



# TAIS Newsletter

January 2017

Tucson Area Iris Society—established 1965

An Affiliate of the American Iris Society



**Queen's Circle,**  
**Tucson Botanical Gardens**  
 photo by Sue Clark, 2016

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## Integrated Pest Management (IPM) or Integrated Pest Control (IPC)

(Source: <http://extension.psu.edu/pests/ipm/schools-childcare/schools/educators/curriculum/contents/sixtactics>)

The goal of using multiple tactics or "many small hammers" is to effectively suppress pests below injurious levels and avoiding outbreaks. Many tactics keep pest populations off-balance and avoids development of resistance to pesticides. Least-toxic effective methods are used before more toxic ones whenever possible. What are the categories of tactics and specific actions included in each? [This month, four of the six tactics are featured].

**I. Cultural methods** - Suppress pest problems by minimizing the conditions they need to live (water, shelter, food). Planting plants that are adapted to your growing conditions, planting them in the right place, giving proper attention to their water and nutritional needs and the like. Strong plants resist diseases, out-grow weeds and are less likely to succumb to insects. (...continued on p. 4).

*“And now let us believe in a long year that is given to us, new, untouched, full of things that have never been.” - Ranier Maria Rilke*

## Upcoming Events

**Next meeting: January 14 at 12:30 PM - Wilmot Library**

**Speaker: Kristee West - Container Iris Culture**

### January Birthday Wishes to:

**Maxine Fifer**

**Bonnie Else**

**Karen Guss**

**Kathleen Windischman**



# 2017 TAIS Meeting Schedule

**For your planning needs, here is a schedule of our meetings for this year:**

**January 14** - Wilmot Library, 12:30 PM - Kristee West: Container Iris Culture.

**February 11** - Wilmot Library, 1 PM - Ron Coleman: Wild Orchids of Arizona

**March 11** - Wilmot Library, 1 PM - Jill Bonino: Iris Judging in France

**April 8** - Bear Canyon Library - TAIS Annual Iris Show

**May 13th** - AIS Power-Point presentation. Title and venue to be decided by the board.

**June and July** - no meetings

**August 12th** - Tucson Botanical Garden - Region 15 Auction and Potluck

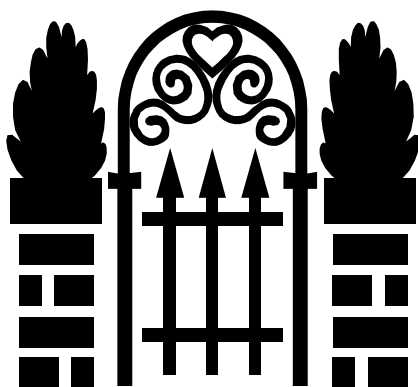
**September 16th or 23rd** - Harlow Gardens - TAIS Annual Rhizome Sale (TBA)

**October 14th** - Election of Officers and Board, member feedback on programs, etc. of the past year, input for TAIS events in 2018

**November 11th** - Installation of Officers and Potluck.

**December** - no meeting

Submitted by Melania Kutz, Program Chairperson



We ♥ Irises

## Shady Spot Iris Gardens Open for Orders!

If you are already ready to order irises for planting this Fall, the Shady Spot Iris Gardens is ready to accommodate you! Their slogan is "Irises from the Past and for the Future" and they cultivate about 3500 varieties of irises of many types. Located in north Texas, they grow hundreds of historic, according to owner Judy Schneider. The Shady Spot is a display garden for both the Tall Bearded Iris Society and the Historic Iris Preservation Society and contains many rare varieties. The irises in their online catalog, [www.theshadyspotiris.com](http://www.theshadyspotiris.com) are sorted by type. Many varieties are not listed on the website, so if you are looking for something special, you can e-mail Judy at [jlkapps@hotmail.com](mailto:jlkapps@hotmail.com). She makes sure that her irises bloom true to type and are good growers before she offers them for sale. Judy will include bonus rhizomes with your order, and you may even request specific varieties for your bonus! The hot Texas climate of the Shady Spot is not too different from our own desert temperatures, so the irises should acclimate well. And you can request that they be delivered in September. - SC

**We meet on the 2nd Saturday of each month**



**We're on the web!  
Tucsoniris.org**



(photo from their website)



# Reflecting on Spring 2016



Beverly Sills



Quiet Reflections

**Tucson  
Botanical  
Gardens**



Bay Front



Dream Ticket



Johnny Come Lately

**Photos by  
Tony Kutz**

## Treasurer’s Report for December - submitted by Kristee West, Treasurer

Date	Pending/Uncashed checks	Debits/ checks	Deposits	Balance	Details
10/25/16	#1741 AIS Region 15	-\$211.00			Region 15 auction proceeds
	<b>Total Pending/uncashed checks</b>	<b>-\$211.00</b>			
12/1/16				\$6866.37	Beginning bank balance
12/7/16	#1742	-\$18.63		\$6847.74	Angela Powers—hospitality
12/23/16	#1736	-\$75.00		\$6772.74	S. Buchman - Oct speaker
1/1/17				\$6772.74	Ending bank balance
1/1/17				\$211.00	Pending/uncashed checks
1/1/17				<b>\$6561.74</b>	<b>TAIS balance</b>

### Continued from p. 1 - Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

**2. Physical methods** - Prevent pest access to the host or area, or, if the pests are already present, physically removing them by some means. For example, this could mean using barriers, traps, vacuuming, mowing or tillage, depending upon the pest and situation.

