

July, 2006

Next meeting Saturday, 15, 2006
 Potluck 11.00 A.M.
 Auction 12:30 P.M.
 Place Harvey West Park
 Santa Cruz

From The Prez



GREETINGS IRIS LOVERS

The Master Gardeners' Smart Gardening Faire was a big success.—thank you to all who attended and helped—and for those who brought irises!

July is our picnic month—come to Harvey West Park at 11 A.M. on Saturday, July 15th to pick up this year's door prizes. This is the potluck/picnic/auction, where club members will trade their very best irises with other club members. **To make the picnic a success, all members must bring at least one increase from each of the door prizes won last year.** Be sure to mark the name on the irises. These will be the 2004 irises you have growing in your garden, the list is attached. Joe will auction any left over 2004 club irises that are not distributed as door prize irises. For the potluck part, bring your own silverware, beverages, and tablecloths, and a dish to share that will feed about 10–20 people.

For our sale, please post copies of the inclosed flyer about our sale in libraries, community groups, grocery store bulletin boards, farm supplies, nurseries, Master Gardener events, etc. The big dig at my houndr will be Thursday, August 3rd, 9 A.M.–1 P.M. Bring a sun hat, chair, permanent markers, rubber bands, and your clippers for preparing irises for the sale.

Of course the Sale at Deer Park is fun and a great place for you and your friends to buy irises! Please come to help out with our biggest fund raiser of the year from 7 A.M.–Noon at Deer Park Shopping Center, upstairs near the Red Apple Cafe! Happy gardening! *Diane*



This photograph of spring iris blooming in the Lincks' garden appeared in *Country Magazine* photo by Leo Linck

2006 Calendar

Monthly meetings are held in Native Sons Hall unless otherwise stated.

Annual July Picnic

Saturday, July 15.... 11:00 A.M.–3:00 P.M.
 Harvey West Park
 Potluck and Auction

Annual Sale

Dig..... Diane's house
 Thursday, August 3.... 9 A.M.–1:00 P.M.

Sale.... Deer Park Shopping Center
 Saturday, August 5.... 9 A.M.–12:00 P.M.

Regular Meeting

Friday, August 18, 2006..... 7:30 P.M.
 Program..... Photographing Iris
 Refreshments

Linda Stremel & Diane Sampson

Regular Meeting

Friday, September 15, 2006..... 7:30 P.M.
 Program..... Tall Beardless
 Refreshments

Cindy Schuette & Lisa Ayala

Regular Meeting

Friday, October 20 7:30 p.m.
 Program..... Pacific Coast Iris
 Refreshments

Gary Knipe

Regular Meeting

Friday, November 17 7:30 P.M.
 Program..... TBA
 Refreshments

CharLynn Ford & Sharon Brodrick

Annual Holiday Dinner

Green Valley Grill
 Friday December 15 6:00 P.M.



CULTURE TIPS

THE SUMMER MONTHS are the time to dig and replant irises. There is no need to worry about bearded irises that out of the ground. Simple store them with their all their leaves in an upright position in a cool shady place. Cut the leaves back when you're ready to plant them.

If replanting in the same location, amend your soil with humus like compost, well rotted manure, and if your soil is heavy even some sand. A nice handful of bonemeal in each hole will bring benefits later.

On new stock that you get elsewhere and even your own, it is wise to soak in a bleach solution for 10–15 minutes. The rate is 1 part bleach to 9 parts water. When you remove them from the bleach solution, rinse in clean water, and dry them completely before replanting. The drying is very important or you are likely to get deformed growth. If available a dunking in a Terriclor solution is also wise, then dry them.

Label as you plant and always make a map of your planting. The map is a fall-back in case you misplace labels or just don't like labels in your garden. ❁❁ Joe

Iris Dig for August Sale

Joe has replanted his whole ranch this year, and has no irises for the club to dig! Instead, we will be digging iris for the sale at Diane's house on Thursday, August 3rd from 9 A.M. until we are finished (about noon or 1 P.M.). **Prizes**—we will have a raffle, everyone will go home with a recent introduction! **All members are encouraged to attend!** Please bring permanent markers, scissors, shovels, a folding chair, folding table if you have one, comfortable shoes, a sun hat, something to drink, and **many, big!!** cardboard boxes! Also **bring the irises you are donating for the sale.**

Generous donations of rhizomes from our members are what makes our sale a success. We need your healthy, well grown, named increases. If you don't have time to write their name, you may bring the clumps in paper bags with the name written on the bag, and they can be cut and labeled at Diane's house. If you cannot come to the dig, please send your iris increases with another member or bring them early the morning of the sale already named and cut.

