

TAIS Newsletter



Coral Point,
Tucson Botanical Gardens
photo by Sue Clark, 2016

President's Message

It was great to see everyone at our first meeting of 2017. The theme for the year: Reblooming our membership. We all know someone who previously attended TAIS meetings or could attend for the first time. Invite them to hear about our Wild Orchids of Arizona at our Feb 11th meeting. There will be "Iris Bucks" for those who have a non-TAIS member attend our March 11th meeting on iris judging in France. See you soon - Kevin

"The last fling of winter is over ... The earth, the soil itself, has a dreaming quality about it. It is warm now to the touch; it has come alive; it hides secrets that in a moment, in a little while, it will tell. - Donald C. Peattie

Inside this issue:

January Meeting Minutes	2
Schreiner's Iris Gardens	2
Photos from January meeting, Valentine-y Iris	3
Treasurer's Report, Integrated Pest Management	4
Correction, Request from TBG, Giardino dell'Iris	5
What to do in the Iris Garden in February	6
Flower Quote, Did You Know?	6
Tips, Bit of Botany	6

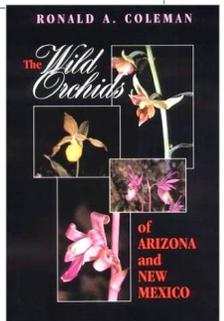
Upcoming Events

Next meeting: February 11, 1:00 PM - Wilmot Library

Speaker: Ron Coleman - Wild Orchids of Arizona

Master Gardeners Home Garden Tour -April 1, 9 AM

TBG - Daytripping to Glorious Gardens - April 8, 9 AM



February Birthday Wishes to:

Sam Wymer

Shirley Andrews

Greta Dunnigan

Sue Clark

January Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2017

Call to order 12:35 PM

Our president, Kevin Kartchner, gave us insight into his background. He has been gardening since he was a youngster in the vegetable garden. About 20 years ago he became interested in iris. His daughter, Cara, has also been a member of our group as a youth member. Kevin has been with IBM as an engineer for 32 years, he plays the piano, rides bicycles, build electronics and hikes. For our iris group he wants to continue a lot of the past programs.

We are in need of someone to fill our vice president slot. Responsibilities include: organize the meeting, obtain guest speakers, fill in for the president. If you are interested please let Kevin know.

Our guest speaker this month was Kristee West. Her presentation, "Growing Iris in Containers", was packed with valuable information. It included the fertilizer, the pots and the soil she uses as well as helpful tips.

As part of the Board meeting, Kevin has asked the committee chairs to submit a summary of their responsibility as the chairperson by the end of February.

A motion was made by Janet for the club to purchase a projector and was seconded by Kristee. Melania made a motion to spend up to \$300 for this projector and it was seconded by Tony. Melania will keep track of it when purchased.

It was decided that Iris Bucks are valued at \$1 and can be used for paying dues and buying iris. (Ben Hermann's dues have been paid by iris bucks)

The Treasurer gave her report.

A motion was made by Melania and seconded by Kristee that the Publicity Chairman have an assistant.

Angela will get the door/raffle prizes for February. It was resolved that the budget for the year is \$200. This was made by a motion from Janet with a second by Carol.

Kristee made a motion for a budget of \$400 for the year for food and water. It was seconded by Diane.

Tips are always welcome and encouraged by Sue for the newsletter! If you have one, please email it to Sue at taisnewsletter@yahoo.com.

Kevin, Janet and Kristee all need to be AIS members before the group can submit dues for the club. Kevin and Janet should let Kristee know when they have joined so she can submit the club dues.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:25 PM

