

TAIS Newsletter



Golden Panther

Tucson Botanical Gardens

Photo by Sue Clark, 2016

President's Message

The good news is we sold out. The bad news is we sold out. By 11am, we sold all of our rhizomes at our sale at Harlow's. Thanks to everyone who donated their rhizomes and time. We also distributed some "club rhizomes" to contribute to future sales. Although it was a profitable sale, for next year we'll need more rhizomes to sell.

- Kevin Kartchner

**"I see that old hammock out back, Swaying lightly in the wind
That Autumn oft expels in October, Waiting for me to come and dream,
But the bulbs that fill my tired Hands, leaving trails of rusty earth
Must first be laid to rest, I must tend to their needs first."**

- B. R. Jording, *Fall Planting*

Upcoming Events

Next meeting: October 14th, 1 PM, Murphy-Wilmot Library, 530 N. Wilmot Road - Andy Bessey speaking on companion plants for irises

IMPORTANT NOTES: Dues may be paid at the October or November meetings. They are officially due in January. Anyone who received Club Iris to tend, please report the names of the varieties to Kristee.

Annual Master Gardener Fall Plant Sale: October 7th 2017 8-11 AM, Pima County Cooperative Extension, 4210 N. Campbell Avenue

AI5 Region 15 Fall Meeting: October 14th - The Huntington Library, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, California

October Birthday Wishes to:

Tony Kutz Pam McConnaughey

Melania Kutz Lucille Skerston

Sally Veza



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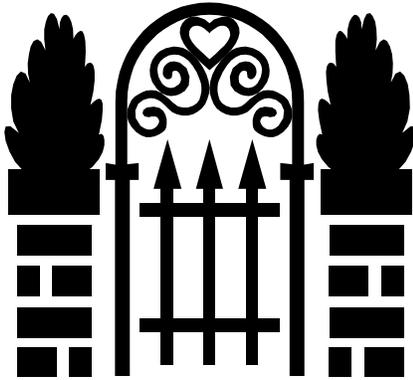
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Report from the Rhizome Sale

TAIS' annual rhizome sale was held on Saturday, September 23, 2017 at Harlow Gardens Nursery. Our new banner hung on the fence and attracted passersby.

Rhizomes had been ordered from both Schreiner's and Stout's, and these were given to helpers as Club Irises. Members who donated rhizomes



We ♥ Irises

include Cathy Pane-Scire, Gary Carruthers, Melania and Tony Kutz, Kathy Windischman, Kristee West, Kevin Kartchner, and Carol Peterson. Individuals who helped divide the irises at the Botanical Gardens brought those - Gary, Diane, Kathy W., and Janet.

Sale helpers included Kathy, Cathy, Susan Schafer, Melania and Tony, Madelieine, Pam, Sue Clark, and Kevin. Check-out and new membership were handled by Janet and Carol.

Rhizomes were sorted by variety and displayed in plastic boxes. Smaller rhizomes and Kathy's prolific and historic red-violet ones were sold in small bagfuls. This is the second year in which rhizomes were labeled with photos of their blooms so that individuals would know

what they were buying. This year customers received with their purchase a Quick Start Guide to growing irises that Sue

wrote. It includes everything that she learned the hard way over the past year.

Kristee spoke on growing irises and was available for

questions.

We sold out early and made about \$2000! One suggestion was to label the rebloomers. Thank you to Harlow's Gardens for hosting our event again this year and for announcing it in two of their email newsletters.

I apologize for forgetting to mention anybody! I know that there is at least one...- SC

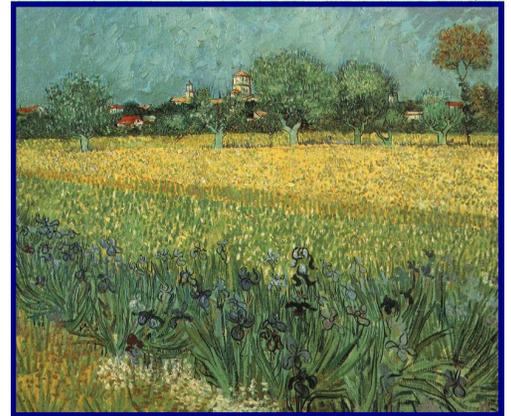
The sale was a
sell-out!



We're on the web!

