

AIS Region 23 Newsletter New Mexico



Pecos Valley Iris Society served as garden hosts at the 2022
American Iris Society Convention held in Las Cruces, NM

September 2022

2022

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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, Eva Barry



Figure 1 Eva Barry, RVP

Thank you all for attending this 2022 AIS Region 23 Virtual Regional Convention once again. I was in great hopes, as were several of our Albuquerque Aril and Iris Society members who have spent so many hours planning and working on our in-person convention for everyone to come, see old friends and meet new Irisarians, but this was not to be. Although I am extremely disappointed to not be able to hold this meeting in person as planned, I am very grateful to as many of you as possible who are attending our Zoom meeting on August 20, 2022, from 2-5 pm.

What a year this has been for us. Through the efforts of Howie Dash and Scarlett Ayres, along with numerous Region 23 volunteers, we were able to celebrate AIS's 100th and 101st Anniversary and for the first time held in New Mexico! It took the help of many volunteers who planted the iris beds at the 6 host gardens 3 years ago and cared for them through numerous delays and cancellations to finally give everyone a chance to see the beautiful irises that can be grown in the desert! Now regional members have pulled together and dug the beds of iris, sharing the rhizomes between the five affiliate clubs (Albuquerque Aril and Iris Society, Enchanted Vista Iris Society, Mesilla Valley Iris Society, Pecos Valley Iris Society, and Santa Fe Iris Society) and Calhoun. What an accomplishment and congratulations to everyone involved. The weather this year has affected all of us in one way or another with late freezes impacting some of our blooms, high winds resulting in challenges for our flower shows, and of course the drought. Many of us found our gardens and the convention host gardens to be blooming later than normal with fewer **bloom stalks**. We were all thrilled when the monsoons started but even, they haven't yielded much moisture in many places. The American Iris Society continues to provide great webinars for their members. They held their 27th webinar July 13, 2022, that included a Judge's training on "Iris Color Patterns: Yesterday, Today, & Tomorrow" given by Jill Bonino. A new series of webinars will resume starting in September so watch for those announcements. Even though these webinars are set up for AIS members to attend, non-AIS members are able to view the recorded programs on the American Iris Society's You Tube channel. In May and June AIS did a membership drive whereby any individuals who were not members of AIS but joined one of the various clubs during that time period was given a free 1-year full membership. I hope all of our affiliates were able to take advantage of this offer and were able to attract new members for their clubs.

In July 2021, AIS released its 8th Edition of the Handbook for Judges and Show Officials. This was a major challenge that took several years and numerous people working on all the various sections. Although it was released, there are a couple sections still undergoing revisions and efforts are underway to get it put into the 5 1/2" X 8 1/4" format from the current 8 1/2 X 11" format. Copies are available for purchase at the AIS Storehouse. Additional Judges are needed as we go forward and many of our judges are retiring. I

would like to invite you to consider becoming one. If you want additional information, you can contact Patricia Randall, our Judges Training Chairman, any one of our currently accredited judges or your club president. Even if you are not interested in becoming a judge, please participate in any Judge's Training programs. You will find they are worth your while and full of great educational information.

This is my third and final year as your Regional Vice President and I have enjoyed my time serving in this position. I want to thank everyone for your support. At this year's Zoom annual meeting we will be electing new officers for the next 3 coming years.

For those who are not aware, Region 23 is 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.

Club News

Albuquerque Aril and Iris Society (AAIS)

Submitted by Eva Barry, AAIS President, eva13barry@gmail.com

AAIS finished up 2022 on a positive note. Throughout the year we lost 13 members, but we also gained a total of 18 members which includes one individual who has renewed her membership. Our new members have come from not only our club website (Albuquerquearilandirissociety.com), our Facebook site (ABQ Aril and Iris), our Iris Shows and our rhizome sales, the Garden Center's referrals but also from our members.

Rae Phillips continues as our secretary and sends out great monthly newsletters packed with information on what's happening during the upcoming month as well as recap activities that have taken place by the membership. Rae took on the responsibility of chairman for our Regional Convention this year which included making all of the arrangements for the location, getting the discounted rate for rooms, food and refreshments, preparing the convention booklet, sending out the convention registration forms and information, along with several other duties. Linn Furnish, our treasurer, accepted the responsibility of Convention Registration as well as overseeing our silent auction. Please let them know what a great job they have done.

Last September, we held our annual club membership iris plant drawing in Eva's backyard. Since AAIS had purchased iris from Mid America for the Region 23 convention, we were to host in 2020, Eva kept growing them in her yard. In 2021 she divided the plants and split them between the club's membership iris drawing and the 2022 convention give away to registered attendees.

Our Spring Iris show was nearly cancelled due to what seemed to be a lack of people entering the show due to the last freeze and later than usual bloom. When talking with one of our regular people who brings her beautiful iris to our shows every year, I mentioned the

probability of cancelling our show. She made a couple phone calls and found people and iris for the show. Pete McGrath was one of those individuals who blessed us with several of his Aril and Arilbred seedlings as well as several other introduced irises he had hybridized. His addition to our show was a real treat for everyone to see. Although it was a smaller show than we have had in the past, we were able to sign up 6 new members to join our club, 5 of which qualified for the free 1-year membership to AIS.

