

Tucson Area Iris Society



April 2016

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TUCSONIRIS.ORG

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Many thanks go out to Robert Foltz and Gary Carruthers for helping us to relocate our storage unit. Job well done!

Welcome to our world of iris in Tucson, Arizona.

If there are any ideas, or suggestions, to improve our monthly newsletter, may we hear from you?

Is there a topic of interest you would like to read?

We have some exciting plans for our club in 2016. More about that next month.

Also in May, for our new members, we will start a series of articles on the various species of iris we can grow besides our Tall Bearded. Are you curious what an Aril iris might be? How about defining the term “plicata?” Does my Louisiana iris need to be in a swamp?

We'll try to answer these questions and many more! Stay connected with TAIS.

President's Message:

Late March begins an exciting time in our iris gardens here in the Tucson area. I hope that you are all able to bring irises to the 2016 exhibit on April 9th at Kirk-Bear Canyon Library. If you have at least three to enter, you will receive a recent introduction from Mid-America Gardens for our new Club Iris Program at the August Auction Meeting. (See the information later in the newsletter for more details.)

Thanks to all who came to the March meeting. I am sorry that Ron Coleman, from the local Orchid Society, didn't receive our E-mail notice that the meeting had to be changed due to library availability. I hope that you all enjoyed the coffee, bagels and donuts at the meeting as much as I did. I also hope that I was able to answer many of the questions of new iris growers as a substitute for the Orchid presentation. We now have Ron's phone numbers and will reschedule his presentation in the future.

I also want to thank you for your thoughts and prayers for us, as my sister and I relocated my mom to the assisted living facility in Denver that mom had chosen. It's a big change, but mom seems to be adjusting quite well. It snowed on us twice while I was there. Yes, I was in the blizzard of March 23rd. There was 20.5" of snow on my sister's back porch! I suspect that her irises will really appreciate the moisture as the snow melts, but it did nothing to help us relocate mom.

When I got back home, there were several TB's in bloom in my back yard and 27 of my irises have stalks that should bloom next week. My hubby and I will be in Mesa from March 29th to April 1st, so if you are planning to come to see my garden on April 2nd, please call on Saturday, April 2nd to confirm your arrival time. My number is 520 310-5222 and my address is 1881 E. Mourning Dove Ct., Green Valley, AZ 85614. If you are using a GPS to get here, set your GPS to the address of the main guard gate entrance at 1450 E. Quail Crossing Blvd. Once you are there, tell them you are coming to the West's at 1881 E. Mourning Dove Ct. and they will give you a map to get to my house easily. If your GPS is as bad as mine is and you try to set directly to my address, it will take you into the back gate and cause you lots of grief and aggravation.

I hope to see you on both the 2nd at my house and the 9th at the iris exhibit.

Kristee

The Membership application for TAIS is being included in this issue for our friends who would like to be supporting members of our great group. Though you are unable to attend our events, your participation from afar is appreciated. As always, if you are on our contact list, this newsletter will be sent to you monthly with timely and informative information regarding our world of iris.

Tucson Area Iris Society Membership Application

www.tucsoniris.org

Date: _____

Name(s): _____

Address:

Street: _____

City: _____

State: _____ **ZIP:** _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Month and Day of birth: _____

Make checks payable to TAIS.

Single: \$15 _____ **Dual: \$18** _____ **Youth: \$5** _____

To receive our Newsletter by mail, please check: _____

Mail this form and your check to:

Madeleine Glaser

9868 N. Niobrara Way

Tucson, AZ 85742

Please check all activities that interest you:

_____ **Assist at Iris Sales**

_____ **Assist at Spring Show**

_____ **Bring refreshments to a meeting**

_____ **Serve on a committee**



Birthdays to Celebrate—April

Susan Oates	April 12
Clyda Murray	April 12
Carol Peterson	April 17
Kathy Chilton	April 25

**If you have a garden and a library,
You have everything you need.**

Marcus Tullius Cicero

Dots and Splashes – 2015 M Sutton

Registered 2009, TB 36”, EML and RE.

Standard– Palest lavender faintly dotted violet, orange-white edge and base, style arms orange-white, violet above stigmatic lip.

Falls– white ground, dotted violet, almost solid violet veined edge.

Beards: gold. Variegated foliage.

Slight spicy fragrance.

Let's introduce our trial iris and the member tending to its growth in future issues of our newsletter.

If you are the proud parent of one of our fledgling iris, or want to be, may we hear from you?



This new introduction is being grown for TAIS by Roger Osgood. This is one of the new 2015 introductions to be awarded as a gift to those members who meet our volunteer criteria.

At this moment, the iris is growing in Yuma, AZ. After 5 months in the ground, there are three increases. The plant is healthy and happy.

(see page 4)

TAIS TEST IRIS PROGRAM

As an incentive for our members to volunteer and get more involved in our group, President Kristee mentioned in the last newsletter that those members bringing 3 or more blooms to our April 9th Iris Show will receive a newly introduced iris to be grown for our society. You get to keep the mother and one rhizome and the rest come back to TAIS. It is our plan to have the iris grown for two years in our local area. After that time, and your evaluation of its performance, we will decide if the iris should be introduced into our dry and hot Tucson environment. On the previous page, **Dots and Splashes** was presented as one of our new introductions. Below is our *proposed evaluation sheet* for this iris and some basic information we would like to assemble during its growing period. We count on you to do the record keeping. This is my test form. Any suggestions from our members?

