

# AIS Region 23 Newsletter New Mexico

Roswell Iris Show



# 2015

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## Editor's Note

The views and information contained in the articles within this newsletter are solely those of the author, and are not necessarily endorsed by the Region 23 Executive Board. Reprinting of articles contained in this newsletter is permitted provided the source of publication, and the author, is given full credit.

Due to rising costs of printing and postage, the Region 23 American Iris Society Members approved the discontinuance of the newsletter in hard copy format, and have authorized the publication of the regional newsletter via electronic format. Society Presidents are encouraged to copy the newsletter to share with their members that do not utilize computers and/or internet services.

The Region 23 Newsletter will be posted to our Website at least once a year. I sincerely hope that you continue to enjoy the newsletter and all the information concerning the AIS members within our Region. All regional members are encouraged to submit news flashes (special kudos, get well wishes and memoriam information), photos, and articles to me at: sdayres2@aol.com. Any comments on format or

changes you would like to see implemented, please let me know as well. Since the document is electronic, it is easy to modify.

## Regional Vice President Message, Howie Dash

Howie Dash

This year marks my second year as RVP. One of my major concerns is the past and future finances of the Region. There is some good news and some not so good news. As background, let's review the hierarchy of the American Iris Society and where we fit in.

All the iris clubs in New Mexico (AAIS, EVIS, MVIS, PVIS and SFIS) are affiliates of the American Iris Society, our national organization. The American Iris Society is all things iris: provides the awards, maintains iris registrations, sponsors and provides judges for the shows, and provides insurance for your shows and other activities. Communication from the national organization to the local clubs is straightforward.



**Figure 1 New Region 23 RVP Howie Dash**

To facilitate communication from the local affiliates, the AIS has broken down its representation into a number of regions across the US and Canada. Each Region is made up of all the local affiliates (clubs) within that Regional territory. The Regional Vice President (RVP) serves as both the representative to the larger American Iris Society and also as head of the Region. The RVP works with all the local affiliates and reports concerns and suggestions to the AIS Board of Directors. RVP attendance at the AIS National Convention provides an opportunity to meet with their fellow RVP's for discussion of common issues and to report to the AIS Board. This is the primary opportunity for interpersonal communication.

Now for the question of finances: In Region 23 our primary expenses are to send the RVP to National Convention (\$1000) and if possible to the Fall Board meeting (\$500). Our current income is slightly less than \$1000. The Regional bank

account has been steadily declining over the years. Over the long term we will probably not be able to continue down this path.

Let's look at the current fundraising process and some possible alternatives. At the present we are financed by voluntary contributions from the local affiliates as well as  $\frac{1}{2}$  the profits, if any, from the annual

Regional Conventions. This year we were in the red after the Treasurers Report but we will have broken after a late voluntary contribution by a local Society. That's the bad news.

Possible remedies:

1. Seek charitable contributions from individuals: we have filed for our 501 (c) (3) application, which we should have by the end of the year. This allows anyone, who itemizes deductions, to take a charitable deduction on their tax return for contributions to the Region, either cash or items for the annual auctions.
2. Assign mandatory annual contributions to the local affiliates (the voluntary method of financing the Region has led to a situation where some clubs donate and others do not). The amounts would require periodic review to maintain equity and enforcement??
3. Require affiliate clubs to give a percentage of their iris sale proceeds to the Region. At the RVP meeting at the National Convention, this was the favored method for financing the regions. At least one Region requires their affiliates to give 25% of their sale proceeds to the Region. I think that 10% would serve our needs, but this should be studied. It certainly would equalize the burden so everyone paid their fair share.

This is not something that needs to be decided this year but it is something I would like everyone to discuss in their club. We do need to find a way to be sure that we will continue to be able to operate in the future.

## Club News

### Albuquerque Aril and Iris Society (AAIS)

Submitted by Helen Crotty, President.

