

# MT. DIABLO IRIS SOCIETY NEWS

## JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2021

The Mt. Diablo Iris Society exists for the purpose of stimulating and fostering interest in the propagation, culture and hybridizing of the genus Iris. As well the scientific and horticultural education of all those interested in learning about any phase of the genus Iris, and in the protection of these plants in these plants in their native habit.



**▶▶ No January/February Meetings ◀◀**  
**We will immediately send out an email as soon**  
**as we know anything about the status**  
**of future meetings & events.**

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Welcome everyone to a New Year!

I hope you have all had a good couple of months respite from garden chores and are ready to see your new crop of blooming bulbs, trees and other flowers that whisk us into the iris blooming season. For us iris lovers, it's all about the iris indeed. It's the exact middle of winter here and not much rain has fallen. The paperwhite narcissus are shorter this year than normal. Late rainfall has not helped them get up very tall. This may be the case with our iris too if we don't get enough rain. So, monitor your beds and water through the dry spell to get nice size flower stalks. The irises are however beginning to push now and it's about time to fertilize with a 6-20-20 or equivalent. Just make sure the first number (Nitrogen) is a low number. You don't want to rot out your irises.

Your MDIS Board met in January to go over this year's budget activities for our club. First, we have postponed our elections to September of this year for the 2022-2023 Cycle. All board members agreed to stay on through this unusual time until we can meet again in person.

Additionally, all MDIS memberships expiring by the end of 2020 have been extended one year at no cost. We felt that since we have had zero club activities since February 2020 and no door prize irises awarded since then that we would extend the memberships for all up-to-date members... With the pandemic lingering on and a slower than expected vaccine rollout, we do not see it viable to have an in-person iris show again this year. This is very disappointing to have happen a second year in a row. Makes you really appreciate participating in the past and looking forward to next year. **HOWEVER!**

Just like last year, Jan Blaedel and Mary Sindicic have been collaborating on another Virtual V-Iris show for the 2021 season. Some adjustments and plans have been made for the virtual show this year and the show schedule is listed elsewhere in this newsletter. The show is open NOW through June 30<sup>th</sup> so start taking pictures of your blooms now if you have them. Thank you, Jan and Mary for your dedication to this again this year!

One other cost saving item we have accomplished this winter is our storage unit. Our storage unit houses our tables, ribbons, trophies, show equipment, and other miscellaneous items at a cost of over \$1,000+

per year. The items have now been moved to a dry, clean shed at Dry Creek Garden. In lieu of rent, MDIS will make a monetary or product donation of \$200 per year to the iris garden area. The items can remain here as long as allowed or until Jeff retires. This will save MDIS 800+ dollars per year and is closer to Alden Lane for our iris show but further from Benicia for our rhizome sale, so it balances out. Dry Creek Garden is appreciative of all the help it has received over the last four years maintaining the iris beds at Dry Creek and looks forward to many more. This savings covers many costs we currently incur.

Finally, the Region 14 Spring Regional will be held via ZOOM on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The guest irises at Bluebird Iris Haven in Somerset, Calif will be viewable from late April through mid May by appointment only to maintain distancing requirements to protect us all. More info to come on this in the coming 2 months. The iris sellers are going to have a busy year again this year so get your orders in early so you don't miss out on irises you are searching for.

Have a GREAT February!

Your MTB and longhaired Covid President,  
Jeff Bennett

## BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Our MDIS Board met recently. Here are the highlights of the meeting. If you'd like a copy of the minutes, please email me at [linda.woods@comcast.net](mailto:linda.woods@comcast.net)

**Elected Officers:** Currently elected board positions (president, etc) will rollover until fall 2021 when we normally begin the nomination process.

**Dues:** Since there was minimal club activity, MDIS membership dues will be extended by a year. 😊 Additionally, AIS waived club affiliate \$30 annual dues.

**Meetings:** No interest has been expressed for holding club Zoom (online) meetings. So, no meetings are currently scheduled. If you have interest in attending MDIS Zoom meetings, let us know!

**Storage Unit:** We cancelled our current storage unit and move items to an available shed at Dry Creek. In lieu of a storage fee, MDIS will donate \$200 (or item such as a bench of similar value) annually to Dry Creek Garden. This will be a nice savings.

