

April, 2007

Next meeting Friday, 20, 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

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

Creating Floral Displays

Linda Cordy

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



Lois with her iris at last year's mini show

Photo by Diane Sampson.

LOIS BELARDI

(February 21, 1918-March 25, 2007) Lois has been a pillar of the MBIS from almost its founding. She joined the Society at our first Show which was held in May, 1976, within a year after the Society founding in May, 1975.

Lois had been growing irises for many years. Her early growing years, she concentrated on Japanese irises. She breed them for many years. Eventually she would be drawn to Pacificas, especially the blue ones. She breed carefully producing several beauties, including SEA GAL, which won the Mitchell Award (top award a PCI can win).

She was an avid exhibitor at our shows and nearby shows at Clara B and West Bay. She often won Best in Show and the Silver Medal (most blue ribbons) or the Bronze Medal (second most blues). She was the MBIS show chairman for many years.

She was present at the Society's functions and contributed rhizomes for our sales generously. She was a grand lady, a generous person, and a good friend. We will miss here greatly.



From The Prez



THE MONTEREY BAY IRIS SOCIETY'S ANNUAL IRIS SHOW happens soon: Saturday, April 28th from noon to 8:00 P.M. and Sunday, April 29th from noon to 6:00 P.M., in the Capitola Mall. We also have the very important set-up project on Friday evening, April 27th starting at 8:00 P.M. The set-up project offers an excellent opportunity for all members to contribute to the success of the show—and it's an enjoyable to spend a bit of productive time with friends as well. I'll see you there!

In preparation for the Iris Show, our April meeting will feature the "Mini Show," in which Joe Ghio discusses the fine points of irises that members bring in for display. This activity provides a practical demonstration of the criteria used in judging irises. It is an expert introduction to the subject for novice iris growers and a valuable review for the more experienced.

We may also have a discussion of the criteria for judging floral displays, to follow Linda Cordy's intriguing demonstration during our March meeting and prepare prospective participants in the Artistic Division of the Iris Show.

Start planning now to bring blossom stalks from your garden to our meeting's Mini-Show and prepare the best of the best for the competition of the Annual iris Show. I hope your irises are doing at least as well as mine. It appears that this will be a fine year for iris lovers!

Our April meeting also will include timely organizational business. As previously reported, a committee of the board is reviewing the requirements for establishing the MBIS as a federally tax-exempt organization, under the legal auspices of the American iris Society, Region 14. This affiliation will provide dollar-saving benefits for the MBIS, and limit the personal liability of members participating in MBIS activities. During the April meeting, we will introduce our application for this affiliation, including revised by-laws and articles of incorporation, which will be required. We will vote on the application package during our May meeting, so there will be ample time to study and discuss these materials.

Finally, our group's long-time friend and lover of irises, Lois Belardi, passed away on March 25th. Joe Ghio, who knew Lois for many years, said, "She was a great lady and a good friend." He also advised that she had been a club member from almost its founding, an avid exhibitor of her irises, Show Chairman for many years, donor of many plants to our sales, and the MBIS historian. She won the Mitchell Award (which is the top award for a Pacifica) for *Sea Gal*.

Several members of the MBIS attended the services for Lois. Joe provided an eloquent remembrance of her many contributions to the Society, and Charley Kearns arranged the presentation of a fine floral wreath on behalf of the Society. Rest in peace.

I'll see you at our regular meeting on Friday, April 20th!

🌸 Tom

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CULTURE TIPS



THE PACIFICAS ARE HEADING toward peak bloom. The normal peak date here is April 5, and it is right on line to hit it. Normal peak for TB's in Santa Cruz has been April 27 and it looks like we will hit that one too. Finally after 7 years, a normal year! Almost forgot what normal is! Actually it is a fantastic year. Excluding the extraordinary draught years of 1976-77 when growth and bloom was incomparable, this year appears it will be the very best. A drought year does have its benefits. January was dry and cold; February was moderate with just the right amount of rain at the right times, and March was relatively dry and warm with just enough rain just when it was needed. Enjoy for this combination of factors happens rarely.

The long range forecast indicates little rain in the future. The irises are growing rapidly now and bloomstalks forming and climbing skyward. For best results be sure they get enough water. The soil should be moist. Deep water at least once a week until bloom is done. Deep water two days before the show to bring the maximum in color, form, and substance in your specimen. Little more than that needs to be done in a fantastic year like this one.. 🌸 Joe

TROPHIES

Clean them up and bring them to the meeting. We need to get things together for the Show.

Minutes from March

- Called to order by Tom Karwin
- Treasurer's report: \$4000 in Checking, \$10,000 in CD, Expenses: \$500 to Cabrillo, \$100 deposit to Harvey West Park, \$100 to Green Valley Grill
- Refreshments: Thank You to Elena and Charlie
- Members Present: 19
- Guests: Linda Cordy
- Old Business: Reading of last months minutes by Secretary.
- Diane Sampson brought Siberian Iris for members to take
- Charley Kearns reported that the Capitola Mall was allowing our show at no fee and that the AIS had sent them a certificate of insurance.
- Setup for Iris show will be Friday April 22 at about 8:30 PM and to please bring all trophies to April meeting.
- Dianne Harrison said that she thought she had a judge for the Artistic Division for our show.
- Tom said that he had a communication from Bob Plank on applying for tax exempt status and that we were looking in to it.
- Linda Cordy of Perrys Floral gave an excellent demonstration on Floral arranging.
- Meeting adjourned

Spring Regional

The American Iris Society Spring Regional is scheduled for April 20–21, 2007, in Visalia, California. The James M. Gibson Iris Society is hosting the Regional. The spring issue of The Bulletin of Region 14 provides full information on this event.

