



RAMBLING RHIZOMES
JUNE 2007
Newsletter of the Tucson Area Iris Society



Saturday June 16th
10:00am

Midtown City Council Office
3202 East First Street
(Just east of Country Club
& South of Speedway)

“2007 AIS Convention
Oklahoma City”

Presented by Kathy Chilton

JUNE MEETING



TAIS SPRING SHOW
‘Harbinger of Spring’

The 2007 TAIS Spring Show “Harbinger of Spring” was held April 15th at Foothills Mall. TAIS members put on a beautiful display of colorful, fragrant irises for an enthusiastic public. Three hundred containers of irises were quickly sold to help with expenses. Kathy Chilton managed to win Best Specimen with ICARUS, a lovely yellow Louisiana iris, but Ben Herman and Peggi Ishman garnered the Silver and Bronze medals for most blue ribbons.

...More photos on pages 4 & 5.

Peggi's Corner

I would like to start this column with a large thank you to all who came and worked the annual spring iris show at Foothills Mall April 15th. A special thank you goes to Kathy Chilton for chairing it this year. If you want something done right, just ask a busy person. Kathy is so busy and yet she always finds time to get the job done well. She was judging the Phoenix iris show the day before ours, and as Regional VP she was also preparing for the trip over to California for the Spring Trek the following Friday. She got all the potted irises to the show hall by staging them nearby at a friend's rental house. That made it so easy to get the over 300 pots to the show hall after our set up that morning. I appreciate the help given by Bert Detwiler, Irene Watkins, Maxine Fifer, Ed and Carrie Encinas, Ginny Hester, George and Marian LaCompte, Ben Herman, Gary Carruthers, Randy and Andrea Blackburn. Bert does a great job of giving his annual iris culture talk for us each year. Thank you. Our judges were excellent, and we thank all three. Marge Larson, Margie Kelly and Gerry Snyder. Thank you to Maxine and Ben for clerking for them this year.

We have some great things coming up. The June meeting on Saturday June 16th at the Midtown City council offices at 3202 East First Street. (Just east of Country Club Rd. and south of Speedway Blvd.) It will start at 10:00 a.m. Please enter from the alley to the south. The main entrance on 1st Street is locked on the weekends. Our vice president, Kathy Chilton will be presenting a fantastic Powerpoint presentation tour of the Oklahoma City American Iris Society National Convention gardens. This will be one not to miss. If you can assist with bringing some refreshments **please call Ginny Hester at 883-2475.**

For the TAIS board members, we will be holding our June board meeting directly after the meeting starting at noon with it being a luncheon meeting nearby. Please get with me and let me know by June 8th what items should be up for discussion. I would like to get an agenda of those suggested items out to all the board members for review early that next week before the meeting. You may call, or e-mail those to me.

We won't have a TAIS meeting or newsletter during the summer months until August. Our annual potluck and auction will be held on Saturday, August 25th on John and Joyce Slekar's lovely patio. This is always a great opportunity to visit with fellow TAIS members and to add new rhizomes to your garden at a very low price.

Please check the newly redesigned website:

www.tucsoniris.org

Thank you goes to both our webmaster, Tim Valenzuela, and our member, Margie Valenzuela, for all their efforts in getting that done and done so well! It looks great. Many fun links to try from it too. Let me say, "Give it a test drive!"

We have the information about the upcoming club iris rhizome sales in September posted there. Ed Encinas will be helping organize the fall sale, and we can certainly use more volunteers to help us get it done. This is our major club fund raiser each year.

We will be organizing a digging party to go to Safford, AZ to Terrell Taylor's garden to dig irises for those sales. This is scheduled for the second weekend in September. Saturday, September 8th. If you haven't dug and divided irises before, this is a wonderful way to learn. We do need some members with strong backs that can do the digging.

Please let me know if you can work the sales, and also if you want to make the early trip to Safford to dig while it is cool. This is always a fun event and a chance to get to know the TAIS members better.

