

TAIS Newsletter



Wild iris
Chiricahua Wilderness

photo by friend of
Jamie McAlister, 2016

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President's Message

The frosts have been light enough that I'm enjoying a few reblooming iris flower stalks. Now it's time to rebloom our TAIS membership. Everyone who brings a non-TAIS member to our March 11th meeting on iris judging in France will receive a free rhizome at our Fall sale. A friend, neighbor, former TAIS member, spouse, they are all welcome. Speaking of France: "I must have flowers, always, and always." — Claude Monet

See you at the meeting! Kevin Kartchner

*"It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade."
- Charles Dickens*

Upcoming Events

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

Speaker: Jill Bonino, Iris Judging in France. *Bring a guest!*

Master Gardeners Home Garden Tour -April 1, 9 AM

TAIS Annual Iris Show: April 8, Bear Canyon Library

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

March Birthday Wishes to:

Kristee West Martin Juarez Paul Bessey
Steven Ginter Celia Keener



And a Get-Well Wish to Shirley Andrews, who had her knee replaced

February Meeting Minutes

February 11, 2017

Kevin's news for the group: For the March meeting, Iris Judging in France. anyone who brings a visitor will get iris bucks.

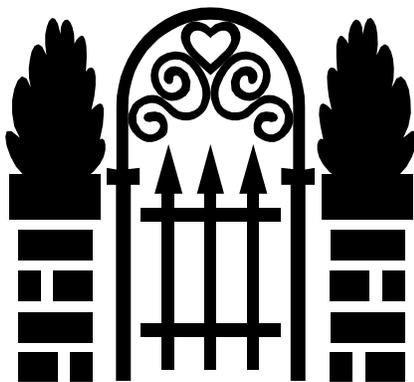
Our presenter for the month, Ron Coleman, holds an engineering degree and has worked for Raytheon. He

joined the orchid society and has published over 30 orchid articles and two books (Wild Orchids of California and Wild Orchids of Arizona). An interesting point he stated was that wild iris and wild orchids often grow together. He presented many slides with the wild orchids and information on each kind.

The business portion of the meeting was called to order at 2:06 PM.

A motion was made by Melania and seconded by Tony to continue our website maintenance at a cost of \$500/yr. It passed unanimously.

With our flower show two months away a motion was made by Kathy and seconded by Greta to spend \$50 on advertising in the Tower Cryer.



We ♥ Irises

There was no treasurer's report. Four memberships paid today.

Kathleen informed us that TBG has

given us a 5' x 5' storage area. This should hold everything we have in our paid storage area so after the show in April everything will be stored in the TBG storage area.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:20 PM

Submitted by Janet Garner, Secretary

Start wishing for
spectacular blooms
to enter in our Show
this April!



We're on the web!
Tucsoniris.org

Philadelphia Flower Show March 10-19, 2017

The oldest (since 1829) and largest indoor floral show in the world, the Philadelphia Flower Show is preceded by an official countdown known as the Bloom Philly Festival, designed to help residents break out of the winter doldrums and into spring. Visitors to the Flower Show will be greeted this year by a spectacular entrance garden called "Holland: Flowering the World," filled with 30,000 flowers, a bridge, and 6,000 more flowers suspended from the ceiling. Over 260,000 guests are expected to attend the event, which showcases plants, sustainability practices, horticulturalists, and designers from the United States and Holland. Demonstrations, competitions, vendor area, themed gardens, and other special events such as a Teddy Bear Tea round out the experience, which is held at the Convention Center. Proceeds from the event are used by the Philadelphia Horticultural Society for such programs as City Harvest which supports green jobs, gardens that grow produce for families in need, and other urban greening efforts. The Philadelphia Flower Show has been honored as one of the best events in the world! Learn more at www.theflowershow.com. - SC



(photo from www.visitphilly.com)



February 11th meeting

Some Irish-themed Irises



Ronald Coleman, Speaker

- Irish Brogue
- Irish Butter
- Irish Cream
- Irish Eyes
- Irish Gold
- Irish Jig
- Irish Linen
- Irish Luck
- Irish Lullaby
- Irish Rose
- Irish Spring
- Irish Treasure
- Irish Whiskey
- Shamrock Pride

