



RAMBLING RHIZOMES

January 2008

Newsletter of the Tucson Area Iris Society

tucsoniris.org



JANUARY 19TH MEETING

Café Ramey

SW Corner of Swan & Pima

Lunch @ 11:30am

Program @ 1:00pm

Presenting:

LARRY LAUER
OF
Lauer's Flowers

Hybridizer of
Dykes Medal Winner

STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN



See p. 3 for RSVP info

**IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR
TAIS MEMBERSHIP FOR 2008!**

Details on p. 4



New TAIS President Stephanie Lee

My 12 Step Program for Iris Addicts

By Stephanie Lee, TAIS President

January: Check your re-bloomers for bud stalks. Go to Bluejiris.com because they are up and ready for orders already!! Check for bud stalks on your re-bloomers. Clean away dead leaves and study your re-bloomers for bud stalks while you are doing it. Mark your new calendar with iris events. TAIS guest speaker Larry Lauer will be here for our January 19th meeting.

February: Check your re-bloomers for bud stalks. Check iris growers web sites and see if they are updated for the 2008 year yet. Start fertilizing with a "Super Bloom" type fertilizer. I do this on Valentine's Day and continue to do so every two weeks through the end of April – everyone has their own "works for me" gardening plan.... and right or wrong, this is just mine. Check again for those re-bloomers!

March: Check for re-bloomers, although at this point I would just call them an early iris! Continue fertilizing every two weeks. By mid-March my wild Oracle, AZ iris start blooming. Then a few very early ones start to open. Get out the tweezers, markers, and gel caps for pollen collecting. Get hybridizing goodies together and start a plan of what you want to pollinate. If you are doing this for the first time, you will predictably pollinate everything. If you are like me, this won't be a problem because I put the pollen in the wrong place and didn't get one cross! Surprising? Continuing my trend, if this is your second year trying to hybridize – you again pollinate everything that blooms in the hope of actually getting ONE seed pod. You will succeed and get more than

you want, the next year you will wonder what on earth you were thinking when you crossed those two flowers. (Track and mark your crosses.) Congratulate yourself on your skill and dedication in getting your iris to bloom – and ooh and aah at your beautiful flowers. Last year my first bloom got knocked off by a quail – for some reason they love to do that, it opened up in a bud vase. New catalogs start coming in the mail. Oh, so pretty.... I'm only spending \$X.xx this year on new iris, I swear! Make your wish list, cross off more than half, take another look at the remaining half to see if you could possibly wait another year for that one, nope, go outside and look for more space, sigh, go outside and see what ones you can live without and mark them for the fall sale.

April: Pretty much the same as the second part of March except MORE of the same. Admire your seed pods if you hybridized at all. Count them, its exciting! Get ready for our iris show at the Tucson Mall, figure out what you are bringing, and what you are showing. Volunteer to help!! In addition to fertilizing, start with the anti-white grub stuff (Grub B Gone) as the little demon buggers are probably waking up. Matrix from a nursery supply place, or Ortho has a good one you can buy at Home Depot or Lowe's. I call my first experience with white grubs "Wipe Out", they got me good. Originally I thought they were good little helpful grublet guys and I would carefully re-bury them, I though they aerated the soil. Now I squish them into oblivion (just in case they can re-grow body parts like worms and lizards do). The National AIS Conference is the 14th through the 19th in Austin, TX and the Region 15 meeting in CA with guest speaker Barry Blyth of Australia.

May: More of April but starting to dwindle the second half of the month. You can tell if your earlier seed pods are going to stay (some fall off). Enough with the power blooming fertilizer, you can go down to a more level dose if you want to do an after bloom plant boost. Grubs are up and June bugs (the egg layers for white grubs) are flying about so continue with the Grub B Gone program through about September (again my personal grub grooming plan). I read they have a three year in ground cycle, not sure if that is correct but they will not rise in my garden again! Spring Region 15 Trek in Prescott? Take a quick trip to Oregon and visit the growers, take

...continued on the next page...

12 Step Program for Iris Addicts, cont.....

lots of picture and a hankie to wipe up your drool.. Umbrellas and muck boots are a good idea as well.

June: Last chance effort for most iris here to bloom – expect a few late bloomers during the first half of June – your darker blues and reds usually (if they don't burn up before they open). Grub alert: munch munch munch – yum, Iris roots for lunch. Seed pods ripen usually towards the end of June. I plant my seeds right away, some people save them until fall. The sun is getting stronger, put shade cloth up as needed.

July: Ugh. Nobody's happy, human or iris. Except grubs, grubs are still fat, happy and hungry, it might be time for another dose of Grub B Gone (Note: this is not a real product).

August: Oh boy! The mailman/UPS dude is here – look he/she brought me new iris!!! Hope springs eternal, summer will end. I plant them in Styrofoam coffee cups, with a hole poked in the bottom for drainage and keep them on my shaded porch. I ease them out into the sun in September, this way they have a good root system started by the time I transplant them in October.

September: Dig up and divide iris for the fall sales at Harlow's and Tucson Botanical Gardens. Take your shade cloth off when temps drop down to low 90's or 80's. Volunteer to help with those and with planting new beds for the 2010 Trek. All help is appreciated.

October: TAIS pot luck and distribution of iris to volunteers. Auction of new iris. Start checking your re-bloomers!!

November: Clean up your beds, add fall fertilizer to aid new growth. The board meeting of the Tall Bearded Iris Society will be here in Tucson and all are invited to the open program the evening of the 15th. Margie Valenzuela will be the guest speaker for their program. There is the TAIS board meeting to review 2008, hold annual elections, and to plan 2009. All are welcome to attend. Happy Thanksgiving! Wait, I think I see a re-bloomer with a bud!!!

