

August, 2015

Next meeting August 21, 2015
 Doors open 7:00 P.M.
 Meeting 7:30 P.M.
 Place Native Sons Hall
 239 High Street, Santa Cruz

JULY PICNIC!



Potluck and picnic in a great new location!

From The Prez

WHAT A GREAT PICNIC! Lots of fun in a new and congenial setting. Our sales are going well—Deer Park was amazing with a long line waiting for the opening gun. Extra diggings will provide fresh beauties at Cabrillo' sale this coming Saturday, Aug. 8th.

Thanks to all who have contributed time, talent and rhizomes! 🌸 Barbara

August Meeting

Our August meeting on Friday the 21th, will feature Re-blooming Iris. This is your chance to learn about planting and growing these wonderful iris that give not only a spring but a fall and winter bloom. This will be a presentation with slides showing what color and form you can have if you add these iris to your garden. The speaker will be Riley Probst, a commercial grower and hybridizer, whose Fleur de Lis Iris Garden features Re-bloomers. A meeting not to miss! Those in attendance will be part of a drawing to win an opportunity to take home a re-blooming iris!

2015 Calendar

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

Regular Meeting

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

Rebloomers

Refreshments

Carolyn Craft & Philippa

Regular Meeting

Friday, September 18 7:30 P.M.

Beardless

Joe Ghio

Refreshments

volunteers needed!

Regular Meeting

Friday, October 16, 7:30 P.M.

PCIs

Refreshments

Rosa and Charley

Regular Meeting

Friday, November 20 7:30 P.M.

TBA

Joan and Wayne

Refreshments

volunteers needed!

Annual Holiday Dinner

Michael's on Main, Soquel

Friday December 18 6:00 p.m

Door Prizes

Members need to bring to the August meeting good recent iris to share as door prizes. Bring favorite irises for the drawing. The door prizes will depend on what members bring to this meeting. Rebloomers would be really great!



Upcoming Meetings

Our September meeting on Friday the 18th will feature Beardless Iris. Learn about Japanese, Spuria, Siberian, Louisiana, and a variety of other iris. Many of these iris are tall. All are a wonderful addition to your garden. The speaker will be Joe Ghio who for several years hybridized Spurias.

Our October meeting on Friday the 16th will feature Pacific Coast Iris. These are the iris native to our area and are often found wild in our coastal hills. Our speaker is Joe Ghio. If you have been to our Spring Iris shows, then you are familiar with his PCI introductions and seedlings. The American Iris Society annually gives out the Sydney B Mitchell Award for the best Pacific Coast Iris and Joe Ghio has won this award over a dozen times. He is the expert to hear when you want to learn about these wonderful little iris!

Everyone is welcome to attend our meetings. Come join us, have fun and learn tips about gardening and iris!

July Picnic and Auction

This year, on Saturday, July 18, we gathered for our annual picnic/rhizome auction at a new location within Harvey West Park. We used the Upper Glen Site in the Friendship Garden area. Many expressed that they were pleased with this beautiful site. Craig Tarr supervised the raffle ticket sales and called out the raffle winners. Brenda Wood and Charley Kearns recorded and tallied the auction bids with the valuable assistance of Karen Valentine remembering winning bid numbers. Joe Ghio, again, auctioneered with detailed descriptions of each rhizome, assisted by Jim Cummins with pictures. Of course, this created interest in each one. Spotters and runners were Jim Cummins and Rosanna Kennedy.

There were 18 bidders. The highest amount paid was \$35 for 'Arriverderci'. The second highest was 'Carousel of Dreams' for \$21. The highest amount paid in 2014 was also \$35—for 'Cotillion Gown'. The highest total purchased, this year, was \$108.

Unfortunately, this year brought in quite a bit less than last year, \$828 compared to \$1,227. This year: auction—\$582, raffle—\$186, "Pick from the lawn"—\$60.

We sold 30 fewer rhizomes this year, but the average per rhizome was about the same at \$7.37. Although this year was less rewarding financially, our sales compare favorably to most prior years. 2014 was a banner year. And everyone seemed to have a good time and ate our fill, and that is what is important. Another great MBIS event.

Thanks to all that helped, brought iris, contributed culinary masterpieces, AND bought iris!

Charley Kearns

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Refreshments

The hospitality person will bring the club's hospitality box every month with the club providing all of the paper goods, napkins, plates, cups, eating utensils etc. along with hot coffee—ALWAYS DECAF unless asked to change. Hot water and tea bags will also be provided. There will be at least one drink such as juice, soda or something other than the tea or coffee. In the winter months there may be hot chocolate packs and/or cider packs. If at any time someone has an idea of something additional that the club should provide PLEASE call Shirley or e-mail shirleytrio@clearwire.net.

Also, if for any reason the person/s volunteering to bring food cannot do so, or cannot attend the meeting, PLEASE call Shirley so she can pick up the snacks. In order to be at the meeting by 7:00 P.M. Shirley and Riley must leave home by 3:30 P.M. so call before then.

*Shirley Trio Probst
Hospitality Chair*

JULY PICNIC 2015







Recently found 2009 Award Certificate for Best In Show. Joe Ghio won with his entry of 'Round Of Applause.' Our program that year, of course printed before the show, featured a picture of 'Round Of Applause'. Never too lateto recognize achievement



CULTURE TIPS

I WROTE THAT LAST YEAR that we were having a relatively cool summer. Well this year we are having a relatively warm, even tropical, summer. Most days have gotten into the high 70s and even 80s in Santa Cruz and many days have been humid; not our typical summer faire.

If you haven't done so already this is the month to kick your replanting of bearded irises into high gear. 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.

If you have rebloomers planted together, this is the month to give them a light application of a balanced fertilizer and a weekly watering. This is more 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

2015 AIS Symposium

The symposium is an annual popularity poll of Tall Bearded (TB) iris conducted by the AIS. All AIS members may vote in this symposium. The top 100 Tall Bearded iris are then ranked and the results of the symposium each year are published in the official publication of the AIS, the AIS Bulletin, usually within the January issue. All AIS members receive this quarterly publication as part of their AIS membership. The full results are published on the AIS website.

Every member of The American Iris Society may participate in this balloting of the irises listed below. Each member is allowed twenty-five votes. The ballot is attached at the end of the online newsletter, there will be extra ballots at the August meeting or you can go to: <http://www.irises.org/pdf/AIS%202015%20SYMPOSIUM%20BALLOT.pdf>

So, we encourage AIS members to download the ballot (see the link above), record votes by inserting an "X" or other mark by the names, save the file, and email it to John Pesek (jmpesek@sbcglobal.net)

The naming convention(s) used for the Symposia ballots and reports have changed several times in the history of the Symposia. In the recent past the Symposia reports have been named for the year in which they were issued (the year after the voting). This caused some confusion. Starting in 2010 the results will be named for the year in which the voting occurs, thus the results of the AIS Awards and the results of the Symposia will carry the same year designation. This will result in there being two reports that are designated as 2010. The first, the results of the 2009 voting, and the second, the results of the 2010 voting.

Bloomers

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