



## RAMBLING RHIZOMES September 2008

Newsletter of the Tucson Area Iris Society

[tucsoniris.org](http://tucsoniris.org)



- TAIS CALENDAR 2008
- September 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>: TAIS sale at Harlow's Nursery.
- October 18<sup>th</sup>: Fall meeting with recap of AIS convention in Austin by Kathy Chilton, election of new officers.

### RHIZOME SALE AT HARLOW GARDENS

5620 E. Pima, Sat., Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>, 9-5 pm, Sun., Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> 10-2 pm.

Sale Chairs: Gordon Jensen (203-8259) - Maxine Fifer (743-7993)

#### Why are sales held?

- Recruitment of new members
- Public exposure about TAIS
- Revitalization of TAIS members' gardens
- Education/information for sale browsers
- Cash benefits to TAIS members who sell as well as TAIS members who buy
- Cash benefits to TAIS coffers

Members will receive \$2 for each rhizome sold.  
Rhizomes 2005 and older: Members \$4 (6 for \$20); Public \$5 (6 for \$25).  
Rhizomes 2006 and newer: Everyone \$8 each.

If you are planning to bring iris for sale, please get an ID # from Maxine, mark it and name of rhizome on each, send list with name, hybridizer, year, description no later than Monday, Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> to Maxine. Bring a copy of your list with you on Saturday, Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> showing number of each rhizome. If you plan to pick up any leftovers, you must be at Harlows at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>. Any ??? Contact Maxine at [wetypefast@aol.com](mailto:wetypefast@aol.com) or 743-7993.

If you haven't volunteered to help at the sale yet, there are slots available as follows: Saturday, 9-1, 1-5, Sunday 10-2.



STARWOMAN (Marky Smith 98)  
IB 2008 Dykes Medal Winner

#### My Favorite Rebloomers; by Evelyn Wallman

Sorted in descending order;

Midnight Thunder  
Holy Night  
Dashing  
Bye Bye Blackbird  
Violet Miracle  
Again And Again  
Misty Twilight  
Orange Harvest  
Rosalie Figge  
Zurich  
Aspen

Belvi Queen  
Hemstitched  
Sugar Blues  
Matrix  
Lichen  
Luminosity  
Destry Rides Again (really ugly but have a beautiful peach seedling from it)  
Winesap  
Happy New Year

Have three pink seedlings that bloom out of season sometimes too. I lost Best Bet but plan to replace it.

Page 2: How I do it-  
dividing irises: by  
Gordon Jensen

#### Potluck/Auction Report

Thanks again, Paul Bessey, for hosting this annual event, where 21 guests dined on delicious food and then bid on Region 15 iris, for a total of \$409! Thanks to Kathy Chilton for providing photos of the iris and handling the auction.

**News from Perri and Doug Larsen**

We are doing really well. Doug continues to gain strength, and is smiling a lot more these days. He is trying to learn how to relax a bit. We bought an older Airstream and parked it in Alpine, every other weekend (when I don't have payroll to run) we go up to the mountains

to cool off. That's been very good for him. I wish his cell phone didn't work up there, because they still call constantly with problems for him to solve. About the only time we get to Tucson anymore is for visits to the VA Hospital. Doug felt like he couldn't continue at Mayo,

when our insurance won't cover him there, so he has taken on new doctors at the VA and they seem to be doing a very good job managing his care. Tell everyone hello. We sure miss seeing everyone.

**How I do it-dividing irises: a pictorial demonstration by Gordon Jensen**



Above is an over crowded clump of irises that obviously needs dividing.



First, I dig out the clump and remove as much of the dirt as I can, without causing too much damage.



Next, using a clean, sharp knife, I separate the growing rhizomes from the spent rhizome.



This picture shows the growing rhizomes and the spent rhizome, the plant that bloomed this spring that has long since lost it's leaves.



Now the entire clump is divided. Throw away the spent rhizomes. (It is sometimes desirable to leave the old rhizome attached to a small start to give it strength.)



Next I trim the leaves and the roots to 4 to 6 inches. I use a grass edging clipper for length.



Here is a rhizome that has been trimmed.



Now the entire clump has been trimmed.



Last, I replant 2 of the divided rhizomes and put the remainder in a cool dry place until the TAIS sale. I replant 2 because they fill out faster.



Above shows the replanted rhizomes. I find that the less time the plants stay out of the ground the faster they get re-established.

## **Tucson Show results:**

This is a little late but here it is.

6 Exhibitors, 28 entries, 27 different varieties of irises

Best TB & Best Specimen of Show ZIP IT UP, exhibited by Ben Herman

Silver Medal for most Blue ribbons: Ben Herman with 5  
Bronze Medal for 2nd most Blues: Gordon Jensen with 2

Best Youth Specimen HIGH CLASS (TB) exhibited by Morgan Wallace. who had 3 blue ribbons.

Popularity Poll winner was REVERE, exhibited by Maxine Fifer

Judges were Jack Weber, Avery Poling & Joyce Poling.

## **New Member News:**

Beverly Anderson is formerly from Minnesota and Wyoming, before moving to Tucson in 1980. She teaches rubber stamping and scrapbooking classes and her granddaughter Morgan Wallace, age 8, won the Junior Class at the past two shows!



HIGH CLASS by Paul Black 2003

## **TAIS Contact Info**

**Vice President, Kathy Chilton**

(520) 591-1729

[Ranchiris@aol.com](mailto:Ranchiris@aol.com)

**Secretary, Marilyn Lesh**

(520) 906-8761

[mlesh@cox.net](mailto:mlesh@cox.net)

**Treasurer, Maxine Fifer**

(520) 743-7993

[wetypefast@aol.com](mailto:wetypefast@aol.com)

Editor: Gordon Jensen

(520) 203-8259

[redheadclan@cox.net](mailto:redheadclan@cox.net)