



MONTEREY BAY NEWS

www.montereybayiris.org

May, 2025

Next meeting Friday 16, 2025
 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



Diane Sampson at the AIS Region 14 Spring Regional Photo supplied by D. Sampson

From The Prez

WHAT A SEASON IT'S BEEN! Spring is in full bloom, and so is the spirit of the Monterey Bay Iris Society. I'm delighted to take a moment to reflect on a truly special and vibrant April we've just experienced together.

First, I want to thank all of you who joined us for our 50th Anniversary Celebration. Held on Easter Sunday at the beautiful home and garden of Jo Chisholm and Lloyd Clark, it was a gathering to remember. With 120 people in attendance—well beyond our membership of 80—it was inspiring to see neighbors, fellow iris lovers, and members of other societies come together to honor this milestone. The garden was spectacular, the food was delicious, the atmosphere joyful, and the sense of shared history deeply moving.

One of the highlights for me personally was presenting a commemorative glass plaque and a printed photo of *Frosted Starlight* to Joe Ghio—his very first introduced iris and a piece of iris history in itself. I've had the joy of growing his irises in my south-facing garden for 30 years, and presenting large arrangements of his introductions was an emotional moment. Joe smiled and said, "Oh! Here are my children!" It was a beautiful reminder of the legacy our club celebrates.

2025 Calendar

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

May Meeting

Friday, May 16..... 7:30 P.M.
 Show Wrapup & Awards
 Show Chairs
 Pizza Potluck

June Meeting

Friday, June 20 7:00 P.M.
 TBA
 Refreshments
 Potluck

Annual July Picnic

Saturday, July 19.... 11:00 A.M.–3:00 P.M.
 Harvey West Park
 Potluck and Auction

Annual Sale

Sale.... Deer Park Shopping Center
 Saturday, August 2nd. 9 A.M.–12:00 P.M.

Sale.... Cabrillo/Aptos Farmer Mkt

Saturday, August 9th .. 8 A.M.–12:00 P.M.
 Saturday, August 16th 8 A.M.–12:00 P.M.

Regular Meeting

Friday, August 15,..... 7:30 P.M.
 TBA
 Potluck Refreshments

May Birthdays

Lloyd Clark May 6
John Weininger May 20
Charley Kearns, May 21
Carol Dahout May 30

Looking forward, I'm eager to engage with the next generation of iris lovers. As President, I am beginning to connect with horticulture departments at UCSC and Cabrillo College to invite students into our community. I recently had the opportunity to groom the Pacific Coast Natives at Cabrillo, and I'm so proud of the members who pitched in to help weed Joe Ghio's home garden—thank you.

To everyone who helped, hosted, volunteered, participated, and simply showed up—thank you for keeping the Monterey Bay Iris Society thriving, 50 years strong. Here's to many more seasons of beauty, friendship, and growth. Thank you. 🌸🌸Diane

SAVE THE DATES

Annual July Picnic

Diane reserved the Harvey West Redwood picnic area for our picnic, July 19, 10am–5pm. Bring your own plate and silverware. This is the same area we used in decades past, across from the baseball field. Plenty of parking, electricity and BBQ pit included. I also got the alcohol permit, but will need everyone to pitch in to clean up after.

May Meeting Awards Presentation

There will be a presentation of the cash awards, certificates, ribbons and rosettes at the May meeting right after the Pizza pot luck. The club purchases the pizza; you bring a side—veggie dish, salad, or anything that will go well with pizza. As usual birthday cake will be provided for desert. Congratulations to this year's show winners!

CULTURE TIPS

HERE IT IS MID-MAY and we are finally at peak bloom, some two plus weeks late. Normal peak bloom here on the Coast is around April 27 The plus side is that the stalks are tall and the blooms large with ruffling like rarely seen before. We had plentiful rain, even the Saturday before the show, and the irises appreciate it.

Get rid of weeds, especially the most dominate ones like filagree and milkweed (officially Italian thistle). The seeds of weeds have a way of using the winds we've had to spread their seed far and wide. Most won't germinate until next fall (hopefully).