Submitted by Janet Garner, Secretary



Schreiner's Iris Gardens Open for Orders

Dreaming about irises to add to your garden? Schreiner's Iris Gardens is ready to accommodate with their mini catalog! Located near Salem, Oregon, this family business is now in its third and fourth generations. Founder F. X. Schreiner began growing irises in Minnesota in 1920, after a chance meeting with John Wister, president of the newly-established American Iris Society. Because few irises were available in America at that time, F. X. and his son Robert imported seeds and rhizomes from Europe. F. X. began selling irises commercially in 1925 via a type-written list. By this time, he had over 500 varieties growing on one acre. Schreiner's first color catalog was published in 1947. The current iris gardens extend over 200 acres in Oregon's Willamette Valley and contain over 1,000 varieties. The Schreiners have won many awards for their irises, including eleven Dykes medals. Ten acres of display gardens bloom from about May 6-31. Over 500 varieties are featured in the display. Cut irises are for sale and rhizomes may be ordered at that time. Schreiner's Gardens pride themselves on true-to-type, fat and healthy rhizomes which are carefully packaged and tagged. Please visit them at www.schreinersgardens.com. -SC



(photo from their website)

**Start thinking about
what to enter in our
Show this April!**

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

January 14th meeting



Kristee West, speaker

Some Valentine-y Irises

- My Pretty Valentine
- Velvet Valentine
- My Valentine
- Valentine's Day
- Valentine Heart
- Valentine Melody
- Valentine Romance
- Valentine
- Cupid's Arrow
- Cupid's Dart
- Cupid's Frolic
- Cupid's Wish



Photos by
Tony Kutz



Treasurer's Report for January - submitted by Kristee West, Treasurer

Date	Pending/Uncashed checks	Debits/ checks	Deposits	Balance	Details
1/14/17	#1745 - Diane Tweedy	- \$46.21			Food and membership labels
1/23/17	#1746 - AIS	- \$24.00			3 programs
Total Pending/uncashed -\$70.21					
1/1/17				\$6772.74	Beginning bank balance
1/17/17	#1741 AIS Region 15	-\$211.00		\$6561.74	Auction proceeds
1/17/17	DCd - Lowe's	-\$16.53		\$6545.21	January door prizes
1/17/17	AIS	-\$15.00		\$6530.21	Dues - EKWest
	#5853		\$83.00	\$6613.21	Kartchner markers
	#571, 6116, 2014		\$30	\$6643.21	West, Glaser, Else, 2017 Dues
	#5949		\$15	\$6658.21	Stinski, 2017 Dues +
1/23/17	#1744 - Windischman	-\$10.23		\$6647.98	label maker replacement
2/1/17				\$6647.98	Ending bank balance
2/1/17				-\$70.21	Pending/uncashed checks
2/1/17				\$6577.77	TAIS balance

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) continued from last month's newsletter

(Source: <http://extension.psu.edu/pests/ipm/schools-childcare/schools/educators/curriculum/contents/sixtactics>)

5. Chemical methods - There are many chemicals that are used in pest management situations, but not all chemicals are alike from the standpoint of their range of action, toxicity, or persistence in the environment.

A. Bio-rational chemicals are those that are less universally toxic and target a specific aspect of pest biology. An example might be diatomaceous earth used to scratch the surface of insects to dehydrate them, or microbial pesticides that affect only a specific group of insects. There are some bio-rational chemical tactics that are hard to classify by toxicity or that are used together in innovative ways with other tactics. An example of this would be insect pheromones used together with sticky traps. Pheromones are the chemicals produced by insects to attract their mates, and so these substances are not toxic. But they can be used in large amounts to "confuse" the mating process or to attract insects to a trap. Other examples of such chemicals are repellants, attractants, and anti-feeding agents.

B. Conventional pesticides currently refers to synthetically produced compounds that act as direct toxins (nerve poisons, stomach poisons, etc.) There are many new classes of chemicals being added to the older conventional pesticides.

6. Regulatory - Regulatory control refers to the role played by government agencies in trying to stop the entry or spread of pests into an area or into the country via inspection, quarantine, destruction of infested material, and other methods.

