



**RAMBLING RHIZOMES**  
**March 2011**

**Newsletter of the Tucson Area Iris Society**

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



TAIS Calendar

Mar 12 - Petterson's  
on fertilizer. Location  
Macaroni Grill  
on Ina.

Apr 23 - Iris Show -  
Harlow's Nursery.

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

Aug-Oct schedule  
tba

**March 12th**

**12:00 Lunch**

**Macaroni Grill**

**2265 W Ina Rd**

**Presentation:  
Gary and Sharon Petterson  
of Gardener's World,**

a large nursery and garden center in Phoenix. They produce a wide variety of specialized fertilizers and amendments for desert gardens and will be bringing some of their products with them for sale. You will learn about fertilizers, and the why and how of using them to grow your irises and other garden plants to perfection! Check out their website: <http://gardenpro.net/>

**Macaroni Grill is on Ina just west of N La Cholla Blvd. It has excellent food.**



**[Iris garden at Boyce Thompson Arboretum](#)**

## From the Prez

As we continue with this year's programs, I can't help but notice the exciting things that are in the mix for the next few months. This month's speakers are the Pettersons who will be giving a talk on cultivation techniques in the desert. They will be bringing some of their fertilizers for sale. Last time they came, they were sold out in a matter of minutes. Hopefully this time they will bring plenty of their products. I am real excited to hear their talk as well. We will be meeting at the Macaroni Grill on Ina on Saturday, March 12 at noon to enjoy a good lunch, wonderful talk and stalk up on food for our irises.

Last month, Phil Seader gave an informal talk about the varying temperate zones in Arizona at the Hungry Fox. We learned that the Tucson area has two zones. Tucson is in one zone but those of us who live outside the valley, live in another zone. Phil spoke about the differences between these zones. I found the talk very interesting and informative. One thing that came up is that usually one determines their temperate zone by how cold it gets, not how hot it gets. For example, as far as cold goes, I live in zone 8 but if one looks at how many days I get that are over 85 deg, one would say that I live in zone 9 or 10. One has to consider both when planting and caring for their irises and other

plants. There were also a few new members who came to their first meeting. I hope they found the talk and discussion as exciting as I did and they come to many future meetings and events.

Speaking of future events, we are having our Spring Show at Harlow's on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. We have our judges booked so bring your prize blooms! Unfortunately, my peak bloom is usually later than this but my arils may be presenting themselves at that time. Right now, my irises are merely just beginning their spring growth and probably won't bloom until later than most of my Tucson counterparts. Anyway, the more irises we bring, the more fantastic this show will be! There will also be some irises for sale so we can also bring home more than our blooms and prizes.

Also, many of us are going to Victoria for the 2010 AIS convention May 29-Jun 4. I am looking forward to this trip but be wary, due to increasing fuel costs, the plane tickets are going to be expensive. As of yesterday, prices for economy tickets round trip from Tucson ranges up from \$600 and its likely to continue to climb. As usual, the lower fares are long in duration and have several stops. Convenient schedules are significantly more expensive.

Anyway, I hope to see many of you in future events and meetings in the coming year.

**WOE IS ME!** As Member Chair, I have not received 2011 dues from the following: BESSEY, BIGELOW, BLACKBURN, BRITTON, CARLTON, CLARK, CLARKE, CONSTANTINE, D'AMICO, FICKLE, GABLE, HERMAN, JANKOWSKI, LARSON, MIRON, MUSIL, OATES, OVER, POLING, ROSE, SANCHEZ, SOCTT, SKERSTON, TWEKS BURY, THORPE, VAN LIER, WALLMAN AND WATKINS. I'm sure you don't want to miss out on sale discounts, newsletters, meetings about your favorite flower . . .

**FEBRUARY MEETING REPORT:** Only 12 members and 2 guests turned out for the fantastic presentation on "Tucson Gardening Challenges" by Phil Seader, formerly of Enchanted Desert Garden (see below for more about this new nursery).