AAIS club meets on the fourth Sundays of February, March, June, and September at the Albuquerque Garden Center, and we have a Holiday party in December at a local restaurant. We currently have around 30 paid-up members, about half of whom are active. We gained three new members this past year, and one of them has been very active. Patricia Randall is Vice President, Eva Barry, Secretary, and Carolyn Spence, Treasurer, with assistance from Helen Radebaugh and Susan Davis. We lost Marge McMain, our previous assistant treasurer, to acute leukemia in January.

We held our usual two shows this year: one is a two-day early show in late April especially for early bloomers such as Aril, Median, and Species iris; the other is our traditional two-day Mother's Day weekend show at the Garden Center. Our sale is in July, also at the Garden Center.

Our September meeting was the customary rhizome raffle and iris exchange, a popular event for the membership and good for judges who need to grow newer irises. In 2014, we bought club orders from Mid-America Garden and Aitken's, both for the Region 23 Convention and for our

September raffle. For a \$5 ticket, members are assured a recent introduction (already potted because of the lateness of the season) from the club order. The ticket number drawn establishes the order of the choice. Some members brought a few recent or favorite irises to raffle, exchange, or give away.

We went back to the Albuquerque Botanical Garden again this year for our early show, and we were able to secure a larger and more convenient room, but it had to be a week earlier, April 18-19. This was great for some of our members whose gardens are in warmer mini-climates; but it was too early for others. Best of Show was *Bolder Boulder*, entered by Eva Barry, Valerie White took the Silver, and Eva Barry, the Bronze. People's Choice was *Purple Sensation* entered by Susan Davis. We award a club prize to the iris winning the highest number of votes by people visiting the show. This gives us an opportunity to go up to each visitor with a ballot and engage them in conversation about iris. The votes are usually spread over a number of varieties with a slim margin of victory

As might be expected, the gardens at or near peak bloom for the early show were bloomed out three weeks later for the Mother's Day show. *Grand Canyon Sunrise* entered by Eva Barry took Best of Show (Eva has been on a winning streak!), Helen Radebaugh won the Bronze Medal, and Kathy Palmer, Bronze. *Alea* and *Impressionist* tied for People's Choice; both were entered by Holly Finlay.

Our July sale grossed a little under \$1600 this year, some \$300 to \$400 less than in previous years. We essentially sold out in the first hour, as usual, and the lower sales receipts were probably due to our having fewer rhizomes, especially TBs, to sell. Neither Cindy Rivera nor Valerie White was able to dig for the sale. As we must donate 25% of the net to the Garden Center, we did not make enough to cover our operating expenses. Fortunately, we still have a fairly sizable savings account accumulated in the better years enjoyed by the three Albuquerque iris societies that were merged to form the Albuquerque Aril and Iris Society.

We will be holding elections at the September 2015 meeting and expect to have new officers for the coming year.

## Enchanted Vista Iris Society (EVIS)

Enchanted Vista Iris Society (EVIS) continues to meet on the second Sunday of the month from February thru October and has an annual Christmas Potluck party in December. Our meeting is held at Rio West Community Church in Rio Rancho, starting at 2 pm. In addition to our business meeting, we try to schedule an educational program for our members. At each meeting, our refreshment chairman Barbara Streigle makes sure we have two members sign up to be hosts/hostesses and provide refreshments for everyone attending. Phil Doonan is our door prize chairman and sees that everyone in attendance leaves with at least one door prize. We also have two members each month from February through November sign up perform routine cleanup, weeding, feeding, etc. at our club's Commemorative Iris Garden located at the Veteran's Park in Rio Rancho.

In addition to our general business meeting, we have an educational program for our members and any visitors present to enjoy. The programs we had this year included the following titles: "Questions and

Answer Session, Anything you want to know about irises/culture”; “Artistic Designs for the Show”; “Reblooming Iris”; “ Awards and Honors (Ballots)”; “Digging, Dividing and Marking Demonstration”; and “Developing a New Iris Garden”, and “Composting”. Two of the programs this year (Awards and Honors (Ballots) and Reblooming Iris) also served as Judges training credits.

Enchanted Vista Iris Society’s membership has been steadily growing during the past year. We had 5 adult members join at our May 2nd iris show and an additional 2 adult members joined at our May meeting following our show. Another adult member joined at our first Annual Rhizome sale and in August we had a second youth join our club. Currently we now have 39 adult paid members and 2 youth paid members!

