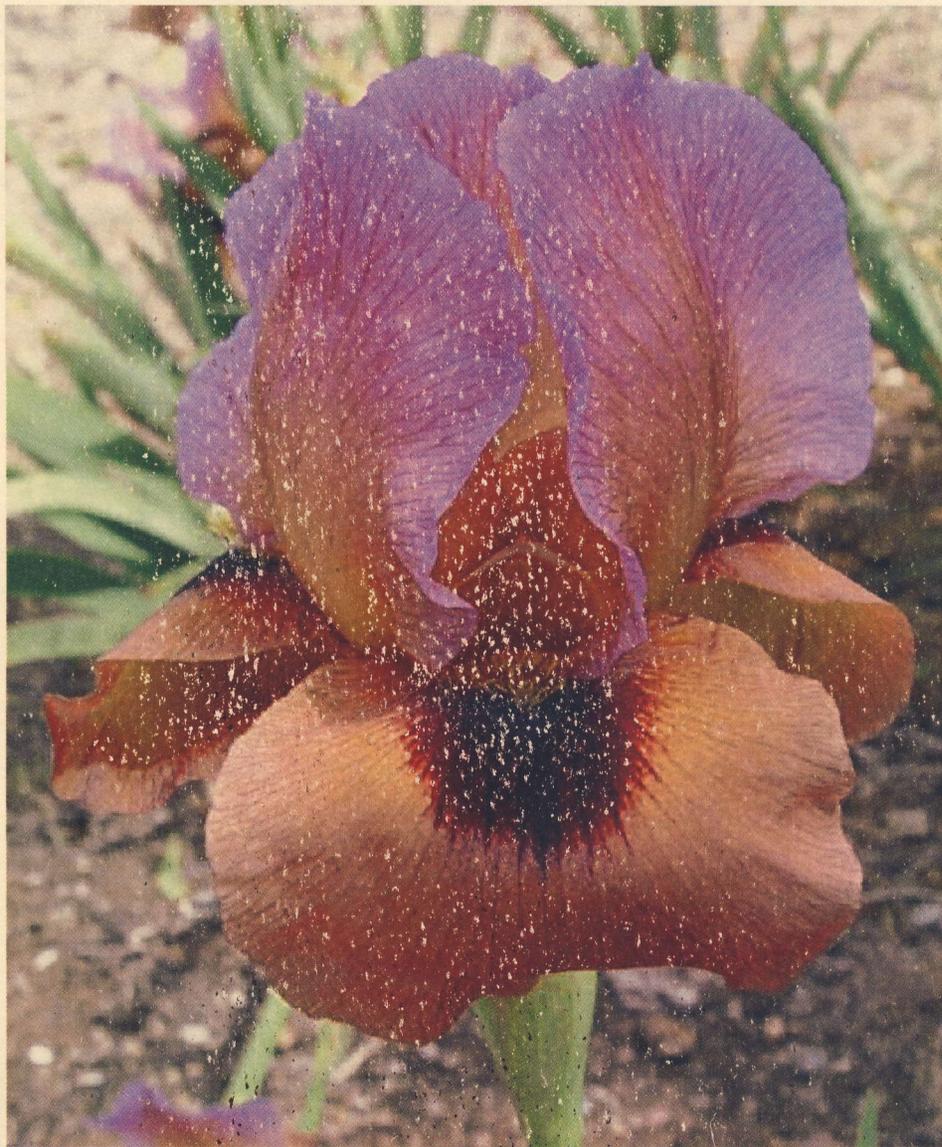


# Region 23

FALL



2008

American Iris Society

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This newsletter is published two times a year. Members are welcome and encouraged to submit articles. To meet the deadline, articles to be printed should be received by the Editor by February 15 (Spring issue), and August 15 (Fall issue).

Regional newsletters are mailed (free of charge) to all Region 23 American Iris Society Members. The Region 23 newsletter is available to people outside of the region and to non-AIS members in the region for \$6.00 per year.

Permission to reprint original material contained in Region 23 newsletters is granted on the condition that both the author and publication be credited.

The opinions expressed in specific articles within the Newsletters of Region 23 are those of the individual authors and are not necessarily those of the Editor or the Executive Committee. Comments about specific irises, firms, and products are not endorsements, direct or indirect, of said items by the Editor or Officers of this region. When experimenting with any techniques or products mentioned in this publication, readers are reminded to read carefully any product instructions and/or directions and to proceed at their own risk.

**COVER:** Refiner's Fire, hybridized and introduced in 2007 by Peter McGrath of Albuquerque, New Mexico, was voted the Best Arilbred of the 2008 Albuquerque Aril and Median Trek.

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## REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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For some of our members, it's almost time to wrap up iris activities for the year. Affiliates in the northern part of the region have had their last meetings for 2008, but for the Mesilla Valley Iris Society we close shop in June and July and start meetings again in August. At our September meeting more than one member brought irises that had rebloomed in their gardens. I'm writing this article on September 27 with my new irises in pots waiting to be planted in early October. I guess Region 23 can be compared to the state of Arizona; in the winter months you can go skiing in the Flagstaff area in the morning, then drive to Phoenix to play golf in the afternoon.

The Region meeting hosted by the Pecos Valley Iris Society was, as usual, outstanding. The party Friday evening at the home of Pegi and Fil Naranjo was wonderful. Kathy Chilton (the person, not the iris) was the after dinner (banquet) speaker on Saturday evening, and she gave the judges training session on Sunday morning; both were well presented. Leave it to the

Pecos Valley people to add to the program presentation on humming birds and one from "The Worm Lady"; both were excellent.

The next major iris event will be the American Iris Society convention in Kansas City in May 2009. Our affiliates will probably have their spring shows before the convention.

The Region meeting for 2009 will be hosted by the Santa Fe Iris Society. Al Elliott, the president of the Santa Fe Society, announced at the region meeting that the exact date is pending.

I want to remind affiliate presidents that AIS will be asking for affiliation reports right after the New Year. Everybody did a great job in getting their reports to me, on time, last year: let's do the same this time.

Have a great holiday Season.

**JIM REILLY, RVP REGION 23**

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### **BEATITUDES OF AN RVP**

**BLESSED IS THE RVP** who has not sought the high places, but who has been drafted into service because of his ability and willingness to serve.

**BLESSED IS THE RVP** who knows where he is going, why he is going, and how to get there.

**BLESSED IS THE RVP** who knows no discouragement, who presents no alibi.

**BLESSED IS THE RVP** who knows how to lead without being dictatorial; true leaders are humble.

**BLESSED IS THE RVP** who seeks the best for those he serves.

**BLESSED IS THE RVP** who leads for the good of the most concerned and not for the personal gratification of his own ideas.

**BLESSED IS THE RVP** who develops leaders while he is leading.

**BLESSED IS THE RVP** who marches with the group and interpret correctly the signs on the way that leads to success.

**BLESSED IS THE RVP** who has his head in the clouds, but his feet on the ground.

**BLESSED IS THE RVP** who considers leadership as opportunity for service.

(Adopted from BEATITUDES OF A LEADER, author unknown, from "The Friendly Pointer." Published by the Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends.)

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## 2008 TALL BEARDED IRIS SYMPOSIUM BALLOT

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As you know, the American Iris Society choose not to mail the tall bearded symposium ballot this year. In an effort to save postage (estimated at \$1200+), the ballot was printed in the July 2008 Bulletin. To quote the Bulletin, "You do not need to tear these pages out. Instead, simply list your 25 favorite irises on a piece of paper using the identifying numbers only — no names. This list of numbers can be sent to your RVP via e-mail or mail a post card/letter with you name and address on it to your RVP"

For whatever reason, only a fraction of the number of ballots normally returned each year were sent to the RVPs. In our region, I received 13 ballots; there are almost 90 AIS members in Region 23. Across the board, in every region, the results were the same. The following is the list of winners, by name, with the number of votes received:

Mesmerizer - 9 votes; Golden Panther, Conjunction, Oreo and Stairway to Heaven - 6 votes; Celebration Song, Dusky Challenger, Prague, Queen's Circle, Secret Service, Thornbird and Tom Johnson - 5 votes; Acoma, Boogie Woogie, Codicil, Happenstance, Kitty Kay, Lady Friend, Romantic Evening, Sea Power, Spiced Tiger, Splashacata and Titan's Glory - 4 votes.

I did send the results (the complete ballot) to Gerry Snyder, the AIS representative who will tally the results from all regions.

**JIM REILLY**  
**RVP, REGION 23**

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### TEN COMMANDMENTS

- Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's compost heap, nor his wheelbarrow, nor his Bearded Iris.
- Thou shalt not insult the soil, but always obey the laws of husbandry. If it be too wet, thou shalt drain it, and if it be too dry, thou shalt not court publicity but water it by night. At all times thou shalt return to the soil thy best efforts at humus.
- Thou shalt not steal thy neighbour's gardening pencil, nor his special pumpkin seed, nor any of his rare plants, but shall give him of thy plenty, except it be of couch or oxalis.
- Thou shalt not beget inferior iris, nor shalt thou sell any iris that hath not its right name, but shalt at all times be truthful, yea, even in thy catalogue.
- Thou shalt not commit murder on thy neighbour's hens, nor his cat, nor his dog, even though the bone be buried beneath thy best seedling.
- Thou shalt be tolerant of thy brother gardener who hath no iris, and shalt listen to his tales of Dahlia and Gladiolas with sympathy and understanding.
- Thou shalt not bury thy mistakes too deeply so that thou canst not find them easily, and thou shalt not bury the same one twice.
- Thou shalt not practice conceit when thine own seedlings flower, but shalt restrain thyself, yea, even when the people shout, "Thou hast raised a winner."
- Thou shalt not envy thy neighbour's soil, nor his flowers, nor his vegetables, but shalt study thine own soil and handiwork, to find wherein it may be deficient. Three things thou mayst not have on it is gorse, blackberry and unpaid rents.
- Thou shalt not buy expensive iris whilst thou hast hordes of growing mouths to feed, for great beauty lieth not always in the price tag, and hungry mouths do not see beauty.

