

TAIS Newsletter

Our 53rd year

Tucson Area Iris Society—established 1965

An Affiliate of the American Iris Society



'Brown Lasso' BB
(Buckles 1975)

Marcusen Sculpture Garden,
Prescott

Photo by Sue Clark, 2018

President's Message

The American Iris Society would like to hear how our club is doing. Only five questions. Tell it like you see it as there is no feedback to us as far as I know. Use this link: bit.ly/AIS2018SURVEY.

Rhizomes, rhizomes, doesn't everybody need a few new ones? So many to choose from. If you missed (like me) the auction in August, our September 22 sale will let you fill in the corners of your iris plantings. See you there.

- Kevin Kartchner

“September is a gratifying and excellent month; not only because golden rod, autumnal asters, and Indian chrysanthemums are in flower; not only because of you, heavy and amazing dahlias. For know ye, unbelievers, that September is the chosen month for everything that flowers a second time.”
- Karel Capek, *The Gardener's Year*

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Upcoming Events

Annual Rhizome Sale: Saturday, September 22 at Harlow's Gardens Nursery, 5620 E. Pima Street, 9 AM to 1 PM. Members-only discount hour at 8 AM. Set-up on Friday from 3 to 4:45 PM. If you are donating rhizomes or bringing them in exchange for Iris Bucks, please drop them off at this time. See Sale Prep info on p. 5, and poster on p. 7.

Next meeting: October 13. Photo contest. See poster on p. 8 for information!

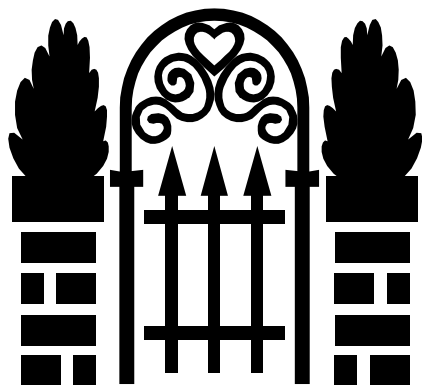
Birthday Wishes to:

Roger Osgood



Rome, 1555, from an illuminated manuscript

August Meeting Minutes



We ♥ Irises

Kristee led the meeting as Kevin was backpacking in the Sierras. Everyone signed up for time slots to work at next month's sale. Sue gave individuals who helped with our show a coupon for a free rhizome at the sale.

Kristee auctioned off rhizomes from Region 15, the proceeds of which are to be returned to the Region's account. 2018 Tasco introductions were given as Club Irises to Melania, Kathy, Kristee, and Sue for their service. Each person in attendance selected between a group of recent introductions in recognition for volunteer service for the club. These will also be Club Irises, meaning that their new owner donates all increases to the sale in the future and keeps one of them for herself - a combination of reward and gift! Then Kristee pulled rhizomes out of yet another bag, and auctioned off several more Tasco varieties. She mentioned that some of this batch will be donated to the Tucson Botanical Garden, which Kathy will handle for us.

The following individuals volunteered to be officers for

the coming term: Bonnie Else will be Vice President, Martin Juarez will be Treasurer, either Carol Peterson or Susan Schaefer will be Membership chair, and Sue Clark will be secretary and newsletter publisher. Kevin will be president for one remaining term. Officers are required to be members of AIS, and Kristee will reimburse each of them for the \$15 e-membership fee.

A motion was made by Bonnie and seconded by Kathy that Sue, as the newsletter publisher, receive subscriptions to the following societies so that she may have additional source material for writing articles for our newsletter: Reblooming Iris, Historic Iris, and Tall Bearded Iris.

