

# TAIS Newsletter

Tucson Area Iris Society - established 1965

Our 57th year

An Affiliate of the American Iris Society



**'Dracula's Kiss'**  
(Schreiner, 2009)

Marcusen Sculpture Garden  
Prescott, Arizona

Photo by Sue Clark, 2022

## President's Message

Great sale. It was more than a little concerning when our commercial rhizome order shipped less quantities than we expected. As a result of alternate sources and many generous TAIS member donations, we had about 700 rhizomes to sell. We couldn't have done it without the superb publicity, all the setup work, plenty of customers, and a lot of sales work that made it a great sale. Thanks everybody.

Rebloom notes: I don't have many rebloomers, but my little clump of 'Zurich' has been in bloom every day since the beginning of August. A nice little reminder of the sights and smells to come next spring.

I'm sure everyone is looking forward to the photo contest results that we'll reveal at the October meeting. See you there.

- Kevin Kartchner

"Fall tends to introduce itself with a delicate subtlety. As summer, with its long and carefree and hot days, pleads its case for why it should stay, fall clears its throat and begins to propose new rhythms and dappled light and baked goods. What begins as a timid suggestion to bring along a light sweater eventually turns into a fanfare of all this beloved season holds: rich colors that crunch underfoot and the smell of cinnamon and the warm glow of a bonfire and pumpkin patches and cozy blankets and stove-top soup and crowded tables filled with laughter. These familiar moments might border on cliché, but the truth is that we need them, We need to feel and experience them to help us remember our place in time. We are hardwired for the changing seasons, for the shift of mindset that comes when one fades into the next. The turning pages of a calendar serve as a sort of signpost for us – carrying us along and pointing to what's ahead..." - Billy Jack Brawner, *Magnolia Journal*, Fall 2022

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## Upcoming Events

**October 1:** Final day for [viewing](#) and [voting](#) in photo contest

**Next meeting:** October 8, 1 PM. Murphy-Wilmot Library.

**Installation of new officers and Annual Photo Contest winners**

**November 12:** Potluck on Bonnie's patio

**No meeting in December**

### Birthday Wishes to:

**Jeff Atkinson**  
**Sally Vega**  
**Pam McConnaughy**  
**Maryann Albano**

**Linda Briggs**  
**Lucille Skerston**  
**Melania Kutz**  
**Tony Kutz**



*Iris foetidissima* (R) & seeds (L)

# Notes from the Sale



17 Sept 2022 - Our annual rhizome sale was a success! Co-chairs Maryann and Susan organized many volunteers to help out, as well as had photos of most of the varieties ready. Harlow's Gardens nursery graciously hosted us again. Not only do they allow us to use their space and tables, but they also publicize our sale in their weekly email blast! Thank you, Harlow's!

Set-up helpers on Friday afternoon included Bonnie, Cathy, Cindy, David, Kevin, Jim, Maryann, Sally, Sandy, and Susan.

Several club members donated rhizomes, which really helped us out! They received Iris Bucks in return. Cathy, Diane, Kevin, Kristee, Madeleine, Susan, and Terry all shared their excess. Betty Van Dahm donated 60+ NOIDs to Kevin to sell. Other rhizomes were ordered from Mid-America Gardens, Howie Dash and the Mesilla Valley Iris Society (from the convention gardens),

some spurias from Comanche Acres, and we received some TBs from the San Diego Iris Society as a donation.

Saturday's volunteers included: Bonnie, Cathy, Cindy, Dave, David, Diane, Kevin, Kristee, Jim, Maryann, Rebecca, Sally, Sam, Sandy, Sue, and Susan.

Members could select their discounted rhizomes from 8:00 to 9:00 AM, and our busiest segment of the public sale ran from 9:00 to 9:40 AM. At 10:30, Kristee presented information on growing irises in containers for about an hour.

