



# TAIS Newsletter

July 2017

Tucson Area Iris Society—established 1965

An Affiliate of the American Iris Society



*Pacific Fire (blue) and Cherokee Blaze (red)*

Hummingbird Iris Garden,  
Prescott

Photo by Sue Clark, 2017

**Editor's message** - There is extra space in the newsletter during the Summer, since there are no meeting minutes or meeting photos. Please send in pictures of your irises and iris beds in bloom, both close-up and wide-angle, to share with our members. See some of Madeleine's blooms as well as some Noids from my trip to Pennsylvania in this issue. You may e-mail photos to me at [taisnewsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:taisnewsletter@yahoo.com). Articles, tips, and questions are welcome, as well. I am especially interested in learning more about the nitty-gritty of watering irises, since I am not successful in that aspect at present. Such as - is it true that we are not supposed to water in the Summer?

Thank you, Sue Clark

"HOT JULY BRINGS COOLING SHOWERS,  
APRICOTS AND GILLYFLOWERS."

- SARA COLERIDGE, *PRETTY LESSONS IN VERSE*

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## Upcoming Events



**Next meeting: August - Tucson Botanical Garden - Region 15 Auction and Potluck. Date pending.**

**PAIS Rhizome Sale - July 29, 10-4:00, 1235 E. Gurley Street, Prescott - Yavapai Title**

**July Birthday Wishes to:**

**Gary Carruthers     Janet Gardner**  
**David Johnson     Pam Court**



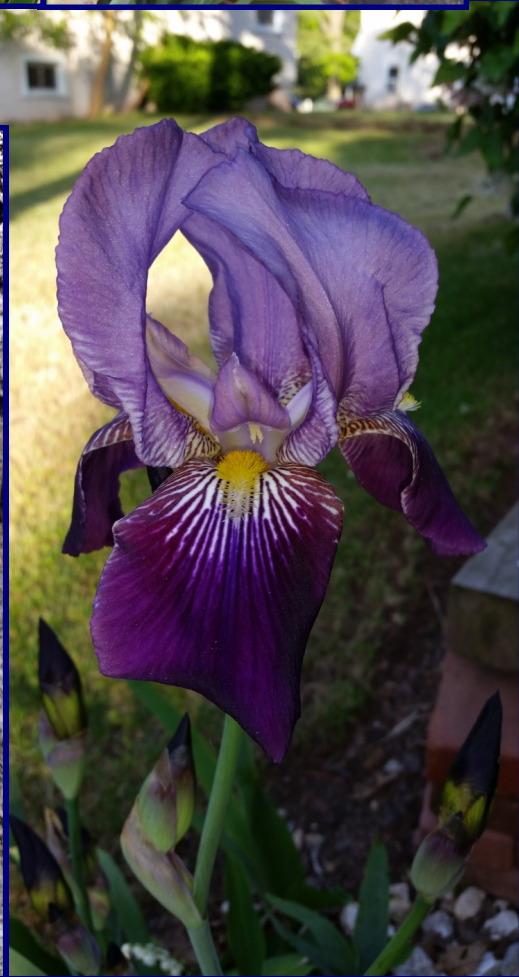
Michael Valentini - Iris Angustifolia (1719)



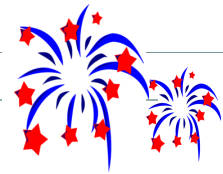
# Photos of Noids from southeastern Pennsylvania - May 2017



