



ILLINOIS IRISARIAN

"Land of Lincoln"

Issue 2010-003

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Greetings from your RVP--Margaret Kelly



Greetings to all!

Well, it is fall once more! Another growing season is at its end. We have all finished the iris sales and with this mild weather this fall were able to clean up our gardens and plant all the new irises and we are looking forward to a mild winter and a great spring bloom.

Our fall Regional 9 meeting in Springfield was a success, due to the hard work and planning of all our members, along with the many donations of time, irises and cooperation. It is greatly appreciated what you all do for Region 9, thank you! The silent auction was a sell out! Our public sale was very successful due to all our members. I think we all had an opportunity to offer tips and talk with the many people at sale about planting, and growing of irises. Our advertising was amazing and

brought in a lot of the public to see what we had to offer.

A reminder for all affiliate presidents.... Please start working on you affiliation paperwork right now. Your affiliation paperwork, including a membership list with all AIS members marked is due in January 2011. Get the membership chairman to give you a complete list if all members with their AIS expiration dates included. Make a list of your officers and make sure all officers are current AIS members through May 2011.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the Region 9 Spring Membership Meeting at the Rochester Community Center on Saturday April 2, 2011, beginning at 10 AM. Plan to attend as we will be having a panel discussing culture, soils, fertilizers, insecticides and tip on growing all types of Irises. Bring a potluck dish to share for our lunch at noon. Keep gardening!!

"The garden is a mirror of the heart."

Respectfully yours,

Margaret Kelly, Region 9 RVP



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REGION 9 CALENDAR

Dates for 2011

Region 9

Region 9 Spring Membership Meeting

Saturday April 2, 2011

Rochester Community Building, Rochester, IL
Tentative - Panel of Judges discussing culture, soils, fertilizers, insecticides and tips on growing all types of irises

Region 9 Fall Membership Meeting

Friday August 12, 2011 and Saturday, August 13, 2011

August 13 - Silent Auction and Public Iris Sale at the Botanical Gardens, Washington Park, Springfield, IL

Mid-Illinois Iris Society

Feb 28, 2011

March 28, 2011

March 2011—5 hours of judges training

April 25, 2011

May 7, 2011—Iris Show—Alton

August 6, 2011—Bearded Iris Auction

September 26, 2011—Beardless Iris Auction

October 24, 2011

December 10, 2011 – Christmas Party

Prairie Iris Society

Saturday, April 9, 2011 - Spring Meeting
Meeting place to be announced later

Saturday, May 21, 2011 – Annual Iris Show
Lincoln Square Village, Urbana, IL - Tentative

Saturday, July 30, 2011 - Annual Iris Rhizome Sale
Lincoln Square Village, Urbana, IL - Tentative

Saturday September 24, 2011 - Fall Meeting
Meeting place to be announced later

Sangamon Valley Iris Society (SVIS)

February 18, 2011 - Valentine Potluck and Plan for Iris Show

March 18, 2011 - Make an Iris Carrier-Dale Coates

April 15, 2011 - Miniature Dwarf Bearded Iris

May 14, 2011- Iris Show

Washington Park Botanical Gardens, Springfield, IL

July 23, 2011 Iris Auction for club members & Iris Sale for public

Washington Park Botanical Gardens, Springfield, IL

September date TBD - Work Day at Washington Park Botanical Gardens

October 21, 2011 - Types of Iris-Nancy Pocklington

Southern Illinois Iris Society

April 10, 2011—Spring meeting

July 30, 2011—Fall meeting and sale

Northern Illinois Iris Society

No Input

Northshore Iris and Daylily Society

No Input

Out-of-State Major Events

April 14-16, 2011—Median Iris Society convention

May 20-22, 2011—Region 18 meeting, Saint Joseph, Missouri

May 29 thru June 3, 2011—AIS Convention—Canada

September 30-October 1, 2011—Washington, Missouri—Region 18 meeting



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We Fondly Remember...NINA MARIE

DIX

(January 29, 1925 – May 28, 2009)

By: Jim Morris

Nina Marie (Guyer) Dix, 84, of O'Fallon, Illinois in Region 9 passed away Thursday, May 28, 2009 at the Dammert Geriatrics Center in Belleville, Illinois.

