



RAMBLING RHIZOMES
March 2007
Newsletter of the Tucson Area Iris Society



~MARCH 10th PROGRAM~

***Flower Arranging
Workshop
with Eileen Fiumara***

**This is a “HANDS ON” workshop
- not a lecture.**

Saturday, March 10th at 1:00pm

**On the patio at the home of
Joyce Slekar
6840 N. Andrea Doria Drive
Tucson, AZ 85704**

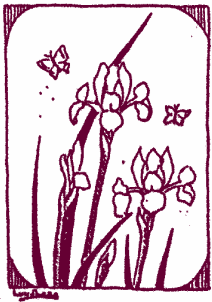


**The Tucson Area Iris Society
Presents the 2007 Spring Show
“HARBINGER OF SPRING”**

**Foothills Mall (Ina & La Cholla)
Sunday, April 15th**

Show Schedule on p. 6 & 7





Peggi's Corner
from TAIS President
Peggi Ishman

As I have been cleaning the clumps of irises this week, I have considered what to include in this month's column. It is always a great time for thinking when I am outside playing in the dirt.

While out there, I have seen quite a few PVC irrigation pipes that didn't survive our extra cold nights. This is a good time to check the irrigation lines, emitters, and sprinklers in your garden, and make sure that they aren't damaged. Repairs can be made now -- ahead of the hot summer months when they will be critically needed!

I imagine everyone has been fertilizing by now. If not, this is time to start! Use a water-in 16-16-16, or 20-20-20 (such as MiracleGro). It is important to remove the damaged brown leaves and weed the beds before doing this. Our rains have brought on more than normal in the way of weeds.

I am also seeing a much higher number of the pineapple growth pattern in the irises. Is anyone else seeing this? I think it is coming in the areas where we had re-bloom stalks. It is like the older bases where those re-bloomers were last fall and winter have now developed the pineappled leaves. I have never had this much of it before. I am leaving them and watching to see if they grow normally next year.

I also have seen some aphids deep in the leaves, which tells me they are here, even with the colder nights we have had. So we

need to watch for those, so they don't get the chance to increase as our temperatures warm. Use of a fan sprayer attachment on the garden hose will wash them off effectively. Some people prefer to mix detergent and water to soap them off.

You can also find products that can be sprayed on and are useful against aphids. Aphids will damage the leaves if they are left on, and we don't want that to happen.

Please note that the March 10th TAIS meeting will be held on Joyce Slekar's patio. **Thank you, Joyce, for agreeing to have it at your home!** She has a nice roomy area to work in, and is closer for the members to reach because it is near Ina and Oracle Roads.

Eileen Fiumara's floral arrangement workshop will be hands-on this time. Please bring your containers and anything you wish to work with, because she will be assisting us in creating our artistic arrangements.

Let's help Charlotte Clarke and Marilyn Lesh have plenty of artistic entries for the "Harbinger of Spring" April 15th Iris Show at Foothills Mall. This is the year to get involved and make an artistic arrangement entry, even if you never have tried one before.

It is fun and helps the public see the many possibilities that can be done with beautifully grown irises when used in floral arrangements.

Let's make our one day show a really big event!!

....*Peggi*

ARTISTIC DESIGN WORKSHOP
With Eileen Fiumara
COME PREPARED TO HAVE FUN!!

1pm, March 10th at the home of
Joyce Slekar
6840 N. Andrea Doria Drive
Tucson, AZ 85704

Directions: (Located just east of Oracle Rd, between Ina & Orange Grove.)
From Oracle Rd, turn East on Casas Adobes Rd. Andrea Doria is the 2nd street to
your left. Turn north on Andrea Doria, and look for it on the east side of the street.

MATERIALS TO BRING:

CONTAINERS

A Tall container, preferably ceramic—NOT clear—minimum of 8” or taller with an opening of 2 1/2” minimum. May be any shape—cylindrical, square, oval, or rectangle, or any “creative” container.

A Low or dish type, not clear, with an 8” minimum diameter & 1” minimum height to hold the water. Can be any shape—oval, round, square, or rectangle. Ceramic is the best choice.

