



MT. DIABLO IRIS SOCIETY

E-NEWS APRIL 2008

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.

MEETING - Friday, April 11, 2008 - 7:00 pm
47th SPRING IRIS SHOW - Saturday, April 12th
STAGING 7:00 am - 9:30 am - JUDGING 10:00 am - noon.
OPEN TO PUBLIC 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
First Baptist Church of Walnut Creek
2336 Buena Vista Avenue, Walnut Creek

SPRING SHOW SETUP

Friday night April 11th the meeting will be in the Church gymnasium to set-up for Saturday's Spring Show. The Doors open at 6:30 pm. Following the set-up there will be a short business meeting. Door prize iris will be drawn during the meeting.

In addition, there will be some work involving the School Art project that Barbara Whitely and Carl Meier have been doing with the Church School children. (See article in Newsletter on pages 3 & 4).

We need everyone to come out and help get things together for our Spring Iris Show on Saturday. Don't forget to return your show trophy to Alan by Saturday morning.

Bring your potted plants for the Saturday potted plant sale. Please see article in next column on grooming plants for the sale. Bring your best iris.

Refreshments: Members whose last name begin with the letter **K** through **R** are invited to bring refreshments. Anyone else is welcome to bring snacks they wish to share.

GROOMING POTTED PLANTS FOR SALE ON SATURDAY

Everyone that is growing potted iris for the Saturday sale should spend some time to spruce up the pots before bringing them for sale. Please remove weeds that has accumulated over the winter. Mark the plant with a label or tag (White duct tape on the pot, typed label fixed to a leaf) with name, brief description of color, type of iris and if it is a Space Ager and or Rebloomer.

We are going to be selling the plants in the Church gym. We need to bring our best iris and especially those either blooming or with bloomstalks. Weak plants or those with small, narrow fans should be avoided.

Don't forget to return your
Mt Diablo Society Iris Show
trophy on Friday night.

2008 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 5th: Ryan Grisso Open Garden, El Centro Gardens, 609 El Centro Rd., El Sobrante, CA, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

April 11th: MDIS Meeting & Spring Show set-up. First Baptist Church of Walnut Creek, 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm.

April 12th: MDIS Spring Iris Show, First Baptist Church of Walnut Creek. Saturday entry and show, 7:00 am -5:00 pm.

April 14-19th: AIS Spring Convention, Austin, TX, Chair. Jim Landers, jimlanders43@hotmail.com

April 19-20th: Spring Iris Show, Sydney B. Mitchell Iris Society, Oakland East Bay Garden Center, Oakland. Saturday, entry & show, 7:30 am -5:00 pm. Sunday, show 10:00 am—5:00 pm.

April 25-27th: Region 14 Spring Regional, hosted by the Sierra Foothills Iris Society, Auburn, CA. contact Kathy Bratten 530 477-281, e-mail katbrat@cebridge.net

May 9th: Regular Meeting MDIS. Discussion of Garden tour and surprise guest speaker. First Baptist Church of Walnut Creek, 7:00 pm to 9:20pm.

May 10th: Saturday MDIS Garden tour, members gardens and the Ruth Bancroft Garden. 9:00 am - 5:00 pm.

June 13th: Regular Meeting MDIS. Awards and Pot-luck dinner. First Baptist Church of Walnut Creek, 6:30 pm to 9:20 pm.

July 12th: Saturday Summer Auction. Location to be announced, private garden. 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm.

August 8th: Regular Meeting MDIS, Iris sorting and grab bag assembly for Peddlers Fair. First Baptist Church of Walnut Creek, 6:30 to 9:20 pm.

August 9th: Benecia Peddler's Fair iris sale. Booth SE side 1st street below D. Booth setup 6:00 am, open 8:00 am-5:00 pm.

September 12th: Regular Meeting MDIS, First Baptist Church of Walnut Creek, 7:00 pm to 9:20pm.