Although from Region 9, Nina was for many years an active member of the Region 18 Greater St. Louis Iris Society as well as the Southern Illinois and Mid-Illinois Iris Societies. Nina (we always sang the song lyrics to her of "Nothing could be 'finah', than to be in Carolina with Nina") was the very professional liaison to the convention hotel during the 1981 AIS Convention held in St. Louis and sponsored by GSLIS. She actively participated in the financial planning and budgeting of the convention. She was one of the earliest female bank officers in the St. Louis area as First Vice-President of First National Bank in St. Louis for more than 15 years. She also keenly competed in the design portions of the GSLIS and MIIS annual iris shows.

Nina was preceded in death by her husband, Delbert C. Dix; and her parents, Leo and Mary Alice, nee Maddox, Guyer, Sr. She was survived by her three children, Barry (Karen) Dix of Belleville, Ill., Craig (Juanita) Dix of Collinsville, Ill.; and Deanna (David) Hampsch of Collinsville, Ill.; six grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; her great-granddaughter; and step-great-grandson. She was buried at Hutsonville City Cemetery in Hutsonville, Ill. Nina's cheerful but no-nonsense approach to life is missed by those irisarians who knew her. She was a real friend to me during the 1981 AIS Convention and for many years afterwards.

Garden Judging of Louisiana Irises

In May of 2012 (changed from 2011) Southern Illinois Iris Society (SIIS) will sponsor 3 hours of free garden judging training of Louisiana Irises.

Trainers: Jerry and Melody Wilhoit

Location: El Dorado, Illinois

Guest Iris Chair: Steve Poole

This will be the first such judges training session of Louisiana Irises by Region 9 AIS. Pre-Registration will be needed to determine food quantities—more details at a later date.

Please mark your calendars now for this very special event!!

Down in Missouri....

By: Margaret Kelly

Region 9 was well represented at the Region 18 Judging Training sponsored by Jeffco, Mineral Area & SEMO Iris Societies October 16, 2010 at Mineral Area College in Farmington, Missouri. The judges training featured Keith Keppel who presented one session on Tall Bearded Iris and a second session on Median Irises. Keith gave us some very good pointers and tips in order to grow great irises. He was very knowledgeable all the while interjecting a bit of humor to keep things

interesting. Jim Morris presented a session Awards and Ballots. Attending from Region 9 were Renee Burns, Joe Carlove, Dale and Ann Hamblin, Ernie, Ann and Ellen Henson, Jeff Kassly, Dave and Margaret Kelly, Dave and Debra Miller, Deb Perschbacher, Steve Poole, and Anita Stephens.

This was an excellent opportunity for Region 9 members to attend some excellent training. Planners for this event plan to hold a similar opportunity in 2011. Watch the Irisarian for future updates.



