



MONTEREY BAY NEWS

www.montereybayiris.org

February, 2008

Next meeting Friday, 15, 2008
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



Magical, one of Joe's magical 2008 iris introductions

From The Prez

AT LAST WORD, THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM has been planned but unconfirmed at press time, so it will be a surprise.

Given past programs, however, you can expect an interesting session.

Here is a look back at the some of the topics we enjoyed during 2007:

- ⊗ AIS Convention Photos
- ⊗ Chelsea Flower Show
- ⊗ Creating Floral Displays
- ⊗ Mini Show
- ⊗ Gopher Traps
- ⊗ Integrated Pest Management
- ⊗ Tall Beardless Irises
- ⊗ Pacific Coast Irises
- ⊗ Seeing Your Garden's Birds with New Eyes

Your ideas are always welcome! Send your program topic suggestions to Program Chairperson, VP Sheryl McEwan. If you know a qualified presenter for the topic you'd like to learn more about, Sheryl also would appreciate receiving contact information.

I'll see you at our meeting! 🌸 Tom

2008 Calendar

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

Regular Meeting

Friday, February 15 7:30 P.M.

Program

TBA

Refreshments

Lisa and Philippa

Regular Meeting

Friday, March 21 7:30 P.M.

Program

TBA

Refreshments

Brenda and Larissa

Regular Meeting

Friday, April 18 7:30 P.M.

Program

Mini Show

Refreshments

Diane S

Annual Iris Show

Capitola Mall..... May 3 to May 4

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 16 7:30 P.M.

Pizza Potluck

Regular Meeting

Friday, June 15 7:30 P.M.

Program

TBA

Refreshments

Ann, Pat and Art



CULTURE TIPS

WE HAD EXTRAORDINARY AMOUNTS of rain during January. As far as the irises are concerned, it is the best time to get it. The irises are as dormant as they will ever be and wet soil doesn't much effect the plants as it would in March onwards when the growth is rampant and rot can be a problem in very wet soil. Our beds are badly eroded with some roots exposed. Get the roots covered and beds recomposed as soon as you can.

February is the month to get your irises cleaned up, if you haven't done so already. Get the last weeds out and FERTILIZE! This is the critical month to get you plantings fertilized. Use a balanced fertilizer such as 10-10-10 or 12-12-12 or any other. Remember the higher the numbers, use a little less. Give about half a cup per clump, scratch it in, and the soil is wet enough now that there is no need to water it in. As the soil dries, or you have very loose sandy soil, then some water needs to be applied as the iris growth progresses. You will notice the beginnings of growth in early February and it will accelerate as the days lengthen and the soil warms.

In cleaning my irises, I noticed a lot of grey aphids deep in the folds of some of the irises. Usually you will also see a trail of ants nearby since they plant and tend them for their "milk." Get rid of the ants, and your aphid problems will decrease. However these aphids are well hidden and only a systemic insecticide can get them. Use it now and again when the aphids make a reappearance. Also a spraying with the systemic 2 weeks before the show will have you entries free of "livestock" for the show.

You should finish up your winter pruning on your shrubs, fruit trees and roses now. Spray them with a dormant spray or something like Volch oil. Any leftover spray can be applied to the irises. 🌱 Joe

REBLOOMERS

Bring your reblooming irises now through March for show and tell and to drawing for first choice of door prizes.

Betty Coyle

Betty Coyle, who was the Regional Vice President during our 2005 Regional, has suffered major medical problems in the past month. She really helped me organize the Regional, and has been active in the iris world for many years. Betty has been in the intensive care unit near Eureka for several weeks, after an apparent stroke, but she is beginning to be able to move again. Please do send prayers and encouragement to her husband Bill Coyle at profcoyle@suddenlink.net

DUES ARE DUE

If your name on the newsletter address label is highlighted, your dues are overdue and this is your last NEWSLETTER and you will be dropped from the membership roll. Single dues are \$10. Two or more at the same address: \$25. Please pay at the meeting or send to our treasurer, Charley Kearns, P.O. Box 2361; Los Gatos, CA 95033.,

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Hospitality

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Librarian

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Newsletter Editor

Joe Ghio ghiobayview@surfnetUSA.com 423-3656

Webmaster

Ann Pike baynews@baymoon.com 426-8855

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Joe Ghio 2008 PCI introduction, Mandalay Bay

Strange Similarity between Bearded and Beardless Irises—Stolons

Anna Cadd, Santa Rosa Iris Society Newsletter, January 2008

Little known facts about *iris stolonifera*

This iris belongs to the Regelia group of aril irises. It grows 12–24" tall. Flowers are blends of purples and browns, with yellow or blue beards. The flowers of the species are quite variable in color, ranging from milky brown to clear blue, purple and rusty brown. The six beards are typically blue and yellow and decorate both falls and standards. Unlike most aril species which have just one flower per stem, *Iris stolonifera* has stems with 2 or 3 flowers per spathe. It grows at high altitudes (2500 to 8000 feet) in dry rocky locations. It is very cold hardy, but must be kept dry in summer during the dormant season. Originally from Central Asia, Afganistan and Pamir Mountain (in Tajikistan), it is one of the easiest Regelia irises to cultivate.