Directions

From Santa Cruz:

Take Highway 1 S toward **WATSONVILLE/MONTEREY**
13.9 miles

Take the exit **AIRPORT BLVD / FREEDOM.**

Turn **LEFT** onto **W AIRPORT BLVD.**, so you are headed east towards the hills

Go 4 miles, go past the Watsonville airport, past Freedom Blvd, past Green Valley Road, past Highway 152, The road is called College at this point, the first stop sign on College is our street Turn onto **CUTTER DR.**

After three houses the road makes a "y" take the upper, left

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path, and go 10 more houses. Look for a wrought iron and brick fence with a 70 on it. The driveway is on the right, and curves to the right, Diane's house is behind #70. Park on the driveway, or street, but do not block the driveway, please. Address: 76 Cutter Drive

From Monterey/Salinas:

Take highway 1 or 101 to Highway 129. From Highway 129, landmark is Western Farm Service, 11 miles from 101, or about 2.5 miles from Highway 1.

Turn onto Lakeview Drive and go about 1.1 miles, Turn **LEFT** onto **COLLEGE DR.**

0.3 miles Turn **RIGHT** onto **CUTTER DR.** at the only stop sign on College Dr, and follow as above

From San Jose:

Highway 152 is presently closed, it should reopen by mid July. Take 101 to highway 152, and go through Gilroy, in your left lane, to take a jog to the left and then to the right to stay on 152 West. Follow 152 over the mountain, past the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds and at the first stop light, where a Quick Stop gas and food store is located, turn left onto College. and follow as above.

Region 14 Iris Auction

The auction will be held at the usual location Lakeside Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland, on Sunday August 6th 2006. Set up is from 10:00 A.M.–12:00 P.M. Auction begins promptly at 12:30 P.M. and end at 4:00 P.M.

For those of you who are planning to attend, bring a picnic lunch and enjoy either the Garden or the Park. **NOTE—the city of oakland charges a \$3.00 parking fee.**

Anyone of any Society who is planning on donating irises for the sales table—**these are the rules—all irises must be properly cleaned, free from dirt, fans must be trimmed, and labeled with the name and year of introduction clearly marked on them.**

Any question Please contact Ray Vickers-Traft, Finance Chair, 510-839-9647 or e-mail—wndwsillorchids@aol.com.



MBIS Annual Iris Sale

When Saturday, August 5th, 2006
Where Deer Park Shopping Center, courtyard in front of the Red Apple Café
Set up Time 7:30 a.m. We need help for the set up. Helpers get first choice of selections.

We hope you will help us sell during the morning. If you did not take the irises you are donating to Joe's ranch on Thursday, Please cut the fans to about 12", cut roots to 5" or 6", **print the name clearly on the middle leaf with a permanent marker**, and write the color if possible. If you bring varieties other than TBs, please mark IB (intermediate), BB (border), SDB, (standard dwarf), DDB (miniature dwarf, MTB (miniature tall).

Sale Time 9:– to noon (or sell out).

If you cannot get to Deer Park early, please drop your donation iris at the home of a member who will be there for set up.

Please bring brown grocery bags if you have any, comfortable shoes, and lots of friends to buy our iris.



Reigning Iris in Portland

My View Through the Raindrops

Marlene Wiley

The 2006 AIS convention was an exciting, rain-filled few days. By Friday, conventioners were having fun with the title of the Convention—"Reigning Iris." Our thoughtful hosts gave us plastic ponchos that we appreciated.

We visited eight gardens—four commercial and four private. Each had its charm.