The James M. Gibson Iris Society has extended the early registration fee deadline to April 20th (from March 20th) to encourage more people to attend this year's convention. If you register at the door, the cost will be \$86.00.

For those people who may have sent their fees in after March 20 and paid the additional \$10.00, please contact Sharon House, Treasurer for a refund.

Region 14's Vice President Lynn Williams, wrote as follows:

Don't forget that since our Region is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, members can write off all their travel expense, meals, and lodging when they attend the Regionals if they volunteer to do a job such as judge the show, be a bus captain or any other job, or if they are on the board of Region 14, or are required to attend the Board Meeting (Officers, Directors, Committee Chairs, and Society Presidents) or if they are judges and taking judges' training. Everyone that would like to come can help cut down on their costs by riding with someone and sharing the transportation costs, rooming with someone and sharing their hotel costs.

Every Society that I have visited so far this year has expressed a desire to have more contact/info from other

societies, a sharing of information, if you attend the Regional, you can make contacts, put names to faces. This is a fun way to do just that. And the irises, don't forget about the iris garden bus tours and seeing irises. After all, this is why we belong to Iris Societies, to share our love of irises, to view other's iris gardens and to have some fun along the way.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Regional.

Lynn Williams, RVP

Mini Show

This month's program is the mini show. Be there around 7:00 P.M. to stage your irises. Joe always gives a great talk about how to stage your flowers. For this show enter and learn. A grower may enter a maximum of two flowers per category. Our experienced exhibitors will be available to give advice.

Categories for the MINI-SHOW are:

1. Tall bearded—Novice (never won more than 3 blue ribbons in a regular show before)
2. Tall Bearded—Advanced (all who aren't novices)
3. Bearded, other than Tall
4. Beardless, any type
5. Seedlings, any type

The winners in each category and Best in Show will have first choice of the door prizes.

Show Info

We meet for set up at 8:30 Friday April 27.

Entries for the Show will be received from 7:00am to 9:45am Saturday, April 28.

Tear down is Sunday, April 29 at 6:00pm.

We need more volunteers for all shifts. Charley will bring the sign up sheet to the April meeting, you can reach him at phone 408-315-1520 or email at kcf@gte.net

WORK INCENTIVE

Once again, we will have a drawing of some of our door prize irises among those who help for at least a couple of hours during the show (one chance for each 2 hrs. of work).

1. AT FIRST BLUSH, F.Kerr, Pink and white blend.
2. BON APPETIT, Aitken, S. pink; F. lavender.
3. COMIC OPERA, G.Sutton, Unusual blend of colors: rose, pansy, violet, & pink.
4. DREAM TICKET, Lauer, S. pink; F. cream, violet edging.
5. FORTUNATE SUN, Schreiner, Red self; bluish beards.
6. HOUSE WARMING, T.Johnson, S. white; F. light lavender blue
7. KATHY CHILTON, F.Kerr, S. gold; F. burgundy black
8. OVER THE EDGE, M. Sutton, S. pink; F. dark violet maroon.
9. PLEASE COME HOME, F.Kerr, Near black w/bronze beards.
10. RIVER ROMANCE, Painter, Mid to light blue self.



DOOR PRIZES IRISES

1. ABSOLUTE TREASURE, Tasco, Sky blue self
2. ALL ABOUT SPRING, F.Kerr, Lavender, gold halos on all petals
3. AMERICAN MASTER, F.Kerr, S. lemon; F. white w/blue rim
4. ARISTOCRACY, Keppel, Dark orchid toned violet
5. ATHENS, T.Johnson, Blue luminata.
6. CANDY CLUB, Painter, Red violet w/white spray pattern in Falls
7. CRY ME A RIVER, Burseen, S. tan; F. purple; purple spoons
8. EARTH GIRL, D.Spoon, Mauve plicata w/fuzzy white horns
9. FIT FOR A KING, Schreiner, Neglecta: S. lavender; F. rich purple; ruffled
10. GILT TRIP, J.Ghio, S. light wine; F. blackish wine
11. HIGH CHAPARRAL, Schreiner, S. yellow; F. tan; Convention winner.
12. HONEYCOMB, Lauer, S. peach; F. white, orange band
13. IMAGERY, T.Johnson, Soft pearly lavender self.
14. ITALIAN VELVET, Keppel, S. violet; F. black maroon; wide yellow beard.
15. NIGHT MOVES, S. violet; F. plum, white shoulder markings, red beards
16. OVERBOARD, L.Miller, Blue white w/falls brushed blue plum
17. PLUM DUCK, Kasperek, Medium purple SPEC-X
18. PRIME POWER, Tasco, Orange self
19. RESONANCE, J.Ghio, Silvery lavender-blue
20. SHANTI, Williamson, Amethyst lilac bitone
21. SILENT SCREEN STAR, J.Ghio, Creamy blend of yellow, pink & tan.
22. SPIRITS RISING, L.Miller, Pink with upturned pink horned beards.
23. SPUN CANDY, D.Spoon, Pink w/silver streaks at hafts.
24. TROPICAL COOLER, Burseen, S. white; F. white, blue stripes
25. VIGILANT, J.Ghio, Neglecta w/black falls.