Correction to the January newsletter -

The beauty in the picture below is Dutchman's Dream rather than Quiet Reflections. Thanks to Bob Van Liere for pointing this out. We will work on correcting this mislabeled iris at the Tucson Botanical Gardens. - SC



A Halloween-Themed Bed of Re bloomers??? And speaking of the TBG, Executive Director Michelle Conkin has again asked us to consider rearranging at least some of our irises there into themed beds. She is especially interested in having one bed that might bloom during the Fall Feast of the Dearly Departed event. Anybody want to research and find some orange and black rebloomers that might fit the bill? Even if only a few bloomed on time, they would have lots of admirers! Michelle is also seeking homes and gardens for TBG's upcoming Ultimate Private Home Garden Tour. Please contact her with any ideas at execdirector@Tucsonbotanical.org. - SC

*"The February sunshine steeps
your boughs and tints the
buds and swells the leaves
within."* - William C. Bryant

Giardino dell'Iris

In the city of Florence, Italy, not far from the statue of David, there is a famous iris garden. The Giardino dell'Iris is open each year from April 25 to May 20 only. During that interval, though, the blooms of 1,500 varieties offer a feast for the eyes. Since 1954, this free garden has been operated by the Società Italiana dell'Iris. Iris has been the symbol of Florence since the year 1251 and appears in the city's coat-of-arms as a red fleur-de-lis. White iris are native to the area. The Società Italiana dell'Iris holds an annual international competition for the most beautiful iris hybrid, and many of the entries get planted in the garden. Besides the myriad tall bearded and border bearded irises, there is a pond for aquatic varieties. - SC

Sources: www.wikipedia.com, www.visitflorence.com/
www.italiannotebook.com/places/iris-giglio-florence/



(photos from <http://www.irisfirenze.it/>)

TAIS OFFICERS, ETC. FOR 2017

Kevin Kartchner – President

Vice President—open

Janet Gardner – Secretary

Kristee West – Treasurer

Carol Peterson—Membership Chairperson

Melania Kutz—Program Chairperson

Madeleine Glaser - Asst. Program Chairperson

Angela Powers - Hospitality

Tony Kutz - Photographer

Sue Clark – Newsletter Editor

Flower Quote:

"In the 1600's, a language of flowers developed in Constantinople and in the poetry of Persia. Charles II introduced the Persian poetry to Europe, and Lady Mary Wortley Montagu brought the flower language from Turkey to England in 1716. It spread to France and became a handbook of 800 floral messages known as the *Book Le Language des Fleurs*. Lovers exchanged messages as they gave each other selected flowers or bouquets. A full red rose meant beauty. Red and white mean unity. Crocus said "abuse not", while a white rosebud warns that one is too young for love. Yellow roses were for jealousy, yellow iris for passion, filbert for reconciliation and ivy for marriage."



- Valentine's Day Love Traditions (<http://www.gardendigest.com/flowers.htm>)

What to do in the Iris Garden for February:

Begin applying Super Bloom (12-55-6) or a similar fertilizer (at least 0-45-0) on Valentine's Day, and then once every two weeks. Mix according to the directions on the package. Mesquite Valley Growers sells Scott's Super Bloom, as does Amazon. Miracle-Gro makes a version called Bloom Booster (10-52-10)

If you did not do it in January, get your drip system into shape for the hot weather!



Tip Exchange

If you are planting iris in a big pot, you can fill the bottom portion with crushed plastic water bottles without lids. Lie them sideways and cover the layer with newspaper or fabric to prevent soil from sinking down and surrounding the bottles. Cover with potting soil. The layer of bottles will fill with any excess water that comes into the pot, and the iris' roots can grow down into that layer, thereby keeping the water where it does good and routing it away from the rhizome where it can cause rot. And it reduces the amount of potting soil needed.- from Kristee West's presentation on Growing Iris in Containers, January 14, 2017-SC

Did You Know?

In ancient times the iris was a symbol of power and majesty used as the original scepter.

(www.amazon.com/Bulk-Herbs-Orris-Powder-Organic/)

A Little Bit of Botany

"A true bulb, such as a hyacinth and narcissus, is a swollen underground stem with a bud inside. In addition, a number of bulblike plant parts are often grouped under "bulbs." Corms such as crocus or gladiolus are similar but have the bud on top. They make new corms that replace the original one each year. A rhizome, such as an iris, is an underground stem; new plants sprout along its length. A tuber, such as tuberous begonia, is swollen part of an underground stem with buds along the sides. Some plants, such as dahlia and ranunculus, have tuberous roots. All of these are food storage organs and are convenient for the gardener since they can be safely kept until ready to plant." From "Bulbs and Friends" in 365 Days In The Garden Calendar by Workman Publishing.
Contributed by Melania Kutz.