MECHANICS

Garden clippers or floral shears to cut your flowers. Oasis Foam that will hold water (available from

Joann’s or Michael’s). KENZAN, frog or pin holder, also available from Jann’s or Michael’s. Chicken wire & waterproof tape may substitute if holders are not available. Floral shears are often available at the Dollar Stores.

BOOKS (suggested)

“The Flower Arranging Expert” by Dr. D.G. Hessayon, or “The Complete Guide to Flower Arranging” by Jane Packer. Both of these books

are being sold at Joann’s and Michael’s, also check book stores & garden centers.

PLANT MATERIAL

Iris, of course, if they are available. Dutch, Tall Bearded, Median Iris, or you can use a substitute focal floral that will substitute for an iris, like roses, lilies, gerbera daisy, etc.

LINE MATERIAL

Iris leaves, flax, cordyline, dracaena, cut palm, cattails, tree branch, bamboo, horse tail, forsythia, dried and/or painted material: poppy pods, curly or straight ting-ting, bird-of-paradise twisted leaves and anything directional that is man-made.

FILLER PLANT MATERIAL & LEAVES

(NO Baby’s Breath!!)
Bring heather, lavender, queen Anne’s Lace, Aster, Alstromeria, daisy mums, spray-type flowers. Leaves: Arum, aralia/fatsia, calla, nandina, ivy, bargenia, magnolia, or any unusual sturdy leaves as accent, like cast iron plant, aspidistra or antirrhinum.



FEBRUARY MEETING

If you missed this meeting, you missed out on a fabulous slide presentation by **Bob Van Liere** of **Iris4U Iris Garden** about raising and hybridizing tall bearded iris, held at Ward 6 City Council office, which was attended by 23 iris fans.

You also missed out on wonderful treats provided by Ginny Hester and Marilyn Lesh. You also missed out on great iris items which netted \$41, won by Sue Burg, Fred Thorpe and Charlotte Clarke. AND you also missed out on drawings for the new iris program, won by Fred Thorpe and Ed Campbell, as well as Iris4U rhizomes won by Marilyn Lesh, Myrleen Hunt, Shirley Andrews, Charlotte Clarke, Ginny Hester and HL Swain.

Everyone signed up for a free Iris4U rhizome to be delivered at the potluck/auction. Business meeting consisted of updates on the spring show and TBG garden maintenance.

BETTER COME NEXT MEETING!

TBG NEWS!

Big kudos to Stan Jankowski and Whitney Scott! They have been doing a wonderful job with the iris garden at Tucson Botanical Garden. They have overseen the installation of a completely new drip irrigation system, which should improve the performance of the irises planted there.

If you have irises to donate to this planting, please contact Stan at jankowski@toast.net.

ARE YOU NAME- LESS??

Getting to know each other and creating a presence at iris events is important.

If you would like a name tag, please email wetypefast@aol.com.



Everyone who attended received a gift of this 2007 Border Bearded Introduction, "SPECIAL KAY" from Bob Van Liere.

Marilyn Lesh's Surprise Meringues, a recipe from Better Homes and Gardens magazine, March, 1954.

SURPRISE MERINGUES

Preheat oven to 300 degrees. Prepare 2 baking sheets with paper - parchment paper, typing paper, even a brown paper bag cut and laid flat. A bit of water on the back of the paper will make it cling to the sheet.

3 egg whites

1/4 teaspoon salt

1/4 teaspoon cream of tartar

1-1/2 teaspoons vanilla

1 cup plus 2 tablespoons granulated sugar

1 6-ounce package semisweet chocolate chips (1 cup)