Fourteen members attended today's meeting, and enjoyed a treat of ice cream and cookies. There were several good-natured bidding wars during the auction, as well as lots of laughter. And everyone went home with something new for their garden. - SC

**See you at the
Rhizome Sale on
September 22 at
Harlow's Gardens!**



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

Brown Irises



© American Meadows.com



STOUT GARDENS
at Dancingtree

OUT OF DREAMS



© Zebra Gardens



From top: 'Downtown Brown' (Schreiner 2013) (from Schreiner's website) 'Out of Dreams' (Cadd 2004), (from Stout Gardens at Dancing Tree's website), 'Spiced Tiger' (Kasperek 1998), and 'Kilt Lilt' (Gibson 1969) (latter two from AIS wiki). See article on p. 4.



AIS Medals Explained

We've all heard of the Dykes Medal, but have you ever wondered how an iris wins this coveted award? The path to stardom begins when the plant is a seedling, when its hybridizer sends it to Treks and gardens so that AIS judges can see it. With five votes, the seedling wins a **High Commendation**, an indication that the judges consider this newbie worthy of introduction to the market. (Next month, we'll look at registration and introduction of new varieties, especially since we have some fledgling hybridizers in our group!)

The next tier in the annual awards system is the **Honorable Mention**, which is awarded to varieties in each of 15 categories, including tall bearded, spuria, Louisiana, etc. The plants have been introduced and must be on the market for at least one year to be eligible for Honorable Mention, and they must receive at least 35 votes by AIS judges if they are tall bearded. Other types have lesser numbers.

Once varieties in each of the 15 categories win an Honorable Mention, they are candidates for an **Award of Merit**, important because it is a prerequisite for further medals. The top three or four Award of Merit winners can usually boast of receiving 45-60 votes from the AIS judges.

Only Award of Merit winners are eligible for the next tier of competition, in which a **special medal** is awarded in each category. For example, for tall bearded irises, it is the **John C. Wister Medal** and for spurias, the Eric Nies Medal. Three Wister Medals are awarded each year, and for the other 14 categories, there is only one winner per category per year.

The **Dykes Memorial Medal** is the highest award given by AIS. It dates to 1927, and is awarded annually to one iris in North America by AIS, as well as one in Britain and one in Australia or New Zealand by the British Iris Society. Tall bearded irises are the most frequent winners of the Dykes Medal.

There is a strict timetable for qualifying for the above awards, quoted here from the AIS website: "All iris that are registered and first introduced (offered for sale) in North America are included in the Honorable Mention (HM) categories of each classification. Bearded iris are placed on the ballot the second year after introduction; beardless irises are placed on the ballot the third year after introduction. They remain eligible for the award and on the ballot for three years or until they are awarded the HM. One year after an iris is awarded the HM it is placed in the Award of Merit (AM) category, where they remain for up to three years. One year after an iris is awarded the AM it is placed on the ballot under their respective Special Medal award sections, remaining for up to three years. Winners in the Medal categories that were originated in North America move up the following year to compete for the Dykes Medal, the American Iris Society's highest award. Candidates remain eligible for the Dykes medal for up to three years." - SC

Sources: [The Gardener's Iris Book](#) by William Shear, 1998, The Taunton Press: Newtown, CT, p. 158-159; AIS website [Awards section](#) and [Wiki section](#), and an email exchange with Kathy Chilton on 27 Aug 2018.

TAIS Rhizome Sale: Schedule of Workers

Friday 21 September - 3-5 PM set up: Martin, Sue, Susan, Tony, and Melania will meet at Harlow's and start setting up tables. Bonnie and Kristee will meet at TBG to retrieve items from storage, and then come to Harlow's

Saturday 22 September

8-9 AM - Members-Only Discount Hour AND additional set-up as needed - Angela, Cathy, Diane, Madeleine, Martin, Melania, Sue, and Susan, with Tony as the Cashier

9-11 AM - Angela, Cathy, Madeleine, Martin, Melania, Pam, Sue, Susan, with Tony as the Cashier

