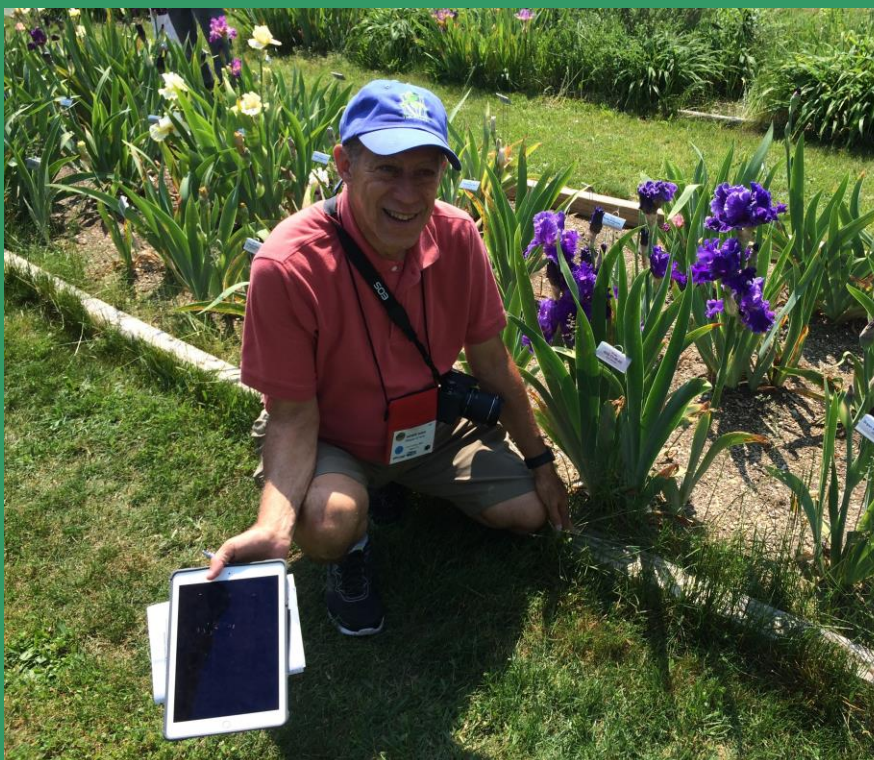


AIS Region 23 Newsletter New Mexico

Howie Dash and his seedling at the national convention in Newark, NJ

2016



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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.

I sincerely thank Rae Phillips of the Enchanted Vista Iris Society for letting me use her Convention bulletin for part of this newsletter.

Regional Vice President Message, Howie Dash

Howie Dash, Regional 23 RVP

It's hard to believe but this is my third and final year as RVP. The time has passed fast. I'd like to think that together we have made a couple of steps forward for the Region in the last three years. After a number of false starts in the past, Region 23 is finally a 501 (c) (3) organization under the American Iris Society. This means that any donations made to the Region are deductible on your income tax return to the extent allowed by law.

We have also stabilized our finances. One of my concerns was that our bank balance was declining over the years and I hope that we have at least stabilized our finances. The 501(c) (3) will certainly help our finances in the long run. However, we still have work to do and I will continue to discuss options to improve as we move ahead.

Another thing I am proud about is the efforts of Eva Barry and Wes Wilson to enlist the next generation of irisarians through their "Growing Iris Growers" program. Their efforts to involve youth in iris growing has been rewarded with the first AIS Youth members within our Region. This last year I served as the RVP Representative to the American Iris Society Board. It was a great chance to work with my fellow RVPs as well as bring the RVP's concerns to the Board. One of my big concerns was getting enough participation in the AIS Tall Bearded Symposium. Through my working with the AIS Board you should have received your 2016 symposium ballot with the spring 2016 issue of "Irises." The symposium ballot in the future will continue to come with the spring issue of "Irises."

Club News

Albuquerque Aril and Iris Society (AAIS)

Submitted by Holly Finlay, President

AAIS meets on the fourth Sunday 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 six new members this past year, and most of them have been very active. Eva Barry is Vice President, Carolyn Spence is Secretary, and Helen Radebaugh is Treasurer, with assistance from Helen Crotty, Talia Michelle, and Susan Davis.

We held one show this year which was our traditional two-day Mother's Day weekend show at the Garden Center. Best of Show went to Susan Davis for her TB, *Conjuration*. It was also Best of Section A, and she also won 1st runner up Section A with *Praetorian Guard*, with Marylee Adams 2nd runner up. Helen Radebaugh won Best of Section C (MDBs & Medians), Eva Barry Best of Section E Collections, and Cindy Rivera Best of Section F Historical. Talia Michelle won the New Member Award for the most blue ribbons, and Marylee Adams won the People's Choice award for her *Queen's Circle*.

Our sale was held July 16th, with set up on the 15th, also at the Garden Center. Eva Barry and Rae Phillips gave a mini-workshop entitled: "How to Plant and Care for Your Iris" which Robert Keys recorded. This workshop will be put onto our new Facebook page - ABQ Aril and Iris, and our new website: abqiris.org.

Our September meeting will include the customary rhizome raffle and iris exchange, a popular event for the membership and good for judges who need to grow newer irises. In 2015, we bought club orders from Mid-America Gardens both for the Region 23 Convention and for our September raffle. For a \$5 ticket, members are assured a recent from the club order. The ticket number drawn establishes the order of the choice.

Finally, we have had several volunteers sign up for various Garden Council activities, as well as the upcoming State Fair Flower Show on September 9th, 2016. We appreciate the inclusion of our club in the Garden Council, and are extremely grateful for the allowance of space for our meetings, shows, and sale. We are also grateful and appreciative of the time Debi Harrington took to help us with ideas for marketing and ways to help our club grow. As you have already seen, we have taken them to heart and have applied them as best we can. Thank you for all you are doing for Albuquerque's gardeners!