This is the time to get your plants properly identified and note the ones you can live without and the ones whose space is needed for the new wonders you won in our drawings. The July club picnic/sale will have many good ones you will want and can't live without. So save space for them. Take time now to enjoy your bloom and all the wonders your hard work helped produce. 🌸🌸Joe

Board of Directors 2025

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Jo Chisholm

Rosa Radicchi

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Weeding Joe's Irises

Joe Ghio's neighbor contacted me to see if some of our members would help he and his wife clear Joe's iris plantings of the overgrown weeds. He and his wife had been working on the weeds for several days. After notifying our membership, several volunteered to help. We worked on April 23 and April 29, making his plantings look 100% better. Several worked both days. A big thank you to the crew: Jo Chisholm, Lloyd Clark, Kathy Wood, Carl Harris, Mikey Lango, Cindy Schuette, Wayne Crabbs, Steve Taniguchi, John Skinner and Sheryl McEwan with 2 of her employees, and myself. Joe's neighbor was very grateful for the help.

I've learned that Joe will return home on May 12. I'm hoping several iris blooms will greet him. Many bloom stalks were appearing at the time we worked there.

Submitted by Charley Kearns



2025 Show Report

Submitted by Charley Kearns

We had our spring show a little earlier this year which meant we had more PCIs entered than last year. We had 163 entries compared to 144 in 2024. More bloom stalk entries, with fewer single blossom and seedling entries. Fifteen individuals participated, one more than last year. Those entering the most blooms are Jeff Bennett, 31; Jo Chisholm, 22; Jane Jordan, 21; Wayne Crabbs, 19; Diane Sampson, 14. There were 73 blues, 51 reds, 29 whites awarded. In 2024: 49 blues, 28 reds and 24 whites. The increase in percentage of blue ribbons suggests better staging and higher quality of blooms. Only two seedlings were entered, one by Jo Chisholm and one by Diane Sampson, which own best seedling. Both very nice. Artistic entries were “enter what you like,” no categories. Several nice entries were on display.

Jeff Bennett won Best of Show with an Arirbred Eye Of Excellence. Jeff also won the Silver Medal with the most blue ribbons—18. A complete list of trophy winners appears in a separate article in this newsletter.

Again, Ann pike expertly supervised the placing of the entries in the proper category locations. Carol Dahout made several small arrangements for the guest tables and the hospitality table. Waynes large prints of irises brought life to the walls. Anna and Jeff Helms made sure the judges had refreshments prior to judging and a lunch was provided to all that volunteered on Saturday. A special thanks for their hard work. We appreciate John Skinner bringing the tubes and bases Friday night and Wayne Crabbs returning them to the Cummins storage after the show.

A welcome to John Skinner, the new Show Chair in training. He did quite well, learned a lot and will preside over the awards presentation at the May meeting. And we want to thank your judges for their find judging and helpful comments on iris presentation.

And a big thank you to all the volunteers that worked the show, setting up, taking shifts during the show to welcome the public, and tear down Sunday evening.

Show Award Winners Horticultural

BEST OF SHOW	Jeff Bennett,—AB, <i>Eye of Excellence</i>
BEST TALL BEARDED	Diane Sampson—TB, <i>Brouhaha</i>
BEST BEARDED OTHER THAN TALL	Jane Jordan,—IB, <i>Last Of The Wine</i>
BEST HISTORIC	Charley Kearns,—TB, <i>Lady Friend</i> (1981)
BEST BEARDLESS	Jane Jordan,—SPU, <i>Adriatic Blu</i>
BEST SEEDLING	Diane Sampson—TB, <i>Ballarina Tutu</i>
BEST SINGLE BLOSSOM	Elena Laborde—TB, <i>Dark Energy</i>
RALPH COLEMAN AWARD (Peoples' Choice)	Diane Sampson—TB, <i>Rocket Fuel</i>
SILVER MEDAL	Jeff Bennett—18 Blue
BRONZE MEDAL	Wayne Crabbs—10 Blue

Iris Art Show

The Iris Art Show at the London Nelson Community Center, which ran from March 29 to April 27, brought color and joy to the community. We filled over 100 linear feet of a high-traffic hallway, and I was thrilled to hear the Center refer to it as an “Iris Festival” for the very first time.

New Members

We had several new members that join during the show! We welcome Kaye Beth, Marsha Ifland, and Jessica Kuns and Nick Miller, all from Santa Cruz. Larry Ray join our club at the April meeting. We welcome you one and all and hope to see you at our meetings to really give you a meet and greet!