Most aril irises have small round rhizomes that look like bulbs. *Iris stolonifera* gains its name from the habit of forming long (to 8"), thin stolons from these rhizomes, at the end of which a new rhizome forms. Many different plants are stoloniferous, not just irises. A stolon or underground stem is the means of increase—think Bermuda grass here. This long stem or “runner” goes underground some distance from the plant and then shoots up and makes a new plant. *Iris japonica* increases by stolons, so does *Iris prismatica* and *Iris henryi* and several others. *Iris stolonifera* has rhizomes that, rather than branching as other bearded irises do, grows thin red stolons which form a new rhizome at the tip.

Little Know Facts about *Iris prismatica*

Iris prismatica is a delicate slender iris found from Nova Scotia in Canada, south through the eastern part of the United States as far as the Carolinas. The variety *austrina* found in the southern Appalachians of Tennessee and Georgia is a slightly larger, more robust form. Originally placed in the series *Sibiricae*, these are now lone members of series *Prismaticae*. Once you have grown this iris, you are unlikely to confuse it with *I sibirica*, which forms a tight clump, while *Iris prismatica* increases by long stolons and thus forms a very loose clump.

This iris in its native habitat grows in wet meadows. In cultivation it will grow in either sun or shade, but seems to prefer shades and moist sandy acid soil. It probably can also grow in a very shallow pond with a lot of organic material. It has very fine foliage and a thin 12–30" bloom stem with 2–3 flowers in the terminal and a deeply forked branch with one or more flowers. The flowers range in colors from pale blue to purple, maroon, white, and pink, with medium light blue being the most common. Most clones have at some yellow or yellow green over the white area the falls, but it seems to be more of the wash rather than a real signal.

Anna goes on to note that this is the iris, however little known, that is on the Corelle dishes. She also says that she has grown *I. prismatica* in a bed with PCIs.

Websites with more iris information

For species iris,

<http://www.badbear.com/signa/signa.pl?Iris-bucharica>

The Aril Society for *iris stolonifera*

<http://www.arilsociety.org/arilsociety.pl?photos+7>



Joe Ghio 2008 PCI introduction, Cashing in

Newsletter Deadline!!!

March deadline is an early one. Please get submissions in by Friday February 24th. Newsletter will be printed March 3rd.

New Members

Welcome to new members Anne McCann from Seaside and Julie Orr from Capitola.

AIS 2007 Registrations

The Registration and Introductions for 2007 Booklet is now available for \$10. It contains all the irises registered and introduced in 2007 along with descriptions and parentages. Make checks payable to the AIS and send to J & K. Ludi; P.O. Box 956; Sandy, OR 97055.

Last Meeting

We approved \$500 for the Cabrillo student scholarship and an additional donation of \$500 for the Horticulture department. They will our societue's on a recognition plaque. The program for the meeting was a very entertaining and informative one on birds. What a joy to learn of our small visitors and hear their songs. We all enjoyed the chili prepared by Diane Harrison and the treats prepared by Marie and our youth members Brittany and Ashley. It was good to meet members Pat and Art Lindstrom and to catch up on news with Karen and Krypton and Imai.



DOOR PRIZES IRISES



1. AUTUMN SUNRISE, G Spoon, Pink, white zonal around tangerine beards; RE
2. CASCADIAN RHYTHM, Schreiner, Amoena: S. white; F. blue
3. CAUSE FOR PAUSE, Burseen, Laced lilac purple plicata; big flounces
4. COUNTY CORK, Schreiner, Straw green self; vigorous
5. COYOTE UGLY, K Kasperek, Orange peach, random raspberry splashes
6. DOUBLE RINGER, R.Ernst, S. white; F. white, yellow, white bands
7. DREAMLIFE, L.Painter, White, blue wash on the falls
8. EMILO, Richardson, Creamy blue-white; blue beards
9. GRAND CLASSIC, Tasco, Ruffled black cherry self.
10. LIMONADA, Limonada, Keppel, Clear lemon, IB
11. LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT, Crump, Ruffled red-violet self, 2006
12. MEDICI PRINCE, Schreiner, Burgundy red
13. MIDWEST FAREWELL, L. Miller, S. orchid, washed buff; F. deep red-violet; small horns
14. ORANGE PORTAL, Kerr, Orange amoena, lighter band on falls
15. ORCHID DOVE, D Spoon, Orchid pink; lighter edges
16. PICTURE BOOK, J. Ghio, Tall, pink self
17. ROYAL RENAISSANCE, Kerr, Lemon w/blue band on falls
18. UFO, D Spoon, Lavender blue; white splashes; no standards; RE
19. WEISS GUY, C Rumbaugh, Ruffled white self
20. WONDERFUL NEWS, J. Ghio, Ultrasmooth black mulberry red self



Joseph J. Ghio, Editor
1201 Bay Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

