



MT. DIABLO IRIS SOCIETY NEWS APRIL 2002

THE MT. DIABLO IRIS SOCIETY EXISTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF STIMULATING AND FOSTERING INTEREST IN THE PROPAGATION, CULTURE AND HYBRIDIZING OF THE GENUS IRIS, IN THE SCIENTIFIC AND HORTICULTURAL EDUCATION OF ALL THOSE INTERESTED IN LEARNING ABOUT ANY PHASE OF THE GENUS IRIS, AND IN THE PROTECTION OF THE GENUS IRIS, AND IN THE PROTECTION OF THESE PLANTS IN THEIR NATIVE HABITAT.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND TIME:

Friday, April 12

Doors open at 7:30 PM, meeting is at 8:00 PM.

LOCATION:

The Gardens at Heather Farm, Lower Meeting Room in the rear, 1540 Marchbanks Drive, Walnut Creek

PROGRAM:

Preparing and showing iris by Glenn Corlew and Alan Robbins.

REFRESHMENTS:

Those members whose names begin with the letters S to Z, please bring something to share at coffee time.

Mt Diablo Iris Society Spring Show

Saturday, April 27 - Sunday, April 28

See back page for details.

Show Preparation 101

A two-part program on showing iris, presented at the Mt. Diablo Iris Society April Meeting

Selection and Preparation before the Show

By Glenn Corlew

Hands-on Grooming for the Table

By Alan Robbins

Come Join the Fun



We'll be setting up for show between 7:00pm and 9pm on Friday April 26. Club members are encouraged to come and help. We get a good turnout of volunteers so setup goes quickly and we start getting into the excitement of the show a day early!

THE BOARD:

President: Joe Balch (925 447-6712)

Vice President: Carl Meier

Secretary: Arlynn Grimm

Treasurer: Kat Boswell

Newsletter: Kenneth Walker

Directors:

Bob Canning

Glenn Corlew

Chuck Gabrysiak

Virginia Messick

Mt. Diablo Iris Society

P.O. Box 3735, Walnut Creek, CA 94598

Newsletter Editor: Kenneth Walker

kenww@pacbell.net

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 27 & 28, 2002

Mt. Diablo Iris Society Spring Show
Gardens at Heather Farm, Walnut Creek

May 10, MDIS meeting
Awards Potluck

June 14, MDIS speaker
Dean Linscott – controlled study of iris culture

July 13, MDIS function
Tall Bearded Auction

Mt. Diablo Iris Society meets second Friday of each month, except July (Saturday Auction) and December (no meeting)

Sydney B. Mitchell Iris Society meets the fourth Friday of each month,
February through October
Garden Center, Lakeside Park, Oakland

SPCNI Mini-trek June 16, 2002
San Bernadino Mts. for *Iris hartwegii australis*

FORTHCOMING NATIONAL AND REGIONALS 2002

April 24–29 AIS National Convention
Memphis, TN

May 3–4 Region 14 Spring Meeting
Host: Sacramento Iris Society,
Sacramento, CA
Includes Judges Training (Ballots and Awards)

May 25 Region 13 Spring Meeting
Host: King County Iris Society, Seattle, WA

Donations Needed for Silent Auction at Regional

The organizing committee for the AIS Region 14 Spring Meeting to be held in Sacramento, May 3 & 4, 2002 is soliciting donations of iris items for the Silent Auction to be held at the Regional meeting. If you have anything you would like to donate please contact Eleanor Fink at 530-753-5717.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

For the next several weeks there will be a rush of iris activity in our gardens and in the many shows and garden tours available. Beginning the weekend of April 20–21st there is the Sydney B. Mitchell Iris Show in Oakland, our own M.D.I.S. Spring show is the following weekend of April 27–28th, and the AIS Region 14 Spring meeting and garden tours follows on May 4th in Sacramento.

At last month's meeting our Society members decided to organize a day for local garden tours and a luncheon/picnic. Saturday May 11th was selected as the best available date for the tours. Carl and Barbara Meir graciously volunteered to host the luncheon in their gardens in Alamo. At this month's meeting, we need to finalize the luncheon details and identify member gardens that will be on the tour. Why not volunteer to show your garden. I am sure that others will find it interesting, enjoyable, and come away with some new ideas for their own gardens.