Two of our members, Kevin and Colleen Konetzni attended the Region 23 convention last year for the first time. In addition to the wonderful speakers and friendly people they reported back to our members how sharp the Mesilla Valley Iris Society (MVIS) members looked in their club shirts and suggested to the membership the thought of us doing a similar thing. The members liked the idea. At our February 2015 meeting, Colleen Konetzni and Grace Bubser brought a sample of a polo shirt they found along with a draft of a logo for our members to consider along with pricing. A vote was taken to approve Enchanted Vista Iris Society getting Polo shirts for any of the members interested, at their own expense and an order was placed. We were able to get the new shirts done in time to wear them at our May 2nd Annual Iris Show and everyone looked terrific in them. Thank you Mesilla Valley Iris Society for planting that idea in their heads!

In November, 2014 Eva Barry worked with the Sunday school children at her church in Albuquerque (Covenant United Methodist Church) and planted a new iris garden. The iris that were planted all had religious names and came from the generous donations from Enchanted Vista Iris Society (EVIS), Albuquerque and Aril Iris Society (AAIS), and Mesilla Valley Iris Society (MVIS). A poster on the planting was submitted in both the EVIS and AAIS Mother’s Day iris shows and well received by many of the people who attended the shows.

This year our 4th Annual Iris Show was dedicated in memory of our lost iris sister, Geri Seyler who passed away in August, 2014. The theme we selected for our show this year was “Iris Holidays”. We had 3 different categories people could enter: Horticulture, Artistic Design, and Photography. There were 49 different cultivars with 69 entries and 2 educational displays, 6 different theme sections for artistic design with a total of 19 entries, and 6 different themed sections for photography with a total of 16 entries. Every person attending our show was given a ballot to vote for their favorite iris, artistic design and photograph. A children’s activity table was set up for them to color an iris picture, smell the different fragrances, and were able to touch some of the blooms. Patricia Randall created and printed a beautiful membership application which was handed out to anyone interested in joining our club along with applications to join the American Iris Society. Visitors attending the show had the opportunity to purchase one or more of over 100 potted iris plants for sale (several which had blooms or bloom stocks on them) in addition to other iris artifacts, breakfast burritos that were made and donated by Kevin and Colleen Konetzni, and several rhizomes Steve Kelly brought and donated. A total of \$784.00 was collected from the sale of these items

The EVIS Commemorative Iris Garden planted at the Rio Rancho Veteran's Park continues to thrive. In fact, several of the patriotic named irises planted there were dug and divided by EVIS members for our first annual iris sale. We replanted a portion of each dug plant back in the garden and they continue to grow.

Our first annual iris sale had a total of 162 different varieties, along with 23 potted unknown iris, 10 flats of different unnamed rhizomes (five of which we had known colors) and several bags containing multiple rhizomes for use in landscaping. Our members really outdid themselves digging and dividing for the sale. We also received several rhizome donations from MVIS members to sell and were grateful for their generosity. Unfortunately we did not sell out of rhizomes so some of them were donated to Santa Fe Iris Society for their sale, other rhizomes were taken by EVIS members Robin Kishbaugh and Barbara Streigle to sell at their Thimbleweeds quilting group, some were returned to the members who provided them, and the remainder of the rhizomes were given away as door prizes to our members at the August meeting. Our proceeds from the rhizome sale and the Thimbleweeds sale totaled \$1120.35! We also got another new member join at the rhizome sale bringing our membership number up to 40.

As all of you know, EVIS will be hosting the 2016 Region 23 convention and with the proceeds we made from our iris show and our first annual rhizome sale, we are feeling a lot more confident that we will have the money needed up front to host a fantastic convention next year. We look forward to seeing you next year in Rio Rancho at the 2016 Regional Convention!





Figure 2 EVIS Winners Table 2015





**Mesilla Valley Iris Society (MVIS)**

Submitted by Cynthia Wilson, President.

