



MONTEREY BAY NEWS

www.montereybayiris.org

March, 2017

Next meeting Friday 17, 2017
Doors open 7:00 P.M.
Meeting 7:30 P.M.
Place Simpkins Swim Center
979 17th Avenue, Santa Cruz

Newsletter of the Monterey Bay Iris Society



Exploding Galaxy Ghio, 2016 Tall Bearded Introduction and one of this month's door prizes.

From The Prez

SPRING IS HERE IN FORCE and the iris are already showing signs of early bloom. Early bloom may impact which irises are going to the show and which are not. Sometimes you just never know that the late bloomer in your garden may this year be Queen of Show.

“Beware the Ides of March”; a Shakespearian quote aptly describes leaf spot in my opinion. Last year the blooms were gorgeous and the leaves covered in unsightly spots. This year Karin and I have sprayed with fungicide to avoid this problem and only time will tell if it was worth the effort.

With all the rain this year the critters seem to be more prolific and Cut Worms, Earwigs and Slugs are attempting to enjoy the buffet of new foliage that are now very established and soaking in all the good weather. While I dislike using poison in the garden for organic reasons, the bugs are unstoppable without some attempt to control them.

Wayne Crabbs this year is going to procure some small vases for individual blooms for the show. This will allow single blooms to be shown off when otherwise they would not be show quality. Many of us lose blooms in transit to the show and this new idea will help find a purpose for them.

That's all for now. See you at the meeting. 🌸 Craig

2017 Calendar

Monthly meetings are held in Simpkins Swim Center unless otherwise stated.

Regular Meeting

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

Program

TBA

Refreshments

Brenda & Larissa, St. Patrick's Feast

Regular Meeting

Thursday, April 20.....7:30P.M.

Program

Mini Show

Refreshments

Finger Food Pot luck

Annual Iris Show

Louden Nelson..... April 29 to April 30

Set up

Friday, April 28..... 7:00 P.M.

Show

Saturday..... 1-6:00 P.M.

Sunday..... 11:00 a.m.-6:00 P.M.

Regular Meeting

Friday, May 20..... 7:30 P.M.

Pizza Potluck.

Bring a good appetite to the March Corned Beef Meeting!

March Birthdays

Tom Karwin, March 19

Ann Pike, March 27



Refreshments

For March we are looking forward to our annual corned beef blast. Brenda will be cooking and Larissa will be helping. A complete Irish dinner will be served right down to the Irish butter and Irish Soda bread. Brenda goes to a lot of work and it takes all day to prepare this feast so let's all be sure to give both Brenda and Larissa a thank you hug. Members may bring desserts although the monthly birthday cake always seems to be enough.

The April meeting will be a finger food pot luck.

As always we need volunteers to help with refreshments.

*Shirley Trio-Probst
Hospitality*

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 or send to our treasurer, Larissa Daniel, 520 San Miguel Rd., Watsonville CA. Phone: 831 724-9162.

April Meeting Important Meeting Memo

The April meeting will be held on Thursday night. Yes, that is right, Thursday, April 20th. The April meeting. We were unable to secure the meeting hall for the third Friday, so we are holding the meeting on Thursday. The program will be the mini show.



Dressed to Impress, Ghio, 2017 Iris introduction



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Star Maker, Ghio, 2017 Iris introduction

2017 SPRING SHOW

We will be holding our spring show at the Loudon-Nelson Community Center again this year on April 29th and 30th. Set-up will be Friday evening, April 28th at 7:00 P.M. We need volunteers for set-up, as well as all Saturday and Sunday shifts. Volunteers will be on hand to distribute literature and answer guest's questions. We especially need help with Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning shifts. The sign up list will be at the March meeting. If you can't make that meeting, call Charley Kearns at 408-315-1520 or email kcf@verizon.net. to indicate the shift you can work. Those that would like to clerk, assisting the judging, please let Charley know now by email or phone. We need six regular and three alternates. All members are encouraged to volunteer as much time as possible during our show. Participation goes a long way in making our show a success and introducing the public to our club. It's great fun and each volunteer will win a door prize iris!!

TROPHIES

Show time is coming on fast. If you won any trophies, Clean and polish them and bring them, with their bases, to the March or April meeting, preferably the March meeting. We MUST have them for display at the show.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

Every volunteer will receive a recent introduction rhizome for volunteering . Workers will have their name entered in a drawing for each shift worked. Those working multiple shifts will have more entries and have a greater chance of winning their choice of iris, but all will get one. So, sign up!! And, show up!!

HORTICULTURAL SHOW PREPARATION

Those interested in entering bloom-stalks in the horticultural portion of the show are encouraged to start preparing early. Keep an eye out for show worthy blooms coming on in your garden. If the bloom-stalk is reaching for light, stake it up to prevent a crooked stalk. Be sure to attend the April meeting where Joe Ghio will provide valuable tips and demonstrate his advice with actual entries in our "MiniShow" If you have questions, bring them to the March or April meeting and experts will help you.

