

April, 2009

Next meeting Friday 17, 2008
 Doors open 7:00 P.M.
 Meeting 7:30 P.M.
 Place Native Sons Hall
 239 High Street, Santa Cruz

2009 Calendar

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

Regular Meeting

Friday, April 17 7:30 P.M.

Program

Mini Show

Refreshments

The Valentines

Annual Iris Show

Capitola Mall..... May 2 to May 3

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 15..... 7:30 P.M.

Pizza Potluck

Regular Meeting

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

Program

TBA

Refreshments

TBA

Smart Gardening Faire

Sky Park, Scotts Valley June 20

Saturday 9:00 A.M.–6:00 P.M.

Annual July Picnic

Saturday, July 18.... 11:00 A.M.–3:00 P.M.

Harvey West Park

Potluck and Auction

Newsletter

Deadline for May is Monday May 4th. Since this is not a weekend dead line and it is important that all material meet this deadline. This month I'm serious!



Joe discusses the finer points of showing your iris at the Mini Show

From The Prez

Our March meeting featured a well-received video program titled, “The First Flower.” This was a NOVA production, broadcast originally on public television stations in 2007.

Here is a summary from the website —<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/flower/about.html>:

In a story blooming with beauty and scientific mystery, this program explores the incredible truth that lies behind the ravishing flowers we so love to behold: that humans could not have existed or evolved without them. “First Flower” probes the controversial discovery of *Archaeofructus*, a Chinese fossil scientists believe is the earliest evidence of a flower yet found on Earth. Following the trail of clues to the fossil’s origins, a vivid journey takes NOVA’s cameras deep into the lush wilds of China, giving audiences a view into a spectacular living safety deposit box, where some of the world’s most beloved flowers originated.

The website has a great deal of additional background information on this program.

If you would like to borrow this DVD for a private viewing, please let me know. I plan to donate it to the Santa Cruz Public Library in about a month, so other avid gardeners could see it.

The AIS Region 14 booth at the San Francisco Flower & Garden Show was an important contribution to the Region's educational mission. During the five days of the Show, scores of people visited the booth to learn about irises and the benefits of participating in one of Region 14's societies. A big "Thank You!" to organizer Phillipa Alvis and the several volunteers who staffed the booth and represented the AIS Region 14 so well.

Before the Show opened, the rumors were flying about this year's event, which was the 24th annual presentation, being the last. Owner Duane Kelly had announced he would move on to other pursuits and had not found a buyer for the Show. On the opening day of the show, however, Kelly announced that a buyer had come forward, and the Show would reappear in 2010. The new owners, SF Garden Show LLC, will be led by a new steering committee comprised of well-known landscape gardeners and growers including Davis Dalbok of Living Green, Mike Boss of Rock & Rose Landscapes, Robin Stockwell of Succulent Gardens, and led by Chairman Tim O'Shea of Greenworks Design.

Next year's Show might include new and different elements, but it promises to continue its role as one of the top garden shows in the nation, and certainly the year's most exciting, educational and inspiring garden event of northern California.

Finally, we are still looking for volunteers to coordinate our publicity for the MBIS's show and sale, and our participation in the Smart Gardening Faire. These can be enjoyable projects and of course an important service to our society. Call me!

Look for an Iris Alert via e-mail for the announcement of the program for our next general meeting, April 17th. I'll see you there! 🌸 Tom

Show Info

Our show will again be located near the food court at the Capitola Mall on May 2 & 3. We meet for set up at 8:30 Friday May 1st.

Entries for the Show will be received from 7:00 A.M. to 9:45 A.M. Saturday, May 2nd Tear down is Sunday, May 3rd at 6:00 P.M. We will have an horticultural and an artistic section. See more information about the artistic section elsewhere in this newsletter.

We need volunteers for all shifts to be on hand to distribute literature and answer questions. We especially need help with the Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning shifts. The sign up list will be at the April meeting. If you can't make the meeting, call Charley Kearns at 408-315-1520 or email to kcf@verizon.net to indicate the shift you can work.

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. And—It is great fun "Sharing the Joy of Iris" with people oooing and ahing over our gorgeous blooms.

