

# Delaware Valley Iris Society

An Affiliate of The American Iris Society

# eNewsletter

June 2010

[www.dvis-ais.org](http://www.dvis-ais.org)

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## Sale Day: Come Join in the Fun

Come join us for all or part of the day. You need not contribute irises or work at the sale. It is more important that you come and enjoy all the day's activities.

### Iris Sale

For both the public and our members, the iris sale is the centerpiece of Sale Day. Charles Conklin, Scott Laughlin and all the workers always do a wonderful job with the sale.

Coupons for a free iris were passed out at the iris shows. If you did not pick up a coupon at a show, they are available for download at the DVIS website [www.dvis-ais.org](http://www.dvis-ais.org), or contact Charles Conklin. You may make copies of the coupon for friends and family, and help to spread the joy of irises.

The sale is DVIS's only money-maker. But just as important, it promotes named iris varieties to the gardening public.

Because the crowds get larger each year, it is especially important that you bring your irises for the sale. In previous years, you were very generous in contributing irises. We do appreciate all your hard work and effort in digging the clumps, preparing the irises and transporting them to the sale. We ask your continued generosity this year.

If you have not donated irises before, it is a very worthwhile way to make use of your increases. The "how-to-do-it" is given on the next page.

Since there are some changes, carefully read the instructions for marking and delivering the irises — even though you have previously donated irises.

Volunteers — and this includes our newest members — are needed to set up, close up, check out, organize the display tables, man the hospitality table, help customers with selections, answer questions and more. You will find helping at the sale is a satisfying experience . . . and fun too.

There are many excellent varieties of bearded and beardless irises for you to acquire at bargain prices. Although they are also available to the public, the newer tall-bearded iris category primarily is aimed at the membership. The oldest were introduced in 2005.

This year we have a special section as a tribute to Sterling Innerst, a living Pennsylvania legend in iris hybridizing. All his irises are excellent performers. Many will be available for your selection. And please contribute varieties of his you may grow.

To help develop your wish list, visit the DVIS photo gallery at [www.dvis-ais.org](http://www.dvis-ais.org). Although we may not have the specific variety at the sale, our helpers will assist you in finding something similar.

### Club Irises and Auction

After the sale, we will enjoy a bring-your-own picnic lunch together in good fellowship and camaraderie.

Sale Day also includes two members-only activities: (1) sale of club irises from the Hosting Program for First-Year Introductions and (2) the tall bearded iris auction. These are discussed in the following pages.

If you received this eNewsletter, we value you as a member and encourage you to participate in all activities.

## SALE DAY

**Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens**  
631 Berwyn-Baptist Rd., Devon, PA  
Directions: [www.JenkinsArboretum.org](http://www.JenkinsArboretum.org) or  
call (610) 647-8870

**Saturday July 17, 2010**

### Schedule

Setup	8:30 a.m.
Sale	10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Pick up Club Irises from Hosting Program	~12:30 p.m.
Bring-Your-Own Picnic Lunch	1 p.m.
Members-Only TB Auction	2 p.m.

Sale Chair: Charles Conklin  
[cwconklin2@verizon.net](mailto:cwconklin2@verizon.net) or (610) 544-3984

Sale Co-chair: Scott Laughlin  
[laughscott@aol.com](mailto:laughscott@aol.com) or (215) 836-0440

Rain or Shine

## SALE PRICES

### Rhizomes (No Pots)

Bearded Dwarf & Median \$2

Most Tall Bearded \$3

Newer Tall Bearded, Rebloomers,

Broken Colors and Spaceagers \$4

Beardless\* and Species in Bags \$4

### In Pots

Bearded Dwarf & Median \$3

Beardless\* and Species \$6

### Special Bonus

With a total purchase of \$30 or more, you can select a free \$4.00 iris (two for \$60, etc.).

