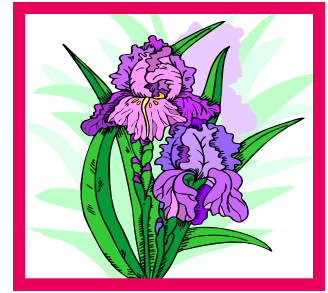




RAMBLING RHIZOMES
January 2010

Newsletter of the Tucson Area Iris Society

tucsoniris.org



TAIS CALENDAR
2010

- February 27 Meeting; We will have a presentation on Artistic flower picture framing. Please bring pictures to share.
- March 27 Plant Sale ; TBG
- April 17 Spring Trek. Locations are Fenwick's garden, Ben Herman's Garden, Paul Bessey's Garden, and Gordon Jensen's Garden.
- June 26 Meeting - topic and location TBD
- Aug 28-29 - Dig guest gardens.
- Sept 11 Potluck and auction
- September Sale - Date and location TBD
- October 16 meeting choose officers for 2011.

January 23rd

12:00 Lunch

**El Parador Tucson Tropical Garden
Restaurant**

**Presentation
Reblooming Iris**

Program follows lunch: Reblooming Irises, New Program from the Reblooming Iris Society. This program has photos of irises that rebloom in at least 4 to 8 different climate zones of the US. We also will have several very nice iris items as door prizes! Double tickets for those who pay their 2010 dues!!

~SHORT BOARD MEETING FOLLOWING PROGRAM ~

Place: El Parador, 2744 E Broadway. There will be many choices for \$12.50 including drinks gratuity.

**Announcing
Spring Trek 2010
Tucson, AZ**

Show Gardens will be at the following Locations;

Richard & Diane Fenwick's Garden, 8000 E Alvin, Tucson

Dr. Paul Bessey's Garden, 2602 E Arroyo Chico, Tucson

Ben Herman's Garden, 3451 E Comino Suerte, Tucson

Gordon Jensen's Garden, 14538 E Desert Plume Ct., Vail

Rebloomers



Again And Again (S. Innerst 1999)



All American (M. Byers 1992)



Champagne Elegance (O.D. Niswonger 1987)



Daughter Of Stars (D. Spoon 2001)



Double Shot (G. Sutton 2000)

HOW I TREAT MY NEWLY ACQUIRED IRIS
By Ben Herman

Most retailers will ship newly purchased iris during the months of July, August, and September. I am going to assume here that you have already prepared the location of where these iris will be planted and will not dwell on this other than to say that preparation of the beds is extremely important for good growth. TAIS has a very excellent write-up on soil and bed preparation.

Ordering iris from retailers during our summer months raises certain issues. Since

iris like a lot of sun, their final planting site will obviously be exposed to, or at least should be exposed to lots of sun. Lots of sun will require lots of water. Lots of water is definitely not good for a semi-dormant rhizome, particularly in hot, relatively humid monsoon weather, as it will inevitably invite bacterial soft rot which will sooner or later destroy part or all of a rhizome which it attacks. One solution for this is to wait until mid or late September to have your order shipped, when the weather has usually cooled and dried out from our more humid weather of the monsoon season.

The problem with this is that, with this time of planting, your growth season is shortened before cooler weather and partial dormancy of our winter sets in. This will reduce the first season bloom the following spring.

What I have been doing, as have many other TAIS members, is to order my plants for shipment at the beginning of August. Instead of planting in the prepared beds, I plant them in 1 gallon cans and place them under trees, or any other area where they will not be exposed to more than early morning sun. I water them initially and then repeat watering them as soon as I see the tops of the pots beginning to get dry. After about two weeks I also begin a light fertilizing schedule about every 2 weeks.

Note here that, although the rhizomes will not die if they are not potted right away, the longer you wait, the longer it will take to get them into an active growth regime, and the less likely they will produce bloom the following spring. I try to have everything ready the week

they are scheduled to arrive so that I can get them potted within a few days. By proceeding in this manner you should have plants in active growth with new leaves and probably new increases already evident in 6 to 8 weeks. Usually you will notice roots emerging from the drainage holes in the cans by October, at which time they can be removed from the cans and planted in their permanent locations. When removing the plants for planting in the ground, the soil in the cans should be damp, but not soaking wet. If too dry, the root ball may crumble and fall off of the roots. Soil will sag and also drop off of the roots.

Best results will be obtained if you can keep the root ball intact, as with any plant. I have never lost a new purchase using this method.

This procedure should provide you with that good spring, first year bloom that we all like, so we can see how our new, latest acquisitions look. Good luck and enjoy your iris.

Fenwick's Gardens





Introducing the new "Vance George" iris, to be introduced by Margie Valenzuela in 2010. This iris is named for the 23 year director of the San Francisco Symphony Chorus. It will be presented by Gordon Jensen to Vance George at a concert in Carnegie Hall New York City on February 14th 2010. Available at www.rirismelodies.com

It's that time again. Time to renew our TAIS membership. Please file out the form below and either bring it to the meeting with your dues check or mail it to the treasurer.

TUCSON AREA IRIS SOCIETY (TAIS) MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS (STREET, CITY, STATE, ZIP)

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

Make checks payable to TAIS. Check Category below:

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

Mail this and your check to:

Maxine Fifer, Treasurer, 4527 N Cmo Cardenal, Tucson, AZ 85718

Please check all opportunities that you would be interested in:

_____ Assist at iris sales

_____ Assist at Trek

_____ Bring treats to a meeting

_____ Care for Tucson Botanical Garden's iris the month of _____

For AIS renewal, send \$25 to www.irises.org

Tom Gormley - AIS Membership Secretary

10606 Timber Ridge Street

Dubuque, IA 52001-8268

Telephone and Fax - 563-513-0504

TAIS Contact Info

President, Kathy Chilton

(520) 591-1729

Ranchiris@aol.com

Vice President, Ben Herman

(520) 296-2129

herman@atmo.arizona.edu

Secretary, Dian Curran

(520) 762-9710

Dian_b_curran@raytheon.com

Treasurer, Maxine Fifer

(520) 743-7993

wetypefast@aol.com

Editor: Gordon Jensen

(520) 203-8259

redheadclan@cox.net