Region 9 Symposium Results

16 Votes	Dusky Challenger
14 Votes	Vanity
13 Votes	Silverado
10 Votes	Conjuration, Thornbird, Yaquina Blue
8 Votes	Happenstance, Stepping Out, World Premier
6 Votes	Breakers, Dorothy Davenport, Jesse's Song, Mystique
5 Votes	Before the Storm, Drama Queen, Everything Plus, Hello Darkness, Honky Tonk Blues, Laced Cotton, Skating Party, Wintry Sky
4 Votes	Afternoon Delight, Bel Esprit, Champaign Elegance, Edith Wolford, Going My Way, Gypsy Romance, Mesmerizer, Pond Lily, Rare Treat, Rustler, Starring, Wild Angel
3 Votes	Aristocracy, Babbling Brook, Bamboo Shadows, Beverly Sills, Boysenberry Buttercup, Brussels, Celebration Song, Cooper Bubble Bath, Crowned Heads, Daughter of Stars, Devonshire Cream, Fit for a King, Golden Panther, Gypsy Lord, Ink Patterns, Paul Black, Queen's Circle, Sea Power, Stairway to Heaven, Superstition, Titan's Glory
2 Votes	Boogie, Woogie, Brazilian Vacation, Brussels, Charleston, Cimarron Trail, Crystal Gazer, Dance Recital Evening Drama, First Wave, Evening Drama, First Wave, Fogbound, Glamor Pants, Indian Sunrise, Italian Ice, Lady Lioness, Miami Beach, Paris Fashion, Resonance, Romantic Evening, Royal Sterling, Secret Rites, Spiced Tiger, Splashacata, That's all Folks, Tour De France, Venetian Glass, Victoria Falls
1 Vote	Angel Winds, Applause Line, Balderdash, Berry Scary, Carl and Sissy, Chinook Arch, Circus Dancer, Crackling Caldera, Cranberry Swirl, Dark Drama, Dazzling Gold, Doodads, Everything Plus Horns, Explicit, Fortunate Son, Frosted Rose, Gay Parasol, Halo in Nutmeg, Heartstring Strummers, High Chaparral, Huckleberry Fudge, Immortality, In Love Again, It's All Good, Italian Velvet, Joyce Terry, Kathy Chilton, Lady Friend, Lord of the Night, Mango Passion, Marjorie Gayer, Millennium Falcon, Mythology, Neon Mama, Oklahoma Centennial, On Eagle's Wings, Pacific Fire, Performing Arts, Pewter and Gold, Rocket Randy, Sea of Love, Secondhand Rose, Sharper Image, Sierra Mist, Sky Hooks, Slovak Prince, Solar Fire, Song of Norway, Stardock, Supreme Sultan, Warranty



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WINTER HEAVE OF BEARDED IRISES

By : Steve Poole

Through the years as I cleaned out and discarded tall bearded iris seedling patches to make room for next year's new batch of seedlings, occasionally a small piece of rhizome would go unnoticed (just get lost down in the dirt) and over winter completely covered, only to sprout the following spring. When I would dig out those little pieces of sprouted rhizome, I would be amazed at the depth from which some of those little pieces of rhizome could grow to reach the surface. Years of seeing that happen gave me the idea of conducting a small experiment to determine just how deep mature tall bearded rhizomes could be successfully planted and how that depth would affect winter heave of rhizomes transplanted in late summer (transplant time is mid August for me here in Southern Illinois). The information, which I am sharing in this article, may not be applicable to all soil types or locations; however, it should provide some food for thought to those iris growers who often suffer winter heave of newly transplanted rhizomes.

My soil type is known is a Creal silt loam, rather common throughout this part of Southeastern Southern Illinois. It is derived from a clay parent material being of a light brownish gray to yellowish gray color, which has good tilth, high available water capacity, with moderately low permeability and moderate erosion hazard. Most of my seedling beds have a 1-3% slope.

Winter conditions in this part of the state are usually characterized by high rainfall (although we can have winter droughts), ice storms, usually little or no snow cover, where temperatures regularly fluctuate between highs in the 40's and lows in the 20's, with extremes of highs in the 70's and lows in the teens or single digits. The constant freezing and thawing can be disastrous to newly transplanted irises that have not established a good root system, even lifting them completely out of the soil. Mature or established clumps of tall bearded irises on the other hand, for me, never heave.

Before I did the study on planting depth of rhizomes, years of failure and finally success, had taught me to prevent winter heave by mulching newly transplanted rhizomes with straw or a similar material out to about two feet beyond the plant in all directions. The mulch was applied at a depth of about 4-6 inches right up to the fan. The rhizomes were planted in the typical fashion as is often recommended in numerous iris publications by just barely covering the rhizome with soil. The winter weather and bio-decay usually compact the mulch, so that by spring the mulch is only about an inch in depth, eliminating the need to pull the mulch away from the plants to avoid rot.