(From: The Australia and New Zealand Iris Society Quarterly, "Translated by G. Cross from The Esquimeaux" via Clark Cosgrove to Region 20 Bulletin (Colorado, Spring of 1976)

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## AND THE WINNERS ARE

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### ALBUQUERQUE ARIL AND IRIS SOCIETY

The early show, "**Enchanted Treasures**", hosted on April 27, 2008 was the prelude to the Albuquerque Aril and Median Trek, contained Standard Dwarf, Intermediate Bearded, Border Bearded, Arilbred, Aril, Tall Bearded and Specie irises. There was a special appearance of '**Purple Sequin**' hybridized by Howard Shockey. This iris, although registered, never produced enough increase for introduction and sale, has not been seen by any of the general public for the past 15 years.

The iris deemed the Best Specimen of the Show, as well as the Best Arilbred '**Desert Fire**' was won by Valerie White. Other section winners were: Best of Section E, Standard Dwarf Bearded '**Chantilly Dancer**' was won by Cindy Rivera; Best of Section F, Intermediate Bearded **Many Mahalos**' was awarded to Helen Radebaugh, as was '**Habit**', Best of Section H, Tall Bearded.

The Silver Medal was awarded to Valerie White, with Helen Radebaugh winning the Bronze Medal.

### CINDY RIVERA

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The annual Mother's Day Show, "**Flowers for Mother**", was held on Saturday, May 10 and Sunday, May 11, 2008. There were 9 exhibitors showing 95 entries of 89 different varieties of iris in the Horticulture Division of the show. Due to the lack of participation in past years, the Artistic Design Division of the show was discontinued this year.

'**Bermuda Triangle**', a Border Bearded won the top honors of Best Specimen of the Show, and was shown by Helen Radebaugh. Other special honors went to Valerie White who won the Silver Medal, and to Helen Radebaugh who received the Bronze Medal.

Best of Section winners were: '**Dusky Challenger**', Best of Section A: Tall Bearded, by Helen Radebaugh; '**Desert Fire**', Best of Section B: Arilbreds, by Valerie White; '**Bermuda Triangle**', Best of Section C: Border Bearded, by Helen Radebaugh; '**I. pseudacorus**', Best of Section D: Other (Species) by Cindy Rivera; '**Golden Tan**', Best of Section F: Historic by Helen Radebaugh.

### PATRICIA RANDALL

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### MESILLA VALLEY IRIS SOCIETY

The thirty-fifth annual MVIS Iris Show was held at the Mesilla Valley Mall, as it has been for many years. Due to some conflicts with other events the show was held on April 12 and 13, which was early for some of our members. There were more entries in the median classes than usual, but fewer than we expected. There were more than 100 total entries however.

The Best Specimen was *'Pure As Gold'*, exhibited by Scarlett Ayres. Scarlett also won the Sweepstakes Silver Medal. The sweepstakes Bronze Medal was awarded to Steve Kelly-----not bad for his second ever show! Scarlett also received a Bronze Medal for her outstanding educational exhibit.

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### ANN COLWELL

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### PECOS VALLEY IRIS SOCIETY

The Pecos Valley Iris Society held their annual iris show at the Roswell Mall. The theme for this years show was **"Party Among the Petals"**, and with close to 100 horticulture entries and 24 design entries, there was quite a celebration of color and creativity.

The winners in the Horticulture Division were: Best Specimen of Show was a Louisiana Iris *'Clyde Redmond'* exhibited by Sue Chambers. She will also receive the prestigious Col. William Harris Horticultural Excellence Award for this outstanding entry. Runner-Up was a Tall Bearded iris *'Zoned In'* shown by Pegi Naranjo. The coveted American Iris Society Silver Medal, given to the exhibitor winning the most blue ribbons, was awarded to Pegi Naranjo. The AIS Bronze Medal, for second most blue ribbons won, was awarded to Lenora Rogers.

Top award winners in the Horticulture Division were: Best Bicolor, Best Blend, Best Red, Best White, Best Black, Best Other, Best Plicata and Best Violet were all exhibited by Pegi Naranjo. Best Blue, Best Space Age and Best Yellow awards were presented to Sue Chambers. Best Pink by Robert Hutchings, Best Bitone by Lenora Rogers and Best Self by Dorothy Cook rounded out the top award winners in the Horticulture Division. The Best Youth Specimen was exhibited by Valerie Wilhite.

In the Design Division the iris must be the dominant flower in the floral design. With the wide range of colors and sizes of iris, the exhibitors displayed amazing creativity in their entries. The Sweepstakes Winner for most Blue Ribbons was awarded to Pegi Naranjo. She also won the Pinkey Blackwell Design Excellence Award for the Best Design in the Show, as well as Runner-Up Best Design.

In the Youth Design Division, Jennifer Royalty won the Sweepstakes and Best Design awards. The Runner-Up Best Design winner was Ashley Coley.

The winners in the **Design Classes** were: ***Class 1 - "Planting a Rainbow"***: 1<sup>st</sup> - Renate Reisel, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Lenora Rogers, 1<sup>st</sup> Novice - Opal Malone, 2<sup>nd</sup> Novice - Charlene Hernandez, 1<sup>st</sup> Youth (age 16)- Ashley Coley, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Youth (age 8) - Jennifer Royalty. ***Class 2 - "Dancing Ladies"***: 1<sup>st</sup> - Pegi Naranjo (Runner-Up Design), 2<sup>nd</sup> - Georgia Schoenecker, 3<sup>rd</sup> - Renate Reisel, HM - Sue Chambers, HM - Lenora Rogers, 1<sup>st</sup> Youth (age 16) - Ashley Coley (Runner-Up Best Youth Design in Show), 2<sup>nd</sup> Youth (age 8) - Jennifer Royalty. ***Class 3 - "Jazzy It Up"***: 1<sup>st</sup> - Renate Reisel, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Pegi Naranjo, 3<sup>rd</sup> - Sue Chambers. ***Class 4 - "The River Walk"***: 1<sup>st</sup> - Pegi Naranjo (Best Design in Show), 2<sup>nd</sup> - Renate Reisel, 2<sup>nd</sup> Youth (age 16) - Ashley Coley, 2<sup>nd</sup> Youth (age 8) - Jennifer Royalty.

***Class 5 - "Rhythm In Bloom"***: 1<sup>st</sup> - Pegi Naranjo, 2<sup>nd</sup> Renate Reisel, 3<sup>rd</sup> - Georgia Schoenecker, 1<sup>st</sup> Youth (age 8) - Jennifer Royalty (Best Youth Design in Show).

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**PEGI NARANJO**

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**SANTA FE IRIS SOCIETY**

Showing iris in our area is always a gamble, but our society covers such a large area that we can generally have a good show anyway (except for the 1996 show, which didn't happen due to horrendous drought conditions). This year the Winter wouldn't let go, and Spring was too cold, too long, too deep-----and windy-----and dry! Many of us in the Santa Fe, Taos, and Stanley areas had a terrible iris bloom. And yet the season in Los Alamos (and evidently on upper Canyon Road in Santa Fe) was outstanding. Good thing!

The Horticulture Division was small, with only about 70 iris (and a dozen of those were unnamed, so they didn't count for AIS awards), but some of those were very nice. Pat Feather won Best Specimen with a glorious stalk of '*Glamour Pants*', and she won the Bronze Medal as well. The Silver Medal went to Sherron Elliott of Los Alamos-----Sherron and Al brought nearly half of the irises shown, and they were lovely.

To make up for the dearth of horticultural entries, the arrangers came out in full force, giving us the best display of artistic entries we have seen in many year. We had 20 Artistic Division entries, including two from youth entrants. It seemed that though some people had grumbled that our theme would be hard to interpret, they all rose to the occasion and displayed some great imagination. Maggie Rubino really shone, winning both the Best Design of Show, as well as the Artistic Sweepstakes. Bravo!

The best part about this show (aside from getting to spend a day with all out iris friends) is that if we can put this nice of a show on in a bad season, maybe next year will be the perfect Spring, and we can have a truly wonderful show!

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**BARBARA MANN**

**IRIS SEZ:** Would you believe that I count calories too? A calorie is a unit of heat.....and when I experience enough of them in the Spring I burst into bloom.

**IRIS SEZ:** Now's the time to start filling that piggy bank so that at the fall auction/sale you will have the wherewithal to buy all those irises on your "Wish List".

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## REGIONAL EVENTS

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### ALBUQUERQUE ARIL AND IRIS SOCIETY

The main event of the AAIS this past year was the Aril and Median Trek they hosted from April 27<sup>th</sup> thru the 30<sup>th</sup>. Following is a synopsis of the event from a couple of the attendees.

Bob and I just joined the Aril Society this year for the first time. When we heard about the Aril and Median Trek to be held in Albuquerque last April, we decided to go see and learn more about Arils, Arilbreds and Medians.

Actually in 1994, back in Western New York, we had ordered several arilbreds from Schreiners: *'Tabriz'*, *'Martha Mia'* and *'Mohr Pretender'*. We were told by members of our WNYIS that: "You can't grow arilbreds here". Well we had an ideal location that was sunny and the soil was well drained and our arilbreds grew and thrived! In fact we entered our arilbreds in the iris show the next year and they did very well. The judges were fascinated with our arilbreds. Since it was a tall bearded show they said *'Martha Mia'* could not be the queen, but gave her second place. Unfortunately our iris that we brought with us when we moved to Roswell in 2002 did not survive their move, except for *'Mohr Pretender'*, and a few others.

On Sunday, April 27, 2008, we arrived at the Albuquerque Garden Center to see the entries from the "Enchanted Treasures" Iris Show that was held there that day. It was wonderful to see so many different arils and medians. We also got to tour the display garden at the garden center, and enjoyed a pot luck dinner.



