

April, 2025

Next meeting Friday 18, 2025
 Eating Starts 7:00 P.M.
 Meeting 7:30 P.M.
 Place Aptos Grange,
 2555 Mar Vista Drive, Aptos

2025 Calendar

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

Regular Meeting

Friday, April 18 7:00 P.M.

Program

Mini Show/Show Updates

Refreshments

Pot luck

50 Year Anniversary Celebration

Jo Chisholm's Home, April 20. 1-4 P.M.

Garden tour, wine and delicious food

Annual Iris Show

London Nelson April 26 to April 27

Set up

Friday, April 25 5:00 P.M.

Show

Saturday 1-6:00 P.M.

Sunday 10:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.

Shirley Trio Memorial

Dry Creek Garden, May 10 2:00 P.M.

Shirley Trio Memorial and Bench

Dedication at Dry Creek Iris

Gardens. 400 May Road, Union

City 94547.

Regular Meeting

Friday, May 20 7:30 P.M.

Show Wrapup & Awards

Show Chairs

Pizza Potluck

April Birthdays

Karen Valentine, April 2

Joanne Able April 4

Maria Hasbun April 4

Diane Sampson, April 8

Anna Helms April 10

Linda Stremel, April 23



Wilder Ranch, Ghio, 2013

Photo S. Taniguchi

From The Prez

SPRING IS HERE! SPRING IS ALWAYS AN EXCITING TIME in my garden. The first daffodils are finished blooming, so I go out and trim the leaves to allow more sun on the irises nearby. Then the Amaryllis fade away, so I trim those back, too. The Salvias reach their full color with the March rains, and the Peruvian Lilies are getting ready to pop open. I arrange pots with annuals and perennials near the front door to brighten my entry way. The Apple trees, Nectarines, Almond, and Plum tree look for the first bees to help them on their journey to set fruit.

Finally by mid-April, I have more than 25% of my irises blooming. First come the Arilbreds, then Pacific Coast Natives, and finally the bearded irises bloom. By May, the Louisianas and Spurias show their true colors.

Keeping the iris beds groomed includes cutting off damaged leaves. Rust and rot are contagious, so I try to keep an eye on those. I look for snails and gopher activity; those animals can do a lot of harm in a short amount of time. Keeping the weeds at bay is a never ending job in my garden, too.

With the Iris Art Show going on in April, we have a very nice balance between Art and Garden. Many more people will be looking at the Art throughout the month at London Nelson Community Center, so hopefully we will see an increase in interest about Iris flowers all around the county. The artists are

interested in seeing my garden in bloom, so I have a variety of dates that people can see the flowers. If you can not make it on the Tuesdays, April 22, 29, and May 6, text me and hopefully we can find time that works for you.

I'm looking forward to the Regional Convention in Santa Rosa, and the National Convention in Billings, Montana. I have not had this opportunity to go to conventions before, because I have been working and taking care of kids ever since I joined the Monterey Bay Iris Society in 1995. This marks my 30th year in the club! Virginia Keyser was the president the year I joined, and it is fun to read a list of members from such a long time ago. It is nice to know friends for such a long time. Iris members tend to stick together and enjoy each other's company. It is great to have good friends! 🌸🌸Diane

Mini Show

This month's program is the mini show. Bring your best iris stalks to enter and be there early to stage your irises. Doors will open at 6:00pm. Unfortunately, Joe won't be able to give his great talk and tips, but an alternate judge will preside. Joe is resting and convalescing from his infected knee surgery. We wish him a speedy recovery so he will be able to attend our show next weekend. The judges will point out whether the entry is staged properly and give suggestions on improvement. Everyone is encouraged to enter. We are asking that no more than two bloom stalks per category are entered by each person.

Categories for the MINI-SHOW are:

1. Tall bearded—Novice (never won more than three blue ribbons in a regular show before)
2. Tall Bearded—Advanced (all who aren't novices)
3. Bearded, other than Tall
4. Beardless, any type
5. Seedlings, any type

The Panel will choose the winners in each category. The winners will have the first choice of the door prizes.

SAVE THE DATES

DATE FOR OUR 2025 SPRING SHOW

The date of our spring show, will be April 26 and 27, with set up Friday evening April 25. Please mark your calendars accordingly. Details will be forthcoming at the meeting

Celebrating 50 Years of Growth and Beauty!