Enchanted Vista Iris Society (EVIS)

Submitted by Patricia Randall (President)

She created a booklet on how to host a convention.

Our calendar year began in February. The members selected a theme for our Fifth Annual Iris Show scheduled for Saturday, May 14th. The theme selected was "Iris Inspirations" which also included themes for the six Artistic Design categories.

As host affiliate for the 2016 regional 23 Annual Convention, the EVIS members rallied forth and volunteered for all of the Convention Chairmanships and Assistant positions. We began preparations in the fall of 2015 with the selection of our headquarters and securing a contract for the event and meals. We held chairman committee meeting during the months of February, March and April to provide update on committee progress, and to work on projects for the convention. We held our final committee meeting on August 8th.

We had a very broad range of interesting programs scheduled for the year. From the response of the members, no one was disappointed with any of them, and felt they really provided a very wide range of topics and information. It will be a challenge to beat that roster next year.

The program for February was "Wild Irises, Their Diversity, and How Various Types of Iris Are Related to One Another" which was presented by member David Ferguson.

Shirley Tetreault, nationally acclaimed artistic designer and instructor, was our guest speaker in March, she presented a fabulous program on "Artistic Designs." Samples for each of the specific designs listed in our show schedule was given. As we use design samples approved by the National Council of Garden Clubs, this gave our newer artists ideas and inspiration to compete in that division of the show.

In March members Eva Barry and Rae Phillips provided a very informative program on "How to Get Ready for a Flower Show, Helpful Tips, Do's and Don'ts." Our new members really appreciated all the information and demonstrations.

On May 15th, we were the guests of members Rae and Du b Phillips for a tour of their beautiful garden. Even though the iris were blooming beautifully, the weather turned cold & windy, but it still didn't stop Patricia Randall from conducting a Judge's Training on "Garden Judging Tall Bearded Irises," where we learned how the iris should look in the garden, not just in the shows.

In June President Patricia Randall provided a program on "Aril and Aril bred I rises." It was geared to make the members, new to the Arils and Arilbreds, more informed about the special classifications dealing with this special iris class. A raffle drawing was held for the members to select potted arilbreds (provided by Patricia) to take home for their gardens, to experiment with and to enjoy, each member received four irises.

Our July meeting is always reserved for the presentation of our Iris Show Awards. The presentations were made by President Patricia Randall. Certificates and medals were awarded to: Kathy Palmer, Best Specimen of Show; Deanna O'Donohoe, Best Photo of Show; Laurel Barry, Best Design of Show, Youth Division; Stefani Yates-Groff, Best Design of Show, Novice Division; Kathy Palmer, Best Design of Show, Intermediate Division; Patricia Randall, Best Design of Show, Advanced Division, as well as the Artistic Designs Sweepstakes; Kayleen Weeks, Best Educational Display, which also won a Bronze Medal. The

Silver Medal was won by Eva Barry, with the Bronze Medal going to Kathy Palmer. The "People's Choice Awards" went to Jeanne Hurt, Best Iris of Show; Deanna O'Donohoe, Best Photo of Show, and Stefani Yates-Groff for Best Design of Show. Certificates of Appreciation for Participation in the Design Division went to youth members Luke Barry and Clayton Wolfe. Each winner will receive a potted iris award, of their choice, at our September meeting and iris raffle.

On July 23rd we held our second annual iris rhizome sale. The results were much less than we had hoped for. We will be exploring the option of hosting our future sales at the Cottonwood Mall for a broader range of customers, and potentially much better proceeds for our efforts. If this option is not possible, we will continue to pot our extra irises and sell them at our annual shows. This venture has proven to be very lucrative for our bank account.

In August a "Roundtable Discussion with Questions and Answers about Iris" was conducted. Panel members were President Patricia Randall and member Ken Fladager.

And the highlight of August is our hosting efforts, for the very first time for our group, the Annual Region 23 Convention and Business Meeting. We hope we haven't disappointed any of you.

Our year will commence with our "Presentation of Show Awards of Iris Rhizomes, along with our members only iris raffle" in September. Everyone usually gets to take home three or four new treasures for their gardens.

Our final regular meeting will be held in October. The special program will be the installation of our 2017 Officers. This will be followed with some "Fun and Games" with prizes for the winners.

There is no meeting held in the month of November.

Our year concludes with our annual "Holiday Potluck Party" which is followed with a fun packed "White Elephant Gift Exchange." What a great way to finish out the year.

I must give all of our society members a very heartfelt THANK YOU for your support to our officers, and especially for working so tirelessly to pull all the preparations together for the Regional Convention. You all did a fabulous job, and no Society President could be prouder of your hard work and talents than I am.

Mesilla Valley Iris Society (MVIS)

Submitted by Wes Wilson, President.

16 new members in the past 2 years. Started an education program. On eyear Reblooming another year novelty. Next year Dell Perry for AB in Feb. A follow up next year with another ab

This has been an active and enjoyable year for MVIS. We continue our efforts to have our meetings focused on Iris by minimizing routine business discussions without sacrificing transparency. The MVIS Executive Board

is authorized to conduct routine club business and to propose policies and procedures for the activities of the club. The Board's routine actions are reported to the club at the monthly meetings and are usually accepted by acclamation. Major or controversial motions are discussed at meetings, and require acceptance by a majority of those voting. All such motions are designated by the presiding officer as either an Action (a motion that has a single application) or as an Operational Rule (a motion that has a continuing application). Operational Rules require notice at a previous meeting and publication in the newsletter before a vote is taken.

