

TAIS Newsletter

Our 53rd year

Tucson Area Iris Society—established 1965

An Affiliate of the American Iris Society



'Dazzling Sarah'
(Burseen 2006)

Hummingbird Iris Gardens,
Prescott

Photo by Sue Clark, 2018

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President's Message

The days are getting shorter and someday our iris will enjoy the coming chill.

So, get a jump on the season and acquire some new rhizomes at our auction this month.

- Kevin Kartchner

"The first week of August hangs at the very top of summer, the top of the live-long year, like the highest seat of a Ferris wheel when it pauses in its turning. The weeks that come before are only a climb from balmy spring, and those that follow a drop to the chill of autumn, but the first week of August is motionless, and hot. It is curiously silent, too, with blank white dawns and glaring noons, and sunsets smeared with too much color. Often at night there is lightning, but it quivers all alone." ~Natalie Babbitt, in Tuck Everlasting

Upcoming Events

**Next meeting: - August 18, 1 PM - doors open at noon.
Tucson Botanical Gardens (Porter Hall) - Ice Cream Social and Auction of rhizomes from Region 15 and Superstition Gardens.
Please come!**

Birthday Wishes to:

Dian Curran Miriam Diamond
Ben Herman Tonita Dellinger
Glenda McCulley



<http://bumblebutton.blogspot.com/search/label/Iris>

Irises of Melania and Tony Kutz



Clockwise from top left: 'Bud to Blossom,' 'Sisters of Loretto,' 'Blushing Grape,' 'Aachen' and 'Mesmerizer,' 'Thornbird,' and 'Good Morning Sunshine'

Irises of Melania and Tony Kutz, continued



Clockwise from top left: 'Storm Rider,' 'Illusionist,' 'Nice Job,' 'Laura Louise' (La), 'Ayes Alert,' and 'Fit for Royalty'





Treasurer's Report for July - submitted by Kristee West, Treasurer

Date	Debits/Checks	Deposits	Balance	Details
	\$0.00			Pending Uncashed Expenses Total
13-July	\$13.00			Kutz - card for Diane via Zelle
6-July		\$3.75		refund from bank for 2014 overcharge
31-July			\$4,098.68	Bank Balance
			\$0.00	Pending Uncashed Checks
31-July	CASH ON HAND		\$21.00	Donations and sale of handouts
31-July			\$4,119.68	TAIS Balance

Pink Irises - shell pink to hot pink to peach and all shades in between

Once thought to be an impossible dream, pink irises abound in the modern world. When hybridizers turned their eyes toward developing pink irises, they began with the rosy orchid pink of *Iris pallida*. Records are not clear, though, because many were in a frenzy to breed yellow irises during this same interval. Colorado-hybridizer F. A. Loomis was accused of adding something to his soil to color the pink iris blossoms that he exhibited in the 1933-1934 World's Fair in Chicago. During the 1940's, new tangerine-pinks became the rage. These are the ancestors of our modern pinks. Illinois-breeder David Hall did much to advance the pink line in the 1940's and 1950's. His 12,000 seedlings over 17 years eventually resulted in a Dykes Medal in 1951 for 'Cherie' (1948) (available from [The Shady Spot](#)). Hall's irises, distributed by Coolie's Gardens, won international praise. Kelly Norris points out that no man is an island in the iris world, and generous breeders exchanged pollen, seeds, rhizomes, and helpful letters to advance the cause. In his book, [A Guide to Breaded Irises](#), Kelly suggests that everyone should grow 'Tobacco Chew' (Burseen 2009), a pale pink with audacious orange-brown beards which often end in purple hooks. He mentions the following pinks as superb, silken examples: 'Happenstance' (2000), 'In Love Again' (2004), and 'Eye Candy' (2004, a border bearded), all by Keppel. 'Buisson de Roses' (Cayeux 1998) shines with its hot pink color. Kelly mentions two pink irises by Steve Poole as having intense blush-pink flowers with excellent substance and form - 'Georgia's Dream' (2010) and 'Kaelin's Lipstick' (2011). He has high praise for Baumunk's 'Just a Kiss Away' (2009), a lacy, luscious blend of yellow and pink created by crossing white and pink parents.

[Schreiner's](#) offers over 100 varieties of pink irises on their website, including the Dykes Medal-winning 'Beverly Sills' (Hager 1979). This coral-pink beauty is still much sought-after; besides lace and ruffles, it is fast growing and floriferous. In a post titled "Tall Bearded Iris, [My Favorite Pinks](#), Part One," Dawn Mumford includes photos of 14 of her pinks, including 'My Ginny' (Spoon 2000), which grows well for her in Utah, and 'Geniality' (O. Brown 1981), which is in her personal Top 25 Irises list with its pink standards, lilac falls, lace, ruffles, and red-orange beards.

Other well-known pinks include 'June Krausse' (Schreiner 2009); 'Pink Attraction' (E. Hall 1988), a scented rebloomer; and 'Concertina' (G. Sutton 1999), a rose-colored intermediate bearded iris with blue beards and horns. Kristee entered 'Concertina' in our show this year. And look at that stunner on p. 1 of this newsletter! In my garden, I grow two pinks: 'Beverly Sills' (Hager 1979) and 'Baboon Bottom' (Kasperek 1993) (a border bearded); and a peach NOID from my mom, which may be 'Lace Artistry.'

