



# TAIS Newsletter

December 2016

Tucson Area Iris Society—established 1965

An Affiliate of the American Iris Society



**Jennifer Stout,  
Tucson Botanical Gardens**  
photo by Sue Clark, 2016

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## President's Message

**Ah, the holidays... I hope you get to spend a lot of time with friends, family, and food during this special season. Some of my iris fans have 6" of new growth. Spring is coming. I'm looking forward to Kristee's container iris culture presentation at our January meeting. She does very well at iris container growing if you've ever seen her garden. The best to all and see you January 14<sup>th</sup> 2017. - Kevin Kartchner**



**Are you looking for another worthwhile organization to donate to? How about Presby Memorial Iris Gardens? Your gift is tax-deductable, too. Please visit <http://presbyirisgardens.org> to donate via PayPal or check. - SC (photo from their website).**

## Upcoming Events

**No TAIS Meeting in December. Next meeting on January 14.**

### **December Birthday Wishes to:**

**Anne Cotton**

**Gordon Jensen**

**Madeline Glasser**

**Phil Doonan**

**Cathy Scire**

**Terry Southard**



# November Meeting Minutes



**November 19, 2016**

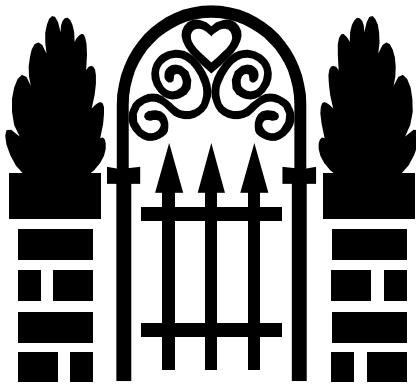
Call to order 1:37 PM

Representing the club, Diane Tweedy thanked Kristee for her excellent service as our president this past year

and gave her a card and check (to be written) for \$100.

Kristee has a fact sheet on each of the club irises that the members have from this year's auction as well as a master list of who has what iris. If you'd like to have your sheet(s) please see her. There are 24 irises out.

There was discussion concerning the auction and club iris program being more profitable this year than last years. Kristee agreed



We ♥ Irises

she will obtain the rhizomes for the auction and asked if anyone has a preference of growers. She will bring the names of the growers we have used in the past to our next meeting.

Iris bucks will be continued for this coming year. Ben Herman used his to pay his membership dues for 2017.

It was asked what Saturdays were the best for the group to meet – the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, or 4<sup>th</sup>. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month is still the best to meet.

Melania has taken the reins for finding presenters for our meetings. Kristee will give Melania the list she has as a starting point.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:14 PM

**Meetings will continue to be held on the 2nd Saturday of each month**

**We're on the web!  
Tucsoniris.org**



## Reblooming Iris Care

Do you plant all of your reblooming irises together? They have special watering and fertilizing needs, so having them in a separate portion of the garden makes sense. Information from candtiris-patch.com suggests watering rebloomers enough that they do not go dormant through the Summer and Fall, and fertilizing them in the early Spring and again on the 4th of July. They recommend a 50-50 blend of super phosphate (0-45-0) and low nitrogen fertilizer (5-10-5) sprinkled around the root zone. - SC