Tucsoniris.org

Vincent Van Gogh's iris paintings, part 2



View of Arles with Irises, 1888, Van Gogh Museum, 21X25", oil on canvas



Irises, 1890, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 20X36", oil on canvas



Garden with Flowers, 1888, Gemeentemuseum den Haag, The Hague, Netherlands, 28X36", oil on canvas

Sources: #1 -

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:VanGogh-View_of_Arles_with_Irises.jpg

#2 - <http://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/436528>

#3 - <https://www.wikiart.org/en/vincent-van-gogh/garden-with-flowers-1888-1>

TAIS Rhizome Sale



**Photos by
Tony Kutz &
Sue Clark**





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

Date	Debits/Checks	Deposits	Balance	Details
	\$78.19			Action Print & Copy - Brochures
	\$330.00			Region 15 Auction
	\$31.50			Kathi Windischman - Supplies for sale
	Pending Uncashed Expenses Total		\$439.69	
	-\$50.97			Sue Clark - Quick Pay for 4 X 8 Sale Banner
25-Sep	Checks - Deposit	\$585.00		sale
25-Sep	Cash - Deposit (include change for sale \$100)	\$1,342.00		sale
	\$0.00			42 Iris Bucks redeemed
				4 Memberships to be deposited later
25-Sep	-\$78.19			Action Print & Copy - Quick Pay for printing
29-Sep	Bank Balance		\$7,303.02	
	Pending Uncashed Checks		\$439.69	
30-Sep	TAIS Balance		\$6,863.33	

Iris in Quilts - Several of our members are quilters, including Janet, Carol, Gordon's wife Crystal, and me. And there may be others that I don't know about. During the 1930's, appliquéd irises in sherbet-like colors were popular. Modern-day iris quilts are often appliquéd or paper pieced. Sears held a quilt contest at the 1933 World's Fair in Chicago. One pattern in their booklet was "Iris, a regal beauty of gorgeous color." Flora Wade won 2nd place in the Atlanta region with a quilt of this pattern that year. - SC



Clockwise from upper left; 1. Mountain Mist iris appliquéd quilt (detail) 1940. 2. Sears Iris pattern, 1933. 3. Flora Wade's 2nd place quilt, Sears contest, Atlanta region, 1933, 4. Paper-pieced quilt. 5. The appliquéd irises in this quilt resemble Van Gogh's paintings. 6. Precut fusible kit currently available at http://www.keepsakequilting.com/iris-quilt-kit?_SID=U. 7. Paper-pieced quilt. 8. Garden Queen iris block - free download <http://s.hswstatic.com/pdf/garden-queen-iris-quilt-block.pdf>. 10. Paper-pieced iris block.

Images found via Google image search

TAIS iris grower's interview #8

Kathy Windischman lives in midtown Tucson. She has grown irises for about 15 years and has been a member of our club for approximately three years. Kathy raises irises because they remind her of her mom, who grew them because they were one of *her* favorite flowers. In fact, Kathy's best performer is an heirloom purple variety that she brought here from her mother's garden in Ohio!

Kathy amends the soil in her beds with compost, partly of her own making and partly purchased. These beds are raised about 4" above the ground level and are bordered by rocks. When planting her rhizomes, Kathy sprinkles Osmocote around each one and waters it in. She begins dosing her irises with Triple Super Phosphate in late January or early February to encourage them to bloom. She used to apply regular Miracle-Gro at half strength, but has switched to the Triple Super Phosphate. Kathy's irises had grubs one year and an entomologist at the University of Arizona recommended that she apply diatomaceous earth to the beds to get rid of these greedy pests. She had been using a Specticide de grubber. Now and then harvester ants and leaf-cutter ants are an issue.

Kathy's irises are watered via a drip line that has holes every 6". This summer, they got about 30 minutes of water once a week, which she has decided is not enough. Since it is now cooler and planting season has begun, she has increased the watering to three times a week for about 30 minutes a session. Her reblooming irises are in a separate bed which is watered twice a week year-round. Kathy mentioned that she is going to experiment with her watering schedule in the coming year to get it just right. Division is done as needed, usually when the rhizomes look crowded and the bloom is not as good as usual.

Her favorites? Bi-color tall bearded irises! She grows one type of heirloom iris – the one from her mother's garden (see the picture). It is so

prolific that she donated a whole crate-full of its rhizomes to our recent sale.

Kathy still buys irises whenever she finds ones that appeal to her. Varieties that do not perform well are discarded, but only after being given every possible chance.