As part of the American Society's 101st National Convention in Las Cruces, NM, AAIS was selected to host the convention garden tour at Blue J Iris gardens. We had several members who baked cookies, muffins, and donated other prepackaged snacks for the people who came to the garden as part of the bus tours. Rae Phillips and Beth Schneider manned the refreshment table for the morning and/or afternoon tours. Candy Scott made special iris shaped chocolate suckers in 4 different flavors, and they went like wildfire.

Our annual rhizome sale was held on July 16th. Unfortunately, we only had 5 members who dug and divided their iris. Eva and Candy also brought potted iris from their yards for the sale. In addition, Rae and Eva went to a home of a lady in NE Albuquerque and dug up all her unknown iris and wanted to donate them to AAIS where they would find great homes with good sunshine and care to grow and another 2 other non-AAIS members who brought rhizomes from their yard for the sale. We were able to offer the public half of the amount of iris and plants we had for our sale in 2021. When we opened the doors at 9 am, we had approximately 60 people waiting. People started gathering at 8 am and very eager to buy iris for their yards. We sold out of all the rhizomes, including all the unknowns by 10 am (1 hour after we opened) and the last of the potted iris Candy brought for the sale before 10:30 am.

Some of our members are planning to go to Las Cruces August 11, 12, and/or 13 to help dig iris from the host gardens from the AIS Convention. Members helping with the digging of the iris as well as the earlier planting of the rhizomes and helping in many other areas will have their choice from several of the different iris grown in appreciation of their help. The remaining iris dug are being shared with each of the 5 affiliate clubs. Each club will then be able to decide how they want to distribute the rhizomes received from MVIS and the host gardens.

Enchanted Vista Iris Society (EVIS)

Submitted by Patricia Randall, PVIS President, patannran@hotmail.com

It has been such a pleasure to finally be back on track with our regularly scheduled calendar of monthly meetings and the joy of sharing time with our great iris group. Our Society meets the second Sunday afternoon of the month at 2 PM, with the meetings being held at Our Lady Queen of Angels Church located on Tulip Road in Rio Rancho.

Our program schedule once again was jam packed with various subjects of iris development and culture. Some of our programs that are presented by our AIS certified judges also provide a one-hour credit judge's training session.

Our May meeting was held on the third week of May as the second weekend is the Mother's Day holiday. This also coincides with the Albuquerque Aril and Iris Society meeting. It was discussed and decided to cancel our May meetings due to this conflict. We also discussed our first show since the pandemic lock downs the past two years. We all felt that it was the best show we have had yet. We also sold \$900 worth of potted iris to the attendees.

In June I provided information on the American Iris Society Youth Program and all of the activities they enjoy throughout the year. Sadly, it was reported by Cheryl Deaton, AIS Youth Chairman at the AIS Convention in April, that due to the pandemic the membership has dropped from 3,000+ to 800+. Another sad tale of the covid pandemic. At our July meeting we held a Round Table Discussion on tips and hints we use to prepare our garden soil for the planting of our irises. A lot of great info and tips were provided.

Our annual iris sale for potted irises and fresh rhizomes will be held on Saturday, August 27th.

Our September meetings are reserved for our Annual Iris Show award presentations (potted irises) and Member Potted Iris Raffle drawing. Lots of fun enjoyed by all, and new beauties to add to our gardens.

In October we end our round of monthly meetings with an afternoon filled with Fun and Games and prizes. No meeting is held in November. Our year ended with our annual Holiday Potluck and White Elephant Gift Exchange in December. A great meeting enjoyed by all.

Like all societies, we gain a few new members, but unfortunately, we lose a few as well. We sincerely hope this trend will not follow us into the year 2023.

Wishing all the iris societies of New Mexico a great 2023, with lots of great programs and fun!

Mesilla Valley Iris Society (MVIS)

Submitted by Cynthia Wilson, MVIS President, wes-wilson@comcast.net

Throughout 2021 and 2022 the MVIS was continually involved in planning and coordination of the 2022 AIS Convention. This included the activities: garden tours, lunches, banquets, buses, meetings, advertisements, arrangements, booklet, and of course the iris plantings before and planned disbursement of the iris after the convention. These activities and more took up an enormous amount of time. Also, thank you to all the Region 23 iris clubs. Your help and participation were welcome and much appreciated.

The convention activities continued up and through April 11-16 the dates of the convention. *Howie has put together a brief description of the activities of the convention and it is included as an attachment to this report.

In July 2022 as promised to the hybridizers, the MVIS dug, cleaned and returned their requested convention iris. Thank you, Scarlett and Howie, for taking the lead on this activity.

In August MVIS has set aside the dates of August 11, dig Calhoun Garden, August 12, dig NMSU and August 13 dig Farm and Ranch convention iris. The MVIS has invited the Region 23 clubs to come and dig the iris they would like to take and disburse to their clubs. We will be leaving iris in each of these gardens. Howie has coordinated with the gardens the dates and times.

MVIS September 18 meeting, members will return any increase iris from previous years Club iris program.

October and November - Nominating committee, meetings and Iris activities.

December's meeting is our Christmas holiday meeting and installment of new officers.

The past two years have been crazy busy years for MVIS. We came through and continue as friends and still enjoy growing and showing iris. We look forward to April 2023, when we will once again have an Iris Show. Organizing the iris show will seem easy after the 2022 AIS Convention.

Pecos Valley Iris Society (PVIS)

Submitted by Melanie Deason, PVIS Co-President.