This approach seems to be working as intended. Our meetings have been spirited and without contention. Our newer members have lots of questions about Iris horticulture and we have found time for unstructured extended discussions on garden design, fertilization, pests and diseases, and the possibilities for promoting unstructured sharing of Iris among the MVIS members, with special attention to Reblooming Iris and novelty Iris.

MVIS continues to support Regional and National AIS activities. In addition to preparing baskets for the Silent Auctions at the National and Regional Conventions, MVIS made donations of \$300 to Region 23 and \$500 to the AIS 2020 Fund.

MVIS 2015-16 Highlights

- September
 - o 2015 Big Dig (preparation of donated iris for the fall rhizome sale), Labor Day weekend
 - o 2015 MVIS Rhizome Sale, the weekend after Labor Day - 248 varieties, over 3000 rhizomes for sale
- December. The Annual Christmas Party.
- February. Special Guest Speaker: Jean Richter speaking on Lloyd Austin and Novelty Iris.
- April. MVIS Iris Show
 - o 134 entries in the show, which included seedlings by Howie, 124 cultivars, 14 exhibitors, Best in Show: Plum Wicked presented by Howie Dash
 - o Most worthy seedling: ADG 13-14-04 presented by Howie Dash
 - o Bouquets from iris entries were distributed to assisted living facilities.
- May. 2016 Club Iris Order, \$500 from Tom Burseen, with request to emphasize Novelty Iris.
- Six new members for the year 2015-16.


Aril Trek 2018. MVIS will host an ASI Aril Trek April 6 & 7, 2018 in Las Cruces. The current plan is to have a panel discussion on Friday evening after registration, to tour four gardens on Saturday, and to conclude with a banquet Saturday evening. Judges training in a garden will conclude the tours.




Figure 1 Las Cruces heroes were honored at the MVIS 2016 Show



Figure 2 Margaret Ritter wins Best Space Age for *Beefy* and Cynthia Wilson wins the Silver Medal







Growing Iris Growers



An MVIS/AIS Community Outreach Program

The Mesilla Valley Iris Society seeks collaboration with Doña Ana County Youth Organizations who are interested in sponsoring Youth Iris Gardens.

Youth organization should provide:

- Youth Group that can be involved a few years
- A dedicated Adult Sponsor
- Appropriate garden plot with water
- Indication of organizational support
- Agree to label Iris and maintain the garden
- Agree to return surplus rhizomes to the MVIS

Success Story

Good evening fellow Irisarians,
I would like to give you an update on the iris rhizomes your club donated to my church's (Covenant United Methodist Church) Sunday School Class for their new Iris garden.

... With the iris donated by EVIS¹, AAIS² and MVIS³ we had a total of 27 different potted religious-named iris that the children were able to plant. Each child got to pick their own iris to plant. I printed pictures of each of the iris (with a couple exceptions) so the children could see what they will look like when blooming.

... The children really had a great time planting them. I only wish you could have been there to see their big smiles and gentle handling of the plants.

... Three rebloomers in my yard were blooming on the day of the planting, so I was able to place iris on our altar for both services for the congregation and children.

... All of the plants have a plant marker with the name of the iris and the name of either who planted it, or whom it was planted in honor of.

... I am hoping this planting will get the children inspired to grow iris at their homes.

Thank you for your generosity!
Eva Barry

¹Enchanted Vista Iris Society, ²Albuquerque Aril & Iris Society, ³ Mesilla Valley Iris Society

MVIS will provide:

- Education in gardening and Iris cultivation
- Iris rhizomes for planting in their Youth Garden in the fall
- Opportunity for Field trips to Blooming Iris Gardens in the spring
- A dedicated MVIS sponsor

MVIS CONTACT: Wes: MVIS.newsletter@comcast.net

Figure 3 Growing Iris Growers Outreach program

Pecos Valley Iris Society (PVIS)

Submitted by Pegi Smith, President.

Pecos Valley Iris Society is alive and well!!! We have about 20 active members and two new members that we are very excited about!! We have found a home for our meeting at the Peach Tree Retirement Home and they have made us feel very welcome by providing cookies and drinks for our meetings. In appreciation for use of the facility, member and resident, Georgia Schoenecker spearheaded an iris project in which she planted several large planters with iris that had been donated by the club along with annuals and perennials that greatly enhanced the courtyards of the facility.

We were very excited to be back on track with an Iris Show this spring. The show theme was "Iris Adventure Along the Pecos" and was held at the Roswell Museum and Art Center. The room was filled with many colorful works of art carrying out the theme creating a beautiful background for the Iris Show which was very well received by the public. PVIS also had an iris plant sell during the show. With profits tallying over \$800, it was well worth the time and iris donations of the members.

In an effort to keep all members involved, a different member is responsible for providing a program for each meeting. One of the best programs was presented by Gary Biggs, a local hybridizer who has recently introduced a couple of iris and has built a rapport with many of the big hybridizers and they are sharing pollen and growing each other's iris.

Pecos Valley Iris society takes the summer off and we are looking forward to our next meeting in September.

Santa Fe Iris Society (SFIS)

Submitted by Debra Bilberry, SFIS President

Debra Bilberry, President, gave a talk to the Los Alamos Garden Club in September 2015 on the different kinds of bearded irises and a demonstration on how to divide irises.

The Santa Fe Iris Society had its first regular meet starting in September 2015 and then restarting monthly meetings in February through August 2016, 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:

- A Garden Timeline by Pat Feather
- Judging Show Iris given by Debra Bilberry, Fran & Henry Day
- Judging Artistic Designs given by Maggie Rubino
- Digging and Preparing Iris for Sale
- Did you know" interesting facts about irises by Francis Garcia

SFIS participated in the Master Gardeners Garden Fair in Santa Fe. The club demonstrated how to divide and plant irises - hands on demo. SFIS gave out handouts to help gardeners with dividing and planting irises. We had several folks join the Santa Fe Iris Society at the Garden Fair.

