

Tucson Area Iris Society



May 2016

Editor: Roger Osgood
TAISnewsletter@yahoo.com

President– Kristee West
Vice President– Kevin Kartchner
Secretary– Martin Juarez
Treasurer– Roger Osgood

TUCSONIRIS.ORG

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Tucson's World of Iris

Important Reminders for May

Our meeting on 5/28 will feature speaker Stephen Buchmann who will present “The Reason for Flowers”

This is just a reminder that TAIS will be dark during the summer months of June and July. Our meetings will start again in August with a potluck, Region 15 auction and presentation of New Introduction Iris to those volunteers who met our criteria. We will be meeting at the Tucson Botanical Gardens.

The newsletter will continue every month of the year, so look for your “E” copy on the first of each month. And, thanks to all of our members for going green.

President's Message:

I want to thank the 6 people who came to Green Valley to see my iris garden on April 2nd. I hope others also went to see Gordon's garden. I was there last year at sale time and I suspect that it is awesome when it is in bloom.

Thanks to Kevin for organizing the show, to those who helped during the show and to all who brought blooms on April 9th at the Kirk-Bear Library.

I am looking forward to the May 28th meeting. I have heard the presentation at another venue and recommend it to everyone.

The Mid-America Garden Club iris order has gone in and it will arrive by August 15th for our potluck, auction and Club Iris Awards. Tall Bearded Iris Society did not have a sale this year, so with the permission of a majority of the Board Members, I sent \$400 to Mid-America and \$80 for postage.

Our sale this year will consist mostly of irises from Gordon's garden and recent introductions from Mesilla Valley Iris Society in Las Cruces, NM. Gordon will need help in harvesting his irises. We will, also, need help harvesting irises from our beds at Tucson Botanical Gardens. Large rhizomes from recent introductions will be sold as individual rhizomes. Small rhizomes and older varieties will be sold as grab bags. **Please send a list of irises that you plan to donate to this year's sale to me at irisgrowinaz@gmail.com by early June.**

We need 4 x 6 photographs sent to irisgrowinaz@gmail.com, or TAISnewsletter@yahoo.com.

I will be giving you the shoe boxes and grab bags with the completed photographs at the Auction in August.

I have been invited to speak to the Green Valley Garden Club in early October. I am pursuing the possibility of having a sale table at their "farmers market sale". If you get the opportunity to check our various farmers' market locations that we can get a free booth because we are a non-profit organization, please bring that information to us.

I have already given away most of the business cards from the show and will need lots more. I hope you are also having lots of opportunity to give out our TAIS business cards. *Kristee*



SpotLight on the Tucson Botanical Gardens

Greta Dunnigan is our current garden minder.

The chair position of Tucson Botanical Garden Minder is filled by a TAIS member with no term limits imposed. The primary duties include the following:

- . Organize volunteers who will work in the garden per our contract with TBG. Oversee the work to its timely completion.
- . Clean the iris beds at the appropriate times of the year.
- . Dig up the older beds in time for the September rhizome sale. This years dig date will be September 17th. Time to be determined.
- . Replant sale rhizomes we kept and create new bed space for new plantings. This work is scheduled for October.

Greta has filled this position for over 4 years. She is also our immediate past president. She has been a member of TAIS for over 20 years. Her greatest challenge is to organize enough volunteers to help with the garden. I'm sure given our current enthusiasm and energy, Greta will have no problem finding helpers this year. Let her know you are willing to help!

Greta, thank you for all the work you and Manny from TBG do on our behalf.



This delightful walkway at the botanical garden welcomes their visitors into our iris display. On the day of our visit, a profusion of colorful blooms was a feast for the eyes.

Photo taken 4/8/16
Courtesy of
Steven Ginter



Birthdays to Celebrate—May

Kevin Kartchner	May 18
Fred Thorpe	May 28
Margie Valenzuela	May 30

*Flowers are restful to look at.
They have neither emotions, nor conflict.*

Sigmund Freud



THE REASON FOR FLOWERS.

Guest speaker: Stephen Buchmann

**Meeting location: Murphy-Wilmot Library
530 N. Wilmot 85711**

Date: May 28th

Time: 12:30 until 5:00 (Presentation with general meeting to follow)

Stephen is a local author who has an extensive knowledge of his subject material. This promises to be an exciting presentation. We hope you put it on your calendar as a “must attend” meeting.

