



Mt. Diablo Iris Society NEWS

MARCH 1999

Published by the Mt. Diablo Iris Society Newsletter Editors,
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring must be just around the corner as they say. Everything is showing signs of growth. The bearded iris are shooting up their leaves and there are several new bloom stalks on the rebloomers. Last week there were the deep violet-black blooms of CRIMSON KING (IB-Barr-1893), golden color of BLITZ (SDB-Weiler-88) and the small bulbous iris reticulata, deep blue-violet with a bright yellow signal. There was one tiny bloom deep down in a PCN, first bloom of the season, small but bright. Cymbidium orchids, daffodils, narcissus and early tulips are all blooming wonderfully. The flowering fruit trees also are ablaze with color. WHAT'S BLOOMING IN YOUR GARDEN? Why not bring a bloom or two to the meeting for 'show and tell.'

Even though the Show is two months away, we cannot wait to the last minute to get our planning done. This is our first big event of the year and a time for everyone to get involved. There are many jobs that can be done by any one of us and you will have fun at the same time. Helping with the set-up, clerking for the judges, plant sale, hospitality, information desk and clean-up are just some of the tasks to be done. Start thinking about it. Give me a call or talk to me at the next meeting. Remember, the more we have, the easier it is for all of us - and it is a lot of fun.

You should be starting to plan what you will bring to the show and give those plants a little more attention. Everyone should enter - it is really quite easy. We usually have 150 or so specimens to show, but the more the better. This year the show will be near the end of April, a time for peak bloom of bearded iris, maybe some late PCN's and possibly some early spurias. You just bring what you can. The first show we entered, we only had 3 blooms, but we took 2 blue ribbons and it was great fun.

WHAT TO DO IN THE GARDEN

Now is the time to clean up old leaves and early weeds. Apply granular fertilizer (a balanced material like 16-16-16 or 10-10-10) around but not on the iris rhizomes. Work the fertilizer into the ground. Wait until next month to apply liquid fertilizer like Miracle Grow.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND TIME:

Friday, March 12, 1999 - 8 PM. Doors open at 7:30 PM.

LOCATION:

The Gardens at Heather Farm,
1540 Marchbanks Drive, Walnut Creek

PROGRAM:

Bryce Williamson, the 'creator' of "JESSE'S SONG", winner of the 1990 Dykes Medal, will be the guest speaker.

REFRESHMENTS:

Members with surnames beginning A through G, please bring something to share at coffee time.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 10 - 11
Sydney B. Mitchell Spring Show
April 16 - 18
Joint Regions 14 and 15 Spring Meeting
Visalia, CA
April 24
Sacramento Spring Show
April 24 - 25
MDIS Spring Show
Clara B. Rees Spring Show
April 25
Melrose Garden Open House
Stockton
Westbay Spring Show
May 4 - 8
AIS National Convention
Oklahoma City, OK
May 8-9
Santa Rosa Iris Society Showtime
May 22
Greater Portland Iris Society Show
Vancouver, WA
May 29 - 30
Regional 13 Spring Meeting
Seattle, WA
June 24 - 26
National Japanese Iris Convention
Portland, OR
July 24
Santa Rosa Iris Society Sale
at Coddington, Santa Rosa

and more to come!

MDIS members who hear of any interesting dates, please, LET US KNOW!

Mt. Diablo Iris Society meetings - second Friday of each month

Sydney B. Mitchell meetings - fourth Friday on each month (Some winter months excluded)

1999 DUES ARE NOW PAYABLE

\$7.50 annual or \$18 tri-annual

to Barbara Whitely, Treasurer at 3843 Concord Blvd.,
Concord 94519
or see Barbara at a meeting.

FEBRUARY DOOR PRIZE WINNERS

BARRY'S CHOICE - McWhirter 98 - TB
Lindsay Smith

CHASING RAINBOWS - Hager 98 - TB
Joe Balch

CORDOBA - Ghio 98 - TB
Jim Whitely

EDGE OF DARKNESS - M. Dunn 98 - TB
Cathy Cristo

GNU'S FLASH - Kasperek 98 - TB
Alan Robbins

LIME SMOOTHY - Aitken 97 - SDB
Bruce Connell

NADA - potted species
Abe Feuerstein

Please refer any errors or omissions to the editors
at address on masthead
or e-mail to rbcircle@pacbell.net

If you have any calendar events - let us know!

