



BAY NEWS



Newsletter of the Monterey Bay Iris Society

www.montereybayiris.org

July 2005

Next meeting July 16th, 2005
Picnic/Auction..... 11:00 A.M.
Place Area B, Harvey West Park

From The Prez



MEETINGS IRIS LOVERS! We have started the task of digging our irises. The guest irises needing to be returned to the hybridizers were mailed June 11th.

July is our picnic month—come to Harvey West Park at 11 A.M. on Saturday, July 16th to pick up this year's door prizes. This is the potluck/picnic/auction, where club members will trade their very best irises with other club members. To make the picnic a success, all members must bring at least one increase from each of the door prizes won last year. Be sure to mark the name on the irises. These will be the 2003 irises you have growing in your garden. Joe will auction any club irises that are not distributed as door prize irises. For the potluck part, bring your own silverware, beverages, and tablecloths, and a dish to share that will feed about 10–20 people.

Also, come to my house, 76 Cutter Drive, on Friday, July 8th, 9 A.M.–noon, we will be digging the Tasco irises which belong to the club, and more of mine for the picnic and sale.

Check your e-mail frequently for notices about other digs at Elena's or possibly Joe's or Vicki's. Many irises at Elena's, Joe's and Vicki's will be going to the Regional sale, which is in Oakland the same day as ours.

For our sale, please print copies of the inclosed flyer about our sale and distribute them to libraries, community groups, farm supplies, nurseries, Master Gardener events, etc.

The big dig at Joe's Ranch will be Thursday, August 4th, 9 A.M. –1 P.M. Bring a sun hat, chair, permanent markers, rubber bands, and your clippers for preparing irises for the sale.

Happy gardening

🌸Diane



Tom digs up an armfull of irises

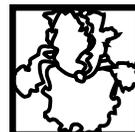
Wish List

Lisa is looking for irises. PCIs, Wine and Cheese, Easter Egg Hunt, Weather Eye, Seeing Eye, Ojai, Mendocino Blue, Check and TB: Laugh Lines. Willing to buy or trade.

You can call her at (408) 244-7200 or e-mail her at herbtalk@best.com

Calendar of Events

Friday July 8	9 A.M.–12 P.M.	Iris Dig	Diane's House
Saturday, July 16	11 A.M.–3 P.M.	Picnic/Auction	Harvey West Park
Thursday August 4	9 A.M.–12 P.M.	Iris Dig	Joe's Corralitos Ranch
Saturday August 6	9 A.M.–12 P.M.	Annual Iris Sale	Deer Park
Friday, August 20	7:30 P.M.	Meeting	Native Son's Hall
Friday Sept 16	7:30 P.M.	Meeting, beardless iris	Native Son's Hall
Friday, Oct 21	7:30 P.M.	Meeting, PCIs	Native Son's Hall
Friday, November 18	7:30 P.M.	Meeting	Native Son's Hall
Friday, December 16		Holiday dinner	Green Valley Grill



CULTURE TIPS



THE SUMMER MONTHS are the time to dig and replant irises. There is no need to worry about bearded irises that out of the ground. Simple store them with their all their leaves in an upright position in a cool shady place. Cut the leaves back when you're ready to plant them.

If replanting in the same location, amend your soil with humus like compost, well rotted manure, and if your soil is heavy even some sand. A nice handful of bonemeal in each hole will bring benefits later.

On new stock that you get elsewhere and even your own, it is wise to soak in a bleach solution for 10–15 minutes. The rate is 1 part bleach to 9 parts water. When you remove them from the bleach solution, rinse in clean water, and DRY them completely before replanting. The drying is very important or you are likely to get deformed growth. If available a dunking in a Terriclor solution is also wise, then dry them.

Label as you plant and always make a map of your planting. The map is a fall-back in case you misplace labels or just don't like labels in your garden.

🌱 Joe

MBIS Annual Iris Sale

When Saturday, August 6th, 2005
Where Deer Park Shopping Center, courtyard in front of the Red Apple Café
Set up Time 7:30 a.m. We need help for the set up. Helpers get first choice of selections.

We hope you will help us sell during the morning. If you did not take the irises you are donating to Joe's ranch on Thursday, Please cut the fans to about 12", cut roots to 5" or 6", **print the name clearly on the middle leaf with a permanent marker**, and write the color if possible. If you bring varieties other than TBs, please mark IB (intermediate), BB (border), SDB, (standard dwarf), DDB (miniature dwarf, MTB (miniature tall).