Fall 2021 Activities: Two years of delays and cancellations due to Covid, yet by September, the Pecos Valley Iris Society (PVIS) started meeting in-person (while social distancing and masked) at the lovely Anderson Museum of Contemporary Art. PVIS member Suzy Andregó (of Albuquerque) gave a power point on her iris garden, entitled 'Companion Flowers in Your Iris Garden'. In October, Patricia Randall, of Rio Rancho, gave a power point on 'What a Judge Looks For'. She also explained how to pick your specimen, and offered a judges credit test for those wanting to become judges. Our final November meeting of the year was an exchange of iris rhizomes and discussion of how to support the upcoming AIS convention in Las Cruces.

We closed out the years with our December holiday dinner and election of officers: Co-Presidents: Melanie Deason and Pat Krakauskas; Treasurer: Yukie Pfeiffer; and Recording Secretary: Peggy Voigt. Bittersweet was news that our out-going President, Isabel Olsen, and her husband were leaving New Mexico. While we'll miss them, we're jealous of their new cooler summer temperatures in Prescott, Arizona.

Winter/ Spring 2022 Activities: PVIS focused on educating ourselves for upcoming responsibilities at the AIS Conference in Las Cruces. Howie and Scarlet gave us informative Zoom presentations for our February and March meetings. And locally, our club performed early tasks of preparing registration-bag seed packets (with Holly Hock seeds from a member's yard); and making table favors (gardening gloves in an Easter egg) for the final AIS dinner. Ten of our members (half of our club) traveled to Las Cruces for the national AIS convention. PVIS was responsible for hosting one of the iris gardens at New Mexico State University's farm near Mesilla. Watch for a group picture, in our iris aprons, in the Fall issue of American Iris Society.

At the AIS opening night's dinner, PVIS provided three flower arrangements for the speakers' table. These iris vases were original creations by clay ceramicist, Melanie Deason (PVIS Co-President), with floral designs provided by PVIS members, Suzy Andrego and Isabel Olsen. For the awards' dinner, PVIS member Pegi Naranjo Smith designed over thirty stunning iris floral arrangements for the dinner tables. Special bonus: one lucky person per table was gifted that arrangement.

In May, our monthly meeting was hosted by members Joyce and Bob Hutchings, who provided a garden tour at their residence.

Summer 2022 Activities: No meetings during the summer, however the PVIS club is committed to hand watering (with water jugs) two giant curbside planters at the Chaves County Courthouse. These planters were filled with flowers and iris in late April, in recognition of Earth Day and support of the historic downtown area, eg. Main Street USA and Keep Roswell Beautiful - all in anticipation of Roswell's 75th UFO Festival over the 4th of July.

PVIS is blessed by member, Shula Rymberg, who has the most beautiful gardens that completely surround her home. Periodically she offers us garden tours of her iris, and now in these warmer months she showcases everything possible that blooms. Just a drive by in one's car is an excuse to witness her amazing talents.

In closing: We have three new members joining us in the fall.

Santa Fe Iris Society (SFIS)

Submitted by Debra Bilberry, SFIS President, dbilberry@gmail.com

The Santa Fe Iris Society in 2022 has been a year of slowly getting back into the swing of things. We found a place to have our monthly meetings and had our first meeting in March 2022. Santa Fe Iris Society had 3 new members join this year.

We had a successful Iris Show on May 21, 2022. Henry Day won Best of Show for his iris, Noble Gesture. Syliva Chavez won Best Artistic Design of Show and Artistic People's Choice Award. J Paul Hill's Seedling 1317-1 won Best Seedling of the Show. One of our newer members won the People's Choice Award for Favorite Iris for her Dracula's Kiss. We had an Iris Rhizome Sale on August 6, 2022.

It was exciting that several of our members were able to go to the National Convention in Las Cruces this year. A couple of our members were able to go down to Las Cruces in August and help dig up irises from the convention iris beds.

This has been a good year of getting back into action and hopefully in the coming year we can get back to more activities and fun with irises.

Region 23 News

Welcome to our new members

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome new American Iris Society members to our region. We also would like to take this opportunity to welcome new members to the various clubs. We hope your association with the regional and national members about our favorite flower will prove to be beneficial and educational and that you make many new life-long friends.

Welcome.... Welcome....Welcome

AIS Region 23 Officers Elected In 2022

JACQUIE POUNTNEY, President



I'm Jacqueline Pountney. I'm 78 years old and have been married for 58 years. I had been in a garden club in South Carolina so when we moved to Las Cruces NM, I reached out online for garden clubs here. Thru that club I found out about the Iris club and reached out to them and went to my first meeting. I joined that day and have been active in it for 9 years now. Cynthia Wilson was President then and as time went on we became friends and I ended up Vice President. We work well together and have worked on three different conventions in Las Cruces.

I became a judge 2 years ago but due to Covid-19 have not had a chance to judge yet. Thanks to Howie Dash and Steve Kelly I got my garden training during

Covid-19 lockdown.

I have around 400 Irises in my yard. I grow all types of Irises except Louisiana.

I go by Jacquie!