2025 MBIS SHOW





photo by M. Lango



MORE SHOW



Brenda, Rosa and Joan

photo by M. Lango



MBIS 50 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Photos by Sharon Medler





REGION 14 REGIONAL



Photos by Mikey Lango





MBIS JUDGES' TRAINING



SHIRLEY JEANETTE SUTHERLAND TRIO-PROBST



Photos by Mikey Lango

Shirley Sutherland was born in Merced, CA on June 25th, 1943. She grew up in Merced, McFarland and Atwater, CA. She was a cheerleader at Atwater High School where she graduated in 1961. Her mother worked at near by Castle AFB. After high school she married Loren Buhler and they settled in Modesto to raise a family. They had three children. Jackie, the oldest daughter was named after Jackie Kennedy. Michael was named after the song "Michael, Row the Boat Ashore". Dawn, the youngest daughter was named after Frankie Valli's hit song "Dawn". As her children were growing up Shirley attended Modesto Junior College and got her Associate Degree in Nursing and became a Registered Nurse. She worked at several different hospitals in the Modesto area ending up at Memorial Medical Center from 1993-1999. While she was a nurse she adopted her cousin's daughter Kristin in 1981. She was named after the fictional character Kristin Shepard on the TV show "Dallas".

She bought her first iris in the mid 1970's. The bloom was large and pretty and she decided to get more. Her aunt shared her irises but Shirley still wanted more. She wrote for a Cooley Iris Garden Catalog, placed her first iris order that was over \$700.00 and as they say "the rest is history."

By the late 1980's she had joined the American Iris Society. She became a Life Member in 1987. She operated her own commercial garden with a catalog known as "The Iris Lady's Garden". During the 1990's she became an

AIS Judge. At that time, she was attending the Fresno, Mt. Diablo and Sacramento Iris Societies. Then the San Joaquin Iris Society was formed and she became a charter member and the first secretary.

In 1995 she attended her first American Iris Society convention in York, PA. There, at the cocktail hour before the Welcome Banquet she met Riley Probst from St. Louis, MO who had already attended 8 AIS Conventions. He was her companion and guide for much of that convention. They saw each other several times the next few years. Then in October, 1999 she moved to Kirkwood, MO to be with Riley full time. In St. Louis she worked for a temporary agency as a Registered Nurse. The agency assigned her to various hospitals including Barnes Hospital, Normandy South in Des Peres, St. Luke, St. Mary and St. Anthony.

Shirley and Riley were members of six local iris societies in the St. Louis area: Greater St. Louis Iris Society, Kirkwood Iris Society, O'Fallon Iris Society, Jeffco Iris Society, Mineral Area Iris Society and Mid-Illinois Iris Society. Shirley served as President of the Kirkwood Iris Society and Secretary of Region 18. In 2005 Greater St. Louis Iris Society hosted the AIS Convention. Riley was the Chairman and Shirley was the Registrar for the convention which had 525 attendees. They both volunteered in the Alice Goodman Iris Garden in Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis, MO.



In 2006 she and Riley won Best In Show at three different iris shows. We figured it would be difficult to top that and in October, 2006 we started moving back to Modesto. It took us many trips back and forth and we finally completed our move in 2009.

Once we were in California we became members of seven iris clubs: Clara B. Rees Iris Society, James Gibson Iris Society, Monterey Bay Iris Society, Mt. Diablo Iris Society, Sacramento Iris Society, Sydney B. Mitchell Iris Society and Yosemite Iris Society. She served as President of the SIS and Co-President of SBMIS. She was a founding member of YIS. She held many positions of responsibility such as secretary, director and hospitality chairperson in all of the clubs listed above.

In Region 14 she held many positions of responsibility including Finance Chair 1997-1999, Secretary 2006-2007, Director 2007-2009, Region 14 Meeting Chair 2010, Region 14 Bulletin Editor 2014-2018 and current Membership Director 2021-2024. Her biggest job in Region 14 was Chairwoman of the 2019 AIS Convention 2017-2019 held in San Ramon, CA. Shirley was a Master AIS Judge. On October 14, 2023 Shirley was presented with the prestigious Larry Gaulter Region 14 Lifetime Achievement Award

Through the years Shirley and Riley were involved in everything iris. This includes operating their Fleur De Lis Iris Garden in Modesto. She introduced one iris, OPPOSITES which won both HM in 2015 & AM in 2017. She still has seedlings being evaluated. She also had an iris named after her, SHIRLEY TRIO by Jim McWhirter and introduced in 1995. Shirley collected anything iris. She collected iris clothing, iris t-shirts, iris keep sakes, iris objects for the kitchen and dining room. She wore and used these items, also. If there was something she wanted, she was a relentless bidder at iris auctions. Some times she would buy something to give to someone else.

