

June, 2006

Next meeting Friday, 16, 2006
 Doors open 7:00 P.M.
 Meeting 7:30 P.M.
 Place Native Sons Hall
 239 High Street, Santa Cruz

From The Prez

DEAR IRIS CLUB,
 The American Iris Society National Convention in Portland, Oregon May 22th-27th, 2006 was great fun, and a wonderful way to meet iris lovers from around the world. Everyone learned more about irises, and about each other, too! Please join us on Friday, June 16th at 7:30 for a digital photo presentation on the sights and irises from this year's convention. If you have images to share, put them on a disk in jpeg format and we will try to see them during the meeting.

On Saturday, June 24th, the Master Gardeners of Santa Cruz County present a Smart Gardening Fair at Skypark in Scotts Valley from 9 A.M. until 5 P.M. This will be good way for us to network with other gardeners, for publicity, sales and information. The Westbay Iris Society has dozens of potted iris all labeled with pictures of the blooms, and we can sell them, and we will split the money with their club. Also, if you have any named rhizomes you have dug and would like to donate, we will be happy to sell them to the public at the Smart Gardening Fair. Join us on Saturday, June 24th, 9 A.M.-5 P.M.—the more the merrier!

Keep in mind the following meeting will be the Picnic/Auction on Saturday, July 15th, 11 A.M. until 3 P.M. at Harvey West Park. Each person is requested to bring increase from each of last year's raffle prizes...they would be the 2004 introductions in your garden. Pick up all door prizes you have won during the current year at the July Picnic. If you can not attend the Picnic on July 15th, let a friend pick the door prize rhizomes up for you.

Hope to see you all at the meeting.

Happy gardening! *Diane*



Brenda Wood at one of the convention gardens.

photo by Diane Sampson

2006 Calendar

Monthly meetings are held in Native Sons Hall unless otherwise stated.

Regular Meeting

Friday, June 16 7:30 P.M.

Program

AIS Convention Report & Photos

Refreshments

Irene Cummins and Ann Pike

Annual July Picnic

Saturday, July 15.... 11:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M.

Harvey West Park

Potluck and Auction

Annual Sale

Dig Joe's Ranch

Thursday, August 3.... 9 A.M.-1:00 P.M.

Sale.... Deer Park Shopping Center

Saturday, August 5.... 9 A.M.-12:00 P.M.

Regular Meeting

Friday, August 18, 2006..... 7:30 P.M.

Program..... Photographing Iris

Refreshments

Linda Stremel & Diane Sampson

Regular Meeting

Friday, September 15, 2006..... 7:30 P.M.

Program..... Tall Beardless

Refreshments

Cindy Schuette & Joan Scanlon

Regular Meeting

Friday, October 20 7:30 p.m.

Program..... Pacific Coast Iris

Refreshments

Lisa Ayala & Gary Knipe

Join the wired group! Get your monthly newsletter online-Color photos!



CULTURE TIPS

LAST YEAR WAS A VERY WET YEAR, but not like this year when 20+ days in March had measurable rainfall and several days of April as well. A half inch of rain came in mid-May. Never so much rain so late plus cool/cold weather made for the latest bloom of memory. Ironically just two years ago, we had the earliest bloom season of memory! Here at the beginning of June, there is still bloom about and with late rains, a large number of repeat bloom is and will be occurring. The Pacificas have a considerable amount of second bloom right now. One of the new introductions, *Low Down*, has more bloom now than it had on its first bloom!

Surprisingly you would have thought that all this late bloom would have caused soft rot, but we've noticed no increase of it. There is evidence of root rot but this is more due to overfertilizing than wetness. The rhizomes will outgrow this problem if you water them regularly this month. Symptoms of root rot are weak, small rhizomes and stalks that dehydrate and sort of fold over. Keep them watered and you will have normal sized rhizomes by mid-summer.

To maximize your rhizomes you can give your irises a light application of a balanced fertilizer right now and water weekly. But first cut out the spent stalks and dig any weeds (you don't want to feed the weeds!). Also with the warming weather, the irises outgrow leaf spot and rust from the spring.