ROBIN KISHBAUGH, Vice President, rgkishbaugh@yahoo.com



Robin Kishbaugh is originally from San Diego, where she attended school and graduated from San Diego State University with a BS in Accounting. She lived in Pacific Beach for a few years where she met her husband Wayne on a blind date. Robin worked as Controller/Director of Finance and Accounting at a large cable company in San Diego. They married and moved to Point Loma to be near her paternal grandparents. Wayne ran a business out of their home, which Robin did all of the accounting for. Robin has two children, Doug and Stephanie, who were born in San Diego. In 1991, they moved to Albuquerque to be closer to Wayne's parents and to raise their two kids in a slower environment. Wayne went to work and Robin opened a childcare business in their home, which she operated for over 20 years. In the meantime, a close friend had moved to Rio Rancho and they started talking about irises. Robin joined the Enchanted Vista Iris Society, and started raising iris in pots, because her dogs

(great danes) were too hard on in-ground planted iris. After a long illness, Robin has almost completed the necessary courses and will become an iris judge at the end of this year. To this

day, all of Robin's iris are grown in pots. Robin has served as Treasurer and President of EVIS, and is currently Treasurer.

SCARLETT AYRES, Secretary, sdayres2@aol.com



Scarlett Ayres is the former president of the Mesilla Valley Iris Society (MVIS) and former RVP of Region 23 (New Mexico). She first purchased some irises at the MVIS annual sale about 35 years ago. In 2001, she realized that you could purchase irises over the internet and started to fill up the gardens with irises. After trying but failing to find the MVIS club on the web, she contacted the RVP of New Mexico and managed to make contact and joined MVIS. She established a web presence for all the clubs of Region 23 so people can easily join local NM clubs. Scarlett maintains the database and database pictures for MVIS. She retired from the federal government where she did analysis, software coding and developing databases. This came in useful developing the database for the 2022 National Convention and the software to

communicate with contributing hybridizers. She was co-chair for this convention and one of the tour gardens was at her home. She is a judge and gives a presentation each year on how to groom irises for the show. She has also given presentations to garden clubs in El Paso and Las Cruces on growing irises in the desert. Her garden was also one of the tour gardens on the last ArilTrek in 2017. At the National Level, she is on the board of directors and is working to create videos of hybridizers.

DEBRA S. BILBERRY, Treasurer, dbilberry@gmail.com



Joined the Santa Fe Iris Society at the show in May 2009. Went to my first AIS Region 23 Convention that September in Santa Fe. I remember one of the speakers was Dr. Roy Epperson – he took us to the Santa Fe Iris Garden and did a garden training. Hybridizer Dana Brown was also at my first regional convention. It was all very exciting, plus at that convention I bought my very first expensive iris. I was officially hooked on irises and all the wonderful iris folks.

Went to my first National American Iris Society (AIS) convention, MAD about Irises in Madison, Wisconsin May 31-June 5, 2010. “MAD about Irises” pretty well sums up my love for irises. I like to grow irises and found out that I love all the other bearded irises too - SDB, MDB, MTB, IB, and BB – not just Tall Bearded (I just didn’t know about them before). I have tried to grow Aril Breds and have had success. Trying my hand at Spurias and Species. So far haven’t had any luck with Siberians or Louisianas – but there is always next year.

Along my iris journey, besides being a member in the Santa Fe Iris Society, I became a Life member of the American Iris Society (AIS) and became active at the AIS Region 23 level

serving first as Assistant RVP and then as the Treasurer beginning in 2014. I have served as the President of the Santa Fe Iris Society several times, currently serving as President for the Santa Fe Iris Society. I was part of the group that helped create the Novelty Iris Society and served as the first Treasurer for that organization. I have been an accredited AIS Iris Judge since the fall of 2013, 9 years. It is very exciting and an honor to be an AIS Judge. I continue to learn about irises and have enjoyed the honor to be an Iris Judge at shows around the region.

My favorite iris is usually the one I am looking at or trying to grow. I love historic irises because they remind me of my grandparents and all the old farmsteads that still have lovely irises growing in their yard. In short – I love irises and they are what grows in my yard along with their companion plants -weeds.

I have enjoyed serving as the Treasurer for Region 23 over these past years and I am looking forward to serving as Region 23 if the Region 23 members re-elect me. I would appreciate your vote. Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely, Debra S. Bilberry

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AIS Region 23 2022 Annual Honorary Awards

The Region 23 Service Award is expected to have a positive effect on the region by stimulating members to lead or help with additional activities. The Service Award would allow the region to show its appreciation to members for their years of dedication and excellent work. This year the service award was won by Scarlett Ayres and Howie Dash. They served as co-chairs for the American Iris Society National Convention held for the first time ever in New Mexico. This was an especially difficult convention to plan and coordinate due to Covid-19 virus. Considerations had to be made because of the virus.

Guidelines for nominations to the Region 23 Service Award

A volunteer should be nominated in writing by another Region 23 member who is not related to the nominee. The written nomination should include justification over several years of volunteer iris activity, such as:

- Presentation of a long-term view of the volunteer's iris activities
- Long term service in a local club, service in the region, and/or service at the National level
- Maintaining a display garden
- Leadership positions held
- Growing and showing iris

- Educate the public about iris and iris activities
- Writing articles for publication
- Photographing iris and giving presentations

