

TAIS Newsletter

November 2016

Tucson Area Iris Society—established 1965

An Affiliate of the American Iris Society

President's Message

I have a fragrant stalk of Hemstiched sitting on my kitchen table reminding me of how much more there is to come in the spring. I'm also reminded of so many dedicated TAIS presidents I've known over many years. Thanks so much for Kristee's contributions. Very big footsteps to follow, but with all of your usual excellent support everything will work out. I promise to have shortcomings. Example: I'll miss a few meetings like this November when I'll be riding my bicycle in the Tour de Tucson for the 15th time. So, I'm looking forward to another fun year of TAIS and sharing our love of gardening, especially iris.

Thanks,
Kevin Kartchner

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Fall Iris Sale a Big Success!

Sales were brisk and steady at the TAIS Fall rhizome sale on Saturday, September 24. Thanks to Harlow Gardens nursery for hosting our event, and especially for promoting it by naming Tall Bearded Irises as the Plant of the Week in their email newsletter. Many Tucson-grown rhizomes were donated by society members and by individuals such as Jim Leverton, a local hybridizer. Other rhizomes were purchased at a significant discount from the Iris Society in Las Cruces, New Mexico, while still others were dug from the iris beds that the Society maintains at the Tucson Botanical Gardens. Shoppers varied from iris enthusiasts clutching their Wish Lists to fledgling gardeners attracted by the flowers' fabled beauty and tempted to give them a try. Having photos of the flowers made a big difference this year. About 20 people received tips and advice at Kristee's presentation about growing iris in the desert. Thank you to our many members who helped with this year's sale, as well as to those who donated rhizomes and pictures of the blooms!

Unsold iris were donated to Pima County Master Gardeners, Green Valley Master Gardeners, Tucson Botanical Gardens, Green Valley Garden Club and the Country Club of La Cholla who provided us with a complimentary brunch and meeting room in January. - SC

Upcoming Events

TAIS Meeting:

November 19—set-up at 12:30, meeting at 1:00— Annual potluck and installation of new officers. Murphy-Wilmot Branch Library (Large Room), 520 N. Wilmot Road, Tucson, AZ 85711. (520) 594-5420.

November Birthdays

[Angela Powers on the 7th](#)

[Bonnie Colby on the 24th](#)

No Meeting in December.

October Meeting Minutes

October 15, 2016

Call to order at 2:22 pm

Sue Clark will be doing our newsletters for the next year and Janet Gardner has accepted the secretary position for the coming year.



We do not have any candidates for vice president nor activities/program chairman. Madeleine will turn over the membership responsibilities to Carol Peterson. Lucille moved to accept these changes and Bonnie seconded to accepted this slate of officers: Kevin as president, Kristee as treasurer and Janet as secretary. All accepted. The new slate of officers will take office next month (November)

Greta has been taking care of the historic iris growing at the TBG. Bonnie, Kathi W. and Pam will help with the needs here.

The Green Valley Garden Club has a listing of people for gardening programs that

Kristee could obtain although there are no "iris" people on it. One iris person available is Jill Bonino who might be available to come for a lecture on irises from the Franceiris program that she and Kathy Chilton judged.

It was discussed that we will have our show in April and our auction/club iris sale in August. Three people are needed for our sale in Sept/Oct. We also need to pick the hybridizer. Kristee had picked Mid-America for this past year.

There was some discussion on iris bucks versus a price break on the cost of the irises at our year sale. Also, some members felt the smaller iris should cost less than the larger ones. The plan was to combine the smaller iris in the bags on the day before the sale but that did not happen. We should revisit this in the Spring.

There was concern that our website and Facebook page are not getting enough visibility to attract more younger members.

We can have 4 meetings per year at TBG in exchange for 3 educational presentations and one docent training.

Next month is a potluck. We will be at Wilmot Library. All budget estimates are due at that time.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:08 PM

- Janet Gardner

iris bucks versus a price break on the cost of the irises at our yearly sale???

TAIS Loss

Carolyn Cowan passed away on October 7, 2016. Thank you to her niece Barbara Hammack for letting us know, and our sympathy to their family.