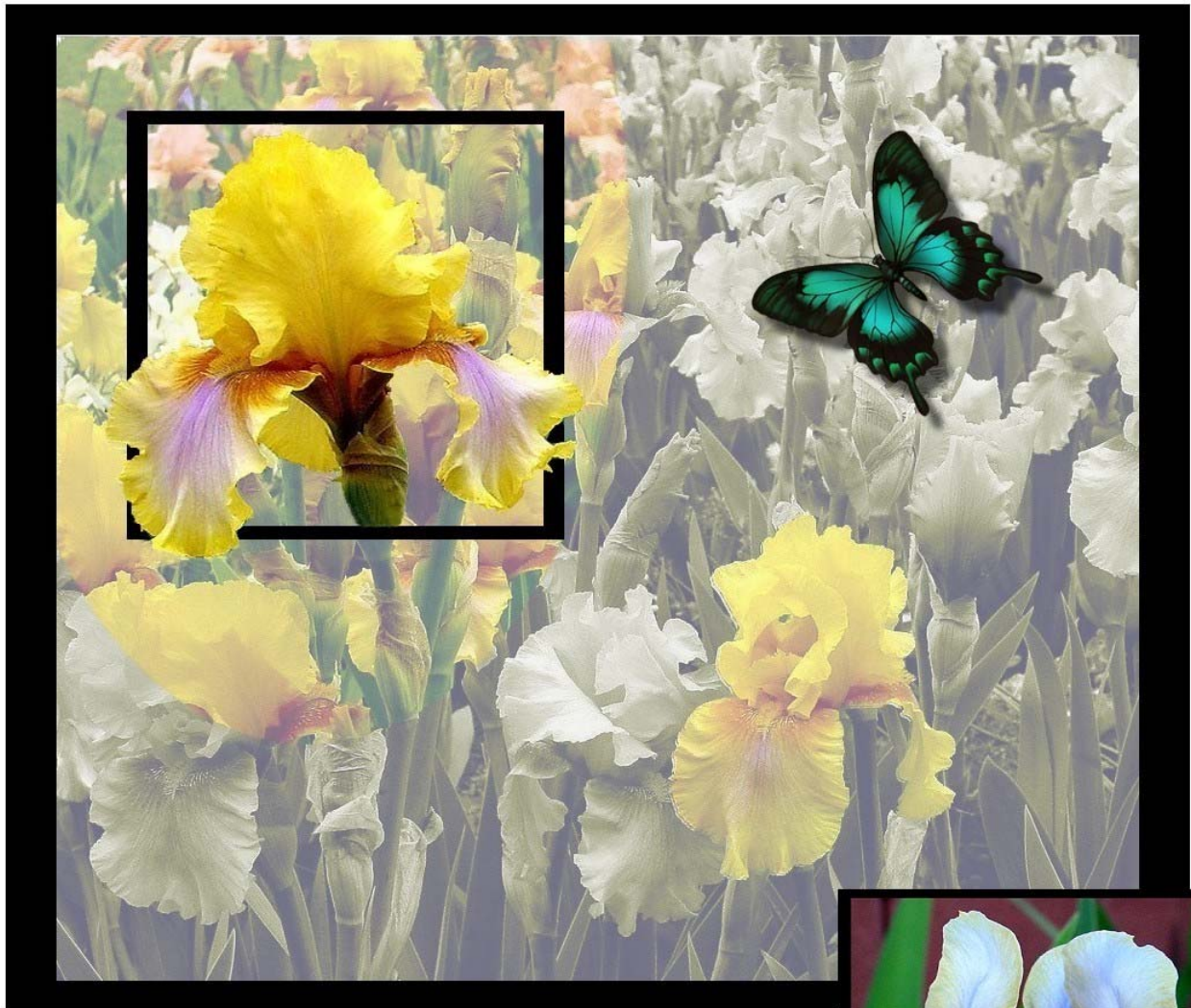
1/2 cup chopped walnuts or pecans

In a clean glass or china bowl with very clean beaters on your mixer, beat egg whites, salt, cream of tartar and vanilla until soft peaks form (any grease makes getting good peaks hard or impossible, and plastic bowls don't work as well). Then add sugar gradually, about 1 tablespoon sprinkled in at a time while continuing to beat, and beat until peaks are stiff. Lightly fold in chocolate pieces and nuts. Drop the mixture on the paper by rounded teaspoons, leaving a little room between for puffing. Don't get them too large or the centers won't finish baking properly. Bake in slow oven at 300 degrees for about 25 minutes. Allow to cool on paper, then peel off. Makes about 36-40.