The following days had us traveling to the various gardens that were so different but each lovely in their own way. Pete McGrath had a very large garden with a lovely deck area for us to have our lunch. Pete hybridizes and grows pure arils, as well as arilbreds in his northeast garden which is nearly at the base of Sandia Peak. Lowell Baumunk was our teacher for judge's training for arils and arilbreds at this garden.



Valerie White had a fantastic and varied display of flowers and the wisteria was in bloom at her home in southeast Albuquerque. Dorothy Willott gave us median judge's training in this garden, as well as back at the garden center.



Unfortunately, Cindy Rivera had a freeze overnight in Los Lunas, but she still had lovely iris in bloom for us to see when we visited her garden. The pond, with her Louisianas and pseudacorus, was so peaceful and we enjoyed the various whimsical garden statuary and animals around the yard.

The Jordan's also had lovely iris in bloom in their garden at their home on the west side of the city. Apparently Scott has been doing some hybridizing also.

Iris Bingo was a hit and enjoyed by all, as well as the raffle, silent auction and auction. The banquet and all the food during the trek was wonderful.

**Thanks to all at the Aril and Median Trek.**

**JOYCE & BOB HUTCHINGS  
ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO**

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**MESILLA VALLEY IRIS SOCIETY**

The annual rhizome sale was held on the weekend following Labor Day, as usual, at the Mesilla Valley Mall. We had plenty of rhizomes, even though several members who usually contribute heavily were ill, out of town, or otherwise unable to participate as much as usual. Total income was slightly above \$2000.00. In preparation for the sale we gather at the Colwell garden on Labor Day weekend to trim, label & wash the rhizomes contributed by various members. We have lunch and the event is a lot of fun as well as a lot of heavy work. It gives us a chance to share info about iris growing, weed control, etc., as well as about our families, jobs, and lives.

**MVIS Events planned for 2009**

The show is planned for April 18 & 19, at the Mesilla Valley Mall, we tentatively hope to have an artistic division this year, if the horticulture class from the high school wishes to participate. We had discontinued this because of lack of interest among the membership, but think this is a good way to involve the students.

An informal tour of our members' gardens is in the discussion stage. Dates will be posted on the web page at a later date.

The rhizome sale will be at the mall on the weekend following Labor Day.

We are happy to report that our club has grown too large to continue meeting in the homes of members. We have secured the use of the activity room at Encantada Park, a retirement village of mobile homes. It isn't as "homey", but there are plenty of tables & chairs & nobody has to knock themselves out getting the house cleaned. The disadvantage, of course, is that we'll have to make a special effort to visit each others' gardens.

**ANN COLWELL**

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**PECOS VALLEY IRIS SOCIETY**

The 2008 Region 23 Convention was hosted by the Pecos Valley Iris Society at the Sally Port Inn in Roswell on August 15 - 17<sup>th</sup>. The event was kicked off Friday night with a pot luck dinner for all attendees at the home of Pegi and Fil Naranjo.

in Taos where we enjoyed the good food, companionship, honored the hard workers, and installed the new officers for 2008-2009: Marilyn Bennett - President; Maggie Rubino - Vice President; Betty Gunther - Secretary; and John Cain - Treasurer. *We were blessed (?) With some rain and wind during the outdoor banquet, but we did not notice it as we toured the Cain's weed free garden and abundant healthy growth of irises, other flowers and veggies. We quickly moved to his covered car port and had a grand time — food, socializing, and installation of the new officers.* The winner of the special award for the SFIS member that grew the most irises listed in the AIS Awards for 2007 was **Pat Feather with 31 irises**. *All members at the banquet identified that they grew at least one of the 2007 award winners.*

The Santa Fe Iris Society teamed up with the Summit Garden Club of Los Alamos to host a series of Workshops on ***“How to Divide and Replant Iris”*** at the local Farmer's Market on July 31, 2008. The intent was to have the workshops on the hour, but due to the continuing interest, it was one continuous workshop to an audience of about 43 people. At least two residents brought in clumps, at our encouragement in the Los Alamos Monitor newspaper section ***“Be There—Community Calendar”***.....***Did your iris not bloom or not live up to your expectations this year? It may be time to divide the iris. The Summit Garden Club, assisted by the Santa Fe Iris Society, will conduct a series of workshops at the Farmer's Market, July 31 on How to Divide and Plant Your Irises. Sessions will be on the half hour starting at 8:30 AM. In addition, bring a clump of iris and we will, one-on-one, show you how to divide and clean your clump. Please call Al or Sherron Elliott, 662-6370”***. We also provided a “sand box” demo on the right and wrong way to plant the iris. Tri-folds of the Santa Fe Iris Society were provided, membership was encouraged, and lots of questions were asked and answered. We gave away the iris rhizomes from the demo clumps as we divided them. Both societies got excellent public relations from the demos. Special thanks to Sherron Elliott for her diligence in leading the workshop.

### AL ELLIOTT

#### HEALTH BEAT

Scarlett Ayers sent an email Saturday, December 20th to let us know that she had undergone gastric by-pass surgery that past Wednesday. She was dismissed from the hospital on Friday, and reported that the surgery went well. She stated that she was getting along quite well and was under the care of her mother. Best wishes Scarlett for a super recovery.

Elouise Young had been hospitalized but is home now and able to work in her garden.

A note from your Editor: I was plagued with double vision most of last year which resulted in cataract surgery on both eyes this past October. Had my final post-op exam the latter part of January and got my new glasses (to correct the astigmatism problem) Sunday. Therefore, due to these issues the Fall 2008 Region 23 newsletter is greatly past due, and for this I do apologize.

Just when I got on a roll with the newsletter I caught a cold, which accelerated into bronchitis and pneumonia, more delays from the illness and then the ever so gradual recovery plagued with fatigue. Just didn't recoup as quickly as when I was younger. Anyway, I sincerely hope you enjoy this very belated publication.

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## YOUTH NEWS

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### JENNIFER ROYALTY

#### PECOS VALLEY IRIS SOCIETY'S SHINING STAR



If you have been to any of the Pecos Valley Iris Society functions lately, you have seen one of our best members busy as a bee helping in every way possible. She is only nine years old and her name is Jennifer Royalty. She has been a member of PVIS for about three years and has won numerous awards including a Silver Medal, Best Specimen of Show, and Best Design of Show in the youth division. Her latest challenge is to become an American Iris Society certified Iris Judge, and she attended her first Judges Training at the Fall Regional Convention in Roswell.

Jennifer is the Granddaughter of members Susan and Jim Hickman, who have been very involved in all of Jennifer's activities. Not only is she an avid gardener, she is also a real cowgirl recently winning the 4H Rodeo as the Runner-Up high point in the booster division where she competed in the goat tying, barrel racing, poles and flags. She loves animals and has a lot of experience raising them since she personally takes care of her horse, 1 chicken, 6 rabbits, 1 dog and 4 cats.

Jennifer is home schooled by her mother Connie and loves to read. She is officially in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade but reads easily on a 5<sup>th</sup> grade level. When asked about her siblings Jennifer said, "I have one younger sister and two annoying brothers."

Pecos Valley Iris Society is very proud of Jennifer and her many accomplishments at such a young age, but most of all we love having her around because is so helpful and so much fun-----she is truly **our Shining Star**.

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### PEGI NARANJO PRESIDENT, PVIS

\*\*\*\*\*Pegi encourages you to watch for upcoming articles on the other Youth Members of PVIS\*\*\*\*\*

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### THE PAGEANTRY OF AUTUMN



When Autumn moves with silent step  
Across the summer scene,  
She weaves a vivid fabric  
To cover the woodland green,  
Over the quiet countryside,  
In glorious array,  
Over the field and meadow,  
She spreads her bright display.

She weaves with threads of brilliant hues  
And fashions a tapestry bold  
Of rich brown earth and flaming fire  
And sunlight's shimmering gold.  
Autumn's reign is swift and fleeting  
It is Nature's final fling  
Before the quite, calm repose  
The winter months will bring.

Alexa Kirsten, Author

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## HUMMINGBIRDS

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A presentation on Hummingbirds was given by Bill Flint during the AIS Region 23 convention held at Roswell, August 15-16. It turns out that many convention goers are hummingbird admirers and have feeders outside their kitchen window. Everyone was fascinated with the stories and pictures Bill shared with us. The little birds can weigh a whopping 5 grams and if they weighed as much as a human, they would eat the equivalent of 155,000 calories per day! They eat half their body weight in nectar or sugar water every day. Boy I wish I could burn calories so fast. Of course, since they eat so much, they can perish fairly quickly if they get trapped in your garage. They can rapidly starve to death in a few hours.

The birds get their name by the sound the wings make as they fly. The wings can beat up to 80 times per second depending upon the species. The Rufous hummer has been documented as traveling 4000 miles. The Rufous migrates up the west coast and down the Rocky Mountains. Hummers are the only bird to hover naturally and can even fly upside-down. They get as much lift on the up stroke as the down stroke because they can completely rotate their shoulders in a figure-8 movement. The tiny critters are also very curious. Generally hummers do not travel at night, since they have poor night vision.

Of course it is the iridescent plumage that creates many a backyard admirer. You expect to see these colors on rocks in deep caves and not on diminutive birds. The iridescent colors actually result from a combination of refraction and pigmentation. The structures of certain feathers act like a prism and split light into its component colors. Only certain wavelengths are refracted back to the viewer.

Bill helped to dispel several myths and folklore about the hummers. There was one urban legend that you should not feed the birds because it would stop them from migrating and they would freeze. Bill said this was just a myth. The hummingbirds actually need to double their body weight to survive the journey. Since natural sources of food for these birds are significantly diminished as we head into winter, feeders may contribute greatly to their ability to survive the migration. So get out those feeders and keep that sugar water fresh!