**TO RSVP FOR THE JANUARY LUNCHEON,
PLEASE FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS BELOW:**

Our January meeting will be held at Cafe Ramey, 1661 N. Swan
(southwest corner of Pima & Swan).

If would like to join members for lunch beginning at 11:30 prior to the program
following at 12:30, please check your choice of menu below and

mail this slip and payment of **\$11 per person (checks payable to TAIS)**

NO LATER THAN TUESDAY, JANUARY 15TH

To: Maxine Fifer, TAIS Treasurer

4527 N. Camino Cardenal

Tucson, AZ 85718.

1st NAME _____

Salmon salad _____ Southwest turkey sandwich _____ Portabello mushroom sandwich _____

2nd NAME _____

Salmon salad _____ Southwest turkey sandwich _____ Portabello mushroom sandwich _____

(cost includes cheesecake dessert, drink, tax & tip)

TAIS NEWS

Minutes TAIS Board Meeting - 11/16/2007

In attendance: Kathy Chilton, Gary Carruthers, Margie Valenzuela, Maxine Fifer, Paul Bessey, Ruth Over, Ginny Hester, Ben Herman and Marilyn Lesh.

The meeting was called to order by Kathy Chilton at 9:00 AM in the Woods Library meeting room. Maxine Fifer presented the financial report for 2007 and the proposed budget for 2008 was discussed by category. Additions were made to the 2007 budget for a proposed bus trip to the Phoenix area in the spring for the members, for a memorial to the Tucson Botanical Garden in memory of Fran Bessey, and for a gift of thanks to the outgoing president, Peggy Ishman. At the close of discussion the budget was approved by all attending.

Margie Valenzuela announced that Stephanie Lee said she was willing to serve as Vice President. She will be contacted to confirm. As at the last meeting, Kathy Chilton stated her willingness to serve either as president or vice

president, Maxine Fifer will serve as treasurer, and Marilyn Lesh will serve as secretary. The slate was approved by the board. Ginny Hester confirmed that she will continue as chair of the hostess committee.

Things to be addressed this year include making sure there is a sign up for people coming to the sales and shows who wish to be notified by postcard of future events, and new member sign ups to be encouraged.

The Tucson Botanical Garden will need to be replanted later in 2008 in preparation for the 2010 Region trek. Kathy Chilton stated we would have enough gardens even if some of the previous participants are not available - Dr. Bessey will open his garden, Kathy thinks she has a commitment from Fenwick's on the east side of town, Tucson Botanical Garden, and the University of Arizona will be approached about a large bed at Our Yard with hopefully the participation of their master gardeners. A program chairman will need to be named, and a hotel will need to be negotiated.

PROPOSED CALENDER FOR 2008

01/19/2008 11:AM lunch meeting, probably at Cafe Ramey. Will try to have as speaker Larry Lauer or Lowell Baumunk. A set menu was identified as preferable to ordering individually for better use of time for the meeting.

02/16/2008 Kathy Chilton will present on aril bred iris.

03/15/2008 Margie Valenzuela will present on hybridizing and showing iris. This can help as a warm up for the Spring show.

04/05/2008 - Proposed bus trip to Phoenix.

04/12/2008 - Proposed Spring show at Foothills mall. After discussion a 1 day show was decided upon. Volunteer help will be solicited from ComCast. We are unlikely to have a high

number of potted iris for sale as most have been sold.

08/23/2008 - Potluck and auction - Dr. Bessey volunteered to host this.

09/13/2008 - Tucson Botanical Garden dig for sale.

09/20/2008 - Fall sale at Harlow's nursery

09/27/2008 - Tucson Botanic Garden sale

10/04/2008 - Fall meeting with recap of AIS convention in Austin by Kathy Chilton, election of new officers and distribution of new iris service awards.

The meeting ended at 10:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Lesh - Secretary

2008 Tucson Area Iris Society (TAIS) Membership

Name(s) _____
Print-

Address _____, _____
Street City

State Zip Phone _____

PRINT

PLEASE

Email Address: _____

Make checks payable to TAIS. Category below:

Single \$10 _____ Dual \$13 _____ Youth \$5 _____

Mail this and your check to:

Stephanie Lee, 7595 N. Rasmussen Ave., Tucson, AZ 85741

(or bring it to the meeting!)

here _____ if you would prefer to get your newsletter by email.

Please all opportunities that you would be interested in:

- _____ Assist with Spring Foothills Mall Iris Show
- _____ Assist with sales at Spring Foothills Mall Show
- _____ Assist with event and membership e-mail & flyer distributions
- _____ Recruiting a youth base for our club/show:
 - Photography - DNA studies - Community Service – Horticulture/Gardening
 - Independent Study at the UofA or PCCC
- _____ Assist at the Tucson Botanical Garden (TBG) dig
- _____ Assist at the TBG Sale
- _____ Assist at the Foothills Mall Fall Iris Sale
- _____ Assist in planting new beds for the Region 15 2010 Spring Trek
- _____ Bring treats to a meeting
- _____ Help with the newsletter
- _____ Care for TBG's iris bed the month of _____

GIVE A GIFT OF MEMBERSHIP

Valentine's Day - Mother's Day – Father's Day
Birthday – Anniversary

(520) 531-1030 or slee555@peoplepc for details

Rambling Rhizomes—January 2008 tucsoniris.org



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SPECIAL ITEM OF INTEREST!! Sun Country Iris Society is hosting BRAD KASPEREK of Zebra Gardens as their speaker at their meeting on Tuesday, January 8th. It will be held at 7pm at the Valley Garden Center, 1809 N. 15th Ave. Phoenix, AZ. (just north of I-10—use 7th Ave exit)

Please contact Jack Weber at jhweber@cox.net for information.



TUCSON AREA IRIS SOCIETY

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