Also as you decided with varieties to discard, think of what you would like in their place. Many went to Oregon this spring and you will see slides to wet your appetite. Remember our Picnic/Auction is also a source to get good new varieties. ❀❀ Joe

If anyone has a list of the raffle prize winners from November of 2005, please give it to Diane Sampson! Thanks!

New Members

Welcome to last month's members! There were mistakes with last month's copy, so we are running the addresses again.

Welcome to this month's new members, Pamela and Mabel!

Bruce Harden	Jessie Bush
1333 South 57th Street	813 Paradise Park
Richmond, CA 94804	Santa Cruz, CA 95060
510-234-0677	831-420-1018
Email: loviris@aol.com	jessiebush@sbcglobal.net

Marcia Lewis	Pamela Fives/Mabel Weaver
5383 Old San Jose Road	610 Nestora Ave
Soquel, CA 95073	Aptos, CA 95003
831-475-7915	831-689-0226

We need a membership chair to keep track of new members, bring name tags to meetings and welcome new members to the club and to send out the membership booklets. Any volunteers?

Board of Directors 2006

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Nolan Hinshaw cearnog@yahoo.com 415-661-8901

Brenda Wood woodbrenda@aol.com 724-5415



Joe is presented the Sydney B Mitchell award for the best PCI Sierra Azul.

NON-IRIS PLANT EXCHANGE

This is the month to bring and share your nice non-iris plants. Bring cuttings, bedding plants, veggies, etc. and lay them out on the lawn in front of the Hall. Take what you want and enjoy them in your garden.

AIS 2006 Convention

By Diane Sampson

Can you imagine a banquet room with 930 energetic Iris growers, including virtually all the top hybridizers in the world? Can you imagine nine countries represented in a gathering of iris lovers? Can you imagine a region with the biggest commercial iris growers, showing off their best irises? Can you imagine a region known so much for rain that it named the convention Reigning Iris? Can you imagine 18 buses going to eight gardens, loading at 7 A.M. and leaving at 7:15 each day for three days? Think of all the preparations to distribute and plant about 500 guest iris rhizomes in each of eight gardens! The impact of the AIS National convention in Portland, Oregon, May 22–27 was enormous, and it lived up to all the expectations.

The Red Lion served a sumptuous buffet lunch on Wednesday, for \$10.50 a person, and on Friday night, it rocked with disco music, light show and a view of the lovely Columbia River. George Sutton spoke about the coming popularity of rebloomers at the Reblooming Iris Society meeting, and other sections had a chance to hold meetings and collect more members. The auction was held in a large room and continued until 10 P.M. on Thursday. Many people from MBIS and Clara B. Rees clubs sat at the same table at the welcome and awards banquets.

On Thursday morning, the first garden we visited was Cooley's, and we even had some sunshine that day. The guest garden was on the left side of the main driveway, and was in peak bloom. The regular show gardens were lovely, the indoor artistic arrangements were wonderful, and the rows of commercially grown irises were breathtaking! Cooley's also provided a full breakfast buffet, which was very appreciated.

The next garden was Wildwood Gardens in Moalla, grown by William and Tracy Plotner. William is currently the President of Greater Portland Iris Society, and his garden had many Siberian, CAL-SIB, Sino-SIB, Species and hard to find PCI's. The rows of guest iris were laid out parallel to the road in partial shade. Some less prominent fields had iris blooms peeking over tall grass weeds. Exposé was going to open its last blossom in this garden—I hope some folks had a chance to see it.

The second day, we first saw Aitken's Salmon Creek Garden. I had never seen such lovely Siberians or orchids in person! The rain drove many into the large greenhouse, where the most delicious cookies and bagels were served with coffee and tea. Seeing this garden was a real treat—everything was planted in alphabetical order, including many 2005 introductions as well as the guest irises. I wish I had more time and a sunny day for this garden.

Mount Pleasant, with a view of the Columbia River Gorge, was next on the list. Chad Harris and Dale Grams own a mowed grass field with a South-facing slope, suitable for Japanese irises and Siberians. Their personal tall bearded bed was spectacular, and visitors were treated to lovely landscaping, including a waterfall pond, rhododendron glades, and Siberian plantings. The landscaping done at this garden was very nicely designed, and everyone enjoyed the lovely blooms.

