

TAIS Newsletter

Tucson Area Iris Society - established 1965

Our 59th year

An Affiliate of the American Iris Society



'Bryce Canyon'
(Kleinsorge, 1944)

Marcusen Sculpture Gardens,
Prescott, Arizona

Photo by Sue Clark, 2024

President's Message

Another amazing sale with right at \$6K in sales. As you might expect, our credit card purchases increased from last year. So much work by so many people. Thank you, thank you to all of you for your contributions of ideas, time, talents, rhizomes, and especially our customers.

Fertilizer: For iris, who knows the correct times, optimal amounts, and best types to apply? I don't. I use a routine that seems to work for me but I know I can do much better. [Dr. James Walworth](#), a fertilizer expert from the University of Arizona, will be speaking to us at the October meeting. I've asked him to specifically address iris fertilization. This is your chance to directly ask the expert. Email all of your iris-related fertilizing questions to the [TAIS newsletter address](#) by October 5th. I will consolidate them and have Dr. Walworth answer them. Don't miss this meeting.

- Kevin Kartchner

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"There is no season when such pleasant and sunny spots may be lighted on, and produce so pleasant an effect on the feelings, as now in October. The sunshine is peculiarly genial; and in sheltered places, as on the side of a bank, or of a barn or house, one becomes acquainted and friendly with the sunshine..."

- Nathaniel Hawthorne, [The American Notebooks: The Centenary Edition](#)

Upcoming Events

Photo Contest Voting: Sept 30 to Oct 4. See photos [here](#). Send your votes [here](#) - 3 per category for a total of 9 votes

Next meeting: October 12, 1 PM at Eckstrom-Columbus Library, 4350 E 22nd Street. Photo winners; Jim Walworth on fertilizing iris

Potluck: November 16, Noon, Bonnie's house, 5940 E. Avenida Arriba

Birthday Wishes to:

Leeann Shoaf	Linda Briggs	Faith Holland
Taffy Holvenstot	Melania Kutz	Howard Crawford
John Scire	Tony Kutz	Pam McConnaughy
Barbara Barnes	Terry Swartz	Mary Ann Albano
Glenn Summers	Sheila Barry-Harris	Sally Vega



Chamaeiris, aka *Iris lutescens*

Source: Michael Valetini, 1719

Report from the Sale



21 September 2024 - Another very successful rhizome sale! We had lots of volunteers, so many customers, and tons of landscape irises/NoIDs! And donuts and cookies! Thank you to Joyce, Bonnie, and Kathy for all of their organizational work that ensured that things went smoothly. And thank you to everyone who volunteered. Since most of these individuals helped with both Friday's set-up and on Saturday, I will name them here as one group: Cindy, Linda, Lois, Leeann, Madeleine, Kathy, Bonnie, Joyce, Bob, Pat, Susan, Sandy, Kevin, Martin, Ron, Sam, Jim, Cathy, Kristee, Dan, Terry, Sally, Diane, Dave, and Sue. And Taffy stopped by to collect the new member forms. I apologize if I missed anyone.

Kevin ordered rhizomes from Sutton's and I ordered from Mid-America Gardens.

Several members donated their excess rhizomes, including Kevin, Susan, Sally, Pat, Kathy, Terry, Cathy, Dan, Joyce, Diane, and Madeleine. Others donated landscape irises/NoIDs, including: Pat with 550, Dave and I with 147 from dividing my Mom's bed in Pennsylvania, Elaine Smith who donated 100 and became a new member, Sally, and some from Margie Valenzuela's garden. Kevin dispensed Iris Bucks for all named donations.

Kathy and I manned a membership table and encouraged people to join our club. Six individuals joined or renewed today. Besides membership forms, we had copies of several of our newsletters and a list of irises that did well for our members this year.

The checkout line stretched throughout the whole sales area! Sam and

Jim had the difficult job of cashiering, and Bonnie bagged everyone's purchases. She also ordered pizza for the Harlow's staff, something new we started this year in gratitude for their hosting our sale every year.

Over 40 individuals listened to Terry's 10 AM talk about dividing irises and growing them in the ground. Joyce's excellent handout about what to do each month went into every customer's bag. It included a membership form.

Customers left their email addresses if they wish to receive notification of next year's sale.

