

Sun Country Iris Society

An affiliate of the American Iris Society

August 2020

President's Message

By Jenine Cook

Hi Everyone,

Last month I wrote about the heat and waiting for rain. Well, nothing has changed here in central Phoenix; it's still hot and no rain. Despite the challenging weather the irises are still doing fine. The ones that are in the blazing sun all day are browning at the tips of the fans but there is still plenty of green and the rhizomes are fine. This is the time of year to turn to indoor iris gardening activities.

I have been reviewing my notes from the spring bloom season. I have many observations scribbled on note pads while I was out in the garden. I have been adding these to my Garden Book, putting the observations with the previous years' notes for each specific variety. Mornings when it is relatively cool, is a good time to go out and check markers, clear debris from around the rhizomes, and make notes about clumps that will be divided. I am also trying to add observations about varieties that are thriving and those that seem to be struggling and may benefit from being moved to a different location.

A few of the varieties I have found thriving in my garden include 'Social Graces' (TB), 'Absolute Treasure' (TB), and 'Baby Chick' (SPU). I will be dividing these, following Nancy's directions for take-away's, and donating the increases to the club. I'm watching the varieties I am pot sitting. I think it is challenging to care for rhizomes in pots at this time of the year. As the days get shorter and the sun is not as high in the sky, I will move them out of deep shade.

We are quickly approaching our fall auctions, when we have the opportunity to add new varieties to our gardens. Please be sure to check your email for messages about upcoming meetings and events as plans can change quickly due to the current pandemic.

Hoping to see you all very soon,

Jenine

Members Will Dig, Clean, Trim, and Mark!!!!

By Ardi Kary

We'll be digging and donating in September for our Fall Rhizome Sales here in the valley. These rhizomes will go to our sales locations around town for our October sales. Some members will need help with the digging. Some members prefer to do the digging themselves. We have members who will prepare the rhizomes for the sales by cleaning, trimming and marking.

Members are ready to help! If you would like members to help with your digging, cleaning, trimming and marking, just let us know. Email Ardi (ardikary@aol.com) or call 480-226-5270.

Please be on the alert for an email that will be sent out to all members **Sunday August 2nd** confirming the status of the August 4th meeting.

Sun Country Iris Society

August 2020

July 2020 Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Dale Liggett

- The July 7th meeting was not held due to restrictions related to COVID-19 virus pandemic.

August Refreshments

Since there COVID restrictions still exist there will be **NO** refreshments provided at the August 4th meeting.

July 17, 2020 Board Minutes

Submitted by Dale Liggett

- Conference call meeting called to order at 6:30pm by President Jenine Cook. Present were Ardi Kary, Gary Miller, Nancy Evans, Brittany Szemerei, Dee Wilson and Dale Liggett.
- Treasurers Report by Nancy - no deposits, one outstanding check Mid America Garden. Report accepted.
- Discussion about silent auction or online auction of 2020 Mid America Introduction Rhizomes. Future auctions/sales could be handled as the April one at Ardi's while this uncertainty with pandemic continues.
- August meeting - invite email to members who would attend, reply by July 28. Setup outside for social distancing, masks Program - photo awards rhizomes, auction of 3 2020 Mid America rhizomes and LA Goodwin Fire rhizomes. Take Away talk by Nancy Evans.
- Additional board meeting on 7/31 for prep on August meeting.
- September meeting - member auction with hundreds dollars worth of iris. Outdoor setting, hopefully with misters. Photos of iris projected on screen. New microphone will have been purchased
- Bylaws - Nomination committee; president appoints chairman who chooses 2nd member.

2nd member selects 3rd member; president is not on committee.