**3. Genetic methods** - Use pest-resistant plant varieties developed by classical plant breeding. Recently, this category has been expanded to include genetically-engineered pest resistance, such as Bt corn or potatoes. There are also special uses of genetic techniques on pests themselves, such "sterile male" insect releases.

**4. Biological methods** - Use predators, parasites and diseases of pests in a targeted way to suppress pest populations. Use of microbial diseases of pests has become part of the chemical pesticide registration process and is treated below under Chemical methods. Use of predators and parasites as bio-control for pests are handled in one or more of 3 ways:

- a) conservation and encouragement of naturally occurring bio-control organisms by cultural techniques or at least avoidance of harming them
- b) augmentation of naturally-occurring species by purchasing and releasing more of the same
- c) "classical" biological control in which new bio-control species specific to pests are sought and introduced (...to be continued in next month’s newsletter).

*“Anyone who think gardening begins in the spring and ends in the fall is missing the best part of the whole year; for gardening begins in January with the dream.” - Josephine Nuese*



## Presby Memorial Iris Gardens

Since we can't do much in our own iris beds this month, let's journey in our imaginations to a Mecca for iris gardeners - Presby Memorial Iris Gardens in Montclair, New Jersey. Established to honor Frank Presby, a local iris hybridizer, collector, and one of the founding members of the American Iris Society, the garden is about 18 miles northwest of Manhattan. Mr. Presby had offered to donate a collection of irises to the newly-established Mountainside Park, but died before this could be realized. From its beginning in 1927, the garden was a cooperative effort between local residents, the town's garden club, town council, the Parks Commission, and AIS. Irises were donated by Frank Presby's children, AIS, townspeople, and individuals from around the world. The collection is added to each year.

Nicknamed "The Rainbow on the Hill," Presby is nestled at the base of a hill in Mountainside Park. Twenty-six beds of bearded iris are tucked between the hill and a dry creek bed, which is planted with other types of iris, including Spuria, Japanese, Siberian, and Louisiana. The themed bearded beds include Dykes Medal winners from 1927-present, rebloomers, and historic irises by decade. Each plant is marked with the name of the variety, hybridizer, and year of registration.

The garden in blossom is a sight to see, with 10,000 iris plants in 1,500 varieties! They estimate their total number of flowers at 100,000 per year! Bloom time is generally from May 15 to June 5.

Measures to ensure the health and vigor of a totally-iris garden include use of high-quality composted topsoil and replacement of pesticides with Integrated Pest Management methods, including using nematodes to eliminate iris borers.

An annual plant sale on weekends in May and a grab bag sale in late July help support the garden, along with donations. Visit [www.presbyirisgardens.org](http://www.presbyirisgardens.org) to learn more. - SC (Photos from their website.)



2016 AIS Convention



One of the iris beds during renovation

**TAIS OFFICERS FOR 2017**

- Kevin Kartchner – President
- Vice President—open
- Janet Gardner – Secretary
- Kristee West – Treasurer
- Carol Peterson—Membership Chairperson
- Melania Kutz—Program Chairperson
- Angela Powers - Hospitality
- Sue Clark – Newsletter Editor

**Iris Quote:**

*“There is a peculiar charm about the Iris that appeals irresistibly to those whose taste for the refined and delicately beautiful leads them to seek a close acquaintance with it. (To) him who stops to gaze into the depths of the Iris flower, and comes under the magic spell, a new world is opened. For an iris is a floral world in itself; and an Iris enthusiast may have full scope for his wildest fancies...”*



*- Bertrand Farr catalog, 1st edition - 1908*

**What to do in the Iris Garden for January:**

Examine the bases of plants for aphids. Carefully squash them by hand or apply insecticidal soap or diluted dish soap.

Remove dead leaves and throw them away to help reduce spread of disease.

If you did not do it in December, check your plant markers to be sure the writing is still visible and make a current map of your iris beds.

Stock up on SuperBloom to start applying next month!

Clean, sharpen, and oil your tools.

Check your drip system to be sure everything is working properly. Fix it or have it fixed while the weather is cool!

Dream about what you want to grow...

**Did You Know?**

Orris root, from the dried rhizomes of iris, was used in Japan to protect against evil spirits. Methods varied from hanging rhizomes from eaves to adding them to bath water. In other cultures, orris root was used in love potions. Its scent, which is quite similar to violets, is also used in various ways to scent homes, including sachets and potpourri. Source: [www.amazon.com/bulk-herbs-orris-powder-organic/](http://www.amazon.com/bulk-herbs-orris-powder-organic/).

**Tip Exchange**

From iris rhizomes planted in the Fall, you can expect about 30% to bloom the first Spring, and 60% to bloom the second Spring, according to the Presby Iris Gardens website. I am going to track this and am asking others to do this, too, so that we can see if it holds true for us.



Above - *Morea polystachya*, a type of African iris, blooming in my Tucson garden on 26 Dec 2016. A friend gave me the bulbs. - SC

Above left - Iris at the Boyce Thompson Arboretum, 23 Dec 2016. They are a bit soaked from the recent rains, but still lovely. - SC