This past year has seen a realization of benefits from structural changes that have been incorporated in the MVIS governance in the past two years. The two major changes are the establishing of 501c3 status for the MVIS and the delegation of business planning and routine decisions to the MVIS Executive Board. The former has encouraged increased contributions to the MVIS, which has strengthened our financial position. The latter has allowed us to streamline our meetings, minimizing routine business discussions and providing more time for “iris” discussions. There is a general agreement that the meetings have become more fun, and this is reflected in a slight increase in the attendance at our monthly meetings and the enthusiastic participation by our newer members.

The MVIS Executive Board consists of the elected club officers, including the past president (voting) and the newsletter editor (non-voting). They are authorized to conduct routine club business and to propose policies and procedures for the activities of the club. Their routine actions are reported to the club at the monthly meetings and usually accepted without discussion. Major decisions are discussed and presented as motions. This has been an active and enjoyable year for MVIS.

#### **MVIS Recurring Annual Activities and some highlights:**

- MVIS Iris show in April
  - We had 146 entries in the show, which included seedlings from Steve and Howie, the most entries ever for MVIS. 120 different named varieties were entered.
  - Bouquets from iris entries were distributed to assisted living facilities.
- Decisions regarding the purchase of Club Iris in May
  - \$500 split between Aitken and Sutton.
- Distribution of Club Iris and of Club Iris increase in August
- The Big Dig (preparation of donated iris for the fall rhizome sale), Labor Day weekend
- The MVIS rhizome sale, the weekend after Labor Day
  - 262 varieties and over 2000 rhizomes, exceeding last year's record sale.
- The Annual Christmas Party
- Monthly meetings, except for June and July, average attendance 15 members
- Seven new members for the year 2015

#### **Special Events**

- Hosted a public lecture on Re-blooming Iris by Riley Probst, in February.
- Hosted a Garden Tour fundraiser for the Parkinson's Disease Support Group of Southern New Mexico (PDSGSNM), in April.
- Hosted the Region 23 Annual Convention, in September.
  - Keynote Speaker: Ginny Spoon
- Initiated a youth outreach effort: Growing Iris Growers



Figure 4 Louisiana Iris Atclafalaya won Best in Show



Figure 3 English Box "Red, White and Blue"



Figure 5 Honoring Lifetime members Ann Colwell, Maxine Perkins, Jim Reilly, Eloise Young, Ferg Gold Gail Jones



## Pecos Valley Iris Society (PVIS)

Submitted by Pegi Smith, President. Well they say they life is just a series of changes and learning how to adapt will determine your success. Pecos Valley Iris Society is learning to deal with "Life" and all the changes we were promised!! We are holding on to our love of Iris and Iris friends. WE WILL prevail but change has become a real part of our existence!!

For the first time since its existence PVIS did not have an official Iris Show. However we did have an exhibition. All members were allowed to bring 5 irises and were given judges training on how irises are judged on the show bench. After the instruction the members were placed on teams and judged the iris that we on exhibition. It was a very educational and surprising experience for all of the members that had no idea how iris are actually judged. The comments and reactions to the actual winners were priceless. Rhizomes provided by Steve Kelly were given as prizes and were cherished by all that participated.

We currently have 18 semi active members with 80% in the over 70 crowd which makes it a little difficult when it comes to the heavy lifting!! It is our goal to find new members and the best way to do that is to have a successful Iris Show next year. In the mean time we will be busy potting Iris as a fund raiser at the show and getting together to enjoy each other's company!!

## Santa Fe Iris Society (SFIS)

Submitted by Debra Bilberry, SFIS President. The Santa Fe Iris Society has its first regular meet starting in September and then restarting in February through August, the last Sunday of the month from 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM at the Kingston Residence just off Rodeo Road in Santa Fe, N.M.