Minutes August 20, 2022

1. **Meeting was called to order** by RVP Eva Barry at 2:10 pm.
 2. **Welcome by RVP - Eva welcomed everyone to the convention. This meeting is a Zoom meeting due to CoVid-19 pandemic still being present and concerns about hotel costs. Everyone either called in or used their computer to access the convention. Rae Phillips created the convention booklet.**
 3. **Roll Call for Regional affiliates:**
 - AAIS - 6
 - EVIS - 5
 - MVIS - 3
 - PVIS - 3
 - SFIS - 5
 4. **Meeting Minutes.** The minutes from last meeting were accepted. The minutes are in the convention booklet.
 5. **Treasurer's Report** – Debra Bilberry presented the treasurers report. The report is also included in the convention's booklet. There were minimal expenses last year, AAIS, EVIS and SFIS has paid their commitment for the year. EVIS gave a donation for \$100 to MVIS to help with expenses at the convention. Unsure if it was used by MVIS. The treasurer report was accepted as written.
 5. **Election of Officers – the slate of officers presented for the next 3 years are:**
 - RVP** – Jacqueline Pountney
 - VP** – Robin Kishbaugh
 - Secretary** – Scarlett Ayres
 - Treasurer** – Debra Bilberry
- Motion carried unanimously.
6. **Chairman Reports**

- **Judge's Training Chairman** – Patricia Randall sent to all judges their status. Her report is the booklet. There is no judge's training for this regional meeting due to time constraint, but the AIS is placing on the AIS you tube channel different judges training. Judges will need to remember to report back to Patricia their training.

- **Region Awards** – The region provides two awards to members. One award is for service and the other award is for judging. Pat requested that people send their service award nominations to her at patannran@hotmail.com by October. The awards are not announced and will be presented in Albuquerque in 2022 when we can finally meet in person.

- **Website** – Scarlett Ayres is still in charge. Anyone who wants to post information on it should give her the information.

7. Shows

Three of the 5 clubs had a show. MVIS did not because they hosted the national convention. Entries were light due to a later than normal bloom period. Everyone enjoyed the shows.

8. Sales

AAIS and SFIS and had a rhizome sale. They sold out in less than 2 hours. People were disappointed that they sold out so quickly. EVIS is the following week. MVIS will host their rhizome on Sept 11. There will be hundreds of different rhizomes available from the host gardens at the national convention. MVIS had 3 storage units filled with irises ranging from \$2-\$7. Most MVIS irises are \$5-\$7.

9. Affiliate Reports – These reports are also included in the convention booklet.

10. New Business

There is a membership drive sponsored by the AIS. Any person can join a local club or a society and get a free one-year subscription to the AIS.

Eva thanked MVIS for the great job of hosting the convention and sharing with the other clubs. The northern clubs will pot the irises in their own gardens and sell them in the future. Convention co-chair Howie thanked the other clubs for their help with the convention. This included bringing food, making food like suckers, creating arrangements, hosting the boutique.

The 2023 convention will be hosted by EVIS. Howie mentioned that the costs of hotel rooms have skyrocketed. Howie proposed having a convention only from 10 am to 4pm on a Saturday. Second suggestion was to have it in the springtime except for election year. AAIS can have it on the Albuquerque Garden Center to cut costs.

Scarlett Ayres

Minutes August 19, 2021 by Scarlett Ayres

1. Meeting was called to order by RVP Eva Barry at 7:02 pm.
2. Welcome by RVP - Eva welcomed everyone to the convention. This meeting is a Zoom meeting due to CoVid-19 pandemic still being present. Everyone either called in or used their computer to access the convention. Eva asked for every club to bring in new members. Eva summarized some of the zoom meetings that occurred this past year. The pandemic severely restricted in-person meetings and there were no iris shows. The region had an ugly Christmas sweater zoom meeting in December that was fun. Monty Bilberry and Isabel Olsen won the awards for ugliest Christmas sweater. In March, Scarlett had a Dykes Medal Bingo game that was both educational and fun. Two certificates from Howie Dash were awarded for the winners.
3. Roll Call for Regional affiliates:
 - AAIS - 6
 - EVIS - 6
 - MVIS - 4
 - PVIS - 4
 - SFIS – 9

Plus guest speaker Jill Bonino and an unaffiliated new member.

4. **Meeting Minutes.** The minutes from the last meeting were accepted. The minutes are in the convention booklet and are included in the 2020 Region 23 newsletter.
5. **Treasurer's Report** – Debra Bilberry presented the treasurers report. The report is presented in the convention's booklet.

6. Chairman Reports

- **Judge's Training Chairman** – Patricia Randall sent to all judges their status. We need more apprentice judges.

- **Region Awards** – The region provides two awards to members. One award is for service and the other award is for judging. Pat requested that people send their service award nominations to her at patannran@hotmail.com by October. The awards are not announced and will be presented in Albuquerque in 2022 when we can finally meet in person.

- **Website** – Scarlett Ayres gave a brief demonstration of the website at aisregion23.com. She said information can be sent to her about each club and she will include it. She also

showed the button to get to the hotel registration and 2022 convention registration. The registration for the convention will be added in September.

7. Affiliate Reports – These reports are also included in the convention booklet.

8. New Business

AIS Info - The club registration fee required by the AIS will resume in 2022. The new judges handbook is now out. It is 290 pages. You can print it out or wait to purchase the smaller version to be printed by the AIS. The AIS created 17 webinars. These are on their You Tube channel. Just search for American Iris Society. A handful of the videos are also judges training videos. You cannot obtain the test from You Tube. Instead go to <https://www.irises.org/judges/> and scroll down. The videos listed here will also contain links to the tests. Just scroll down. Once you have finished and graded the test, send it to Patricia Randall at patannran@hotmail.com .

