



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

Newsletter of the Monterey Bay Iris Society

August

This is the month to dig and replant all types of bearded irises. All irises and other plants do better in virgin soil, but since this isn't usually possible, rejuvenate your beds after digging by applying compost, manures, or additives like superphosphate, bone meal or blood meal. After replanting, water your irises weekly until four full new leaves grow out of the center of the fan. Then you can cut back on your watering.

From The Prez

DEAR IRIS LOVERS,
 In case you do not have all the irises you ever wanted yet, there will be several opportunities to acquire more. August is here and it is the most active month for digging and replanting your irises.

Please come to both days of digging—my house on Wednesday, August 2, 8:30 until noon, and at Joe's ranch on Thursday, August 3. There are places to sit in shade to label irises at my house, and we will enjoy your company! This is a place to bring the irises that you have dug from your own garden, and you might just bring each variety in a separate paper bag, and label them here with iris friends. Bring permanent markers, rubber bands, and big boxes to hold the various colors of irises. I will buy simple sandwich makings and sodas so we will not wither in the heat. Please let me know if you can help so I can plan on the number of people to feed - 831-728-1339 or debsampson@baymoon.com.

We will also dig and finish labelling at Joe's ranch on Thursday, August 3. This is the place to bring all the irises that you have dug from your own garden. Only named varieties are accepted. Joe does have some irises for us to dig at the ranch after all! The final sorting of colors will happen at Joe's ranch... On Thursday, August 3rd, the club will meet at Joe's ranch garden on 386 Corralitos Road, 9 AM until finished, to dig, label and sort irises at his place. Bring irises from your own garden, chairs, clippers, markers, rubber bands, big boxes and a sun hat! Again, soft drinks and sandwiches will be provided to all the helpers. Remember there are no bathroom facilities at Joe's Ranch.

On Saturday, August 5th, come at 7 A.M. to help set up for the sale at Deer Park Shopping Center, Rio Del Mar Blvd. and Hwy. 1. We need people to put out the signs, unload and sort the irises, and help customers choose their irises.

Please also, post the flyers advertising out sale where gardening people might see them: libraries, shops, and grocery stores. I have e mailed the newspapers and I have sent flyers to our mailing list from the mall. We may put a small ad in the Santa Cruz Sentinel, and hope to have an article in the local papers, as well.

Thank you to all those who helped with our picnic and auction. We are so lucky to have a group of active gardeners who really like to work together. I hope everyone will help in the next 2 weeks. Even if you can only come to sit and label irises, please come! Every rhizome must be labelled. Each person's effort is appreciated! Happy gardening! *Dian*

2006 Calendar

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

Annual Sale

Dig..... Diane's and Elena's House
 Thursday, August 2..... 8 A.M.–1:00 P.M

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 & Lisa Ayala

Regular Meeting

Friday, October 20 7:30 p.m.

Program..... Pacific Coast Iris
Refreshments

Gary Knipe

Regular Meeting Native Sons Hall

Friday, November 17 7:30 p.m.

Program..... TBA

Refreshments..... CharLynn Ford & Sharon Brodrick

Annual Holiday Dinner.... Green Valley Grill

Friday December 15..... 6:00 p.m.



CULTURE TIPS

AUGUST IS THE MONTH to finish planting and resetting your bearded irises. If your soil has been used before or it is very light, it is well to add organic matter to your beds in the form of compost, manures or even something like mushroom compost. A light application of super phosphate or bone meal is also helpful. You can apply by broadcasting and work them in or put a handful in each hole as you plant.

Before replanting it is best to dip all your irises, newly acquired or even your own, in a bleach solution, one part bleach to 9 parts water. Submerge the plants up to at least one inch above the rhizome. Keep them in the solution for 10-15 minutes, then dunk them in clear water and set them out to completely dry before planting. This last direction is very important or else you are likely to have deformed plants in the spring. This process of soaking in bleach is helpful in killing off any fungus you do not want to introduce to your garden.

Bearded irises tolerate being out of the garden for some time, but keep them in the shade. Cut them back just before planting to keep them from falling over and to force new growth to form. TBs do best if the sun can get to the top of the rhizomes. Keep the weeds away from the plants, if you do not feel like pulling weeds later on, sprinkle some pre emergent on your beds after you are done with your planting. Be sure to use markers to label your plants, and draw a map of the new area showing the new varieties, so you will know which iris is which even if you lose the markers.

Water newly reset irises weekly, or more often in sandy soil or hot weather. Keep this regular watering schedule until 4 full new leaves grow out of the center of the fan (4-6 weeks). Then you can cut back the watering to 10 day intervals until the fall rains take over. 🌱 Joe

Rebloomers

George Sutton is charting the reliability of re-blooming irises—if you have some irises blooming this fall, E-mail him to report which varieties re-bloom for you. E-mail George Sutton at info@suttoniris.com.