**Photos by  
Sue Clark**







**Treasurer's Report for June- submitted by Kristee West, Treasurer**

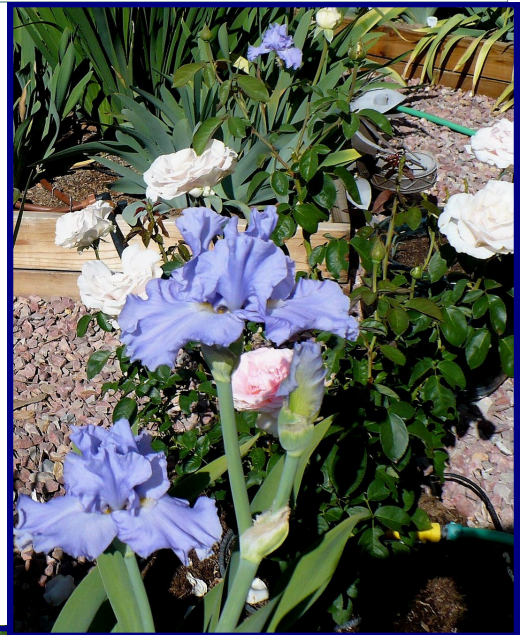
Date	Debits/Checks	Deposits	Balance	Details
	AIS	\$16.00		2 iris presentations
	Stout Gardens	\$250.00		Club iris
	Schreiner's Gardens	\$250.00		Club iris
	<b>Pending Checks Total</b>	<b>\$516.00</b>		
6/13	Deposit		\$40.00	dues
6/13	from Shirley Andrews		\$100.00	for rhizomes at Sale
6/14	Desert Leaf	\$33.00		
<b>6/27</b>	<b>Bank Balance</b>		<b>\$5,736.99</b>	
	Pending Checks		- \$516.00	
<b>6/27</b>	<b>TAIS balance</b>		<b>\$5220.99</b>	



**A Peek at Madeleine Glaser's Garden**

**Clockwise from top left:** Beach Party Moon (G. Sutton, 2011 R), Neptune's Cloak (Hager, 1989 R), Earthborn (Hager, 1992 R), a raised bed, and Grapenut (M. Sutton, 2012, R BB).

Photos by Madeleine Glaser, 2017



## TAIS iris grower's interview #5

Madeleine Glaser lives in Marana, where she relocated from Tucson in November 2014. She has had irises in the yard of every home in which she's lived, including on a farm years and years ago where her husband took care of them. She mentioned that she had beautiful irises when she lived in Colorado, and left them all there because she did not think that they could grow in Tucson. She had to amend Colorado's clay soil. She recalled the lovely irises in the test garden at Colorado State University (CSU), where she saw new colors and varieties and purchased a few each year. When Madeleine saw the iris display at the Tucson Botanical Garden, she realized that they *could* grow in the desert! She became a member of TAIS in 2004.

Madeleine created raised beds for her irises using a soil called a "green mix" from Pioneer Landscaping, which is located near I-10 and Twin Peaks Road. She said that this company calculated how much she would need to create the four raised beds that she wanted. She had a bit left over from the 3 yards purchased. This all-natural mix of sandy loam is full of "green stuff" [organic matter] and runs \$32.95/yd with a \$75 delivery charge. [www.pioneersand.com](http://www.pioneersand.com).

When planting new rhizomes in the Fall, Madeleine sprinkles Triple Super Phosphate around each one. For an additional boost, she sprinkles it around them both before and after bloom. Each time, though, she waters the beds the day *before* and the day *after*, which will help prevent the roots from getting burned by the chemicals. She does not use Super Bloom or any foliar feeding.

She has not had many issues with pests, but planted some onions to ward off aphids. Madeleine mentioned that she has noticed grubs more often if the plants get crowded. If she finds one, she tosses it out for the birds.

The irises in Madeleine's raised beds are watered by a drip system. In the Winter, they receive water once a week, and in the Summer, she supplements their water with a hose, softly

spraying along the root area and the edge of the beds each day (just a little bit).

Madeleine divides her irises whenever they need it. She loves them all, she said, and thus does not have a favorite. She grows some heirloom varieties, including Summit Gold (1982) and Summit Sweetie (1983), both developed by Carl Jorgensen at the CSU test garden, and mentioned that she is fond of his irises. Madeleine has one spuria iris and grew two intermediate irises this year, the blooms of which shriveled up after one day.

Madeline does not discard varieties that do not perform well. She gives them every chance. She will replace any that do not bloom, unless they have some babies underneath the mother rhizome.

Besides the aforementioned onions, her irises grow in isolated beds. As far as any iris mishaps, Madeleine was sad to report that she accidently knocked a huge blossom off of one that she was bringing to the TAIS show in April.

**Her best tips?** Be patient and check on them. Dosing iris plants before bloom time with soapy water from a sprinkling can will help keep aphids away.

**Editor's Message** - In the spirit of sharing, learning, and building community, I have begun interviewing members of our group about their iris gardens. These interviews will be featured in the newsletter in the coming months. Please contact me at [taisnewsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:taisnewsletter@yahoo.com) if you wish to be interviewed. I will e-mail you a list of questions. You can call me on the phone, I will take notes, and then write an article. - SC



### The Uchu iris,

Yokohama Nursery Catalog, c. 1900, found in [Classic Irises and the Men and Women Who Created Them](#) by Clarence E. Mahan, 2007, p. 33. (See iris history article on next page of this newsletter.)