Rhizomes cost \$8 each or buy five and get one free. Member prices were \$7 or buy five and get one free. They were reduced to \$4 at 11:45 and several were selected to pot up to sell during our show in April. All remaining NOIDs, which we had been promoting as "landscape irises," were donated to Debbie at Harlow's (approximately 40).



Kevin had some irises blooming and brought two varieties to decorate the check-out table. See photo. He grew some potato-sized rhizomes this year, too!

I am sorry if I missed mentioning anyone who helped with the sale.

- Sue Clark, secretary

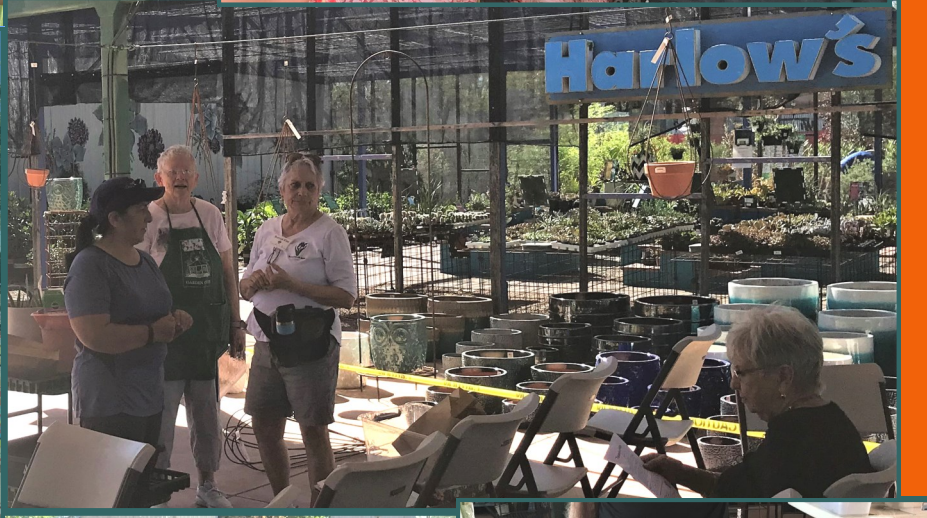


# TAIS Rhizome Sale 2022

Photos by  
Dave Smith



# TAIS Rhizome Sale 2022, continued



## Treasurer's Report for September - submitted by Martin Juarez

Beginning Balance					\$5,208.38	
Date	Pd	MOP	Deposits	Expenses		YTD
9/16/2022	X	Cash		\$600.00		Change FOR sale
9/16/2022	X	Debit		\$29.43		Supplies for sale
9/20/2022	X	Cash	\$600.00			Change FROM sale
9/21/2022	X		\$50.00			DUES *
9/21/2022	X		\$30.00			August auction - Hill, R (cash)
9/21/2022	X		\$1,881.00			Cash from sale
9/29/2022	X		\$1,359.00			Checks from sale **
9/29/2022		#1936		\$1,197.00		Region 15 - Auction Iris'
9/29/2022		#1937		\$150.00		Clark (Kartchner) - Sale iris'
Totals			\$3,920.00	-\$1,976.43	\$1,943.57	\$848.41
Ending Balance					\$7,151.95	
* O'Rourke \$20/#172. Vega \$20/#3148. Meador, Harriet \$10/cash (new member).						
** Albano \$50/#1274. Atkinson \$80/#6466 & \$40/#6467 Barnes \$40/#2494 Case \$280/#1161, Clark \$48/#1612. Court \$40/\$4275. Coyne \$40/#968. Else \$35/#735 & \$35/#736, Hill \$59/#4228 & \$35/#4229 Jirschele \$120/#1310 Juarez \$21/#117, Kartchner \$64/#6047. Laurie \$40/#1463. Modaff \$10/#1056. Sliffe \$161/#5018, Vega \$16/#3149 & \$70/#3150 Vollbom \$40/#3970. Wilcoxon \$35/#7421.						
< Iris Bucks \$322 >						

## Species Irises, Part XII: The Stinking Iris

Halloween-time is a good occasion to feature something called the Stinking Iris, *Iris foetidissima*. Although its species name translates as "very bad smell," it is reportedly not so bad. If its leaves are crushed or bent, they emit a scent like roast beef. Other names for the Stinking Iris are roast beef plant, Gladwin (or Gladwyn, Gladden, or Gladden (all from the Latin *gladius* for sword)) iris, coral iris, scarlet-seeded iris, or blue seggin. See illustration at bottom of p. 1.