We're on the web!
Tucsoniris.org

Two-year Test Iris Program



photos by Tony Kutz



*Charmed I'm Sure,
Blushing Grapes, &
Fit for Royalty*

Treasurer's Report — 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
10/21/16	#1737 Desert Leaf	-\$34.00			Publicity for Oct. meeting
10/23/16	#1740 Gordon Jensen	-\$300.00			195 irises for the sale
10/21/16	#1741 AIS Region 15	-\$211.00			Region 15 auction proceeds
10/21/16	#1739 Angela Powers	-\$32.00			Hospitality: \$18.63 cake, \$13.37 cake server
	Total Pending/uncashed checks	-\$652.00			
7/31/16				\$4346.81	Beginning bank balance
8/1/16	#1733 Kathy Windischmann	-\$26.23		\$4320.58	Hospitality
8/24/16			\$233.00	\$4553.48	TAIS auction
8/24/16			\$15.00	\$4568.58	Dues—Sue Clark
9/23/16			\$211.00	\$4779.58	Region 15 auction proceeds
9/23/16		-\$100.00		\$4679.58	Change for sale
9/23/16		-\$45.52		\$4634.06	Busy Bee Printer
9/26/16			\$2797.00	\$7431.06	Rhizome sale proceeds
9/27/16			\$10.00	\$7441.06	Refund—AZ Corp. Comm.
10/18/16			\$15.00	\$7456.06	Dues—Sally Veza
10/18/16			\$15.00	\$7471.06	Dues—Pam McConneaghey
10/24/16			\$15.00	\$7486.06	Dues—Glenda McCully
10/27/16	#1738 Diane Tweedy	-\$64.49		\$7421.57	Hospitality
10/29/16	#1735 Mesilla Valley Iris Society	-\$113.20		\$7308.37	50 iris for the sale +postage
10/31/16				\$7308.37	Ending bank balance
10/31/16		-\$652.00			Pending/uncashed checks
10/31/16				\$6656.37	TAIS balance



I read a tip to rehydrate rhizomes before planting, so I tried it—with these results within 48 hours.—SC

TAIS OFFICERS FOR 2017

Kevin Kartchner – President

Vice President—open

Janet Gardner – Secretary

Kristee West – Treasurer

Sue Clark – Newsletter Editor

Carol Peterson—Membership Chairperson

What to do in the Iris Garden for November:

Plant rhizomes by the middle of this month so that they can establish a strong root system before cold weather arrives. Place a tablespoon of Triple Super Phosphate into each hole as you plant. Cover it with a bit of soil before adding the rhizome, and be sure the top half of the rhizome remains above the soil line. Dried roots can help stabilize the rhizome until new roots grow.

Clear out all iris leaf litter and throw it away rather than composting it to prevent the spread of disease.

Established irises will benefit from a dose of balanced fertilizer this month.

Tiny Volunteer



I recently found the tiniest iris I have ever seen. It is growing in a terra cotta pot with a datura in my garden. I do not know where it came from.—SC

Iris Quote:

“Since Iris is the Greek goddess for the Messenger of Love, her sacred flower is considered the symbol of communication and messages. Greek men would often plant an iris on the graves of their beloved women as a tribute to the goddess Iris, whose duty it was to take the souls of women to the Elysian fields.”

- [Hana No Monogatari: The Stories of Flowers](#)

Did You Know?

There are over 30,000 cultivars of tall bearded iris, according to Wikipedia.org.

Many believe that the fleur-de-lis is a stylized iris, although “lis” means “lily” in French.

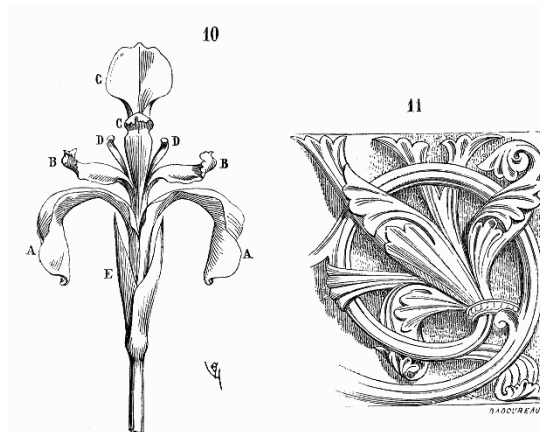


Image:
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Fleur.iris.2.png>

What would you like to see in future newsletters?

- Names of iris our members are seeking? (e.g., Midnight Kitty!)
- A tip exchange? For example: which plant labels and marking tools work best?
- List of favorite iris books?
- Send your ideas and tips to the TAIS Yahoo group: taisnewsletter@yahoo.com.

New Member: Sue Clark joined TAIS in August. She is a geologist and dendrochronologist (tree-ring-dater, UA 1987) by training and a Montessori Teacher Educator by trade. Sue lives in Chandler most of the time and in Tucson the other times. She grows flowers in both places. Irises are her favorite, with poppies a close second. Sue enjoys her family, making quilts, and researching family history. She is writing a book about one branch of her family—her sixth book. Sue has a great-great grandmother who loved flower gardening, as well as two great-grandmothers, a grandmother, mother, and sister who all grew or grow flowers. There is a family story about the great-great grandmother’s honeysuckle cuttings growing all over her neighborhood in Pennsylvania. Some of Sue’s ancestors had vineyards in Germany back into the 1600’s.