PowerPoint program on reblooming irises that Paul and I presented will encourage our members to plant more rebloomers! The program consisted of digital beauty shots of 200 different Tall Bearded reblooming irises. Excel data sheets were handed out highlighting information about each cultivar. This program will be the base for developing several Tall Bearded reblooming iris PowerPoint programs made available through the Reblooming Iris Society. Check the RIS booth at the AIS National for CD purchase or contact Alex Stanton, at stanton-ad-k~@liuno.com for more information.

Our I.R.I.S. calendar is loaded with excellent programs. The February program will feature "Irises Around the Calendar" by Rich Richards. The March program will be presented by Bob Van Liere of Iris-4-U Iris Garden in Denver, CO. In April we will have a show-and-tell program, "Blue Ribbon Show Table and Design Entries," presented by Eileen Fuimara. The I.R.I.S. Spring Iris Show and Sale will be April 24th and 25th at the Inland Center Mall. The theme is "Tea Time in the Garden". (Contact De Dixon at dixon-r@att.net for more details.)

Our club meets the 2nd Monday evening of each month at the Sizzler Restaurant, 6631 Clay St., Riverside, CA 92509 (at the corner of Clay St. and Van Buren Blvd.). At 5:30 p.m. we fellowship over a leisurely meal and begin our meeting at 6:30 p.m. Come and join us for good food, great fellowship, and super programs. (And bring along a few extra \$\$ to indulge in the raffle for newer iris introductions and the well-stocked iris plant table!)



LETTERS FROM OUR PRESIDENTS

Spring 2009

Lompoc Valley Iris Society

President Ben Schleuning

Greetings from Lompoc Valley Iris Society.

We are looking forward to greeting each of you in person at our Region 15 Fall Trek on 9 & 10 October. Preparing for the big event is occupying a good amount of our mental efforts right now. All of our committees are hard at work getting their respective "ducks" lined up. We will have the flyers available at the Spring Trek.

On a more routine level, we are all rejoicing over the recent rains. Our iris are responding very well to nature's treat; so are the weeds. Most of our physical efforts right now center around the latter!

On a personal level, I thank all of you for your concern, prayers, cards, and phone calls regarding my two surgeries for the removal of a brain tumor; a benign meningioma. The surgical sites are healing nicely; my vision remains impaired. I will take this opportunity to give accolades to two very dear LVIS members, Larry Huyck & Leonard Todd. Their surprise gift that was awaiting me, on my return from the first 7 day stay at UCLA Medical Center, was one pristine, weed free iris bed! What a blessing as I was instructed to avoid activities that required bending over.

LVIS has started our new year with a new slate of officers, renewed interest, and fresh ideas. We are looking forward to an exciting year. Our annual Iris Show will be held on 25 & 26 April. We are expanding our program this year to include English Boxes! I don't think we are ready for "Arrangements" yet; maybe next year?

We really enjoy reading and sharing the great monthly newsletters from all of you, especially the advice & tips.
Keep them coming!!

Orange County Iris & Daylily Society

President

No Report was available.





LETTERS FROM OUR PRESIDENTS

Spring 2009

San Fernando Valley Iris Society

President Steve Fletcher



I'll pick up where Mary Anne Abrahms left off last time. We were un-invited by Westfield Shoppingtown Topanga for our Fall Sale of long standing there. After considering options, the Board settled on the Encino Farmers' Market as our next best choice of venue. Well, it turned out to be more exciting than we expected!

The Marking Party was set for Jan Lauritzen's yard. The day it was scheduled was the day after the disastrous Chatsworth Train Wreck, and all access to Jan's house was cut by the disaster response activity. Jan called Randy Squires, who volunteered his carport area for the marking party. All volunteers were contacted and the change of venue went off without a hitch. Then, the first of two Sundays at the Encino Market went so well that we had to dig more rhizomes for the second Sunday! Overall, we grossed less than at previous Mall sales, but the overhead was so much less that we more than made up for it. After sweating bullets over the change, we were happily surprised.

