

August, 2025

Next meeting Friday 15, 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

Annual Sale

Sale.... Cabrillo/Aptos Farmer Mkt
 Saturday, August 16th 8 A.M.–12:00 P.M

Regular Meeting

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

Potluck Refreshments

Regular Meeting
 Friday, September 19 7:00P.M.
 TBA

Refreshments

Potluck

Regular Meeting

Friday, October 17 7:00P.M.
 Aptos Grange, Aptos, CA

TBA

Refreshments

Potluck

NOTE!

*Holiday Party is
 December the 12th.*

August Birthdays

<i>Carol Casey</i>	<i>Aug 04</i>
<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>
<i>Heidi Nash</i>	<i>Aug 21</i>



Joe with a sea of door prize iris to auction at the picnic

From The Prez

NOW IS THE PERFECT TIME to prepare your soil and plant new irises. Irises thrive in fertile soil, and I've noticed they respond especially well when you work in about 20% mushroom compost before planting. Adding bone meal is also beneficial—it supports strong stems and provides a good source of calcium for your irises.

Many of us are also taking steps to deter gophers. Jo Chisholm and I have been building gopher-proof beds by lining them with ¼-inch hardware cloth before filling them with quality soil. It's a bit of work, but it helps protect your plants.

Our picnic on Saturday, July 19 was a great success.

A big thank-you to everyone contributing to our iris sales! The Deer Park Sale brought in over \$2,600, which will go toward purchasing club door prize irises and funding our Christmas dinner. We have two more sales coming up this month at the Cabrillo College Farmers Market, on Saturdays, August 9 and 16. These events are not only fun, but also a great opportunity to share our love of irises with the community and learn from one another.

Now is the time to start planning to attend the fall regional, hosted by the Clara B Rees Iris Society. The Fall Regional will be held at the Shoup Park Garden House, 400 University Ave, Los Altos, 94022, on October 3–4. See the details on the attached registration form.

Also, the American Iris Society has many resources for iris growers online at <https://www.irises.org/news-events/>

Looking forward to seeing you at the next meeting at the Aptos Grange, 2555 Mar Vista Dr., Aptos, CA 95003. Join us on August 15—the board meets at 6 PM, followed by our potluck at 7 PM. The program will be a presentation about the National Iris Convention in Billings, Montana. Many of our members were there!

See you at the sales, 🌸Diane

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.

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

Board of Directors 2025

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Contacts

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Birthday List

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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". We will also have some choice iris from the sales. This is a rebloomer month so bring your blooms to be in that drawing.

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 find directions to divide your iris.

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



2025 JULY PICNIC

Picnic Report

For those who had other commitments or could not find a parking space, and are still wandering the back streets of Santa Cruz, you missed a wonderful summer gathering, in a beautiful location. As always, delicious food, lots of iris, and being able to relax and chat with delightful people who enjoy life and irises were the order of the day. Besides enjoying a great potluck, and visiting with friends in a delightful setting, the raffle and auction added entertainment while increasing the club's piggy, or Iriss'y, bank.

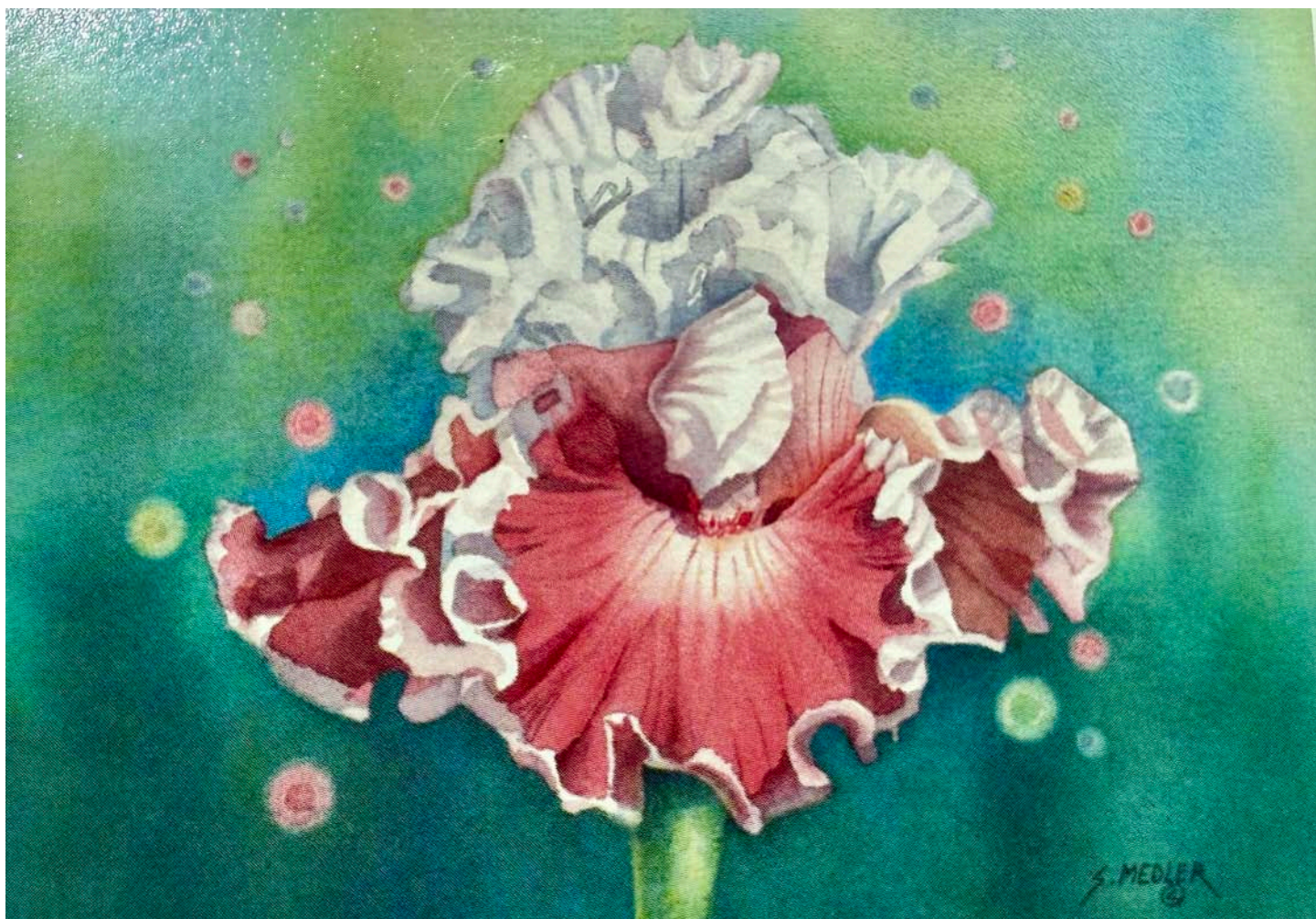
Our Master Auctioneer, Joe Ghio, made each Iris auctioned an interesting story that helped with the bidding. It was amazing how he could convince those bidding that a gopher eaten rhizome was a small pot of gold waiting to provide visual wealth. And, thanks to Jo Chisholm for providing 82 rhizomes to the raffle, people without a winning ticket were able to take home one or more Iris. For Iris enthusiasts, it does not get any better.

