



# MONTEREY BAY NEWS

www.montereybayiris.org

August, 2007

Next meeting	Friday, 17, 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



Lisa spots a real iris find in a new catalog handed out at the picnic.

## From The Prez

**O**UR ANNUAL PICNIC AND RAFFLE WAS A FINE OCCASION at Harvey West Park. As planned, we met with good friends, ate excellent food, and gained new iris for our gardens.

Our Annual Iris Sale on Saturday, August 4th was another very successful event. Diane Sampson's flurry of e-mails provided a fine flow of information about both the dig and the sale. Domingo Rodriguez organized a hamburger cookout at the ranch, and it evolved into a enjoyable luncheon for the diggers, complete with potluck additions. The MBIS contributed to the cost of the "Diggers' Picnic," which has all the signs of our newest tradition.

Because the Annual Iris Sale is our big fund-raiser, we worked to gain visibility in the local press. The Sentinel's garden editor provided a prominent promotion of the sale, featuring Diane's photo." A gift of blossoms from the garden of Jim and Irene Cummins for the editor's desk might have provided inspiration!

The members who provided rhizomes for the sale included Joe Ghio, Diane Sampson, the Cummins (who brought 950 rhizomes), Charley Kearns, yours truly and probably others. Every rhizome sold and we could have sold more. Charley's report will show that the net proceeds did not reach last's impressive total, but the sale had gratifying results. Congratulations to all who made it happen!

## 2007 Calendar

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

### Regular Meeting

Friday, August 17, 2007..... 7:30 P.M.  
Program..... Landscaping with Iris  
Refreshments  
Ann Pike and Diane Sampson

### Regular Meeting

Friday, September 21, 2007..... 7:30 P.M.  
Program..... Tall Beardless  
Refreshments  
Volunteers Needed

### Regular Meeting

Friday, October 19..... 7:30 p.m.  
Program..... Pacific Coast Iris  
Refreshments  
Volunteers Needed

### Regular Meeting

Friday, November 16..... 7:30 P.M.  
Program..... TBA  
Refreshments  
Volunteers Needed

### Annual Holiday Dinner

Green Valley Grill  
Friday December 21 .....6:00 p.m

*August speaker will be Garden Designer Roxanne Evans of Ecocentric Design providing information about Landscaping with iris.*

**NOTE!!!**

*Early deadline for August Newsletter! Deadline for all newsletter submissions is August 31!*



A major policy issue has been coming into focus. The Region has certain annual financial needs that it has met in previous years through a summer iris sale. Recently the sale has generated insufficient money, so the Region's leaders have recommended that the member societies conduct local sales of iris provided by the Region. These sales would be limited to members of the local society, not to general public.

Eleven societies have endorsed this approach but the MBIS and four others have opted out. We have a well-established plan to buy, propagate and raffle or sell irises on our own. This plan provides MBIS members with plenty of new irises and also allows the society to raise funds through a public sale. The Region has now asked the societies that opted out of the "Regional fund-raiser" to propose an alternative approach to contributing to the Region's financial needs. The MBIS board of directors will be discussing this issue. If you have input topic ontact any board member!

I'll see you at our next general meeting. Our guest speaker will bring new ideas for landscaping with irises. 🌸 Tom

## CULTURE TIPS

**A**UGUST 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, I f 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 loose 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

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Ashley and Hanna try to pick just the right blue iris for their garden.





Eva and Virginia check out the picnic lunch choices

# PICNIC, DIG, AND SALE

This year there were a lot of great goodies to choose from at the picnic. Iris to bid on and select from winning raffles tickets. Choices! This years picnic brought in \$768.

More choices made by customers at the sale. The sale final tally was \$3100 and this year ended early when all the iris sold out.

Thanks to all members who helped out by contributing iris, digging, helping out the sale, and buying at the picnic!



Bidding for iris at this year's picnic



Thanks to our members who work hard at this years dig!



This year's youth winner, Bret McEwen looks at iris with mom, Sheryl



Domingo helps customer pick iris









# PICNIC AND SALE 2007





### **Door Prizes**

Members need to bring iris to share as door prizes. Bring favorite irises for the drawing.



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