December 2016



# TAIS Newsletter

December 2016

Tucson Area Iris Society-established 1965

An Affiliate of the American Iris Society



Jennifer Stout, Tucson Botanical Gardens photo by Sue Clark, 2016

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# **President's Message**

Ah, the holidays... I hope you get to spend a lot of time with friends, family, and food during this special season. Some of my iris fans have 6" of new growth. Spring is coming. I'm looking forward to Kristee's container iris culture presentation at our January meeting. She does very well at iris container growing if you've ever seen her garden. The best to all and see you January 14<sup>th</sup> 2017. - Kevin Kartchner



Are you looking for another worthwhile organization to donate to? How about Presby Memorial Iris Gardens? Your gift is tax-deductable, too. Please visit <u>http://presbyirisgardens.org</u> to donate via PayPal or check. - SC (photo from their website).

# **Upcoming Events**

No TAIS Meeting in December. Next meeting on January 14.

Anne Cotton
Madeline Glasser
Cathy Scire

Gordon Jensen Phil Doonan

**Terry Southard** 

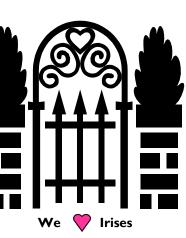
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# **November Meeting Minutes**

### November 19, 2016

Call to order 1:37 PM

Representing club. the Diane Tweedv thanked Kristee for her excellent service as our president this vear past



she will obtain the rhizomes for the auction and asked if anyone has

> a preference of growers. She will bring the names of the growers we have used in the past to our meetnext ing.

and gave her a card and check (to be written) for \$100.

Kristee has a fact sheet on each of the club irises that the members have from this year's auction as well as a master list of who has what iris. If you'd like to have your sheet(s) please see her. There are 24 irises out.

There was discussion concerning the auction and club iris program being more profitable this year than last years. Kristee agreed Iris bucks will be continued for this coming year. Ben Herman used his to pay his membership dues for 2017.

It was asked what Saturdays were the best for the group to meet – the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, or 4<sup>th</sup>. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month is still the best to meet.

Melania has taken the reins for finding presenters for our meetings. Kristee will give Melania the list she has as a starting point.



The meeting was adjourned at 2:14 PM

> Meetings will continue to be held on the 2nd Saturday of each month



## **Reblooming Iris Care**

Do you plant all of your reblooming irises together? They have special watering and fertilizing needs, so having them in a separate portion of the garden makes sense. Information from candtirispatch.com suggests watering rebloomers enough that they do not go dormant through the Summer and Fall, and fertilizing them in the early Spring and again on the 4th of July. They recommend a 50-50 blend of super phosphate (0-45-0) and low nitrogen fertilizer (5-10-5) sprinkled around the root zone. - SC

# New Directions for 2017: Installation of New Officers and Board Members









November Meeting and Potluck



Photos by Tony Kutz

## Treasurer's Report for November - submitted by Kristee West, Treasurer

Date	Pending/Uncashed checks	Debits/ checks	Deposits	Balance	Details
10/21/16	#1736 Stephen Buchman	-\$75.00			October 15 Speaker
10/25/16	#1741 AIS Region 15	-\$211.00			Region 15 auction proceeds
11/19/16	#1742 Angela Powers	-\$18.63			Hospitality reimbursement
	Total Pending/uncashed checks	-\$304.63			
11/1/16				\$7308.37	Beginning bank balance
11/3/16	#1740	-\$300.00		\$7008.37	Gordon Jensen—rhizomes
11/4/16	#1737	-\$34.00		\$6974.37	Desert Leaf—publicity Oct 15
11/7/16	#1739	-\$32.00		\$6942.37	Angela Powers—hospitality
11/21/16			\$10.00	\$6952.37	Gary Carruthers dues
11/21/16			\$14.00	\$6966.37	Potted iris sale
11/21/16		-\$100.00		\$6866.37	Kristee West—transportation
12/1/16 12/1/16		-\$304.63		\$6866.37	Ending bank balance Pending/uncashed checks
12/1/16				\$6561.74	TAIS balance



Tucson Botanical Gardens, pictures by Sue Clark, April 2016

"Begin doing what you want to do now. We are not living in eternity. We only have this moment, sparkling like a star in our hand and melting like a snowflake." - Sir Francis Bacon

#### SNOW FLURRY



"Catalogs of the 1930's and 1940's show the best irises of the day to be strappy-falled with little or no flare or ruffling. The iris world was taken aback in 1939 when Clara Rees's 'Snow Flurry' was introduced, for it had pronounced ruffling and it passed this trait to its offspring. A prolific parent, 'Snow Flurry' gave outstanding seedlings in a wide range of colors (AIS 1968a). The importance of this iris can hardly be overestimated, and in 1974 the American Iris Society Board of Directors Award, the first of its kind, was voted to 'Snow Flurry,' " according to The World of Irises, Chapter 4 by Melba B. Hamblen and Keith Keppel. © 1978 AIS, found http://wiki.irises.org/bin/view/Hist/ at DevelopmentOfFormAndShape. - SC

#### HISTORIC IRIS

"Irises introduced over 30 years ago are considered Historic Irises. Those that have survived this time period generally are the toughest of plants of their generation," according to information found at http://wiki.irises.org/bin/view/Hist/WebHome. To learn more about historic iris, please visit www.historiciris.org.