Photos by
Tony Kutz



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

Date	Pending	Debits/ checks	Deposits	Balance	Details
2/20/17	#1747	-\$30.00			AIS 2017 dues
2/20/17	#1748	-\$75.00			Ron Coleman, Feb speaker
2/20/17	#1749	-\$10.63			Sue Clark - copies, postage
3/3/17		-\$500			Tim Valenzuela - website
	Total Pending	-\$615.63			
2/1/17				\$6647.98	Beginning bank balance
2/3/17	#1745	-\$46.21		\$6601.77	Diane Tweedy - labels, food
2/10/17	#1746	-\$24.00		\$6577.77	AIS - three programs
2/28/17				\$6577.77	Ending bank balance

Parc Floral de Paris - site of the "Iris Judging in France" presentation for our March meeting

Part park, part botanical garden, the Parc Floral de Paris is lovely in all seasons, with over 1200 species of perennials in residence. Formerly a portion of the 12th-century royal park and hunting domains of the nearby Chateau de Vincennes, the Parc Floral is home to an annual international flower show. In the Valley of Flowers, a different type of flower is featured each year and mirrored in a central lake. Iris grow in their own smaller garden, where they bloom in May and June.



(Valley of Flowers, Wikipedia website)



(the Parc, French Gardens website)



(from Trip Advisor/Chateau d'Auvers)

About 30 minutes north of Paris is the Chateau Auvers-sur-Oise, located in the village where Vincent Van Gogh spent the last two and a half months of his life. The chateau houses an impressionist museum and the gardens contain a unique collection of irises (see the photo, above right). - SC

Read more: <http://www.vincennes-tourisme.fr/Decouvrir/Parc-Floral> (contains a bloom-time calendar for all flowers), https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parc_floral_de_Paris, https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g562716-d286781-Reviews-Chateau_d_Auvers-Auvers_sur_Oise_Val_d_Oise_Ile_de_France.html, and <http://www.french-gardens.com/gardens/parcfloraldeparis.php>.

TAIS iris grower's interview #1

Our past-president, Kristee West, lives in Green Valley, Arizona, which is about 30 miles south of Tucson. She has been growing irises for 25 years. About 12 years ago, she began growing the flower actively when she joined an iris society, helped with their sale, and started buying irises. Kristee reflects that it was the irises in her grandmother's garden in Denver that initiated her love affair with them. The first ones in her own garden were gifts from someone she knew in Rochester, New York when she lived there.

Many of Kristee's irises are currently growing in containers. To amend the potting soil, she adds Soil Moist (polyacrylamide beads) near the bottom of pots, so it is near the roots and not near the rhizomes. She prefers self-watering pots, and to these she doesn't add Soil Moist. Kristee often enriches her soil with coffee grounds, which are free for the asking at Starbucks. For raised beds, she buys the following from Ace Hardware – garden soil, peat, and sometimes perlite and/or vermiculite. This is not a set mixture – she adds what she feels is needed, including coffee grounds, and then amends it every two to three years as the volume decreases. When planting in beds in the ground, a similar mixture is added to the native soil, especially if it is clay-rich.

When getting ready to plant in the Fall, Kristee soaks her new rhizomes in Super Bloom or Bloom Booster (10-52-10 or 9-56-9) or water or root stimulator while preparing her pots or plots. This gives the rhizomes a kick-start. She puts 1 Tablespoon of Triple Super Phosphate (0-45-0) under each rhizome and sprinkles a balanced fertilizer (10-10-10) around them. Starting on Valentine's Day, she applies Super Bloom or Bloom Booster (10-52-10 or 9-56-9) every two weeks, mixed according to the directions on the package. Stop application one week after bloom time.

Kristee gives a quick soak to all new rhizomes in 1 part bleach to 9 parts water before planting to prevent any unwanted organisms from being ferried into her garden. She plants garlic and onions nearby to keep thrips and aphids away from her irises. No other pests have been noted.

