



RAMBLING RHIZOMES
June 2011

Newsletter of the Tucson Area Iris Society

tucsoniris.org



TAIS Calendar

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

Aug-Oct schedule
tba

June 18th

12:00 Lunch

El Parador Restaurant

2744 E Broadway

They will be serving from the Siesta Fiesta menu which has several selections and includes a drink (coffee, tea or soft drink) and gratuity. The cost is 12.75 per person.

**Presentation:
Gordon Jensen on
AIS 2011 Convention**



British Columbia Government Building in Victoria

From the Editor

Early this month, I experienced my first AIS Convention in Victoria Canada. I've been there before as my grandparents retired there, but this time I was able to enjoy some marvelous gardens up close. We visited the Butchart Gardens, the Finnerty Gardens at the University of Victoria, Government House Gardens, Glendale Gardens, and the Gardens at Hatley Park. The weather wasn't the greatest, but we didn't get rained on. The irises were a little late but there were lots of other things to see. You wouldn't believe the size of some of those rhododendrons. But the best part of the trip was the people. Everyone was so friendly and willing to let me share my few Hybrids. I talked to Bob Black, Barry Blyth, David Schreiner and Hugh Stout. I shared my condolences with Judy Nunn, Rick Ernst's sister-in-law. As you know he passed away this spring. I was saddened to hear that Cooley's is going out of business with his loss.

It was Cooley's that gave me my start in irises. I saw an ad in the Sunset Magazine for a group of 6 irises. I ordered them and caught the iris virus. Now I have a few hybrids of my own, and after sharing them with Barry Blyth he gave me some pointers on how to proceed. The next day he gave a presentation on hybridizing and where it can go from here. He mentioned that he had over 14,000 seedlings this year. It amazed me that someone of his experience would take the time to even look at what I'd done.

Don't miss this next meeting where I will share my pictures and some more details on the convention

Gordon Jensen



The Empress Hotel
Headquarters for the Convention

NEW MEMBERS:

CHARLENE GRAHAM, Mail POB 8453, Catalina, AZ 85738, 818-3038, charleneg@q.com. Charlene grew up outside of Portland and has always loved the "architecture" of iris. After graduating as an RN from the Los Angeles Hospital Program, she worked in that area but moved to Tucson to be near her parents and sister, and is now pursuing a career as a physical therapist assistant.

RANDY & LARRY DICKEY, 2640 N. Camino Valle Verde, Tucson 85715, 296-0001, randeemd@comcast.net. Randy grew up in Tucson, attending Rincon H.S. and the UofA. She and Larry lived in Gaithersburg, MD from 1990-2009 where she Randy had "huge" beds of iris and a variety of flowers blooming in her garden from April to October. Now retired, her hobbies are gardening, reading and volunteering in an elementary school library.

CATHY PANE, 15844 S. Via Cayetano, Sahuarita, AZ 85629, 270-5221, cara2791@comcast.net. I reached Cathy on her cell phone in New York, where her 2 girls and 3 grandchildren (including a brand new baby) live. She first started visiting iris gardens in Oregon in 2007 and has acquired local iris from Margie Valenzuela and Ben Herman.

DEBORAH KINNE, 2945 E. 4th Street, Tucson 85716, deborahkinne1@yahoo.com.

HARLOW SHOW & SALE REPORT, April 23, 2011:

First of all, a special THANK YOU to the 15 members who said "yes" when asked to assist - some staying the entire event!! And of course a special NOTE OF APPRECIATION to Judges Patrick Orr and Gerry Snyder, who did the honors without gratuities.

Approximately 100 entries were judged and Harlow Gardens gift certificates were presented as follows: Kathy Chilton: Best Specimen in Show, Horticultural Sweepstakes, Best Tall Bearded, Best Bearded, Best Aril; Gordon Jensen: Horticultural Sweepstakes Runner-Up, Best Seedling; Ben Herman: Best Plicata; Kevin Kartchner (non-member): Best Beardless. The most popular iris, won by Kathy, was Peggy Anne - 4 iris vied for 2nd most popular: Air Hog, Milady Grace, Lady of the Night, and Orange King.

Due to a database of emails and postcard mailings (increased by sign-ups to 475 names) and publicity provided by print media, our beautifully grown and groomed potted iris, nurtured by Kathy, were snatched up and gone by noon, resulting in \$648 in sales.

TAIS gained 4 new members - see details below.

In summary, the downside was early afternoon wind in the outdoor venue. Perhaps another inside venue rather than a mall would be to consider having the next event in an indoor space at Tucson Botanical Garden (each year TAIS is granted one free event there).

--Maxine Fifer, Show Chair

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Show expenses (including mailings, ad, table rental, mileage, awards) totaled \$564.52. Bank balance as of June 1, 2011 is \$5,850.69.

FIND IT ON: These Websites

Have you ever wondered where to buy iris merchandise online for yourself or as a gift? If you're interested – let's take a look at some of the websites which may have something that "catches your eye".

There are **multitudes of Iris merchandise** to be found here at **Zazzle.com**. Pages, and pages, and pages of iris merchandise.

<http://www.zazzle.com/iris+gifts>

The Iris Gift Shop has some nice items there as well.

<http://www.cafepress.com/irisgifts>

Possibly you are interested in **Iris Paintings or Prints**.

http://www.art.com/gallery/id--b2194/iris-posters_p6.htm

Iris Greeting cards (and more prints) can be found at this site.

<http://fineartamerica.com/art/all/iris/all>

Maybe you're in the market for some **artificial irises**, so you can see them blooming year round. Below you'll find 2 websites that sell them.

<http://www.watergarten.org/s.nl/it.A/id.42/.f>

http://www.pyob.com/irises_silkflowers.htm

There are an array of **Iris Plates** on the market as well. Check out **The Find**. Wow! Pages of plates.

<http://www.thefind.com/kitchen/browse-iris-plates>

Everything Iris has iris merchandise for the home and office, garden, fashion accessories, collectibles and more.

<http://www.everything-iris.com/home.html>

Lastly, have you ever thought of putting up **Iris Decals** to decorate your walls? Below are a few links that sell iris decals. (There *are more* websites that sell them too.)

<http://www.etsy.com/listing/68740321/iris-decals-315inch-h-wall-decals>

<http://www.amazon.com/Iris-Wall-Decal-Removable-Graphic/dp/B004QZHU8U>

<http://cgi.ebay.com/Iris-Home-Deco-Art-Wall-Stickers-SS58209-/180661585092>

If you're not in the market now for any iris gifts or merchandise, you may want to bookmark this page for future use. And if for no other reason than – these website links are fun to browse. Enjoy.

~ Margie Valenzuela



Butchart Gardens

Peggy Anne (Sutton 07)
Popularity poll winner

AIS 2011 Tall Bearded Symposium

The Ballot and instructions for voting the 2011 AIS Tall Bearded Symposium is now available on the AIS website at www.irises.org.

On the website, click on About Irises, then Awards & Surveys, and Tall Bearded Symposium. □

You can vote in a variety of ways:

- Mail or email your RVP the list of irises you are voting for, or
- Download the list from the website, print it, mark it, and mail to your RVP.

Affiliate presidents, or designated person in each affiliate, are encouraged to print the Ballot and take it to a meeting prior to September 1 so that AIS members without internet access have the opportunity to vote.

Members may vote for up to 25 varieties. No write-in votes will be tabulated.

Your RVP must receive all ballots by September 1.

Also available on this website are the results of the 2011 Symposium.

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