October 10th: Regular Meeting MDIS, Fall beardless iris auction except PCN's. First Baptist Church of Walnut Creek, 7:00 pm to 9:15 pm.

October 17-18: Region 14 Fall Meeting co-hosted by Sydney B. Mitchell Iris Society and the Mt. Diablo Iris Society, Oakland East Bay Garden Center, Oakland.

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

The spring bloom season for irises is under way with early blooming types showing their colors—e.g. PCNs, Arilbreds, SDBs and a few Medians. On March 30th we visited Barbara and Jim Whitley's garden where Jim's arilbred iris were at peak bloom. The plants looked great with healthy foliage, many bloom stalks on each plant and the beautifully- shaped flowers of these onco and regelia-bred hybrids were spectacular.

We have heard from others and seen in our own garden that the plants this year are generally very healthy, but many are growing slowly due to the cooler temperatures we have experienced so far. With less than two weeks left before our Spring Show, this raises a concern that we may not have many bearded iris on display—especially Tall Bearded iris. We want to encourage everyone to bring all iris to the show that they are able to enter so we can fill the show floor with an outstanding array of flowers. This event is always a opportunity to entertain and educate the general public about the world of iris and we almost always gain a few new members from the show.

Members of our show committee have been very busy trying to get the word out about our show. Many members have posted flyers announcing the show throughout our communities; others have gone to meetings of other garden clubs with posters and business card-size handouts; and Barbara Whitely and Carl Meier have organized an iris coloring contest for students at the church school that should draw more youth and their parents to the show. We want to thank all members of the show committee for their dedicated efforts and new initiatives to make the public aware of our show.

Our newsletter calendar of events lists iris shows and open gardens every weekend from late March through mid May. This is your opportunity to visit iris gardens, enjoy great weather and meet fellow iris enthusiasts in beautiful settings.

Looking forward to seeing you April 12 at our show. Let's make it a spectacular one—Joe and Bob.

☞

☞

MARCH DOOR PRIZE WINNERS

CALLIGRAPHER	Glenn Corlew
COUNTY CORK	Jeanne King
FALL ENTERPRISE	Barbara Whitely
GENES R US	Scott Castner
LIMONADA	Meredith Endsley
MOUNTAIN SUNRISE	Jim Castner
PAUL BLACK	Eileen Roark
SHARPER IMAGE	Betty Finkbonner
WILD ANGEL	Harry Endsley
GYPSY LORD	Chuck Gabrysiak



APRIL DOOR PRIZE IRIS

ALLITERATION (P. Black 2006) IB – Bright yellow to yellow-gold. Big vivid orange beards.

CELEBRATE (P. Black 2007) SDB – Standards are medium orchid with purple plicata bands and darker stitching. Falls are a silvery lilac banded red-grape with dotting and stitching. Beards are white at the base and layered with violet and brown-black.

DOLCE (P. Black 2003) Spec-X – Medium pink standards. Warm white falls with a pale pink margin. Bright pink beards.

FOLLOW THAT DREAM (F. Kerr 2007) TB – Peach pink self that is slightly darker on the hafts and slightly lighter just around the tangerine beards.

IN LIVING COLOR (P. Black 2004) TB – Yellow standards. Falls have gold around the yellow beards surrounded by plum that fades to violet and then tan at the edges.

MICROWAVE (M. Smith 2007) SDB – Medium blue self somewhat darker around the white beards. Pronounced sweet fragrance.

PADDED SHOULDERS (P. Black 2005) TB – White standards with peach centers. Falls are white with wide apricot-peach hafts. Orange beards.

SPOT STARTER (Schreiner's 2007) TB – Dark blue-purple self. The falls have a brilliantly white signal spot around the near white beards.

MAGIC QUEST (R. Tasco 2007) BB – Golden yellow standards. White falls heavily spotted a burgundy-brown with a golden yellow rim. Burnt tangerine beards.