Join us on April 20th, 1pm to 4 pm for the Monterey Bay Iris Society 50 year anniversary celebration given by Jo Chisholm and Lloyd Clark. We will gather from 1pm to 4 pm. RSVP: Jo Chisholm, JoChisholm0700@gmail.com, 408-209-5708.

Iris Themed Art Show

Our iris art show is Hanging on the walls of the hall outside the show room at London Nelson. Be sure to view it when you at at the spring show. It will come down on Sunday April 27, the last day of our annual iris show.

Board of Directors 2025

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Membership

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Birthday List

Wayne Crabbs wayne@lomaprieta.us 408 353-4089



Memorial

Shirley Trio Memorial and Shirley Trio Memorial Bench Dedication at Dry Creek Iris Gardens. 400 May Road, Union City 94547. May 10th, 2:00 P.M.

California Colorists Spring Show

Sharon Medler announces that she is hosting a show at her home. The California Colorist Spring Show is happening from 11-5 on May 3rd and 4th, 220 San Augustine Way, Scotts Valley. Featured artist are Evelyn Drew, Janice Mann, Amy Martin, Sharon Medler and Dan Rutledge. Please join these artists for a glass of wine, wonderful paintings and a stroll through Sharon's garden.

Open Garden

Diane has opened her garden for public viewing and touring. Her garden is open Tuesdays April 22, April 29 and May 6 from 10 am until noon. The garden located at 7 Cutter Cove, Watsonville, CA. For all questions call 831 206-1444.



Seedling, J Cummins

photo R. Probst

Celebrating 50 Years of Growth and Beauty!

Sunday, April 20 —Yes! Easter!

15750 Adams Ridge Road, Los Gatos, CA. 95033

Time: 1:00pm - 4:00pm

Join us as we mark a monumental milestone in the history of our beloved Monterey Bay Iris Society—50 years of nurturing nature, community, and irises grown by Joe Ghio! From humble beginnings to blossoming into a vibrant group of passionate gardeners, we've come together to share knowledge, cultivate beautiful gardens, and create lasting friendships.

We invite all Iris Society Members, Region 14 past and present, plus guests to come celebrate this amazing event with us! Jo Chisholm has a wonderful venue at her home with a view of the Monterey Bay, and about 1000 irises at this time.

Jo Chisholm and her partner Lloyd Clark are the amazing hosts, and they invite all Region 14 plus hybridizers for a lovely celebration event. We are requesting an informal \$10 donation for interested folks who are not members of Monterey Bay Iris Society.

Expect fun activities, a garden tour, a delicious spread, and a heartfelt ceremony with awards to honor the club's history, growth, and future. Let's gather to reminisce, reconnect, and look ahead to the next 50 years of flourishing together!

RSVP: JoChisholm0700@gmail.com , 408-209-5708 (if you get lost on the mountain roads on the way!)

2025 SPRING SHOW

Our Spring Show will again be held at the London Nelson Community Center This year on April 26 & 27. Set-up will be Friday evening, April 25 at 5:00 p.m. **The doors will be open Saturday, April 26 at 7:00am so exhibitors can start staging their entries.**

We need volunteers for set-up, as well as all of the Saturday and Sunday shifts to be on hand to distribute literature and answer guest's questions. We especially need help with Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning shifts. The sign up list will be at the April meeting. The sign up list that was passed around at the March meeting, will be at the April meeting also. If you didn't sign in March, it would be appreciated if you could sign in April. If you can't make the April meeting or forgot to sign, show up anyway and we will give you a job that you will really enjoy. All members are encouraged to volunteer as much time as possible during our show. Participation goes a long way in making our show a success and introducing the public to our club. It's great fun! Remember, you receive a recent introduction iris for participating in the show.