# New Directions for 2017: Installation of New Officers and Board Members



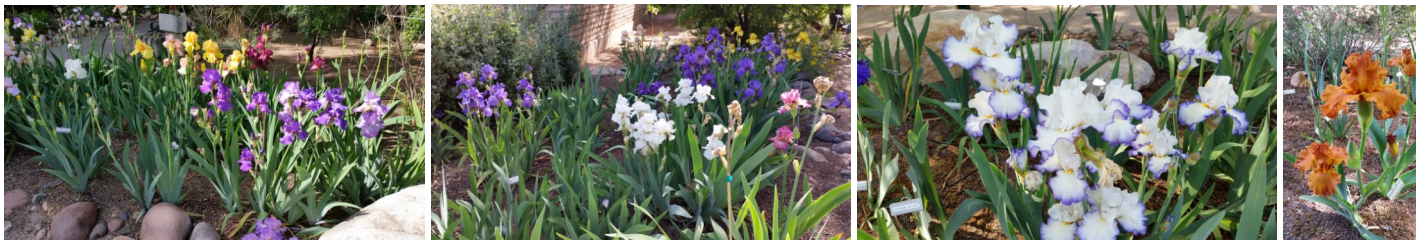
**November  
Meeting and  
Potluck**



**Photos by Tony Kutz**

## Treasurer’s Report for November - submitted by Kristee West, Treasurer

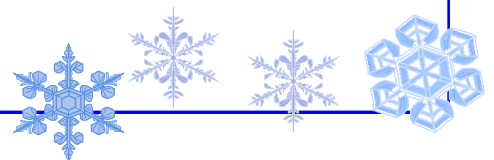
| Date                                 | Pending/Uncashed checks | Debits/ checks  | Deposits  | Balance          | Details                      |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------|------------------|------------------------------|
| 10/21/16                             | #1736                   | Stephen Buchman |           | -\$75.00         | October 15 Speaker           |
| 10/25/16                             | #1741                   | AIS Region 15   |           | -\$211.00        | Region 15 auction proceeds   |
| 11/19/16                             | #1742                   | Angela Powers   |           | -\$18.63         | Hospitality reimbursement    |
| <b>Total Pending/uncashed checks</b> |                         |                 |           | <b>-\$304.63</b> |                              |
| 11/1/16                              |                         |                 |           | \$7308.37        | Beginning bank balance       |
| 11/3/16                              | #1740                   |                 |           | -\$300.00        | Gordon Jensen—rhizomes       |
| 11/4/16                              | #1737                   |                 |           | -\$34.00         | Desert Leaf—publicity Oct 15 |
| 11/7/16                              | #1739                   |                 |           | -\$32.00         | Angela Powers—hospitality    |
| 11/21/16                             |                         |                 | \$10.00   | \$6952.37        | Gary Carruthers dues         |
| 11/21/16                             |                         |                 | \$14.00   | \$6966.37        | Potted iris sale             |
| 11/21/16                             |                         |                 | -\$100.00 | \$6866.37        | Kristee West—transportation  |
| 12/1/16                              |                         |                 |           | \$6866.37        | Ending bank balance          |
| 12/1/16                              |                         |                 |           | -\$304.63        | Pending/uncashed checks      |
| 12/1/16                              |                         |                 |           | <b>\$6561.74</b> | <b>TAIS balance</b>          |



Tucson Botanical Gardens, pictures by Sue Clark, April 2016



“Begin doing what you want to do now. We are not living in eternity. We only have this moment, sparkling like a star in our hand and melting like a snowflake.” ~ Sir Francis Bacon





- TAIS OFFICERS FOR 2017**
- Kevin Kartchner – President**
- Vice President—open**
- Janet Gardner – Secretary**
- Kristee West – Treasurer**
- Sue Clark – Newsletter Editor**
- Carol Peterson—Membership Chairperson**
- Melania Kutz—Program Chairperson**

**Iris Quote:**

"Thou art the Iris, fair among the fairest,  
 Who, armed with golden rod  
 And winged with the celestial azure, bearest  
 The message of some God."  
 - Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Iris



**Did You Know?**

Orris root, used as a fixative and base note in perfumes and potpourri, comes from the roots of *Iris germanica* and *Iris pallida*. It is also an ingredient in many types of gin, and is used in certain herbal medicines. (www.wikipedia.org).

**What to do in the Iris Garden for December:**


Check your plant markers to be sure the writing is still visible.

Make a current map of your iris beds.


Examine the bases of plants for aphids. Remedy by carefully squashing them by hand, or spraying with insecticidal soap or diluted dish soap.

Remove any dead leaves and throw them away rather than composting them. This helps reduce spread of disease.





**Some late bloomers in cold places:** The white iris was blooming in an old cemetery in western Pennsylvania on November 10 (photo courtesy of Rachel Ammon) and the purple ones were blooming in Sedona on November 7 (photo courtesy of Jane Lemon).



**Tip Exchange**

**Plant Markers** — I am trying out the GardenMate large metal plant markers, which I bought from Amazon. I wrote the iris' name on the front and back of the marker, just in case the name on the front side becomes unreadable.

**Marking Pens** — I am trying Sharpie Paint Markers, also from Amazon. (or JoAnn's).

**Labels** — I wrote right on the metal marker: the name of the variety of iris, the hybridizer, and the year. (Should it be the year of registration or year of introduction?) I notice that some people use stick-on labels. What have you had success with?

**Looking for These Irises:**



Bonnie Colby of our club seeks rhizomes of these lavender-colored irises, which were growing in the yard of her Tucson home in the early 1980's. They have a slightly sweet peppery scent.

Sue Clark of our club would love to grow **Midnight Kitty**. (Photo from Karyiris.com).



What are you seeking? Respond at [taisnewsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:taisnewsletter@yahoo.com).