Description: Dots and Splashes	
M Sutton: Registered 2009. Introduced 2015. EML & RE. TB 36"	
Standards: Palest lavender, faintly dotted violet, orange-white edge and base.	
Style arms: Orange-white, violet above stigmatic lip.	
Falls: White ground, dotted violet, almost solid violet veined.	
Beard: Gold Variegated foliage Fragrance: Spicy	
Date Planted: September 30, 2015 Yuma	
Condition of rhizome at planting: Healthy/ average size rhizome	
First year bloom: Y N Matches registered description: Y N	
Number of blooms: _____ Condition of branching: _____	
Fragrance description: _____	
First year increase: _____	
Second year bloom: Y N Number of stalks: _____ Number of blooms: _____	
Second year increase: _____ Rebloom: Y N Photo: Yes N	
Fertilizer used and strength: Ferti Lome 9-58-8 water soluble _____.	
Frequency: Before bloom: every two weeks After bloom: _____	
Start fertilizing: March 1, 2016 Stop: _____	
Recommend to others: Y N Why? This iris has only been in the ground 5 months. It is still too early to evaluate. It was soaked in starter solution at the time of planting and receives regular watering.	

Member name: Roger Osgood	
Report date: March 15, 2016	

Back to some basics.

10 – 52 – 10

From time to time, a review of some gardening basics helps me to re-focus on the needs of my plants in the garden. Just as I sometimes pig out on French fries and skip the healthy salad, I tend to sometimes treat my garden the same way. Nutrition is really the name of the game for all living organisms. What we give our bodies and what we give our plants determines the end result.

Let's look at the components of plant nutrition and what each of the elements does. I'll use the basic **Miracle-Gro Water Soluble Bloom Booster** as our demonstration fertilizer. These elements are the basis for all fertilizers.

Nitrogen (N) This is the first number of 3 found on your fertilizer package. In this case **10-52-10**. Vegetative growth is the primary object of this element. Ammonia, ammonium nitrate and urea are all popular sources of nitrogen. Typically you want to keep this number 10 and under as a standard practice in your iris bed.

Phosphorus (P) is your second number: 10-**52**-10. Plant maintenance. It is essential to development of roots, flowers, seeds and fruit. During the pre-bloom season, the higher this number the more stunning your blooms will tend to be.

Potassium (K) is the last number: 10-52-**10**. This provides for strong stem growth, movement of water in plants and promotion of flowering and fruiting. This element is required for the activation of over 80 enzymes throughout the plant. It is important for the plant's ability to withstand extreme cold and hot temperatures, drought and pests.

Three secondary macronutrients are calcium, magnesium and sulphur.

In nature NPK often come from the decay of plants that have died. In your garden, when these nutrients are not replaced, your soil becomes depleted and plant production suffers. Choosing the correct fertilizer depends on your crop. Because fertilizers are minerals, they must first dissolve in water to be absorbed by the plant. Water soluble is an important consideration.

Trial and error comes hand in hand with being a gardener. Experiment, keep track of what you did and move on if the results are less than stunning.

April Flower Show

Pride of Our Gardens



Friday, April 8th

Set up 3:30 pm

We need all hands on deck, please!

Saturday, April 9th

9 am to 10 am: Submission of your iris.

10 am to 4 pm: Show opens to the public.

4 pm to 5 pm: Tear down

Kirk Bear Canyon Library

8959 E. Tanque Verde Rd. (520) 594-5275

Those members who bring 3, or more, stalks for display will receive one of our recent introduction iris at our August meeting.

Bold Pattern

This new 2015 introduction could be yours.

This show will not be judged, however our visitors will have a chance to vote for their personal favorites. Angela and Melania will tabulate the results to determine the winner of People's Choice. Will it be you?



We would like to welcome 2 new members to our iris family. We are often called "irisarians."

Janet Gardner comes with a friend all the way from Casa Grande to attend our meetings. Wonderful!

Martin Juarez lives in Tucson and continues to care for the iris his mother grew, Martin has come on board as our secretary to finish out the next 7 months. Thank you, Martin!

Mid-America Garden, LLC

2016 Introductions of Thomas Johnson, Paul Black & Lynda Miller



All The Talk ~ TJ



Are You Free ~ PB



Bedroom Romance ~ PB



Call To Danger ~ PB



Canadian Brass ~ PB



Dancing Delight ~ TJ



Easy As Pie ~ PB



Gentle On My Mind ~ PB



Mac 'N Cheese ~ TJ



Lasting Moment ~ TJ



Jungle Mist ~ PB



Ninja Warrior ~ LM



Mayan Sunrise ~ TJ



Painted Love ~ TJ



Peaceful Reverie ~ PB



Purple Punch ~ TJ



Ruby Tracery ~ PB



Swivel Hips ~ TJ



Midnight Rhapsody ~ TJ



Vanity Girl ~ TJ



What A Beard! ~ PB



When Angels Sing ~ PB

These are just a sampling of our new introductions. For more information and to order a catalog go to:
www.mid-americagarden.com



In The Flesh