



**RAMBLING RHIZOMES**  
**February 2011**

**Newsletter of the Tucson Area Iris Society**

**[tucsoniris.org](http://tucsoniris.org)**



TAIS Calendar

Feb 12 - Phil Seader on Tucson gardening challenges.

Mar 12 - Peterson's on fertilizer. Location TBA

Apr 23 - Iris Show - Harlow's Nursery.

Jun 18 - Program on Nat'l Convention at Victoria, BC. / Board Meeting.

Aug-Oct schedule tba

**February 12th**

**12:00 Lunch**

**Hungry Fox**

**4367 E Broadway**

**Presentation:**

**Tucson Gardening Challenges**  
**Phil Seader**

**The Hungry Fox is on Broadway just east of Swan. Hopefully this is a nice central place for everyone. The menu includes sandwiches and salads ranging from \$5.00 and up. Individual checks.**

**Program follows lunch: Lets try this again. It seems as though everyone had something else to do last month. Radio Personality and naturalist Phil Seader hosts a horticultural radio show on seasonally relevant topics, Sat 7-8 a and Sun 3-4 p on KVOI 1030 AM called "The Enchanted Desert Garden Show." He also is involved in operating the nursery of the same name which is located at 11011 E Tanque Verde Rd. He will be speaking on the gardening challenges in the Tucson area. A question and answer session will follow.**

As president of the Tucson Iris Society this year, I would like to start by saying what a terrific year we had last year. In January Kathy Chilton gave a presentation of Universal Reblooming TB Irises in 4-8 USDA Zones program on CD that is distributed by the reblooming society. In February, Jeff Clark, Subject-Iris Watercolors. One in particular caught my eye enough that it now sits proudly in my living room. We had our Spring Sale in March which was not that successful. Then in April we hosted the Low Tech 2010 Spring Trek. We had four guest gardens which were absolute terrific! Many thanks for the hard work of Fenwick, Jensen, Herman and Bessey for their hard work. After the tours Margie Valenzuela gave a talk on hybridizing before a wonderful catered meal. During the dinner there were several door prizes. One of them is growing in my front yard. It was a great success! Then in September we had our annual Pot Luck and Auction. Then in September we had our Fall Sale. This was quite different than the slow sale in the spring. We had a full page article prior to the Sale thus well publicized. When the sale opened, people rushed in like black Friday shoppers and we were completely sold out in about an hour and a half. We had our elections in October and then took the holiday season off.

I would like to tell you what exciting iris events we have for the year. First of all, we, the board are planning to have meetings in different locations to allow those who usually commute a relatively long distance to have a few events in their neighborhood. January 8<sup>th</sup> we had scheduled a meeting and speaker at the Vail Steakhouse at Wentworth and I10. However, due to the tragic events that day, the meeting was can-

celed. However we have many exciting events in future months.

March 12<sup>th</sup> Petterson from Phoenix will be talking about fertilizing at the Macaroni Grill restaurant in NW Tucson. He plans to bring his iris enhancing products for sale so we can stalk up.

April 23<sup>rd</sup> will be the Spring Iris Show at Harlow's Nursery. Maxine Fifer will be coordinating this event and as always, we need volunteers.

April 30<sup>th</sup> is the 2011 Spring Trek at the Stanton Iris Gardens in Valley Center, CA near San Diego.

May 29<sup>th</sup>-June 3<sup>rd</sup> will be 2011 National AIS Convention in Vancouver BC. Many TAIS members will be there for a fantastic time.

June 18<sup>th</sup> Kathy Chilton will be giving an overview of the National Convention in Victoria BC.

September 10<sup>th</sup> will be the annual potluck and auction.

Fall Iris sale will be September 17<sup>th</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup>.

October 8<sup>th</sup> will be the fall regional meeting for Region 15.

October 15<sup>th</sup> will be our annual membership meeting for election of the 2012 officers.

November 12-13<sup>th</sup> is the Fall Meeting sponsored by the Inland Iris Society.

April 16-21<sup>st</sup> 2012 is the 2012 AIS National Convention. Our local Kathy Chilton is on the planning committee of this event.