**THE TUCSON AREA IRIS SOCIETY
PRESENTS**

"HARBINGER OF SPRING"

**SPRING FLOWER SHOW
APRIL 15TH, 2007**



**FOOTHILLS MALL,
1-5 pm.
TUCSON ARIZONA**



8:00 am. Entries open to the public
9:00 am. Irises for sale
1:00 pm. Show opens to Public
2:00 pm. Growing Seminar

tucsoniris.org

“HARBINGER OF SPRING”

Show Schedule

Spring Flower Show Presented by the Tucson Area Iris Society. Affiliate of the American Iris Society Sunday, April 15, 2007 Foothills Mall, Tucson, AZ

SHOW COMMITTEE

Show Chair.....

.....Kathy Chilton591-1729

Judges.....Peggi Ishman

Awards.....Kathy Chilton

Artistic Division.....

.....Charlotte Clarke ..747-7660

GENERAL SHOW RULES

1. The show is sponsored by the Tucson Area Iris Society and conducted according to American Iris Society regulations, which cannot be violated.

2. Exhibition privileges are free and available to anyone who grows irises. Exhibitors need not be members of any sponsoring or affiliated society. All entries must have been grown and entered in person by the exhibitor whose name appears on the entry tag.

3. Entries must be made between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 15, 2007. The closing time of 9:30 a.m. for receiving all exhibits will be strictly observed. Please allow enough time to prepare your entries.

4. Official entry tags will be supplied. All exhibits must have entry tags.

5. Judging will begin at 10:00 a.m. No persons except authorized show personnel will be allowed inside the roped off area during judging. Decisions of the judges are final, and the judges may withhold any award at their discretion.

6. The show will be open to the public at no charge on Sunday, April 15th 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

7. No exhibits may be removed before 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 15th, and all awards must remain with the exhibit until that time. All exhibits must be removed Sunday between 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., or they will be disposed of at the discretion of the staging committee.

8. It is the intent of TAIS that show judges may not enter a Division which they are judging. An exception may be made to this rule if an emergency substitution of a judge is necessary.

9. The Tucson Area Iris Society is not responsible for loss or damage to the exhibitor's property.

DIVISION I - HORTICULTURE RULES:

1. This is a variety/cultivar show. Each cultivar will constitute a separate class and will be placed in alphabetical order according to the name of the iris.

2. Only correctly named varieties will be eligible for awards; those unnamed or misnamed will be for display only.

3. Exhibitors may enter only one stalk of a variety, but may enter any number of varieties. Under no

circumstances may an individual transport and enter for competition specimen stalks for another person. All entries must have been grown and entered in person by exhibitor whose name appears on the entry tag.

4. Seedlings must be designated by name or number and entered in the name of the hybridizer.

5. Containers will be furnished, except for Section 8- Collections. The exhibitor may provide containers for Dwarf Irises too small for regular containers.

SECTIONS

Section 1. TALL BEARDED
Section 2. MEDIAN
BEARDED

- a. Standard Dwarf
- b. Intermediate
- c. Border
- d. Other

Section 3. ARIL OR ARIL
BRED

Section 4. BEARDLESS

- a. Spuria
- b. Louisiana
- c. Other

Section 5. BULBOUS (not
eligible for Best Specimen)

Section 6. Any iris not falling
under any of the above sections

Section 7. SEEDLING (not
eligible for Best Specimen)

Section 8. COLLECTION, 3
different irises of
the same classification,
i.e., TBs, IBs,
Spurias, any color.
Entry tag must
show name of each
variety. Container
not furnished

Section 9. YOUTH, under 19
years of age.

...(continued on page 7...)

...(continued from page 6...)

DIVISION II – ARTISTIC

DESIGN RULES AND REQUIREMENTS:

1. Iris must dominate all designs. Additional flowers & foliage may be used. Iris and other material need not be named or have been grown by exhibitor.

2. No artificial floral material permitted. Fresh material must never be treated.

3. Dried material (wood, branches, leaves, etc. - May be treated.)

4. Accessories permitted in all classes.

5. Backgrounds provided, pale green in color, 40" high by 28" wide with 10" wings, and 30" deep. Exhibitor may furnish own background within the stated dimensions.