11 AM - Kristee will speak on how to grow iris

11 AM - 1 PM - Cathy, Sue, and Susan, with Martin as the Cashier

1-3 PM - take down and clean up - Bonnie, Cathy, Martin, Sue, and Susan



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

| Date | Debits/Checks | Deposits | Balance | Details |
|--------|---------------|----------|------------|---------------------------------|
| | \$0.00 | | | Pending Uncashed Expenses Total |
| 20-Aug | | \$181.00 | | checks from sale and auction |
| 20-Aug | | \$120.00 | | cash from sale and auction |
| 30-Aug | | \$15.00 | | membership Martin Juarez |
| 30-Aug | | \$19.00 | | Martin Juarez iris purchase |
| 31-Aug | | | \$4,433.68 | Bank Balance |
| | | | \$0.00 | Pending Uncashed Checks |
| 31-Aug | | | \$56.00 | CASH ON HAND |
| 31-Aug | | | \$4,489.68 | TAIS Balance |

Brown Irises - Striking Garden Showpieces? You Decide!

Nearly all brown irises can trace their DNA back to *Iris variegata* and to 'Jean Cayeux,' the Dykes Medal-winning iris introduced by Ferdinand Cayeux in 1931. (See more about Cayeux in our July and August newsletters, as well as on p. 6). And the undisputed king of brown irises is Dr. Rudolph Kleinsorge of Beaverton, Oregon. According to three articles from the website of the [Historic Iris Preservation Society](#), his 50' X 100' garden yielded 20 Award of Merit winners between 1942-1959, including a Dykes Medal runner-up in 1946, called 'Daybreak' (1941). While attempting to develop a yellow iris, he conjured up the unexpected color brown. In all, Dr. Kleinsorge registered over 100 irises, the last in 1962. Cooley's introduced nearly all of them. His most famous brown iris, 'Tobacco Road,' is a lost treasure. Although widely acclaimed and parent to over 200 varieties, its tendency to rot may have doomed it to extinction. Many fans of historic irises would desperately love for someone to find the legendary 'Tobacco Road' growing somewhere. The large-flowered 'Thotmes III' (1950) honors the Egyptian pharaoh of that name [also spelled Thutmose] who brought iris rhizomes back from an expedition to Syria, and who immortalized those blooms on a temple in Karnak. Other browns bred by Dr. Kleinsorge include luminous 'El Paso' (1949), 4' tall 'Buckskin' (1939), and henna-copper 'Bryce Canyon' (1944). Both 'Bryce Canyon' and 'Daybreak' are longtime favorites of Kelly Norris. In his book, [A Guide to Bearded Irises](#), Kelly highly recommends 'Attrazione Fatale' (Bianco 2006) as a iris that everyone should grow. Its brown falls contrast superbly with its lavender standards, and it is a good grower, as well as a good smeller. It is available from [Iris Sisters](#).

If the simplicity of 1940's irises does not appeal to you, [Stout Gardens](#) offers some interesting browns with a modern vibe: chocolate-colored 'Tootsie Roll' (Bersillon 2018, a border bearded), bicolored tan and mahogany 'Stop the Traffic' (Blyth 2008), bicolored 'Yoruba' (Tasquier 2010, SDB), speckled 'Jargon' (Keppel 2009, SDB), and the striking violet and golden brown spuria 'Out of Dreams' (Cadd 2004). See p. 2 for photo of the latter.

A brown iris won the Dykes Medal in 1976. 'Kilt Lilt' (Gibson 1969) stands 40" tall and blooms early to midseason with ruffles and lace. Its gold standards are flushed with brown, and the white falls are heavily speckled with brown, maroon, and gold. This standout is available from [Nola's Iris](#).

Other browns include 'Coffee House Chatter' (Nichols 2015) (bought by Cathy Scire at our August auction), 'Single Malt' (Baununk 2009), and 'Downtown Brown' (Schreiner 2013). 'Spiced Tiger' (Kasperek 1994) is a stunner if you like earliness, fragrance and ruffles. It is currently available from [Direct Gardening](#). 'Brown Lasso' (Buckles 1975, a border bearded) grows in the Marcusen Sculpture Garden in Prescott. See photo on p.1.

