

November–December, 2025

Next meeting Friday 21, 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, November 21, 7:00 P.M.

Fall Regional & Rebloomer

AIS Slide Show, Cottage Gardens
 Potluck Refreshments

Annual Holiday Dinner

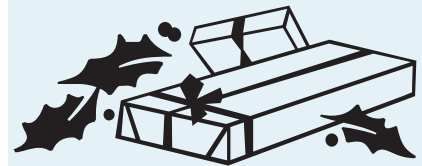
Back Nine Bar & Grill

Inn at Pasatiempo

555 Highway 17, Santa Cruz

Friday December 12 5:00 P.M.

Dinner starts at 5:30 sharp



November Birthdays

Jo Chisholm Nov 02

Dave Watson Nov 02

M' Jeanne Erwin Nov 05

Cindy Schuete Nov 11

Bruce Harden Nov 21

December Birthdays

Joan Scanlon Dec 09

Lupe Allen Dec 12

Josanna Virene Dec 22



Happy New Year, Byers, 1989

M. Lango

From The Prez

AS WINTER RAINS RETURN THIS YEAR, our gardens are preparing for a season of renewal and new possibilities. I love these rainy days—they offer the perfect time to organize my iris catalog spreadsheet, plan for next year's growth, and clean and sharpen my garden tools. Winter truly is a time for planning and reflection.

First of all, I want to thank Jo Chisholm for a lovely Pizza Party birthday celebration for Joe Ghio! Joe Ghio started our club in 1975, and has been hybridizing new irises since his Tall Bearded Iris, Frosted Starlight, in 1961. Joe Ghio's specialty is Pacific Coast Irises, also known as Pacificas. Some originated from unique plants species or natural hybrids—found growing in the wild. But most were created through deliberate crossings by breeders trying to develop new iris with characteristics they considered desirable (like colorful flowers, longer blooming season, resistance to disease, more flowers per plant, or ruffled flowers).

The Sydney B. Mitchell Medal recognizes success in the hybridizer's craft, the year's single best new variety of Pacific Coast Native Iris. It is the highest award for excellence given by the American Iris Society to a Pacifica Iris. Joe Ghio has been awarded the trophy for more than 20 times! This year, he won top honors with a tie, for Ocean Roar and Wilder Ranch, which are both Joe Ghio irises... ❁❁ Diane

November Meeting & Board Elections

November also brings an important event for our club: it's time to vote on a new Board of Directors for the Monterey Bay Iris Society! Jo Chisholm and I are busy tending gardens for the upcoming 2027 Regional, and we're grateful to the many past board members who have stepped up to lead the club forward. Please join us for our November meeting, Friday, November 21, 7:00 p.m. potluck, Aptos Grange, 2555 Mar Vista Dr., Aptos, CA 95003 (near Cabrillo College). We'll vote on new board volunteers, and nominations from the floor are also welcome. Don't forget to bring your rebloomers for show-and-tell! Our door prize drawings begin this month—check the iris photos before the meeting so you can choose your free iris.



2025 Officers/Board Slate

The President shall preside at all meetings of this society, and shall have general superintendence of the affairs of the society. Writes letter in newsletter, coordinates affiliation, and chairs meetings.

President Craig Tarr

The Vice President shall perform the duties of the President in his absence. Finds speakers for meetings.

Vice President Wayne Crabbs

The Treasurer shall collect the dues, maintain a current membership roster, keep the financial records of the society, pay the bills and keep proper records of all receipts and expenditures.

Treasurer Lloyd Clark

Coordinates show committee

Show Chair John Skinner

The Secretary shall keep the record of the proceedings of this society and shall conduct its correspondence. The Secretary shall have charge and custody of society books and papers pertaining to his office.

Secretary Brenda Wood/Jim Cummins

Newsletter Editor Joe Ghio/Ann Pike

Past President Diane Sampson

1 Year Board Jo Chisholm, Rosa Radicchi, Kathy Wood

2 Year Board Carl Harris, Jane Jordan, Sharon Medler

The slate will be voted on by the membership at the November meeting.