Show Tips

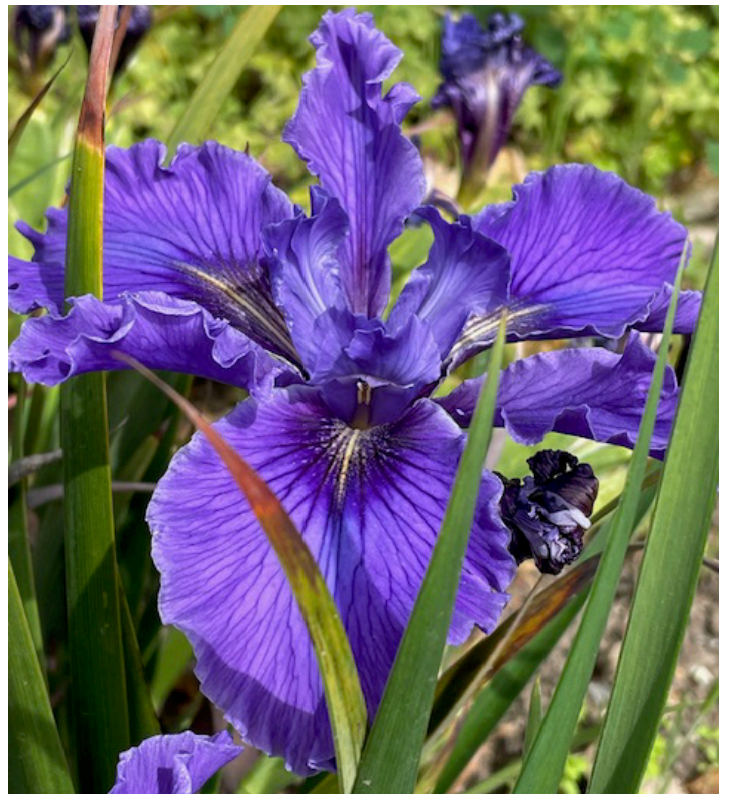
Our show is April 26 & 27. Adapted from the Santa Rosa Iris Society Newsletter here is a list "to do" things and tips for the Show.

- ❖ In the garden, starting a week before, stake all stalks you may be considering, Don't let stalks lean sideways in the garden.
- ❖ Water the garden if needed. Dry plants don't grow the best show stalks.
- ❖ Put out snail bait if you have signs of snails.
- ❖ The day before, make a list of irises you're bringing. Prevents guessing on the morning of the show.
- ❖ Prepare method to transport.
- ❖ Always transport in a container with water.
- ❖ Pre-fill out tags with your address and name.
- ❖ Bring spent stalks for making props in tubes
- ❖ Plan materials and accessories for Artistic Design classes/ sections. Try doing a design this year! Most of us are beginners!
- ❖ Make or check your grooming kit (min. scissors, clippers, Q-tips, pen).
- ❖ Rest up! Get up very early, the morning of the show, to cut stalks. Plan to arrive with plenty of time to prepare your entries between 7:00 and 9:30 a.m. Don't arrive late.
- ❖ We're a club. We're here to learn from each other and help each other. Experienced exhibitors are more than happy to explain to others "how to do it."



SPRING BLOOM PCIS

clockwise from top left Ghio seedling at Joe's garden, photo by S. Taniguchi; above, PCI photo by C. Dahout; below, PCI photo by C. Dahout; bottom left, PCI photo by C. Dahout; center left, PCI photo by C. Dahout





clockwise from top left PCI photo by C. Dahout; above, PCI photo by F.Valentine; below, PCI photo by F.Valentine; bottom left, PCI photo by C. Dahout; center left, Story of my Life, Ghio, 2019, photo by S.Taniguchi