May 21st was our Iris Show at the De Vargas Mall. Theme was "Iris Fairy Tales." A very large show for us. We had 149 entries with 143 varieties displayed by 29 exhibitors for the Horticulture Division. The Queen of Show (Best Specimen of Show) was a Tall Bearded iris shown by Kathy Palmer. The Silver Medalist was Kathy Palmer and Bronze Medalist was Pat Feather. The Artistic Division had 23 exhibitors. Best Design of Show and Sweepstakes for Artistic Design was Sylvia Chavez. We had excellent panels of iris judges and artistic judges from Los Lunas, Rio Rancho, Sandia Park, Roswell, Santa Fe and Albuquerque. Many, many members helped with the staging, breaking down the show, and completing all jobs needed to make a wonderful and successful iris show!

Pat Feather was in charge of our iris acquisition program. Pat trained her replacement, Fran Day, who will take charge of the program soon. The acquisitions sold at the 2016 Santa Fe Iris Rhizome Sale grossed \$1,098.50. The members of the acquisition program grew the 2014 introductions for 2 years and brought to the sale. This program breaks even or makes more than what we pay for the

introductions yearly. This gives members a chance to introductions in their garden for the cost of planting and caring for the rhizome.

July 30 Saturday was our annual Iris Rhizome Sale at the De Vargas Mall. We had very good crowds, it was a very good sale. We had six people join the club at the sale (hopefully they will be with the club over the next year).

A big thanks to our members and our friends who gave their time and helped with the sale. When Noon came and we called the Sale officially over, we had some leftover rhizomes. We planted leftover Irises in pots for sale in the spring, and gave some to Rio Rancho Enchanted Vista. Other irises were given to church for their prayer garden, a 6th grade teacher and a science garden area at Chamisa Elementary School in White Rock. A science teacher will use the irises in classroom for science lessons during bloom season and will work with two members of our club. Debra Bilberry and Betty Gunter coordinates talks to the students about types of irises, growing and caring for irises. August 28 is our last event for the 2015-2016 meeting year. The meeting our annual potluck will be held at Ceil Swanson's residence.

Officers for the 2016-2017 are as follows:

President - Henry Day

Co-Vice Presidents - Debra Bilberry and Fran Day

Recording Secretary - Larry Logan

Treasurer - Kathy Palmer

Everyone is crazy about irises.

Region 23 News

In 2018, there will be an Aril Trek in 2018 that will feature two year clumps. Sharon McAllister was a member of our AIS Region 23 for many years. When she stopped hybridizing, Malevil iris gardens had many of her irises but they lost many irises when their well failed. They will try to send MVIS their surviving McAllister irises and MVIS will develop a McAllister garden. We asked that if anyone has her irises please send the irises to MVIS. At the Aril Trek, Saturday will start with Continental breakfast at Jacquie Pountney's house, then on to Howie Dash's house, then lunch at the Wilson's gardens and lastly judges training at Scarlett Ayres' garden. Pete McGrath will be our keynote speaker on Saturday. Trek dates are April 7-8th 2018. Hotel Encanto will be the conference hotel. will be the conference hotel.

Region 23 Regional Officers and Club Directors

RVP (executive): Scarlett Ayres sdayres2@aol.com

Assistant RVP: Cindy Rivera cinrivera15@gmail.com

Secretary: Fran Days chatmaison@comcast.net

Treasurer: Debra Bilberry dbilberry@gmail.com

Membership Chair:

Webmaster: Scarlett Ayres sdayres2@aol.com

Newsletter Editor: Scarlett Ayres sdayres2@aol.com

Local Iris Club Directors:

Albuquerque Aril and Iris Society: Holly Finlay

Enchanted Vista Iris Society: Patricia Randall patannran@msn.com

Mesilla Valley Iris Society: Cynthia Wes wes-wilson@comcast.net

Pecos Valley Iris Society: Pegi Blackwell-Smith peginaranjo@gmail.com

Santa Fe Iris Society: Henry Day chatmaison@comcast.net

AIS Region 23 2016 Annual Honorary Awards

This year we had a tie for the distinguished service award between two couples: Rosemary and John Cain and Fran and Henry Day.



Figure 4 Fran and Henry Day are co-winners of the AIS Region23 Distinguished Service Award

Below is a list of previous award winners

Hybridizer's Award	Distinguished Service Award
Howard Shockey	Barbara Figge
Luella and Henry Danielson	Karen Bergamo
Pete McGrath	Pegi Naranjo
Sharon McAllister	Jim Reilly
Steve Kelly	Floyd Stoppani
Howie Dash	Ann Colwell
	Cindy Rivera
	Phil Doonan 2014
	Maxine Perkins

	Pat Randall
	Reita & Scott Jordan
	Pat Feather 2015

Paul Black was the guest speaker. He congratulated Howie Dash on some of his seedlings and new introductions. His first love was SDBs. He said the Median Iris Society was one of the more energetic groups and encouraged to join. Cost of the Medianite is \$12. A mini convention for MIS is in Indiana in 2019 April 18-20, a few weeks before the national convention in Des Moines Iowa. He started in 1979. He has his grandmother to thank. His grandma would get irises from a neighbor who would speed \$25 a piece for new introduction. His grandma could not afford the new introductions.

2016 Regional Convention-Rio Rancho

Notes

RVP Howie Dash held everyone hostage at the convention until they filled out the AIS ballot. The AIS ballot is sent out every spring issue.