First Annual Coloring and Drawing Iris Contest

This year with the cooperation of the **Walnut Creek Christian Academy**, The Mt. Diablo Iris Society will be hosting its 1st Annual Coloring and Drawing Contest. The contest is open to any student of the school. The entries will be either drawing supplied by the club to color or a free hand drawing with iris as the focal point done by the student.

There will be 3 different sections: K - 2 grade, 3rd - 5th grade, and 6th - 8th grade.

Each section will be awarded a 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 1 Honorable Mention Ribbon.

The 1st place winner's will be the section winner. Each winning drawing will be on display at the show. Section winners will then be further judged for the People's Choice Award.

The attendee's will have until 4 o'clock, one hour before the show closes to vote on the People's Choice Award.

The Committee may be calling on members to prejudge the entries with the final 10 entries in each section to be judged at the Friday night Meeting.

- - Barbara Whitely & Carl Meier

Please see next page for the contest rules.



NOTICE:
THE MAY POT-LUCK DINNER
HAS BEEN MOVED TO
THE JUNE 13th
FRIDAY NIGHT MEETING.

RULES FOR THE MT DIABLO IRIS COLORING AND DRAWING CONTEST

The contest is open to any student of the Walnut Creek Christian Academy. The entries will either be the drawing supplied by the club or a free hand drawing with iris as the focal point by the students.

One entry per student.

Student's name, Teacher's name and room number on the back of the drawing.
Grade only on front.

The entries will be picked up the Thursday April 10th and will be judged by the members of the club Friday evening.

There will be 3 different sections:

K – 2 grade
3rd – 5th grade
6th – 8th grade

Each section will be awarded a 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 1 Honorable Mention Ribbon.
1st place winner's while automatically be the section winner.

Each winning drawing will be on display at the show.

The section winners will then be further judged for the People's Choice Award.

Each section winner will receive an award of \$10 cash. Section winners may choose a potted iris the day of the show.

The People's Choice Award will receive an additional award of \$5 for a total of \$15 cash.

The attendee's will have until 4 o'clock, one hour before the show closes to vote on the People's Choice Award. After 4 the ballots will be counted and the Award made.

Following the Show:

The week following the show the award would be presented. Each 1st prize winner and the Best of Show winner would be photographed to be place in our newsletter. We will have someone to submit an article for the American Iris Society Region 14 Bulletin.

Michael Smith

We have lost another member of our iris society, Michael Smith, husband to Mary Smith. He passed away on Friday, March 21st from complications form pneumonia.

It is the Smith Garden where we have been holding our July Summer Fundraisers for a long, long time. Last July we celebrated Mike's Birthday with a cake in the garden during the auction event.

We will miss him.

MAY GARDEN TOUR May 10th

We will be having a full day of garden tours on May 10th. The tour will consist of four member gardens and the Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek. The tour will begin in Oakland in the morning, move to Walnut Creek then to the Ruth Bancroft Garden for lunch and a 1 pm tour. After the tour, we will move to another garden in south Walnut Creek and then end up in Alamo for the final garden and desert.

Please let us know if you are planning to attend the tour of the Ruth Bancroft Garden. We need to give the RBG a number count following our show date. Some people have already signed up, but we need to hear from everyone. So please Contact Bob Canning at RJCIRIS@AOL.com.



REGION 14 SPRING MEETING April 25 - 27th, 2008

The Region 14 Spring Regional meeting will be in Auburn, California hosted by the Sierra Foothills Iris Society. There will be three gardens to visit: Tim and Kathy Braaten's Garden, the Yarda's Ditchwater Iris Garden and the Horton Iris Garden. The main speaker is Brad Kasperek of Zebra Gardens in Utah. The late registration fee is \$104. Contact Kathy Braaten at 530 477-2811 or e-mail katbrat@cebridge.net.

The meeting hotel the Days Inn in Rocklin and room rate is \$79 for two.

Go to:

<http://www.aisregion14.org/Spring2008-Reg.html>
for forms.