Cathy made valiant efforts to sell the multitude of landscape irises. Cindy and Linda helped her. Their leftovers were donated to Harlow's. Several members including Pat, Bonnie, Kathleen, Joyce, Terry, and Kevin took the leftover named varieties to grow for the Show. And Bonnie secured some for future door prizes.

The Sale was all wrapped up by noon. We seemed to have more customers than last year and we grossed about \$6000, suggesting that lots of Iris Bucks were spent.

Joyce is making extensive notes to help the committees of future sales.

- Sue Clark, secretary



**Thank you to
Harlows for hosting
and promoting
our Sale!**



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

Rhizome Sale - photos by D. Smith, R. Kelsen, S. Clark



Rhizome Sale - photos by Dave Smith



ARIZONA OCT 24
ROZDUDE
GRAND CANYON STATE

Treasurer's Report for August/September - submitted by Jim Wilcoxon

<u>SEPT 2024</u>	<u>YTD</u>
<u>DUES</u>	
<u>INC</u>	+665.00 TOTAL YEARLY INCOME FROM DUES
<u>EXP</u>	-13.60 postage -36.00 refreshments -500.00 web -213.41 books -45.00 AIS -120.00 region 15 - 25.00 snacks -950.01 TOTAL EXP FROM DUES -298.01 ACT BALANCE
<u>SHOW</u>	
<u>INC</u>	539.27 square sales 795.00 cash sales 1334.27
<u>EXP</u>	39.14 TAIS show expenses 441.02 ROSE SOC 480.16 TOTAL SHOW expenses +854.11 ACT BALANCE
<u>SALE</u>	
<u>INC</u>	+6293.67 rhizome
<u>EXP</u>	-3679.78 rhizomes -22.28 printing 800.00 rhizomes -3702.06 TOTAL SALE EXPENSES 2591.61 ACT BALANCE
<u>AUCTION</u>	
<u>INC</u>	1242.00
<u>EXP</u>	0.00 1242.00 ACT BALANCE
CHECKBOOK BALANCE 30 SEPT 2024 \$14,962.96	

Marcusen Sculpture Garden

It appears that wild animals (perhaps javelina and skunks) have obliterated many of the irises and labels at this gorgeous garden in Prescott. There has been little rain and the animals were apparently rooting for grubs and other food items. Our sister club, PAIS, is seeking replacements for what was destroyed. More info to come. - SC

Plant Label Stakes

Need more metal plant label stakes? Kevin will bring them to the October meeting. \$1 each.



From top: typical shape and color for ground beetles - note the flattened body and ridged wing covers; *Calosoma wilcoxi*, a caterpillar hunter; crucifix ground beetle; bombardier ground beetle (note long legs on all for speed); and ground beetle grub of which there are three instars (stages) (Image 1 from source 1 at left, Images 2 and 5 from source 3, and images 3 and 4 from source 2).

Beneficial Garden Insects, Part V: Ground Beetles

Even though we may rarely see them, ground beetles are frequently the most numerous predatory insect in an ecosystem. Dating back to the late Triassic, about 200 million years ago, they are currently found throughout the temperate and tropical world. During the day, they hide in dark places such as under rocks and plants or in cracks in bark. During the night, these fast-running beetles help our gardens by devouring pests, including flies, maggots, Colorado potato beetle eggs and larvae, slugs, snails, and other invertebrates. Some eat seeds, including fallen seeds of weeds.

With over 40,000 species in their group, they are surprisingly similar in looks: most are shiny black or dark brown and a few are metallic green or blue. Their *elytra*, the hard outer wings, are ridged and in some species are fused, making flight impossible. Ground beetles range in size from 1/4" to 1 1/2". All of them can spray noxious or even toxic secretions from glands on their abdomen. One type in Africa can hit its target in the eye from a considerable distance.

One species of ground beetle was imported from Europe as an aid in eliminating gypsy moths, which are now known as spongy moths. During their two-week developmental period, the beetle larvae eat the moth caterpillars - as many as 50 - and the adult beetles eat hundreds of caterpillars during their two- to four-year lifespan. Tiger beetles are a type of ground beetle that hunt during the day. Believe it or not, they are, for their size, one of the fastest land animals on Earth.