Sale Time 9:– to noon (or sell out).
If you cannot get to Deer Park early, please drop your donation iris at the home of a member who will be there for set up.
Please bring brown grocery bags if you have any, comfortable shoes, and lots of friends to buy our iris.

Iris Dig for August Sale

We will be digging iris for the sale at Joe's ranch on Thursday, August 4th from 9 A.M. until we are finished (about noon or 1 P.M.). **All members are encouraged to attend!** Take Freedom Blvd and make a left Corralitos Rd (by Aladdin's Nursery). Pass the school on the left side of the road, then slow down and after 2 houses you will see the field of iris behind the row of roses. Park on the shoulder of the road.

Please bring permanent markers, scissors, shovels, a folding chair, folding table if you have one, comfortable shoes, a sun hat, something to drink, and **many, big!!** cardboard boxes! Also **bring the irises you are donating for the sale.**



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Generous donations of rhizomes from our members are what makes this sale a success. We need your healthy, well grown, names increases. If you don't have time to write their name, you may bring the clumps in paper bags with the name written on the bag, and they can be cut and named at the ranch.

If you cannot come to the ranch, please send them with another member or bring them early the morning of the sale already named and cut.

Prizes—we will have a raffle, everyone will go home with a recent introduction!

We will also need reliable volunteers with trucks/vans/pickups to take the irises, keep them until Saturday and bring them to the sale.



Welcome New Member

Ryan Grisso

ryangrisso@msn.com



Help!

I have been assisting with the newsletter since February and there a few things I'd like to say.

First, I like to thank Joe and Diane for all their help and contributions, especially when they had to work around some of my scheduling emergencies. Thanks also to Sheryl and Charley for your articles and Joan for her photographs.

Second, I like to encourage all of you to contribute to the newsletter. How about an article on the Master Gardener program, an article reviewing a visited garden, an article about an iris companion plant, or a review if a club event? An article about PCIs? Or, consider doing a monthly column! Be the Galloping Garden Gourmet or do a column of upcoming garden events in the bay area. What about commonly asked iris questions and the answers?

All submissions to the Bay News are due by the first Friday of the month. I would prefer articles to be saved in "Text Only" (.txt), "Rich Text Format" (.rtf), but MS Word .doc, is OK. Or you can paste the article into an email. I can also accept the material on a disc or on paper at the meeting prior to publication. If you are emailing photos please send them one per email as I have a very slow connection. JPG, TIF, or Photoshop formats are fine. Prints maybe submitted at meetings. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit or crop submissions.

I have a background as a newspaper photographer and have had classes in desktop publishing, but I have to tell you I really hate to write. You just have to ask my friends and relatives about my writing. My typing is at best challenged and not improved by the cat, Monet, who sits on my lap when I'm at the computer and helps out with the typing. My spelling is notoriously bad.

So, what I'm asking for is a volunteer to do the editing of all submissions and also write articles along the way. Ideally you would get the material submitted to you and then forward it to me to make the paper print ready.

You, as editor, would be my first choice in an ideal world, but, I am willing to accept an offer by someone to just proof the paper on the Sunday before it goes to press and check for all those typos. This would mean, by the lateness of the proofing, no major rewrites, but only corrections. Eliminate the misspelled member names and the "poopy" iris!;

🌸 Ann

Region 14 Spring Meeting Judges Training from Joe Ghio

Lynn Williams

Santa Rosa Newsletter, May, 2005

It was a thrill taking judges training from Joe Ghio and I found myself so enthralled that, for the most part, I didn't take notes. So below is a brief description of the major points.

The training was in Joe Ghio's Santa Cruz garden. After allowing us to spend time looking over his seedling patch, he began the training by saying that despite the fact that the Judges Manual states that of a total of 100 points, only a maximum of 25 are to be given to the flower, the plain fact in the real world is that the flower is what attracts most gardeners to irises. Joe noted that, from a commercial standpoint, the flower is what sells irises; therefore, most hybridizers hybridize with that goal in mind. For example, just 20 years ago irises that had haft markings were considered not good and were discarded, as the goal then was for clear colors all the way up the falls. Today we

think haft markings add interest.