Folklore also stated that hummingbirds migrate on the back of geese. However, no evidence has been found supporting this whimsical story. Hummers do have feet and perch very well. However, they do not walk, nor do they turn around on their feet. Rather, if they have to move 3 inches or turn around, they will fly there. Hummers are use to human scent (because of the feeders), so if a baby falls out of the nest, just pick it up and place it back in the nest. The mother bird will not kill it. I can recall a time, when the hummers visited while the lilacs were in full bloom in the spring. There were dozens. I picked a bouquet of lilacs and held it in front of my face. They weren't frightened of me. It wasn't long before I had the hummers feeding from the lilacs which were inches from my nose!

Bill first talked about the Anna hummers. Anna's are named after a woman. The adult male has a metallic green back, dark rose-red crown and gorget, with grayish breast. Anna's are one of only three species that are permanent residents of the US or Canada. Anna's may move seasonally to make best use of local resources. They may be migrating to different elevations rather than different latitudes. Several species of hummers have been known to spend the winter along the Mexican borders. Since most flowers do not bloom in winter, feeders are important sources of energy to these birds.

This Rufous is an aggressive little hummer and usually gets its way at feeders at the expense of slower, less-maneuverable species. It will chase them off and hog all the sugar water for itself. Bill recommended having several feeders but placing them out of the sight line of each other. You can tell the Rufous by the bright orange-red gorget and the white on the breast of the male birds.

Everyone expressed interest in how to feed the critters. Bill recommended micro-waving water until boiling and then adding sugar to the water. The ratio is four parts water to one part sugar. It can be refrigerated for 5 days. Change the water every two days if it is in the sun and every 5 days if it is in the shade. Avoid food coloring at all costs, especially red. They eat so much that they can concentrate the dye in their bodies and it can become poisonous. The hummingbirds can stick their tongue out far past their beak. They are prone to fungus on the tongue which they can get when the sugar water goes bad or the feeder becomes dirty. Bill uses vinegar or small amounts of Clorox to help clean the feeder and makes sure he rinses very well. He likes the Perky Pet feeder best.



The momma bird will raise two eggs, but she can only carry 1 egg at a time. So the eggs are laid 1-2 days apart. Poppa doesn't help at all. His contribution is over in 3 seconds. The momma prefers to use spider webs to bind her tiny nests together. The nests expand with the growing hummingbird fledglings. The eggs are the size of small jelly beans. When the eggs hatch, the chicks need protein to grow, so the mother bird spends most of her time catching small insects and spiders for them. So don't expect to see the females at your feeder until the chicks leave the nest! She will only feed the babies up to 3-4 days after hatching. She will show them where the food is and then leave.

Natural predators include your friendly house cat, snakes and other birds such as the Roadrunner that can eat small birds. However, predation is not usually a big problem and hummers are not on any endangered species list. The eggs are more vulnerable to both climate and predators.

**SCARLETT AYRES**

(For more information check online at <http://www.hummingbirds.net> . The site has numerous pictures and some movies.)



**IRIS SEZ:** John W. Newbern made this observation: “People can be divided into three groups; those who make things happen, those who watch things happen, and those who wonder what happened.”

Region 23 members are the ones who make things happen!!!

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# WORM CASTINGS FOR PLANT HEALTH

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Hello Iris Growers-----Bobbie Hatley is my name and worm castings are my game, they call ME the **“Worm Lady”**. I’m an avid gardener here in Roswell, New Mexico. I have worked the soil since I could walk and continued to acquire a love for nature and health my entire life.

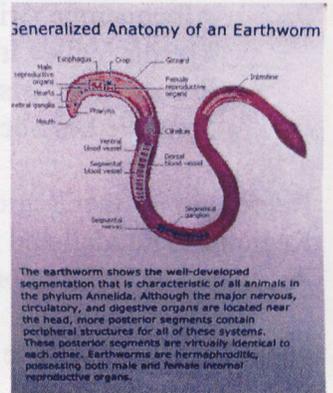
When I started to raise a garden at my home in Roswell I noticed that a great deal of the soil nutrients were depleted. In research I found out about the natural soil enhancements that were offered by the worm castings. Tests revealed that worm castings improved the soil naturally without chemicals or pesticides.

I purchased a gross of worms and started to raise and harvest my own castings. In a very short time the yield from my garden was increased and the results were significantly noticeable. I designed a bin and as the growth permitted the bins grew from 1 to 13 bins. With so much to separate out I designed a separator that would sift the castings from the wigglers. Now I harvest every 4 months.

Several benefits are involved in using worm castings. One is the odor free application that makes it perfect for indoor use. Also, in preventing the spread of fungus, diseases, and insects that attack plants and kill or decimate before curing. Not to mention that the castings are rich in Nitrogen, Calcium, Magnesium, Potassium, and Phosphorus. All these nutrients help just about any plant growth. Castings will not burn a plant like some fertilizers do. The castings are times released, so they just keep giving and giving until they are completely exhausted.

A second way of distributing the nutrients is to make a worm castings tea. Put about ¼ cup of castings in a nylon stocking and put this into a gallon jug of water. Let it steep for 2-3 days until it looks like a weak tea. Use this in place of plain water, every time you water. Now you have a liquid growth enhancer that can be applied with a sprayer, or you can simply pour it directly onto the plants.

One alternative to soil enhancements is the castings which have so many advantages and almost no negative impact. The choice is relatively clear. Now you can apply it in a liquid or solid form. The results are going to be great.



**Bobbie Hatley**

**575-840-6476**

E-mail: [yoatme@plateautel.net](mailto:yoatme@plateautel.net)



**If I were a little red devil with horns**

**And had a fine spear that was forked**

**I'd use it on those who view IRIS and say,**

**“Why they're almost as nice as an orchid.”**

**Well, I'm not a red devil, but I have a plan**

**And the height to which I aspire is**

**To visit an orchid fancier and say,**

**“Why they're almost as nice as an IRIS.”**

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# REGION 23 MINUTES

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## American Iris Society Region 23

### Meeting Minutes

Fall Convention, August 10-12, 2007

Las Cruces, New Mexico

**Call to Order:** The Annual meeting of Region 23, American Iris Society, was called to order at 1:40 PM by Pegi Naranjo, Region 23 Regional Vice President.

Jim Reilly, Mesilla Valley Iris Society, lead the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a welcome from Gale James, President of MVIS.

Jim Hedgecock, Region 18, was introduced as the guest conducting Judges Training. Also introduced were the Region 23 officers: Pegi Naranjo, RVP; Cliff Frosch, Assistant RVP; Pat Feather, Secretary; Reita Jordan, Treasurer; and Karen Bergamo, Judges Training Chairman.

#### **Roll Call of Attendees:**

Albuquerque Aril & Iris Society	6
Mesilla Valley Iris Society	13
Pecos Valley Iris Society	2
Santa Fe Iris Society	7

Representing other Regions were Jim Hedgecock, 18; Patricia Randall and Karen Bergamo, Trails West Iris Society, Region 21; Randall and Bergamo, Monument Valley Iris Society, Region 21; and Randall and Bergamo, Tucson Area Iris Society, Region 15.

**Meeting Minutes:** The minutes of 2006 were read and approved.

**Treasurer's report:** As of August 12, 2007, the balance was \$5,544.94. The books were audited by an audit committee in April of 2007. Full Treasurer's Report attached.

#### **Chairman Reports:**

**Patricia Randall on the 2007 National Convention and Region 23 Newsletter:** The Median Iris Society has published a history booklet which can be purchased; Judges are now required to take one hour per year of in-garden judging. The Region 23 Newsletter is only being published twice a year because people are not writing articles. She wants articles, also for each group to designate one person to write articles on group happenings for the Spring and Fall editions. Deadlines: Fall, middle of September, and Spring, end of March.

**Karen Bergamo on Judges Training:** They need the new pages of the Judges Handbook; they can skip one year in turning in the Activity Report; Judges activity ranged from zero hours to 14 with Al Elliott commended for his 14 hours. Sharon Elliott is ready to go to Apprentice status and there are no new student judges at this time. Complete judges report attached.

**Pam Lackey's Webmaster Report:** Her report was given by Scarlett Ayres who is the new Webmaster due to Lackey's resignation. Lackey's complete and complex report is attached. Pegi Naranjo expressed her and the Region's appreciation of Lackey's talent and her five years of work as our Webmaster.

**Pegi Naranjo on Membership:** The Region has 90 members of which 76 are American Iris Society Members. She said it is a sore point with all organizations to get new and younger members. There were five Iris Shows this year from the four Affiliates. Other Regions do not have the shows we do. Patricia Randall stated that discount sale coupons were give out at the Albuquerque Show. Also, they sold \$700 worth of potted iris at the show.

**President's Discussions:**

**Valerie White:** Valerie reported that the New Mexico Iris Society and the Albuquerque Aril Society had overlapping membership, so had merged. The new Society , the Albuquerque Aril & Iris Society, has 35 members and had sponsored two show, two weeks apart.

**Cindy Rivera:** Cindy discussed the AAIS Aril & Median Trek scheduled for April 28-30, 2008. Information will be mailed to members later.

**Gail James:** Gail reported that the Mesilla Valley Iris Society made \$1,450 at their sale; they had 90 entries at their show; they have 25 members, 14 of which attend most of the meetings.

**Pegi Naranjo:** Pegi reported that the Pecos Valley Iris Society took a trek to iris gardens in the Hondo valley.

**Al Elliott:** Al reported that the Santa Fe Iris Society had Jim Hedgecock for two Judges Training sessions last Spring; one of the group's programs during the year was on design with those attending doing some hands-on designs with an outside judge instruction; and the Society made \$3,566 at the annual sale.

**Unfinished Business:** Patricia Randall and Pegi Naranjo were presented their Regional Vice President Pins.

**New Business:** Nominees for the new officers were presented by the Nominating Committee. They were:

Jim Reilly	Regional Vice President
Al Elliott	Assistant RVP
Gail James	Secretary
Reita Jordan	Treasurer

Karen Bergamo moved, and Philip Doonan seconded that the slate be accepted. The motion passed. New officers will be installed at the Saturday night Banquet.

