



BAY NEWS

Newsletter of the Monterey Bay Iris Society

www.montereybayiris.org

March, 2008

Next meeting Friday, 21, 2008
Doors open 7:00 P.M.
Meeting 7:30 P.M.
Place Native Sons Hall
 239 High Street, Santa Cruz

2008 Calendar

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

Regular Meeting
Friday, February 157:30 P.M.
Program
TBA
Refreshments
Lisa and Philippa

Regular Meeting
Friday, March 217:30 P.M.
Program
Iris in Arrangements
Refreshments
Brenda and Larissa

Regular Meeting
Friday, April 187:30 P.M.
Program
Mini Show
Refreshments
Diane S

Annual Iris Show
Capitola Mall..... May 3 to May 4
Set up
Friday 9:00 P.M.
Show
Saturday 9:00 a.m.–8:00 P.M.
Sunday..... 9:00 a.m.–6:00 P.M.

Regular Meeting
Friday, May 16..... 7:30 P.M.
Pizza Potluck

Regular Meeting
Friday, June 15..... 7:30 P.M.
Program
TBA
Refreshments
Ann, Pat and Art



Hignnoon, Jim Cummins' award winning iris arrangement from last year's show

From The Prez

BY THE TIME YOU RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER, the San Francisco Flower & Garden Show (March 12–16) probably will be history, and the AIS Region 14 booth volunteers will have talked with scores—or perhaps hundreds—of visitors to the Show. Thanks to Carolyn Craft and Phillipa Alvis for coordinating the AIS-14 booth, and to Joe Ghio, Charley Kearns, Rosa Radicchi and others who shared their knowledge and enthusiasm about irises.

Thanks, too, to Ann Pike and Charley Kearns who created the new MBIS bookmark as a handout to interested gardeners at the SF Show. It's a beauty, as you'll see elsewhere in this issue of Bay News. We will have a quantity of this informational piece for distribution at other events during 2008, including our Show, Sale and the Smart Gardening Faire.



Here's another opportunity to pursue the educational mission of the MBIS, AIS-14 and the AIS on a national scale. Debby Cole and Richard Richards of the Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris (SPCNI) needs your digital photos of Pacific Coast native irises for an SPCNI presentation at the AIS National in Austin in mid-April. If you have digital photos of about six very early and/or six very late named PCI cultivars, e-mail them to Debby right away at dcthree@juno.com. Their presentation is on the temporal and geographical range of PCI so include the dates of bloom and the dates of midseason bloom in this area, for comparison. They will give individual or group credit for the photos.

Our general meeting on March 21st will include a presentation on techniques for including irises in artistic arrangements, just in time for our annual show on May 3rd and 4th. Our presenter will be Matt Zemny, horticulture educator (retired). This will be an interesting exploration of creative uses of irises, enjoyable if you don't plan to enter an arrangement and valuable if you do! ! ❀❀ Tom

CULTURE TIPS

The irises are growing very rapidly now. If you fertilized last month, they will be lush and green. If you haven't fertilized for some reason, you can still give them a light application of a balanced fertilizer and water it in. We are in that period of anticipation. Bloom on the Pacificas is just a month away and the TB's are just 6 weeks away from the early bloom.

Things to watch for on bearded irises includes signs of soft rot. Clean it out as soon as you see it and dust with cleanser or bleach and let it dry. Fungus diseases like leaf spot. You undoubtedly will get some especially if we have damp weather in the morning and warm afternoons. Rust also makes appearance in our coastal climate. The spores have overwintered on the soil and a drenching with a dormant spray earlier would have controlled them somewhat, but at this point just live with it or if you want cut off the diseased part of the leaf for some control and appearance reasons.

Aphids boom along in the early spring. Again the best control is a systemic insecticide (since it get those hiding in the leaf folds). Or you can squash them with your hands or try washing them off with a water blast.

Also give your garden a last clean up for weeds and check your labels; often the writing fades/gets washed off during the winter. Then get ready to enjoy the fruits of your labor. You worked all year for this time of the year!. ❀❀ Joe



Newsletter Deadline!!!

March deadline is an early one. Please get submissions in by Friday March 28th. Newsletter will be printed March 3rd.



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Jim Cummins photographed this "oldie," Gay Hussar, 1929, just this week!

REBLOOMERS

Bring your reblooming irises now through March for show and tell and to drawing for first choice of door prizes



MONTEREY
BAY
IRIS
SOCIETY

2008 EVENTS

IRIS SHOW
Capitola Mall
May 3-4, noon-6
admission free

SALE
Smart Garden Faire
MBIS booth, Skypark
Scotts Valley
June 21, 9-5
admission free

Rhizome Sale
Deer Park, Aptos
August 2, 9-noon
admission free

MONTHLY MEETINGS
Third Fridays, 7-9
Native Sons Hall
Santa Cruz
montereybayiris.org

Club bookmark which will be handed out at the SF Garden Show and other MBIS events this year.