The proceeds from the picnic were \$1,121.00 (raffle-\$450.00, auction-\$671.00) which is somewhat lower than last year. However, everyone had a good time and went home with more iris to add to their garden. It was a very nice day at the park. We hope to see you all there next year.

Lloyd Clark







Lovey Livey

Our member Sharon Medler painted the iris Lovey Livey, seen above. Brenda bought a copy and will be sending it off to Mid America Iris in thanks for our coming year door prize order. Thank you Sharon, Brenda and Mid America.



Labeling the doorprize iris for the picnic

New Member

We would like to welcome our new member Geneva Ivanovich and hope to see her at an upcoming meeting. Be sure to say hi. If you come to the August meeting you will leave with iris! Welcome to the Monterey Bay Iris Society.

Thanks to One and All

Much appreciation for the group that helped at Jo and Lloyd's today in wrapping up the iris digging, trimming and labeling on Thursday prior to the Cabrillo sale. When Charley left at 2:30 they had finished all but locating/printing photos for about 20 baskets. Jim, Larissa, Brenda and Jo worked on that. Fifteen workers attended—Mikey Lango, Mikey's granddaughter, Maggie; Jim Cummins; Carol Casey; Sharon Medler; Brenda Wood; Larissa Daniel Carolyn and Wayne Craft, their daughter Cosette and grandsons Jonah and Jacob; Gail Christenson; Dave Watson and Charley Kearns. Photo from this event and the sales will be part of next month's newsletter.

All were well rewarded by Jo's culinary skills. A mid morning snack of fresh peach pastries made from peaches from her tree. And, a hearty pasta lunch. Thanks Jo!

Thanks again to Jo and Lloyd, and also Diane Sampson for the wealth of rhizomes for our sales and preparing to grow the Spring Regional Guest Iris, as well as some of our club door prize iris next year.

'Meet Me at the Garden House'

**American Iris Society Region 14 - 2025 Fall Regional
Hosted by Clara B Rees Iris Society**



**October 3-4, 2025
Shoup Park, Garden House
400 University Ave, Los Altos, CA 94022
Friday 4:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Saturday 8:00 am-4:00 pm**

Guest Speaker —Kevin Vaughn

Registrant 1 First name: Diane Last name: Sampson

Registrant 2 First name: _____ Last name: _____

Address 7 Cutter Cove City Watsonville ST CA Zip 95076

Cell Phone 831-206-1444 Email to receive confirmation dianesampson@baymoon.com

Local Iris Society Monterey Bay iris Society

Registration includes Friday rebloomer show, entries accepted 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm, 1-1/2 hours judges training by Kevin Vaughn, 'Judging the Medians' at 7:30 pm. Three median classes occupy the same height range: IB, BB, and MTB. However, each class has distinct characteristics. These distinctions will be described with the hope of improving judging in these classes.

Saturday includes a continental breakfast, business meeting, lunch, our guest speaker, Kevin Vaughn, silent auction, live iris auction, and access to Shoup Park and trails.

Will you be attending Judges Training? yes Would you like a vegetarian lunch? yes

Registration fee if received before Sept 12, 2025 — \$75.00 number of person/s _____ Total \$ _____

If received after Sept 15 — \$85.00 number of person/s _____ Total \$ _____

Please make the check payable to Clara B Rees Iris Society (CBRIS). Mail the check and registration to:
Jane Jordan, 2315 Gunar Dr., San Jose, CA 95124.

Registrations received after Sept 20, 2025 will be accepted at the discretion of the Registrar.