We had many interesting programs throughout the year:

- Fertilizing our Garden and Preparing it for Winter.
- "Color, Form and Texture of Iris" by Marilyn Bennett used the Mesilla Valley Iris Society Slides from the Region 23 website as the bases of the program.
- "Hybridizing Iris" presented Paul Hill.
- "Show Grooming Tips and Trick for Presenting Irises at Show" by Marilyn Bennett and pointers from other club members.
- A video was shown with Joe Ghio talking about some of the first iris gardens and their hybridizers: i.e., Schreiners, Cooleys, etc."
- Modern Day Space Agers and Novelty Iris" (also Judge's Training by Patricia Randall.

May 2 - had a table at the Master Gardeners Garden Fair in Santa Fe. Demonstrated how to divide and plant irises. Gave out handouts to help gardeners with dividing and planting irises. We have interest in folks joining the Santa Fe Iris Society at the Garden Fair.

May 30th was our Iris Show at the DeVargas Mall. Our club area had one of the best iris bloom year in recent memory - about 4 or 5 years. The blooms came early and stayed for a very long time. We had 84 entries with 76 varieties displayed by 22 exhibitors for the Horticulture Division. The Queen of Show (Best Specimen of Show) was Wild Angel, a Tall Bearded iris shown by Patricia Feather. The Silver Medalist was Patricia Feather and Bronze Medalist were Monty and Debra Bilberry. We had MTB, IB, BB, TB in the Horticulture Division, not such a wide variety as last year - the weather was more consistent this year. Education Division had Bronze Medal winners: Marilyn Bennett, and Debra & Monty Bilberry. The Artistic Division - "Literary Iris" had 9 exhibitors. Best Design of Show and Sweepstakes for Artistic Design was Patricia Copple. This year we had a nice showing of youth entries - a first in some time. Best Design and Sweepstake for Artistic Design for Youth was Emily Glover. Maggie Rubino had gone to talk to a classroom of students in May. Maggie talked about the Iris Show and helped they learn about iris design and arranging. We hope this "seed" that was planted by Maggie will grow in more Youth involvement in the future. We had excellent panels of iris judges and artistic judges from Los Lunas, Rio Rancho, Sandia Park, Santa Fe and Albuquerque. Many, many members helped with the staging and breaking down the show and completing all jobs needed to make a wonderful and successful iris show!

Pat Feather was in charge of our acquisition program. To be part of the acquisition program a member must have been active for one year before they can join the program. To stay qualified the member must go to two club meetings, help weed and tend the club garden, help at the Iris Show and/or Sale.



Figure 6 Palmer Garden

The club buys new introduction irises for the acquisition program. Acquisition program divide the new iris rhizomes between the program members, then they grow the acquisitions irises (introductions) for 2 years, divide them, the grower keeps one and the rest of the rhizomes goes to the Iris Rhizome Sale in August. This year instead of an auction we put the irises on the sale tables at 1/2 what they were selling for in the catalogues this year. This is a great way for members to get fairly new iris rhizomes to grow in their gardens. Our acquisition program paid for itself thorough the sale of the acquisition irises this year with a little profit which was a great thing.

August 1, Saturday, was our annual Iris Rhizome Sale at the De Vargas Mall. We had very good crowds and had just a few leftover irises - it was a very good sale. It was because we had such good wonderful irises from all our members and friends and a big Thanks to the Rio Rancho - Enchanted Vista Iris Society - they donated their leftover irises from their sale to our sale - they were so gracious and generous. Many members worked very hard to ensure the Sale went well. Everyone was in a "buying" mood. Santa Fe Iris Society has such hard working and generous members and folks that want to buy irises they know will grow in the area.

August 30 was our last meeting for the 2014-2015 meeting year. This meeting is our annual potluck/picnic. It will be held at Kathie Rossi-Rooney's residence. Hostess were Jere Turner and Francis Garcia. All our members are great cooks. The food was abundant and enjoyed by all. Our out-going Vice President - Marilyn Bennett was given a warm round of applauds for all that she did during her two years of Vice President and for the wonderful programs she arranged for our meetings. Marilyn did a great job as Vice President.



**Figure 7 Chavez Garden**





**Figure 8 Gunter Garden displaying Sapphire On Velvet, SDB**

Officers for the 2015-2016 are as follows:

- President - Debra S. Bilberry
- Vice President - Francis Garcia
- Recording Secretary - Fran Day
- Treasurer - Kathy Palmer

## Region 23 News

Region 23 has a Distinguished Service Award. Patricia Randall encourages clubs to keep in mind who is working hard in their clubs and nominate them for this award.