Year 2020 is the 100th anniversary of the AIS at the NY Botanicals Garden. The 100th anniversary will be held at NY and these gardens including Presby will be on the garden tour. If you remember, Presby gardens are huge with many, many historic irises. MVIS contributed \$500 for the 100th anniversary fund. AIS is planning numerous special events.

RVP Howie suggested having a rhizome sale just for the region to raise money. He said the first iris he entered in a show was *Tempo Gold* and it won Best in Show! Beginners Luck. He recalled that he had one iris that had no increases (heavily inbred). It was suggested that he set a seed pod on it and he may get an increase. He did and that was his first cross he ever made and yes, he did get an increase. One iris he named *No Style* because it had no style arms.

SFIS has had a novelty section in their garden show for years. MVIS has a space age section but flatties are not included in this section. They are bringing in someone to teach how to judge novelties next year. If you want to know about novelties, then you should contact your club and ask for a presentation. Judges have to judge the iris in this class it has been presented. Each club may need a novelty section at the show so the novelty iris is judged in an appropriate section. Pat recommends the novelty section in the judge's handbook needs expansion. She encouraged people to write and recommend to expand the novelty section. Suggestions can be sent to Debra Bilberry who is treasurer of the Novelty Iris section.



Figure 5 Raffles for a lovely iris quilt was sold at the regionals. Various members of EVIS worked on this quilt.



Figure 6 Silent auction on baskets and hand made gifts



Figure 7 Free bulletins and an iris washing rack for sale.

Guest Speaker Paul Black

Paul Black gave the program at the Banquet. He first started with SDBs. SDBs were first created by crossing TBs or BBs with a little species called *Pumila*. These irises are 5-inches tall and are native to Crimea where they are grown in gravelly soil. They go to town in good garden soil but they like cold weather. Paul asked who in their right mind would cross a 5-inch iris with a TB? Paul Cook, Getty Douglas and Paul Schreiner were some of the original creators of the first SDBs. At first the colors and forms weren't that great but they have since improved! Paul is very proud of an iris he hybridized called *Chubby Cheeks* hybridized in 1985. It was one of the first SDB with great form. There are over 200 registrations in the AIS checklist with *Chubby Cheeks* in the background. 80% of his SDBs have *Chubby Cheeks* in their pedigree.

Paul has several goals. One of his goals is SDB with pink standards and falls but with turquoise lines in the falls. He also would like an iris with pink standards and blue falls but with pink bands. Just when he thinks he is getting close with the bands the blue falls becomes grayer. Some of these irises have a pedigree half a page long but they still do not reach his goal. Another SDB goal is push the blooming

date later so SDB are blooming closer to the TB bloom times and creating SDB with 2-3 branches and as many as 10 buds. We can hardly wait.



Figure 8 Paul Black was the guest speaker.

IBs were created when someone crossed an SDB with TB. Most crosses tend to be sterile but as the line in the Jurassic Park movie says, "Life will find a way". There are more and more fertile IBs. Portland Pink, an SDB is a cross between two IBs. MTB are diploids but then they brought the tetraploid species Aphylla into the mix. Aphylla was also crossed with BB. Aphylla also likes colder climates and crosses made with them can yield short or tall iris. Desert Snow is an arilbred median (ABM). It won the

Wather's cup in 2015. Most ABMs are mules. However, *Brash and Bold* ABM is fertile. Paul wanted more flowers but not quite as large. So he brought Aphylla into the mix for MTB. He is created a small flower tall bearded (SFTB). SFTBs contain many small flowers. Basal branches occur where the branches start from the bottom. The Aphylla crossing gives the basal branching with multiple stalks from the bottom. You would have to display it in a frog instead of a vase at shows.

More tetraploids MTBs mean brighter colors and more patterns like the hot pinks. They are not trying to get wider forms and ruffles in the MTB. This would upset the diploid purists. *Dolce Spec-X* was the prototype for the SFTB. *Three Part Harmony* tied for the president cup in Newark. I.Pumilas are in the past of MDBs as well. MTBs can have 8 or 12 chromosomes He is also working on a red TB that is a cross made with a TB and a very red IB to make a redder TB. He is also working on a different broken color (BC) that is not like the current BCs. The current BCs are created with virus which can be a hit or miss affair. His is a genetic alteration. These also have variegated foliage.

I.Pumilas are in the past of MDBs as well. MDBs can have 8 and 12 chromosomes

Garden Judging of Dwarf and Median Iris by Paul Black

Paul Black gave judges training on judging Medians in the garden. Note MDB is not part of the medians. He believes that advancements are coming faster in medians than TB. TB has a set level of chromosomes. While medians have Pumila species and Aphylla species in the mix which creates a lot of potential for experimentation with mixtures of chromosomes. Pumila and Aphylla like a real winter. It takes 10 generations to create a breeding line to work in southern climates. He is surprised that the judge's handbook penalizes a median for not growing well in the south. He believes you shouldn't penalize a plant to breeding true to their background species. But then they turn around and say something complete opposite so this section needs to be revised. Look at the median in multiple season in case bad weather affect the form.

As a judge, please don't judge on one-year plant. Because that plant is reflecting the previous grower's conditions and not yours. Don't judge from pictures, shows or conventions. Number one responsibility of a judge is to vote the ballot. Know it and grow it! As a judge and hybridizer he looks at 10000 seedlings. He first goes through his seedling by eliminating the irises with fatal flaws. Then he looks at the points. He uses biometric yard sticks. Elbow to finger is 16 inches. Fist is 4-inches. If he can touch a BB without bending, then it is out of class. Make frequent trips to other gardens to how the irises are growing. Judges often overlook bloom out when they see a mass of blooms

Dykes is the top award of any median. Take your notebook to the field and take notes. SDBs have d diverse parentage and are always fighting their TB genes. The TB genes wants taller foliage but that may interfere with the Pumila small flowers. The judge's handbook says one or more branches and 2 or more buds. However, Paul says in today's climate you want more branches and more buds. However, the flowers must be above the foliage. SDB can bloom anytime it wants. Only IB has a set bloom times. The medians can have a lot of variation in flower shape. SDB has the ability to recover from late frost. Foliage should be in proportion-not thick and clunky. Color is very important in these smaller flowers (20 points). As a judge, back up and view from 20-feet away. Called the kitchen window test.