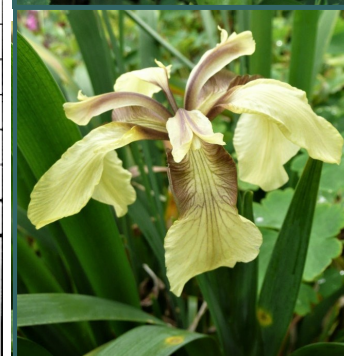
This plant is native to northern Africa and western Europe, including southern England, Ireland, and France. It grows up to 2' tall and is cultivated in many temperate regions, more for its seeds and foliage than for its blossoms. Flowers are small, beardless, and appear in late spring or early summer. They may be blue or yellow and the petals are delicately veined. Seed pods are 2-3" long and when they dry and open, the real show begins. Clusters of red-orange seeds provide a brilliant note to winter gardens. Birds do not eat the seeds until they soften late in the season, so they stay in the pods for a long while. Foliage is a rich glossy green and provides another valuable design element in the garden.

A few cultivars and varieties are available. *I. foetidissima* "Citrina" sports yellow flowers with bronze centers, "Variegata" boasts striped leaves of green and cream, and "Paul's Gold" features yellow leaves and is smaller overall. The latter does well in pots. "Golden-seeded" or "Golden Goblet" offers golden seeds and "FructoAlbo" offers pearly white seeds.

You may purchase stinking iris seeds [here](#). All iris seeds contain germination inhibitors, so soak *I. foetidissima* seeds in warm (some say hot) water for 24 to 48 hours. For best germination, provide the seeds with a cold period (cold stratification) for 3 months. This can be done in a cold frame over the winter if you sow them in autumn. Otherwise, put them in the fridge for 3 months, wrapped in damp peat or damp paper towels. Nicking the seeds with a sharp knife may help them sprout. Germination can take a long time and is erratic. One source said it can take from 30-545 days. Stinking iris can be grown in Zones 4-9.

*I. foetidissima* is susceptible to leaf spot, a fungal disease which can spread to nearby plants. Thriving in dense shade, dry conditions, and in seaside gardens, this versatile plant was given the Royal Horticultural Society's Award of Garden Merit. - SC

Sources: [The Gardener's Guide to Growing Irises](#) by Goeff Stebbings, 1997; Wikipedia article "[Iris foetidissima](#);" [Gardenia.net](#); [Missouri Botanical Garden](#); [The Nature Spot UK](#); [The Guardian](#)



From top: *Iris foetidissima* in France (by Jymm on Wikimedia); *I. foetidissima* in the UK (by B. Cooper, NatureSpot.org), another from Gardenia.net, seeds in UK (by D. Gould, NatureSpot.org)



## TAIS OFFICERS, ETC. FOR 2022

Kevin Kartchner - President

Bonnie Else - Vice President

Sue Clark – Secretary, Signatory on Account

Martin Juarez – Treasurer, Asst. Secretary

Diane Pavlovich & Sally Vega - Programs & Publicity

Joyce Knill & Sandy Ellis - Hospitality/Door Prizes

Joyce Knill - Birthday cards

Susan Schaefer - Membership Chairperson

Dave Smith - Photographer

Sue Clark - Newsletter Editor & Publisher

## What to do in the Iris Garden for October:

Divide and plant iris rhizomes this month, if you have not already done so. This will allow roots to establish 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 may rot. **Give the soil a dose of fertilizer.** (See tip, below).

Keep area free of weeds, leaves, and pests.