My Garden - by Carl Meier

I use a large variety of plants--some people would consider it a collection of plants, not landscaping; still, I try to use landscape design elements (wide & narrow pathways, walking from sun to shade to sun etc., use of vertical space and a layering effect, vistas, focal pts., water, resting areas--benches, large. Rocks ---, repetition of recognizable landscaping plants from one garden section ("room") to the next as a transition that follows changes in plant microclimates around the yard, having a succession of flower and fragrance throughout the year, various leaf color contrasts and compliments to each other as well as to flowers and to the garden as a general scene, various leaf structure combinations to add viewing interest: extra: larger. leafed plants near entrances and foreground areas to add apparent depth of scene, 'humor' (my kind unfortunately) and serendipity, turning a corner from a smaller more intimate area into a wider, more open area as one walks along the garden paths, etc.).

So a variety of plants help in attracting a variety of insect critters and birds, which in turn helps balance your garden environment and drastically lessens your dependence on insecticides. It is important to have plants that attract butterflies, bees, and other pollinators (lists are available). Also, it is very important to have a succession of flowering plants and fragrant plants in order to stabilize the successive insect and bird populations throughout the year. Think in terms of having something going on in both fragrance and flower every month! Since most perennials, shrubs, and trees flower for between 3 and 6 weeks, you can plan accordingly. This is where the layering effect and vertical space use comes in handy in home gardens.

For those who want to hybridize, the mono-culture of the iris "farm" seems necessary for ease of access and record keeping---the downside is the consequent endless cycle of

having to spray insecticides 'everywhere' and exposing yourself to very toxic chemicals several times a year. If people spray like I did--without much in the way of precautions to the hazard--then, the long term health concerns are indeed substantial.

As an alternative, people could develop a complex of various plants in a wide border--12 to 15 ft.--- around the iris "farm" beds ala the old time farm "hedgerows" between fields. This would allow for use of vertical space and layering as well as complexity and succession in plant materials. Doing this would necessitate a reduction in the amount of iris beds under cultivation; but it would reduce iris labor, and help the hybridizer prioritize which iris he/she really, really wants to cross. Altogether, once established, this garden format should reduce overall work in the garden, especially if lower maintenance plant materials are employed.

We look forward to visiting Carl's garden on our May 10th Garden Tour.—Ed

24



*Clara Garland - 1996 Cy Bartlett (IB)
Photographed by Janet Canning March 30th
in the Canning Garden.*

MOUNT DIABLO IRIS SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Dues are \$7.50 annual or \$18.00 tri-annual, Please send payment to:
Mt. Diablo Iris Society, Treasurer, P O Box 5243, Walnut Creek, CA. 94596

American Iris Society dues - single yearly \$25.00, dual yearly \$30.00; single tri-annually \$60.00, dual tri-annually \$75.00; payable to: Tom Gormley, Membership Secretary, PO Box 28, Cedar Hill, MO 63016. aismemsec@earthlink.net

YOUR CURRENT BOARD:

Presidents - Joe Balch 925-447-6712 & Bob Canning 925-935-3980

Vice-President – open

Secretary – Jo Balch 925-447-6412

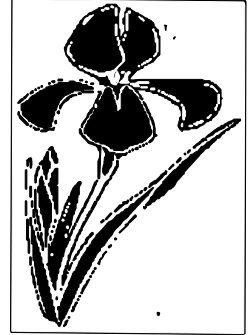
Treasurer – Kent Lincoln 925-256-6404

Directors – Glenn Corlew, Alan Robbins & Barbara Whitely

Past President – Kent Lincoln

Newsletter & E-NEWS: Bob Canning, Editor & Janet Canning, Proof reader

Photograph credits as noted



MT. DIABLO IRIS SOCIETY IS AN AFFILIATE OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY
AND REGION 14. VISIT THE REGION WEBSITE: WWW.AISREGION14.ORG



Mt. Diablo Iris Society News
P.O. Box 5243
Walnut Creek, CA 94596-1243

Address Service Requested