The third garden that day, the Mountain View Iris Gardens of John and Kay Ludi, was surely lovely on a clear day with Mount Hood in the background. A newborn calf wobbled along in the adjoining field. The weather took a turn, and it was so cold and windy that many visitors headed back to the bus early. The last garden was the Collier Garden, and it was obvious that much work had been done in preparation for the tour. They had sawdust paths and an interesting raised bed design with rhododendrons.

On the last day, it rained all day. At Schreiner's it did not matter—the gardens were glorious! The guest beds were near the tented greeting area, the show gardens were in peak bloom and impeccably groomed. Coffee and doughnuts were enjoyed, the lupines and rhododendrons were bright and cheerful, and the gift shop stayed busy. We marveled at the rainbow of buckets of iris stalks for sale \$6.00 a dozen. We saw the plantings of iris for sale in groups of twelve, for mass effect, and the stems on early varieties remained to tell of earlier prolific bloom. For lunch, we enjoyed local history and quality handicrafts at the Mission Mill Museum in Salem. Then we arrived at Mid America Gardens, which was past peak bloom. The rain and wind had thrashed the irises, but the Hostas were impressive. Everyone enjoyed talking with Tom Johnson and Paul Black.

At the Awards banquet, *High Chaparral*, a steady performer by Schreiner's, won the in-region award, the President's Cup. *Sailer's Dream* MBT, by K. Fisher won the Franklin Cook award, for the best out-of-region iris. Among the many 2005 awards presented, Joe won the Sydney B Mitchell award for the best Pacific Coast Hybrid Iris *Sierra Azul*. Way to go Joe!

Overall, I was especially appreciative of the iris people. In every garden, the owners were there to greet and talk with the visitors, and the hospitality was wonderful. The activities and buses were well organized, and everyone had fun and a sense of humor. The guest beds had some vacancies due to soft rot, but were mostly well groomed and beautiful. I finally realized that "California Irises" do not thrive in Oregon without special attention. Very few people have had the good fortune to see Joe's best irises. Joe has so many really outstanding cultivars—I hope everyone eventually has a chance to see more of Joe's new introductions in person.



Cheers to all our MBIS members who attended the AIS Convention!

Photo by Diane Sampson



DOOR PRIZES



Last drawing of the season. Pick up your year's winnings at the July Picnic.

1. ANGEL WINGS, Miller, Bubbly white, blue horn
2. BLUE PERSUASION, Aitken, Light blue amoena
3. BREATH OF DAWN, Sutton, Orange, flushed pink
4. BRILLIANCE, Painter, Bright Spanish Orange
5. BUFFALO GAP, Burseen, Pink splashed deeper
6. CHARTERED COURSE, Kerr, S. Lavender; F. red purple. RE
7. CLOUDS OF GLORY, Richardson, Pale blue; deeper F. edges
8. DISCOVERED TREASURE, Johnson, S. buff pink; F. orchid-violet
9. GARNET SLIPPERS, Keppel, IB, red bicolor
10. GOSSIP COLUMN, Sutton, S. pink, F. white, lavender horns
11. HOOK UP, Miller, Blue violet neglect, short horns
12. PASSION PLAY, Lauer, Pink, S. lighter
13. PERSONA, Keppel, MTB, S. rose, F. white, veined violet
14. RODEO GIRL, Schreiner, Yellow brown plicata, brown dotting on edges
15. SARAH SUNSHINE, Burseen, Orange, spoons beards
16. SOCIALIST, Johnson, S. lilac, F. black purple
17. SUGAR CREEK BLUES, Nicodemus, Blue amoena
18. THAT'S ALL FOLKS, Maryott, Huge gold; white spray pattern
19. TOM CAT, Lauer, S. cream, F. cream & blue
20. SUNBREAK, Keppel, IB, violet/rose luminata



Rain and Iris in the rain. Walking the wonderful gardens in the spring rain.

Photo by Diane Sampson