**Announcements:** Members were urged to send in their Symposium Ballots. Scarlett Ayres asked what people want to know so she will know what to put in the power point presentation; also, if members have any pictures to send them to her.

An invitation to the 2008 Region 23 AIS Convention was give by the Pecos Valley Iris Society. The Convention will be in Roswell, probably in August.

**Motion to Adjourn:** The motion to adjourn was made by Cliff Frosch, seconded by Valerie White and passed by those attending.

Respectfully Submitted, **PATRICIA FEATHER, SECRETARY**

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## REGION 23 HONORARY AWARDS 2008

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During the Annual Convention, that was hosted by Roswell in August 2008, the recipients of the Region 23 Honorary Awards were presented with their trophies by Awards Chairman Patricia Randall..



Pete McGrath was honored with the presentation of the Region 23 Hybridizer's Award 2008 for his extensive and impressive hybridizing program with pure arils and arilbreds. Pete became interested in arils when he went to the Albuquerque Aril Society show in 1987. "I saw 'OYEZ' (which had taken "Queen of Show") and it felt like I had hit a brick wall at 60 miles per hour. Before that, my motto had been: "If you can't eat it, why grow it". The members were friendly and the late Susan Latimer provided me with my first arilbred, which was, of course, 'Oyez'. Being in Albuquerque, Pete had access to many aril growers and Howard Shockey was his mentor for many years. However, they did not always see eye to eye. "He and Irene thought I was crazy trying to get veins onto OGB plants," Pete said. James Whitely

(The Aril Patch) and Carole Vossen were instrumental in getting Pete started. Pete's major hybridizing goal is to get stippling and veining, combined with big signals, on oncocyclus formed flowers - all on easy to grow OGB plants. Pete is a Past Member of the Albuquerque Aril Society, as well as Past President of the Aril Society International. Pete is a frequent contributor of articles to the ASI Yearbooks, as well as a generous donor to the annual ASI plant sale.

Karen Bergamo, current Region 23 Judges Training Chairman, received the Distinguished Service Award, and she is very deserving of it indeed. Over the history of the New Mexico Iris Society she was a devoted supporter and has worn many hats: officer posts, Board of Directors, as well as heading and/or serving on many committees. For many years, in it's early years of inception, she assisted with the American Iris Society's annual Silent Auction which is held in conjunction with their Spring convention and garden tours. Karen is a past Assistant RVP, followed by three years as our Regional Vice President. She has faithfully served the region as our Judge's Training Chairman, keeping all of us on track for our required judge's certification hours. She has assisted with the compilation of the Aril Society International check list, spending many hours verifying registered and introduced arils and arilbreds. She is currently serving on the Board of Directors for the Tall Bearded Iris Society.



*Both of these dedicated irisarians are most deserving of their awards and honors.*

If you are agreeable with the honoring of our devoted regional irisarians , please forward your nominations to me so we can continue to recognize and honor those who give so much to their local affiliates, regional and national duties. Full details and nomination form forthcoming in the Spring 2009 Newsletter. Thank you.

**PATRICIA RANDALL  
REGION 23 AWARDS CHAIRMAN**



**IRIS SEZ: Every Spring I am a Born Again Iris. If my gardener uses good cultural practices, I live a beautiful new life.**

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# GETTING STARTED WITH ARILBRED IRIS

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## “LEARNING BY ACCIDENT”

I fell in love with tall bearded iris from seeing Dusky Challenger in a neighbor's yard, as I have written in a previous article, and that has not changed. Each year, I expanded my iris collection and am now up to my ears in Tbs, IBs, BBs, MTBs and MDBs. But one day while following the Iris Forum on Dave's Garden, I chanced to see a picture of Oyez, which Margie Valenzuela, a Tucson hybridizer had posted. It wasn't her introduction but an old one by Clarence White. It was as beautiful and as exotic as any iris I had ever seen. This time I contracted an new virus, Aril/Arilbred iris virus.

I had to have Oyez and I gather I am not the first person to get started in arilbred growing by this magnificent cultivar. At the 2007 Convention, I joined the Aril Society International (ASI). At the Santa Fe Iris Society rhizome sale, I bought all the arilbred rhizomes I could find, but then I had a dilemma. I knew they were desert plants and I had read that would be good for New Mexico, and that they were said to be good for xeriscaping, but that was about all I knew about them.

I read several articles on the fact that arils can't have water during their dormant period and need wonderful drainage and alkaline soil. I read they should not be watered during their dormant period. But when exactly was their dormant period? One article suggested growing them in flower pots which could be controlled better. I read Pete McGrath's article in a ASI publication where he described his fancy beds for them with covers that could be pulled over them if it rained. I decided to go with the flower pots because such a building sounded expensive.

So I carefully planted all my rhizomes in flower pots and never watered them. Unbeknownst to me, one rhizome fell into my tall bearded bed, which has an automatic watering system. All of my arilbreds died back and I was afraid I had killed them. Spring came and no arilbreds grew. A couple of them has stayed green over the winter died back as well. They were all dead except for the one in the regularly watered TB bed. It bloomed a lovely '*Stars Over Lpasa*' early this Spring and I was floored. At first I didn't even recognize it. Then, while looking through my pictures from the Aril Trek, I found a photo I had taken of that very cultivar. That was my very first arilbred flower. But how had it managed to survive in my Tall Bearded bed with all that water?

Later I talked to Anita Moran, a hybridizer of both arilbreds and bearded iris at the Aril Trek in Albuquerque, Spring 2008. Anita said that she treats all of her arilbreds just the way she treats her tall bearded iris and most of them live. Same soil, same water. And she lives in Maryland, not exactly an arid state. At the 2008 Convention she gave a presentation in which she showed a map of all the places in the United States where arilbreds or arils had won Best Specimen of Show. They were all over the US. More of the aril/arilbred winners were clustered in the Southwest, but there was a goodly scattering all over the country, even in the Deep South. She argues that arilbreds can survive a wide variety of weather conditions and that they don't need a lot of special handling. She says that she just gives up on the ones that don't survive in her climate, but she loses very few.

Then I thought about the multitude of potted ones that had died for lack of water and just, on faith, started to water them. To my surprise, they began to grow in August this year, and almost every one of them leafed out, though none bloomed except the one in my tall bearded iris bed. I learned that there is a difference between the requirements of arils and arilbreds. Arils are much fussier and do need various kinds of protection. Arilbreds, however, grow pretty well in regular flower beds with ordinary watering. I began moving my potted arilbreds to my flower beds and they are now growing nicely. Apparently, their dormant period is over. I can't wait to see their bloom next year.

Now, I know many of you have been growing arilbreds for years and some of you even grow arils and already know all this. But, I had to learn the hard way, and I am hoping that this information will help some other "newbie" to get started in the arilbred world.

**BETTY GUNTHER  
SANTA FE IRIS SOCIETY**

**GARDEN FOLKS**

Oh, I don't know how to say it,  
But I guess you'll find it so,  
That the folks who like to garden  
Are the folks you like to know.  
There are crowds and crowds of people  
Good or bad or passing neat,  
Wise folks, foolish ones-----all classes  
You must mingle with or meet.

In the turmoil of the city,  
In the country's peaceful realm,  
In the fact'ry's whirring bustle,  
At our mighty nation's helm,  
In the crowded ranks of workmen  
You'll meet folks where'er you go,  
But the folks who like to garden  
Are the folks you like to know.

'Course some other folks are helpers,  
Sure, they'll try to see you thru,  
But they seem to be too busy  
To allow much time for you.  
They're too busy to be playful,  
They're too rushed to be polite;  
Everything they do is measured.  
Everything is done just right.

There's a diff'rence in the handshake  
Of the people that you meet;  
There's a diff'rence in the greeting  
When you meet them on the street.  
There's a heartier smile of welcome,  
There's a cheerier, clear "Hello!"  
Makes you think the folks who garden  
Are the folks you like to know.

If you're feeling down-and-outish,  
If you're homesick, sad or blue,  
If you've overreached your tether,  
If you can't see your way thru,  
If your troubles get you under,  
If your load seems hard to bear,  
You will find the folks who garden  
Always glad to do their share.

There are scores and scores of people.....  
Noble, grand and good and true,  
Folks who really are successful,  
Folks who'll lend a hand or two.  
Oh, I don't know how to say it,  
But I guess you'll find it's so  
That the folks who like to garden  
Are the folks you like to know.

**IRWIN A CONROE  
AUTHOR**

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## BEFORE THE ARIL AND MEDIAN TREK

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For someone who is relatively new to the aril world the 2008 Aril & Median Trek could not have come at a better time. Already in the southwest, having attended the 2008 National Convention, I arrived a few days early in an attempt to sneak, invited of course, into the gardens holding the treasures. Despite the fact that I was missing my own median bloom did not matter, here was a chance to see pure ARILS! As well as meet people I had just talked with. The very first thing I did when I arrived was call Cindy Rivera who orchestrated the event, then I promptly fell asleep. What a waste of time.

