

TAIS Newsletter

Our 54th year

Tucson Area Iris Society—established 1965

An Affiliate of the American Iris Society



'Arizona Redhead'
(Shepard 1998)

Marcusen Sculpture Garden,
Prescott

Photo by Sue Clark, 2019

President's Message

Sold out! We sold all of our 400+ rhizomes before noon at our annual sale. Many thanks to all of our volunteers and rhizome donations. Our sale profits fund TAIS for the year: speakers, the Club Iris program, refreshments, and much more.

Tucson Botanical Gardens would like more iris. As we have no rhizomes remaining from the sale, please bring a labeled rhizome or two from your garden to donate to TBG at our October meeting. Then when you visit TBG, you can see "your" iris in bloom.

My three year term as TAIS' president is concluding. I've enjoyed sharing the Tucson area iris world with you as the president and am looking forward to supporting the next president. You are always so generous with your time and talents. It's nice to finish on such a high note. Thank you again.

-Kevin Kartchner

"Whether it's intentional or not, in the fall we start to shore up our footing as we enter the final months of the year. There's a quiet confidence to this season that, year after year, harvests the promises it made in spring. Fall reminds us how much of its beauty wouldn't exist if it weren't for the many months of preparation that came before - the rising of spring and the growth of summer - that it requires to provide the abundance we experience during these next few months. How essential each season is to the rhythm of nature is a lesson in wholeness that I gratefully receive.

- Joanna Gaines in *Magnolia Journal*, issue 12

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Upcoming Events

October 12 meeting: Photo Contest - See poster on p. 7 for more information - entries due by Oct 6. Region 15 Auction, part II - see p. 8. Elections. Murphy-Wilmot Library, Large Room.

Region 15 Fall Meeting: Oct 12, 2019, San Marino. Speaker = Thomas Johnson.

November 16 meeting: Potluck, installation of new officers. Murphy-Wilmot Library, Large Room.

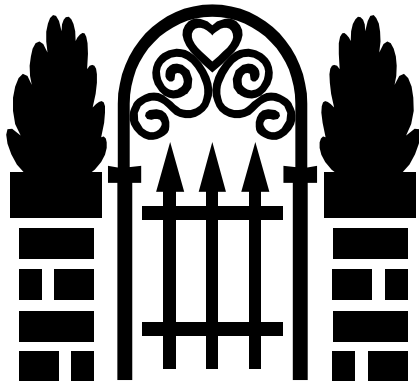
Birthday Wishes to:

Jeff Atkinson	John Scire
Melania Kutz	Tony Kutz
Pam McConaughy	Mary Ann Albano
Lucille Skerston	



<https://www.asba-art.org/article/16th-annual-jean-emmons>

Report from the Sale



We ♥ Irises

Another successful rhizome sale! We had an excellent turnout of both members and customers at our annual Rhizome Sale at Harlow's Gardens on September 21, 2019. Susan had ordered rhizomes from Lauer's Flowers, Sue and Kevin ordered from Fleur de Lis Iris Gardens, and Kristee ordered Club Irises from Iris4U. Some members donated rhizomes from their gardens in exchange for Iris Bucks: Cathy, Kristee, Melania and Tony, Sue, and Susan, as well as a customer named Faith. Club members who helped set up on Friday at 2:30 PM included Bonnie, Cathy, Dave, Kevin, Kristee, Loraine, Mary Ann, Melania, Sue, and Tony. They organized all of the rhizomes into bins, arranged them in alphabetical order, added photos, and were out of there in two hours.

The Members-only Discount Hour kicked off the Sale on Saturday at 8 AM

and members enjoyed the early opportunity to add some beauties to their gardens. A crowd surged in when the nursery opened at 9 AM. Several of them had wish lists. Others were interested to discover that irises really can grow here.

Saturday's workers included Angela, Cathy, Diane, Kevin, Kristee, Madeleine, Martin, Mary Ann, Melania, Nancy, Pam, Sue, and Susan. Sam, Tony, and Lucille handled the cashier duties. Everyone who worked on Friday and/or Saturday received two Club Irises in gratitude for their services. These were purchased from Bob Van Liere of Iris4U.

