



# MONTEREY BAY NEWS

www.montereybayiris.org

August, 2024

Next meeting      Friday 16, 2024  
 Eating Starts      7:00 P.M.  
 Meeting              7:30 P.M.  
 Place                  Aptos Grange,  
 2555 Mar Vista Drive, Aptos

Newsletter of the Monterey Bay Iris Society



## From The Prez

**T**HE PICNIC AT JIM AND IRENE'S was again a success. Good food and drink and plenty of iris to covet were available and the setting was really terrific. The Cummin's grandchildren were on hand to help out and the event went well. Thank you to all the brought some iris and bought some iris for the club. Joe auctioned again, but the heat forced him to change the location of his throne from the deck to under the tree in the shade.

I got a chance to speak with Bill Tyson about the joys of hybridizing and was horrified to hear his story about insatiable iris seedling eating rabbits. Bill did donate some of his new stuff for auction....Thank you for that!

July and August seem to be our busiest months for working in the garden and preparing iris for the sales. The sales are also a lot of work and I would like to thank those people that could afford the time to participate. Deer Park and our first Cabrillo sale went well and the next sale is the Saturday after the meeting. It will be at the Cabrillo Farmers market again and I hope to have all the rhizomes gone by the end of the day.

Visiting the farmers market is a joy if you want to buy organic, wholistic, probiotic, natural, cage free, gluten free, fresh, farm raised, locally sourced, renewable, non-GMO food. Just interacting with the people that sell the stuff is a fun time. And they all accept cash.....imagine that.

## 2024 Calendar

Monthly meetings are held on the third Friday at the Aptos Grange unless otherwise stated

Sale.... Cabrillo/Aptos Farmer Mkt  
 Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup> 8 A.M.–12:00 P.M

### Regular Meeting

Friday, August 16,..... 7:30 P.M.

Sales and current business

### Potluck Refreshments

### Regular Meeting

Friday, September 20..... 7:00 P.M.

TBA

### Refreshments

Potluck

### Regular Meeting

Friday, October 18..... 7:00 P.M.

Aptos Grange, Aptos, CA

TBA

### Refreshments

Potluck

## NOTE!

*Holiday Party is  
 December the 13th.*

## August Birthdays

<i>Beth Duran</i>	<i>Aug 10</i>
<i>Suzanne Caron</i>	<i>Aug 18</i>
<i>Carolyn Craft</i>	<i>Aug 18</i>
<i>Linda Melton</i>	<i>Aug 18</i>

Charley Kearns has wrangled the web site back into submission by paying the domain update. Check it out for an example of Ann's handiwork and read the newsletters there. There is also a link to join our society on the page and has Diane's address on it just in case you forgot to pay your dues and want to do so before the end of the year. It is a fair amount of work and frustration to keep this site up and running. Thank You Charley and Ann for doing this. See you at the meeting, Craig! 🌸🌸 *Craig*

## CULTURE TIPS

So far the mornings have been cloudy, with the fog burning off by noon in Santa Cruz. Then the day heats up to a peak around 4:00 pm, and sometimes it has hit the low 80s.

This is the month we work hard to complete the replanting of the bearded irises. In replanting, it is important to thoroughly water in the newly planted rhizomes so the soil fills in around the rhizome and roots. Best results will rise from watering the newly planted rhizomes at least once a week until you get four new leaves. Usually by then, we hit October, and we might actually get some rain. When you water, water all your plants deeply, and irises are no exception.

If you haven't done so already, this is the month to kick up your replanting of bearded irises into high gear. Generally, 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. Apply by broadcasting, working them into the soil or by putting 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 nine 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 soil for a couple of weeks, 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. Bearded iris do best if the sun can get to the top of the rhizomes. Keep the weeds away from the plants. If 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 lose the markers.



## Board of Directors 2023

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### Past President

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### 1 Year Board

Lloyd Clark

Anna Helms

Linda Melton

### 2 Year Board

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Elena Laborde

Linda Lomperis

## Contacts

### Hospitality & Refreshments

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### Birthday List

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With rebloomers, if you have them planted together, this is the month to give them a light application of a balanced fertilizer and a weekly watering. This is more likely to encourage repeat bloom. If they are mixed in with your other irises, you can do the same to them, but more growth on non-repeaters won't encourage them to rebloom. 🌸🌸 *Joe*

## August door prizes

For the August door prize iris, members need to bring some of their their garden iris rhizomes to be given as door prizes. Bring something special, like a recent introduction, a Ghio iris, or a popular "classic". At this August meeting, we take new bearded irises home, rather than waiting for next year's picnic!

## Dividing Iris

Information on dividing iris is located on our website under the menu heading of growing iris. Then if you are reading the section on "transplanting," you will finding directions to divide your iris.

<https://montereybayiris.org/growing-bearded-iris/>



## 2024 Picnic and Auction

On July 20, we enjoyed another picnic on the Cummins's beautiful lawn. Shade provided a very comfortable eating area and auction venue. Just like last year, the array of food was so delicious. We raised \$1,464 from the auction and raffle, which was \$500 less than last year. The raffle brought in \$450, the auction \$1,014. The reduction was in auction proceeds. The highest bid was in the low \$20s. So overall, we had lower proceeds, but we all had good time. Joe regaled us with colorful descriptions of the iris which he auctioned from under the shade of the big tree.

Thanks to those that brought rhizomes for the raffle and auction. And, thanks to our talented cooks bringing culinary delights. We especially appreciate the Cummins making their lawn available to us—it is a perfect spot for a perfect day.

*Charley Kearns*





photo M. Lango