To conduct the experiment, rhizomes were planted in north/south rows with no mulch in mid August of 2009. The soil was compacted over the rhizomes at the following depths: 1) barely covered (1/2 inch, 2) one inch, 3) one and one half inches, 4) two inches, 5) two and one half inches. The results were as follows (percentages were rounded to the nearest whole unit):



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Table 1 Planting depth versus winter heave.

<u>Planting depth</u>	<u>Percent heave</u>
One half inch	100% heave
One inch	80% heave
One and one half inches	40% heave
Two inches	20% heave
Two and one half inches	0% heave

In interpreting the results, first, it would seem that the deeper the rhizome is planted, the less the winter heave (makes common sense). Second, winter erosion removed some of the soil covering the rhizomes thereby reducing the planting depth by the time spring growth began. Three, those rhizomes planted at the depths of two or two and one half inches grew normally the following spring. Four, since the rhizomes were not all of the same variety, an experimental flaw due simply to not having enough rhizomes of a single cultivar, variation among cultivars could account for some of the susceptibility or resistance to heave, because some cultivars establish themselves quicker after transplant than do others. I plan on conducting the experiment again in the future when I have enough rhizomes of a single variety for testing. Five, I also observed that seedlings with tall winter persistent foliage heaved more than seedlings with foliage that typically dies back to the ground level during the winter. Six, last winter was a slightly colder than normal winter, but rainfall was normal with slightly greater than average daily temperature variations.

I hope that by sharing this information, it may encourage others with either different or similar soil and climatic conditions to also try variations in planting depth to observe the effects that planting depth has on winter heave of tall bearded irises.



Figure 1. Small piece of rhizome buried at a depth of three and one half inches in August of 2009 that was able to send a “stem” to the ground surface where shoot growth and a small rhizome began to form in the spring of 2010.



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Figure 2. No winter heave of a rhizome planted at a depth of one half inch with 4-6 inches of straw mulch.



Figure 3. Winter heave of a rhizome planted at a depth of one half inch with no mulch.



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Figure 4. No winter heave of rhizome planted at a depth of two inches with no mulch.

MOBOT'S POT RECYCLING PROGRAM

(From "All the Dirt on Gardening" by Molly Day-December 18, 2007)

Garden Center Magazine ran a story recently about the need for garden centers and botanical gardens with environmental consciousness to find a way of recycling plastic garden pots. "Steve Cline at Missouri Botanical Garden has created perhaps the most successful horticultural *pot recycling program* in U.S. This past year (2006), the program collected more than 100,000 pounds of horticultural plastics." According to the story, 80-million tons of plastic end up needing to be recycled every year. "In the horticultural industry alone, about 350 million pounds of plastic is produced each year. The Missouri Botanical Garden's Plastic Pot Recycling Program is the largest program of its kind, recycling both plastic pots and polystyrene cell packs and trays. Since 1998, this groundbreaking program has saved over 300 tons of plastic from reaching the landfill. The program has become hugely popular with gardeners in the St. Louis metropolitan area with many participants anxiously awaiting the Garden's annual collection period." Monrovia Growers donated money for the purchase of recycling trailers to be used as satellite collection centers. The program was so successful that the plan is to spread more trailers around St. Louis.

Basic guidelines include: "All garden plastics are accepted including cell packs, trays, all pots of all sizes and hanging baskets. Garden edging and plastic sheeting materials cannot be recycled. Metal rings or hangers on the pots need to be removed. All soil should be shaken out of the containers. No food plastic is allowed. It is not necessary to wash the pots and trays, but we appreciate working with the material more when it is reasonably clean. Please check for rocks, metal objects and foreign materials before submitting."

By the way, every plastic bottle of water you buy and throw away takes 1,000 years to biodegrade according to Elder Magazine.



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“Cradle Days”, 1960, Brown, MDB (Thanks to the AIS Iris Encyclopedia and G. Spoon)



“Magic Act” 2009, Ghio, TB (thanks to AIS Iris Encyclopedia)



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“Easy Does It”, Aitken, 2007, SDB (Thanks to the AIS Iris Encyclopedia)



“Our Dorothy”, 2002, Pryor, (La), (Thanks to the AIS Iris Encyclopedia)