



# MONTEREY BAY NEWS

www.montereybayiris.org

February, 2007

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



Wonderful News, 2007

photo by Joe Ghio

## From The Prez

**W**E'VE BEGUN 2007 IN GOOD FORM!

I'm pleased that the annual Iris Show is again in good hands. Charley Kearns has agreed to serve again as Show Chair, and has an excellent team to ensure the Show's success. Charlynn Ford and Sharon Bradrick will assist Charley, Irene Cummins and Joan Scanlon will provide hospitality, Joe Ghio and Elena Laborde will contact judges for the Show, Diane Harrison will coordinate the Artistic Division, and Ann Pike will produce the program. We will need clerks for the Show as well, so contact Charley, Charlynn or Sharon if you'd like to participate in that way. It's a terrific learning experience! Mark your calendar for the Show: April 28th and 29th. There will be volunteer opportunities during the evening of the 27th for the set-up.

Charley also helped to complete our annual application for affiliation with the American Iris Society, Region 14. That's now done, so the Monterey Bay Iris Society continues to be "official."

Irene Cummins and Joan Scanlon have agreed to coordinate refreshments at our meetings. They already have volunteers signed up for our meetings through June, so if you are not on that list, your next opportunity will be after the picnic in July.

AIS Region 14 held its annual budget meeting in January. The Region 14 Committee received a financial report with a balance of \$34,580 and adopted a

## 2007 Calendar

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

### Regular Meeting

Friday, February 16 ..... 7:30 P.M.

### Program

2006 Chelsea Flower Show

### Refreshments

Phillipa Alvis and Carolyn Craft

### Regular Meeting

Friday, March 16 ..... 7:30 P.M.

### Program

Iris Flower arranging

### Refreshments

Charley Kearns and Elena Laborde

### Regular Meeting

Friday, April 20 ..... 7:30 P.M.

### Program

Mini Show

### Refreshments

Ruth Dotson and Pat Wisdom

### Annual Iris Show

Capitola Mall..... April 27 to April 29

### Set up

Friday ..... 9:00 P.M.

### Show

Saturday ..... 9:00 a.m.-8:00 P.M.

Sunday ..... 9:00 a.m.-6:00 P.M.

### Regular Meeting

Friday, May 18 ..... 7:30 P.M.

### Pizza Potluck

### Regular Meeting

Friday, June 15 ..... 7:30 P.M.

### Program

TBA

### Refreshments

Henry Rojas and Lisa Ayala



## Prez statement continued from page 1

budget for the year. One highlight of the meeting was the announcement of Judges Training events for 2007. If you are interested in this training, look for the dates and locations on the web: [www.aisregion14.org](http://www.aisregion14.org).

Secretary Jim Cummins will have AIS calendars for 2007 available for purchase at our general meeting on February 16th. There are still plenty of months to enjoy the images on these calendars (you could peek back at January, too), and the price is just \$3.30.

Vice-chair Sheryl McEwan has arranged a fine program for this meeting: Matt Zemny will share his experiences at the 2006 Chelsea Flower Show, which is known as the world's most famous flower show.

I'll see you at the meeting! ❁❁ Tom



## CULTURE TIPS

**A**FTER SEVEN YEARS of complaining and bitching about very mild winters, we finally got the desired cold. At least in theory we should experience a better than average bloom this spring. Also the cold knocks down bugs and diseases. It also has been a very dry January, if this continues into February the plants will be under much stress and they will need some water.

February is the most important month for what you do to your garden and particularly your irises. The most important thing that **MUST** be done is the **FERTILIZE**. The ideal time to fertilize your irises is in early to mid February as you notice the new growth beginning. A balanced formula fertilizer like 10-10-10 or triple 12 is just fine. Simply get the cheapest available. The higher the number the less you use. A generous handful (1/2 cup or so) per clump is fine. Sprinkle it around the plantings (it is best not to get it on the clump, but some there won't hurt). Scratch it in. Normally the soil is wet enough at this time of the year that no watering in is necessary, but if you have sandy or dry dirt, do apply some water. It takes about 4 weeks for the effect of the fertilize to show at this time of the year. You can purchase 50 pounds of fertilize at a farm supply house like Western Farm for about \$10 for 50 lb.

Pruning on your fruit trees and roses and other dormant shrubs should be completed by now. Spray them now with a dormant/oil spray. At the same time spray your irises with the same mixture. This will help control pesky insects and diseases that will make their appearance later in the season.

Of course all the spray and fertilizing should be done **AFTER** you cleaned up your garden and irises. On the irises pull off dead leaves and cut off or just tear off diseased leaves. Your irises will perform better and look better come bloom time in April. Bloom on the early TB's is just about 2 months away and the Pacificas about 6 weeks! That's how close we are to the fruits of our labors! ❁❁ Joe

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Seedling

Photo by Joe Ghio

## DUES ARE DUE

If your name on the newsletter address label is highlighted your dues are overdue and this is your last Newsletter and will be dropped from the membership roll. Single dues are \$10 Two or more at same address \$15. Please pay at the meeting or send to our treasurer, Charley Kearns; PO box 2361, Los Gatos, CA.



## **Iris unguicularis**

### **Anna Cadd, Cadd's Beehive Iris Garden**

About two or three years ago I found a small iris that looked like a PCN (Pacific Coast Native) seedling growing in our field. Not thinking a lot about it, I planted it in the flower bed and forgot about it. It started to grow with bigger and broader leaves than average PCNs, but they also can have large leaves. This bed is never watered and we don't even have time to look at it. It is just a border between us and the neighbors.

