

Tucson Area Iris Society



February 2016
Editor: Roger Osgood

Tucsoniris.org

President– Kristee West
Vice President– Kevin Kartchner
Secretary– Roger Osgood
Temp Treasurer– Roger Osgood

President's Message:

At our January meeting, 11 members, mostly board members, attended a **MEMBERSHIP BRUNCH** at the Country Club of La Cholla (an MBK Senior Community in northwest Tucson). We will be donating some iris rhizomes to The Country Club of La Cholla gardens after our fall sale to thank them. Don't forget to submit your dues and membership form to Madeline Glaser soon.

The iris garden that we maintain at **Tucson Botanical Garden** will be a high priority for 2016. Several of the clumps in that garden will need to be divided this fall and will provide more rhizomes for this year's sale. Another priority will be to attempt to add younger members to the group. We were given a new opportunity in January to have a free booth at the **Home Show** at the Convention Center. Four of us were able to speak to many people about growing iris in our area. We added 30 new contacts and one of them became a member.

We will be **adopting the concept of Club Iris** where members who have participated in our activities will be given a new commercial iris to grow and evaluate for 2-3 years. They will keep the mother rhizomes and one increase and donate the other increases to the sale. Thanks, Cheryl Deaton, for sending us your test iris form. This program will allow us to assure non-member buyers at our September sale that the rhizomes they are purchasing actually thrive in our climate. It will also allow the commercial growers the opportunity to have more feedback (and perhaps more votes) for their iris introductions in the future.

My struggle to find someone to take over the office of Secretary has been resolved because Roger Osgood has moved from Yuma to Tucson and is willing to be **Secretary and Newsletter Editor** for at least the next 6 months.

Our next meeting is at Dusenberry-River Library on Saturday, February 20th at 1pm. Jean Richter is coming to speak to our group about Novelty Iris, especially space agers. Don't miss it!

Kristee



Space Age Iris

Name: **Concertina**

Hybridizer: George Sutton

Year introduced: 2000

Do you see the blue spoons where the beard would be found?

What is a spoon?

Appendage extending from the tip of the beard that widens into spoon shaped petaloids.

What is a flounce?

Wide, folded, often canoe, or fan shaped appendages extending from the tips of the beards. (medianiris.com)

Mid February is the time to start thinking about fertilizing your iris beds every two weeks.

As you know, iris do not like a lot of nitrogen, so some good fertilizer choices to consider would be:

**Miracle Grow—Bloom Booster 10-52-10, liquid application, or
Triple Super Phosphate 0-45-0 dry application**

Don't forget to mark your calendar for the February 20th meeting. Our guest speaker, Jean Richter from California's Novelty Iris Society, will be discussing Novelty Iris: What, Why, Who!

Space Age Iris are the new guys on the block with the spoons, horns and flounces. Jean will introduce us to space agers and the work of Lloyd Austin, who hybridized and introduced the first space age iris.

Time: 1:00 p.m. (General and Board Meetings to follow)

Place: Dusenberry-River Library, 5605 E. River Road

Memberships:

**Renewing: Roger Osgood
Angela Powers
Diane Tweedy
Kathleen Windischman**

New Members: Terry Southard



Birthdays in 2016:

February 20th Shirley Andrews

We would like to start acknowledging our members' birthdays. May we have your birth date?

Gardening is better than therapy, and you get tomatoes.

author unknown

As we move into 2016, are there any topics you would like us to explore in the newsletter?

Please let us know and we'll do the research for you. After all, our group is all about education. Just E-mail Kristee West with your suggestion. We'll make it happen.

irisgrowinaz@gmail.com

Any comments, or suggestions, about our newsletter would also be greatly appreciated.

Roger Osgood, editor

Tucson Home and Garden Show was a success for our club!

Kristee, Roger, Pam and Gary staffed the booth for the 3 days of the show— January 8th, 9th and 10th. We enrolled one new member and had 30 interested people register to receive internet mailings. Let's grow our membership this year! While other garden clubs are closing... Let's thrive like the best iris in your garden.

Happy Gardening.



