



MT. DIABLO IRIS SOCIETY NEWS

SEPTEMBER 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, September 13

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:

Species iris slide show by Ken Walker and Carl Boswell.

REFRESHMENTS:

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

A PARADE OF IRIS SPECIES



Ken Walker and Carl Boswell are presenting slides of iris species at the September meeting of the Mt. Diablo Iris Society. Ken and Carl will talk about where the species are from, how they are classified, and their cultural requirements.



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

(925) 825-2350, kenww@pacbell.net

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 11, MDIS function
Beardless auction other than PCNs

November 8, MDIS function
Pot luck dinner and PCN 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

October 25th–26th, Region 14 Fall Regional
Sponsored by Sierra Foothills Society
Auburn, CA

May 12–17, AIS Convention 2003
Fredericksburg, Virginia



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This is our busy time of year to prepare for next year's iris activities--everything from potting irises for our 2003 plant sales to making plans to elect new club officers.

The Benicia Peddlers Faire in early August was very successful. We met many individuals interested in iris and sold more than 1500 rhizomes--many in grab bags having ten or more rhizomes. The buying public acquired some very high quality rhizomes from this sale at a fair price. I want to thank the large turnout of members at our August meeting who both donated

many irises and helped sort them by color into all the different bins for the sale. This made a big job easy. I especially want to thank the individuals who helped setup and worked the booth on Saturday. Bob Canning, Melissa Harris, and Jo Balch helped me staff the booth the whole day. Bob and Alan Robbins delivered, help setup and tear down the booth and Chuck Gabrysiak delivered all the grab bags to the booth early Saturday morning. Without their help, we could not have participated in this event.

We have many extra iris rhizomes from the Benicia sale and have begun potting some of them for our 2003 spring plant sale. At our next meeting, some of these rhizomes will be available to anyone willing to pot and care for them over the winter until our spring plant sale (see separate announcement). We may have a second plant sale event next year in addition to the one at our spring show. Possible other sale events are being explored and if you have any recommendations, please let me know.

I have received all but one of our orders of bearded iris for next year's door prizes. The growers have been very generous this year and we have a good selection of all sizes of iris to offer as door prizes. This month's door prize irises will be the first of the 2002 introductions to be awarded.

We are contacting AIS judges for next year's spring show and have commitments for approximately half of the six judges needed. If you would like to recommend any particular judge, please let me know.

I am soliciting members for a committee to nominate a slate of officers for next year. We will elect new officers at our October meeting. Please contact me if you are interested in participating on this nominating committee or in serving as an officer.

In the garden, this is the time to plant iris. In addition, it is a good time to work some fertilize (e.g. 6-20-20) into the ground around your reblooming iris. This feeding last year significantly improved the fall rebloom in our garden.

We have an excellent program this month on species iris from two of our expert irisarians --Carl Boswell and Ken Walker.

Hope to see you there--Joe

DOOR PRIZE IRIS FOR SEPTEMBER

CIRCUS DRAGON - Jones, B. 2002 – SDB
Carnay yellow self, orange beard

VAPOR - Ghio 2002 – TB
S.white; F.white dappled w/reddish violet,
tangerine beard

PRINCESS OF PARADISE - Cadds 2002 – TB
S.lilac lavender; F.white-blue w/lavender plicata,
white beard

PASSION FOR PINK - Ernst 2002 – TB
Pink self, red beard

JERSEY CREAM - Keppel 2002 – IB
White cream self, cream beard

I FEEL FREE - Lauer 2002 – IB
Lavender self w/ darker veins, lavender beard

BALLISTIC - Black 2002 – SDB
Yellow w/claret plic veins and dots,
gold-brown beard

HOOSIER PRIDE - Miller, L. 2002 – TB
Large ruffled garnet red with deeper red falls,
orange beard

HAPPY AGAIN - Schreiner 2002 – TB
S. yellow; F. white w/ 3/4" yellow rim,
yellow beard

RECURRING GLORY - Sutton, G. 2002 - TB-RE
Ruffled violet self, violet beard

DOOR PRIZE WINNERS FOR AUGUST

We finished off the 2001-2002 door prize year with the following winners.

BET AGAIN - Mary Smith

BET AGAIN - Ken Walker

BRAT - Joy Parsons

DOUBLE CLICK - Glenn Corlew

DOUBLE SHOT - Dorothy Rucker

LADY JANE - Sharon Kinyon

PINK CHAMPANGE - Kent Lincoln

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO PLANT & GROW POTTED IRISES

Free rhizomes will be available at our September meeting for anyone able to plant and grow irises for our next spring plant sale.

Species Iris

Iris delavayi



I. delavayi is the most impressive of the Siberian species. It may reach height of around 5 feet (1.5 meters) when in bloom, with the foliage well below the flowers. The blossoms are a medium purple with white to cream marks on the base of the falls. The U. C. Berkeley Botanical Garden has a large stand of them that is magnificent when they bloom in May and June.

This species is classified among the Sino-Siberian iris, also known as a 40 chromosome Siberians. This iris is native to wet meadows and forest margins high in the mountains of southwestern China. It is much more sensitive to summer drought than the 28 chromosome Siberians usually grown in the garden, but given good soil and adequate moisture it is a robust plant. I grow mine in large planters in partial shade and keep them well watered.

**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: Mary E. Brown, Member-
ship Secretary, The American Iris Society,
PO Box 2968, Baltimore, MD 21229
meb@toadmail.com



AN AFFILIATE OF THE

**AMERICAN
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Name and Address correction requested