6. A "novice" is anyone who has not received a blue ribbon in a standard flower show.

7. Contact Artistic Design Consultant, Charlotte Clarke, 747-7660, for questions.

8. An exhibitor may enter more than one class but may enter only one exhibit per class.

9. Reservations must be made with the Reservations Chairman, Marilyn Lesh, mlesh1@cox.net, 906-8761 by April 1st, 2007.

10. The show committee will endeavor to protect all exhibits, but TAIS cannot be responsible for loss or damage to property.

CLASS 1. Welcome Sunshine - A creative design using light colored iris and white. Accessories permitted. All fresh plant material.

CLASS 2. Springtime Magic - An abstract design. An arrangement using any colored iris with wood, dried, or fresh materials.

CLASS 3. Flight into Spring - A line design arrangement. Any color iris. Accessories permitted.

CLASS 4. Springtime Bounty - A mass design.

CLASS 5. An Easter Surprise - (Novice) An arrangement using a basket container. Accessories permitted - any color iris.

DIVISION III - EDUCATIONAL

Reservations are required, please contact Show Chair. Covered 6 ft. tables will be provided.

AWARDS

American Iris Society Awards

- All exhibitors are eligible for American Iris Society Awards.
- One First, Second, or Third Place Ribbon is given to each variety.
- One or more Honorable Mention
- Ribbons may be given to each variety except Seedling Section.
- Best Specimen of Show Rosette –
- Winners of all sections except 5, 7, & 8 are eligible.

Horticultural Sweepstakes AIS Silver Medal & Rosette awarded for the most blue ribbons won
Horticultural Sweepstakes Runner-

Up –AIS Bronze Medal & Rosette awarded for second most blue ribbons won

AIS Section Rosettes -One each for best specimen in the following sections if eligible: (minimum required: 3 exhibitors per section, 3 entries per class): Tall Bearded, Arils & Arilbreds, Beardless, Bulbous, Median. Best Arrangement of Show.

Tucson Area Iris Society Awards
TAIS will provide additional awards to the winners of all Sections, Best Specimen of Show, Sweepstakes, Sweepstakes Runner-Up, and Special Award—Best Yellow, except Sections 5,7,& 8, chosen by judge or judges appointed by show chair.

PLEASE JOIN US!!

Tucson Area Iris Society – Membership is \$10 Annual Single, \$13 Dual

Membership Chair: Stephanie Lee, 7595 N. Rasmussen Ave., Tucson, AZ 85741, 531-1030, slee555@peoplepc.com

American Iris Society

Membership Chair: Tom Gormley, PO Box 28, Cedar Hill MO 63016

Annual,	Single: \$25
	Dual: \$30
Triennial,	Single: \$60
	Dual: \$75
Life,	Single \$450
	Dual \$545

Youth, without Bulletin \$5
With Bulletin \$9

You can join the AIS online at irises.org.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY TIPS

By Margie Valenzuela

By invitation I sit here writing this article, and as I do, I am honored to write and share whatever tips I may have. I hope these tips I share will prove helpful and beneficial to all those who wish to take better photos of our much loved flower – the iris.

A few years ago, I began my photo adventure with irises. The first thing I noticed was that irises (just like us) have "bad hair days" too. So, here are a few tips on how to photograph irises at their best:

- 1) When taking a photo of a particular variety of iris - search for the loveliest specimen available. The lovelier the specimen, the lovelier your photo. (If no flower lives up to its beauty – wait for another day)
- 2) Walk slowly around the chosen iris, looking for its best side. You always want to capture its best side.
- 3) Be aware of how shadows and light play on or behind your chosen specimen. Look at it from all angles. Sometimes light streaming in from the side or behind the iris will cause the iris to look more luminescent. Shadows can create a dramatic look. Early morning shots, or evening shots, tend to soften the look of the iris being photographed. With every shot, one needs to work with nature.
- 4) Be aware of the background. What textures are available to accent the iris, or to cause the iris to stand out? Most of the time you just need to work with what's there. However, if you have irises in pots, you can move them to different locations creating a more suitable background that would tend to enhance the flower.