The following day Scott Jordan invited me to his home where he and his wife Reita graciously allowed me access into their home and Scott walked me through his garden. There was so much in a single backyard. My first surprise, were his seedlings, as I did not know Scott hybridized. Well, Scotts J93-14A and 192-11H sure caught my eye. There was also his 'Step Aside' X 'Desert Fury' seedling that was a real eye catcher. Among Scott's seedlings was a smattering of Shockey seedlings, including an OGB 93-107A. On the other side of the yard was a raised bed for the OGB+ arilbreds and it was here I found 'Dunshanbe'. In the rear of the garden was a clump of *Iris lactea*. It was the first time I had seen it and was impressed by its dainty beauty. Though not in bloom, Scott had some pure arils hidden in a cold frame to help keep direct sun off of them along with the rain during dormancy. After viewing his bonsai, Scott and Reita treated me to lunch at the Indian Center where the Pueblo Indians were hosting the Gathering of Nations. While we waited for a seat we were treated to dancing and music. After lunch, Scott arranged for me to go to Pete McGrath's home and off I went. WOW! What a spectacular setting-----a shaded patio edged with a stream that emptied into a large pond. Then behind a fence was heaven. In a relatively small area was an established arilbred bed, a newly planted Daylily bed, seedling beds and MECCA, a large frame that held pure arils and their crosses. Pete kindly took time out of his busy schedule preparing for the Trek to show me the different seedlings he was watching and why he had reselected them. Pete then trusted me enough to allow me to walk through his aril area while he continued with his work. WOW!!!! There as Shockey's 83-38 and 83-18, and Pete's AR01-29, and oh my AR00-25 and *Iris iberica* and *Iris stolonifera* and 'Gamaliel's Wisdom'. Ahh heaven. But Pete was not done with me. Not only did he suggest a place to get breakfast, but also where to get the best Prime Rib, other dinner and lunch options all of which went into the Garmin. I was to regroup with the Jordans after leaving Pete's, but Cindy Rivera called to say she had *Iris paradoxa* in bloom. Because of recent freezes she was not sure it would last until the next day, so I was easily bribed. A quick apology to Reita and Scott and I was on my way to Cindy's home. How welcoming she was and I quickly realized that Cindy was the motor that ran the Trek. After meeting the kids (dogs), she took me back to see *I. paradoxa* in bloom. What a beauty, and did you know that the beard went nearly the entire length of the fall? Just a short distance away was *Iris macedonia* in bloom as well. I was introduced to other iris as well including *Iris lactea illiensis*. A light form of what I had seen at the Jordan's. There were the guest beds with 'Holy Moley Plum' (Chacon 2006), 'Frank Rice' (Rice 2002), 'Desert Plum' (Hager 1991), and in front of her home, a wonderful clump of 'Loudmouth' (Rich 1970). It was not just the iris that held your attention it was also the garden art, but by far the best piece had to be the "Jabba The Hut" guard frog. The two very good new easy care dogs were also in various niches of the garden and then there were the cactus in bloom.

The next day I went to the Nature Center that I happened on as I was investigating the area around the Jordan's home and taking pictures of the local architecture when I found the Nature Center. The most numerous of the birds were the Canadian geese and you could hear them long before you saw them. Turtles, hummingbirds, nuthatches, doves, jays and woodpeckers were just some of the wildlife I saw. I was a little disappointed in the Rio Grande, as I thought it would be wider, little did I know. Looking at my watch, it was time to go and get the girls, Betsy Higgins, Dolores Bates, and Nancy Groshong from the airport. After I picked them up I got a call from Cindy Rivera., 'Purple Sequin' (Shockey 1992) had opened for the first time in 15 years, a must see. After warning her of the

additional guests, she said to bring 'em on down. Though registered and introduced there was never enough stock of 'Purple Sequin', a mixture of many aril species including *I. urmiensis*, *I. gatesii*, *I. mariae*, and *I. susiana*, to distribute and Cindy had all that was left. Sitting in a bed next to where a new *I. paradoxa* bloomed, was 'Purple Sequin', a petite white flower with a large purple signal. Snapping pictures, of both flowers, despite the fact that there was a little frost damage on 'Purple Sequin' we toured the garden again and found more garden art and more cacti in bloom. Then it was time to say goodbye so that Cindy could get ready for the opening salvo the following day.

Since it would be afternoon before we would be allowed into the show area, I decided to take Dolores, Nancy and Betsy to the Nature Center. This time, Nancy and I went for a walk and what I had previously thought of as the Rio Grande was in fact an irrigation ditch, oops. We found the real Rio Grande and were able to watch several nesting pairs of geese and stumbled on to a lizard or two, but the best was when we surprised a road runner on the way back to the Nature Center. Acting like a cat, as if our presence was expected, the bird walked around as if her were posing for our pictures until the spell was broken by the call of a male ring-necked pheasant.

At the show I bought a couple, ok a few arilbreds to bring home with me. After we enjoyed the arilbreds and medians at the Show we headed out back to the iris garden planted at the Garden Center.

The AAIS and Patricia Randall actually provided a pot luck for all to enjoy food and new friendships which were quickly being established. From the Nationals Perry Dyer and Will Plottner also followed me to the Trek

### ANITA MORAN

\*\*\*\*\*Reprinted from the Aril Society International newsletter, Fall 2008 edition.

## SPIRIT OF IRIS

The joy of guardian angels,  
the iridescent hues  
Of many broken rainbows  
and ever glistening dews  
A thousand tints of rose  
and gold and blue  
As beautiful as friendship  
that's proven ever true.  
Sunbeams imprisoned  
that fall to earth and grow  
The lovely ling'ring blush  
of a sunset afterglow.

The whiteness of the snows,  
a glen of garish gold  
A wave of royal purple,  
a dash of yellow bold,  
The song of a thrush  
beyond a jeweled lawn  
The voice of silence eloquent,  
a flush of rose dawn.  
A lazy breeze drifts over,  
then comes a gentle shower  
And lo, there springs in magic  
the rainbow's fairy flower.

GRACE HINE DALZELL

AUTHOR

FLOWER GROWER MAGAZINE

AUGUST 1922

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# ALBUQUERQUE ARIL & MEDIAN TREK ATTENDEES

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APRIL 27-30, 2008

Delores Bates of Paradise, California; Betsy Higgins of Hendersonville, Maryland; Anita Moran of Pylesville, Maryland; Fran Hawk of Seattle, Washington; Ann & Dwayne Booth of Edmonds, Washington; Lowell Baumunk of Littleton, Colorado; Suzanne & William McCloy of Edmonds, Washington; Carolee Brooks and George Hildenbrandt of State College, Pennsylvania; Perry Dyer of Blanchard, Oklahoma; Patricia Clauser of Corrales, New Mexico; Sherron & Alverton Elliott and Betty Ann Gunther of Los Alamos, New Mexico; William Plotner of Molalla, Oregon; Maggie Rubino, Fran & Henry Day and Patricia Feather of Santa Fe, New Mexico; Joyce & Robert Hutchings and Cliff Frosch of Roswell, New Mexico; New Mexico; Ellen & Andrew Gallagher of Berlin, New Hampshire; Jean & Jim Morris of Ballwin, Missouri; Norma Riley of Cedar Crest, New Mexico; Cindy Rivera of Los Lunas, New Mexico; Sandra & Bob Williamson of Redmond, Washington; Loreli Bouffard of Boise, Idaho; Philip Doonan and Patricia Randall of Rio Rancho, New Mexico; Carol & Russ Eacker and Betty Roberts of Colorado Springs, Colorado; Helen Crotty of Sandia Park, New Mexico; Nancy Groshong of Chico, California; Jim Reilly and Ann Colwell of Las Cruces, New Mexico; Lyn Wilson of Hutchinson, Kansas; Dorothy Willott of Beachwood, Ohio; Jacqueline & Mark Goodwin of Peyton, Colorado; Caroline & Tony Chacon of Oroville, California; Maxine Perkins of Mesilla Park, New Mexico; and Holly Finlay, Larry Bass, Pam Lackey, Karen Bergamo, Reita & Scott Jordan, Helen Radebaugh and Valerie White all of Albuquerque, New Mexico.



**A BIG "THANK YOU" TO ALL WHO ATTENDED AND MADE THIS  
EVENT THE SUPER SUCCESS THAT IT WAS !!!**



**IRIS SEZ:** Between marbles, courtship, crab grass and IRIS-----  
A man can wind up spending half his life on his knees !!!

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## ALBUQUERQUE ARIL & MEDIAN TREK

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We flew into Albuquerque on April 27<sup>th</sup>, the day after our Early Show in the St. Louis area. We left rainy, chilly weather for the sunny, dry conditions of the Southwest – a welcome contrast.

After settling in, we walked across the city park ball fields to the Garden Center to check out the “Enchanted Treasures” Iris Show sponsored by the Albuquerque Aril & Iris Society and co-hosted by the Aril Society International. The judging was completed and *‘Desert Fire’* (Shockey 75, AB), a three-quarter bred, was selected as Best in Show. It has *‘I. stolonifera’* in its background and the regelia form is prominent. The red veining on warm white was very beautiful. There were two pure arils in the show, the species *‘I. stolonifera’* and the petite oncogelia *‘Purple Sequin’* (Shockey 92, AR) which is nine inches tall. **PS** is quite rare because of limited distribution. Cindy Rivera, who was Convention Chairman and a dynamo who was everywhere when needed, saved what was left of this iris after Howard Shockey’s death and entered this diminutive flower in the show. Seeing it gave one the feeling of viewing a precious artifact in a museum.

There were many arilbreds in the show and also a number of medians. It was nice to see the arilbred median OGB- *‘Solomon’s Glory’* (Nichols 85) here and also in the trek gardens. We fell in love with this 16” beauty, in yellow with clean reddish-brown signals, in 2000 at the Dallas AIS Convention. Other arilbreds that looked good included *‘Keret’* (Rich 86) OGB+, *‘Alon’* (Shahak 93) OGB+, and *‘Persian Padishah’* (Shockey 88) OGB+. Other medians included *‘Satin Cut’* (Blyth 02/03, IB) and *‘Many Mahalos’* (Aitken 03, IB).

The next day began at the Garden Center with a review of the show and Judges’ Training on Arils and Arilbreds by Lowell Baumunk of Colorado. Afterwards we boarded the bus for a tour of the **garden of Pete and Veronica McGrath** where Lowell taught in-the-garden aril JT. The McGrath garden is located in the northeast heights of Albuquerque, and nestled nearly at the base of Sandia Peak. Pete grows quite a number of pure arils in a shade cloth covered area. These arils possess an exotic beauty that is irresistible. Again, we experienced that “museum” feeling of uniqueness. Elsewhere in the garden were a large number of arilbreds and a few non-arils. It was good to see that the arilbred median *‘Loudmouth’* (Rich 70) grows as well in Albuquerque as in the Midwest. This is the almost yearly winner of the MIS popularity poll for arilbred medians. *‘Prince Of Egypt’* (P. Dyer 07) OGB-, bloomed three stalks at IB height in lavender over pale gold with a large signal spot. Perry thought the flower was somewhat faded and too big, but we found it acceptable. It bloomed smaller and brighter for us at home on a first-year plant.