2022 Convention – Scarlett and Howie gave an overview of the type of help needed for the convention. A summary is listed in the registration booklet. All clubs agreed to sponsor snacks and water for one garden each. MVIS requested the other clubs provide 1-2 items for the goodie bag. A hospitality chairman is needed to organize the delivery of snacks and water and hosting in the gardens. MVIS obtained agreement by the Master Gardeners of Las Cruces to help host in the gardens. One Irisarian should be paired with a Master Gardener. They will also help man the registration tables. Shirly Trio has agreed to be head bud captain. We do have out of towners agree to be bus captains. They should be paired with someone from the region. There will be 6 gardens at the 101th AIS Convention in Las Cruces. The theme is Iris Enchantment. Still need someone to be in charge of counting the ballots. This is the first AIS National convention in New Mexico. This is a good time to advertise the convention to other garden clubs in New Mexico as well as Botanical gardens. Who knows, maybe we can gather new members.

Silent Auction – Eva is in charge of the Silent Auction. Everyone is encouraged to clean out their closet of Iris paraphernalia and donate. Debbie Frasier will be storing donations.

Boutique – Scarlett Ayres will be in charge of the Boutique. It has been difficult to find artists due to crafts fairs have been canceled. She asks for people to contact their artist friends. They can mail their items to MVIS or just bring the items with them. The region gets 20% of all sales. Cost of mailing back unsold items will be deducted. The region is not responsible for theft or damage. This needs to be made clear to the artists.

9. Programs

The program was “Iris Color Pattern Terminology” provided by Jill Bonino of California. She is a master judge and AIS treasurer. She presented a delightful program showing the different color patterns and enhancements. Pictures of old irises as well as seedlings were presented.

10. **Gift Certificates** - A random draw of a gift certificate was made for each club. The meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm.

Good Job Eva Barry for setting this up and running a meeting in a format very different from the region’s usual format.

Scarlett Ayres

RVP Secretary

The pandemic, though winding down, was still a concern. **Region 23 Convention Speakers** So we had a zoom presentation and everyone attended from the privacy of their own home. Julie Ornelas and Scott Smith presented – “Benefit of Bees”.

Julie Ornelas

Julie Ornelas has been a public-school teacher for over 25 years. Most of those years have been teaching US History. Two years ago, she was asked by the New Mexico Veterans Memorial to serve on their Board of Directors. Julie was honored to be considered for a Board position and was asked to serve as the Education Chair. Since taking on this position, she has formed a committee to connect teachers, students, and our veterans. The committee wants to let teachers from around the state know about the Memorial and what it has to offer. She is working with other teachers on a Veterans Legacy Project where students have done interviews, worked on research to create projects, and completed community service projects related to veterans.

The Education Committee has recently been working on the “Hives for Heroes” project. This program will have local veterans and beekeepers working together. Hives for Heroes is a national veteran non-profit organization focusing on honey bee conservation and a healthy transition from service. Through a national network, veterans are provided with connection, purpose, and healthy relationships fostering a lifelong hobby in beekeeping. Julie and the Education Committee are excited about the possibilities of expanding the Hives for Heroes project at the the New Mexico Veterans Memorial

Scott Smith

Scott Smith is a current Information Systems Engineer on Kirtland Air Force Base, and former Captain in the U.S. Army Signal Corps who has always maintained a deep appreciation for the beauty and complexity of the natural world. As a child growing up in rural Indiana, he often

spent long days in his neighbor's corn fields collecting various insects and leaves to identify with his assortment of Audubon Society field guides. Now, as a long-term ABQ resident and having completed 11 years of military service, he continues to satisfy his childlike curiosity for nature through gardening and beekeeping. After learning in 2021 of the Department of Veterans Affairs' endorsement of beekeeping programs as a form of agricultural therapy, Scott's imagination was sparked. He quickly began investigating Albuquerque's interest in creating a local beekeeping program for veterans. This led to his connection and current efforts with the New Mexico Veterans Memorial Foundation which he has the pleasure of conversing with you about today. Scott hopes that such a program will provide veterans, and eventually all interested Albuquerque residents, the opportunity to learn and engage in the immensely rewarding practice of beekeeping, as well as deepen the community's connection with the natural world on which we all depend.

AIS News

- AIS is encouraging people to write articles for the AIS Bulletin IRISES including pictures and submit to irises@janemilliman.com.
- AIS wants a blip from each club about their activities. Pictures and an article would be good – Send this to Jim Morris.
- AIS website is undergoing modifications so expect issues.
- You can find membership status by going to: <http://aislookup.org>
- AIS is developing YouTube videos.
- Contact Hooker Nichols at bjnhtn@aol.com if you are looking for a speaker. Educational programs are free of charge.
- Howie Dash is on the AIS board for three more years.
- AIS board 4th Wednesday of the month at 6:00 pm. You can ask to be on the agenda.
- There will be 6 gardens at the 101th AIS Convention in Las Cruces. The theme is Iris Enchantment. This is the first convention in New Mexico.

Articles

American Iris Society Convention-Las Cruces

Submitted by Howie Dash, convention co-chair.



Figure 2 Greetings from Las Cruces, site of the 2022 AIS National Convention

The American Iris Society National Convention was held at the Hotel Encanto on April 11-16, 2022. This was the first convention in New Mexico in the history of the American Iris Society. There were 260 guests registered. The Convention was hosted by the Mesilla Valley Iris Society with help from the other four iris clubs in New Mexico.

Guests started arriving on Monday, April 11. The first event was that evening, which was the first AIS Spring Board meeting.