\*Beardless: Siberian, Louisiana, and Japanese

**Send in the Order Sheet (p. 5) Today for the Club Irises !  
Fantastic Value at \$3 each A Members-Only Benefit**

Program Chair: Vince Lewonski Sale Chair: Charles Conklin Sale Co-chair: Scott Laughlin Shows Chair: Vince Lewonski  
 Newsletter Editor: Ron Thoman Associate Editor: Chris Huston Publicity Chair: Charles Conklin  
 Hospitality and Membership Recruitment Chair: Nancy Thoman New Member Welcoming Chair: Ron Thoman  
 Auctions Co-chairs: Vince Lewonski and Gary Slagle Open Garden Chair: Jen Cunningham  
 Member-At-Large: Joan Wood First-Year Introductions Chair: Gary Slagle Potluck Chair: Daphne Sawyer  
 Members-At-Large: Larry and Debbie Westfall Meeting Arrangements Chair: Ron Thoman



## Tall-Bearded Iris Auction

### *A Sale Day Activity*

Held immediately after lunch, the TB iris auction is a members-only benefit, which adds to the festivities of Sale Day. It is a great way pick up terrific irises at great prices ... having fun doing it.

Vince Lewonski and Gary Slagle make a good team. Vince does an outstanding job as auctioneer making it both entertaining and informative.

This year, Gary ordered the irises from Mid-America and Suttons. You are assured of excellent iris rhizomes from award-winning hybridizers. You won't be disappointed.

**If you do not now receive the eNewsletter as an email attachment, but you would like to — or have a change in email address — please send your email address to Ron Thoman. Ron@dvis-ais.org**

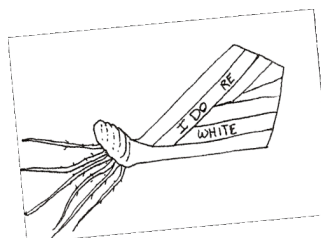
## Steps in Preparing Rhizomes for the Sale

Below are pointers for preparing your rhizomes for the sale:

1. Normally dig and divide the clump within the week of the sale for a fresh look. Choose only named varieties. They should be healthy showing no signs of disease, insect or iris-borer damage. It is important that the rhizomes be large enough to have the potential of blooming next year.

2. Clip leaves to about 8-inch long and into a fan shape (inverted V).

3. On the middle leaves print the required information with a black permanent marker (Sharpie) as shown in the illustration. (The information to be marked on the leaves is described in the next article.) Don't print wider than a single leaf or across the leaves. Avoid printing on the outside leaf since it is the first to turn brown.



4. After marking, wash all residual dirt from the rhizomes, roots and leaves. Swashing up and down in a 5-gal bucket of water is recommended. It is important to have clean plants.

5. Some people then like to soak the rhizomes for 10 to 15 minutes in a Clorox solution of 1/2-cup Clorox to 1-gal water. If you do this, wear rubber gloves to protect your skin. Afterwards, it is necessary to rinse the irises well in clear water.

6. Let the rhizomes dry completely outside in the shade. Laying out the fans on the grass and turning once works well.

7. Store with the fans spread out in a cool, dry place. If the rhizomes are placed in a bag or box, the fans should be placed down and the roots up (up-side down) to avoid trapping moisture between the leaves.

## Marking Rhizomes

To help both the buyers and the sale workers, please mark the leaves of the irises as follows:

- For all irises, write the name and color. Only named varieties please. Descriptive and exciting colors sell better; e.g., "electric purple". This is especially important for the harder-to-sell purples, lavenders, blues, violets and bi-colors.
- For other than tall bearded, write the type: MDB, SDB, IB, BB, MTB, etc.
- Indicate spaceage (SA), reblooming (RE) or broken color (BC) irises.
- For irises with a particularly nice fragrance mark FRAG.
- For tall bearded irises introduced in 2005 or newer, write the year.
- For all \$4 irises (newer tall bearded, spaceagers, rebloomers, broken color) mark with a large asterisk (\*) or star (★). This is important so that the checkout workers know the correct price.
- For irises hybridized by Sterling Innerst mark with an S. This year we are paying tribute to this fine Pennsylvania hybridizer by grouping his excellent irises in a dedicated area.

## Delivering Irises

When you deliver the irises to the sale, please take the time to properly place them on the correct table. The tables are marked for color and type. You know best where they belong. And double check that they are marked properly.

There will be a separate table for the newer tall bearded irises. In previous years, some newer ones were found on other tables. This led to a great deal of confusion because of the difference in price.

## Paper Bag Alternative

As an alternative, you can bring your rhizomes of a single variety in a separate paper grocery bag for each. You must then attach a colored photo of the iris to the outside of the bag writing the variety name below the picture. This is something new we are trying this year since it is well known that pictures sell irises. All the information still must be marked on the leaves each iris. Place the bag on the proper table.