All ground beetles benefit from the following gardening practices: avoid using insecticides, leave some messy parts of the garden so that they have some cover, and avoid tilling. Watch for these unsung beetle heroes. - SC

Sources: "[Beneficial Insects You Want to See in Your Garden](#)," Wikipedia: "[Ground beetle](#)," and "[Ground Beetle](#)" article from U of Wisconsin Division of Extension

TAIS OFFICERS, ETC. FOR 2024

Kevin Kartchner - President

Cindy Long - Vice President

Sue Clark – Secretary, Signatory on Account

Jim Wilcoxon – Treasurer, Asst. Secretary

Diane Pavlovich & Sally Vega - Programs & Publicity

Cindy Long, Linda Briggs, Kathleen Marron,
and Evelyn Jacobs - Hospitality

Bonnie Else and Susan Schaefer - Door Prizes

Taffy Holvenstot - Membership

Dave Smith - Photographer

Sue Clark - Newsletter

What to do in the Iris Garden during October:

[Divide](#) and plant iris rhizomes early 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. Use a moisture meter or finger to determine if soil is dry 2" below surface. Water if so. Do not water from overhead if it is above 85° though, or the rhizomes may rot. **Give soil around each rhizome a dose of fertilizer - [Schreiner's](#), [Comanche Acres](#), or balanced.** Water it in.

Keep area free of weeds, leaves, and pests. - SC



Tip Exchange

If things are not working, try something new! You may have heard about my ongoing struggles with rot. This year, I am trying something new once again. I crushed 1/4 of a [Mosquito Dunk](#) and stirred it into the soil mix in my iris pots. My theory is that the Bti (*Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis*) contained in the Dunks will fight any bacterial rot that tries to develop. Kevin found a [scientific paper](#) which found that Bti disrupts some of the metabolic systems of *Elwinia carotovora*, the bacterium that causes soft rot. I don't know how much to use, so I just chose 1/4 of a Dunk to start with. [Mosquito Bits](#) may be easier - try I T. - SC

Iris Limerick

There is a flower so majestic,
And a sale of its rhizomes so hectic.
All totals were bested.
Members afterwards rested,
And nobody got apoplectic!
- Sue Clark



'Tobacco Road'

Did You Know?

Even though the 1942 Cooley's Garden catalog stated that 'Tobacco Road' did not have a single weak point, it had one. It was very susceptible to rot. The color was a remarkable golden brown, branching was excellent, flowers were big with wide, stiffly horizontal falls - and it would rot. In fact, iris experts believe that 'Tobacco Road' is with us no longer, with every rhizome rotted away. Bits of it are still with us, with some of its 300+ descendants. Thankfully, it was a good breeder. - SC Sources: [AIS Iris Wiki](#), [HIPS website](#)

"Every leaf speaks bliss to me, Fluttering from the autumn tree." - Emily Brontë, "Fall, Leaves, Fall" 

A Little Bit of Botany and Iris History

Rudolph E. Kleinsorge is noted for creating a whole new color class of irises - brown. Born in 1883, he received his MD from the University of Iowa. He settled in Silverton, Oregon and set up practice as a doctor and surgeon, treating most patients in their own homes. He was active in building development at Oregon State and at Portland State Medical School, and restored a science curriculum to the University of Oregon, as well.

When he and his wife had a house built in 1914, Dr. Kleinsorge suggested that irises be part of the plantings. He began adding more irises starting in 1923, including several descended from 'Dominion,' as well as French imports such as 'Souvenir de Mme. Gaudichau.' Many of his early crosses involved 'Bruno,' one of the 'Dominion' offspring. He raised his seedlings in a 30' X 30' patch in a lot across the street. Dr. Kleinsorge found that he could get his serious garden work done best between 4:00 and 6:00 AM, when no one else was out and about to interrupt him. The scientist in him led to careful planning, selecting, and ruthless discarding. He treated iris seeds with X-rays, hoping that it would cause interesting mutations.

Included in his legacy is a "remarkable series of brown, bronze, and tan garden favorites that became significant breeders." His '[Tobacco Road](#)' (1942) was the first truly brown American iris. In the 20 years after its introduction, 98 irises were registered with 'Tobacco Road' as a parent, and 182 with it as a grandparent. Dr. Kleinsorge retired as a physician at age 85. The Cooley family (of Cooley's Iris Gardens) were among his patients and he gave them their first irises. - SC

Sources: "Rudolph E. Kleinsorge" by Anne Lowe and "Starting a Backyard Business" by Mirian Cooley Ernst - in *AIS 100 Years Bold*, Supplement 2 of 4 to *IRISES: the Bulletin of AIS*, 2020