ARTISTIC DIVISION

Joan Scanlon will be in charge of the Artistic Division this year. Again there will be no official judging. Instead we are asking that you enter an arrangement of your choice: lovely, striking, funny, whatever fits your mood and the materials you have available. The arrangement has to have at least one iris in it. Only natural plant material—nothing artificial. But, props can be used. If you don't have iris available from your garden, not to worry. There are often iris left over that the grower decided not to enter in the Horticultural Division. You can also make part or all of the arrangement at home and bring it in. The purpose is to have fun and present iris arrangement ideas to the public. Arrangements should be completed by 12:00 noon on Saturday so they can be placed on display. Ballots will be on hand for the public to vote on their favorite. The favorite gets a cash prize and takes home the People's Choice revolving trophy. If you have questions, contact Joan Scanlon at 831-688-5311 email: send2JC@sbcglobal.net.



Folies Bergere, Ghio, 2017 Iris Introduction—name suggested by Sherry



DOOR PRIZES IRISES



1. **ALL BY DESIGN**, Ghio, S. apricot; F. white; mauve plicating
2. **ALWAYS AND FOREVER**, Schreiner, S. biscuit; F. white, deep purple plicata edge
3. **AURA OF GLAMOUR**, Blyth, 14, Very ruffled lemon yellow
4. **BEQUEST**, Blyth, 13, S. yellow; F. white, yellow rim, some tan dots
5. **BIG BAND**, P. Black, Chocolate, caramel bands around petal edges
6. **CALL TO DANGER**, P Black, Ruffled red, lighter standards
7. **CITRUS SQUEEZE**, Kelly, Yellow & orange blend
8. **EXPLODING GALAXY**, Ghio, Dark wine purple luminata
9. **FLASH MOB**, Keppel, S. Rose ebony; F chrome, ebony band and plicating
10. **FRONT OF THE LINE**, Ghio, Rusty mahogany red luminata
11. **GREAT FALLS**, Schreiner, Reverse blue amoena
12. **I AM**, Schreiner, S. light blue; F. white, light blue plicata edge
13. **HERE FOR YOU**, Schreiner, Blue-purple plicata
14. **INTERSTELLAR**, Sutton, S. light yellow; F. white starburst to multi, violet bands
15. **INVITING**, Schreiner, Rich lilac sel
16. **MAKE MINE MAGIC**, Blyth, 12, S. apricot; F. red-purple; lighter rim; ruffled
17. **MAYAN DUSK**, Blyth, 13, S. ochre gold; F. root beer; chocolate beards
18. **NIGHT NAVIGATOR**, Aitken, S. Purple; F deep red purple, light purple band
19. **RAVISHING RUBY**, T. Johnson, Rose magenta blend, brown beards
20. **RINGS TRUE**, Schreiner, S. white, light violet edge; F. white, blue-purple stitching
21. **VALLEY OF DREAMS**, Blyth, 13, S. blue-violet; F. copper-orange
22. **DIAMOND BROKER**, Blyth, 14, Frilly lemon-cream S; creamy-white F.

BTW: The Schreiner plicata trio are sibs: 'I am' 'Here foryou' 'Always and forever—get it?

CULTURE TIPS

IT IS EARLY WRITING THIS, but last year this column began "...after a rainless February..." That is history. This year we began after a very rainy, stormy, windy February...and such it has been. One of the wettest in memory. As of February 20, in Santa Cruz we have had 42 inches of rain with much more coming in the upcoming week (the ENTIRE normal season total is just 31 inches). This has really messed up what would be like normal season chores such as fertilization.

In the middle of February during a short break in rain spells, I "threw" triple 10 at the irises since growth was well underway (which is normal). But 2 days later two plus inches fell pretty much leaching/washing away any beneficial effects. I will give them another light application if an extended dry spell happens by about March 1. After that time, the beneficial help would be slight and might actually be negative by promoting soft rot. You can do the same thing to beardless irises but do not fertilize Pacificas even lightly after mid-February.

Speaking of Pacificas: They will begin spiking mid-March (tho a very few are already showing stakes and even bloom now—Feb. 20th, which isn't unusual). They peak at the

beginning of April. If you are in a favorable location for dwarf and median irises, they also begin blooming and peak in early to mid April. This would be the MDB, SDB, and IB's. MTB and BB bloom with the tall bearded.

🌸 Joe

Not A Rebloomer Month!

Irises are now blooming. It is March, so there is no Rebloomer drawing. You can still choose to bring iris!

CATALOGS AND WEBSITES

Catalogs are now coming in. However, gardens no longer produce a printed catalog and only have a web presence. Most with a printed catalog also have a webpage as well. Check them out as well and iris site on Facebook and such sites as *All Things Plants*.