



Lest We Forget

RAMBLING RHIZOMES
September 2010

Newsletter of the Tucson Area Iris Society

tucsoniris.org



Teenybopper

- TAIS CALENDAR
- Aug 27 Potluck and auction.
- September Sale - at Harlow's Nursery Sept 24th.
- October meeting choose officers for 2012.TBA

August 27

5:30 P.M.

Potluck and Auction

At Paul Bessey's

2602 E ARROYO CHICO

From intersection of Broadway & Tucson Blvd., go South to ARROYO CHICO. Turn Left and go east to 2602 Arroyo Chico (SE corner Stratford & Arroyo Chico).

The Tucson auction will be at Paul Bessey's house. Potluck at 5:30pm., auction to follow. Bring a dish to share, plates and utensils & we will need a few extra chairs. TAIS will provide water and soft drinks.

The auction rhizomes are to die for. Because Region 15 didn't have a dig of trek irises, the rhizomes for this auction will be supplied by Kathy Chilton and Gordon Jensen. As you know, they each have a collection of newer iris. Some of the irises for sale are featured in this newsletter.



AUNTIE CLAUDIA
Burseen 2010



BACKDRAFT
Stout 10
STOUT GARDENS
at Dancingtree

How I do it-dividing irises: in preparation for next month's sale.



Above is an overcrowded clump of irises that obviously needs dividing.



First, I dig out the clump and remove as much of the dirt as I can, without causing too much damage. (Notice the umbrella stand.)



Next, using a clean, sharp knife, I separate the growing rhizomes from the spent rhizome.



This picture shows the growing rhizomes and the spent rhizome, the plant that bloomed this spring



This shows all the rhizomes trimmed. I use grass trimmers because they are a little longer than shears.



Last, I replant 2 of the divided rhizomes and put the remainder in a cool dry place until sale. I replant Two because they fill out faster.



Black Magic Woman



Camera Ready
Tasco 2009



Orange King



Double Down



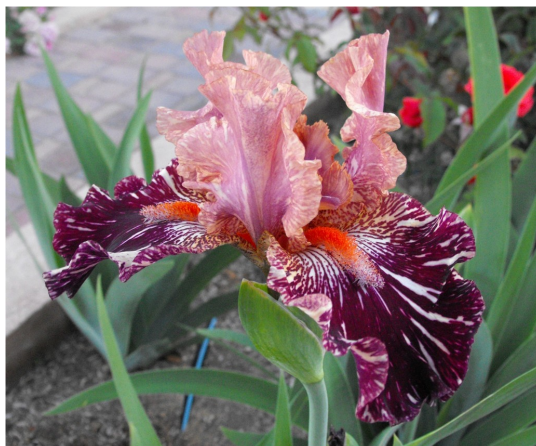
Halloween Trick



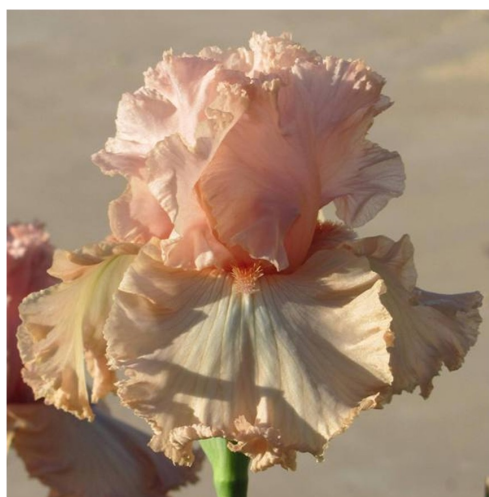
Double Ringer



Hawaiian Rain



Kickapoo Kangaroo



Magical



Pep Rally

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FIND IT ON: These IRIS HISTORY Website Links

Have you ever wondered about the HISTORY OF IRISES? THE TRUTH, THE STORIES, THE DETAILS, AND THE FABLES!! If so.....let's explore a few websites which you may find quite interesting:

Wikipedia not only has some **history about our popular flower – The Iris**, but **so much more extensive information** as well (such as the many uses for the iris rhizome, and how certain irises can be used for water purification):

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iris_%28plant%29

There's also a fascinating read on the first **“History of Irises in the Garden” as early as 1479 B.C.** is found here: (Yes, you read correctly – B.C.)

http://www.herbs2000.com/flowers/i_garden.htm

And..... **Iris symbolism** according to the ancient Egyptians, the French, China, and Christians, etc. Interesting stories told here.

http://www.herbs2000.com/flowers/i_history.htm

“eHow” has a wonderful article too which includes info on the **iris root** and how it was used herbal remedy for coughs, colds, liver diseases and snakebites. Not to mention quite a few related articles (linked on the same page) including the history of **Black Irises**.

http://www.ehow.com/facts_7508182_history-iris-flower.html

Possibly you may even wish to own **your own book on Iris history?** I found this one available: “Irises: A Romantic History with a Guide to Cultivation” By Susan Berry

<http://www.amazon.com/Irises-Romantic-History-Guide-Cultivation/dp/1561381411>

For other IRIS HISTORY BOOKS written through the years, check out this Blog page of “The American Iris Society” entitled *Exploring Iris History with Books* :

<http://theamericanirissociety.blogspot.com/2011/08/exploring-iris-history-with-books.html>

There may be other Iris History books out there too,.....which you might just want to look further into on your own. J Who would have thought that the HISTORY OF IRISES would be so interesting!!! I hope you enjoy/enjoyed reading these as much as I have.

~ Margie Valenzuela