The iris hobby also included lots of travel. Shirley has attended 25 AIS Conventions between her first in 1995 in York, PA and her last in 2019 in San Ramon, CA. Not to mention all of the iris trips they made in California from San Diego in the south to Redding in the north and all in between. Shirley also attended four American Daffodil Society Conventions in Cincinnati, OH; Louisville, KY; Portland, OR and St. Louis, MO. In addition to all of this horticultural travelling Shirley took two Caribbean cruises with Riley; one to the Virgin Islands and one to Jamaica.

Shirley died in her sleep at home on Thursday May 16th, 2024. Her health had been declining since December, 2021 when she had a heart attack and lung cancer was discovered. She was in and out of Memorial Hospital several times during this period. A tribute to her life is planned for next year at iris bloom time. It will be held on a weekend in early May, 2025 in Dry Creek Iris Garden in Union City, CA which Shirley helped start.



Shirley is survived by her husband Riley Probst, three daughters, Jackie Basaldua, Dawn Buhler Heinrichs and Kristin Wagoner, one son, Mike Buhler and six grandchildren, Taylor Buhler-Scott, Andrew Basaldua, Jacob Buhler Madi Buhler, Michael Wagoner and Matthew Wagoner. She will also be missed by many iris friends, both local and across the country. She will also be missed by her pet dogs and cats.



New members Karl and Kathleen

Photo by M. Lango

DOOR PRIZES IRISES

1. AHH MAY ZING, Burseen, 2023
2. AMAZON SUNSET, Keppel
3. ATTENTION SEEKER, Johnson
4. BLIND LUCK, Burseen, 2022
5. BONNIE'S PLEASURE, Tasco
6. BORN TO PARTY, Johnson, 2023
7. BOUNTIFUL BLOOM, Black
8. CAN'T BE DENIED, Johnson
9. CANDY COATED, Johnson
10. CANTERBURY BELLE, Keppel
11. COAL TAR, KEPPEL, 2022, IB
12. COLORING BOOK, Black
13. CRASH BANG, Black
14. DARE THE DEVIL, Burseen, 2023
15. DARE TO BE DIFFERENT, Johnson, 2022
16. DESERT CHAPARRAL, Keppel
17. EDGING AHEAD, Johnson
18. FLIP A COIN, Johnson, 2023
19. FOLLOW MY LEAD, Johnson, 2023
20. FOR THE AGES, Johnson
21. GONE VIRAL, Johnson, 2023
22. HOT GRANNY, Stout
23. I'LL BE THE ONE, Johnson
24. LEADING ROLE, Johnson
25. LIKE A DREAM, Johnson
26. LUXURIOUS FOLKS, Cummins
27. MAKE UP YOUR MIND, Black
28. MARK MY WORDS, Johnson
29. MOONEETOON, Burseen, 2022
30. MOVING ON, Keppel
31. NIGHT AFTER NIGHT, Black
32. ON ANGEL WINGS, Johnson
33. ONE IN A MILLION, Johnson, 2023, flat
34. RIPPLES IN TIME, Black
35. ROMANY ROGUE, Remare
36. SATIN RUFFLES, Keppel



Wayne with a potential new member

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. Ahh May Zing, Burseen, 2023