- Handbook on Hospitality/Membership - Responsibilities added to include more Personal contact of members for follow-up, invitations, rides to events. Also addition of committee volunteers.
- Fall rhizome sales - Pricing: Ardi moved \$5 for each or 8 for \$40 (and 1 free) for public, \$3 each for members, no free membership with purchase. Gary moved to accept, Dale 2nd, motion carried.
- Aug 21 dig & marking - Darol's in Sedona with Denise and Francine, need 1 more.
- Aug 26 dig & marking - Hall & Cliff's in Payson, Denise, Francine, Mary, need 1 more.
- Gary mentioned option of purchasing iris tags from Amazon, 1000 tags for \$25. Tabled until next board meeting.
- Fall sales locations - will contact possible locations after July 27th Executive Order.
- Arcadia Color Garden is still on schedule
- Member News - Francelle Edwards has been moved into a group home. Larry Wilson is recovering from successful knee replacement. Brittany Szemerei thanked SCIS for baby's gift card. Dale Liggett had successful cataract surgery. Gary Miller will have new great-grandson Mon.
- Being no further business, meeting was Adjourned at 7:25pm by President Jenine Cook.

August Birthdays

Jackie Contreras	Aug 3
Bryan Wiley	Aug 20
Clemence Newcomb	Aug 22
Deni Barnhart	Aug 30

Sun Country Iris Society

August 2020

Basic Iris Culture for August

By Ardi Kary

Be patient. Our irises will perk up and start growing again in the fall. By springtime, they will be lush and gorgeous. Monsoon season in Arizona is officially June 15 to September 30. Some of our members had some rain on their gardens. Some of us are still waiting.

GENERAL - Keep your iris beds clean. Remove weeds and debris. It's important to have good airflow in your iris beds. If you have companion plants, keep them away from the iris plants. This will allow the sunshine to get right down to the ground.

- **PLANT MARKERS** - Keep the plant markers corrected. They should be updated at all times. They are especially important this time of year when we are digging and donating to our Fall Rhizome Sales. When we sell our rhizomes to the public or to our members, we want them to have the correct name on them. As an affiliate of the American Iris Society, we are expected to know the names of our irises.
- **MAP YOUR IRIS LOCATIONS** - Take the time to make sure your map is ready to use. Fall digging and planting time will be here soon. Keep your map in your iris notebook so it will not get lost.
- **WATERING** -. When our temperatures are in the triple digits, do not overhead water. The rhizome could rot if water gets down inside the fan. Do not just water the surface of the ground. Give your irises enough water to get down to the roots.
- **FERTILIZE** -Apply fertilizer in the fall.

Sign-up To Prepare Rhizomes for the Sale

By Ardi Kary

Our first Fall Rhizome Sale for 2020 will be in Payson at the Payson Farmers Market, 816 S. Beeline Highway, Payson, AZ on August 29.

The rhizomes for this sale will be donated by Darol, Hall and Cliff. We will need members to

trim and mark the irises to get them ready for the big event. We need one more member to help at Darol's on August 21 and we need one more to help at Hall and Cliff's on August 26. Email Ardi (ardikary@aol.com) or call 480-226-5270 to put your name on the list. We have enough members to handle the sale in Payson.

August 21 Friday	Darol's garden in Sedona	Prepare rhizomes for the sale	9-10am until finished. Darol will serve lunch.
August 26 Wednesday	Hall & Cliff's garden in Payson	Prepare rhizomes for the sale	9-10am until finished. They will serve lunch.
August 29 Saturday	Payson Farmers Market in Payson	Sell rhizomes at the sale	7-8am until 12:00. Take down sale and tent

Pot Sitters and Pots are Needed

By Ardi Kary

Our Potted Iris Sales have been very successful for many years. Our members have made it happen. This year we need more members to participate in this project. Ideally, each member should just have a few rhizomes and pots to care for.

We want to sell quality rhizomes at our Fall Rhizome Sales. If some rhizomes are "too small for the sales" they will be potted and cared for until our spring Potted Iris Sales. After the Payson Sale, we could have as many as 150 "too small for the sale" rhizomes that should be potted in September. They will grow into nice iris plants. In addition, at the end of our sales, we will have rhizomes that were not sold to the public or to our members. They will be potted in November and sold next spring.