PCI Seedlings

Photo S. Austin



Line Drive, Sutton, 2007, IB

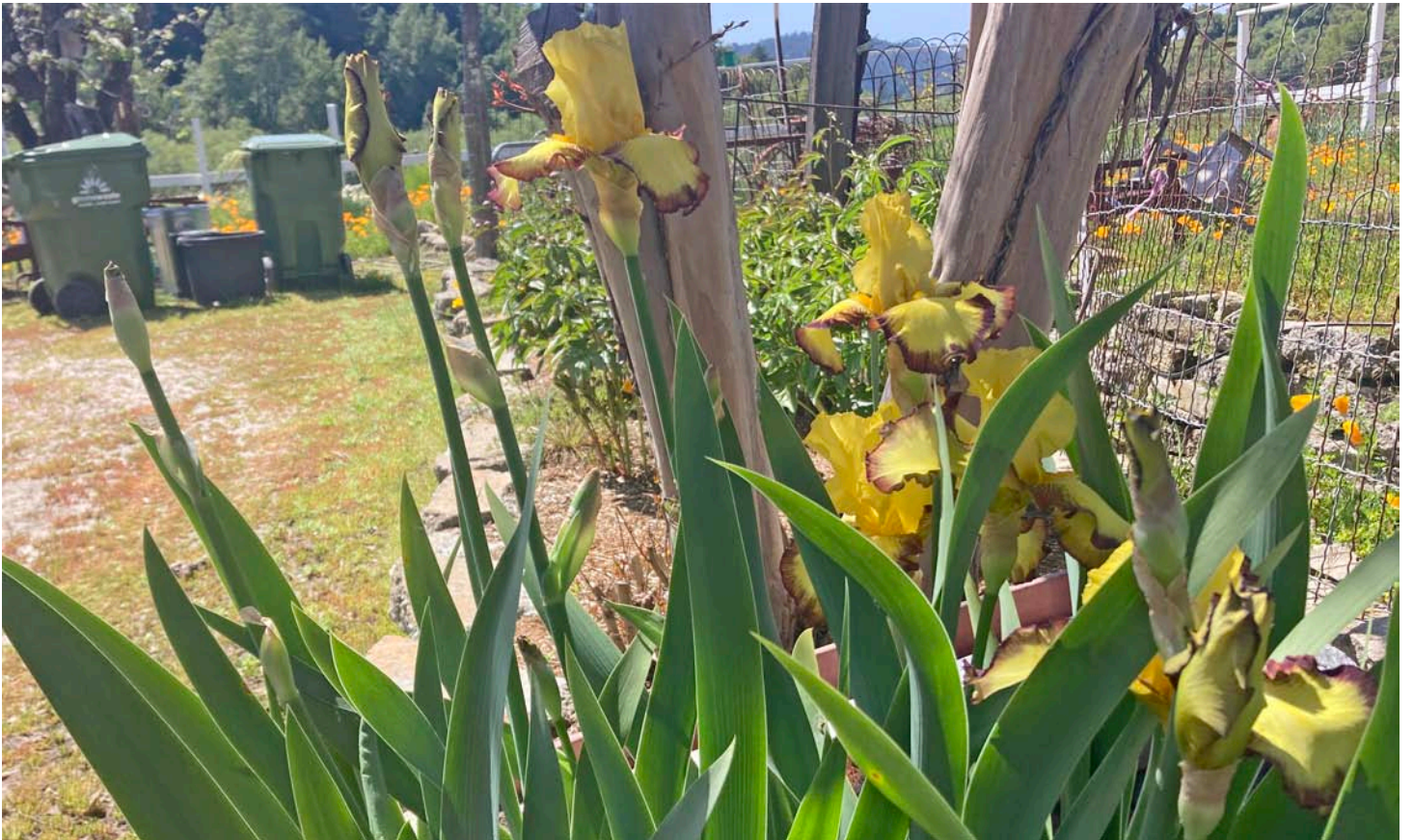
photo J. Cummins

MORE- SPRING BLOOMS



Logo, Keppel, 1986, IB

photo J. Cummins



Chocolate Halo, Kerr, 2011

J. Cummins



i. innominata
Bay News, April, 2025

photo S Austin pci
www.montereybayiris.org

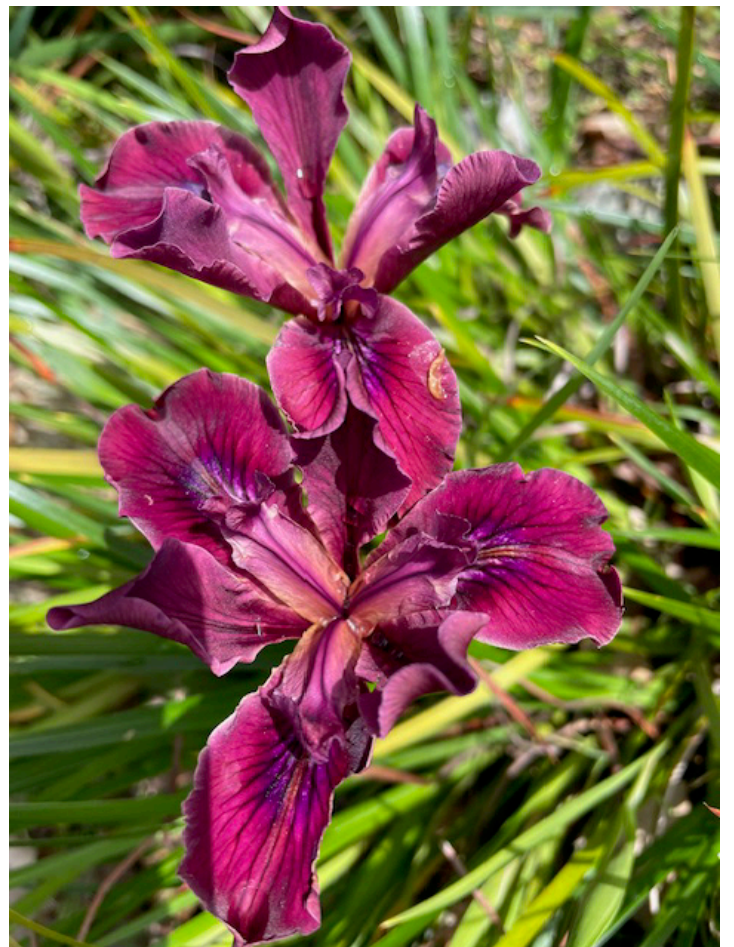


photo C. Dahout

The Journey of Joe Ghio: A Legacy of Iris Growing and Community Building

In the mid-1970s, Joe Ghio was already deeply embedded in the fabric of Santa Cruz, both in local politics and as a passionate advocate for his beloved iris. Serving as the mayor of Santa Cruz in 1975, 1977, and 1980, and holding three terms on the city council, Joe's influence reached far beyond the political arena. Yet, it was his involvement in the local iris community that would forever shape his legacy.

Alongside Elsa May Richardson, Joe took on the role of Regional Vice President of Region 14, a three-year term that would see the creation of the Region 14 Bulletin—an invaluable resource for iris enthusiasts across the region. Even while attending high-profile events as mayor of Santa Cruz, at the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco or the Coronado Hotel in San Diego, Joe found time to nurture his growing passion for irises.

By this time, Joe had an impressive collection of seedlings—thousands, in fact. His dedication to the Pacific Coast Native irises was clear, as he meticulously collected pollen from sources across the region, including Swanton, DeLavega, Scotts Valley, and Pasatiempo. His small half-acre lot quickly became overcrowded with the vibrant young plants, so much so that Joe used the backyards of eight neighbors near Bay Street to house his ever-expanding iris collection. People appreciated Joe's generosity and willingness to help beautify their gardens, and even his Aunt Nina added a gate to her garden so Joe could tend to it more easily.