**ENCHANTED DESERT GARDEN:** Recently opened by former TAIS members Whitney Haman (who assisted in maintaining the TBG garden a couple of years ago along with Stan Jankowski) and her parents, Chuck and Jane Haman, it's located on the far east side at 11011 E. Tanque Verde Road. They're open from 8 a.m.-dusk every day, phone 468-2785, [www.enchanteddesertgarden.com](http://www.enchanteddesertgarden.com), There's no city sales tax, folks, and a recent visit proved their bagged prices are lower than anywhere else in Tucson. Lots of trees, annuals and perennials. Yes, just say you're with TAIS and you get a 10% discount also!

**IT'S SHOWTIME ON APRIL 23<sup>RD</sup> . . .**

Harlow Gardens, 7:30-9am, staging; 9-11, judging; 11-4, public viewing; 4-5, tear down. Awards will be Harlow gift certificates. AIS Rules & Awards on page 4. Here's what we need in the way of manpower - please contact Maxine, 743-7993, wetypefast@aol.com - remember, volunteers are eligible for free iris . . .

1. Set up/fold down 12 6' tables - WHO?
2. Unpack/pack bottles (80-100) - WHO?
3. Hospitality table for signups and "favorite iris", info 11am-2pm, 2-5pm - WHO?

**Approx. 75 potted iris will be available for sale - WHO will be in charge of setup/sales???**

### FIND IT ON: <http://www.irises.org/>

If you'd like to find an iris website that has EVERYTHING, then you need to check out the revamped and improved website of the 'American Iris Society'. They have recently added some exciting new pages. Here is a sample of a few of them:

There are now iris puzzles to drag and solve, and photo galleries to enjoy. [http://www.irises.org/Photo\\_and\\_Galleries/Photos\\_Galleries\\_Puzzles.html](http://www.irises.org/Photo_and_Galleries/Photos_Galleries_Puzzles.html)

The new "Iris Encyclopedia" – (a wiki) containing over 32,000 iris cultivars of every iris group available with over 21,000 images to view. It's so handy to use. One can search by the variety, name, or hybridizer's name. It's still under construction, but so much is already there! <http://wiki.irises.org/bin/view>

Not to mention some of the information where you can join on-line iris groups. (And you don't need to be a member to join!) ☺ [http://www.irises.org/Resources/On-Line\\_Groups.html](http://www.irises.org/Resources/On-Line_Groups.html)

Of course, a long time favorite page, is the "Commercial Directory Listing" - with links to dozens of iris gardens where you can purchase the irises of your choice. [http://www.irises.org/Resources/Commercial\\_Ref.html](http://www.irises.org/Resources/Commercial_Ref.html)

Naturally you'll find the upcoming AIS Conventions and Activity Calendar with some practical information. [http://www.irises.org/Member\\_Services/Conventions\\_Activities.html#Conventions](http://www.irises.org/Member_Services/Conventions_Activities.html#Conventions)

Another (not-so-recent) wonderful page on this website is the AIS Storefront.....where you can purchase iris note cards, calendars, publications of registrations and introductions booklets, 10 year checklist books, iris postcards, back issues of the AIS bulletins, and more. [http://www.irises.org/Member\\_Services/AIS\\_Storefront.html](http://www.irises.org/Member_Services/AIS_Storefront.html)

Mentioned above is **only a portion** of what you'll find at the newly improved AIS website. There is so much to see; links to connect with other iris websites or iris societies; cultural info and much more. Grab yourself a cup of coffee or tea, and sit back, relax, and enjoy – the wonderful world of irises!

(Note: 'The American iris Society' is also found on facebook's interactive page <https://www.facebook.com/theamericanirissociety> and twitter.)

~ Margie Valenzuela

**SPRING IRIS SHOW**

**Presented by the Tucson Area Iris Society, An affiliate of the American Iris Society, Tucsoniris.org**  
**Saturday, April 23, 2011, Harlow Gardens, 5620 E. Pima, Tucson, AZ 85712**

**TAIS OFFICERS**

President..... Dian Curran, 520/762-9710  
Vice President..... Gordon Jensen, 520/203-8259  
Secretary..... Kathy Chilton, 520/822-1497  
Treasurer..... Maxine Fifer, 520/743-7993

**SHOW COMMITTEE**

Show Chair..... Maxine Fifer, 520/743-7993  
Judges..... Kathy Chilton, 520/822-1497  
Awards..... Kathy Chilton, 520/822-1497  
Property..... Maxine Fifer, 520/743-7993