Caroline (Ryan) Chacon guested many lovely AB seedlings and named varieties. Growing at IB height was her arilbred **2K-02-A** which was attractive in cream over yellow with a chocolate signal and lemon beards. *‘Raiding Fort Knox’* (07 OGB) was growing at 13” and stood out in lavender over yellow with bright yellow styles and clean, dime-sized chocolate signals. What a clever name! Pete had many of his own AB crosses in bloom, both seedlings and named varieties. *‘Crown Of Splendor’* (05 OGB) is one we admired in pale lavender over light gold with very large, clean brown signals. *‘Refiner’s Fire’* (07 OGB) and *‘Penninah’s Provocation’* (04 OGB) were two others of his doing well. Lowell Baumunk’s *‘Byzantine Art’* (01 OGB) was outstanding in vivid lavender over apricot with gold styles and red signals. After a delicious lunch catered by Patricia Randall, we returned to the Garden Center for a slide show and iris bingo.

The garden tours for April 29<sup>th</sup> were switched with the next day’s tours because of an overnight freeze south of Albuquerque. The day began with Median Show JT by Dorothy Willott of Ohio which was held at the Garden Center prior to beginning our garden tour. We went to the **Valerie White** median display garden in the Four Hills region of southeast ABQ. Valerie is the current president of the Albuquerque Aril and Iris Society.

Having lived in her home for nearly 40 years, her garden showcases a wide variety of trees, perennials and flowering shrubs in addition to an extensive iris planting of over 1,000 varieties. This was a beautiful garden filled with many medians and a collection of arilbreeds. Because of the lack of rain in the area, many varieties grew a bit short. But everything seemed to be blooming at once, MDBs, SDBs, IBs, MTBs, BBs and ABs. What a sight! In addition to the flowers, we were treated to in-the-garden Judges' Training on medians by Dorothy Willott. We must say that both Dorothy and Lowell Baumunk did fabulous jobs with their respective JT sessions and answered questions with ease.

Looking good in Valerie's garden with four stalks was Keppel's '*Flying Circus*' (04 IB), a very ruffled pink over red-violet with speckling around the orange beards. The SDB '*Classic Sunrise*' (B. Jones 05) was attractive in yellow over cantaloupe. '*Coney Island*' (Keppel 04 SDB) looked great with gold standards over gold plicata speckling on yellow ground falls with old gold beards. We were quite pleased to see '*Fiesta Flame*' (Aitken 04 SDB) in pinkish orange with a darker spot pattern and bright orange beards. '*Stinger*' (Byers 94 SDB) was doing its thing in yellow with deep purple horns. Many of you know that this was one of the very first "space-age" SDB to be introduced and remains one of the best on the market.

'*Mystic Crystal*' (S. Markham 05) was a lovely MTB, quite petite, in cream with yellow beards and hafts. '*Cranapple*' (Aitken 95) though a bit short of its normal BB height, still formed a lovely clump and was attractive in red. The MTB '*Maui Mango*' (Aitken 05) is a true clear pink with coral beards. This scores points for improving the color range of MTBs, and this surely is needed. The IB '*Satin Cut*' (Blyth 02/03) was new to us and has such a soothing medium blue color set off with darker blue beards. We kept returning to this clump and put it on our "must have" list. '*Jump Start*' (Keppel 02) was a near black IB, with burnt orange beards, that put up five stalks just beginning its bloom. Beautiful! Another dark IB was '*Banshee*' (M. Smith 05) in red-black with orange beards.

It was good to see old faithful arilmeds '*Loudmouth*' (Rich 70) and '*Canasta*' (Rich 75) blooming here. Hooker Nichols' arilmed '*Solomon's Glory*' (85) was also blooming well. We saw the older '*Dunshambe*' (Wilkes 77 AR) for the first time in neon lavender over red-violet with old gold hafts. It bloomed at the lower end of IB height and displayed typical regelia form. And there was the historic and exotic '*Oyez*' (C. G. White 38) at its normal IB height. We finally got to see the tall '*Jonnye's Magic*' (Rich/Whitely 92 OGB) and it didn't disappoint in violet striping on white.

A few more SDBs of note included: '*Coy Mistress*' (Baumunk 05) a ruffled white; '*Cousin Carol*' (Baumunk 04) a lemon yellow with cream beards; '*Vivaldi*' (Baumunk 07) a lavender on white plicata; and, '*Overcast*' (Keppel 06) in chocolate over violet, edged chocolate with a white zonal at the end of orange beards. Also, two of Marky Smith's from 2007 were '*Microwave*' a sky blue with white zonal and beards, and '*Plainsong*' an orange sherbet color with blue beards.

The White garden was a delight. Region 23 RVP Jim Reilly was very proud of everyone's efforts. Patricia Randall catered another delicious lunch here and afterward we returned to the Garden Center for more slides and more iris bingo.

On Wednesday, the last tour day, we visited the **Andiris Gardens of Cindy Rivera** on the Southeast edge of Los Lunas, NM. This had a hard frost on Monday, so a few irises were somewhat nipped. But there was plenty to see and we enjoyed Cindy's historic collection a great deal.

'*Bling*' (Baumunk 05) an SDB in bright yellow, a bit lighter in the fall centers, certainly catches one's attention. Clever name too. Many IBs were showing off. '*Up To Snuff*' (Ensminger 98) a nice yellow amoena bloomed with four stalks. The 2008 Dykes Medal winner '*Starwoman*' (M. Smith 98) looked lovely in deep purple speckled on a white ground. '*Sonoran Sands*' (Tasco 95) performed well. This brown on yellow ground plicata put up three nice stalks. '*Donegal*' (Keppel 96) bloomed mauve pink with lavender beards.

'*Omar's Gold*' (Boswell 96) is an arilbred median (OGB-) that made a nice clump of six stalks in lavender over olive-gold with a brown area surrounding the deep bronze beards. '*Jelly Roll Jam*' (Chacon 07) is a taller arilbred (OGB) at 32" that was looking good in cream over light yellow with a big brown veined signal.

Cindy has a lovely water feature in her garden. *I. tectorum* and horsetail fern were growing nearby along with *I. pseudacorus*. The blue flax was in bloom and is such a clear color. Overall the garden looked great in spite of the frost and drought conditions.

The last garden of the tour was that of **Scott and Reita Jordan** on the west side of Albuquerque. We had stayed with the Jordans on an earlier visit so it was nice to visit once again. A small planting greeted us in front of the house but the serious arils, and arilbreds were in back with a few medians. Here the IB '*Midsummer Night's Dream*' (Baumunk 99) looked nice in deep blue-purple. Many taller ABs were in bloom including '*Tauris*' (Ransom 97 OGB+) from France. This white with a lavender blaze or signal at the end of yellow beards was derived from *I. hoogiana*. This was our first time seeing Henry Danielson's older '*Dee Mouse*' (84 OGB) which was growing at 21 inches. This is a blue-lavender over cream-gold veined red-violet. It has dark bronze beards.

There were many Shockey and Jordan seedlings growing here. Scott's *J 93-14A* is an OGB in red over apricot yellow with red veining growing at 22 inches. We liked Shockey's *HS93-107AB* enough to take pictures – something we stopped doing on seedlings a few years back. Many visitors recommended this one for introduction. It has clean lavender standards, corn yellow styles, apricot falls and rust signals.

In conclusion, the Aril & Median Trek was well-organized, the gardens were all lovely and the people helpful and friendly. We had fun and learned a great deal. We imagine we may never see pure arils in such profusion as at the McGrath garden. What a thrill! And the arilbreds were just beautiful as well. It was also good to see medians growing and thriving in an arid climate. Our heartfelt thanks go out to Cindy Rivera and crew for a wonderful time. And we have to mention the great hamburgers and shakes we enjoyed at The Owl diner by our hotel as well as the hospitality of Karen Bergamo for taking us to eat Mexican food one evening. !Mucho Gracias!

**BY JIM AND JEAN MORRIS , MISSOURI**



**IRIS SEZ:** You cannot change yesterday, that is clear,  
Or begin tomorrow until it is here.  
So the only thing for you and for me  
Is to make today as sweet as can be.

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## ARIL AND MEDIAN TREK AWARD WINNERS

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During the Aril and Median Trek the attendees were offered the opportunity to not only observe the beautiful arils, arilbreds and medians in bloom, but also provided them with the chance to vote for the iris deemed the “**Best Arilbred**” and “**Best Median**” of the trek. Many guests were definitely up to the challenge, if the results and number of ballots submitted was any indication.



The winners of the first ever Region 23 Aril and Median Trek was announced and presented by Patricia Randall during the festivities of the Wednesday evening banquet. What a way to end the three days of iris show, judges training, garden tours, making new friends, iris bingo, fun and ogling all the gorgeous irises-----irises-----irises!!!



***'Up to Snuff'*** was voted the Best Median of the Trek. ***'Up To Snuff'*** was hybridized and introduced by Allan Ensminger in 1998. ***'Up To Snuff'*** is an intermediate bearded growing to 24" in height. It's standards and style arms are mimosa yellow; falls a deeper mimosa yellow, with canary yellow beards. It was performing especially well in the Cindy Rivera garden, and apparently caught the eyes of many trek attendees.

Allan Ensminger is a long time hybridizer from Lincoln, Nebraska (Region 21). You may remember him as the first hybridizer to rock the world of iris fanciers with his broken colored ***'Batik'*** (1985). Allan is a past RVP of Region 21 and continues to promote irises in all the most positive ways. He was instrumental in assisting me in the organization of the “Trails West Iris Society” of western Nebraska, the first iris society outside of the Lincoln and Omaha area. He has supported and donated many of his introductions to the guest iris programs around the country, as well as for iris plantings and auctions. Our sincere congratulations to this astounding irisarian.