As I said before, we would like to make the meetings in various areas of the Tucson area so that everyone has their turn for a close-by meeting. I hope to see you there at these terrific events.

Dian

#### MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:

Every day I go to the mailbox in anticipation - hoping your renewal is tucked inside. If your name is NOT Gary, Carolyn, Dian, Bert, Philip, Greta, Gordon, Werner, Tony/Melania or Margie, PLEASE complete the membership application in this newsletter and send it in with your dues soon. TAIS NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT! --Maxine Fifer, Member Chair

EVER BEEN TO GREEN THINGS? TAIS members are entitled to a 10% discount on their entire order when shopping there. Just mention affiliation with TAIS. GREEN THINGS has a wonderful variety of high quality house plants, annuals, perennials, shrubs and trees, and of course during the Holidays, they are the poinsettia capitol, with Quonset huts full of every variety. Located at 3235 E. Allen Road (on River Road, Allen is on the west where River curves around after Dodge towards Campbell), hours Monday-Friday 7am-5pm, Saturday 8:30am-5pm, Sunday 9am-5pm. Visit their website, [www.greenthingsaz.com](http://www.greenthingsaz.com) where TAIS is listed under Community-Plant Societies.

Member Profiles;

**JHAN LAMPKIN**

Jhan Lampkin is one of our newest members. In response to an E-mail asking some question for a newsletter article, I got the following response. Because it is so well written, there is nothing I can do to improve it.

I saw an article in the newspaper about the iris sale, and having always loved iris, I went to the sale. Everyone there was so nice and helpful I decided to join the TAIS.

I was the caretaker for the Maytag Estate in Nambe, NM, and that is where I first became interested in iris. We just had regular old purple iris but I have taken some of them with me, and planted them everywhere I have lived since then. I have some at my house here. I have 2 1/2 acres so spend most of my time out of doors. I have planted many trees, cactus, agaves, aloes and other native plants, so gardening is almost a full time occupation for me. My soil is very sandy and my iris are in the hot sun most of the time and not doing as well as

they did in NM. I'm hoping as a member of TAIS I will be able to 'pick' some brains. The handout I got with the Iris I bought last year has been very helpful.

I have been coming to the Tucson area for many years from my home in NM. I hate cold weather so six years ago I bought a home at Elephant Head (south of Green Valley) and live here year round.

I am not involved in any other activities in this area other than taking Spanish classes at GVR. I was a metalsmith for a number of years and now do woodworking.

After these latest freezes I will be doing a lot of clean up in the yard this Spring and replacing some things that just didn't make it even with frost blankets and sheets. My iris seem to be okay.

I'm afraid I'm not the most interesting person for an article but if I can answer any more questions just let me know.

Looking forward to meeting you, Jhan

**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 \$15 \_\_\_\_\_ Dual \$18 \_\_\_\_\_ Youth \$5 \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this and your check to:

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

Please check all opportunities that you would be interested in:

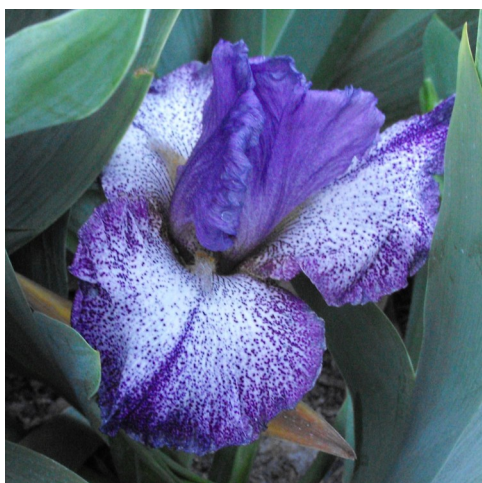
- \_\_\_\_\_ Assist at iris sales
- \_\_\_\_\_ Assist at Spring Show
- \_\_\_\_\_ Bring treats to a meeting



Cherry Glen



Avery's Hugs



Celestial Explosion



Star Surge

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