**AIS:** There will be no 2021 National AIS Convention.

**Spring Regional:** There will be a Spring Regional meeting on May 8<sup>th</sup> via ZOOM. May 2021 Bluebird Haven Iris Garden in Somerset, CA will allow guests to attend -- with controlled access. More details later...

**Events:** The Alden Lane Spring Show & Sale is pending, but doubtful. We are hoping we can hold our July auction, and have a booth at the Benicia Fair in August. We will register for the Benicia Fair in anticipation.

**Club Correspondence:** Kent closed our post office box as it was unreliable. Club correspondence will be sent directly to: Kent Lincoln 752 Laurel Dr, Walnut Creek, CA 94596

**Deposits:** Outstanding deposits for Alden Lane Show, and our meeting venues at Lindsay Wildlife and in San Ramon have been rolled over.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2021

**Feb – July 1 Virtual Iris Show**

**April 28 - May 16 Spring Regional tours at Bluebird Haven Iris Garden**

**May 8th Spring Regional,ZOOM meeting**

**July Aug MDIS Auction - hopefully Benicia Fair, Rhizome Sales - hopefully**

## MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTION

Each year, our club makes a \$200 donation to Region 14 in memory of those who passed the previous year. The 2020 donation will honor long time club member James Whitely, who we lost in the fall of 2020.

## VIRTUAL IRIS SHOW

Submitted by Jan Blaedel.

I can't believe we are doing this again but WE ARE! As last year, this is NOT sanctioned by AIS, though encouraged. We appreciate their interest. Note the article in the Fall AIS Magazine.

The bulletin announcing our 2nd Annual Virtual Iris Show sponsored by Mt. Diablo Iris Society, follows. Get your cameras ready and start taking FOUR UNIQUE pictures of your iris!

If you would like to participate, please email [MtDiabloIris@gamil.com](mailto:MtDiabloIris@gamil.com) and ask for a REGISTRATION NUMBER.

Just a reminder. When you return your photo entries, you will ALWAYS get a response that they have been received. IF YOU DO NOT GET A RESPONSE, RE EMAIL your entry. It means something went wrong and we didn't receive it. We will also respond with the number of entries and pictures we received. Please double check that we didn't miss something.

Hoping you are all well and happy and anticipating Spring. I know that some of you are still under snow while some of us have Early Bloomers showing themselves already. Looking forward to seeing all of your pictures.

Jan Blaedel and Mary Sindicic

<Show bulletin follows>

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual

## MDIS NOVEL (V)IRIS SHOW

*I Ris This Pandemic Were Over*

Presented by

## MT. DIABLO IRIS SOCIETY

*An Affiliate of  
The American Iris Society*



**Falcon's Brother** (Spuria - B. Charles Jenkins. 1995)  
*Best of Show Winner in 2020*  
Anna Cadd

## VIRTUAL IRIS SHOW

February 1, 2021 – July 1, 2021

**Open to the Public**

**Admission Free**

## ENTRIES

Specifying the Class on the REGISTRATION is required. The Class abbreviations are indicated below within parentheses in the applicable Sections.

### DIVISION I – HORTICULTURAL

- Section A Tall Bearded (TB) (up to 25 entries)
- Section B Miniature Dwarf Bearded (MDB)
- Section C Standard Dwarf Bearded (SDB)
- Section D Intermediate Bearded (IB)
- Section E Border Bearded (BB)
- Section F Miniature Tall Bearded (MTB)
- Section G Space Age – Required: **Specify Class**

- Section H Novelty Bearded– Includes broken color, flat tops, multi-petaled,etc. **Specify Class**
- Section I Reblooming – Required: **Specify Class**
- Section J Siberian (SIB)
- Section K Louisiana (LA)
- Section L Spuria (SPU)
- Section M Japanese (JI)
- Section N Californicae (CA)
- Section O Miscellaneous – Bulbous iris and any other iris not included in other sections.
- Section P Historic Iris - Varieties of any type iris introduced at least 30 years earlier.  
**REQUIRED: Write year of introduction on registration on Class line.**
- Section Q Aril (AR) and Arilbred (AB)
- Section R Species (SPEC) & Species-cross (SPEC-X)

## DIVISION II - SEEDLING

- Section U Tall Bearded
- Section V Bearded other than Tall - **Specify Class**
- Section W Beardless - **Specify Class**

## DIVISION III - YOUTH

- Section X Any type of iris grown and exhibited by those 18 years of age and younger. **Specify Class**

**JUDGING – Horticulture 75% Presentation 25%**  
**Horticulture:** How well is it grown for this particular variety or species? Judges should pay attention to damage; brown spots or leaf tips, infestations of insects, poor symmetry of growth, or other factors showing poor vigor for the specimen.