Joe's involvement with the local iris community began in earnest with the formation of the Monterey Bay Iris Society. What started as a modest gathering of just eight people meeting at Chase Bank in Watsonville soon grew into a passionate and thriving group. For over 15 years, Margarette Harman served as the club's treasurer and hosted the beloved barbecue after the annual Deer Park Sale. Lois Belardi, another early member, brought her expertise in hybridizing Pacific Coast Iris (PCI), contributing significantly to the group's growth and success.

In a move that would further cement the club's role in the community, Joe hosted meetings at the Native Sons Hall in Santa Cruz, where the group quickly grew in size and enthusiasm. It was there that the tradition of bringing snacks to meetings took root. The potluck gatherings became a cherished part of the club's culture, starting with the memorable "iris corned beef feast" that Brenda Wood brought to a meeting. These informal gatherings helped foster a strong sense of camaraderie among members and encouraged a sense of belonging.

One of the defining moments in the club's history came when Diane Sampson, a newcomer to the iris community,

brought a bloom from her garden to the Capitola Mall for display. Joe immediately recognized the iris as Modern Classic, a standout variety, and encouraged Diane to enter it into the show. Diane went on to win Best Novice with that very iris and Best of Show the following year, marking the beginning of her own deep involvement in the society.

Other long-time members—Wayne and Carolyn Craft, Irene and Jim Cummins, M'Jeanne and Elmer Erwin, Tom Karwin, Charley Kearns, Elena Laborde, Sheryl McEwan, Rosa Radicchi, Linda Stremel, Barbara Wiles, and Brenda Wood—continue to be pillars of the group today. Their dedication has helped build the rich legacy that the society enjoys today.

After a few years meeting at the Simpkins Swim Center, the group eventually moved to the Aptos Grange, where it continues to meet to this day. Now with about 85 members, the Monterey Bay Iris Society has earned a reputation as the "Flowers, Fun, and Food Group," thanks to its knowledgeable members and strong community spirit.

Joe Ghio's dedication to both his garden and his community laid the foundation for an enduring organization that continues to thrive. His legacy lives on in the irises he nurtured, the people he inspired, and the many friendships that blossomed in the fertile soil of Santa Cruz.