On Tuesday, April 12 there was a well-attended optional tour to the White Sands Missile Range, followed by Old Mesilla. Lunch on the optional tour was at the Rio Grande Winery.

Wednesday, April 13 was the meeting day of the various sections and cooperating societies. There were a number of well know hybridizers speaking, including Jim Hedgecock, Mike Sutton, Thomas Johnson and David Toth, amongst others. Wednesday evening was the welcome banquet celebrating 100 years of the American Iris Society and 50 years of the

Mesilla Valley Iris Society. Former AIS President Gary White gave a program on the first 100 years of the American Iris Society.

Thursday, Friday and Saturday featured the garden tours. Conventioneers visited Blue J Iris and Calhoun Flower Farm on Thursday, NMSU Fabian Garcia Science Center and Wilson's Iris Inspire Us Garden on Friday, and Farm and Ranch Museum and the Ayres Garden on Saturday. Due to late winter that affected the entire western United States, there was sparse bloom amongst the TB irises. However, the arilbred and median irises were in full bloom. By Saturday, the tall bearded irises were popping and even Wilson's (where lunch was served) had much greater bloom on Saturday than Friday.



Figure 3 Hugh Stout photographing his irises in the Ayres Garden.



Figure 4 Albuquerque and Aril Iris Society served as hosts for Blue J Irises and created homemade Iris suckers



Figure 5 Albuquerque and Aril Iris Society provided homemade goods for Blue-J Iris Garden



Figure 6 2 Bob and Joyce Hutchins

The convention culminated on Saturday evening with the Awards Banquet, where hybridizers received their awards for the prior years balloting as well as the convention awards. The Pecos Valley Iris Society provided the beautiful centerpieces for the banquet.



Figure 7 Howie Dash, Keith Keppel, Thomas Johnson, Linda Miller.



Figure 8 Melanie Deason taking picture at NMSU.



Figure 9 Pegi Naranja-Smith of PVIS created party favors of loves in plastic eggs.



Figure 10 Jane and Jacquie Pountney at the registration desk

Other events included a silent auction and a boutique. Thank you to Patricia Randall for running the boutique and all those that helped and put in long hours to make the silent auction a success.

It was a great convention and a good time was had by all.

Convention awards:

--President's Cup (most popular in region iris) – "Chihuahua Night" – AB (OGB) 2019 Howie Dash

--Franklin Cook Memorial Cup (most popular out of region iris) – "Perry Dyer" – AB (OGB-) 2017 Paul Black

--Ben Hager Cup (most popular median iris) – "Black Comedy" – IB 2017 Paul Black

--Zurbrigg/Mahan Cup (best seedling) – "SK-17" TB – Steve Kelly

--Gerald Richardson Award (most popular integrated noncommercial garden) – Ayres Garden



Figure 11 SK17-1 and Martian Sunset in the Ayres Garden



Figure 12 Franklin Cook Memorial Cup (most popular out of region iris) – “Perry Dyer” – AB (OGB-) 2017 Paul Black



Figure 13 Ben Hager Cup (most popular median iris) – “Black Comedy” – IB 2017 Paul Black



Figure 14 Zurbrigg/Mahan Cup (best seedling) – “SK-17” TB – Steve Kelly



Figure 15 President's Cup (most popular in region iris) – "Chihuahua Night" – AB (OGB) 2019 Howie Dash



Figure 16 Scarlett Ayres won the Gerald Richardson Award for best private garden at the AIS National Convention

Helpful Hint - Conversions

This was pulled from the 1987 Region 23 Spring Newsletter. Have you been bugged lately, or have you felt the weeds and grasses tugging at your pant legs? You know, with spring and early summer warm weather, we are all going to find ourselves fighting varmints, critters, creepy-crawlies, and those tropical bush weeds and grasses.

Are you frustrated when reading the new pesticide and herbicide labels; you need a college degree just to understand all the warning and hazard information prior to even beginning the actual mixing of the elements to water. How about the amount per acre(s) rate when all you want to treat is 100 or 1,000 square feet? It's a proven fact that gardeners overdo it with agricultural chemicals. If a little dab will do it, then a whole lot will do more. This comment is heard often and is not true at all. Our new chemicals on today's market are more powerful than ever. Please clip and use the conversion table for your chemical applications.

LIQUID CONVERSIONS

1 pint/100 gallons = 1 teaspoon/gallon

1 quart/100 gallons = 2 teaspoons/gallon

1 teaspoon = 1/3 tablespoon, 1/6 ounce, 80 drops
tablespoon = 3 teaspoons, 1/2 ounce

1 fluid ounce = 2 tablespoons, 6 teaspoons

1 cup = 8 ounces, 1/2 pint, 16 tablespoons, 48 teaspoons

1 pint = 16 ounces, 2 cups, 32 tablespoons, 1/2 quart

1 quart = 32 ounces, 4 cups, 2 pints, 64 tablespoons

1 gallon = 4 quarts, 8 pints, 16 cups, 128 ounces

CONVERSION TABLE FOR USE OF PESTICIDES ON SMALL AREAS

Rate per Acre	Rate per sq 1000 feet	Rate per 100 sq feet
Liquid Materials		
1 pint	$\frac{3}{4}$ tablespoon	$\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon
1 quart	1.5 tablespoons	$\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon
1 gallon	6 tablespoons	2 teaspoons
25 gallons	4.5 pints	1 cup
50 gallons	4.5 quarts	1 pint
100 gallons	9 quarts	1 quart
Dry Materials		
1 pound	2.5 teaspoons	$\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoons
3 pounds	2.5 tablespoons	$\frac{3}{4}$ teaspoons
10 pounds	$\frac{1}{2}$ cup	2 teaspoons
100 pounds	2.25 pounds	$\frac{1}{4}$ pound



Website News

The website now includes the ability to add a calendar for each club. It also now includes the ability to create posts for each club. The clubs should contact the webmaster with events and news.