The commercial gardens were Cooley's Gardens, Aitken's Salmon Creek Garden, Schreiner's, and Mid-America. These commercial gardens were well-groomed and the guest irises in tip-top condition. My favorite was Schreiner's because their display gardens contained irises and other beautiful flowers, as well as two huge garden beds devoted to Dyke's Medal winners. Since I am a fan of historic, Schreiner's and Aitken's Salmon Creek Gardens delighted me.

The four private gardens varied in size and history. For instance, Wildwood Gardens, owned and maintained by

William and Tracey Plotner, was still recovering from the effects of a flood in 1994. He is president of the Greater Portland Iris Society and spent considerable time at the convention.

The Collier Garden was the family project of Kath, David, and Thomas. They showed us what can be accomplished when you devote time to creating a new front yard dedicated to irises, accented with trees and flowers.

John and Kay Ludi's Mountain View Iris Gardens was fun to visit because they have incorporated antique farm implements and numerous trellises to highlight their irises.

My favorite garden was Mt. Pleasant Iris Farm owned by Chad Harris. The house overlooks a large well-mowed meadow punctuated with several beds of irises—bearded and beardless. One tip Chad gave us was the he amends the soil with barrels of worm castings.

We didn't just visit gardens. Thursday evening was a special treat organized by Phillipa and Jack Alvis for CBRIS and MBIS conventioners. We drove to Oregon City to the Ainsworth House. The complex is composed of several buildings, some still undergoing renovation, used to host weddings and other special events. Our special event hors d'oeuvre dinner was wonderful. John Stremmel deserves a medal,—he had to endure four backseat drivers—Diane Sampson, Linda Stremmel, Marlene Wiley, and Brenda Wood.

Lunches for over 800 conventioners were handled by various caterers. Our most memorable luncheon was on Friday when Diane Sampson, Brenda Wood, and I shared lunch with two women from Texas who announced when they sat down that they were famished. They were. While we sat stunned, they quickly polished off large German sausages and sauerkraut while talking continuously.

Friday night featured a Geek Dinner. For seven years, the technology geeks have host a fundraiser. George Sutton is the moderator and a sneaky auctioneer. If you passed the room, you heard lots of laughter, especially when George announced that they wanted to raise \$3800 this year. Those of us laughing helped them raise over \$4000.

Mid-America Gardens has beautiful irises and hundreds of hostas. I reluctantly limited my selections to seven hostas. Since I flew to Portland, I had to find a way to get my acquisitions home.

I succeeded. I found a cousin I didn't know I had, and his wife at the convention who offered to bring them home for me. Irene Cummins and I were talking with a woman from Irvington, Illinois when I told her that I was from Paris, Illinois. Irene commented that her husband's grandmother was from Paris. Within a half minute of asking Jim a question, I said, "Jim, we are cousins." Jim's great grandfather, Ira Patterson, and my great grandmother, Martha (Patterson) Murray, were brother and sister. What a fun way to end a wonderful trip—finding a cousin and a ride home for my hostas.



Picnic, Raffle and Auction

Area B Harvey West Park, Santa Cruz

July 15th, 2006, 11:00 a. m.

Area B is in the center of the picnic area under the big oak tree.



Door Prizes

This is the time to pick up the door prize irises you won during the year. If you can't make the picnic, have someone pick them up for you or they will be auctioned off.

Directions to Park

Coming toward Santa Cruz on Hwy 17 or Hwy 1, follow the signs to Half Moon Bay. At the first light turn northwest on Hwy 9 towards Felton. Turn left at the first possible turn, left again at the stop sign on Limekiln Ln.; it turns into Coral St.; follow it to the end. Turn right on Evergreen and go **straight ahead** to the park. Look for the picnic tables under the big oak tree, and for the MBIS sign on the left of the road.

Food and Beverages

Bring a dish to share with 10–20 other (salad, veggies, main dish or dessert) and what ever you would like to drink.

What Else to Bring

Your own plate, utensils, and glass. A table cloth if you want to cover the table. Paper bags for your new irises. A hat if you like, chair to be more comfortable, **money** or checkbook to pay for incredible iris bargains, and last, but not least bring iris! Bring an increase of last year's door prizes and other newer varieties. **You don't need to cut the fans.** Please write the names with a **permanent marker** on the **lower part** of the **middle leaf**.



Joseph J. Ghio, Editor
1201 Bay Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

