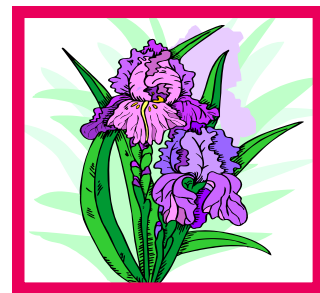


**RAMBLING RHIZOMES**  
**January 2009**

**Newsletter of the Tucson Area Iris Society**

**tucsoniris.org**



TAIS CALENDAR 2009

- January 24 Meeting; Patrick O'Connor— Louisiana Irises Location TBD
- February 21 Meeting; speaker and location TBD.
- March 21 Meeting; speaker and location TBD.
- April 25-26 Show at Foothill Mall.
- August 29 Potluck and auction
- September Sale
- October 17 meeting

**January 24th**

**10:30 Program**

**12:00 Lunch**

**Pat O'Connor**

**Louisiana Irises**

**Speaker: Patrick O'Connor of Zydeco Louisiana Iris Gardens [www.zydecoirises.com](http://www.zydecoirises.com) Patrick is a former president of the Louisiana Iris Society and a prolific hybridizer of lovely and unique Louisiana Irises. Zydeco Louisiana Iris gardens is in the New Orleans area, and he will share some of his experiences with Hurricane Katrina.**

**Place: Café Ramey on the SW corner of Pima and Swan. Lunch will be \$12.00 which will include a choice of Cobb Salad, Cheeseburger, or turkey wrap with drinks and desert. Please RSVP your lunch choice to Kathy Chilton at [ranchiris@aol.com](mailto:ranchiris@aol.com) (520) 591-1729.**



Cajun Sunrise



Cherry Cup

Page 2: How I do it— Hybridizing by Gordon Jensen

Minutes from the October meeting

Page 4 & 5: Announcement and registration for the 2009 trek in Phoenix.



## Meeting Minutes October 18th 2008

Minutes to the Membership meeting on Oct 18, 2008  
Location was at The Mountain Oyster Club

- Meeting started at 1pm.
- The meeting started with a presentation by Kathy Chilton which covered several meetings, including a recap of the Austin, a recall of the Oregon convention of 06 and a trek in Oklahoma.
- After Kathy's talk there was a call for additional nominations for the board which are not already included. None were offered. Marilyn gave a motion to elect the entire slate as given in the newsletter and Ginny Hester seconded the motion. There was a unanimous vote to elect the entire slate of new officers. The new officers include: President: Kathy Chilton  
Vice Pres: Ben Herman  
Secretary: Dian Curran  
Treasurer: Maxine Fifer

Additional Board Members: Paul Bessey, Gary Caruthers, Ginny Hester, Carolyn Cowen, Gordon Jensen and Fred Thorpe

Meeting was adjourned at 1:15 pm.

- There was some discussion as to when the Spring Trek is. It was determined that it was April 11 which is Easter weekend.
  - Ben will be heading the programs for the next year.
  - TBG: Need to label irises in the spring and dig to separate in the fall.
- Meeting adjourned at 3:50pm.

### How I do it - Hybridizing by Gordon Jensen

This article might be better called how I did it, as this was my first successful attempt. First, I tried, unsuccessfully to store pollen in the refrigerator. I then tried the direct method. The stamens are directly below the pistil. I used pollen from Secret Melody and rubbed it on the pistil of Corps de Ballet. I did another cross with Tiger Honey and Rustler. The flowers that were the recipients of the pollen produced large seed pods. The seeds were a little smaller than Sweet Pea seeds. I got 18 seeds from one pod and 19 from the other.

After the seed pods ripened, I took the seeds and stored them in a dry place until fall. In late September, I planted the seeds in a deep tray with plenty of potting soil and set them out in the back of the garden. I kept the soil moist and allowed them to become naturally chilled. In early December I saw the first buds and as of this writing I have five from one cross and three from the other.



Secret Melody



Corps de Ballet

It's that time again. Time to renew our TAIS membership. Please file out the form below and either bring it to the meeting with your dues check or mail it to the treasurer.

TUCSON AREA IRIS SOCIETY (TAIS) MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS (STREET, CITY, STATE, ZIP)  
\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to TAIS. Check Category below:

Single \$10 \_\_\_\_\_ Dual \$13 \_\_\_\_\_ Youth \$5 \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this and your check to:

Maxine Fifer, Treasurer, 4527 N Cmo Cardenal, Tucson, AZ 85718

Please check all opportunities that you would be interested in:

- Assist at iris sales  
 Assist at Spring Show  
 Bring treats to a meeting  
 Care for Tucson Botanical Garden's iris the month of \_\_\_\_\_

**For AIS renewal, send \$25 to [www.irises.org](http://www.irises.org)**

**Tom Gormley - AIS Membership Secretary**

10606 Timber Ridge Street

Dubuque, IA 52001-8268

Telephone and Fax - 563-513-0504

News from the Larsens: "Ten days before the economy started to slide we made an offer on a log cabin in Alpine, AZ. The cabin is wonderful!!!!!! It's 2 hours and 20 minutes away from Morenci. We escape every chance we get. We had Thanksgiving at the cabin and got several inches of snow that morning."

From May 1996 newsletter:

"An Iris Garden is like a cocktail party. Everyone starts off in their best dress and on their best behavior. Some leave early, and some arrive fashionably late. As the "party" wears on, some become obnoxious and disheveled, and others are falling down and need propping up. Finally, at the end of the "evening" the hangers-on look as if they've been doing shots of Jose Cuervo Tequila and singing *Wild Thing*."

**TAIS Contact Info**

**President, Kathy Chilton**

(520) 591-1729

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

**Vice President, Ben Herman**

(520) 296-2129

[herman@atmo.arizona.edu](mailto:herman@atmo.arizona.edu)

**Secretary, Dian Curran**

(520) 762-9710

[Dian\\_b\\_curran@raytheon.com](mailto:Dian_b_curran@raytheon.com)

**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)