



MT. DIABLO IRIS SOCIETY

MT. DIABLO IRIS SOCIETY NEWS

FEBRUARY 2003

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, February 14

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

LOCATION:

First Baptist Church of Walnut Creek,
2336 Buena Vista Avenue, Walnut Creek

PROGRAM:

AIS slide show of recent iris presented by Kent Lincoln

REFRESHMENTS:

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

Irises of the Fabulous 90's

Kent Lincoln will present a slide show of recent irises at the Mount Diablo Iris Society's February meeting. The slides are from the American Iris Society. This is a great opportunity to review the work that iris breeders did in the final decade of the last millennium, and, of course, it is always nice to see inspirational iris photos in late winter when relatively little is blooming.

Meeting Location Reminder

The Mt Diablo Iris Society is now meeting at the First Baptist Church of Walnut Creek. See the insert in last month's Newsletter. Please note that the instructions to Walnut Creek First Baptist Church when one is coming from south highway 680 should read; "**From the West or South** take the Ygnacio Valley Road exit from I 680 and turn *left* onto Ygnacio Valley Road, continue under the overpass ...".

If you have any questions about the meeting location, please call Bob Canning at (925) 935-3980 for assistance.

THE BOARD:

President: Joe Balch (925 447-6712)

Vice President: Kent Lincoln

Secretary: Sharon Kinyon

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

Mt. Diablo Iris Society meets the 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

April 12th–13th, Mt. Diablo Iris Society Spring Show, Heather Farms, Walnut Creek

May 19–20 Sidney B. Mitchell Spring Show, Garden Center at Lake Merritt, Oakland

April 25th–26th, Region 14 Spring Regional, Visalia, California

May 12–17, AIS Convention 2003
Fredericksburg, Virginia

Aug 2, Region 14 bearded iris auction

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our first meeting at the new location last month went very smoothly. I believe everyone found the new meeting room very spacious and enjoyable. If you have not been to one of our meetings for a while, why not join us at the new location to see for yourself. We have new programs, a new streamlined meeting format that permits us to complete the meetings earlier, and as usual, tasty snacks and friendly socializing with old and new friends. At the January meeting, Bob Canning showed many beautiful slides obtained from the AIS of Siberian irises. Bob's presentation included several examples of Siberian irises in lovely landscape settings.

I want to thank everyone who volunteered to fill many of the Society positions we have for the coming year. At least ten individuals at the January meeting offered to help and agreed to fill most of our critical positions. The willingness of many members to help makes my job easy.

In the garden, the mid January warm weather (several 70-75 degree days in our garden) prompted some of our late reblooming irises to erupt in a show of colors. Ben Hager's FEEDBACK and Monty Byer's WINESAP were especially beautiful. You may want to consider fertilizing your bearded irises in February. I generally try to fertilize our irises 6-8 weeks before their spring bloom.

You will find that we have a few more Door Prize iris this month. Virginia Messick has succeeded in growing new rhizomes on iris toes from several of our 2001 door prize irises. In addition, Jim Whitely has donated several of his new 2002 Arilbred iris introductions. For the remainder of the year, our Door Prize list will include additional irises from both of these sources. Thanks to Virginia and Jim.

Our February meeting will feature a program on irises introduced in the 1990's, presented by Kent Lincoln. I hope to see you at the meeting--Joe

ICE YOUR SIBERIANS FOR GOOD BLOOM

by Diane Eigenman

First the basics:

- Try to ice Siberians once every couple of weeks, from December through about mid-February.
- It's best to add the ice at twilight so that it lasts the longest, i.e. overnight.
- Avoid actually touching the tiny new growths.

You're actually faking the freezes we don't get in the Bay Area.

Now the logistics:

- Either use your freezer's ice cubes, freeze containers of water, or buy a sack of ice. All are easiest to carry around the garden in a 5 gallon bucket.
- Place a few ice cubes at each plant (if the base area is 6", place four to six ice cubes equally spaced around perimeter) so the ice cubes are roughly 4" apart.
- For big clumps you can freeze a cake pan, or pie tin of ice and tip it out on top of the cut off foliage. It will not only give you more chill, but will it last a few days.