By November, with deliberate, conscientious shopping by John Huffman, the club had acquired a new digital projector of outstanding specifications. It was used by Peggy Carpenter to present the "other" Barry Blyth presentation from the Region 15 Trek, which was different from the one he had shown us earlier. Since then, it has continued to prove its worth. In January, it was used for a hybridizing program presented by Cheryl Deaton and Randy Squires (Yes, "Sex in the Garden" was Cheryl's title) Then, in February, Kathy Chiklton made use of it for her presentation on Arils and Arilbreds. We are looking forward to getting a lot more use out of the projector. In March, Rick Tasco of Superstition Gardens will speak on "Historic Irises."

I must back up to our December Holiday Potluck Meeting at which Judith Gasser, last year's recipient, presented the David T. Ross Memorial Service Award to, for the first time, a couple—Carol and John Huffman. They have been active, in tandem, on the board and at all SFVIS functions.

Now things ramp up for the SFVIS Spring Garden Trek on April 11, arranged by Judith Gasser, with five member gardens, plus an exclusive visit to Descanso Gardens arranged by Bettina Gatti. Our Spring Show follows on April 25-26 at Westfield Promenade, with the Artistic theme "Something Special." Then, on May 16-17, we will have a Rhizome Sale Booth at the Sepulveda Gardens Country Fair.



LETTERS FROM OUR PRESIDENTS

Spring 2009

Verde Valley Area Iris Society

Linda Smith – President

I recently attended my first Board Meeting and was well pleased with turn out and support of the various Iris Affiliates. There were several, when hearing my plea: “we just need rhizomes” to help us get going with our new club, are willing to send us named and unnamed ones. Our group is so new; most just want to grow an iris. At this stage, some don’t really care if it’s named or not. Hopefully, with more education and more of our members attending shows and functions this attitude will change.

Several new members attended their first Region 15 Fall Trek and were so delighted; they wanted to know, “when can we do this”? I tried to explain that’s way down the road. I’m excited about their enthusiasm though. Even more plan to attend the Spring Trek in Phoenix and we have a liaison volunteer, Jane McGraw, to coordinate members car-pool and any info needs.

VAIS plans to have its first exhibit this year. This is still tentative, but I will post activities and newsletters on the Region 15 site. To get to our site directly, click: http://region15ais.org/verde_ais/

VAIS has received a nice donation of plastic tarp signs by a new member, Sharon Smith. This is a great improvement from the sheets, cardboard boxes, and plywood we used last year.

VAIS held the first meeting of the year with Harold and Paula Ables of Flagstaff giving a wonderful presentation of the iris they grow. Harold is a professional photographer. He gave us tips on how to take photos, plus upload with enhancements. His web site is: www.IMAGESbyABLES.com. He donated many iris photo prints for the meeting raffle organized by Mary Wagner. An iris ceramic photo frame, made by member, Cookie Best, was presented to Harold for his efforts.

Julie Talbot, a local Sedona artist, displayed an entire wall full of exquisite watercolor and oil paintings of iris. She also makes beautiful iris cards. See attached photo.

One of our members, Nora Graff, also a master gardener, wrote an article on Lasagna gardening methods for our local extension newsletter. It is a method of gardening that I use to build and amend soil. The link to Nora’s article: <http://ag.arizona.edu/yavapai/newsletters/mg/archive/index.html>

As an outreach program, I recently presented iris growing choices and techniques for Velda Bice’s gardening class, another member of VAIS. I encouraged class to at least grow one iris somewhere in their garden.

VAIS also has a program we call our “side order plan.” It is to promote growing iris in commercial areas, (in front of motels, or subdivision entrances). We have several members potting irises for this purpose. We had donations from Alex and Kate Stanton that were most appreciated..

I can’t say thanks enough for members that have helped. Without their support, nothing would happen. VAIS welcomes a new secretary, Devon Artrip. Without her, the meetings wouldn’t get started. She greets the guest, has their



Region 15 Board Meeting Minutes

AIS REGION 15 WINTER BOARD MEETING

February 7, 2009

Doubletree Hotel, Ontario, California

Attendees: Bill Van Gorder, HDI & DS President; Pat Van Gorder, HDI & DS; Mike Monninger, SCIS President; Alex Stanton, Inland & San Diego, Barbara Lauck, Inland; Cheryl Deaton, Hi-Desert; RVP; Bill Molnar, Vice President San Diego; Linda Smith, President VAIS; Steve Fletcher, SFVIS President; Jill Bonino, SFVIS/Region 15 Treasurer, 2012 Convention Co-Chair; Carol Morgan, Inland/Ways & Means; Vera Stewart, PAIS/Region 15 Secretary; Kathy Chilton, Tucson President/ 2012 Convention Co-Chair; Jane Troutman, SFVIS/Awards; and Judy Book, PAIS.

