



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

TAIS Contact Info

President, Dian Curran

(520) 762-9710
tissha8@yahoo.com

Vice President, Gordon Jensen

(520) 203-8259
redheadclan@cox.net

Secretary, Kathy Chilton

(520) 591-1729
Ranchiris@aol.com

Treasurer, Maxine Fifer

(520) 743-7993
wetypefast@aol.com

Editor: Gordon Jensen

(520) 203-8259
redheadclan@cox.net

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