By the way, if your SDB's are shy about blooming they like ice too.

DOOR PRIZE IRIS FOR FEBRUARY

RAPID FIRE - Aitken 2002 – TB
Lavender-blue self

CONGO SUNSET - Cadds 2002 – TB
S.yellow w/burgundy wash; F.yellow, yellow beard

AMARILLO FRILLS - Hager 2002 – TB
Yellow-gold self; yellow beard

CANDY SCHOLES - Meek 2002 – TB
S.pale orchid, deeper mid rib; F.near white,
orchid beard

SLANG - Keppel 2002 – SDB
Yellow orange with veined pumpkin-tan falls;
tangerine orange beard

IM WITH YOU - Dunn, B. 2002 – TB
S.white w/ violet plicata edge; F.white w/violet edge,
white beard

FUNDAMENTAL - Johnson, T. 2002 – TB
S.white; F.light violet w/silver rim, gold beard

UP AND ATOM - Miller, L. 2002 - IB SA
S.butterscotch w/yellow edge; F.yellow, blue beard

COSMIC VISION - Tasco, R 2001 – TB
S.buffy pink, flushed and dotted light magenta;
F.creamy pink, dotted magenta, rusty tangerine beard

GUMBY - Sutton, G. 2002 - SDB-RE
S.greenish yellow; F.white w/yellow green hafts,
blue beard

KEDESH - Whitely, James 2002 - AB(OGB+)
S.white w/dark violet brown veining; F.light cream,
dark red wine signal, dark brown beard

DOOR PRIZE WINNERS FOR JANUARY

HARMONIUM - Glenn Corlew

BLONDE MADONNA - Ken Walker

FOXY DOLL - Carl Boswell

BLOCK PARTY - Dixie Shaw

SECRET SERVICE - Ron Wolberg

TICKET TO RIDE - Dave Hartness

DEVIL MAY CARE - Bruce Connell

BOLD STATEMENT - LaRue Boswell

PLANT MARKERS AND NAMEPLATES

The society has replenished their supply of plant markers. There are two styles available as well as replacement nameplates. Please call Bob Canning at (925) 935-3980 to request your needs. Bob will then bring the markers to the next meeting or make other arrangements with you. The price for these markers is at the club's costs.

Species Iris

Iris samariae (*I. lortetii* var *samariae*)



I. samariae is an oncocyclis iris. This species and other oncocyclis contribute large domed standards and tucked-under falls to arilbred iris. *Iris samariae* is native to near-desert regions of Samaria in the Middle East. Its large standards are white with fine purple veining. The falls may have stronger dark purple markings or may be predominantly light yellow.

Like other oncocyclis, *I. samariae* is challenging to grow outside its native habitat. It is completely dormant during the summer and must be kept totally dry. The rhizomes may be dug during dormancy and kept in a warm dry location with good air circulation. Oncocyclis are very susceptible to rot, and aphids like to hide inside the base of the leaves where they can sap the strength of the plant while protected from most controls other than systemic insecticides.

The beauty of this iris's impressive flowers makes the challenge of growing it worth while even if it only blooms once.



**MEMBERSHIP IN THE MOUNT DIABLO
IRIS SOCIETY**

Dues are \$7.50 annual or \$18.00 tri-annual.

Send payment to: Mt. Diablo Iris Society, Treasurer, P.O. Box 3735, Walnut Creek CA 94598

AN AFFILIATE OF THE

**AMERICAN
IRIS
SOCIETY**

**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, Membership Secretary, The American Iris Society, PO Box 2968, Baltimore, MD 21229
meb@toadmail.com

Mt. Diablo Iris Society News
P.O. Box 3735
Walnut Creek, CA 94598

Name and Address correction requested