

February, 2019

Next meeting Friday 15, 2019
 Eating Starts 7:00 P.M.
 Meeting 7:30 P.M.
 Place Simpkins Swim Center
 979 17th Avenue, Santa Cruz

2019 Calendar

Monthly meetings are held in Simpkins Swim Center unless otherwise stated.

Regular Meeting

Friday, February 15 7:30P.M.

Program

TBA

Refreshments

Potluck, meat and cake provided, members bring sides

Regular Meeting

Friday, March 15 7:30P.M.

Program

TBA

Refreshments

Brenda & Larissa, St. Patrick's Feast

Regular Meeting

Friday, April 19 7:30P.M.

Program

Mini Show

Refreshments

potluck

Annual Iris Show

Louden Nelson..... May 3 to May 5

Set up

Friday, May 3 7:00 P.M.

Show

Saturday 1-6:00 P.M.

Sunday..... 11:00 a.m.-6:00 P.M.

February Birthdays

Craig Tarr *Feb 2*

Catt Porter *Feb 6*

Karin Tarr *Feb 8*

Rilely Probst *Feb 11*

Pat Lindstrom *Feb 23*



Supercharged, Joe Ghio, 2019 introduction

From The Prez

THE NEW YEAR IS NOW UPON US and I hope that everyone is gearing up for a very busy year. Spring seems to be upon us and Karin and I are planning for last years seedlings, attending Region 13's regional and enjoying our garden. Growth is already underway in the garden and several bloom-spikes already showing. I hope that we will not have another strange bloom cycle because of the weather, but in any event I will enjoy the several hundred iris we have. I have started several species from seed this year and I hope to see if they will survive and bloom for me later in the Spring. I picked up the seed at the last couple of Nationals through SIGNA. (Species Iris Group of North America) Some of it is sprouting well and some not. I cannot wait to see the results.

And for a bit of trivia—I spotted a sign by an iris clump at Seacliff State Beach the other day while observing the wreckage of the cement boat, S.S. Palo Alto. The clump was *Iris douglasiana*. The placard read in part, that California Indians using a sharpened mussel shell would scrap the leaves of the iris and gather a thin silky fiber from each edge of the leaf margin. These fibers when woven together made fishing line, nets and snares for harvesting food. Pure genius!

See you at the meeting! ❀❀ Craig



Refreshments

There will be pot luck at this meeting. Pot lucks are fun and filled with wonderful tastes and aromas. Any questions call the hospitality person, Shirley at 209-551-6323 or e-mail shirleyjtrio@gmail.com. Decaff coffee and hot tea will be provided by the hospitality team. Shirley will bring lemonade. Other drinks are welcome. The dessert will be birthday cake provided by Wayne

For March we are looking forward to our annual corned beef blast. Brenda will be cooking and Larissa will be helping. A complete Irish dinner will be served right down to the Irish butter and Irish Soda bread. Brenda goes to a lot of work and it takes all day to prepare this feast so let's all be sure to give both Brenda and Larissa a thank you hug. Members may bring desserts although the monthly birthday cake always seems to be enough.

The April meeting will be another pot luck.

As always we need volunteers to help with refreshments.

*Shirley Trio-Probst
Hospitality*

DUES ARE DUE

Single dues are \$10 Two or more at the same address, \$15. Add \$10 if you want the newsletter by mail. Please pay at the meeting or send to our treasurer, Larissa Daniel, 520 San Miguel Rd., Watsonville CA. Phone: 831 724-9162.

Upcoming Garden Events

Garden Talk

Joe Ghio will be on the first show on gardening on on station KSDQ, 90.7. Turn in from 9–9:30 AM, Sat. Feb.16

Orchid Show and Sale

MBIS members tend to be avid gardeners, enjoying a variety of plants in their gardens and homes. Many belong to other flower/garden clubs. Fred Valentine wants to alert members to the Santa Cruz Orchid Society 2019 Orchid Show & Sale. The Show will be held 9–5 on Saturday March 2nd and 10–4 on Sunday March 3rd at Cabrillo College, Horticulture Center, 6500, Soquel Drive, Aptos. The admission is free.

Camellia Show

The annual Camelia Show will be the weekend of Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 23 & 24 at the City of Santa Clara Community Recreation Center, 969 Kiely Blvd, Santa Clara (across from the site of the old Kaiser Hospital—now new apartment housing). Hours are 2:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. on Saturday and 11:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. on Sunday. Free entry and plenty of free parking.

Hundreds of blossoms that you have never seen before

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Contacts

Hospitality & Refreshments

Shirley Trio shirleyjtrio@gmail.com 209 551-6323

Birthday List

Wayne Crabbs wayne@lomaprieta.us 408 353-4089

will be on the show tables. Camellia plants that are not available locally will be sold at a reasonable price.

Want to enter a few blossoms from you own yard? Helpers from the local club—Santa Clara County Camellia Society—will be on hand to help you through the entry process. Be there on Saturday from 6:00 A.M. to 9:30 A. M. to enter your blossoms in the show.