Irises in Kristee's garden are watered via a drip line. She runs the emitters into the bottoms of her

pots rather than the top, so the water is near the roots and not near the rhizomes. She advises using a moisture meter to determine if the plants need to be watered – insert the probe to its full depth in order to determine the moisture level near the roots. She uses this tool for pots and garden beds. Kristee stated that she has lost rhizomes to rot from overwatering, and that is why she is so careful.

Kristee divides her irises to sell at the TAIS sale. For most of her containers, division is necessary every one to two years. If it's a large pot, she can wait about three years. She keeps a sizeable rhizome of each variety, as well as those too small to sell.

Her favorite type? Tall bearded irises, especially those with the coloration known as "self." She also loves rebloomers. Kristee grows two varieties of heirloom irises. She received them in a grab bag from the iris society in Prescott. One is from the 1600's and one from the 1800's.

Kristee admitted that she still buys irises, but not every year. She supports growers who have been kind and generous to her and those whose varieties grow well for her. She mentioned that she received a \$25 gift card when she purchased an e-membership with AIS, good for irises from certain growers.

At first, Kristee did not discard varieties that performed poorly, because she assumed their lack of vigor was her fault. She does throw away poor performers now, due to the fact that she does not want them to be in the sale. Before getting rid of anything, though, she gives it every chance. One variety that she moved here from Las Cruces did not bloom for several years, and now it is happy in Green Valley.

Her best tip? **Grow 'em, love 'em, and share 'em!** - SC

Editor's Message - In the spirit of sharing, learning, and building community, I have begun interviewing members of our group about their iris gardens. These interviews will be featured in the newsletter in the coming months. Please contact me at taisnewsletter@yahoo.com if you wish to be interviewed. I will e-mail you a list of questions. You can call me on the phone, I will take notes, and then write an article. - SC

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

What to do in the Iris Garden for March:

Continue applying Super Bloom (12-55-6) or a similar fertilizer (at least 0-45-0) once every two weeks.

Keep beds free of weeds, dead leaves, & pests.

Please keep track of how many of your new rhizomes do and don't bloom in this, their first Spring. Report to the editor at taisnewsletter@yahoo.com. Thank you!



Tip Exchange

If you grow irises in containers, limit each pot to two varieties so that you can keep track of which is which when it's time to divide them.

A coffee filter in the bottom of a pot will help the soil remain inside the container, rather than leaking out the holes in the bottom.

Water rhizomes less during the cooler winter months, and more in the warm & hot months.

-from Kristee West's presentation, Jan. meeting

Iris Poem:

**In the Spring a livelier iris changes
on the burnish'd dove;
In the Spring a young man's fancy
lightly turns to thoughts of love.
- Alfred Lord Tennyson**



Did You Know?

A *noid* is a plant of unknown variety, and is short for "no ID." In our case, this refers to any unnamed irises in our gardens. If you have any noid irises, you can submit their photos to <https://garden.org/thread/view/48446/Show-us-your-NOIDS/>, a forum on the National Gardening Association website. Other people might just know what they are! (Well, as much as possible from a photo). You must first create a username and login before you can reply to this or any other thread on the site. - SC

*The air is like a butterfly with frail blue wings.
The happy earth looks at the sky and sings.
- Joyce Kilmer, Spring*

A Little Bit of Botany

Last month we looked at various bulbs and bulb-like structures. This month, we will look more closely at rhizomes. Rhizomes are horizontal stems that grow underground, usually near the surface. Although they resemble roots, they have scale-like leaves (see diagram) and axillary buds (embryonic shoots) at each node (part of a stem with one or two leaves and buds). Adventitious roots (roots arising at unusual places such as from stems) are produced along the length of the rhizome, especially from the lower surface.

In addition to the small, scale-like leaves, full-sized functioning leaves also form. Rhizomes vary from relatively thick and fleshy food-storage organs such as in irises to slender structures in some ferns and many perennial grasses. - SC

Source: [Introductory Plant Biology](#) by Kingsley R. Stern, 1994 edition, Wm. C. Brown Communications: Dubuque, Iowa.