Respectfully submitted by the 2026 Nominating Committee: Charley Kearns, Jim Cummins, and Chair; Brenda Wood



Board of Directors 2025

President

Diane Sampson dianesampson@baymoon.com 831 206-1444

Past President

Craig Tarr cht2325@yahoo.com 408 425-7207

Vice President

position open

Treasurer

Lloyd Clark Lloyd.clark@comcast.nett 408-406-8584

Secretary

Brenda Wood woodbrenda@aol.com 831 724-5415

Jim Cummins jcummins@pacbell.net 831 438-1369

Show Chair

John Skinner jks@cruzio.com 831 359-8624

Newsletter

Joe Ghio ghiobayview@att.net 831 423-3656

Ann Pike avpike@cruzio.com 831 426-8855

1 Year Board

Joanne Abel

Elena Laborde

Linda Lomperis

2 Year Board

Jo Chisholm

Rosa Radicchi

Kathy Wood

Contacts

Hospitality & Refreshments

Anna Helms anna93950@yahoo.com

Membership

Jo Chisholm jochisholm0700@gmail.com 408-209-5708

Birthday List

Wayne Crabbs wayne@lomaprieta.us 408 353-4089

CULTURE TIPS

IT IS NORMALLY THE SLOW MONTH for garden work but we had abundant rain in early October that caused the weeds to germinate early and have super abundant growth and are well established and growing rapidly now. If you haven't dug them out yet, you better get to it pronto before they take over your plantings. After rain that is predicted, it is the perfect time to clean up your plantings. As mentioned before the weed of the year is FILIGREE, better known in my younger year (like the 1940s) as scissor plants since we kids made "scissors" with the sword like seed pods. Hoeing or scraping them is a fast way to clean them up, now the days are cooler and shorter. Once scraped or dug out by hand, rake them up and collect them in pile. Put them in your green-waste can or compost pile if you have one. While you are at it, it is a good time to pull off your dead leaves or cut back dead leaf tips.

The other thing you still have time to do is to dig and replant your Pacificas. They will establish quickly now and bloom in the spring. Seems impossible but they will be in full bloom in five months! 🌱 Joe



This year's Christmas Party is at the Back Nine Bar and Grill at the Inn at Pasatiempo. Payment due by December 1st

CHRISTMAS PARTY—HO HO HO!

It is hard to believe that our Holiday Party is only a month away, on December 12 at last year's location, the Back Nine Bar and Grill at the Inn at Pasatiempo, 555 Highway 17, Santa Cruz. We will be treated to a delicious menu where you need pick between three entre choices—Mushroom Risotto, Grilled Pork Chop or Chicken Piccata. Let Lloyd know your choice! No Host cocktails, 5:00 p.m. Dinner, starts at 5:30 p.m, SHARP! Dinner starts at 5:30!

Reservations are a must and need to be in by Monday, December, 1st. Payment for the party needs to be made in advance. Pay at the November meeting (with dues!) or send payment ASAP to Lloyd Clark, 1007 Wright Court, Sunnyvale, CA 94087. Make note of your food choice.

Price of the dinner is \$30.00 for members (Club picks up the balance); Full price to non-members.

Directions: coming from Santa Cruz on 17, be in the right lane to take the Pasatiempo exit. After exiting, turn left and go over the bridge. Drive straight into the parking lot. If you are coming from San Jose on 17 going south, take the Pasatiempo exit. At the top of the ramp you will see the entrance to the Inn on the right. Restuarant is in the main building past the registration desk.

Gift Exchange

Once again this year, MBIS members will be having a Gift Exchange at our Christmas party. If you want to participate, you must bring to the party either a gift with a value of no more than \$20 OR a White Elephant Gift (in good condition, nice, not scary). Gifts should be wrapped amazingly and without anyone's name on it. Place your anonymous gift in the designated area and then draw a door prize number (the same way we do at the meetings). When your number is called, you may either go pick and unwrap a gift, OR if someone ahead of you has already picked and opened a gift, you may steal that person's gift. The person whose gift you stole will then either go pick a wrapped gift or else steal someone else's gift and so on. A gift may be STOLEN TWICE before it becomes "frozen" and cannot be stolen again. Last year's was so much fun and Joe Ghio did a terrific job!