Plicata patterning can vary tremendously in the same plant. The colors should be correct. SDBs should be viewed from above but Paul believes you should view from afar. The hand book mentioned flared falls but with an SDB's angled falls are viewed from 6-ft away better than flared falls. Standards can be opened arched, closed or pyramidal. They must be uniformly one way or the other.

Paul like a gently arch in the falls but the handbook says horizontal is okay. He doesn't like very wide falls that are very ruffled. He doesn't think it fits the class. He also doesn't like falls that end in a tip called the star-tip. This type of fall is not visible from afar. It is allowed in the handbook. SDB is the worst class in inconsistency in number of standards to falls. I. Pumila was instrumental in developing IB, SDB and MDB.

On floriferous, Paul like at least one of the flowers to be blooming and no more than 2/3 of the flowers blooming at the same time. He believes it is harder to breed them to open one or 2 at a time. Too many flowers at a time makes it hard to see the individual flowers. SDBs should never be prone to rot and the foliage should be "clean" of diseases. They rarely rot. In SDB and not the others, leaf sheath can be so heavy that the bud has a hard time getting above the foliage and expends most of energy clearing the leaf sheath and is distorted. Bud sequencing is important in the SDBs. Open the terminal bud, then a bud on a lower branch then back to the terminal.

In the MTB class there the optimum height is 22 inches.

Distinctiveness doesn't just have to be color or pattern. It can be that it grows better, branching, have better bud counts, different foliage or disease resistant than irises of similar colors.

Medals are:

- MDB Caperne Welch Medal
- SDB Cook-Douglas Medal
- IB Hans and Jacob Sass Medal
- BB Knowlton Medal
- MTB William White Medal

An Iris Lover Knows

Rae Phillips

It starts so humbly

This most majestic of flowers ... A small nodule called rhizome A few green stalks clinging.

Why give it a cherished spot in a garden of floral profusion?

An iris lover knows!

With spring ... oh the surprise! Growth explodes overnight 'Dead ' plants find rebirth.

Tall stalks of green, strange shoots with odd knobs on the top

Extend heavenward in the sun --

An iris lover knows!

A riot of colors and shades! Unimaginable in their variety

Encompassed in large blossoms

That 'stand ' in parts and 'fall' in others

Covered with ruffles and laces

And amazing fragrances too --

Ah ... an iris lover knows!

Articles

Recycled Glass For Your Garden

By Scarlett Ayres

Tons of glass bottles and jars collected by the city are now pulverized into small pieces that are suitable for terrariums and landscapes. Many cities like Las Cruces South Central Solid Waste Authority (SCSWA) offers crushed glass for free to anyone who has a bucket. The crushed glass comes in three colors; brown, green and white. Blue is desirable but there is simply not enough of it. The crushed glass comes in 2 sizes; sand and coarse. Coarse is about ¼" in size. You might think the glass would be sharp and cut a dog's feet but the glass can be handled without being cut.



Figure 9 Bins of crushed glass available free from Las Cruces

In most cities, you cannot put glass in your house recycling bins. It costs too much to ship it to places where it may be recycled into countertops. Therefore, the cities request residents to drop off their glass at a drop-off site. The inside of the bottles should be reasonably clean. You don't have to take the paper label off. However, the chopped up labels end up with the coarse glass as you can see in the following picture. The fine crushed glass is free of paper.



Figure 10 Coarse and fine crushed green glass

There are many uses for the crushed glass. Master Gardener Jeff Anderson uses it as a mulch around his plants at his Las Cruces residence. He says it looks especially nice when it rains and the glass is sparkling. Club member Scarlett Ayres uses it along pathways between Iris beds. She puts down a layer of landscape fabric and lines the sides of the path with landscape lumber. About 1-2 inches of glass is added. A few bricks are added so the glass is not tracked out of the bed when the path is used. Coarse glass is used instead of pebbles in the aril garden.

So check with your surrounding communities and see if they offer crushed glass. Add a little sparkle into your garden.



Figure 11 Brown and green recycled glass used as a mulch in Jeff Anderson's garden

How to Build An English Box

By Cynthia Wilson

Wes said this is a couple's project. You can't blame everything on the government. He recommends cutting the styro foam at someone else's house due the quantity of little white balls created. He likes using a hot wire cutter for less mess. If you use a knife, wax the knife with paraffin so the little white balls won't stick. Wes says a woman can do this in 15 minutes. If a guy does it, it can take hours.



Figure 12 Wes and Cynthia Wilson demonstrate how to make an English Box

Susan Sanders, a member of the Kirkwood Iris Society, an AIS affiliate in the St. Louis area, developed a practical method of construction for the English Box.