[Schreiner's](#) website lists 46 brown irises, including 'Brown Lasso.' Their 'Table for Two' (2016) is striking with tan standards and dark purple falls. My favorite, though, is 'Rum is the Reason' (2017), with its dark lavender standards and brown falls rimmed in ochre. See its lovely picture at right. I grow this beauty in my garden. I just had to have it, and my fingers are seriously crossed. - SC



From top: 'Tobacco Road,' 'Thotmes III' (both from [Historic Iris Preservation Society](#)), and 'Rum is the Reason' ([Schreiner's website](#))

Rhizome Preparation - Pre-sale



- **If you are contributing rhizomes for our Sale, please refer to the preparation instructions below, which are included here with kind permission from Judy Book of one of our sister clubs, the Prescott Area Iris Society.**
- **If your Club Irises have increases whose rhizomes are at least the size of a walnut, please bring those to sell (keep one for yourself). This is a minimum size for all of our rhizomes. Anything smaller will be combined with other smaller ones and sold in a bag at a reduced price.**
- **If you will submit a list of which varieties you intend to bring, we can look up and print out photos of them in advance. Photos help customers choose what to purchase. Please submit the list to irisgrowinaz@gmail.com at least two weeks beforehand if possible.**
- **Please deliver your prepared contributions to a club member at Harlow Gardens on Friday, September 21 between 3:00 and 4:30 PM. If this is not possible, arrange to deliver them to a club member in advance. Be sure that the rhizomes are dry or they will rot.**

Steps for Preparing Rhizomes for the Sales

1. Dig and divide the clump as close to the event as possible or within 7-10 days of the marking party so rhizomes will still look fresh for the sale. Rhizomes should be healthy, showing no signs of disease or insect damage. It is important that the rhizomes be large enough to have the potential of blooming next year. Store the iris in a cool dry area with good circulation.
2. Trim leaves to about 6-8-inches long and into a fan shape (inverted V. See illustration.) Cut roots to 4 inches.
3. On the middle leaf print the required information with a black permanent marker (Sharpie). (See instructions below.)
Avoid printing on the outside leaf since it is the first to turn brown and fall off.
4. After marking, wash all residual dirt from the rhizomes, roots and leaves. Swishing up and down in a 5-gal bucket of water is recommended. It is important to have clean plants.
5. Optional: Some people soak the rhizomes for 10 to 15 minutes in a bleach solution of 1/2-cup bleach to 1-gal water. If you do this, wear rubber gloves to protect your skin. Afterwards, it is necessary to rinse the irises well in clear water.
6. Let the rhizomes dry completely outside in the shade. Do not bring damp rhizomes to the marking party.
7. When the rhizomes are dry, store in a single layer in a cool, dry place. If the rhizomes are placed in a paper bag or box, the fans should be placed down and the roots up (up-side down) to avoid trapping moisture between the leaves. Never store in plastic bags as it holds moisture and can rot the rhizome.

*Marking Rhizomes

Marking pens will be provided. To help both the buyers and the sale workers, please mark the **middle leaf** of the iris as follows:

Rub off the white, waxy coating on the leaf with a paper towel or soft cloth before writing on the leaf.

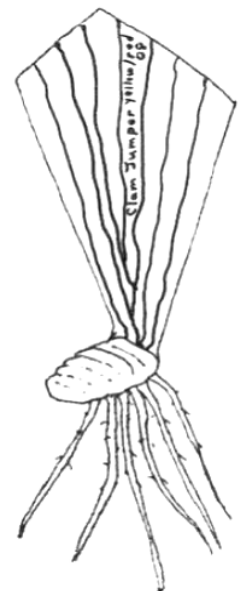
For all iris, write the name and year the iris was introduced. For other than tall bearded, also write the type: MDB, SDB, IB, BB, MTB, etc. Also indicate space age (SA), reblooming (RE)

To locate the year of introduction, use the AIS Iris Encyclopedia: <http://wiki.irises.org/bin/view>. All members should learn how to use this valuable tool.

