



# MONTEREY BAY NEWS

www.montereybayiris.org

August 2008

Next meeting Friday, 15, 2008  
Doors open 7:00 P.M.  
Meeting 7:30 P.M.  
Place Native Sons Hall  
239 High Street, Santa Cruz

Newsletter of the Monterey Bay Iris Society



Bidding for iris at this year's July picnic.

## From The Prez

**O**UR ANNUAL PICNIC was a fine affair, as expected. The company was excellent, the food was a real treat, and the auction was a lot of fun as the bidders secured great bargains and contributed generously to the MBIS treasury. Many thanks to Joe Ghio for his auctioneering, Charley Kearns and Rosa Radicchi for record keeping and everyone who attended for bring good food and good cheer to the occasion.

We were pleased to welcome Lynn Williams, Regional Vice President for AIS Region 14, who joined in the festivities of the Annual Picnic. She was an active bidder during the auction, as well, and was successful in adding several choice irises to her collection.

As you know, the MBIS is a member of Region 14 of the America Iris Society, which is comprised of sixteen local societies. Each of the societies contributes financially to the Region 14's operating budget. There are two current methods for the societies to make their annual contribution: (a) participating in the Region's Iris Distribution Fundraiser, which involves selling a share of the 2008 guest irises that have been donated to the Region and sending 50% of the sale proceeds to the Region; and (b) sending a check—in an amount of the society's own choosing—to the Region. (Societies have contributed from \$75 to \$150 in the past.)

The MBIS has its own well-established process of buying, propagating and selling recently introduced irises, and prefers to support the Region with a cash contribution. Each year, the MBIS board decides on the amount of our contribution. Your input will be welcomed, as always.

## 2008 Calendar

Annual Sale

Dig ..... Joe's Ranch  
Thursday, July 31<sup>st</sup> ..... 9 A.M.–1:00 P.M.

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

Regular Meeting

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

Rebloomers

Refreshments

Volunteers Needed

Regular Meeting

Friday, September 19 ..... 7:30 P.M.

Tall Beardless

Refreshments

Volunteers Needed

Regular Meeting

Friday, October 17 ..... 7:30 P.M.

PCIs

Refreshments

Volunteers Needed

Regular Meeting

Friday, November 21 ..... 7:30 P.M.

Program..... TBA

Refreshments

Volunteers Needed

Annual Holiday Dinner

Green Valley Grill

Friday December 19.....6:00 p.m

*Newsletter Deadline!!!*

*Please get submissions in by Friday  
August 29th Please do not turn material in late!*



As we prepare this issue of Bay News, we are planning for the Rhizome Dig at Joe Ghio's ranch on Thursday, July 31<sup>st</sup>, and the Annual Sale at Deer Park Marketplace on Saturday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>. We anticipate seeing many of our members at the Rhizome Dig (which is always a enjoyable event) and an excellent turnout of both members and customers for the Annual Sale. The Sale is an important fund-raiser for the MBIS, and also a significant opportunity to share our increases and inspire more gardeners to enjoy growing irises 🌸 *Tom*

## CULTURE TIPS

**A**UGUST IS THE MONTH to finish planting and resetting your bearded irises. If your soil has been used before or it is very light, it is well to 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. You can apply by broadcasting and work them in or put 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 9 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 garden for some time, 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. TBs 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 loose the markers.

Water newly reset irises weekly, or more often in sandy soil or hot weather. Keep this regular watering schedule until 4 full new leaves grow out of the center of the fan (4-6 weeks). Then you can cut back the watering to 10 day intervals until the fall rains take over. 🌸 *Joe*

## Iris Dig for August Sale

We will be digging iris for the sale at Joe's ranch on Thursday, July 31<sup>st</sup> from 9:30 A.M. until we are finished (about noon or 1 P.M.). **All members are encouraged to attend!** Take Freedom Blvd and make a left Corralitos Rd (by Aladdin's Nursery). Pass the school on the left side of the road, then slow down and after 2 houses you will see the field of iris

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behind the row of roses. Park on the shoulder of the road.

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 this sale a success. We need your healthy, well grown, names 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. They can be cut and named at the ranch.

If you cannot come to the ranch, please send them with another member or bring them early to the the sale named. **Prizes**—we will have a raffle, everyone will go home with a recent introduction!

**BBQ Lunch is a good possiblity!** Domingo, crank up the fire and toss on the burgers!

We will also need reliable volunteers with trucks/vans/ pickups to take the irises, keep them until Saturday and bring them to the sale.



## THIS YEAR'S JULY PICNIC! EATS AND IRIS

### Picnic Report

*Charley Kearns*

The 2008 picnic was held on July 19th. We didn't get our shady oak tree this year, but we had a great time just the same. Our members brought a wonderful dishes again. Not only do MBIS members grow great irises, they are gourmet cooks. Discrete nibbling begins early, then, when it seemed that most members were present, the feasting shifted into high gear. During the picnic, Brenda Wood and Larissa Daniel worked the group, collecting \$110 in raffle ticket sales. Good job!

Contented moans and tighter belts signaled that the iris auction would begin. Joe Ghio, our esteemed auctioneer, took his place at the iris display table. Holding up coveted recent introductions, he and Jim Cummins would describe the beauty of each. Occasionally, another member, familiar with the iris, would hold up a picture or explain why we should add this cultivar to our gardens. The bidding was spirited and competitive. A total of \$723 was collected from the auction. There were 21 bidders. Marie Devrey and Megan Devrey bought the most. Thanks for your support and may you enjoy many blue ribbon blooms next year. Cultivars bringing the highest bid were: Comfortable \$17; Phoebe's Frolic \$12; Coral Splendor \$11; Christmas Present \$10. After the raffle tickets were drawn, and members chose a liberal amount of freebies, there were still many irises left on the lawn. The club donated the remainder to the Clara B. Rees society for their picnic the following day. I think we all left with more irises than we have space for in our gardens.



A good time was had by all, and the club made some money.

To summarize our income

2008: Auction \$723, Raffle \$110—Total \$833

2007: Auction \$603, Raffle \$165—Total \$768.

Thanks to all the gourmet cooks, Joe Ghio for auctioneering, Sheryl McEwan, Jim Cummins & Wayne Craft, for their sharp-eyed bid spotting, Rosa Radicchi in accounting, Brenda and Larissa in sales, and, of course, the big spenders!

## MBIS Annual Iris Sale

**When** Saturday, August 2th, 2007

**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 brin varieties other than TBs, please mark IB (intermediate), BB (border), SDB, (standard dwarf), DDB (miniature dward, 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.



## Door Prizes

Members need to bring iris to share as door prizes. Bring favorite irises for the drawing.



Joseph J. Ghio, Editor  
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