## Sale of Club Irises from Hosting Program for First-Year Introductions

### *A Sale Day Activity*

All DVIS and AIS members are encouraged to participate in the purchase of club irises. The irises were bought in 2007 as part of the Hosting Program for First-Year Introductions. This year's irises are a great selection. They were grown by Jen Cunningham, Tonya Lobb, Gary Slagle and Ron Thoman.

One of the goals of the Hosting Program is to assist members in upgrading their gardens by selling the increases for the very low price of \$3.00 a rhizome. It is a great opportunity for members to add the greatest and latest to their gardens without breaking the bank. All rhizomes are healthy, disease free and large enough to have good possibility of blooming next year.

The irises were bought in 2007 for \$60 to \$50 a rhizome. Today, after three years since their introduction to the marketplace, these irises still sell for \$35 to \$25 apiece. You can easily recover your DVIS or AIS dues by participating in this program.

Photos for most of the club irises can be viewed on the DVIS website [www.dvis-ais.org](http://www.dvis-ais.org). Select the Photo Gallery, then DVIS Host Iris Program. A picture is worth a thousand words.

Please complete the attached order form with your choices and mail the form to First-Year Introductions chair Gary Slagle. Put an asterisk (\*) next to your top three choices. This will give you a better chance of receiving the irises you most want. You need not accept any rhizome unless you are completely satisfied.

Participation in this program has been light, partially because the program has not been well understood. To continue this worthy program, greater participation is needed. Please do your part. To help jump start participation, there is a coupon for a free club iris on p. 4. Attach the original or a copy of the coupon to the order sheet.

Pickup of club irises will be on Sale Day (~12:30 p.m.) with payment at that time. You must either pick them up personally or have someone do it for you. We cannot deliver them or hold them for you.

Please take advantage of this special members-only opportunity. We expect to have plenty of irises for everyone. However, please don't wait to submit your order sheet. Do it now. Any question? Contact Gary at [garyslagle@comcast.net](mailto:garyslagle@comcast.net) or (856) 423-4477.

**To help jump start participation, we included a coupon for a free club iris. See p. 4.**

## Daylily Events

Daylilies are the perfect accompaniment to irises. They extend the bloom season, flowering right after Japanese irises. Like irises, great things are happening in their advancement. Our sister organization, the Delaware Valley Daylily Society, has two upcoming events:

■Daylily Show  
Saturday July 17, 2010  
Longwood Gardens

Kennett Square, PA  
Open to Public: 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

■Daylily Sale  
Saturday August 21, 2010  
Church of the Good Samaritan  
212 W. Lancaster Ave. (U.S. 30)  
Paoli, PA  
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
(Pick up a coupon for a free daylily at our DVIS iris sale.)

*Editor's Note: We have a reciprocity agreement with DVDS to publicize each other's show and sale. It is a win-win situation.*

## DIG DAY AT DVC

Again this year Dig Day takes place at the Carol Ann Moyer Iris Garden at Delaware Valley College. Dig Day is Saturday, July 10, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This is one week before the DVIS sale. Dig Day is a very important way to supplement the irises our members bring.

### **Dig Day**

**Delaware Valley College**  
700 E. Butler Ave. (U.S. 202)  
Doylestown, PA 18901

**Saturday July 10, 2010**  
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

#### **Volunteers Needed**

Contact Carol Ann Moyer  
[Carol@dvis-ais.org](mailto:Carol@dvis-ais.org) or  
(215) 794-7257

*Please Bring A Bag Lunch*

— Rhizomes: \$2 on Dig Day —

If you can volunteer the whole day or part of the day, please contact Carol Ann at [Carol@dvis-ais.org](mailto:Carol@dvis-ais.org) or (215) 794-7257 so that we know how many to expect.

Delaware Valley College is on U.S. 202 just west of Doylestown, PA. Turn off U.S. 202 onto New Britain Rd., which is the eastern boundary of the college. Turn right into the first parking lot you come to. You can see the garden from the parking lot.

Lots of help is needed to cut leaves, mark the leaves, clean, wash, set out to dry, pack, clean up the debris, etc. There is something for everyone. We need many volunteers.