Local Forecast Predicts

We've had our share of rain this year, now it's time for Rainbows! The theme for this year's Artistic Division is "Rainbows around the Monterey Bay". The categories are based on popular locations around the Santa Cruz area. Use your imagination to come up with winning designs in these classes:

- 🍷 Big Basin A majestic, woody arrangement (large scale, minimum height=24"),
- 🍷 Sunset Beach Evocative of the beach at sunset through floral color and use of driftwood, shells and/or other natural beach materials.
- 🍷 Bonny Doon A miniature arrangement (12" h-w-d maximum), Use the rainbow of colors of the lavender & grapes that are grown there.
- 🍷 Rio del Mar The Mexican heritage of the area suggests bright, fiesta colors. This design features water.
- 🍷 Pajaro Dunes Site of the first Asian settlement in the area, this will be an arrangement in an Oriental Style.
- 🍷 Corralitos Think of the orchards, farms and fields of wild flowers, Designer's Choice
- 🍷 Davenport An old time nautical theme, for **men** only.
- 🍷 Beach Boardwalk Come join the fun! An amusement park, carnival, arcade theme for **youth** only.

A packet containing the complete rules, arranging tips and design suggestions will be given to those who would like to enter at the March and April meetings.

Anyone who has entered in the past can tell you, this is where the fun is! 🌈 dDLH

Artistic Division Rules

- 1 One or more irises must be used in each design must provide the dominant interest.
- 2 The exhibitor need not have grown irises and other materials.
- 3 The emphasis is on fresh plant material.
- 4 Each design must be the work of one individual.
- 5 One entry per exhibitor in each class.
- 6 Entries are limited to four (4) each in class. Youth classes may have 6 entries.
- 7 The plant material need not have been grown by the exhibitor.
- 8 Entries should be registered by 5/1/08 with Diane Lauer-Harrison by calling 831/464-1415 or by e-mailing her at: dlauer@illudere.com. If not registered in advance, entries will be accepted if space is available and in the order of arrival.
- 9 No artificial/plastic flowers or foliage are permitted.
- 10 Place a 3" X 5" card next to each entry with the class title, plant materials (if known) and a brief statement to assist the judges. The exhibitor's name must be on the backside.
- 11 Entries will be accepted from 8AM to 10:45 AM 5/3/08, (the morning of the show).

The Monterey Bay Iris Society will not be held responsible for any loss or breakage.



Barry Blyth

Barry Blyth will be in the area the first week of May. He gives the program May 3 (the night we set up our show) at Clara B. He and Gwynith plan to be in our area until about Wednesday. He will be at Maryotts' Sat. night. We need help hosting and showing them the area. Is there anyone who can help out?

Garden Mystery

For those of you that enjoy both the garden and mysteries, you might enjoy reading, *The Lost Gardens*. This is a quick and fun read set in an English garden and deals, in part, with garden design. The author, Anthony Eglin has also written another garden mystery, *The Blue Rose*. Bookshop Santa Cruz is currently remaindering *The Lost Gardens*.





DOOR PRIZES IRISES

1. BOLLYWOOD, Keppel, S. yellow; F. soft lavender-blue
2. CAUSE FOR PAUSE, Burseen, Laced lilac purple plicata; big flounces
3. DREAMING RAINBOWS, D Spoon, S. light yellow; F. violet, white lines; luminata
4. FANCY GAL, R.Ernst, Raspberry-orchid, slightly darker standards
5. FIFTY IS NIFTY, Burseen, Off white; ochre shoulders; horn
6. FOLLOW THE DREAM, Kerr, Peach, lighter in center of falls
7. GRAPE PARFAIT, M Lauer, Amethyst violet luminata plicata
8. HEART OF GLASS, T Johnson, S. pink; F. white w/diffused pink band
9. KING'S POINT, Kerr, Dark maroon self
10. MAJESTIC RULER, Schreiner, Smooth cerise purple
11. MILAN, T Johnson, S. pink, cream rim; F. white, peach shoulders
12. NEGLECTED ZEBRA, Kasperek, Violet neglecta; variegated foliage.
13. NO EGRETS, Kasperek, Peach orange ground w/muted violet plicating on falls
14. PERRYMOUNT, Richardson, Overlapping form; deep violet-purple self.
15. PURR FORM MINTS, Burseen, Green and white; spoons
16. QUEEN ELEANOR OF AQUITAINE, Baumunk, Blue violet luminata.
17. RITE OF PASSAGE, J. Ghio, Pastel pearly pink; very bubbly
18. SPOT STARTER, Schreiner, Dark purple; white zonal in falls
19. TEMPORAL ANOMALY, Tasco, S. tan; F. white, dotted overall grape
20. VERSAILLES, Keppel, S. white; F. blue; red beards



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