***'Refiner's Fire'***, is an arilbred produced and introduced by our very own Pete McGrath of Albuquerque, New Mexico. ***'Refiner's Fire'*** is an OGB growing 26 inches in height and was introduced in 2007, it sports standards of lilac lavender; bronze orange veins and midrib, bronze orange falls, large burgundy red signal, beards white tipped yellow. Howard Shockey was one of Pete's aril and arilbred mentors, and with his guidance and information helped Pete to launch his career in aril and arilbred hybridizing. Pete has introduced several of his super irises and his seedlings promise to propel his career forward and upward as one of the great hybridizers of arils and arilbreds in the world of irises. He is strongly working to produce super onco form, striping and huge signals into his line of arilbreds; a line of irises that can be more easily grown by hobby irisarians while allowing them to enjoy the exotic forms of the pure arils. Keep up all the super work Pete, your dedication and introductions have helped to enhance many gardens around the Region, as well as around the world. We look forward to many, many more!!!



And last, but not the least by any means. Cindy Rivera, our trek chairman, was honored with the “**Octopus Award**”. The award, endorsed by the convention attendees, was presented to Cindy at the Trek Banquet on Wednesday evening.



The award was presented by Anita Moran, newsletter editor for the Aril Society International. Anita hales from Pylesville, Maryland. Thanks Cindy for your promotion of the 2008 Region 23 trek, display gardens, and especially for the super attention applied to all the myriad of details in organizing a venture such as this. And, we would be most remiss if we did not also thank our wonderful guest garden hosts for allowing us to visit their gardens and to do the thing we love the most-----viewing the glory of our flower-----*the iris* in all their radiant beauty.

**PATRICIA RANDALL**  
REGION 23 NEWSLETTER EDITOR

## REGION 23 TREASURER'S REPORT

### REGION 23 FINANCIAL REPORT 2008

<b><u>Beginning Balance:</u></b>	8-11-07	\$5,544.94
<b><u>Paid out:</u></b>	8-11-07 to 8-08-08	\$ 275.82
AIS meetings (RVP)		
<b><u>Deposits:</u></b>	8-11-07 to 8-08-08 \$	1,743.04
Region 23 Convention:		
Payments to RVP Fund		
<b><u>Balance:</u></b>	8-08-08	<u><u>\$7,012.16</u></u>



**Respectfully Submitted By:**

Reita Jordan  
Region 23 Treasurer



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# THE GOOD ----- THE SAD ----- AND THE FRAZZLED

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## THE GOOD

### **WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS**

Sylvia Gormley of Corrales; Sherri Keuffer of Edgewood; Carole Pierce, Roger Sellers, and Robert and Virginia Welsh of Las Cruces; Marie Larson of Pecos; Mrs. Joyce Ansley, Bealinda Hatley and Rene McCoy of Roswell; and welcome back to Yadi Flannery of Santa Fe for her membership renewal. Let's all do our very best to make all of these special people feel a super welcome at our meetings and events.

## THE SAD

### **IN MEMORIAM**

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family, friends and society members on the loss of their loved ones this past year, we always hate to hear this type of sad news:

Long time member of the Albuquerque Iris Guild, Albuquerque Aril Society and retired Master Judge Susan Latimer passed away last April. Her son Kurt, a long time Region 23 youth member and winner of the Clark Cosgrove Award, stopped by the Aril and Median Trek pot luck dinner to present the "*Susan Latimer Memorial Trophy*" to the Albuquerque Aril & Iris Society. This trophy is to be awarded to the "Best Arilbred" of the show. The first recipient of this award was Valerie White for her entry of '*Desert Fire*' which garnered both the "Best Specimen of the Show" as well as the "Best Arilbred of the Show" honors.

To Karen Bergamo on the loss of her sister this past summer. Our hearts and love go out to you, and we wish peace and comfort to you always, as well as blessed and golden memories of her.

Word was received that Lu Danielson passed away about a month ago. Although she was a member of Region 17 - Texas, she participated in the meetings and events of the Mesilla Valley Iris Society of Las Cruces. She was a Master Judge and provided Judges Training on arils and arilbreds across the nation, and blessed many youth and adults with hands-on-demos of hybridizing, as well as gift rhizomes from her garden. Her, and her belated husband, were well known for their numerous arilbred introductions that grace hundreds of gardens, not only in New Mexico, but nationally and internationally as well. After selling her home and garden, after the death of her son Floyd Stoppani, and selling her home and gardens in Chapparral, she moved to Phoenix, Arizona to reside with her daughter.

The Santa Fe Iris Society has had to say "good bye" to their beloved member Mary Huey. Mary and her husband Bill were staunch supporters of the SFIS, as well as iris in general. Their contributions to their local society, and many others, is legion. She will be greatly missed!

**AND THE FRAZZLED**

Not only is this newsletter extremely belated ---- but has been plagued ---- with more problems than one should have to experience while trying very valiantly to gather and publish all the super news from around our region.

Most of 2008 was spent dealing with the issues that only double vision can produce. After many exams and an MRI, it was diagnosed that the problem was caused from cataracts, and not something more serious such as a the effects of a stroke or a tumor. The cataracts were removed thru two separate surgeries last September and October, which went very well. I had my final post - op exam the latter part of January, and while legal to drive without glasses, I was still required to purchase glasses to deal with the astigmatism issues. With the new glasses purchased this **FINALLY** allowed me to get back to working on the computer (being able to read the screen once again) and hence the fledgling beginnings of the belated Fall 2008 Regional Newsletter.

When I was finally on a roll and pulling the multiple articles together ---- lo and behold ---- a bout of allergies and sinus problems nailed me, which immediately turned into bronchitis and pneumonia.

I have finally drug myself back from the "land of the un-dead" to take up the cross once again ---- only to have my scanner die ---- **SO ---- PLEASE, PLEASE EVERYONE ----** excuse me for the lateness of this very beleaguered publication.

And, without my trusty scanner to meet my needs, I was unable to include all of the support photos I had hoped to include in the many articles sent my way. Hopefully, next time I can do much better.

**IN APPRECIATION OF IRIS**

Because God wanted man to keep in mind His promise of a better day to come, He took the blue of the sky, the gold of the sun, the violet of deep waters, the silver of the clouds, the blush of the morning, the warmth of the hues of sunset, the inkiness of midnight and, looking around for some place to put them where men could see them and be reminded of His promise, He took the lowly fleur-de-lis and breathed His colors into her form until she stood apart from all other blossoms----proud, humble, demure, gay, quiet, saucy, laughing, silent, rippling, breath-taking, inspiring. And He named it iris, after the Rainbow, ephemeral omen of better things to come. And, lo, the iris in blooming makes a better, brighter day for all who look upon it with seeing eyes. **IRWIN A. CONROE, AUTHOR**

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## FOR WHAT'S IT'S WORTH

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The many roadblocks I have dealt with to publish this edition of the Regional newsletter have been mentioned in the Health Beat and in the article "The Good — The Sad — And the Frazzled," so I will not belabor further.

As you read all of the fantastic articles contained in this publication you can undoubtedly observe that the affiliates and their members were very busy last year with all their meetings and special events.

In the monthly newsletter, from the Mesilla Valley Iris Society, there was the note regarding the change of meeting place for their members. It appears that they have had so many new members joining their group that they are no longer able to host the meetings in the members homes due to space accommodations. They have, however, been able to secure a community center meeting room at Encantada Park, which is a gated community. Congratulations to MVIS for their fantastic increase in membership.....**WAY TO GO !!!** The Pecos Valley Iris Society of Roswell, and the Santa Fe Iris Society have also acquired several new members as well, congratulations to your groups on your new members. **Keep up the good work !**

The members of the Santa Fe Iris Society are hard at work planning for the 2009 Regional Convention. They have several new events that they will be launching at the convention and hope they are well received by all the attendees, so you will want to get those dates marked on your calendar as the "**must attend event**" of the year. All of the pertinent details will be forthcoming in the Spring 2009 newsletter.

Once again, **my sincere thanks** to all who have written articles for this newsletter-----without your contributions it could not have been done, and certainly would not make this publication as super as it is !!! All the extra bit of news makes your newsletter so much more **interesting and readable** and that is what we are all about.

I imagine that by the time this newsletter reaches you, you will all have been very productively preparing you garden and irises for the new Spring season. I have only been out a couple of times and did accomplish a portion of the work needed for the beginning of a new growth season, but still have so much more to do----NEXT WEEK----is my goal. At least the rock garden and Siberian iris bed looks great.

The deadline for the Spring 2009 newsletter is April 15<sup>th</sup>, and I continue to encourage all members to share their irising history with us, or even a brief article letting us know what is doing great in your private garden. Do you have a unique garden tip or trick that you would care to share? We would love to hear about it. The newsletter is scheduled for publication and distribution by the end of April. Affiliate news reporters.....I need your news as well. You can forward your articles to me electronically via: [patannran@msn.com](mailto:patannran@msn.com). I do have the capabilities to receive it in Word Perfect, MS Word and PDF file format, so send away !!!!!

On Wednesday evening, March 11<sup>th</sup> I was honored to do a presentation on Irises for the City of Rio Rancho/Water Conservation Division, and as a result of this program I was asked if I would be willing to present my program for the Rio Rancho Garden Club. And, of course, I immediately accepted the invitation to do so. Always ready and willing to do my part in spreading the news and joys of iris gardening.

I would be remiss if I did not provide reprint credits for the several poems and Iris Sez notes in this edition. They were taken from the American Iris Society, Region 21 newsletters of years gone by. See it does pay to hang on to ALL THAT OLD STUFF-----YOU JUST MIGHT NEED IT SOME DAY (try convincing my hubby of that!)

Until the next publication rolls off the press (printer), I remain.....**Iristatically Yours** ----- **Patricia Randall, Editor**