

October 2008

Next meeting Friday, 17, 2008
 Doors open 7:00 P.M.
 Meeting 7:30 P.M.
 Place Native Sons Hall
 239 High Street, Santa Cruz

2008 Calendar

Regular Meeting

Friday, October 17..... 7:30 P.M.

PCIs

Refreshments

Lindstroms

Regular Meeting

Friday, November 21 7:30 P.M.

Program..... TBA

Refreshments

Valentines

Annual Holiday Dinner

Green Valley Grill

Friday December 19.....6:00 p.m

Treats

Did you know that the club pays \$10 to each of the two individuals providing treats? Please consider being a future treateer! Coffee, cream, sugar, cups, tableware, plates, napkins and table cover are provided by the Hospitality Chair and not the treat providers.

Newsletter Deadline!!!

Please get submissions in by Friday October 31st. Please do not turn material in late!



Joe's PCI seedling

Photo by Joe Ghio

From The Prez

OUR SEPTEMBER MEETING was an enjoyable occasion, featuring Joe Ghio's talk on Spurias and Japanese irises, and the distribution of this year's purchase of rhizomes from Aitken's Salmon Creek Garden. We had rhizomes for most of those in attendance, but unfortunately not enough to ensure that everyone could take one home. Our spent as much as we did last year, and Aitken's included several extra rhizomes in their shipment, as they have in previous years, so we concluded that the shortfall resulted from the lack of contributions from members. We'll make a point of urging members to dig and share their extra rhizomes for net year's session.

Our October meeting will focus on Pacific Coast Irises, which have always been successful in our climate and popular with our members. We anticipate another top-notch informative talk by Joe Ghio, and enough plants for all who attend.

During the September meeting we agreed to purchase a new projection screen (at a discounted price) from the Monterey Bay Master Gardeners. We will try to install it in time for our October meeting, even though we do not have plans to project images during that meeting.



The agenda for our October meeting also will include nominations for board members and officers for 2009. This will include the report of the Nomination Committee and the call for nominations from the floor. If you would like to participate in the leadership of the MBIS, contact Carolyn Craft, who is chairing this year's Nominating Committee. We will vote on next year's board and officers during the November meeting; those elected will assume their roles during our Holiday Dinner meeting.

Come to the meeting. We'll start convening at usual at 7:00 p.m., Friday, October 17th! 🌸🌸 *Tom*

CULTURE TIPS

AS THE SOIL BEGINS TO COOL at this time of the year, winter weeds begin germinating. You can control them by hand weeding and the use of mulches. While mulches work well around woody plants like roses, they can be a problem around irises. Mulches do help suppress weeds, but they also hold water, and over wet conditions especially is something bearded irises do not like. They foster soft rot and botritis rot. So use them sparingly or not at all. Pre-emergents are the other answer. But you need to remember they are just that: pre-emergents. They must be applied before the weeds germinate. Ideally you have clean beds and just before a significant rain you apply it and the rain works it in. If it doesn't rain, you have to water it in. Just leaving it unwatered on the top of the soil will break down its effectiveness. Various brands are available at garden centers and even sometimes at Costco. Pre-emergents are weed specific, so read the label to see that the brand gets the majority of weeds that trouble you.

After mid-October until early November is the best time to replant Pacificas. Be sure the new white roots are showing before setting them in. If none show, put the rhizomes in a bucket of water. New roots should appear in 7 to 10 days. Replant them at that time.

Also all other replanting should be done by now. Well established bearded irises need little to no more water at this time of the year. Beardless need to be watered regularly until the winter rains take over.

If you made crosses or collected seed, this is the month to plant them. If you have just a few crosses, you can plant them in a gallon pot—one cross per pot and be sure it is labelled. Potted seed needs to be watered regularly. Seed will begin germinating in February.

Snails seem to have a resurgence about now. Snail bait is effect or simply step on them! 🌸🌸 *Joe*

Lost!

Did anyone find a plastic mixing bowl with a blue plastic lid at the July picnic? If you found this bowl please contact Lize Ayala. She would be happy to reunite with her lost item!

Board of Directors 2008

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Brenda Wood woodbrenda@aol.com 724-5415

Nominating Committee

This is the month we start the process of getting our set of officers for 2008.

Carolyn Craft, appointed as committee chair, and with the assistance of her committee members, will present the slate to be voted on at the meeting. Further nominations may be made from the floor and the election is held at the November meeting. The new officers are installed in December.

DUES ARE DUE

Single dues are \$10 Two or more at same address \$15. Please pay at the meeting or send to our treasurer, Charley Kearns, Post Office Box 2361, Los Gatos, CA .

Iris Sale

From this month's Sunset Magazine, "About 80 Vintage cultivars (of bearded irisi) from Ruth Bancroft's private collection will be available at the Fall Plant and Iris Sale (Oct. 11th, ruthbancroftgarden.org or 925/944-9352) at the Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek."

Iris Needed

This is from Jim Morrison of the Storybook Garden at the Missouri Botanical Garden and City Academy:

You may not have heard, but I am planting a “Storybook Iris Garden” at Missouri Botanical Garden (MOBOT) and also at City Academy, a private, urban school (grades pre-K through grade 6). It will be filled with irises named for characters in children’s literature. MOBOT will use the garden with their extensive, year-round classes for children. We just signed up a Classroom Iris Project (CIP) of 44 students at City Academy and they will use their garden for many things including their literacy and library expansion project. I sent out letters some time ago to the hybridizers of the irises I want to include and many, many of them have responded. We have over 75% of the needed irises and they are all planted at both locations. However, there are some key irises I am still desperately seeking. In defense of the hybridizers, some no longer grow their own intros because of space constraints, some are ill, some just relocated their gardens, etc., etc. If you have any of the irises I need I thought you might be willing to help out. I have no budget, but my club

has a small youth fund and I would be willing to reimburse any postage from shipping the irises. I would need anywhere from 2 to 6 rhizomes of each, as I must split them between the two gardens. Of course I need them soon, as the time to plant here is drawing to a close.

These are the irises I am still seeking.

TBs: Little John (Spoon 96); Captain Hook (Schick 01); Sneezey (Keppel 96); Yellow Brick Road (Gibson by Cooleys 92). IBs: Cat’s Hat (Spoon 04); Goose Bumps (Black 01); Amiela Bediela (Innerst 92); Dumbledore (Innerst 00). SDBs: Blues Clues (Spoon 07); Spiderman (Spoon 05); Gingerbread Man (B. Jones 69); Toy Story (L. Miller 97); Velveteen Rabbit (Christy Ann Hensler 06); Yearling (M. Smith 00); Muggles (Innerst 00); Narnia (Innerst 85); Tweety Bird (Black 01); Pippi Longstockings (Innerst 85).

I e-mailed Ginny Spoon and she MAY be able to ship me some or all of their intros. But they were not here today and I don’t know which ones she may be sending me. The others are pretty much a dead end. Thanks for any help at all. Sorry to ask, but I feel this is a very important project.



Joe's PCI seedling

Photo by Joe Ghio



Sizzling Pitch, Ghio, 2008

Door Prizes

A selection of Pacifica irises will be given as door prizes this month. If you have surplus to share, bring them.



Bloomers

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



Joseph J. Ghio, Editor
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