**GENERAL SHOW RULES**

1. The show is sponsored by the Tucson Area Iris Society and conducted according to American Iris Society regulations, which cannot be violated.
2. Exhibition privileges are free and available to anyone who grows irises. Exhibitors need not be members of any sponsoring or affiliated society. All entries must have been grown and entered in person by the exhibitor whose name appears on the entry tag.
3. Entries must be made between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 23, 2011. The closing time of 9:00 a.m. for receiving all exhibits will be strictly observed. Please allow enough time to prepare your entries.
4. Official entry tags will be supplied. All exhibits must have entry tags.
5. Judging will begin at 9:00 a.m. No persons except authorized show personnel will be allowed inside the roped off area during judging. Decisions of the judges are final, and the judges may withhold any award at their discretion.
6. The show will be open to the public at no charge from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.
7. No exhibits may be removed before 4:00 p.m., and all awards must remain with the exhibit until that time. All exhibits must be removed between 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m., or they will be disposed of at the discretion of the staging committee.
8. It is the intent of TAIS that show judges may not enter a Division which they are judging. An exception may be made to this rule if an emergency substitution of a judge is necessary.
9. The Tucson Area Iris Society is not responsible for loss or damage to the exhibitor's property.

**DIVISION I - HORTICULTURE RULES:**

1. This is a variety/cultivar show. Each cultivar will constitute a separate class and will be placed in alphabetical order according to the name of the iris.
2. Only correctly named varieties will be eligible for awards; those unnamed or misnamed will be for display only.
3. Exhibitors may enter only one stalk of a variety, but may enter any number of varieties. Under no circumstances may an individual transport and enter for competition specimen stalks for another person. All entries must have been grown and entered in person by exhibitor whose name appears on the entry tag.
4. Seedlings must be designated by name or number and entered in the name of the hybridizer.
5. Containers will be furnished, except for Section 8-Collections. The exhibitor may provide containers for Dwarf Irises too small for regular containers.
6. Sections or groups for bulbous irises and collections are eligible to receive award ribbons, special section awards and section rosettes. Award ribbons are included in the tally for Silver and Bronze Medal although these entries are not eligible for the "Best Specimen of Show" award.

**SECTIONS**

- Section 1. Tall Bearded  
Section 2. Median Bearded: a. Standard Dwarf; b. Intermediate; c. Border; d. Other  
Section 3. Aril or Arilbred  
Section 4. Beardless: a. Spuria; b. Louisiana; c. Other  
Section 5. Bulbous (not eligible for Best Specimen)  
Section 6. Any iris not falling under any of the above sections  
Section 7. Seedling (not eligible for Best Specimen)  
Section 8. Youth, under 19 years of age.

**AWARDS****American Iris Society Awards**

All exhibitors are eligible for American Iris Society Awards. One First, Second, or Third Place Ribbon is given to each variety. One or more Honorable Mention Ribbons may be given to each variety except Seedling Section.

Best Specimen of Show Rosette – Winners of all sections except 5, 7, & are eligible.

Horticultural Sweepstakes AIS Silver Medal & Rosette awarded for the most blue ribbons won.

Horticultural Sweepstakes Runner-Up –AIS Bronze Medal & Rosette awarded for second most blue ribbons won.

AIS Section Rosettes -One each for best specimen in the following sections if eligible: (minimum required: 3 exhibitors and 5 cultivars in the section): Tall Bearded, Arils & Arilbreds, Beardless, Bulbous, Median.

**Tucson Area Iris Society Awards**

TAIS will provide additional awards to the winners of all Sections, Best Specimen of Show, Sweepstakes, Sweepstakes Runner-up except Sections 5,7,& 8. TAIS Special Award for Best Plicata Iris.

**TAIS Membership:** \$13 single annual, \$18 dual annual. Maxine Fifer, 4527 N. Camino Cardenal, Tucson, AZ 85718, wetypefast@aol.com

**AIS Membership:** \$25 single annual, \$30 dual annual. Jill Bonino, 3110 Kirkland Dr., Glendale, CA 91206, aistreasurer@irises.org.

**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](http://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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