In August of 2000, RVP Barbara Figge started changes to the Region 23 bylaws to give us 501C3 status. AIS provides free legal assistance to accomplish this. Howie gave highlights of changes that need to be made and asked permission to continue to obtain 501C3 status. Approval was granted.

## 2015 Regional Convention-Las Cruces

Eva Barry and Wes Wilson presented a program titled "Growing Iris Growers." They discussed their work efforts to engaging young people in growing irises. Sharon McAllister, well known Arilbred hybridizer gave a presentation entitled *The Name Game* – What goes into naming her introductions. Can you guess why she named one iris Damfino?

Our special guest speaker at the evening banquet is Ginny Spoon of Winterberry Iris Gardens. Ginny with her husband Don have many fine iris to their credit, the most famous is possibly "Daughter of Stars". They are well known hybridizers of medians especially SDBs.

Ginny Spoon gave a presentation after the banquet on Saturday. She showed pictures of her garden in Virginia. She started with pictures of red irises. One of her reds won best red iris in Florence Italy competition. Her hybridizing goal is to develop SDB with lines. She especially likes the SDB iris *Eye Lines*. She is also working on obtaining teal color in SDBs and TBs. She loves the diamond dusted shine on the TB Ice Adams.

She recommends Milky Spore for Japanese beetles. Milky Spore attacks beetle grubs directly, while leaving plants and other organisms unharmed. Milky Spore is *Paenibacillus popilliae*, an organic soil-dwelling, Gram-positive, rod-shaped bacterium. It is responsible for a disease of the white grubs of Japanese beetles. Milky Spore is applied to the soil, absorbs by plants into their roots. The grubs eat the roots and thus the bacteria. They die and their decomposition releases more bacteria into the soil. The process is often effective for a decade. If possible, apply Milky Spore shortly before an expected rainfall. Since rain is scarce in the desert, water for 15 minutes or longer to allow the treatment to soak into the soil.

She recommends a Bayer product with .5% Imidacloprid for aphids. Merit is one brand name. Imidacloprid is a systemic insecticide that was made to mimic nicotine. Nicotine, besides being found in tobacco is naturally found in many plants and is toxic to insect's nerves. Imidacloprid is used to control sucking insects, termites, some soil insects, and even fleas on pets. Imidacloprid is much more toxic to insects than it is to mammals and birds because it binds better to the receptors of insect nerve cells. Note that Imidacloprid is very toxic to honeybees and other beneficial insects and should be used with caution. It may play a role in bee colony collapse disorder. This is still being researched. Based on laboratory rat studies, Imidacloprid is rated as "moderately toxic" on an acute oral basis to mammals and low toxicity on a dermal basis by the [World Health Organization](#) and the [United States Environmental Protection Agency](#). Apparently a large amount would have to be ingested orally to show effects. It is rated as an "unlikely" [carcinogen](#) and as weakly mutagenic by the U.S. EPA (group E).

Ginny gave Median judges training. Three common faults in SDBs are:

- Flowers too large for stem height
- Crowding
- Stalks too short and blossoms are obscured by the leaves

Ginny says that in a scale of points for SDB, flowers get more points than proportion, floriferousness, foliage or distinctiveness.

IBs which are often a sterile cross between SDBs and TBs get 35 points for flowers and flowers are considered very important

MTBs get 40 points for flowers. Proportion is also very important (25 points) for MTB. Most have no scent. That is why they are called table irises.

Most historic MTBs are diploid. Historic diploids have pointy buds. Newer ones are more and more likely to be tetraploids. These tetraploids are natural tetraploids and not artificially induced by using cultraspone. *Moosetrack* which gathered much attention in Oregon at the national convention is a diploid.

MTB should have at least 6 buds but 8 or 9 are preferred. A large number of stalks per clump may be more important than the number of buds per stalk. Flowers are worth 30 pts and proportion is worth 25 pts.