2. Amazon Sunset, Keppel



3. Attention Seeker, Johnson



4. Blind Luck, Burseen, 2022



5. Bonnie's Pleasure, Tasco



6. Born To Party, Johnson, 2023



7. Bountiful Bloom, Black



8. Can't be Denied, Johnson



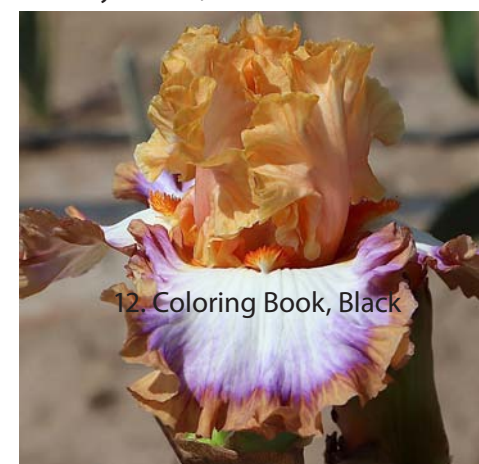
9. Candy Coated, Johnson



10. Canterbury Belle, Keppel



Coal Tar, Keppel, 2022, IB



12. Coloring Book, Black



13. Crash Bang, Black



14. Dare the Devil, Burseen, 2023



15. Dare To Be Different, Johnson, 2022



16. Desert Chaparral, Keppel



17. Edging Ahead, Johnson



18. Flip a Coin, Johnson, 2023



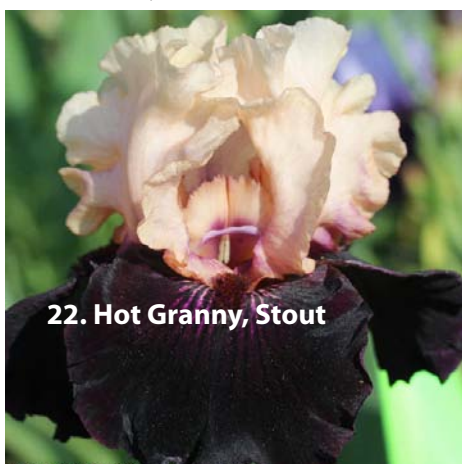
19. Follow My Lead, Johnson, 2023



20. For the Ages, Johnson



21. Gone Viral, Johnson, 2023



22. Hot Granny, Stout



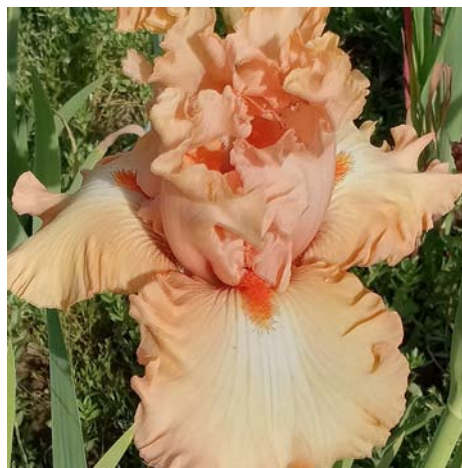
23. I'll Be The One, Johnson



24. Leading Role, Johnson



25. Like A Dream, Johnson



26. Luxurious Folks, Cummins



27. Make up your Mind, Black



28. Mark My Words, Johnson



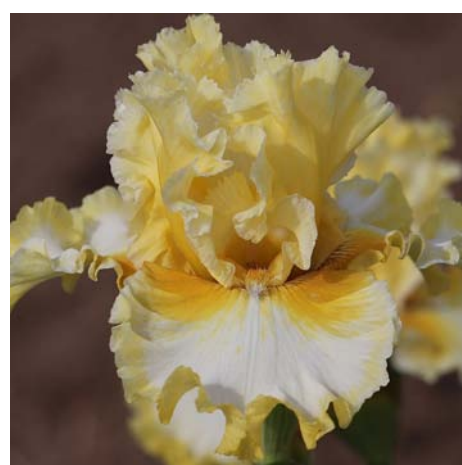
29. Mooneetoon, Burseen, 2022



30. Moving On, Keppel



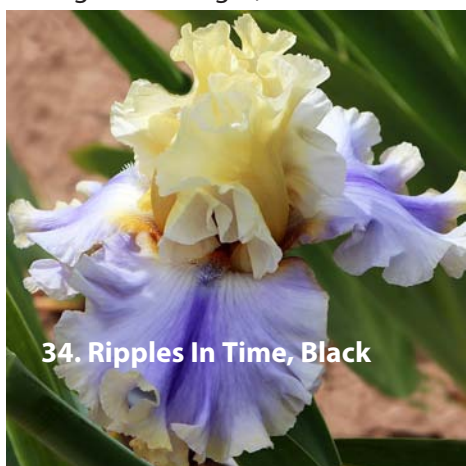
31. Night After Night, Black



32. On Angel Wings, Johnson



33. One In A Million, Johnson, 2023,



34. Ripples In Time, Black



35. Romany Rogue, Remarel



36. Satin Ruffles, Keppel