If you have extra pots you are not using, please bring them to the September meeting. Thanks.

Quiz Will be in September Newsletter – Learn More About Iris

By Ardi Kary

Go to our webpage www.suncountryiris.org and read *Growing Irises*. We'll try to include a quiz in the September newsletter just to see how much you learned.

Stop Losing Irises in Our Hot Summers

By Ardi Kary

There are some tips members have used to stop losing their irises in our summers. We need to plant and water differently because we have extreme heat in our summertime and we do not cool down at night as other places do. Yes, we cool down a little, but it is still hot when we get up in the mornings.

- When planting, do not add manure to the soil. It heats up the soil too much when the summer temperatures get over 100 degrees.
- Do not overhead water in the summertime when temperatures are over 100 degrees. If water gets down in the fans, it can cook the rhizomes. Use a drip system or other ground watering system.
- Fertilize once after our bloom season with a well balanced fertilizer. Do not fertilize again until fall temperatures got down below 100 degrees - usually October.
- Cut back a little on watering in the hot months of summer. Rebloomers will need to be watered as usual and perhaps given a light fertilizer if they are going to bloom in the fall. It is a good idea to plant all rebloomers together so they can be cared for as a group rather than individual plants.

Calendar of Events

Aug 4 - General meeting - rhizome auction

Watch for an Aug 2nd email on the meeting status

Aug 21 - Sedona rhizome dig

Aug 26 - Payson rhizome dig

Aug 29 - Payson rhizome sale @ Payson
Farmers Market

Sept 1 - General meeting - rhizome auction

Speaker from Sun City Garden Club

Oct 6 - General meeting - rhizome auction

Spuria & Louisiana

Oct 10 - Rhizome sales @ Arcadia Gardens

Oct 17 - Rhizome sales - **NEED NEW**

LOCATION

Oct 24 - Rhizome sales @ Metro Tech

Oct 31 - Rhizome sales **NEED NEW**

LOCATION

Nov 3 - General meeting - member rhizome

sale, plant & seed raffle Rick Tasco
presentation on Arilbreds &
hybridizing.

Dec 1 - Year end celebration @ 6:30

Rebloomers

By Mary Platner

Some of you know my passion for rebloomers. I was tired of spending a couple hundred dollars on annuals each year and instead wanted a perennial with a long bloom season. While initially researching irises, I discovered "rebloomers," which produce more than one growth of bloom stalks in a year. They are usually denoted with "Re" and are available in all categories of irises.

The three types of rebloomers are:

1. Cycle Rebloomers (CYRE): have two distinct cycles of blooms each year. The rebloom cycle is predictable from year to year and usually occurs in the spring and then again in the fall.
2. Repeaters (RE): Produce additional bloom stalks on old growth immediately following

the initial bloom, basically two bloom cycles back-to-back. An example is my bed of six Starring Encore irises which produced blooms for four consecutive months this year.



3. All Season Rebloomers (ASRE): Bloom stalks that randomly popup throughout the growing season.

Catalogs usually refer to all types of rebloomers with "Re."

Rebloomers fare better in warmer climates because early or late freezes in colder zones kill the blossoms. A couple of hybridizers are developing cold hardy rebloomers. Besides Larry Lauer and Robin Shadlow, Chuck Chapman, whose garden is in southern Ontario, has introduced rebloomers which consistently rebloom in his Zone 4.

Please note that rebloomers multiply faster than "one-season" irises and should be planted 24" apart. Do not cut the leaves after a bloom cycle because they help nourish the rhizome for the next bloom.