Also, there will be a judged photo section; photos should be in a 5x7 format.

Want to HELP? They need people to clerk with judging teams or to be a runner. Carry judged blossoms from the show tables to the winners circle. Be there at 9:30 A.M. for the orientation. If you work, there will be a sandwich lunch after judging is finished.

Any way you want—attend this spectacular show!! Enter blossoms, admire the blossoms, help out, buy plants, be amazed by arrangements and enjoy this fantastic exhibition.

Questions or volunteer—call Philippa Alvis, 408-656-9946



Thread the Needle, Ghio, 2019



Award winning seedling, Ghio

**A Collection of Ghio 2019 Iris
from Joe's Facebook Site**



Unfolding Dreams, Ghio, 2019



Share the Love, Ghio, 2019



DOOR PRIZES IRISES



1. **BASHFUL LOVE**, Blyth, 15, Amoena; white S.; pink F.
2. **BRONZER**, Sutton, S. yellow; F. violet; tan band
3. **CARIBBEAN QUEEN**, T. Johnson, S. white, blue falls; bubbled
4. **CATCH THE FEVER**, Keppel, Reddish copper; lighter falls
5. **COPPER ANGEL**, Dash, S. white; F. copper-orange
6. **DRUM CIRCLE**, Ghio, S. Creamy gold; F. white, mauve wood band
7. **FIND YOUR FADE**, Schreiners, Orchid; fading to violet all petal edges
8. **FUTURE BRIDE**, Blyth, 16, S. Coral pink; F. white; coral band
9. **GAME CHANGER**, Keppel, S. orange; F. mahogany
10. **HANDFUL OF MAGIC**, Blyth, 15, S. white; F. pink; tall & early
11. **HOLY GROUND**, Stout, S. light lavender; F. deep purple
12. **ICE CREAM SUNDAE**, Tasco, S. muted pink; F. blue white, pink edge; blue beards
13. **ISLAND HOP**, Schreiners, S. lemon F. violet plum
14. **JUST FOR NOW**, T. Johnson, S. white; small violet plicated edge on F.
15. **LACY SUSAN**, L. Painter, S. Peach pink; wide F. white soft peach edge
16. **MAMMOTH ORANGE**, Sutton, 17, Big orange self
17. **MORE PLEASE**, Blyth, 16, S. violet, rose midrib; F. violet rose, lighter band
18. **NEW IMAGE**, Nicodemus, S. coral; F. white coral band
19. **PINK SUGAR**, Sutton, 17, S. soft pink; F. white, pink rim
20. **PUMPKIN SPICE**, Sutton, Yellow-orange; more salmon S.
21. **SECRET DELIGHT**, Tasco, S. pink; F. aster mauve
22. **UNREAL DEAL**, Burseen, S. Orange; F. blackish purple
23. **VINTAGE CHARM**, Schreiners, S. yellow; F. plum red
24. **WAIT A MINUTE**, Ghio, S. coral pink; F. white, coral band



CULTURE TIPS

ONCE AGAIN WE HAVE BEEN HAVING rain deluges where the rains falls heavily for a short time and moves on. The after effects are what we are left to deal with. Once again serious bed erosion. This is be the fourth time I will have to reconstruct the beds at home this year. If any of your irises have rhizome/root exposure, be sure to recover them. Normally by now we would have fertilized the irises but with the heavy rains that were predicted, we held off. And, well we did, since most of the fertilizer would have been washed or leached away. Growth is starting in earnest now so get to fertilize as soon as the soil dries out enough that you get the fertilizer without sinking in the soil. Again, we use a balanced fertilizer (10-10-10, triple 12). The soil should be wet enough that you won't have to water it in at this time. The bearded need this feeding boost and the beardless need it as well. Generous handfuls per clump. Pacificas can use a very light application as well. They are only about 6 weeks away from their first blooms.

Speaking of bloom, we are just a couple of months from the first bloom on the tall bearded. Through all the years of growing irises (this my 66th year) I've seen how bloom

habit has been changing. In the beginning we had pretty distinct bloom periods with a day you could point to as the peak bloom day (this is the day you can go through the plants and find show stalks at peak performance...show winners in quantities). This is no longer possible. April 27 was my normal peak bloom day in Santa Cruz. Now that is no longer the case. Tall Bearded can now show bloom as early as any time after mid-March and continue all the way well into May with secondary stalks not unusual in late May into June.

Louisiana and spuria irises had distinct bloom periods after the tall bearded. I particularly saw Louisianas begin blooming earlier and earlier to the point that many bloomed with or even before the tall bearded. Spurias also become more scattered in their bloom time. Part of this trait could be the breeding that was occurring, but it is too general now that the only answer would have to be global warming. Such is the new world we are now in.. ❁❁ Joe

Re-Bloomers

Bring your blooms to share! First drawing goes to those who have brought blooms. Rebloomer drawing starts in August and goes until February.