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS NEWSLETTER FROM
MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME, AND
WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

1999 MT. DIABLO IRIS SOCIETY SPRING SHOW

Gardens at Heather Farm,
Saturday and Sunday - April 24 & 25

This will be a two day show in 1999. We will need
potted iris for the plant sale, and now is the time to
check your collection.

A show chairperson is still needed! Anyone who
would like the job, please call Bob Canning at 935-3980.

iris display news



Plans for the forthcoming iris display at the Spring Show are progressing. We now have at least eight bowls, and a number of metal flower arrangers. It is the hope that this effort will encourage a renewed interest in the art of flower arrangements at future shows as an entry event. Even those without 'show quality' blossoms should be able to participate. I want to thank La Rue Boswell for her donation of a bowl, and Dotty Van Horst for donating two 'frogs' in response to my plea. I did find out that these pin cushion frogs are available at Michael's (craft shop). We should have enough bowls, etc. to make a decent display this year. BC

GUEST SPEAKER APPRECIATION

On February 12th, Carl Boswell presented a program of beautiful colored slides of beardless iris (not bearded, as we inadvertently announced in last month's newsletter).

It was a spectacular show of many rare, some less rare, and familiar varieties. Carl has photographed these on his travels, and some from his own garden interspersed with a few of the Boswell cats and kittens. Thank you, Carl, it was most enjoyable. RW

WORKERS NEEDED FOR SPRING SHOW

OUR SPRING SHOW WILL BE HERE BEFORE WE KNOW IT. WE WILL NEED PEOPLE TO HELP ON A VARIETY OF TASKS. AGAIN, WE WILL HAVE A TWO DAY SHOW. THE DATES ARE SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, APRIL 24TH AND 25TH. PLEASE GIVE THE PRESIDENT, BOB CANNING A CALL AT 925-935-3980 TO SIGN UP.

SEE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ON PAGE ONE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

MARCH DOOR PRIZE IRIS

HIGH BLUE SKY - Ernst 98 - TB
Light blue self

LA RUE BOSWELL - Wood 98 - TB
Pink self

PACIFIC BELLE - Lauer 98 - TB
S. light blue - F. lavender purple, banded light blue

ROMANTIC EVENING - Ghio 96 - TB
Black neglecta, red beard

VINTAGE ROSE - B. Jones 98 - SDB
Bitone, dusty rose

WARM BREEZES - D. Meek 97 - TB
S. ruffled green-gold - F. darker shafts, bronze beard

LOOKING BACK

Iris gardens tend to move around I find. A further glance at the advertising pages of the April 1988 issue of the AIS Bulletin finds some interesting changes from today.

Cottage Gardens occupied the site now known as Lauer's Flowers in Wilton. It then moved on to Stockton, and then became Stockton Iris Gardens. D. and J. Gardens were on Coventry Road in Concord, is now in Silverton, OR. Keith Keppel's address was in Stockton, before he turned the property over to Cottage Gardens, and went to Salem, OR. The Mid-America Gardens of Paul Black are, I understand, also now in the Salem area, although I don't know if under the same name. Moonshine Gardens of Monty Byers were in Potter Valley at one time. Roris Gardens have moved from a site on Carmencita Ave. in Sacramento. There were also a great number of names now gone from us. Monty Byers, Evelyn Jones, Mary Dunn, George Shoop, Evelyn Kegerise, Carol Lankow, Opal Brown, Bob Brown, Don Denny, Jim McWhirter, Melba Hamblen and probably others. A lot of the names I read I didn't recognize. Some of you will I'm sure, and should be added to the list. Enough of this. Something more cheerful next time! Postscript: Since composing the above, we received the 1999 catalog of Keith Keppel, wherein it is disclosed that the gardens of Paul Black are but only four miles 'up the road' from Keith, and he has suggested that they be renamed "Mud-America Gardens". P.S. Be sure to order 'MIDNIGHT OIL' from Keith or contact the editors if you don't get his catalog. We'll combine orders! BC.