Storing and Transporting Iris

Put rhizomes of a single variety in a separate box or paper grocery bag , **one bag for each variety.** (no plastic bags).

Write the name of the iris and the year of introduction on the box or bag.



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 & Publisher

Iris Limerick:

There once was a lady from Spain,
Whose garden was dry without rain.

She watered at night
And by dawn's early light,
And was never heard to complain.

- Melania Kutz



'Condottiere' (J. Cayeux 1978)

Did You Know?

Each female iris borer moth can lay up to 1,000 eggs! Be thankful that we do not have these damaging pests. - figure from A Guide to Bearded Irises, p. 84

"By all these lovely tokens, September days are here. With summer's best of weather, And autumn's best of cheer." - Author Unknown

What to do in the Iris Garden for September:

Plant new rhizomes starting late this month through October. Sterilize new rhizomes for 5-10 minutes in a solution of 2 c water and 4 T bleach. There are two strategies for dried roots - remove them to allow the rhizome to contact the soil or keep them to stabilize it. Choose a spot that will receive afternoon shade during the summer. Good drainage is essential! Dig a hole with enough depth so that the top of the rhizome will be above the surface of the ground. Leave a mound of soil in the center of the hole and fan any remaining roots out over it. Drip lines appear to be the best way to water irises here in the desert. Emitters with adjustable flow will give you the most control, e.g., turning them off after a rainstorm. I use Raindrip Adjustable Full Circle Stream Bubblers. - SC



Tip Exchange

Dr. Kleinsorge's hybridizing strategy has some great advice for all budding breeders: "Buy the best that you can get...Inbreed and you discard the bad characters...If you make a few inbred crosses, you will find that you have some weak things. If I find the same characteristic dominant in a couple of seedlings, those are the ones I would cross...I never introduced a new source of pollen from anyplace but what I had to weed out the bad ones in it, and start again with the second generation to get anything good out of it." - quoted on www.historiciris.org in an article called "Dr. R. E. Kleinsorge and Brown Irises" by their editors from a taped interview with Dr. Kleinsorge by Robert Schreiner; originally published in the AIS Bulletin, April 1969.

A Little Bit of Botany and Iris History

We have been following the career of Ferdinand Cayeux and his firm, Cayeux et Le Clerc, for the past two months. Ferdinand's brother Henri, also an accomplished horticulturalist, directed the Botanical Gardens of Lisbon for 17 years. Besides designing many gardens there, he is most noted for eradicating malaria by draining swamps and converting them into market gardens, as well as for planting countless eucalyptus trees. Henri hybridized many types of plants, his specialties being roses and hydrangeas. He also bred irises on a small scale, and his dwarf iris 'Ideal White' won a Certificate of Recognition in 1924 from the French Horticultural Society. He directed the *Jardin et Promenades de la Ville* in Le Havre, France from 1909 to 1935. That city named a street after Henri.

Ferdinand's and Henri's sons joined Cayeux et Le Clerc following their service in World War I. Henri's son Louis later left to take his father's position as director of the garden in Le Havre. Ferdinand's son René directed the company from 1935 onward. He did not breed irises, but continued to introduce those of his father. René focused the company toward wholesale business, and "at considerable personal sacrifice...was able to save a limited stock of irises and other garden plants" during World War II.

Ferdinand died in 1946. His tribute in the British Iris Society's yearbook asserts: "*The Big Paris Flower Show usually coincided with our visit and we frequently arrived in the Nursery in the late afternoon to find him "rogueing" his seedlings in morning coat and bowler hat after a day at the Show. He spoke little English but he was a most infectiously enthusiastic host. He knew his irises extremely well and his business and expert knowledge were most inspiring. He generously shared his breeding activities with us and even allowed us to examine his studbook.*"

In 1960, René's son Jean Cayeux started his own iris business, [Cayeux S. A.](http://CayeuxS.A.), and eventually "became one of the world's most renowned iris hybridizers." One of his goals is to breed an iris in the colors of the French Tricolor. His 'Condottiere' (1978) comes close. (See photo above). Jean received the Hybridizer's Medal from AIS in 2000. His son Richard, also an accomplished iris breeder, now directs the company and published *L'IRIS, un Fleur Royale* in 1996. Four generations of irisarians! - SC