The Search is on for the Spuria's of Don Shepard and B. Charles Jenkins

Submitted by Mary Platner

"Our sister iris club, the Prescott Area Iris Society, continues to look for Jenkin's and Shephard's irises, mostly spurias, that are still needed for the Yavapai College Sculpture Garden's Honor Gardens for our Arizona

hybridizers. Since I make the labels, I know that some of you have some of these missing rhizomes. Dennis Luebkin, who is a member of both the Sun Country and Prescott clubs, chairs the garden. The rhizomes need to be planted in late August so the roots can take hold before Prescott's freezes. I am willing to dig the rhizomes if you have some. The Prescott Club will pay the \$3/rhizome so our club's treasury benefits. Please email me if you have any questions: maryplatner@msn.com

The following is submitted by Dennis Luebkin: The Prescott Area Iris Society is looking for the following irises to add to the Sculpture Garden in Prescott, Arizona to honor Arizona Hybridizers. If you have any of the following Spuria's, please, contact Dennis Luebkin at dluebkin@q.com or 623-980-6627.

Spuria's of B. Charles Jenkins to be added to the Jenkins collection at Yavapai College Sculpture Garden:

- Amanda's Eyes Billowing Clouds
- Candle Lace Color Sorcery
- Edith's Color Giuseppe
- Irene Benton Indecent Bronze
- Lemon Table My Gold
- My Impulse New Vita
- Popped Corn Purple Reign
- Sun Halo Tiffany Mae
- Tiny Lou

Spuria's of Don Shepard to be added to the Shepard collection at Yavapai College Sculpture Garden:

- Laced Sunshine

Judges Training

From Janis Schackelford
R15 Judges Training Chair

This year has been an experience all of us will not soon forget. For myself, I have been staying home, weeding, weeding, and weeding my garden. As far as Judges Training goes, all AIS judges will not be dropped from the program for failing to have the required hours of training in the

Sun Country Iris Society

August 2020

2019-2020 period. However Judges Activity Reports are still required for Judges and Apprentices (but not students). A reminder, the deadline for Judges Activity Reports is August 1st. If you have misplaced the form you can find it on the AIS website at:

http://irises.org/pdf/RVPHandbook2011_Final.pdf page 42 and 43.

You may print it out, fill it out, and then mail, or scan and email it to me.

In a few weeks AIS will be starting online Judges Training on August 5th. Details will be forthcoming but you will be able to register, receive a test, and take the test after the training. I will forward the instructions for the Judges Training when I receive them. I am aware that there are at least two judges in Region 15 that do not have access to a computer and I will be bringing that issue up with AIS in the future

I hope everyone is well and staying safe,
Janis

Photos from Jenine's garden



Fans with brown tips. Ground cover is Wedelia, dies back in winter, keeps soil shaded in summer



Increases I am growing for the club.

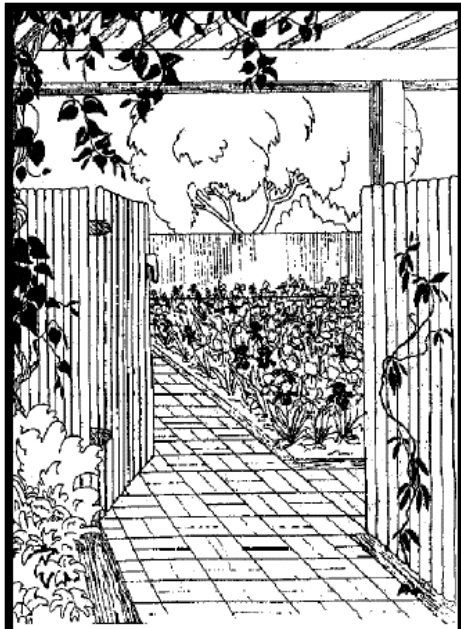


Louisiana's don't seem to mind the heat



Pot sitting

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Logos for HomeSmart, MLS, and a house icon are also present.



Glendale - Phoenix - Mesa

Please direct any inquiries to our web site at www.suncountryiris.org or to any of the following board members:

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