OPENING BUSINESS:

- **Call to Order:** RVP Cheryl Deaton called the meeting to order at 10:13 a.m., and after welcoming everyone to the meeting requested that introductions of those present be made.
- **Secretary – Approval of Fall Board Minutes:** The minutes from the October 11, 2008 Board meeting held in Prescott during the Fall Trek were read and approved following a motion by Kathy Chilton and second by Barbara Lauck. These minutes will be published in the next newsletter.
- **Treasurer’s Report:** Deferred until Budget discussion.
- **Ass’t RVP/Judges Training:** Cheryl reported for Winona Stevenson – road closure due to winter weather had prevented her attendance. There are currently just 40 judges at various stages of judges status; more are needed, especially when four clubs in Region 15 are holding their Spring Shows on the same date in April. A new JT publication is being prepared specifically to assist individuals interested in meeting the requirements for becoming judges – no further information available at this time.
- **Membership:** Cheryl reported (for Winona) a drop of AIS members from 426 as of 11/30/08 to current number of 329, and urged encouragement for renewals. An additional 30 people will be dropped unless their dues are received soon. During an open discussion on this challenging situation Bill Molar shared an idea from a Rose Society affiliate – that of having a *trial membership*, at a reduced amount. Another suggestion was to provide a free membership in an AIS Section like the Reblooming Iris Society. Cheryl requested that other ideas be sent to her, and reminded those clubs that have not sent Winona their latest membership roster to do so as soon as possible.
- **Awards:** Jane Troutman stated that there was a need to order trophies. She and Kathy Chilton had shopped and found that Lucite trophies ranged for \$52 - \$55, plus \$10 engraving fee making the cost around \$65 each. Jane proposes that we order six of each category, making a total of 18, which would provide a six year supply, and costing \$1170. The use of self-sticking metal plates with three lines for the winner’s name, etc. could be purchased from local trophy shops for a small additional fee. After discussion Jane motioned, with the second from Barbara Lauck to order 18 lucite trophies at \$65 plus tax each for total of \$1170; motion approved unanimously. A follow-up motion from Bill Van Gorder, and seconded by Barbara Lauck placed the \$1170 plus tax amount into the 2009 budget. Motion carried.
- **Newsletter:** Kathy Chilton announced that she expects to publish the next issue around the first of March. She is hoping that all the affiliates will provide her with their club report, officer information, and calendars with Show dates for 2009 very soon, if not already submitted. She also requested photographs from club or Region events, especially the Fall Trek. In response to an inquiry about publication frequency she clarified that the Region newsletter is published twice a year. Cheryl mentioned that she will distribute a current handout of the affiliates with presidents’ data at the afternoon 2012 Convention meeting. During a discussion of electronic version of the newsletter Kathy stated she will place a notice in the next newsletter regarding transition to electronic distribution, and requesting members then advise her of their preference for receiving their copy. Linda Smith recommended having it on the Region website, but Kathy stated that privacy concerns prevented that from being a realistic feasibility. Linda Smith then made a motion that the newsletter be placed in a PDF file on the Region 15 website and that individuals’ e-mail addresses only be included (home addresses and telephone numbers would be deleted). This motion was seconded by Jill Bonino and approved unanimously. A follow-up reminder by Linda Smith was voiced that there cannot be any youth pictures on the website (an article in the January AIS *Bulletin* provides further information on this subject).

....Continued on p. 14.....



Region 15 Board Meeting Minutes **Continued**

- **Youth:** Cheryl stated that there are only two Region 15 AIS youth members.