As you visit gardens this year make notes of any newer iris introductions you would recommend the Society purchase for next year's door prize collection.

All garden tours will have great opportunities to use the photography skills we learned at last month's program presented by Barbara Meir. Barbara also treated us to the first digitally produced iris slide program that I have seen. It even included computer-driven background music by Andrea Bocelli--what an experience to see the "Hi-Tech" future of slide presentations.

Now is the time to start identifying and grooming your favorite garden iris for our Spring Show. To improve your chances of winning "Best of Show", be sure to hear the April program by Glenn Corlew and Alan Robbins on selecting and grooming iris for show bench competition. I am looking forward to this fun event and hope we fill the hall with a beautiful selection of iris for the public to enjoy.

Hope to see you at the April meeting and in the gardens, Joe.

DOOR PRIZE IRIS FOR APRIL

BERNICES LEGACY - Miller, B. 2000- TB-RE
S. garnet; F. garnet, brown hafts, oxblood midrib,
bronze yellow beard.

DAZZELING JEWEL - Black, P. 2000 - TB
S. Icy white with light violet tint;
F. white with blue-purple streaks,
bright yellow beard.

DIVINE INTERVENTION - M. Dunn 2001 - TB
S. ruffled plum plicata;
F. white center, bronze beard.

GOOD THING - Ernst, R. 2001 - TB
S. gold W/ violet blending ;F. white W/ yellow band
and gold shoulders, gold beard.

LADY JANE - Lauer, L. 2001 - TB
S. methyl violet w/ lighter midriff;
F. methyl violet w/ salmon rim, burnt orange beard.

PERFECT UNION - Schreiner's 2001 - TB
S. white;F. white w/ lavender violet rims,
canary yellow beard.

SMOKIN - Ernst, R. 2001 - TB
S. bright plum purple W/ lighter midribs;
F. ruffled deep purple blends to sanded plicata, bright
yellow beard.

TOOT YOUR HORN - Feuerstein, A 2000 - TB
S. coral-pink; F. coral-pink that lighten in center,
Beard coral-pink with upturning horns.

DOOR PRIZE WINNERS FOR MARCH

Check back next month. I lost my own notes and the minutes of the meeting were not available to me in time for publication.

MEMBER GARDEN TOURS

The Mt. Diablo Iris Society will have a tour the gardens of several of its members on May 11. Lunch will be at Meier's. Garden. Further details will be in the next Newsletter.

The event is being organized by Carl Meier. Please call Carl at (925) 930-9022 if you are interesting in showing your garden. Later blooming iris such as spurias should be putting on a display at that time.

RECENT IRIS PUBLICATIONS

Titles of some recent articles for iris enthusiasts are cited below and the noted publications will be available for checkout and circulation by Society members at the next meeting

Culture

Soils: The Root of Plant Growth, Bruce Asakawa, Golden Gardens, May-02, pg. 8

Hybridizing

Arils (bred) and Broken Color Iris, Phil Posten, Aril Society Intl. Newsletter, Dec-00, pg. 16

Popular Iris

Region 14 2001 Symposium Results, Bulletin of Region 14 AIS, Oct-01, pg. 33

Experiences with Rebloom, Lloyd Zurbrigg, AIS Bulletin, Jan-02, pg. 50

2001: Oregon Garden Odyssey, Frank Foster, TBIS Tall Talk, Sept-01, pg. 37

SPECIES IRIS

Iris lutescens [chamaeiris]



I lutescens is a dwarf bearded iris native to Southern Europe from Eastern Spain into Northwestern Italy. It was the basis for many of the older dwarf bearded iris cultivars although it has been replaced by *I. pumila* as the foundation for modern varieties.

The flowers are quite variable and come in shades of purple, violet, yellow, and occasionally, white. The plant grows to about 8 inches high, depending on the variety.

Mt Diablo Iris Society Spring Show



MEMBERSHIP IN THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

Dues are \$20 for single, \$25 dual yearly or \$43 single, \$54 dual for three years.
Send payment to: Anner M. Whitehead, P.O.
Box 14750, Richmond, VA 23221-4750
email: AISMemSec@aol.com



AN AFFILIATE OF THE

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Name and Address correction requested