

San Fernando Valley Iris Society

Founded in 1973
An affiliate of The American Iris Society



**2019 Spring Flower Arrangement youth member entry – can you tell by whom?
(If you can't, please check on page 2).**

1

GAMES! GAMES!

2

GAMES!

3

GAMES!

4

GAMES! GAMES!



A beautiful and successful day at the Banta's for breakfast and Region 15's Iris Auction.

November Program: **GAMES!**

It's that time of the year: it's getting darker and darker, and darker earlier. Plants are transitioning... losing leaves, growing roots that will allow them to increase foliage, and perhaps offer us a surprise come spring.

And, we have an opportunity to play GAMES for irises. Hope you make it to our next meeting on Thursday, November 7th and enjoy some fellowship with other iris lovers from the San Fernando Valley.

Cover image by Andi Rivarola, arrangement by Tony.

President's Message

Every September please remember to renew your support to our club by re-signing with Ralph's Community Contribution Program. It's important, as we receive a good donation from this organization at no cost to you. Please go to ralphs.com to start the process, if you haven't done so already.

We had a busy couple of months with the Annual Iris Auction during our club's general meeting in September, and then we received irises from Region 15, which we also auctioned off at the home of our gracious hosts, the Bantas. If you didn't join us you missed lot of fun, great coffee and breakfast.

There will be an opportunity to volunteer on Sunday, November 3rd when we hold our Fall Iris Sale at the Encino Farmer's Market. We'll be there 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., so if you are available please come help Randy Squires set up at 7:00 a.m., then help sell irises.

Our program in November is GAMES! Please invite family and friends and have fun with the potential for winning a bag of iris.

On an invitation by the New Zealand Iris Society to give a presentation on spuria irises, and share pictures from my iris-judging trip to France and Italy earlier this year, I'll be missing the November 7th meeting.

Hope to see you in December.

~ Andi Rivarola



2019 CALENDAR



NOVEMBER

3 Iris Sale at Encino Farmers Market: 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m

7 Membership Meeting: 7:30 p.m
GAMES! Come play games for iris.

DECEMBER

5 Membership Meeting: 7:30 p.m
Holiday Potluck Dinner

APRIL 2020

2 Membership Meeting: 7:30 p.m

25 Spring Show (**NEW DATE**)

18 AIS Region 15 Spring Trek
(West Covina, California)

MAY 2020

7 Membership Meeting: 7:30 p.m

18 AIS National Convention
New Jersey / New York

CONTACTS

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REGION 15: region15ais.org

THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY: irises.org

MEETING LOCATION

Canoga Park Women's Club
7401 Jordan Ave.
Canoga Park

The club is located on the corner of Valerio & Jordan, just two blocks east of Topanga Canyon Blvd. The meeting will start at 7:30 p.m., but please come at 7:00 for refreshments, plant table and earlier if you can help set up.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11/2 Peggy Carpenter
11/15 Betty Piscitello

PLANT AND WHITE ELEPHANT TABLE NEWS

November 2019

Seasonal gardening tips come from the writings of Jean Bossier. Louisiana irises can be planted in the ground and do quite well if you follow a few simple rules.

1. Prepare the soil. Clear a bed and turn over the dirt in the bed and add amendments such as: camellia and azalea mix at about two cubic feet per forty square feet of area.
2. Mix in eight cups of cottonseed meal and four cups of bone meal. Work it in with a digging fork or small cultivator until it is well blended.
3. Water well and let stand for five days.
4. Plant the Louisiana and water well, do not let the bed dry out, keep it very wet.
5. Water twice a week

Louisiana irises can also be grown in pots, five gallons or larger.

1. Mix five parts supersoil potting mix to one part of drystall from an Equestrian supply store
2. In the pot mix one half of a cup of azalea mix with one half of a cup of camellia mix and add two-thirds of a cup of cotton seed meal and one third of a cup of bone meal.
3. Keep well watered or set in a larger pot that holds water.
4. Use charcoal from a garden center in the bottom of the larger pot to help keep the water fresh.

Siberian irises grow in good garden soil enriched with a good planter mix such as super soil amendment from Home Depot. Water well and keep almost as wet as Louisianas. Make sure there is good drainage.

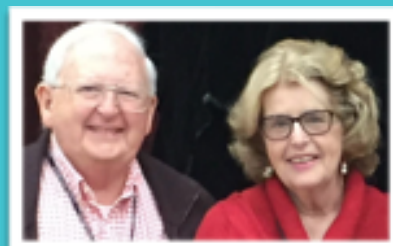
Spuria irises can be treated the same as Siberians but on the dryer side. Water generously in winter to late spring and then about every ten days to two weeks from summer through late fall.

For your iris garden in general, you have, or are soon, putting low nitrogen fertilizer in the ground at least four inches away from your rhizomes and watering weekly for spring success.

Special thanks go to all our October White Elephant contributors, Jan Lauritzen, Evelyn Fike, Carol Kyle, John Huffman, Marianne Davis and Joan Citron. Our plant table is grateful for Loren Zeldin's watsonia, Joan Citron's gasteria and drumstick allium, and Evelyn Fike's cactus and succulents.

November is Games Night and the plant, mercantile and white elephant tables will be closed.

See you Thursday, November 7.



Happy Gardening ~ **Bob and Eileen Banta**

MONTHLY REFRESHMENTS

Eileen and Bob Banta will coordinate the drinks and we need the refreshment donors to help with setup and cleanup.

This months' contributors:

Michelle Neuhaus
Jessica Neuhaus
Lois Nichols
Betty Piscitello
Andi Rivarola
Laurie Simmons
Jill Spady
Randy Squires

Note: bottled water is always welcome.