There are bound to be some enticing pinks at our rhizome sale on September 22. - SC



From top: 'Cherie' ([wiki.irises.org](#)), 'Tobacco Chew' ([StoutGardens.com](#)), and 'Buisson de Roses' ([iris-cayeux.com](#))

TAIS OFFICERS, ETC. FOR 2018

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

What to do in the Iris Garden for August:

Keep area free of leaves, weeds and pests.

Keep rebloomers fed and watered through the summer to give them the best chance of reflowering.

Look for areas of your garden for new iris beds now. Afternoon shade is crucial during the summer. At planting time in September and October, the angle of the sun will be different than it is currently.



Tip Exchange

“As a buyer’s beware, don’t let rhizome size influence you. Rhizomes vary by genetics and environment, and often rhizomes purchased from West Coast growers are phenomenally larger than those purchased from growers elsewhere due to a plusher, less stressful climate and thus a greater opportunity for tissue formation and swelling. While logically indicative of good-quality product, the genetics of the plant will ultimately determine whether or not it’s successful in your garden. You’ll have the easiest time establishing bearded irises purchased bare-root as opposed to container-grown plants.” - Kelly Norris, in [A Guide to Bearded Irises](#), p. 75

Iris Limerick:

There once was an iris named Cyrus
Who joined with a beauty named Lyris.
Their offspring were many,
As different as any
Seen in this world all around us.

- Melania Kutz



'Thais' (F. Cayeux 1926)

Did You Know?

When William Rickatson Dykes was creating his masterwork, [The Genus Iris](#), he examined countless preserved iris specimens and their corresponding records at the Kew Herbarium, British Museum, Oxford, Cambridge, Edinburgh, the Berlin Botanic Garden, and the Vienna Hofmuseum, as well as the Jardin des Plantes in Paris, United States National Museum in Washington, DC, a collection of Chinese plants at Le Mans, a group of Italian specimens, and the Imperial Botanic Gardens at St. Petersburg.

Source: “Introduction,” [The Genus Iris](#), p.1

"Deep summer is when laziness finds respectability." - Sam Keen

A Little Bit of Botany and Iris History

We continue this month with more on the Cayeux family, important iris hybridizers from Paris. Ferdinand Cayeux was assisted in hybridizing by M. Bonvallet, who kept careful records of the hundreds of crosses he made daily. Ferdinand won 11 **Dykes Medals** between 1928 and 1938, an interval when the British Iris Society awarded a medal to irises from France (in addition to the usual Dykes Medals for irises from Europe, North America, Australia, and New Zealand). Many of these **winners** and other Cayeux varieties are important in the breeding of modern irises. For example, ‘Conjuration’ (Byers 1989), which won the Dykes Medal in 1998, has 11 Cayeux irises in its pedigree, with some appearing more than once! ‘Thais’ (Cayeux 1926), an orchid-colored iris, is a parent of the ground-breaking ‘Snow Flurry’ (Rees 1939), often considered to be the first modern iris because of its ruffled edges. (See the December 2016 issue of this newsletter for more on ‘Snow Flurry’). (‘Thais’ is still grown and is sometimes available from [The Shady Spot](#). See photo from their website, above). ‘Helios’ (Cayeux 1928) with its beautiful yellow flowers, became a parent of the first orange irises, while ‘Frencheville’ (Cayeux 1927) parented the “best red of that time,” ‘**Député Nomblot**’ (Cayeux 1929). The Cooley’s catalog of 1932 proclaimed this creation as the “The World’s Greatest Iris.”

Two important firsts for the iris world originated with Ferdinand Cayeux: ‘Ensorceleur’ [“Sorcerer”] (1926), the first tetraploid plicata, and ‘Cydalise’ (1930), the first tetraploid yellow plicata iris. Plicatas are “dotted, stitched, or banded in one color on a background of a different, lighter color.” Nearly all modern plicatas descend from the rosy ‘**Madame Louis Aureau**’ (1934), while our modern neglectas originate with ‘**Madame Maurice Lassailly**’ (1935). It was two Cayeux irises that, when crossed by other hybridizers, introduced the color brown into the spectrum of iris colors - ‘Evolution’ and ‘**Jean Cayeux**’ (1931).

Ferdinand Cayeux’s expertise was widely regarded. He served as vice president of the *Société Nationale d’Horticulture de France*, president of the association of French seed companies, and was named a *chevalier* (knight) by both France and Belgium.

“The impact that Cayeux irises have had in the world of iris hybridizing is almost impossible to overstate. When you see a modern tall bearded, border bearded, or intermediate bearded iris in the garden, you can be almost certain that not just one, but that a considerable number of Cayeux irises are in its pedigree.” More on the talented Cayeux family next month. - SC

Source: [Classic Irises and the Men and Women Who Created Them](#) by Clarence E. Mahan