**Presentation:** Is the image in strong sunlight with disruptive shadows? Is there a disruptive background detracting from the flowers? If in a pot, is the pot clean? Are there weeds surrounding the plant? Could spent blossoms have been removed? Generally, is the plant/flower being presented with its best face?

### ENTRIES continued

## DIVISION V – ARTISTIC

### The theme is Pandemic/Medical

Section Z Each arrangement must contain Iris as the dominant flower. Limit one arrangement per person per class. Containers to be furnished by the exhibitor.

- Class 1 – 12 inches or less (pandemic/medical)
- Class 2 – Over 12 inches tall (pandemic/medical))
- Class 3- Youth Under 19 (Pandemic/medical))

- No artificial flowers, flags, nor treated natural materials may be used.
- 3X5 Cards will be used to explain their entries.
- Exhibitors will complete a registration form.
- Arrangements will be judged by AIS judges
- Submit two pictures of your arrangement (front and side) and one picture of your 3X5 card explanation.
- 01SZC11, 01SZC12, 01SZC13X5 (class 1)
- 01SZC21, 01SZC22, 01SZC23X5 (class 2)

Entry number, Section, Class, Photo number

Following is the complete scale of points used by the AIS for judging designs:

Conformance to Theme and class ..... 10 points

#### Design

- A) Balance ..... 5
- B) Proportion .....5
- C) Scale ..... 5
- D) Rhythm ..... 5
- E) Dominance ..... 5
- F) Contrast ..... 5
- G) Unity ..... 5

Design subtotal ..... 35 points

Color Use ..... 20 points

Creative Expression (originality) ..... 20 points

Distinction ..... 15 points

Total ..... 100 points

Sample pictures Divisions I, II, and III



A-Top View B-Side View C-Full-stalk D-GLAMOUR shot

This is NOT an AIS sanctioned Iris Show as this is a judge of photos rather than live specimens. VIRTUAL AWARDS will be emailed to special entries in each section.

### Naming photos for the MDIS VIRTUAL SHOW

Photos (JPEG) should be named using: the Entry Number of the person, 01-99, assigned when you register at [MtDiabloIris@gmail.com](mailto:MtDiabloIris@gmail.com)

S and the section letter (A-Z)

Class Abbreviation (TB, MDB, 1, 3, etc)

Number 1,2,3,4

**01SATB1, 01SATB2, 01SATB3, 01SATB4**

Entrant #1, Section A Class TB 1,2,3,4

If you enter more than one variety in a class (more than one TB for example) include an abbreviation of the name so the pictures don't get mixed up

01SATBTAF1.JPG your entry number, Section A Tall Bearded TAF for That's All Folks Photo 1

If you have trouble renaming your photos, send them with an explanation to [MtDiabloIris@gmail.com](mailto:MtDiabloIris@gmail.com) and we will rename them for you.

All photos will become the property of MDIS. If used for publication, you will receive photo credits.

In a nutshell:

Email [MtDiabloIris@gmail.com](mailto:MtDiabloIris@gmail.com) and ask for an entry number

**Take four pictures of each iris you wish to enter**

## Rename your pictures

## Complete the registration form

Email the photos and your registration form to [MtDiabloIris@gmail.com](mailto:MtDiabloIris@gmail.com) by midnight, July 1, 2021 (GOOGLE Drive works well for this)

You will receive a confirmation of receipt within 48 hours

## RULES

Entries are open to all persons and will be received from February 1<sup>st</sup> to July 1, 2021.

This is a cultivar show. Each variety entered will be a separate section and will be judged against perfection for that particular variety. JUDGING is described below ENTRIES

Horticultural exhibits must have been grown and entered in person by the exhibitor whose name appears on the registration form and the iris photos correctly identified.

Number of entries: **Limited to 25 entries in Section A, Tall Bearded.** There are **no limits to all other sections**.by an exhibitor provided each entry is of a different variety.

Those 18 years of age and under may enter either the Youth Division or the Regular Division, but may not enter both.