Approximately 40 individuals listed to Kristee's informative presentation about planting and growing irises. And we sold out of nearly 500 rhizomes by about 11:15 AM!

Dave and Tony took photos. Bonnie, Dave, and John Scire joined us for clean up. Thank you to everyone! - SC

Start selecting photos for our contest on Oct 12. Entries due Oct 6!



We're on the web!
Tucsoniris.org

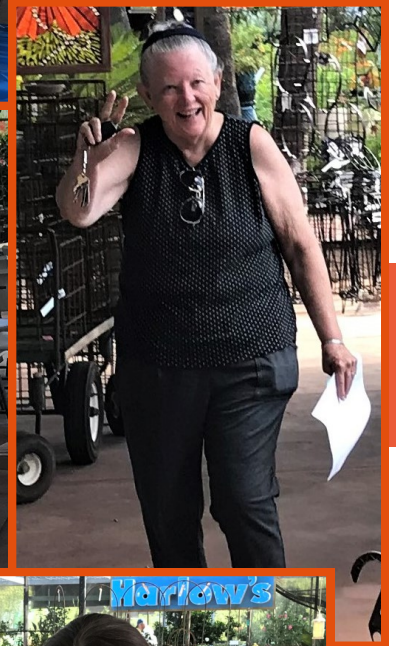
Zonal Irises - see article on p. 5



c. Sutton's Iris Gardens

From Top: 'Flash of Light,' 'Uprising,' 'Cold Fusion,' and 'Spring Celebration' (all from the AIS Iris Wiki, except 'Cold Fusion' is from Schreiners website).

Pictures from the Sale



**Photos by
Dave Smith**



Pictures from the Sale



**Photos by
Dave Smith**



Treasurer's Report for September - submitted by Martin Juarez

Beginning Balance				\$4,905.69	
	Pd	MOP	Deposits	Expenses	
3-Sep	X	#1799		\$30.16	
19-Sep	X			\$300.00	CASH FOR SALE
21-Sep	+	#1831		\$57.99	Clark
21-Sep	X	#1832		\$300.00	Schaeffer - Lauer's Flowers Rhizomes
27-Sep	X		\$70.00		DUES - Knill, Parks, Albano, MacWhinnie, Bentley, Holland, Schoeppel
27-Sep	X		\$48.00		Raffle
27-Sep	X		\$2,215.00		Sale's Cash
27-Sep	X		\$761.00		Sale's Checks
Sub-Totals			\$3,094.00	\$688.15	
Ending Balance				\$7,311.54	9/27/19 17:23
NEED DOCUMENTATION (ALSO MISSING FOR CHECK #1800 8/30)					

Zonal Color Pattern - A Flash in the Falls

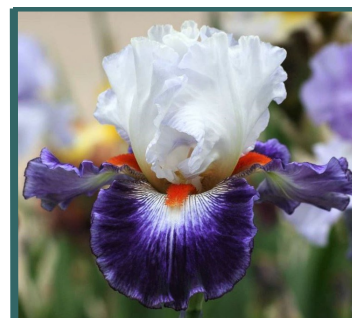
This month we will take a look at the color pattern known as zonal - "an iris with a white or lightened area around the beard. Zonals look like lights - a little bulb beaming from the center of the flower. They look smashing in combination with white or cream flowers that play off the glow emanating from within. Plant a clump of a zonal and watch it flower into a fantastic focal point," so says Kelly Norris in [A Guide to Bearded Irises](#).

'[Gypsy Lord](#)' (Keppel 2006) is the quintessential zonal. Its striking bold looks won it the Dykes Medal in 2015. Because of its white standards and blue-violet falls, it is classified as a amoena. The burst of white in the falls also makes it a zonal. This was confusing to me, so I checked in with Kathy Chilton who confirmed that irises can fall into more than one color category (sort of the labradoodles of the flower world). '[Flash of Light](#)' (Johnson 2008) is another amoena zonal. It looks similar to 'Gypsy Lord,' but has bright golden yellow beards and its standards have a hint of blue along their borders. This late bloomer has a slight sweet scent. See it on p. 2.