**TAIS OFFICERS, ETC. FOR 2017**

Kevin Kartchner – President

Vice President—open

Janet Gardner – Secretary

Kristee West – Treasurer

Carol Peterson—Membership Chairperson

Melania Kutz—Program Chairperson

Madeleine Glaser - Asst. Program Chairperson

Angela Powers - Hospitality

Tony Kutz - Photographer

Sue Clark – Newsletter Editor

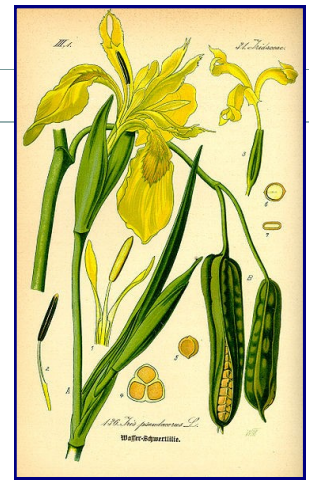
**Iris Haiku**

Graceful swords as leaves,  
Fleur-de-lis flowers swaying.  
Irises in the moonlight.

- Sue Clark

**Did You Know?**

Some irises are considered invasive. The yellow flag iris, *Iris pseudocorus*, (shown above), is native to Europe and parts of Asia and Africa. It was imported to North America in the 1700's. Because it grows so easily from both rhizomes and seeds, it can quickly overwhelm native vegetation and is nearly impossible to remove, even by plowing. This iris prefers wetlands, but can grow in dry soil. Seeds develop in a pod about 2" long. It grows in all except four states - AZ, ND, CO, and HI. - SC. Read more: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iris\\_pseudocorus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iris_pseudocorus)



[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Illustration\\_Iris\\_pseudocorus.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Illustration_Iris_pseudocorus.jpg)

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

Be sure that the plants get enough water during the hot season. They will be growing and increasing until next bloom time. Remember to adjust watering schedule based on the Summer monsoons.

Leaves make food for the plant, so do not trim them off unless they are dead.

Keep area free of leaves, weeds and pests.

**Tip Exchange**

You can use a soaker hose for watering irises - the kind that is porous along its length. Encircle each iris plant twice for a good soaking. The drip lines tubes with holes at regular intervals do not seem to emit enough water to supply the irises with adequate moisture. Buy the porous kind for drip lines. - Madeleine

Irises benefit from some afternoon shade in hot weather. Those growing in pots can be relocated for the summer. - Sue

**"The Summer looks out from her brazen tower,  
Through the flashing bars of July."**

**- Francis Thompson, A Corymbus for Autumn**

**A Little Bit of Botany and Iris History**

For the next segment in the story about the development of irises, we venture to Japan in the 1700's, where the native wild iris, *Iris ensata*, was transformed into the elegant Japanese iris. Sadahiro Matsudaira, a samurai, collected irises and their seeds. After a friend sent him seeds from irises in the Asaka marshes north of Edo, he began to select seedlings for their various colors and forms. A favorite had six falls and no standards. After he died, his son Sadatomo Matsudaira continued the work. He began naming the cultivars, and eventually developed and named 120 of them! Before his death, he created the flower of his dreams, a peony-type iris named *Uchu* ("Universe"). A few of his irises survive, but most were lost in the 1923 earthquake or during the bombings of WWII. Extensive drifts of irises grew in a village called Horikiri, six miles from Edo (Tokyo), which supplied flowers for use in Ikebana at least since the 17th century. In the 19th century, the people of Edo flocked to Horikiri to see Matsudaira's irises, creating lines of people and boats on the canal. Citizens began calling the irises "Edo irises" and the man who created them became Matsudaira Shôô, meaning "Grand Master of Irises". Another individual, Sadagoro Yoshii, developed the Ise type of Japanese iris, ancestor of most modern pink Japanese irises. A third type, Higo irises, were developed by samurai to be grown and displayed in pots inside houses. Japanese irises were the most popular type of iris grown in the US in the 1890's through early 1900's. - SC

Source: Classic Irises and the Men and Women Who Created Them by Clarence E. Mahan