January 16th Meeting at Community Center of La Cholla

TAIS was treated like royalty by the staff of The Country Club La Cholla at our January meeting. A free lunch was provided to the 11 guests in attendance. It was delicious to say the least. Our many thanks to the chef and wonderful servers who anticipated our every need.

After luncheon, a tour of the facility was available to our members.

Our business meeting followed.



Where the heck are we?



Vice-President, Kevin and President, Kristee work on a logistics map trying to determine where all of our members live in the Tucson area.

It is our hope to find meeting venues that accommodate a majority of our members, so some folks don't need to drive too many miles to attend our events. We are trying!

TIAS– Who are we?

What do we do?

According to our bylaws, **Tucson Area Iris Society** has a Board of Directors: Four elected officers and six directors - and then a host of members filling our essential Chair Positions.

Elected Officers are:



**Treasure Trader– 2015 introduction
Grown for TAIS by Roger Osgood
and Kristee West.**

Kristee West is our current president. She has been serving for two years, and per our by-laws may serve only one more year. She came to Tucson, from Las Cruces, New Mexico in 2011. She has been a driving force and the glue holding our great group together.

Kevin Kartchner is our current vice-president. He has lived in Tucson 50 years. While he has been growing iris for 30 years, he has only been a member for 20 years. Only!! Impressive!

Roger Osgood, a recent transplant, is our current secretary and newsletter editor. He was vice-president for the Prescott Area Iris Society in 2010 and worked with Kathy Chilton and Jill Bonino at the 2012 Los Angeles Regional Convention serving as the raffle chairperson, along with Steven Ginter. \$1,800 was raised for Region 15.

Fred Thorpe has retired from the treasurer position after many years due to family obligations. The position will be filled, in the interim, by ex-banker Roger Osgood. (Pending board approval) Best of luck, Fred and thank you for all your years of service to TAIS.

Directors for TAIS

- 1 Angela Powers
- 2 Diane Tweedy
- 3 Gary Carruthers
- 4 Madeline Glaser
- 5 Melania Kutz
- 6 Tony Kutz

*We have just celebrated
our Golden Anniversary
– 50 years*

Chairpersons:

Bylaws and Parliamentarian: Gary Carruthers
Community Projects: Kristee West
Ethics: Board of Directors
Rhizomes & Potted Iris: Kristee West
Publicity: Melania Kutz
Refreshments: Diane Tweedy & Angela Powers
Historian: Gary Carruthers
Web Page: Tim Valenzuela
Membership: Madeline Glaser
Newsletter: Roger Osgood
Property Manager: Bob Foltz
TBG Minder: Greta Dunnigan
Nominating Committee: To be announced
Flower Show: Kevin Kartchner
Hospitality: Diane Tweedy and Angela Powers
Trek: open position

PLANT PROBLEMS

During our time at the home show in January, we had several visitors stop at our booth and ask about problems in their gardens. One, of particular interest, was from Jon, who stated some of his iris, planted in the soil, were being eaten off at the soil line, while others in pots were left untouched. Could we tell him what was happening?

I, personally, have never seen this, so we turned to our friends in Master Gardeners, as well as other successful growers and asked their opinions. Here is the collective wisdom of what was discussed.

Given no evidence trail left by the culprits, we considered:

Squirrels. These guys can climb a wall and scamper about the garden looking for food sources. While they were a possible candidate, it wasn't likely they were the cause of the problem.

Butterfly larvae. Also a possibility, but they tend to be seasonal. Some milky residue, or perhaps impressions of chewing would have been visible to the naked eye.



Now, the winner of our bad boy profile!

Pack Rat. This little guy can burrow tunnels all over the yard and you won't necessarily see him. Small escape routes from the den can be found up to 30 feet away. They collect materials from everywhere and drag them back to the nest, providing a soft bed for the family. Iris leaves, also being a source of food, would be especially attractive. Since the leaves were missing, they were probably food.

One Master Gardener who lives in Marana, says her yard is full of the little guys and the only way she can get rid of them is to "trap and drown". She knows that sounds harsh, but it is the only way she has been able to save her garden from the ravages of the varmint world.

Jon, I hope this gives you a possible clue to your problem. Look for exit holes in the yard (similar to ant hills) and try to trap the guys.