Next, working with your digital camera is another major area with which to familiarize yourself with. Here are a few tips I learned over the last several



TALL COOL ONE

years. (I currently use a 4 year-old Sony DSC-S70 digital that came with a Carl Zeiss MTF lens which does a top-notch job in reproducing the subject for clarity and contrast).

- 1) Digital zooming deteriorates the picture quality. So..... it's best not to use digital zooming, but if you choose to, do so only slightly in conjunction with the use of a higher resolution.
- 2) I find the best photos are taken when I use a higher Image size/resolution (like 1280x960 or higher). It does take up more space on the memory stick and the size is quite large, but it's worth the clarity. Investing in a larger memory stick is definitely worth the investment.
- 3) Upping the Sharpness Level and/or Focus Level option in conjunction with the higher resolution - makes for great computer photos, reproduced photos on photo paper, as well as poster size print-outs. To sharpen/focus more - click the up arrow to +1, or +2, etc. until you reach the desired setting. That should work for correcting any deficiency in sharpness.
- 4) Using a 'macro' option on the camera can make a

world of difference in the clarity of close-up photos..

- 5) Many digital cameras also have a built-in microphone - so you are able to record the name of the iris (or subject) as you are taking the photo. (That comes in very handy!)
- 6) Later, on the computer I can cut away the excess, without cutting away the size of the desired subject or reducing the quality of the photo. If I do reduce the total size of the photo it's still better quality than beginning with a lower resolution/ Image size – such as 640x480.

Note: Photo quality IS compromised a little though when compressed for displaying the photo on the internet, so expect some deterioration.



LANAI

In conclusion, I hope if anything I shared here enables you to take better photos – then this article has done its job. Personally, I find the longer I have my camera and experiment with it, the more I find my skills improve. So shall it be with you. And like you, I too am still learning tips along the way with every photograph I take.



STROZZAPRETTI



SOCIETY LADY

TAIS 2007 CALENDAR

MARCH 10, SAT. 1PM	EILEEN FIUMARA FLOWER ARRANGING WORKSHOP @ JOYCE SLEKAR'S 6840 N. ANDREA DORIA DRIVE
APRIL 15, SUN 1-5 PM	SPRING SHOW (ONE DAY SHOW & SALE) "HARBINGER OF SPRING" FOOTHILLS MALL
APRIL 21-22	REGION 15 SPRING TREK RIVERSIDE, CA
APRIL 22	ISHMAN GARDEN TOUR FUNDRAISER
APRIL 30-May 5	AIS NAT'L CONVENTION OKLAHOMA CITY, OK
JUNE 16, SAT 1PM	OKC CONVENTION RECAP KATHY CHILTON
AUGUST 25, SAT 5PM	POTLUCK/AUCTION/NEW IRIS
SEPTEMBER 15, SAT. 9-4 (SEPT/OCT TBG SALE??)	RHIZOME SALE AT HARLOW'S
OCTOBER 20, SAT. 1PM	ELECTIONS/TBA
NOVEMBER	BD MTG (TBA)
DECEMBER 8, SAT 12:00PM	HOLIDAY PARTY

Check our website for updates and additional information! Tucsoniris.org

FYI — UPCOMING ARIZONA IRIS EVENTS

March 24 Sun Country Early Iris Exhibit, Baker's Nursery, 3414 N. 40th St.

April 14 Sun Country Spring Show. Valley Garden Center, 1809 N. 15th Ave.



HOT CHOCOLATE

TAIS CONTACT INFO

President

Peggi Ishman

(520) 825-1771

Cell (520) 403-7722

pishman@comcast.net

Vice President & Editor

Kathy Chilton

(520) 822-1497

Cell (520) 591-1729

Ranchiris@aol.com

Secretary

Maxine Fifer

(520) 743-7993

wetypefast@aol.com

Treasurer

Joyce Slekar

(520)297-6337

popsgogs@webtv.net

Membership Secretary

Stephanie Lee

7595 N. Rasmussen Ave.

Tucson, AZ 85741

(520) 531-1030,

slee555@peoplepc.com