A special thanks to Kathy Hartman for once again arranging for our party venue and dinner menu. She puts together a great party!

NOTE!

*Holiday Party is December the 12th.
Dinner Starts at 5:30 PM Sharp*



Membership & Christmas Dinner

Do one payment!

For one person, \$10+ \$30= \$40.

For two people, \$15 + \$30 +\$30=\$75

Make checks out to MBIS

Bring to the November meeting.

Lloyd requests that payments made at the meeting be handed to him in an envelope.

Please write on outside of envelope the name of person/s paying, amount for dues, amount for dinner, & entrée selection for each person.

You need pick between three entre choices—Mushroom Risotto, Grilled Pork Chop or Chicken Piccata. Write your choice on your enevope when you pay!

Holiday Party is on December 12, 5:00 social,
5:30 sharp for dinner.



DUES ARE DUE

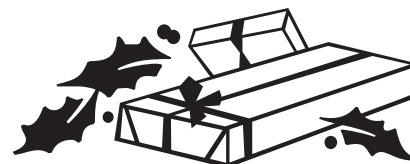
Single dues are \$10 Two or more at the same address, \$15. Add \$10 if you want the newsletter by mail. Please pay at the meeting (along with your payment for the holiday party) or send to our treasurer, Lloyd Clark, 1007 Wright Court, Sunnyvale, CA 94087.

New Members

We would like to welcome recent new members. Our newest members are: Alexis Valenti, from Fresno who joined in August, Karen Cisneros, of Santa Cruz, who joined in September, Carlyn Pierson of Watsonville, joining us at the meeting and also Annie and Richard Berenter, of San Rafael, in October. We hope to see these members at the meeting and at the holiday party. Please welcome them!

Bring Reblooms

Bring your rebloomer to share! First drawing goes to those who have brought blooms. Rebloomer drawing starts in August and goes until February.





JO'S PARTY FOR JOE'S BIRTHDAY BASH

Photos by Wayne Crabbs



The New Ais Popularity Poll

The new AIS Iris Popularity Poll opened for voting on November 1 and will close on January 31, 2026. The poll is open to all classes of irises, both bearded and beardless, not just tall bearded.

Instead of providing you a list of irises (as in the Tall Bearded Symposium, which this is replacing), you will be able to type in the names of your favorite irises on an online form and submit it electronically. You will be asked to give the state where you garden, the name of the iris (up to 25 different cultivars) and the class of each iris you named. We will also be asking for the voters' names just in case several people use the same email address in order for those to be counted as separate voters. For those without a computer, please submit your votes to your RVP or affiliate chair. We hope you will restrict your votes to irises you have seen growing well in your region or home garden.

The committee sees huge potential from data collected from iris lovers who live all over the US and Canada. This poll is open to anyone, so your fellow club members who have not yet joined AIS may also vote. Because the poll includes all classes of irises, we can find out what irises people are enjoying all over North America. Some of the cooperating societies and affiliates such as the Dwarf Iris Society have their own polls, which provide useful information about what their members grow. This poll, under the auspices of AIS, can reach beyond the AIS membership, such as affiliates, sections and cooperating society members, plus other gardeners who also love irises.

We are hoping that analysis of the data (especially useful if enough of you vote) will show us favorite irises by region and state. We'd also like to use the data to see what irises do well in the frozen north, the humid southeast, the hot desert, and under other growing conditions. Maybe you will find that there is a class of irises you didn't know does well in similar growing conditions to yours. Results could let you know the names of different types of irises you might want to try.

To participate in the 2025 Iris Popularity Poll, choose up to 25 favorite irises that you have seen growing well in your area. If you are unsure how to spell an iris name, please check the Iris Encyclopedia <https://wiki.irises.org/>. You (or a helper) can access the online popularity poll between November 1, 2025, and January 31, 2026. To submit a response, use this link. <https://www.irises.org/about-ais/awards-symposiums/#tallsymp> or <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdwM8mz79vrhy5r2AQtmwfyuOPriKwn32DWyZpvkZfNDbZMkw/viewform>

Complete the fields. You will fill in your name, email, state and AIS Region. Then for each of the 25 iris type its name and classification if known. There will be drop down boxes to assist.