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

Tucson Area Iris Society's

Annual

Rhizome Sale

September 22, 9 AM to 1 PM

**Harlow's Gardens Nursery
5620 E. Pima Street in Tucson**

**A wide selection of rhizomes for tall bearded irises will be on sale.
Our knowledgeable members will be on hand with advice.**



**11 AM – Kristee West of TAI\$ will speak on
“How to Grow Iris in Arizona”
(including growing them in containers)**



1st Annual

TAIS *Photo Contest*

October 13th Meeting, 1 PM, Murphy-Wilmot Library

Categories

- 1. Single iris flower or stalk of irises**
- 2. Macro (close-up) view of an iris**
- 3. Miscellaneous iris photos: garden, Photoshopped image, etc.**

Photographs will be shown via a PowerPoint presentation. Please submit up to 15 pictures to Kevin via email (irisgrowinaz@gmail.com), CD, or memory stick. He is willing to scan a few if you have prints.

All photos must be your own, although they are not restricted to your own garden.

TAIS Iris Bucks will be awarded to the winner of each category!





San Diego Iris Society

Invites you to the

AIS REGION 15 FALL MEETING

Saturday, October 13, 2018

Event headquarters:

Best Western Seven Seas Hotel

411 Hotel Circle South

San Diego, CA 92108

(619) 291-1300

Featured Speaker: Howard (Howie) Dash, Picacho Mountain Iris
On Aril and Arilbred Iris



“Sand Dancer”

“Yangara”

“Xerxes”

Registration received by September 15, 2018: \$35.00

Registration received between September 16 and by October 4, 2018: \$45.00.

Schedule:

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| 8:00 to 10:00 AM | Registration & OJ, coffee, muffins |
| 8:30 AM | Raffle opens |
| 9:00 to 10:00 AM | Region 15 Board Meeting |
| 10:30 to 11:45 AM | Speaker: Howard (Howie) Dash |
| 12:00 to 1:00 PM | Lunch: grilled salmon and chicken California |
| 1:15 to 2:00 PM | Region 15 General Meeting |
| 2:15 to 3:30 PM | Judges Training: Aril & Arilbred Iris |
| 3:30 PM | Raffle |

For more information: www.region15ais.org or www.sandiegoirissociety.org



San Diego Iris Society

Welcomes you to the

AIS REGION 15 FALL MEETING 2018

Saturday, October 13, 2018 9:00 AM to 4:30PM

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____ Club: _____

Name: _____ Club: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

E-Mail: _____ Phone: _____

LUNCH MENU: Chicken California, Grilled Salmon, Rice Pilaf, Vegetables, Mixed Green Salad,
Hot Rolls, Iced Tea & Lemonade, Chocolate Cake & Carrot Cake

Judge's Training: Yes___ No ___ Please indicate if you will participate in judge's training.

Registration received by September 15, 2018: **\$35.00**

Attendees _____ X \$35.00 = _____ TOTAL

Registration received between September 16 and by October 4, 2018: **\$45.00.**

Attendees _____ X \$45.00 = _____ TOTAL

Please send completed form and your registration check payable to the
San Diego Iris Society (SDIS) to:

Janis Shackelford
9716 Red Pony Lane
El Cajon, CA 92021

Contact Janis with questions at <jgshackelford@cox.net> phone: 619-561-6323

Event Headquarters:

Best Western Seven Seas Hotel

411 Hotel Circle South
San Diego, CA 92108
(619) 291-1300

Room Rate: \$99 per night plus taxes. To guarantee this room rate, reserve room by September 28, 2018
and mention "Region 15 Iris Society Room Rate" when reserving.

For more information and schedule: www.region15ais.org www.sandiegoirissociety.org
or contact: Claire Schneider <irisinramona@gmail.com>