Historian: Cheryl reported that the location of historical records for Region 15 is unknown, although Jimmy Jones had some at one point in time. She asked for a volunteer to assume this position, and Linda Smith volunteered to take on the task. Alex Stanton brought up the topic of a repository for hybridizing history, expressing the view that AIS could provide that service. He stated that Fred Kerr was in the process of writing a book on his hybridizing efforts. Because some hybridizers are reluctant to share their information Alex wondered about the possibility of hybridizers *willing their information*. His sister Carole Buchheim has been talking with various hybridizers about their chronicles of getting started, etc. but Alex feels that AIS could take the helm on this area of interest.

Affiliate Reports – Some affiliate reports were read as written by their presidents, and are attached as a part of these minutes. Others were brief verbal reports to be submitted in written form to the Editor and Secretary in the near future. Note: Desert Sunset did disband at the end of 2008 as indicated in the October 2008 minutes.

1. **Hi-Desert** – Bill Van Gordon, President – Report/calendar attached.
2. **Inland** – Barbara Lauck presented attached report from President Carole Buchheim. Also Alex Stanton is negotiating with the Reblooming Iris Society on the price of a powerpoint CD that he has prepared.
3. **Lompoc** – Although no representative was present Cheryl Deaton reported that President Ben Schleunig was recovering from successful brain surgery. Lompoc is hoping to provide Judges Training on Artistic Arrangements to their members, as they have not had this division at their juried show. They will host the Fall Trek in Lompoc October 2009.
4. **Orange County** – Note: President Rowena Richardson reported in a phone call that their schedule is much the same as last year; local club members have recently presented three programs to their group.
5. **Prescott** – Vera Stewart, Past President, presented the attached report from President Diane Clarke.
6. **San Diego** – Bill Molnar, Vice-President, provided the attached report from Edith Shade, President. It was suggested that he send the additional, humorous information that he had shared on gopher removal to the Editor.
7. **San Fernando** – President Steve Fletcher provided a verbal report, telling of their change in location for the rhizome sale from a mall to Farmers Market in Encino at Balboa and Victory. The event was held for two weekends in September and while they had concerns about being placed way down at one end customers did find them and their sale was a sell-out. The gross sales were down, but also their expenses were down. The club is working on a Spring Sale using potted rhizomes.
8. **Sonoran** – No report or representative. Cheryl did mention that Darol Jurn was president and she felt the club was OK.
9. **Southern California** – President Mike Monniger presented the attached report/calendar.
10. **Sun Country** – President Ardi Kary sent the attached e-mail report which Cheryl read to the Board.
11. **Tucson** – President Kathy Chilton presented a verbal report. An excellent program on Louisiana iris was presented by Patrick O'Connor of Zydeco Louisiana Irises. Many pictures of pre and post-Katrina specifically of iris were especially great. Someone suggested that he could be a potential speaker on LAs at the 2012 convention. Kathy then described the four guest gardens for the 2010 Spring Trek which Tucson is hosting. The first garden, Ben Herman's, is in town, and was on their last Trek, The second is Paul Besseys' Garden, close to town, and Gordon Jensen's in Vail is third. The fourth garden, one of Kathy's accounts, is a new home/garden on five acres east of town. There are raised beds, and include 100 rose bushes, and a pond – the Trek will include in-the-garden Judges Training. The Tucson Botanical Gardens will be available as a side tour. There will be a Saturday luncheon, but no buses or evening banquet or host hotel. Meals will be dutch. Easter weekend of 2009 TAIS will have a show and sale at the Foothills Mall.
12. **Verde Valley** – Linda Smith, president of the Region's newest affiliate stated they were approved for AIS membership in May of 2008. They haven't had an exhibit yet but several members participated in the Verde Valley County Fair. Most of the current members are in the stage where they don't care about 'named irises' and Linda solicited donations of named varieties from Region 15 affiliates to remedy that state. Planting iris in front of commercial buildings and entrances to subdivisions was a focus last year. They did have a rhizome sale on Labor Day at the local Health Food Store site.

Judy Book of the **Prescott Area affiliate** joined the group at this point and spoke about the successful Fall Trek and positive direction of the club.

.....Continued on p. 15.....

Region 15 Newsletter ON LINE

A **FULL COLOR** edition of this newsletter is available
on the Region 15 website:
www.region15ais.org

Would you would like to receive your R15 newsletter electronically
instead of a hard copy by snail mail?

If so, please email Ranchiris@aol.com with "newsletter" in the
subject line. This will save a lot of paper and postage cost,
and you will get it in FULL COLOR!

