

September, 2006

Next meeting Friday, 15, 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 LOVERS,
 September is the month for planting beardless irises, like Spurias and Louisianas. Come to the meeting on Friday, September 15, 7:30 P.M., at the Native Sons Hall at 239 High Street in Santa Cruz. We have live Cadd's Spurias as door prizes, and Louisianas from my garden, as well. The speaker will be Diane Sampson, who will show a few digital images of Louisiana and Spuria irises. Also, this is the month for nominating officers for the new year—Please consider being a member of our team! Hope to see you at the meeting!
 Happy gardening 🌸 *Diane*



Louisiana Plantation Belle

Photo by Diane Sampson

2006 Calendar

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

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.

September

This is the month to dig and replant all types of beardless irises except for the Pacificas. Most beardless irises like soil that is slightly acid. Spurias are an exception: they, like the bearded, prefer a slightly base soil. If your soil needs acidification, apply soil sulfur. A good soil test is worth its weight in gold. This will tell you much of what you will need to add to get the soil where you want it. Remember that beardless irises must be kept wet after they are dug.



CULTURE TIPS

SUMMER IS BEHIND US as we enter Autumn. The days are shortening but between Mid-September and Mid-October we have our hottest weather with temperatures often in the 90s and even touching 100 degrees. Watch your newly planted irises and be sure they are getting enough water. Depending on your soil type, water every 7 to 10 days. Established clumps really don't need any water. A period of stress seems to improve bloom performance in the spring.

With the longer nights, the pesky winter weeds begin germinating. Annual bluegrass will be a carpet in no time. However almost all pre-emergents will prevent and even stop its germination if you get it right now. That awful oxalis begins growing. It grows from bulbs, so be sure you get the entire bulb or it will be back. Constant digging it will wear it out as well, but you might wear out first!

This is the month to dig, divide and replant all beardless irises except for the Pacificas. Remember that compared to the bearded irises, beardless iris can not tolerate drying out. Replant immediately after digging or hold them over in a bucket of water until you are ready to plant them. It is wise to change the water every 5 to 7 days.

All beardless irises except for the spurias, prefer a slightly acid soil. Depending on the PH of your soil, just adding compost and/or manures is enough of an acifier of your soil. A soil test kit available at any garden center is a wise investment to see what your soil PH is. Sample several different locations since the PH will vary from place to place. If the soil is too basic, soil sulfur will bring the PH up to more acceptable levels.

Be sure to get the last of the bearded you have hanging around planted now! While you can continue planted them into even December, the longer you wait, you will see a decline in growth and bloom size as you plant later and later.

❁❁ Joe

Nominating Committee

This is the month we start the process of getting our set of officers for 2007.

The President appoints the chair and two additional members are voted on from the floor. The Committee will report at the October meeting. Further nominations may be made from the floor and the election is held at the November meeting. The new officers are installed in December.

Horticulture Lecture Series

Cabrillo College Environmental Horticulture Center, room 5005, "Top of the Campus", Thursday evenings, 7-8:30 P.M. The objective of this program is to enlighten you, excite you, and help you transform your garden into a sustainable landscape. There will be time in some of the sessions for participants to break up into small groups and brainstorm about individual landscape issues. The goal is for you to

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complete the series with a design and maintenance plan for your site.

The series of five lectures is \$40 when purchased as a group; or \$10 per lecture if attended individually. Cash or check only, please.

Please Note—Lecture Series Parking is free only in the designated spaces at the Horticulture facility. Overflow parking on the lower campus is \$2 in quarters.

For more information about the Horticulture program and its facilities, please go to www.cabrillo.edu/academics/horticulture/ or call 479-5762.

TIPS

Joe sends a variety of tips using Alka Seltzer. To clean a toilet, drop in 2 tablets. After 20 minutes, brush and flush. To remove stains from a glass vase, fill it with water and drop in 2 tablets. Put jewelry in a glass of water with 2 Alka Seltzers. Wait 2 minutes. Four tablets, water and an Alka Seltzer will clean a thermos. Drain clogged? No problem! 3 Alka Seltzers and a cup of vinegar will come to the rescue.

Karen sends the following tip for making an all purpose pesticide, Start with a non-detergent liquid soap, such as Dr. Bronner's. It make the basic spray add 1 to 2 tablespoons of the liquid soap with 1 quart of water. You can mix in a bucket and then fill spray bottles. You can make a garlic variation by covering 1 to 2 heads of chopped garlic with boiling water. Let this mixture sit for over night and then strain. Mix with the soap. Mice, deer, vampires and other critters do not like garlic. Garlic mixture will not keep.



Rosa Radicchi collects payments for the many iris purchases



Ruth Dotson and Sheryl McEwan look up an iris for one of many customers

IRIS SALE

Sale a big Success!

The sale at Deer Park Shopping Center was a huge success, with the club taking in \$4,948. Thanks especially to Tom Karwin, who worked on the publicity—we had the best turnout in years and the second highest sales ever! Thanks to Elena, Virginia, Lois, and Diane who all donated abundantly from their gardens. Thanks to all those who help with the digs and on the day of the sale. Many thanks especially to Joe and Wayne, our super salesmen!



Nine in the morning rush for iris





DOOR PRIZES

For this month's door prizes we have Cadd spuria irla

1. & 2. **COSMIC IMPACT**, Cadd, 2006, Reddish dusky lavender with lavender lines, F, light lavender, gold lines.
3. & 4. **LEMON CHIFFON PIE**, Cadd, 2006, Ruffled creamy yellow self with gold signal.
5. & 6. **SAINT PATRICK'S GOLD**, Cadd, 2003, Deep gold self
7. & 8. **GOLDEN DUCAT**, Cadd, 2004, Deep gold lightly ruffled self, wide standards, round Falls.
9. & 10. **LEMON SUNTEA**, Cadd, 2004, Soft lemon yellow lightly ruffled darker with darker yellow lined falls.

Bring whatever else you may have to spare to add to the pool of selections. Spurias, Louisiana, Siberian, Japanese irises are particular appreciated. Also any last remaining bearded you may have are welcome.

REBLOOMERS

Bring your blooms to the meeting. Doing that will get you a chance for the first pick of Door Prize irises.