Reference: Bulletin of the AIS, "Youth Views" column, pp 78-80, April, 1996.

http://www.irises.org/Member_Services/ais-toolbox-hort-display.html#English

Display:

- Box should have a Theme and Iris should all be of the Same Type
- Blooms should sit 1/2" above fabric (adjust the vial height)
- Identify the Iris by name on 3x5 card placed at the front center edge

Materials:

- 8' X 4' X 2" Styrofoam sheets -Available at local lumber yard or home supply. One sheet makes 5 boxes.
- 6 Plastic flower vials {orchid tubes} per box - Available at florists.
- Fabric to cover box
- You need a 34"x40" piece to cover 18" x24"x4" box with 4" overlap
- Cut from 1-yard of 40+ inch width material

- Zigzag any raw edges, or use fray check
- Choose color to Emphasize the Iris:
 - Black cotton/Velvet is very rich if you can keep it clean
 - Forest Green
 - Be creative, e.g. Blue Denim for Country-Western theme
 - A matte finish is desirable to reduce glare for photography
- Glue (white glue or spray-on fabric glue or contact cement)
- Straight pins

Tools:

- Styrofoam Cutter: Waxed (electric) Knife or Hot Wire Cutter
- 18" x 24" carpenter's square
- Power drill and 1/2" paddle drill bit
- Fabric scissors
- Exacto Knife

Preparation time:

- Shopping - twice whatever you allow
- Box Assembly - 15 minutes + glue drying time
- Fabric Assembly - 15 minutes? - Depends on your skill and standards!
- If your club provides the materials, plan for some lead time {couple of weeks}

Prepare BOX:

- Cut foam sheets with electric knife or Hotwire; rectangles 24" x 18"
- Makes 5 boxes
 - Each sheet will yield 10 rectangles and a small throw-away scrap
 - Two rectangles are needed for each box.
- Use glue to secure 2 rectangles together, one on top of the other. This will make the box 4 inches thick.
- Measure exactly (see diagram). It may be to your advantage to make a template of thin cardboard to lay on top of the box to use as a guide when holes are drilled.)
- Use an electric drill with 1/2 inch paddle drill bit and drill holes for vials

Add FABRIC:

- Wrap box in the fabric as you would wrap a package
 - Tuck and fold the ends neatly
 - Secure with straight pins dipped in white glue
- Use Exacto Knife to cut holes in the fabric where vials are to be placed
- Insert vials. These may be raised or lowered so irises of different sizes can be displayed, with falls just clearing box surface. Vials may be removed for cleaning, filling or

- emptying.
- Place a stick-on label on the back of box to identify the owner (individual or club).

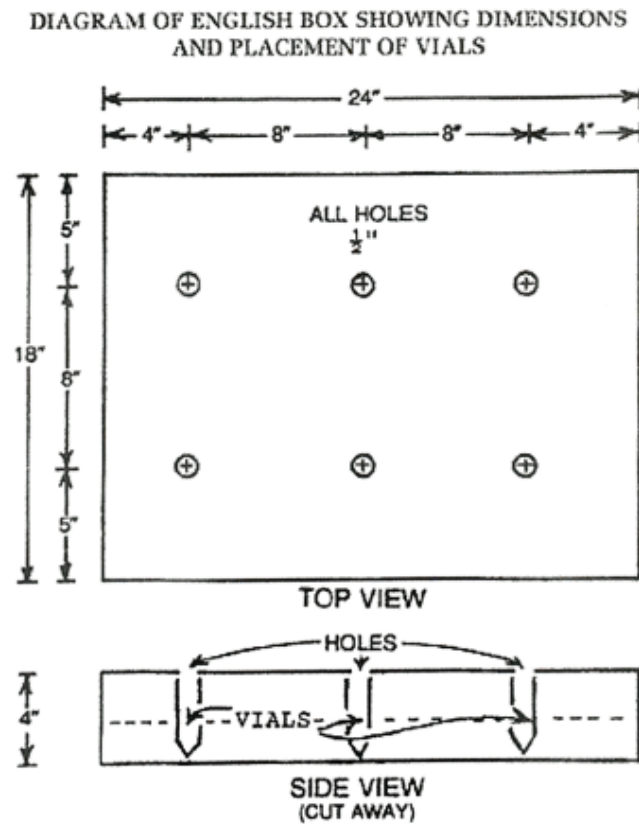


Figure 13 English Box Dimensions

The Iris in Mythology, In History and In Art

By Pat Randall

The parents of the goddess Iris are father Thaumus, god of the sea, and mother Electra, cloud nymph. Twin sister is Arke. Iris was the messenger of the Olympian gods while her sister Arke betrayed the Olympian gods and became the messenger of the Titan gods. Arke may be the second rainbow following a storm. Brother is Hermes and another sister is Hera queen of gods, marriage, starry heavens and represented the ideal woman. Husband was the god of the west wind and spring Zephyrus. Iris has golden wings whereas Arke had iridescent ones. After the Olympian gods fought the Titans, the iridescent wings were torn from Arke and placed on the feet of Hermes.

In Greek mythology she was the personification of the rainbow and is often portrayed wearing a coat of many colors. The Gemini sign represents her and her sister Arke. She travels on rainbows and links the gods to humanity. She guides the souls of deceased women to the Elysian fields. Irises are planted on deceased woman graves. Though Iris was principally associated with messages and new endeavors, she is also believed to aid in the fulfillment of humans' prayers, possibly by fulfilling them herself or by bringing them to the attention of other deities.

Iris were believed to have been grown 7000 years ago. In ancient Egypt the iris was a symbol of eloquence and power and thus adorns the scepters of royalty. King Louis saw I. Pseudacorus in a river. He escaped his enemies by crossing the river because he knew that the river was shallow due to the presence of the plant and the iris is associated with French royalty. Orris is a term used for the roots *Iris germanica* and *Iris pallida*. The chief ingredient of Orris root is oil of Orris (0.1-0.2%) a yellow-white mass which contains myristic acid. One ton of iris root produces two kilos of essential oil, also referred to as 'orris root butter' or 'butter of iris', making it a highly prized substance. Once important in western herbal medicine, it is now used in perfumes, and as a widely used fixative for potpourri. Orris is also an ingredient in many brands of gin. Orris roots was used to create white powder to adorn the woman's faces. Ancient world used irises for cold coughs, colds hoarseness and snakebite. The juice of the root was used to remove freckles. Dried powder can act a good snuff and relieve cases of headaches.