Path to Heaven, Ghio, 2016

photo D. Sampson

CULTURE TIPS

HERE WE ARE ON APRIL 18 and the Pacificas are finally just about peak bloom. Two weeks late. Normal peak is the beginning of April. The bearded are equally late. Hardly any hint of bloomstalks. Normal peak is April 27. This year, like last year it will be probably also two weeks late. Once again is the result of the atmospheric rivers that are hitting Santa Cruz County hard along with cold nights and cool daytime. And say nothing of winds that came along with the “rivers”.

Try to get weeds out of your plantings so the irises can thrive better. Bloom should be good this year though it will be late. If no more rain is predicted for the foreseeable future, then keep your hoses handy since they need water in the week before the show to have the blooms achieve maximum growth.

We encourage you to enter what you have—the show will be April 26–27, two weeks earlier than last year and right on track for the peak bloom. Check the show schedule for show classes and requirements. There has been some changes. 🌸🌸 Joe

Welcome New Members

We call on everyone to welcome our new members Carl and Kathleen Harris. Please greet them and give them a MBIS welcome when you see them at the next meeting.

AIS Region 14 Spring Bulletin

The Spring 2025 Region 14 bulletin. It can be accessed online via: <https://aisregion14.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Spring-2025-bulletin-reduced.pdf>



October Dreaming, Blyth, 2015

photo J. Cummins

DOOR PRIZES IRISES

1. AMAZON SUNSET, Keppel
2. ATTENTION SEEKER, Johnson
3. BORN TO PARTY, Johnson, 2023
4. BOUNTIFUL BLOOM, Johnson
5. CAN'T BE DENIED, Johnson
6. CANDY COATED, Burseen, 2022
7. COAL TAR, Keppel, 2022, IB
8. Dare the Devil, Burseen, 2023
9. DESERT CHAPARRAL, Keppel
10. FLIP A COIN, Johnson, 2023
11. FOLLOW MY LEAD, Johnson, 2023
12. FOR THE AGES, Johnson
13. GONE VIRAL, Johnson, 2023
14. HOT GRANNY, Stout
15. I'LL BE THE ONE, Johnson
16. LEADING ROLE, Johnson
17. LIKE A DREAM, Johnson,
18. LUXURIOUS FOLKS, Cummins
19. MAKE UP YOUR MIND, Black
20. MOVING ON, Keppel
21. NEBRASKA DAWN, Burseen, 2022
22. NIGHT AFTER NIGHT, Black
23. ON ANGEL WINGS, Johnson
24. ON THE COVER, Johnson, 2023
25. ONE IN A MILLION, Johnson, 2023
26. RIPPLES IN TIME, Black
27. ROMANY ROGUE, Remare
28. SATIN RUFFLES, Keppel
29. SO HAPPY TOGETHER, Black
30. STEADY DATE, Keppel
31. TAKE MY HAND, Johnson
32. UPSCALE, Keppel
33. WATCHING YOU, Johnson
34. WILD ABOUT YOU, Black
35. WINTERCREST, Keppel
36. YUMMYLICIOUS, Black

Not A Rebloomer Month!

Irises are now blooming. It is April, so there is no Rebloomer drawing. Bring your best iris stalks to enter in the mini show.



1. Amazon Sunset, Keppe



2. Attention Seeker, Johnson



3. Born To Party, Johnson, 2023



4. Bountiful Bloom, Black



5. Can't be Denied, Johnson



6. Candy Coated, Burseen, 2022



7. Coal Tar, Keppel, 2022, IB



8. Dare the Devil, Burseen, 2023



9. Desert Chaparral, Keppel



10. Flip a Coin,
Johnson, 2023



11. Follow My Lead, Johnson, 2023



12. For the Ages, Johnson



13. Gone Viral, Johnson, 2023



14. Hot Granny, Stout



15. I'll Be The One, Johnson



16. Leading Role, Johnson



17. Like A Dream, Johnson



18. Luxurious Folks, Cummins



19. Make up your Mind, Black



20. Moving on, Keppel



21. Nebraska Dawn, Burseen, 2022



22. Night After Night, Black



23. On Angel Wings, Johnson



24. On The Cover, Johnson, 2023



25. One In A Million, Johnson, 2023



26. Ripples In Time, Black



27. Romany Rogue, Remare



28. Satin Ruffles, Keppel



29. So Happy Together, Black



30. Steady Date, Keppel



31. Take My Hand, Johnson



32. Upscale, Keppel



33. Watching You, Johnson



34. Wild about You, Black



35. Wintercrest, Keppel



36. Yummylicious, Black