Here are a couple of points to remember:

- Bring gloves and sun protection (although most work will be in the shade). Tables and chairs will be available. Bring something to eat for lunch. Drinks will be provided.
- Occasionally a small rhizome is intentionally left attached to a larger one because we do not want to sell rhizomes that are too small to bloom next year. Therefore, please leave the small rhizome attached. Furthermore, the marking scheme given on page 2 should be used. Note that exciting color descriptions sell better.

*On Dig Day, you may buy the freshly dug rhizomes for \$2 each as a thank you for helping. Many are newer irises. Won't you volunteer to help?*

# MID-SEASON IRIS SHOW RESULTS

Wonderful flowers. Ideal weather. Terrific attendance. It all made the DVIS mid-season show a resounding success. The show was held in the John J. Willaman Education Center at Jenkins Arboretum and Gardens on May 22, 2010.

Our dedicated show chair, Vince Lewonski, states that we had 12 exhibitors, with 82 cultivars, 6 seedlings and 11 arrangements entered.

Thanks to Vince's leadership, it truly was a spectacular iris show. And many thanks to our exhibitors and workers. Without their con-



**Queen's Table**  
Photo: C. A. Moyer

certed efforts we would not have had a show.

The queen's table made quite a display :

- ◆ Best in Show – **'Barbara Jean'** (TB), exhibited by Brett Butler.
- ◆ Runner-up and Best Siberian – **'Pink Haze'**, exhibited by Anita Simpson.
- ◆ Best Historical – **'San Souci'**, exhibited by Carol Ann Moyer.
- ◆ Runner-up – **'Dressed To Kill'** (TB), exhibited by Brett Butler.
- ◆ Runner-up – **'Crystal Fountain'** (TB), exhibited by Brett Butler.
- ◆ Best Seedling -- **B0204A** (BB), hybridized and exhibited by Brett Butler.

The Arrangements Division had many fine arrangements from which to choose the best:

- ◆ Best Design – exhibited by Phyllis Weisman.

And for the certificates and medals:

- ◆ Silver Medal (most blue ribbons ) — Brett Butler (7 blues)
- ◆ Bronze Medal (2<sup>nd</sup> most blue ribbons) — Carol Ann Moyer (6 blues)
- ◆ TB Section Certificate — Brett Butler (7 blues)



A proud **Brett Butler** with his **Queen** of the Show **'Barbara Jean'**, Ron Mullin 2005.

Photo: C. A. Moyer

- ◆ Siberian Section Certificate — Daphne Sawyer (3 blues, 4 reds)

For their fine contribution, we are very grateful to the show judges: Cathy Button and Joan Wood.

Thanks to Matt and Jen Cunningham of Hildebrandt's Iris Garden for providing gift certificates.

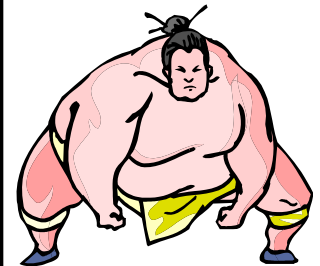
Always happy to have new members, we signed up two new AIS/DVIS memberships.

Good publicity is so important. Charles Conklin did a wonderful job of getting press releases to the media. Carol Ann Moyer's road signs brought them into the

show, as did the website managed by Carol Ann and Jim Moyer. Jenkins Arboretum and Gardens promoted the event on its website, with flyers and in its newsletter, for which we are very appreciative.

*Results for the DVIS late-season show will be included with the next eNewsletter.*

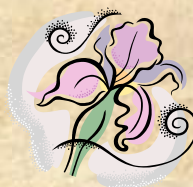
The Club Iris Purchase Program is a **BIG DEAL**. Gary asks that you get your order form in early. Our goal is 100% participation.



## Coupon for Free Club Iris from Hosting Program for First-Year Introductions

Chair: Gary Slagle

Attach original  
or copy to  
order sheet, p.5.



Gary's choice of  
free iris selection.