You can also email Diane an email with links.

This is an article that Joe wrote for the Spring Bulletin in 1972. Thanks Brenda for submitting and typing this!

Pacificas—Our Own California Irises

Pacificas—by any other name, Pacific Coast irises, Western Natives, PC's, or just plain Natives—have as their principal habitat the area included within Region 14. Yet, ironically, until recently they have been neglected in their native land and had to emigrate to England to find wide acceptance. Only recently has interest in them been rekindled in their native country. Yet, and even more ironic, most of the growing of Pacificas is being done not in Region 14 but to the north and south of us.

The principal cliché associated with growing our *californicae* (their official class name) is that they are difficult to grow and maintain. This need not be the case if you follow some common-sense cultural practices. For a clue to the proper growing conditions for these exquisite irises, let us examine the habitat of some of these delicate beauties.

Douglasiana is the most widely ranging species, growing on a narrow coastal strip from Oregon to Santa Barbara. Their lush, broad, deep green foliage will be found in open meadows right to the beach's edge, extending only a few miles inland.

The Santa Cruz Mountain complex typically grows in forest meadows at or near the forest edge where they receive shade from the hot afternoon sun. All types thrive best where decomposed organic material is plentiful. Soil on the acid side is a must. In most sections of California, they seem to prefer soil that is sandy and well-drained. They are drought resistant since most receive little or no water of consequence from the last spring rains until the fall rains arrive.

Garden Conditions: On the basis of the above observations, along with our experiments, we would recommend preparing a bed for your Pacificas that is well-drained and in which is incorporated an abundance of organic material (compost, peat, redwood compost, or leaf mold). Prepare the soil about six weeks before planting. On established beds, a light application of camellia food could be given around February 1st if growth conditions such as yellowing of the leaves indicate it is needed.

In warm interior valleys, it is critical that Pacificas receive plenty of afternoon shade to protect them from dehydration. Another apparent key is that little or no water be given them during their dormant season—summer. Too much water in the summer can be fatal.

Planting Time: Planting should take place in the fall (about October 15th) in California. By this time the weather has cooled and some rain has come to stimulate new growth. As soon as you receive them, plant them in the previously prepared bed and keep them quite wet until the winter rains take over.