## Tip Exchange

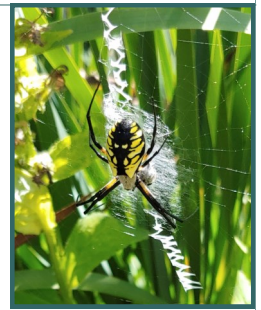
Add 1 T Schreiner's Iris Garden's fertilizer to the hole when planting rhizomes in the ground or in pots. Its 6-10-10 is specially formulated for irises. Scratch in a top dressing of this food annually. Order it [here](#). Shipping is free. - SC

TAIS member Cathy Pane-Scire has discovered that planting her new irises immediately in shallow containers has been very successful. She prefers oil-changing pans from a dollar store. She can keep track of watering needs and general condition, and the plants seem to favor the shallowness. Transplant later. - SC

## Haiku:

Glistening harvest moon  
Climbed up the ebony sky,  
Dripping golden glow

- Sue Clark



Orb weaver spider on my mom's Siberian irises in PA last month - SC

## Did You Know?

Some of the "scariest" creatures are good garden friends - perhaps even our new BFF's! Not only do **spiders** eat roaches, mosquitoes, flies, and ants, they also supply hummingbirds with silk for nest building. **Garter snakes** consume slugs, grasshoppers, and small rodents. **Bats** gobble up mosquitos, gnats, moths, beetles, and wasps all night. Only vampire bats drink blood and they do not live in Arizona. **Toads** munch mosquitos, slugs, sow bugs, flies, beetles, cutworms, and caterpillars. They do not cause warts - those come from a virus! And **owls** offer superb rodent control. - SC - Source: NWF [blogpost](#)

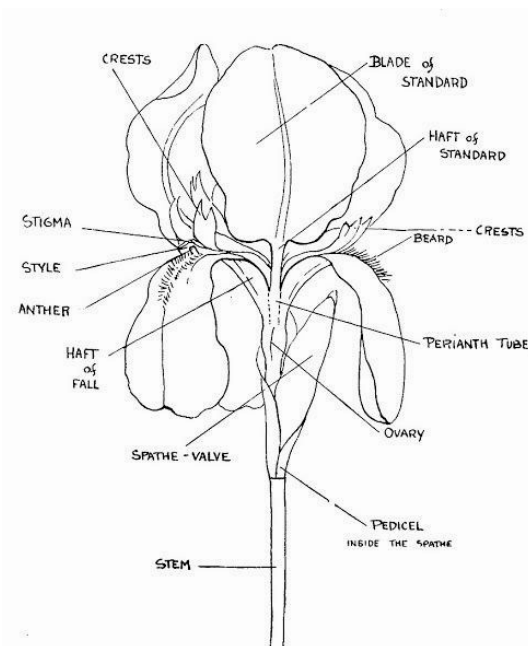


"Night sky, you're a symphony of starlight. Oh the moon and all my wishes are at your command."

- unknown

## A Little Bit of Botany and Iris History

**Style arms** are the stiff petal-like structures between the **standards**. They end in **crests**, as shown in the diagram, below. A **stigmatic lip** is found at the end of each style arm just below the crest. It surrounds a **stamen** composed of an **anther** which produces pollen (the male cells) and a **filament**, a stem-like structure that supports the anther. During the limited interval when the stigmatic lips are sticky, they capture pollen from visiting insects. A **pollen tube** forms to transport the pollen to the **ovary**, thus fertilizing the plant. - SC Sources: [Mid-America website](#), [Garden Guides](#), [Flower Anatomy blog](#), [Wikipedia](#)



Style arms can be a different color or shade than the standards or the same color. Note the stamen cozier under the stigmatic lip of the style arm. Beards are welcome mats for pollinators - "Come on in!"

Source for diagram: BREEDING BEARDED IRISES by Jean Stevens, Bastia Hill, Wanganui, New Zealand: [historiciris.blogspot.com](#)