August Program

The August program will be a discussion by Photographic artist Dwight Smith. He has shown his work in galleries and restaurants in the Santa Cruz area. Hear about capturing the soul of the iris and composing images!

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Photo by Dwight Smith

A big "Thank You" to Charley, Karen & Cindy and our wonderful spotters who helped with the auction, raffle and all! You all were terrific and I truly appreciated all your help, even though I get a bit confused and testy at times, you all hung in there with me! *Mille Grazie!!!*

And thanks to successful day, we now have a few more dollars in our Treasury! Here's what we did dollar wise.

Auction	\$763.00
Raffle	\$115.00
Total Receipts	\$878.00

Expose took the highest bid at \$25 by Brenda Wood, followed by Upper Hand at \$21 by Jessie Bush; and, Howard Baker at \$20 by both Jessie Bush and Virginia Keyser.

Thanks to Charley we were able to have a record of the irises that were auctioned, the price they went for and the bidder. Thanks again Charley!

We had a good turnout, and Joe, as usual, you did a terrific job!!! And...you make it fun!

Thanks again to all of you! ❀❀ Rosa



JULY PICNIC AND AUCTION



Brenda Wood Makes the highest bid for Expose



DOOR PRIZES

For this month's door prizes we have gift certificates for Cadd spuria iria

1. **COSMIC IMPACT**, Cadd
2. **COSMIC IMPACT**, Cadd
3. **LEMON CHIFFON PIE**, Cadd
4. **LEMON CHIFFON PIE**, Cadd
5. **SAINT PATRICK'S GOLD**, Cadd, 2003, Deep gold self
6. **SAINT PATRICK'S GOLD**, Cadd, 2003, Deep gold self
7. **GOLDEN DUCAT**, Cadd, 2004, Deep gold lightly ruffled self, wide standards, round Falls.
8. **GOLDEN DUCAT**, Cadd, 2004, Deep gold lightly ruffled self, wide standards, round Falls.
9. **LEMON SUNTEA**, Cadd, 2004, Soft lemon yellow lightly ruffled darker with darker yellow lined falls.
10. **LEMON SUNTEA**, Cadd, 2004, Soft lemon yellow lightly ruffled darker with darker yellow lined falls.

Please dig and bring your choice Tall Bearded rebloomers to add to this month's door prizes!



Hello from Heidi

Hey all!

Many changes have been taking place in our lives and we want to share them with you. For many of you this is the first update email we have sent in some time. We hope to keep the contact more frequent in the future.

Heidi and I have been in the San Jose area for 4 years teaching music at the high school level (Heidi at Yerba Buena HS, and Steven at Prospect HS). They have been good years with many rewarding experiences, but very busy years. Often times we would not even see each other during the week as our jobs kept us incredibly busy. Heidi built her program up enough for it to be a full time music position, which is a really big deal. I was able to create an orchestra at my school that quickly became one of the top orchestras in the South Bay. Both of us at least doubled the enrollment in our respective programs.

The greatest change is that we have just moved from the San Jose area to Oregon. Heidi has accepted a position teaching middle school music in Lebanon, Oregon. It is full time music at an arts magnet school, with 3 bands and 2 choirs, and she is very excited about the change. Our house in Oregon is really fantastic. We are renting a 3 bedroom, 1 bath house that is close to 3 times the size of our old house, and for less than half the cost. There is a large garage and a large yard that surrounds the house. The people in Lebanon are very kind and we have had many wonderful experiences (including a less than three minute wait at the DMV!!!!). Heidi is spending her summer working at Mid-America Iris Gardens which is just outside of Salem, OR. She is having a

great time learning about the Iris business and Iris hybridizing (her favorite hobby). School starts for her at the end of August.

My side of the story may come as a bit of a surprise! Also in December of 2005, I began taking voice lessons to help my choir directing. In March of 2005 my teacher had a baby and had me study with her teacher, Rose Kingsley at the Opera Institute of CA. My first lesson with Rose was incredible as she helped expand my range from a "G" to a high "C", the highest note a tenor ever performs in opera. Needless to say, I was hooked!!! I have been studying at the OIC ever since and have coached with a conductor from LA Opera as well as a coach from SF Opera. My most exciting news is that I will be singing at Carnegie Hall on October 19th! It is wonderful and terrifying all at the same time. After that I will be entering competitions and begin auditioning for Young Artist Programs at major opera houses all over the country. So my time is spent largely in San Jose with my teacher and coaches preparing for Carnegie Hall and upcoming auditions. I will be putting out email updates of performances and reviews, so if you know anyone else that would like to be on my list, please let me know.

Heidi and I are very happy with how things have been going for us. Obviously, the hardest part of life for us is being apart for 3-6 weeks at a time. Thankfully we have a good support network of friends and family helping us out.

So, thanks to all of you for being such awesome friends! Please keep in touch, and we'll let you know of any changes or exciting news!

Best,

Heidi and Steven Hooper