Jane

AT THE OCTOBER MEETING

Photos by Mikey Lango



Craig



Brenda and new member Carolyn



Joe and Carl



Jim and Kathleen



Tom



REBLOOMERS



Fall Decor, G. Sutton, 2016

J. Jordan



Autumn Circus, Hager, 1990

J Chisholm



Fond Remembrance, Weiler, 1995

Photo by J Chisholm



Maraposa Autumn, Tasco, 1999

Photo by J Chisholm



Lovely Fran, Weiler, 1999

Photo by J. Jordan



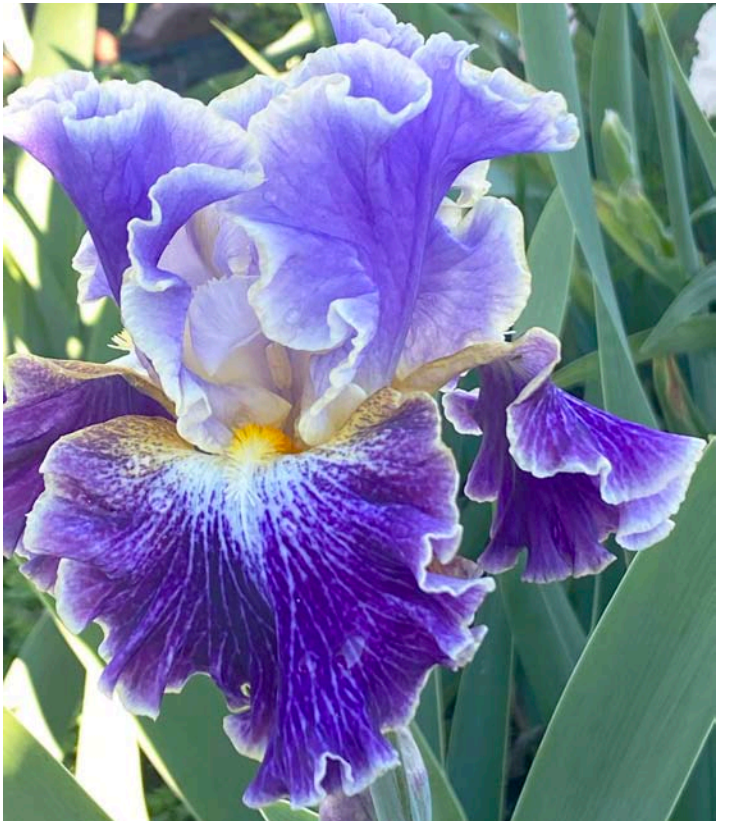
Bolder Boulder, Magee, 1999

Photo by J. Jordan



Il Stutter, Kanarowski, 2012

Photo by D. Sampson



Il Stutter, Kanarowski, 2012

Photo by M. Lango



1. Angel Falls, Black



2. Athena's Robe, Black



3. Batgirl, Keppel, BB



4. Boom Box, Black



5. Boxing Ring, Johnson



6. Calypso Joe, Black



7. Clear and Crisp, Johnson



8. Dancing Witches, Keppel



9. Delicioso, Johnson



10. Essential, Mego



11. Feel the Magic, Black



12. Freefall, Mego



13. Gift Wrappings, Keppel



14. Ground Rules, Keppel



15. High Wire Act, Johnson



16. Jealous Rage, Johnson



17. Left An Imprint, Johnson



18. Loved One, Johnson



19. Mak Attack, Sutton



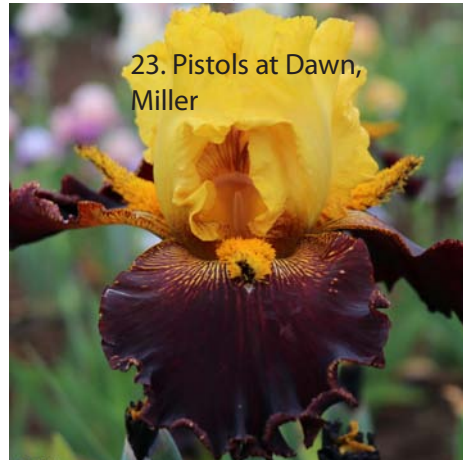
20. Next Level, Mego, ?



21. Only Imagine, Johnson



22. Party Belle, Keppel



23. Pistols at Dawn,
Miller



24. Rooted in
Tradition, Sutton



25. Shemozzle, Johnson



26. Stripes Are In, Black



27. Sunday's Best Dress, Sutton



28. Thankful, Sutton



29. Topography, Johnson



30. Variation on a Theme, Black



31. Wave of Passion, Johnson



32. Witches Stitches, Black

DOOR PRIZES IRISES

1. ATHENA'S ROBE, Black
2. ANGEL FALLS, Black
3. BATGIRL, Keppel, BB
4. BOOM BOX, Black
5. BOXING RING, Johnson
6. CALYPSO JOE, Black

7. CLEAR & CRISP, Johnson
8. DANCING WITCHES, Keppel
9. DELICIOSO, Johnson
10. ESSENTIAL, Mego
11. FEEL THE MAGIC, Black
12. FREEFALL, Mego
13. GIFT WRAPPINGS, Keppel
14. GROUND RULES, Keppel
15. HIGH WIRE ACT, Johnson
16. JEALOUS RAGE, Johnson

17. LEFT AN IMPRINT, Johnson
18. LOVED ONE, Johnson
19. MAK ATTACK, Sutton
20. NEXT LEVEL, Mego,?
21. ONLY IMAGINE, Johnson
22. PARTY BELLE, Keppel
23. PISTOLS AT DAWN, Miller
24. ROOTED IN TRADITION, Sutton
25. SHEMOZZLE, Johnson
26. STRIPES ARE IN, Black
27. SUNDAY'S BEST DRESS, Sutton
28. THANKFUL, Sutton
29. TOPOGRAPHY, Johnson
30. VARIATION ON A THEME, Black
31. WAVE OF PASSION, Johnson
32. WITCHES STITCHES, Black