Members Only

Not valid after 7-17-10

**Order Sheet for 2010**

**Order  
No.**

**SALE OF CLUB IRISES**

**FROM HOSTING PROGRAM FOR FIRST-YEAR INTRODUCTIONS**

**Club Irises Bought in 2007**

**\$3.00 each**

*Photos on DVIS Website [www.dvis-ais.org](http://www.dvis-ais.org). See Photo Gallery, DVIS Host Iris Program.*

Pickup and payment is on Sale Day 7-17-10 (~12:30 p.m.). All DVIS and AIS members are invited to participate. Multiple rhizomes of each variety may be purchased subject to availability. Indicate the number of rhizomes you want of each variety in the space before the variety. Keep in mind that varieties and quantities may be limited; therefore, please select additional varieties. For the three varieties you most want, place an asterisk (\*) in front of the number.

**My Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**My Total Price is not to exceed \$**\_\_\_\_\_

<u>Desired</u>	<u>Official</u>
<u>Number</u>	<u>Use</u>
'Bollywood' Keppel '07, TB, S: bright yellow F: blue, catalog-cover iris	
'Versailles' Keppel '07, TB, S: white F: blue, red-orange beard, patriotic theme, lovely	
'Mercury Rising' Keppel '07, S: bright yellow F: oxblood with yellow blaze, striking	
'Raging Tide' Keppel '07, TB, mixed blue and light blue, wide and ruffled petals	
'Merchant Mariner' Keppel '07, medium (very) blue, exaggerated ruffles, great clump	
'Blowing Kisses' Keppel '07, TB, S: pink F: rose blend, large flower, pretty	
'Bishop John-David' G. Sutton '07, TB, cornflower blue, wide, great color	
'Heavenly Valley' M. Sutton '07, TB, S: lavender F: ice blue, lots of ruffles	
'Peggy Anne' G. Sutton '07, TB, BC, purple black with silver streaks, nicely different	
'Almost Blue' G. Sutton '07, TB, pale lavender, nice form, you will want it	
'Jane Troutman' Kerr '07, TB, S: amber orange F: white with orange edge, cheerful	
'Follow That Dream' Kerr '07, TB, peach and tan blend, wonderful form	
'Smoked Gouda' Kerr '07, TB, greenish gold, attractive, a must have	

*Continued on back.*

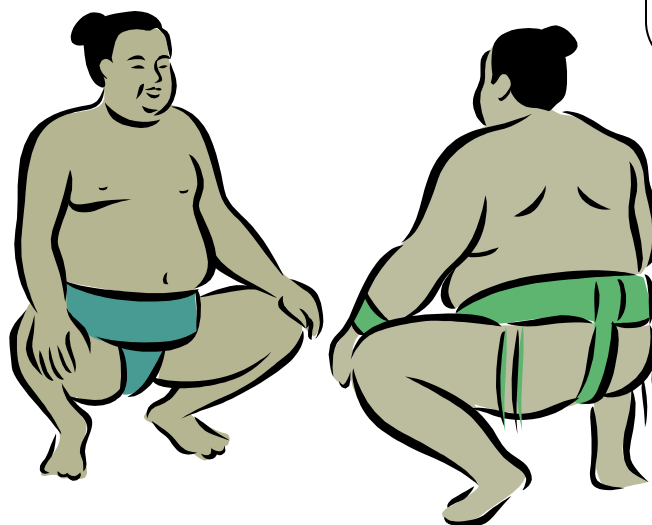
**Mail To: Gary Slagle, 59 Market St., Gibbstown, NJ 08027 before July 8, 2010.**

**Order Sheet for 2010 continued**

<u>Desired</u>		<u>Official</u>
<u>Number</u>		<u>Use</u>
	'At First Blush' Kerr '06, TB, light pink, terrific color, a charmer	
	'Kisses Like Wine' Kerr '06, TB, S: white F: burgundy, elegant bi-color, very nice	
	'Kathy Chilton' Kerr '06, TB, S: yellow F: burgundy black, dynamic	
	'Simply Sensational' T. Johnson '07, TB, S: icy lavender white F: snow white	
	'Dream Team' T. Johnson '07, TB, S: light greenish yellow F: greenish yellow	
	<b>TOTAL NUMBER</b>	
	<b>TOTAL PRICE</b>	

Don't procrastinate. Get your order sheet to Gary for the club irises.

A \$35 to \$25 value at \$3 a pop is a deal! And they want greater participation this year. . . . I love those irises.



**Mail To: Gary Slagle, 59 Market St., Gibbstown, NJ 08027 before July 8, 2010.**