As far as what to do in the garden this summer: Now is the time to cut down all spent iris stalks. This is done by cutting them off at the base and I usually pull away any brown leave, and leaves from that particular stalk. Some like to cut the fans or leaves down too, but that isn't needed. It is mainly a cosmetic dressing. Mainly keep the brown leaves removed to allow the clump to "breathe". All tall bearded irises can be given a couple of teaspoons of 0-45-0, which is super triple phosphate. This should be worked in around the rhizome, watered in well. It helps with better root development. No other fertilizer should be applied at this time of year. It is too hot now, and may cause soft rot if you do. Our rhizomes are resting during the coming hotter weather, but they do still need watering. Not over watering, but many have lost irises because of not watering enough. Failure to water in our hot, dry weather isn't good. I am watering every other day, or 3 times a week right now. I think even twice weekly would be okay.

Now is the time to evaluate what irises you liked that blooms and which ones might get dug and sold or traded. Consider what ones you can't live without from the grower's catalogs and place your orders or make lists of the ones you'd like to buy at our annual club sales. Those are a particularly good bet, as they are locally grown.

I hope everyone has a great summer and happy gardening.

~Peggi

Ishman Garden Fund Raiser a Success!

On Sunday, April 22nd Bert Detwiler, Maxine Fifer, Myrleen Hunt, and Ginny Hester came and helped Richard and Peggi Ishman hold a TAIS fund raiser by opening their garden for tours by supportive club members and the public. We asked for \$5.00 donations to TAIS.

We had over 70 visitors, and the event made \$360.00 for the TAIS treasury. We had a drawing for a rhizome of Connection that was won by Nancy Steinke. It was a beautiful day and the Ishmans want to say “thank you” for the help and support in having this event. It was fun!!



Catalina Mountains backdrop the colorful pathway to an aviary



The cool of shade trees await visitors on the walkways



Rose arbors draw visitors along self-guided tours



Roses in full-bloom showed their best to many visitors

TAIS 2007 SPRING SHOW “HARBINGER OF SPRING”



Bronze Medal winner Ben Herman with ‘Social Graces’ and Best TB ‘In Living Color’



Ginny Hester, Irene Watkins & Peggi Ishman selling irises



ICARUS (LA)
Best Specimen of Show
Exhibited by Kathy Chilton



LOUISIANA IRIS DIVISION



DEVIL DAVID (TB)
Exhibited by
Silver Medal Winner Peggi Ishman

More Show Photos.....



MARY FRANCES
Voted Most Popular



MAKING A SPLASH
(Margie Valenzuela 2007 Introduction)



AZTEC GOLD
Best Yellow Award



CORDOBA



Ed & Mary Encinas



IN LIVING COLOR

Tucson Botanical Garden

TBG iris garden looks great! The spring bloom was bountiful - Thank you Whitney and Stan for doing such a great job! TAIS President Peggi Ishman would like anyone who can go over early one morning to contact her to organize a weeding party. If about 4 or 5 volunteers went, we could do it in an hour or less early on a cool morning.

Call Peggi at (520) 825-1771 or email her at pishman@comcast.net.



WELCOME TO OUR NEW — (and Newly Renewed) MEMBERS!!

Please keep this list to add to the TAIS Directory.

- Esther Eastman
- Christy & Sharon Gordon
- Monica Hauptman
- Marilyn Phillips
- Gary Pundt
- Selene Seidel



**MARCH 2007 MEETING
Flower Arranging Workshop
by Eileen Fiumara**



TAIS 2007 CALENDAR

June 16th TAIS Meeting 10:00 A.M. Midtown City Council Office, 3202 East First Street. Featured will be a presentation by Kathy Chilton of digital photographs of the beautiful 2007 American Iris Society National Convention in Oklahoma City, OK..

August 25th will be our annual potluck and auction to be held at John and Joyce Slekar's poolside patio.

September 8th Digging party at Terrell Taylor's garden in Safford, AZ.

September 15th, SAT. 9-4 RHIZOME SALE AT HARLOW'S

October 20th TAIS Meeting. Location will be announced. We will have our annual elections of officers, and the guest iris program. During each meeting all year we have drawings for new introduction irises. At the October meeting these are awarded. We also have irises to reward volunteers that have contributed during the year.

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TAIS CONTACT INFO

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