Geek Corner

Everyone can attend the AIS electronic board meetings. The AIS Electronic Board meetings are the fourth Wednesday of the month. All meetings start at 6:00 PM in New Mexico. Go to the following website about AIS news and scroll down until you see a link to the next teleconferencing. You can dial in. You can participate in the discussion. However, you can't vote. Only the AIS Board can vote. If you have an item that you want on the meeting's agenda, you can email New Mexican board members Howie Dash at howiedash@aol.com

<http://www.irises.org/news-events/>

Reports for minutes for the previous AIS board meetings can be found here:
https://aisboard.org/aisdocs/2020_Board_Documents/2022%20Teleconferences/

Region 23 Regional Officers and Club Directors

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

Assistant RVP: Steve Kelly puffincc@msn.com

Secretary: Scarlett Ayres sdayres2@aol.com

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: Steve Speights smspeights@q.com

Enchanted Vista Iris Society: Rose McClain Rocky Ford

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

Pecos Valley Iris Society:

Santa Fe Iris Society:

American Iris Society News

Future AIS Conventions Locations: The 2023 AIS National Convention is to be held in Dallas, Texas, April 10-15. The 2024 AIS National Convention will be in Portland, Oregon June 17-22. This will be devoted to Japanese and Species irises as it is too late for the bearded Irises.

Judges Report by Patricia Randall Judge's Training Chairman

Another year has come and gone and from reports received, many regional certified judges have held and conducted, and/or attended various training sessions, both classroom and in-garden, despite the problems of the pandemic. It was rewarding to see that we all take our judge's certification very seriously and have not allowed the lockdowns from the virus to quell our desire to keep our status current.

I have been keeping track of information from our judges, and any training instructors to keep worthy judges in mind to continue receiving an annual judge's award. We will have several awards forth coming at our Regional Convention to finally be held in August 2022. An updated report will be provided at the convention and each award recipient will receive a thank you gift.

Many of our judges have taken advantage of the AIS Webinars provided by several judges across the nation in the past two years. The judges were required to provide me with a copy of their tests for credit.

Judges were reminded to vote their American Iris Society Official Ballot, as well as the Annual Region 23 Judge's Activity Report so as not to lose their AIS judge's certification. I think the judges will also be happy with the newly revised Region 23 Annual Activity Report. It now only requests information that is required for the National Report for continued certification. All of the requirements for info used in the past was from the form compiled many, many years ago and required data no longer relevant for our annual AIS report.

We were able to promote Mary Moon, Robin Kishbaugh, and Kevin Konetzni from EVIS, and Isabel Olsen from PVIS to the status of Apprentice Judge (welcome aboard, looking forward to working with all of you in the future). The Region 23 Garden and Exhibition Judges: Scarlett Ayres, Eva Barry, Debra Bilberry, Howard Dash, Betty Ann Gunther, Steve Kelly, Jacqueline Pountney and Loui Reyes. Master Judges: Pegi Blackwell-

Smith, Helen Crotty, Frances Day, Henry J. Day, Phil Doonan, Patricia Feather, Ken Fladager and Cindy Rivera. Emeritus Judge: Patricia Randall.

All of our judges well deserve our thanks for helping with judging duties at our affiliate shows and stepping forward to provide needed training sessions to help all of us to keep our statuses current.

If there are any Region 23 members who would like to become a judge please contact me. You would also need to purchase a Judge's Handbook to have available for all training sessions. The Handbook is available to order on line from the American Iris Society web page.

You can contact me via email at patannran@hotmail.com. Thank you and "happy judging."

On the Lighter Side

What did the spuria say to her BFF when she reached 5 feet tall? "You grow, girl!"

What did the iris text her best bud? "I'm all dressed up and have nowhere to grow!"

What makes some irises better at math than others? Square roots

Anyone who has time for drama is not growing enough plants.?"

I was initially planning on being a casual fan but then I thought, "Why not let it consume my soul instead?"

Why are iris leaves so long and thin? They only eat light.

What do you do after you take a picture of a flower? You wait for it to photosynthesize.

Iris you all the happiness in the world.

What part of the iris has the most friends? The bud.

If an iris is sad do other irises photosympathize with it?

Why do Tall Beardededs have so many friends? They branch out.

Why was the gardener so embarrassed? He wet his plants!
I chlorofeel you man.

Next time you're feeling down, just remember: your irises are rooting for you. Literally!

What did one iris lady say to another iris lady? "Botany irises lately?"

My wife wanted to plant irises. The problem is she hasn't botany.

Poetry

Here is a short poem written for the 1990 Spring Newsletter. Author unknown.

Looking Ahead

*My time for showing iris
Is soon coming to a finis
I can't seem to groom my entries,
Nor identify the iris*

*But the future still looks worthy,
So I will not hold a grudge;
If my eyesight fails completely,
I can always be a judge!*

Iristatically Yours

Scarlett Ayres, editor