This October I noticed something blue there. It was this seedling, now a big clump, and it is *Iris unguicularis*! The clump was covered by bluish flowers between the leaves and it was the happiest thing on earth!

*Iris unguicularis* L. (synonym *I. stylosa* L.) is native to stony places in Algeria, Crete, Greece, Syria and Asia Minor. It likes well drained soil, benefits from an occasional dressing of lime, needs sunny location, but is cold-hardy and frost resistant. It likes some watering during the year, except in summer. This is an easy care species that doesn't need to be divided regularly to maintain its flowering. It really doesn't like to be divided and replanted, so make the divisions a little bigger if you need to transplant it.

Flowering begins in the fall, continuing through winter and into the spring, when the plant is happy in its location! The flower has virtually no stem, just a perianth tube that grows about 8 inches (20 cm.) above the ground. The perianth tube is a slender tube of the iris flower connecting the petals

with the ovary. The ovary is underground! To show them in all their beauty, it is a good idea to cut back the leaves at the beginning of the winter to allow the flowers to unfold undamaged, as the foliage grows to about 24 inches (60 cm.). The flowers come in every shade of blue, from pale to deep sky blue; some are mauve violet. There is also a white form "Alba" and a soft pink flowering variety "Starker's Pink". It is a smaller variety, with finer leaves, but the flowers are quite broad. And they all have a very nice, delicate fragrance!

There is a garden in France, where among 18 acres of olive trees with gnarled gray trunks they planted rough grasses, creamy freesias and thousand of clumps of lavender *Evansia I. wattii* and *Iris unguicularis*! Imagine the perfume in the evening!

We like this winter blooming iris a lot and have a very old species without a name and two named varieties: "Mary Barnard" (Anderson 1962), bluish violet self, collected by Barnard outside Algiers, and "Teresa" (Rigby 1998), introduced by our own old SRIS member Colin Rigby, now in Washington state, and named after his lovely wife, Teresa. It is medium purple with bright yellow signal and a cross between *Iris unguicularis* and "Mary Barnard". Who knows, maybe David will name my seedling "Anna Cadd", to keep with the tradition? Nah, it looks like the regular species and there is only the mystery about where the seed come from, because this iris is nowhere to be found on the west side of the Highway. The birds are the usual suspects. And if the "mother" plant has a virus, the seedling will be clean, because the virus is not transmitted by seeds!!

## **2006 Intros**

Registration and introductions for 2006 is now available for \$10. This contains all the irises registered in 2006 with descriptions and pedigrees. Also a listing of those introduced in 2006. Make checks to AIS and send to J & K Ludi; P.O. Box 956; Sandy, OR 97055.

## **Mid-winter Camellia Show**

The Camellia Society of Santa Clara County invites all gardeners to attend their show on Saturday and Sunday, February 24 and 25, at the Community Recreation Center of Santa Clara, 969 Kiely Blvd. in Santa Clara (right across from the old Kaiser Hospital). Thousands of blossoms will be exhibited by growers from Northern and Central California. Show is free.

If anyone from MBIS would like to clerk at this show on Saturday, Feb. 24, from about 9:30 a.m. until approximately noon, please contact Philippa Alvis at 409-395-2144, email her at [pjalvis@earthlink.net](mailto:pjalvis@earthlink.net), or talk to her at the February meeting. No previous clerking experience is required. Training and supplies will be provided by the Camellia Society. A light lunch will be served, cafeteria style, to all clerks after the judging is completed.



## DOOR PRIZES IRISES

1. **AT FIRST BLUSH**, F. Kerr, Pink and white blend.
2. **ATHENS**, T. Johnson, Blue luminata.
3. **BAMBOO SHADOWS**, Keppel, Green-gold self.
4. **BON APPETIT**, Aitken, S. pink; F. lavender.
5. **BUBBLING WAVES**, J.Ghio, Bubbled ruffled mid blue.
6. **CRAZY**, D.Spoon, Magenta,fuzzy magenta horns.
7. **EARTH GIRL**, D.Spoon, Mauve plicata w/fuzzy white horns.
8. **HONEYCOMB**, Lauer, S. peach; F. white, orange band.
9. **IN STYLE**, T. Johnson, White with yellow rim on falls.
10. **INSIDE JOB**, J.Ghio, Blue luminata.
11. **JAZZ BAND**, Keppel, S. orange; F.orange w/wide tan band.
12. **KISSES LIKE WINE**, F. Kerr, Amoena w/burgundy falls and white sunburst.
13. **NOVEL IDEA**, J. Ghio, Pink w/violet lines & speckles.
14. **OVER THE EDGE**, M. Sutton, S. pink; F. dark violet maroon.
15. **OVERBOARD**, L. Miller, Blue white w/falls brushed blue plum.
16. **PRIME POWER**, Tasco, Orange self.
17. **QUAIL ALE**, Kasperek, Light yellow w/red purple speckles.
18. **ROYAL TOGS**, L. Miller, S. orchid plum; F. blackish plum; red beards.
19. **STANDING ALONE**, L. Miller, Rosy red (Lady Friend color.)
20. **UPPERMOST EDGE**, F. Kerr, White w/blue washed edges on falls.



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