This year at the AIS Conventions, there was issued "a call to action to save the historic irises of the past that we, our parents and previous generations loved and were the cutting edge of their time. They are disappearing at an alarming rate and it is our call to save as many as we can. It is the responsibility of all iris lovers to do this," stated Dennis Luebkin, in his article "Guardian Gardens-A Call to Action Strengthens a Program by Prescott Area Iris Society" *in* AIS Region 15 Newsletter, Fall 2016.

Since learning about historic iris, I have added a few to my garden: Lady Friend (Ghio, 1981) and Be Mine (Byers, 1985). I have plans to add more next year, as well. Which varieties do you have in your garden? - SC





# SNOW FLURRY (Rees 1939) Photo by Claudia Anderson

Photo from AIS Region 15 Newsletter, Fall 2016, p. 15

#### SOME SOURCES FOR PURCHASING HISTORIC IRIS

Schreiner's Iris Gardens (www.schreinersgardens.com):

"Old Timer Collection" — contains four historic irises: Gracchus, 1884 (this is not a typo!), Amas, 1885 (this is not a typo either!), Wabash, 1936 (1940 Dykes Medal), and *Pallida variegata* Gold (variegated iris); these varieties are also available separately.

k, 1986 Edith Wolford, 19	86
kers, 1986 Bride's Halo, 1973	}

#### and many others!

#### Iris Mart (www.irismart.com)

Batik, 1985	Carnival in Rio, 1984
Bat Man, 1985	Cherub's Smile, 1982
Beaux Arts, 1968	Chickasaw Sue, 1982
Belton Beauty, 1957	Color Flick, 1975
Beverly Sills, 1978	Dante's Inferno, 1978
Bengal Tiger, 1980	Disco Music, 1976
Black Bart, 1968	Dusky Challenger, 1986
Can Can Red, 1978	Full Tide, 1972





#### **TAIS OFFICERS FOR 2017**

Kevin Kartchner – President

Vice President—open

Janet Gardner – Secretary

**Kristee West – Treasurer** 

Sue Clark – Newsletter Editor

**Carol Peterson—Membership Chairperson** 

Melania Kutz—Program Chairperson

## What to do in the Iris Garden for December:

Check your plant markers to be sure the writing is still visible.

Make a current map of your iris beds.

Examine the bases of plants for aphids. Remedy by carefully squashing them by hand, or spraying with insecticidal soap or diluted dish soap.

Remove any dead leaves and throw them away rather than composting them. This helps reduce spread of disease.



# **Tip Exchange**

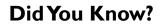
Plant Markers — I am trying out the GardenMate large metal plant markers, which I bought from Amazon. I wrote the iris' name on the front and back of the marker, just in case the name on the front side becomes unreadable.

Marking Pens — I am trying Sharpie Paint Markers, also from Amazon. (or JoAnn's).

Labels — I wrote right on the metal marker: the name of the variety of iris, the hybridizer, and the year. (Should it be the year of registration or year of introduction?) I notice that some people use stickon labels. What have you had success with?

## **Iris Quote:**

"Thou art the Iris, fair among the fairest, Who, armed with golden rod And winged with the celestial azure, bearest The message of some God." - Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Iris



Orris root, used as a fixative and base note in perfumes and potpourri, comes from the roots of Iris germanica and Iris pallida. It is also an ingredient in many types of gin, and is used in certain herbal medicines. (www.wikipedia.org).



Some late bloomers in cold places: The white iris was blooming in an old cemetery in western Pennsylvania on November 10 (photo courtesy of Rachel Ammon) and the purple ones were blooming in Sedona on November 7 (photo Jane courtesv of Lemon).



# Looking for These Irises:



Bonnie Colby of our club seeks rhizomes of these lavender-colored irises, which were growing in the yard of her Tucson home in the early 1980's. They have a slightly sweet peppery scent.

Sue Clark of our club would love to grow Midnight Kitty. (Photo from Karyiris.com).

What are you seeking? Respond at taisnewsletter@yahoo.com.