Many hybridizers will introduce only those irises that have "sellable" colors: colors that are clear, colors that are bright, colors that are dramatic, colors that don't fade, colors that are noticed out of the many irises in a bed. It is important that hybridizers remember that colors could be clear, not muddy; colors should be balanced; bicolors should harmonize; and blended colors should be pleasing. Hybridizers should discard those irises that don't meet the standards. Also, it is important for hybridizers not to introduce all of their seedlings, but to select only the one best iris in any one color and/or the one best iris in any one pattern to introduce. In other words, from a commercial standpoint, less is more.

Flower form is another area that is changing. It used to be that the falls all hung down so from across the garden the color of the falls was evident. Today, with increased substance, which was primarily bred for durability, the trend is for the falls to flare. Likewise, the standards can be domed, straight, or open. Variation in form is acceptable as long as balance is maintained. Ruffles are an added feature that is very desirable, especially from a commercial standpoint.

Another goal for hybridizers today is extended bloom time. One way that is achieved is by increased bud count and substance in the flowers, so that the flowers will last longer. Good branching is also important, but often the increases in rhizomes have less branching than the mother rhizome, so it is critical to evaluate an iris over at least a couple of years. As judges, we need to get out and visit as many gardens as possible and view hybridizers' seedlings.

About the Iris

Iris have been loved, admired and treasured since ancient times. The Egyptians believed the iris to be the eye of heaven. Thutmosis I brought the iris back from his campaign in Syria. Thutmosis III carved the iris on his temple.

Iris was named for the Greek Goddess who as messenger traveled from Olympus to earth on rainbows. The women of Greece planted iris on their tombs to help the soul in its journey. In western Asia it is said that the sword-like leaves of the bearded iris will drive off the evil spirits trying to enter graves. Known as Perun's flower, pagan Slavs dedicated it to their god after which it was named. The iris is associated with the Virgin Mary; and the Fleur de Lis is part of both French and British heraldry.

Pliny wrote of Northern European iris harvesting rituals, when the ground was soaked in mead and three circles were drawn round the plant with the point of a knife. After the plants were dug up they were lifted up as offerings.

Then, the *Vienna Codex of Dioscorides*, in the sixth century, pictured the iris directing the reader in using its healing properties. The "orris root," the rhizomes of *I. florentina*, were peeled, cut and dried. Dried up to two years the odor of violets becomes more and more pronounced. When made into beads the root was used to cure blood diseases. Made into a finger it was used by teething babies. Powdered it was used in tooth powder; as small pellets, mouth cleanser. The root is an ingredient in perfume. It is reported that 20 million beads a year were exported from Italy in the early 20th century.

Coming next month—more on the history of the bearded iris—looking at the origins of our current plants.

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Digging Tips

Iris are best dug from dry soil as they will be semi-dormant and keep better. So don't water for 2 weeks before digging. If your soil is hard to dig—add lots of compost for next year— and it's OK to water the day before digging to make it easier. A digging fork is much better than a shovel; it penetrates the ground easier and won't slice through roots etc. If soil sticks to the clump you can stick the fork in the ground and bang the clump on the top of the tines to loosen it. If you can't label your iris right away toss all of the same variety with the original tag into a paper sack as rhizomes have a way of getting scattered.



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

Picnic, Raffle and Auction

Area B Harvey West Park, Santa Cruz

July 16th, 2005, 11:00 a. m.

Area B is in the center of the picnic area under the big oak tree.

Door Prizes This is the time to pick up the door prize irises you won during the year. If you can't make the picnic, have someone pick them up for you or they will be auctioned off.

Directions to Park Coming toward Santa Cruz on Hwy 17 or Hwy 1, follow the signs to Half Moon Bay. At the first light turn northwest on Hwy 9 towards Felton. Turn left at the first possible turn, left again at the stop sign on Limekiln Ln.; it turns into Coral St.; follow it to the end. Turn right on Evergreen and go **straight ahead** to the park. Look for the picnic tables under the big oak tree, and for the MBIS sign on the left of the road.

Food and Beverages Bring a dish to share with 10–20 other (salad, veggies, main dish or dessert) and what ever you would like to drink.

What Else to Bring Your own plate, utensils, and glass. A table cloth if you want to cover the table. Paper bags for your new irises. A hat if you like, chair to be more comfortable, **money** or checkbook to pay for incredible iris bargains, and last, but not least bring iris! Bring an increase of last year's door prizes and other newer varieties. **You don't need to cut the fans.** Please write the names with a **permanent marker** on the **lower part** of the **middle leaf**.