Registration will be by E-mail to [MtDiabloIris@gmail.com](mailto:MtDiabloIris@gmail.com)

Cultivars entered in **Section P Historic** must have the year of introduction on the registration on the Class line.

**Step 1** – Email [MtDiabloIris@gmail.com](mailto:MtDiabloIris@gmail.com) that you would like an ENTRY NUMBER so that you can submit photo entries. Let us know if you are entering in the YOUTH DIVISION.

Apply for an ENTRY NUMBER even if you are not sure that you will be entering photos. Do this NOW so that we may send you a registration form. You will get both a WORD document. (If you need a PDF, please request it. Your file name is already unique so simply return it in Step 4 with your photos.

**Step 2** – Complete the REGISTRATION FORM listing each of your photo entries.

**Step 3** – Submit four unique photos (correctly named) for each entry\*

(JPEG only, less than 5 MB [5000 KB])

- 1 Photo of iris from above
- 2 Photo of iris flower(s) from the side
- 3 Photo of entire iris plant, from the ground up - stalk
- 4 GLAMOUR SHOT – any other angle or format you wish,

ARTISTIC DESIGN –

- A. Photo from the front
- B. Total design from the side

C. Photo of the 3X5 card with the design explanation

Artistic Design photos should have a backdrop

**Step 4 - Email ALL photos and registration sheet to [MtDiabloIris@gmail.com](mailto:MtDiabloIris@gmail.com) by midnight, July 1, 2021**

\*You MAY use a backdrop to make it easier for the judges to see your plant but this is NOT required.

## THE MT. DIABLO IRIS SOCIETY

The Mt. Diablo Iris Society was founded in Antioch on January 14, 1960. It is a non-profit Society and 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 these plants in their native habitat.

The Society primarily meets at 7:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month in Walnut Creek or San Ramon. For exact location and exceptions contact the Mt. Diablo Iris Society President. Visitors are always welcome.

### MEMBERSHIP

Memberships in the Mt. Diablo Iris Society are available at \$12.50 per year, or \$30.00 for three years, per family unit residing at the same mailing address. Mail check to the Society Treasurer, PO Box 5243 Walnut Creek, CA 94596,

We also urge you to join The American Iris Society. Various types of memberships are available. Inquiries should be made to the AIS Membership Secretary, Pam Messer, P.O. Box 6, Huxley, IA 50124 or [www.irises.org](http://www.irises.org).

**2021 President:** Jeff Bennett  
[Jeff13bennett@gmail.com](mailto:Jeff13bennett@gmail.com)

**2021 Show Chairs**  
Mary Sindicic 925-606-0355  
Jan Blaedel [MtDiabloIris@gmail.com](mailto:MtDiabloIris@gmail.com)



Find us on Facebook  
Mt. Diablo Iris Society

**MT. DIABLO IRIS SOCIETY IS AN AFFILIATE OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY  
AND REGION 14. VISIT THE REGION WEBSITE: [WWW.AISREGION14.ORG](http://WWW.AISREGION14.ORG)**

**Dues are \$12.50 annual or \$30.00 tri-annual, Please send payment to club treasurer.**

**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, 205 Catalonia Ave. P O Box 177 DeLeon Springs. FL 32130 [aismemsec@irises.org](mailto:aismemsec@irises.org)  
Phone and fax: (386)277-2057**

**YOUR CURRENT BOARD:**

**President – Jeff Bennett, e-mail: [jeff13bennett@gmail.com](mailto:jeff13bennett@gmail.com)**

**Vice-President – Kathy Oldham, e-mail: [kathyoldham@comcast.net](mailto:kathyoldham@comcast.net)**

**Treasurer – Kent Lincoln, e-mail: [klincoln@sbcglobal.net](mailto:klincoln@sbcglobal.net)**

**Secretary – Marilyn Kaplan, e-mail: [kaplan87@comcast.net](mailto:kaplan87@comcast.net)**

**Newsletter- Editor Linda Woods, e-mail: [linda.woods@comcast.net](mailto:linda.woods@comcast.net)**

**Directors –Riley Probst, Shirley Trio**

**Past President – Mary Sindicic**

**Kent Lincoln  
Mt. Diablo Iris Society, Treasurer  
752 Laurel Dr  
Walnut Creek, CA 94596**