Ginny also talked about BB. *Love Goes On* is a BB that gives all season reblooming in her garden. Some flares in the falls is desirable for BBs. Note that Space Age (SA) beards should be in proportion. The appendages should be restrained since their blooms are smaller than the TB.

## Website News

Past newsletters have now been added to the website. You can find newsletters going back 30 or more years. Many articles exist in these newsletters and can be recycled into club newsletters.

## Geek Corner

Smart phones are easy to use and taking videos are just a click away. Consider taking videos of your event and uploading to YouTube. Software to edit video is free but with limited functionality. Commercial software for video editing runs about \$50 - \$70 dollars. We can find the clubs on Facebook and the internet. How about finding the clubs on YouTube?

Note that YouTube has many videos on how to prune irises, transplant irises and care for irises. Go to YouTube and type in American Iris Society in the search engine. You will find lots of stuff.

## Region 23 Regional Officers and Club Directors

RVP (executive): Howie Dash [howiedash@aol.com](mailto:howiedash@aol.com)

Assistant RVP: Steve Kelly [puffincc@msn.com](mailto:puffincc@msn.com)

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Local Iris Club Directors:

Albuquerque Aril and Iris Society: Steve Speights Helen Crotty

Enchanted Vista Iris Society: Rose McClain Rocky Ford

Mesilla Valley Iris Society: Cynthia Wes [wes-wilson@comcast.net](mailto:wes-wilson@comcast.net)

Pecos Valley Iris Society: Pegi Naranjo

Santa Fe Iris Society:

## American Iris Society News

**Future AIS Conventions Locations:** The 2017 AIS National Convention will be held in Des Moines IA. The 2018 AIS National Convention will be in Louisiana.

## Judges Report by Patricia Randall Judge's Training Chairman

In looking over the Judge's Reports which includes AIS Judge's Training Chairman Judy Keisling's data, along with my recorded hours, I find that at the present time all of the current Certified Judges are in good standing. There are a couple of Judge's that will need to be sure to get another hour of credit for an In Garden session to meet national guidelines by the end of our three year calendar ending next July 31, 2016. I will keep them posted.

I always encourage all Judges to check their membership status to keep it current. A lapse in American Iris Society dues will terminate your status as a certified judge. I have included this information on the reports that I have prepared for each Regional Certified Judge, these reports are available for distribution today.

I am also including a copy of the Judge's Report that goes to Judy the end of September, where she takes the compiled information received to present to the AIS Executive Board at their annual Fall Board Meeting. It is the endorsement of the Executive Board that approves the recommended list presented by Judy.

I am pleased to announce that we have two Student Judges that have been endorsed by their fellow Judges for their approval and promotion to Apprentice Judge Status beginning January 2016. The students are Kathy Palmer and Loui Reyes. Congratulations to both of you!

I don't think I had mentioned in my Judge's Report last year that Pegi Blackwell-Smith was promoted to Master Status in 2014, and that Patricia Feather and Ken Fladager were promoted to the status of Master Judges for 2015. Those Judges recommended for Master Status 2016 are Helen Crotty and Cindy Rivera. Congratulations and good going everyone!

There are several Judges that far exceed the required judging hours each year and I applaud them for their dedication to themselves, their affiliates and their Region. I would also like to thank Jim Reilly for providing In Garden Judging for his fellow Judges. The sessions were taught in conjunction with their annual Iris Show, which allows not only those Judges within his affiliate to attend, but also those Judges who have traveled from other areas to assist in Judging their show. I would highly recommend that a Certified Judge from each affiliate to go the extra mile and provide an In Garden Judge's Training Session for their fellow affiliate Judges, and those Judge's traveling to their shows to Judge. As Certified G/E Judges we are only required to attend five (5) hours of training every three years, however, the key point to this requirement is that two (2) of those five hours must be received in the garden. Master Judges must complete only three (3) hours training, of which one (1) hour must be In Garden within a three year cycle.

Thanks to all of you for your dedicated service to our Region.

There is nothing

Does inspire us

Like the beauty

Of an iris