Schreiners offers several choices of zonals on their website. '[Afternoon in Rio](#)' (Schreiner 2005), glows in royal purple with tinges of bronze on the falls and style arms, and possesses a white zonal spot. It blooms in the late midseason. '[Speeding Again](#)' (Lauer 1998) in navy blue with a white flash is vigorous, "delightfully sweet," and it blooms in midseason. For you pastel-lovers, '[Great Smokey Dawn](#)' (Schreiner 2012) is sure to please. You may recognize it as a blend after reading last month's column. Note how the zonal spot sets off the beards. This variety blooms in late midseason. For something brand new, '[Uprising](#)'s zonal flash is white gilded in gold, tying together its gold beards and golden touches on the ice-white standards. (Schreiner 2019). Blue-violet falls complete the look. '[Cold Fusion](#)' (M. Sutton 2011) is a reblooming zonal! White standards are flashed with pineapple yellow along their ribs. This same shade of yellow appears as veins which run through the white flash and blue-violet falls. It blooms in late midseason and reblooms. '[Who Needs a Prince](#)' (Schreiner 2013) is a yellow and red-violet variegata whose yellow beards are surrounded by a matching zonal blaze. It's a midseason bloomer.

'[Spring Celebration](#)' (M. Sutton 2017) is another variety whose zonal spot is yellow, which extends the impact of its bright yellow standards and yellow beard. Its red-violet falls are edged with a ruby red wire. One sold at our Auction in August.

Next month, we'll look at the Broken color pattern. It's prettier than it sounds! - SC



'Gypsy Lord' (photo from AIS Iris Wiki)
'Afternoon in Rio,' 'Speeding Again,'
'Great Smokey Dawn,' and 'Who
Needs a Prince' (photos from
Schreiners website).

TAIS OFFICERS, ETC. FOR 2019

Kevin Kartchner – President

Bonnie Else - Vice President

Sue Clark – Secretary

Martin Juarez – Treasurer

Susan Schaefer - Membership Chairperson

Melania Kutz - Programs & Publicity

Madeleine Glaser - Asst. Program
Chairperson & 2nd Signatory on Account

Angela Powers - Hospitality & Door Prizes

Diane Tweedy - Birthday Cards & Hospitality

Tony Kutz - Photographer

Sue Clark - Newsletter Editor & Publisher

What to do in the Iris Garden for October:

Plant iris rhizomes this month, best done when temps are below 90 or 100°. 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. Soil should be damp, but not moist. Do not water from overhead if it is above 85° though, or the rhizomes will rot. Give the soil a dose of fertilizer.

Keep area free of leaves, weeds and pests.



Tip Exchange

Letting your irises produce seed pods after being pollinated by bees uses up lots of the plant's energy, so remove the pods.

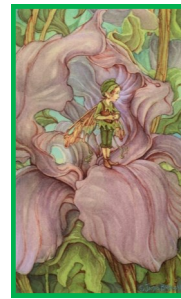
- D. Luebkin, PAIS rhizome sale, July 2019

"If the leaf on which the name has been written has dried out and the name can no longer be read, soak the leaf in a dish of water containing a little detergent. It will soon expand and flatten out, and the name will become legible." - William Shear in The Gardener's Iris Book, 1998

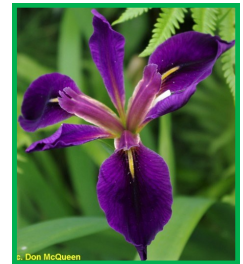
Iris Limerick:

There once was a tiny little fairy
Who liked his homes to be airy.
He chose an iris flower
For his tall breezy bower,
It was all he needed to be merry!

- Sue Clark



Art by James Brown, right - Iris Wiki



'Dorothea K. Williamson'

Did You Know?

Spuria irises are a type of beardless iris which hail from Europe and Asia. They grow in clumps of tall strap-like leaves and flowers that resemble Dutch irises. They are vigorous and long-lived, and grow from rhizomes whose their roots must be kept moist when they are out of the ground. Spurias, like tall bearded, need sun and good drainage. Most have a late summer dormancy period during which water could cause them to rot. Spurias usually bloom after tall bearded, so can be used to extend the beauty of your iris garden. - The Gardeners Iris Book - SC

Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.