Region 15 Board Meeting Minutes **Continued**

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: The Region has a \$5,000 CD in the Community Bank that will mature on July 28, 2009, and there is a need to establish a checking account for the 2012 Convention to be hosted by Region 15. A motion was made by Bill Van Gorder and seconded by Barbara Lauck to use the proceeds from the Community Bank CD and open a Convention checking account; this motion was unanimously approved. The signer names on the account are needed; Jill recommended opening the account with Bank of American as the Region already has its checking account there.

Treasurer's Account – Treasurer Jill Bonino announced she will continue to file the electronic IRS forms for all Region 15 clubs in 2009 as she did in 2008. Copies of the Treasurer's Report for Year End 12-31-08 and Estimated Budget for 2009 were distributed by Jill; this report is attached and made a part of these minutes. Jill reported that income was slower than usual coming in during 2008; all but two affiliates had remitted funds from the Region rhizome sales – basically the Region broke even for 2008. Verde Area had not remitted their rhizome sale profits of \$115, and President Linda Smith requested a waiver for their first year. A motion by Bill Van Gorder and seconded by Kathy Chilton to waive VAIS' 2008 donation to the Region was approved. The reason for Inland - the other affiliate not remitting – is unknown. A motion by Kathy Chilton to accept the statement as presented was seconded by Barbara Lauck and approved unanimously.

Budget for 2009: There was a spirited discussion related to the amount of subsidy given to the affiliates for Treks and how the fund could be used. A consensus feeling that it should be the local club not the Region deciding how to spend the subsidy resulted in a new motion: The funds for Fall and Spring Treks are a subsidy that should include but are not to be limited to speaker expenses - motioned by Kathy Chilton and seconded by Linda Smith; unanimously approved.

Linda Smith inquired regarding the amount of money in reserves – should there be a lower amount with the AIS Convention coming here in 2012? The consensus of the Board at this time is to get through 2012 and then chart a course for the future.

Regarding the support of the Region website – not all affiliates have sent an annual donation of \$50. Jill stated that it would be appreciated if all the clubs would continue to donate \$50 a year; checks should be sent to Region Treasurer Jill Bonino. Website master Tim's contract is up for renewal next year.

Revisions to the Estimated Budget were to decrease the Fall Trek subsidy from \$600 to \$500; increase the awards amount to \$1235; delete the Judges Training expense of \$50 resulting in Total Expenses of \$6770.00, a negative income of - \$2,170. A motion to accept the Estimated Budget as revised was made by Bill Van Gorder and seconded by Mike Monninger. Motion carried.

A motion to adjourn was made by Kathy Chilton and seconded by Jill Bonino – motion carried, with adjournment at 12:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vera Stewart, Region 15 Secretary



American Iris Society Region 15

Region 15 Commercial Gardens

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Join the AIS

Pay Online at

www.irises.org

Membership Office address is:

TOM GORMLEY
10606 Timber Ridge Street
Dubuque, IA 52001-8268
E-MAIL: aismemsec@irises.org
Phone: 563-513-050436-274-6149

AIS Membership Rates

Annual	Single:	\$25.00
	Dual:	\$30.00

Triennial	Single:	\$60.00
	Dual:	\$75.00

Life	Single:	\$450.00
	Dual:	\$545.00

Senior Life (age 65+): 15% discount, single or Dual. Both members must be 65 or older for discount to apply under Dual.

Youth Rates

Youth, without Bulletin:	\$ 5.00
Youth, with Bulletin:	\$ 9.00

Calendar year memberships. May be paid by check, or with VISA, or Mastercard online.





Region 15 Directory

Elected Officers

Region 15 Vice President

Cheryl Deaton
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Asst. Region 15 RVP/Judges

Winona Stevenson
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Vera Stewart
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Treasurer

Jill Bonino
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Awards

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Editor & Circulation

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Membership

Winona Stevenson
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Historian

Open

Nominating

Open

Committee Chairs Continued...

Youth

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Ways & Means

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Affiliate Presidents

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Inland Region Iris Society

Carole Buchheim
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Lompoc Valley Iris Society

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Orange County Iris & Daylily Club

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Prescott Area Iris Society

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Affiliate Presidents Continued...