Iris tectorum was planted on rooftops because ornamental plants was outlawed because of the lack of arable land. Iris are grown throughout the world but are native of the northern temperate zone. In the new world, early records date back to 1600 in VA. The Moorish Spain help bring the iris to Spain. Early trade route in the roman era help spread irises everywhere. Holland had irises by the time of Columbus. Iris is the State flower Tennessee and the emblem of New Orleans and Florence Italy

Genus *Iris* Family is part of plant Iridaceae. Sir Michael Foster 1836-1907 collected many irises and kept detailed records, defining the name of species. His most notable intro was *Caterina* in 1909. William Dykes also grow wild irises and wrote about them. His writing was the first of its kind in the iris world.

Orris root is often included as one of the many ingredients of Ras el hanout, a blend of herbs and spices associated with Moroccan cuisine. Orris root has been used in tinctures to flavour syrups; its taste is said to be indistinguishable from raspberry. Sounds yummy.

Things I learned living in New Mexico

- You cover the iris rhizomes with more soil than the AIS recommends in order to keep the rhizomes from scalding.
- Rabbits sleep in the middle of the road with all four feet in the air.
- Yes, there are frogs in the desert. You give the ones names who live near your house.
- Nothing will kill Mexican Primroses or Mesquite trees.
- Green grass DOES burn.
- The sound of coyotes howling at night only sounds good for the first week.
- When a buzzard sits on the fence and stares at you, it's time to see a doctor.
- Red or Green? Enough said.
- You measure distance in minutes and not miles.
- All the festivals across the state are named after a fruit or a vegetable.
- You find 100 degrees a "tad" warm, but it is only a dry heat.
- You have been known to water potted plants mornings and evenings and they still dry out.
- All four seasons are: Almost summer, summer, still summer and Christmas.
- You go to the grocery stores in August just to smell the chilis roasting.
- It is not a normal day in New Mexico unless you see the Walmart truck heading down the road.
- Rain doesn't clean your outdoor furniture. Rather, it deposits the dust that was in the air.
- You excitedly tell your eastern relatives that you got a whole 1/4 inch of rain yesterday!
- Chili goes in just about anything including ice cream, muffins, jelly and pancakes.
- It is not uncommon to have chili at breakfast, lunch, dinner and dessert.
- Only easterners plant cactus in their gardens.
- New Mexico has the greatest number of deaths per capita due to lightening in the nation.
- You are amazed at the amount of damage a little ole 75 mph hurricane can cause on the east coast. That's just a normal spring day in New Mexico!
- You understand and participate in the debate on whether or not chili is a fruit or vegetable.
- You can walk across the Rio Grande river bed and not get your feet wet for many months of the year.
- Dust storms can cause serious traffic accidents.
- You provide shade to newly planted flowers.
- You know where the real first Thanksgiving occurred.
- You know that the longest continuous lived place was the Acoma Sky Pueblo and not Saint Augustine Florida.
- Arils and Arilbred irises grow well here.

Website News

Past newsletters have now been added to the website. We encourage anyone who created a powerpoint presentation that they want preserved for posterity, to send it the web master at sdayres2@aol.com. She will add it to the website where it will be available to everyone.

Geek Corner

**Paul Black, TB
T. Johnson, 2003
AM'07, Wister '09,
Dykes Medal '10**



Though you can upload pictures to the web site, it may take a while if you have beaucoup amount of pictures. Another method is to put the pictures on the cloud and provide a link that lets people view the pictures. MVIS uses Google cloud to store their pictures used for the iris sale. A link to all 800+ pictures as well a link to this year's sale pictures is provided on the MVIS Annual Rhizome sale page. A Google drive is set up on the picture editor's computer. It acts like another computer drive. Any picture copied to the google drive on the computer is automatically uploaded to the Google cloud. You don't have to do anything else. The editor then creates a link to the appropriate folder. The link is pasted on the web page using the link button in the editor (looks like a chain link). The picture at left is indicative of the club sale pictures. PowerPoint is used to create these pictures for the MVIS sale. Each slide consists of text (word art), a 4x6 box shape and the picture. The text and picture fit inside the box. Select all three (text, picture and box) so that all 3 are chosen. Right click and

choose *Save as Picture*. Change file type from PNG to JPEG. Rename picture and save.

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Newsletter Editor: Scarlett Ayres sdayres2@aol.com

Local Iris Club Directors:

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Enchanted Vista Iris Society: Patricia Randall patannran@msn.com

Mesilla Valley Iris Society: Cynthia Wes wes-wilson@comcast.net

Pecos Valley Iris Society: Pegi Blackwell-Smith peginaranjo@gmail.com

Santa Fe Iris Society: Henry Day chatmaison@comcast.net

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.

Looking ahead the American Iris Society will be celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2020. It will be an exciting time and the 2020 National Convention will again be back east in Newark, NJ. We hope that one of the Convention gardens will be the NY Botanical Gardens, where AIS was formed in 1920. AIS is planning an anniversary book and other events to celebrate. Of course AIS is encouraging voluntary contributions, both from Affiliate Clubs and individuals. Should you wish to contribute you can make checks out to "AIS Foundation," c/o Jill Bonino, 3110 Kirkham Drive, Glendale, CA 91206.

Judges Report by Patricia Randall Judge's Training Chairman

Everyone is in good shape. She will send copy of a judges status by September by email or snail mail. Several people are taking judges training as student. She keeps everyone's record on file when a student decides to become an apprentice. Cindy Rivera won the judges award

There is nothing

Does inspire us

Like the beauty

Of an iris