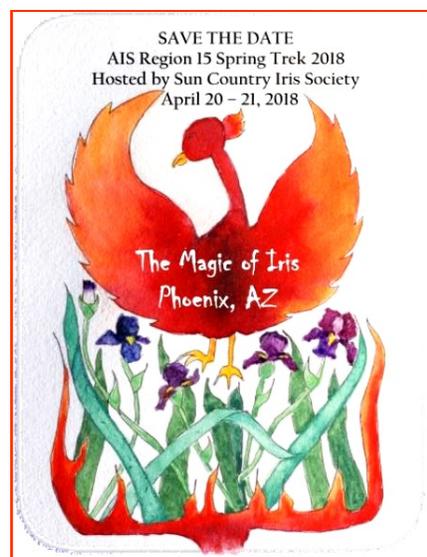
Kathy prefers to grow her irises in isolated beds. She grew wildflowers with them one year, but felt that they shaded the irises too much.- SC

Her best tip? "Keep trying!"



Variety from Kathy's mom's garden

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 October:

You can continue to plant iris rhizomes this month. This will give them time to establish roots before it gets cold.

Be sure that the plants get enough water, since they will be growing and increasing until next bloom time. Do not water from overhead if it is above 85° though, or the rhizomes will rot.

Keep area free of leaves, weeds and pests.



Tip Exchange - SC

I recently read that use of Super Phosphate increases the risk of soft rot, which is something I have been struggling with since it got hot out. I am not going to put it under each rhizome this year and see if I have fewer issues with rot.

The rhizome's top surface should be at ground level or just barely below the ground (not buried). Protect them from sun damage by selecting a spot that gets afternoon shade in the summer.

Keep soil away from the bottom of the leaf fans to reduce risk of rot.

Iris increase in size by about 90% between January and April, so this is the interval that they need the most water. Be careful not to overwater, though!

Iris Limerick:

There once was an iris society
Who tried to select their favorite variety.
They fussed and they voted
'Til their heads nearly exploded.
And that society gained much notoriety.

- Sue Clark



Iris croatica

Did You Know?

Iris is the national flower of Croatia and France.

Black iris, *Iris negricans*, is the national flower of Jordan.

The blue flag iris is the provincial flower of Quebec.



Iris negricans

"October's poplars are flaming torches lighting the way to winter." - Nova Bair

A Little Bit of Botany and Iris History

This month, our story features four nurseries in and about 1870-1890's London. Although originally established to provide cut irises to the London florist trade, they helped promote irises as worthwhile plants for gardens. During this interval, new iris varieties were developed which featured two sets of chromosomes, and thus are now referred to as "diploids." Robert Parker's nursery in Lower Tooting introduced four varieties that the Victorians were mad over, including *Darius*, which is still found in historic iris gardens and which was used in hybridizing new varieties. One of the partners at Thomas S. Ware's huge Hale Farm Nursery in Tottenham helped popularize "hardy plants" (perennials) as useful garden plants. In addition to his role in that endeavor, Amos Perry, Sr. was in charge of Hale Farm's iris gardens. He developed several new cultivars, including *Gracchus*, which is still popular. *Gracchus* won a First Class Certificate from the Royal Horticultural Society in 1885, and is notable as the first reblooming iris. This nursery also introduced the Japanese iris *T. S. Ware* in 1883, a variety which is still available. Nurseryman Peter Barr is most famous for popularizing daffodils, but he and his sons were also highly regarded as iris breeders. *Crimson King*, one of their most admired varieties due to its tendencies to rebloom in summer and fall, is grown throughout Great Britain and North America, especially along the California coast. Another lovely cultivar from this nursery is *Perfection*, which is still winning prizes today and is in the pedigree of many modern irises by way of one of its descendants, *Whole Cloth*. The widely grown *Princess Beatrice* is another Barr introduction. Peter Barr's lasting influence is also due to his 1873 list of descriptive terms for irises, including *aphylla*, *amoena*, *neglecta*, *pallida*, *squalens*, and *variegata*. Peter's son, Peter Rudoulph Barr, made a valuable contribution to the iris world by providing his father's catalogs, notes, and records to the American Iris Society which used them to develop the first *Alphabetical Iris Check List* in 1929. The nursery of George Reuthe introduced *Maori King* and *Mrs. Neubronner* (both still popular) and many other new irises. We are grateful to these individuals and their work with irises. - SC

Source: [Classic Irises and the Men and Women Who Created Them](#) by Clarence E. Mahan