Stephen will not be bringing books to sell, but they are available on Amazon.com as paperbacks. He is willing to sign his book for anyone who brings it to the presentation.

We'll have a birthday cake to celebrate our members.

IRIS 101— Bringing our new members up to speed.

Those of us who have been growing iris for a while, tend to forget that we all started with nearly no knowledge of the care and feeding of our favorite flower.

This series of articles is being written for our new members who are just being introduced to the world of iris. There are thousands of cultivars of nearly 200 varieties according to AIS. Our aim is not to produce a phone directory, so we will focus on about a dozen forms in the next year. They will include most of the following:

Bearded— includes dwarf, intermediate, border and tall.

Beardless— Siberian, Japanese, Louisiana, yellow and blue flag.

Our June article will start with the ever popular Tall Bearded iris which has been a garden favorite since the time of the pharaohs.

Did you know:

Iris means rainbow.

The iris was the flower of the Greek goddess IRIS, the messenger of love.

The iris symbolizes eloquence.

Iris is the state flower of Tennessee.

Some standard abbreviations it will be helpful for you to know throughout this series of articles.

Arils— AR

Aril Bred— AB

Border Bearded— BB

Intermediate Bearded— IB

Japanese- JI

Louisiana's— LA

Miniature Dwarf Bearded— MDB

Miniature Tall Bearded— MTB

Pacific Coast Native— PCN

Spuria— SPU

Standard Dwarf Bearded— SDB

Siberian— SIB

Tall Bearded— TB



Modern Drama Hybridized 2012

Photo Courtesy-
Steven Ginter
(Yuma)



Swerti Hybridized 1612

Photo courtesy of the
Internet

Seed Exchange ?

Many of us, as gardeners, collect seeds to replant from year to year. Marigolds have always been one of my favorites. I like to tuck them in between my smaller, newer iris plantings. They seem hearty and grow vigorously. And what bright and happy colors! I will be bringing some yellow and orange marigold seeds to our May meeting. Please feel free to help yourself. (Baggies will be provided) Also, since I have no land to grow a vegetable garden at this time, all my seeds from 2015 will be available to share with any of you who enjoy growing veggies.



Happy Summer Gardening to all of you.
Roger (Newsletter Editor)

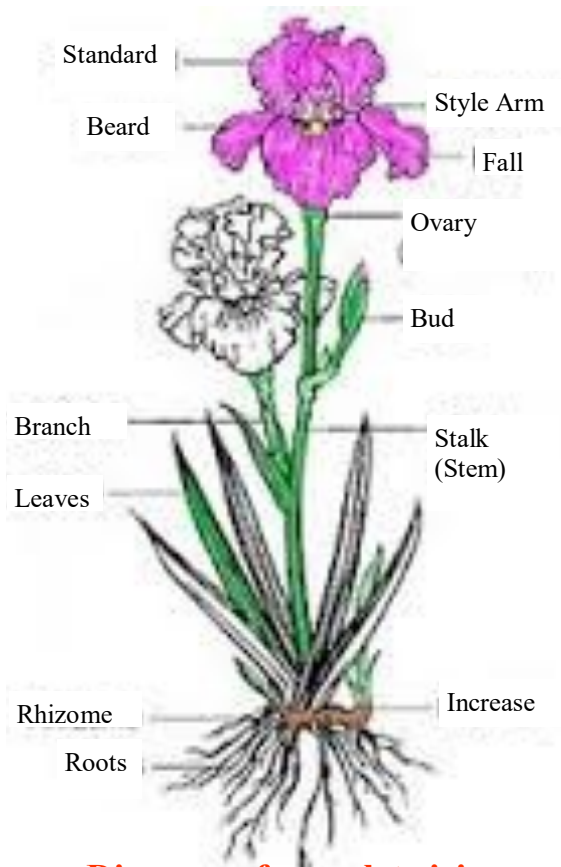
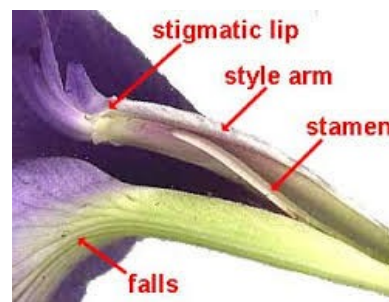