Region 15

Meeting at The Huntington Library & Gardens, on October 12th.

Right, hybridizer Thomas Johnson.

Irises were beautifully displayed, and later raffled off.



Minutes of the SFVIS Meeting October 3rd, 2019

By SFVIS Secretary, Joan Citron

The meeting got started at 7:35 after we all had time to sample the splendid collection of edibles provided by this evenings' designated members. Thank you.

Andi reminded us to check the newsletter and sign up for Ralph's Market's "Community Service" contribution to the club. The market contributes a small percentage of what we spend at the market. It's a great way to help the Society.

Loren then spoke about the spring iris trek, and tried to enlist a few more members to include their gardens on the trek. Unfortunately, there were no volunteers! And so, for now, the trek, in April, will consist of just 2 gardens.

We were also reminded that there will be an iris sale in Encino on November 3, and that there will be a marking party the previous Saturday at Loren's. Please come help.

Next followed the drawing of tickets for the iris raffle. The winners and the iris chosen were:

'Full Disclosure' - Steve Ball; 'Double Ringer' - Steve Ball; 'In Your Face' - Andi Rivarola; 'Chico Maid' - Carole; 'Wintry Sky' - Marty; 'Ida Red' - Carol.

The winner of the badge game was Pat Tsojas.

We were reminded that there will be an auction this Saturday of iris supplied by Region 15. The auction will be held at the Banta's, and Eileen noted that there will be edibles available as well.

And then it was time for our featured speaker, Steve Gerischer, to take over (after a brief introduction by Joan Citron).

FINANCIAL REPORT – September, 2019

(By SFVIS Treasurer Mary Anne Abrahms)

Income:

Club Auction	\$ 1,353.00
Plant Table/Mercantile	38.00
Dues	<u>5.00</u>

Total Income \$ 1,396.00

Expenses:

Plant Table/Mercantile	\$ 57.74
AIS Foundation (Jane Troutman)	50.00
Women's Club rental	<u>112.00</u>

Total Expenses \$ 219.74

Balance September 1, 2019	\$9,110.05
Income	1,396.00
Expenses	<u>219.74</u>
Balance September 30, 2019	\$10,286.31

My garden is my most beautiful masterpiece.

— Claude Monet



ANDI RIVAROLA

Three Myths About Bearded Irises*

by Tom Waters

Myth #2: Irises can "revert" to some other color

It seems like everyone has heard a story of a beautiful clump of irises, say nice ruffled pinks, "reverting" to white or purple after a few years. In fact, this does not happen. Irises do not spontaneously change color. (There is one minor qualification to this statement, which I will



address below.)

Where does this myth come from? One source, I think, is that some plants do appear to behave this way, particularly annuals that reseed each year. If one plants a hybrid zinnia or morning glory, for example, the plants that come up from their seed in future years will not look like the original, and in fact may show simple "wild type" colors common in the original species from which the hybrid was developed. A second source of this myth comes from the fact that if different irises are planted together, one of them may multiply faster and eventually take over the planting, making it seem to the casual observer that the irises in the planting have "changed" from the color that was originally common in the planting to the one that eventually took over. But note carefully that this is competition between two different plants, not a single plant changing color.

In almost all cases where people say their irises have "changed color" or "reverted", this is the explanation: there was more than one variety in the planting to begin with, and one that had not bloomed the first year or two grew well and came to dominate the planting in later years.

It is possible for the coloring of an iris to appear somewhat different from one year to the next, because of weather differences or chemical exposure. The blue and violet pigments, in particular, are somewhat sensitive to unusual weather. These changes are changes in the darkness or saturation of color, though, and cannot result in a whole new color or pattern. A pale blue iris may appear to be cool white in one year or sky blue in another year, for example, but will never become yellow or pink. Some herbicides cause deformed blooms with color strongly depleted in some parts of the petals, but the deformity is obvious.

There are a couple other ways an iris of a different color can appear in a planting, even if only one variety was planted to begin with.

The first is hybridization. Just as your morning glories may reseed themselves, so a bearded iris may occasionally form a seed pod and drop its seeds into the soil around the plant. If these seeds sprout, the seedlings may well be a different color than the parent, and when they bloom (perhaps three years after the seeds are first produced), the gardener may be in for a surprise! To prevent this from happening, you can remove the bloom stalks after the flowers fade, so that seed pods do not develop.

Although possible, seedlings appearing in a bearded iris clump this way seldom happens. Most bearded irises do not produce seed on their own. (In my garden, I see maybe two spontaneous seed pods for every thousand blooms.) And bearded iris seeds don't germinate well in many climates without special attention. If seedlings do sprout in an established clump, they will likely be crowded out by the parent. Hybridizers go to a great deal of trouble to get bearded irises to cross-pollinate and to grow the seeds to maturity. The process can and does happen without human intervention, but only seldom. (If you grow beardless irises like Siberians, the appearance of unexpected seedlings is much more likely.)

Finally, an iris may experience a mutation that causes the flower color to change. Such mutations, called "sports", are extremely rare events. Except for a few historic varieties that are prone to such mutations, most irises will never produce a sport. You can grow a thousand different varieties for a decade and never see one. I started growing irises in the 1970s, and have never seen a sport in my garden, or in the gardens of any of my iris-growing friends.

Bottom line: Bearded irises do not spontaneously change color. Each iris is a unique individual, and will retain its original color and pattern forever. If you see a different colored iris in a planting, it must be a different variety that was already there and just had not bloomed, or had not been noticed, before.

* **Editor's Note:** This article originally appeared on The Blog of The American Iris Society – World of Irises: <http://theamericanirissociety.blogspot.com>. Myth #1 was covered in October. Myth #3 will be published in upcoming issues!