- Albert Camus

A Little Bit of Botany and Iris History

Back to America this month for the story of a man whose efforts had long-lasting influences. "E. B. Williamson's legacy to the world of irises is unique. Without his persistence and exuberance the course of garden iris development would have taken a different course. He was the first American hybridizer to name and introduce a hybrid Louisiana iris ['Dorothea K. Williamson,' 1929, named for his mother]. He was the first American to breed a tetraploid tall bearded iris, But perhaps his most important contribution to garden iris development was to breed and introduce garden irises that grew well everywhere."

E. B. Williamson was something of a Renaissance man. An entomologist specializing in dragonflies and damselflies, he named and described 14 new genera and 92 new species of dragonflies, which were found on collecting trips throughout the Americas. He also discovered and named a new species of crayfish. E. B. taught in high schools and universities, published research on his beloved insects, was a member of the Academy of Science in 3 states, and was president of a bank.

Williamson's interest in iris breeding started with reading a book called The Standard Cyclopaedia of American Horticulture, which contained a chapter on irises co-authored by J. N. Gerard. Williamson wrote to Gerard, who generously sent him many irises with which to begin his hybridizing efforts. Included were both bearded and beardless irises, as well as the following advice: "So many people have been breeding tall bearded irises that their potential for improvement has probably been exhausted." [!!!] Gerard recommended that Williamson breed aril irises, so he ordered a bunch of these from the Netherlands.

Because arils are from the Middle East, they are suited to deserts without summer rains, and therefore are *not* suited to growing in Bluffton, Indiana! Williamson persisted in reordering and trying for many years, and eventually had some success in crossing them with non-aril irises. He also grew junos from Holland. In 1920, E. B. gave all of his arils, arilbreds, and junos to B. Y. Morrison to "test out." Charles Gersdorff introduced three Williamson arilbreds in 1931. and another was introduced by Anson Wheeler in 1936. All four of these hybrids descend from the aril *Iris karolkowsii*. Even though the varieties are likely no longer in the world, their images survive in a series of watercolor paintings by Ethel Anson D. Peckham, and their loveliness is reproduced in the book from which I extract the information for this column.

More on E. B. Williamson, who usually used *mixed pollen* [horror!], next month. - SC

Source: Classic Irises and the Men and Women Who Created Them by Clarence E. Mahan

2nd Annual

TAIS *Photo Contest*

October 12th Meeting, 1 PM, Murphy-Wilmot Library

Categories

- 1.** Single iris flower or stalk of irises
- 2.** Macro (close-up) view of an iris
- 3.** Miscellaneous iris photos: garden, Photoshopped image, etc.

Photographs will be shown via PowerPoint presentation. Please submit up to 15 pictures to Kevin via email (irisgrowinaz@gmail.com).














Deadline for submission is October 6. Kevin requests that your submissions do not trickle in and that they are made early. All entries must be in final form and labeled as to category of competition.

All photos must be your own, although they are not restricted to your own garden. Help make this a fun & successful event by participating!

TAIS Iris Bucks will be awarded to the winner of each category!



Auction, Part II – Proceeds to Region 15

			
Better Man (Lauer '17) MS, sweet scent	Blame it on Rio (Sutton '16) E-MS	Boundless Beauty (Tasco '19) MS	Closer to Home (Lauer '19), pronounced sweet
\$10 minimum bid	\$5 minimum bid	\$10 minimum bid	\$10 minimum bid
			
Down to the Wire (Ghio '15) EMS	Gentle Reminder (Keppel '13) MS	Luminate (Sutton '18) E-MS, slight sweet scent	Me and My Shadow (Black '19)
\$5 minimum bid	\$5 minimum bid	\$10 minimum bid	\$10 minimum bid
			
IB Nickel's Worth (Black '19) MS	North Rim (Tasco '18) LMS, pronounced sweet scent	AB Nova (Tasco '18) L	Pom Pom Party (Mego '18) LMS, space age
\$10 minimum bid	\$10 minimum bid	\$10 minimum bid	\$10 minimum bid
			
Royston Rubies (Cordes '16) LMS	Spring Elegance (Tasco '18) E-L, moderate sweet scent	When Doves Cry (Johnson '18) MS, slight scent	
\$5 minimum bid	\$10 minimum bid	\$10 minimum bid	