Diagram of complete iris



Bearded Iris Flower Parts

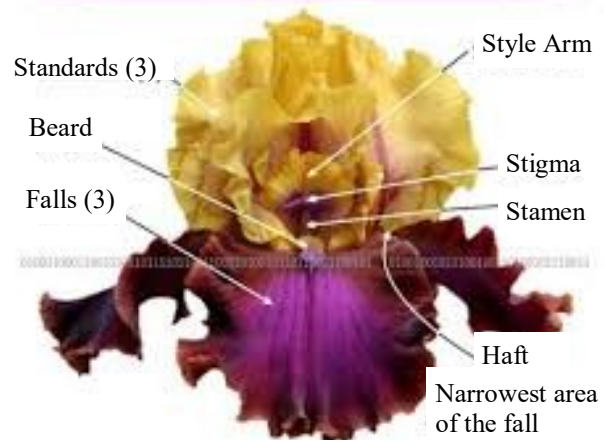
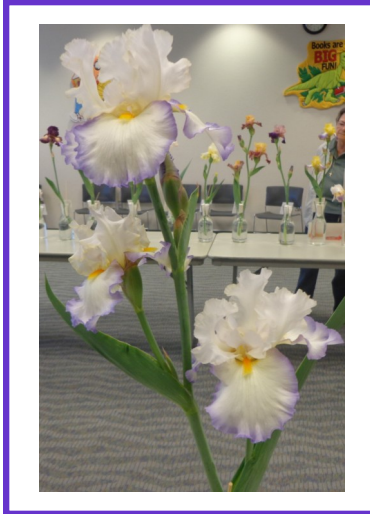


Diagram of flower

Flower Show Photos



Revere– Joseph Ghio
Registered 2001
TB 40” VE-EM

Winner of People’s Choice Award goes to V.P. Kevin Kartchner with **REVERE. This is the third year in a row that this iris has been the show favorite. Kristee West won first place with this same iris at the 2014 and 2015 shows.**

While our beloved Tall Bearded dominated the show, these two Louisiana iris were stunning to say the least. **Rooster** on the left and **Edna Clutch** on the right caught the eye of many a visitor with their orchid like flowers. Both stalks were brought by Kathy Chilton from the garden of Ben Herman.

Rooster tied in 3rd place with **Bravery** (K. Kartchner)



Show set-up is nearly complete and now we await the arrival of our guests.

We estimate we had 200 visitors with approximately 140 votes. There were 83 named iris and 4 unknowns. Guests wanted to award them all first prize. We agree, it was a difficult choice! Thanks to our members who grew such blooms.



**2nd Place —Ben Herman
Greatest Show on Earth**



Greatest Show on Earth
Frederick Kerr, R 2009 TB 36” M

**3rd place—Ben Herman & Kevin Kartchner
Rooster (tied with Bravery)**



Rooster— LA
R 2013, 29” EM



Bravery
Ghio R 2011, TB 37”, EM

Our many thanks go to the incredible crew of members who remained through out most of the 6 hour show to chat with visitors and handle all of the behind scenes work that went into to making this event a success. Kevin Kartchner, our VP and show chair. Great job! Thanks also to: Roger Osgood, Steven Ginter, Angela Powers, Kathleen Windischman, Diane Tweedy, Madeleine Glaser, Lucille Skerston, Greta Dunnigan, Bob Foltz, Shirley Andrews, Bonnie Else, Gordon and Crystal Jensen and Tony and Melania Kutz. Thanks also go to Diane, Pam, Martin and others for bringing their stalks.

Tony, Melania and Lucille tabulated all the ballots for us... and the winners? The following members qualified to receive a 2016 iris at our August meeting, to be grown for TAIS in our test iris program:



Kevin 28 Gordon 22 Ben Herman 10 Kristee 6 Gary 5
Tony and Melania 5 Angela 3

What happens behind the scenes, stays behind the scenes!



Are we having fun yet?
Gordon, Greta, Lucille

**Let's catch a breath!
Angela, Crystal, Steven and Roger**



Many thanks to Kathleen and Angela serving as HOSPITALITY.