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San Fernando Valley Iris Society

Steve Fletcher
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Sun Country Iris Society

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Tucson Area Iris Society

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Verde Valley Area Iris Society

Linda Smith
irisgrower@cableone.net



Irises On Line

WEBSITES

Looking for when the next meeting will take place? What's the schedule at the National Convention? Need growing tips for your area? Do you just want to look at some beautiful iris photos, or see what happened at the last Spring Trek or Fall Meeting? You'll find what you're looking for on the internet! Check out these fabulous sites!

Region 15 Website

<http://www.srocha.com/region15.html>
Lots of pictures & event information.

American Iris Society

<http://www.Irises.org>
Lots of info & links to clubs, gardens, etc.

Tucson Area Iris Society

<http://www.TucsonIris.org>
Iris photos, local hybridizers, events & more!

San Fernando Valley Iris Society

<http://www.geocities.com/sfvis>
Meeting and membership information.

San Diego Iris Society

<http://www.geocities.com/RainForest/7679/>
Photos from the Spring Trek, club info & more.

Sun Country Iris Society

<http://www.suncountryiris.org>
Events, club information & more.

ATTENTION YOUTH MEMBERS
Stay in touch by e-mail
at: Region15kids@hotmail.com

“It is good to love flowers... they have been with us from the very beginning.”
.....Vincent Van Gogh

The American Iris Society Region 15 Newsletter

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Advertising should be
submitted copy ready.
Make checks payable to Region 15 AIS.

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Business Card (3 x 2")	\$15.00
Directory Listing (4 lines)	\$10.00
Additional lines (ea)	\$5.00

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES

SPRING ISSUE

<u>Deadline</u>	2/1
<u>Issue Date</u>	3/1

SUMMER ISSUE

<u>Deadline</u>	7/1
<u>Issue Date</u>	8/1

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The editor welcomes all correspondence for the newsletter. Any letters or articles submitted may be published if space is available and content is appropriate. The editor reserves the right to edit for clarity and length. Permission is granted to non profit organizations to reprint original material appearing in this Bulletin, on the condition that both the author and the publication are credited, and a copy of your publication is sent to the editor.



REGION 15 NEWS

2008 SYMPOSIUM RESULTS

Here are the results of Region 15 balloting in the AIS Symposium, which lists the favorite irises as voted by members of Region 15.

<u>Ranking</u>	<u># ofVotes</u>	<u>CULTIVAR</u>
1	11	MESMERIZER
2	10	THORNBIRD
3	9	LADY FRIEND
4	8	CONJURATION
4	8	DECADENCE
6	7	HOLLYWOOD NIGHTS
6	7	QUEEN'S CIRCLE
6	7	THAT'S ALL FOLKS
9	6	BEVERLY SILLS
9	6	STARRING
9	6	VICTORIA FALLS
12	5	DEVONSHIRE CREAM
12	5	EDITH WOLFORD
12	5	EPICENTER
12	5	EXPOSÉ
12	5	FLORENTINE SILK
12	5	JESSE'S SONG
12	5	LACED COTTON
12	5	MARY FRANCES
12	5	OREO
12	5	PAUL BLACK
12	5	SEA POWER
12	5	YAQUINA BLUE
24	4	DRAMA QUEEN
24	4	DUSKY CHALLENGER
24	4	GOING MY WAY
24	4	GOLDEN PANTHER
24	4	PERSIAN BERRY
24	4	RING AROUND ROSIE
24	4	RIO
24	4	SKATING PARTY
24	4	SPLASHACATA
24	4	SUPERSTITION
24	4	TELEPATHY
24	4	TOUR DE FRANCE
24	4	VANITY



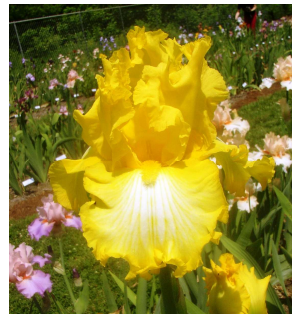
MESMERIZER



HOLLYWOOD NIGHTS



QUEEN'S CIRCLE



THAT'S ALL FOLKS



Beverly Sills

BEVERLY SILLS