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Hospitality

Karen Valentine heart711@earthlink.net 650-879-1262

Librarian

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Newsletter Editor

Joe Ghio ghiobayview@surfnetUSA.com 423-3656

Webmaster

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Mini Show

This month's program is the mini show. Be there around 7:00 P.M. to stage your irises. Joe always gives a great talk about how to stage your flowers. For this show enter and learn. A grower may enter a maximum of two flowers per category. Our experienced exhibitors will be available to give advice. Categories for the MINI-SHOW are:

1. Tall bearded—Novice (never won more than 3 blue ribbons in a regular show before)
2. Tall Bearded—Advanced (all who aren't novices)
3. Bearded, other than Tall
4. Beardless, any type
5. Seedlings, any type

The winners in each category and Best in Show will have first choice of the door prizes.

TROPHIES

Show time is coming on fast. If you won any trophies, Clean and polish them and bring them, with their bases, to the April meeting.

We MUST have them for display at the show May 2nd & 3rd.

CULTURE TIPS

GROWTH LOOKS OUTSTANDING this year and the Pacificas are coming into bloom. Droughts put the plants under stress which cause better than average bloom. The best bloom I've ever had was during the severe drought years of '76-'77.

The banksia rose is a cloud of yellow and right on schedule for bloom. So far it appears we will be having a normal bloom year. The main thing to do now is make sure your beds are free of weeds. Water if the soil dries. Fertilizers given in February now shows its effect. The water gets the nutrients to the plants and helps form those wonderful stalks we love! The show is the same weekend as last year and we will be at or just past peak for it which is where we want to be. 🌸🌸 *Joe*

Artistic Division

All are encouraged to enter our artistic section of the show. The 2009 competition will be in the following categories:

Section A—A Tisket, A Tasket: A design of your choice in a basket of any type, size or style is allowed. Use Accessories that enhance the design.

Section B—Small Fry: A small design using small or proportionate flowers; container and design (12" x 12" x 12" maximum)

Section C—Simplicity: A traditional or modern design using only one Iris stalk (parts from the one stalk can be used separately or together); design emphasizes simple lines and elegance. Accents, branches or other complementary material may be used.

Section D—Sukiyaki: Traditional Japanese style, including accents or accessories. Traditional Japanese style or Japanese freestyle.

Section E—Ride 'Em Cowboy: Open to only the guys. Will reflect any western style theme and can include props, accessories or accents complementary to the theme and/or the design.

Section F—Romantic Evening: The theme is romance and is open to interpretation. Accessories that enhance the theme such as candles, etc. Creativity is emphasized as well as the harmony of the design.

Section G—School Days: Open to youth only. The theme is anything relating to school. Accessories can include books, rulers, crayons, drawings, while making the focus of the design the Iris.

Two very important rules—the greenery portion of the design may be done at home. The flower portion of the design **must** be done at the show.

If you would like to enter, please contact Lisa Ayala as **soon** as possible so she will know how many tables are needed. You can reach her by phone at 408-244-7200, or email at herbtalk@earthlink.net

New Member

We welcome our new member Cindy Cummings who attended our last meeting. We look forward to getting to know her!

Iris Wanted

I am trying to build a new collection of species and species cross Irises. In particular I am looking for *Iris confusa*, *Iris wattii*, *Iris japonica* sections and hybrids. I would be willing to pay a fair price and shipping. Thank you for any help you can provide,

Bob Pries.

If you can help in this search, please contact Janet Smith (ypaul@sti.net).

Does old time members still grow an Iris Hybridized by Larry Gaulter by the name of Port Royal? It was Registered in 1964 and introduced in 1965 by Mission Bell. I have a customer who's mother had grown it for many years. The children dug it up and moved it back to the East Coast when they moved but when they returned to Colorado failed to take it with them. They would very much like to have it as a remembrance of their mother as it was her favorite. Thanks, hopefully someone in your area still has it. You can reply to my email address written below.

Bob Van Liere

Iris4u Iris Garden
Denver, Colorado
www.iris4u.com
iris4u2@comcast.net

WORK INCENTIVE

Once again, we will have a drawing of some of our door prize irises among those who help for at least 1 shift during the show. Workers get 1 chance for each shift worked. The more you help, the greater your chance of getting some of these beauties.

1. BETWEEN DREAMS, F. Kerr, Black; slightly lighter standards
2. CLAIM JUMPER, M. Sutton, S. yellow; F. red brown w/yellow sunburst
3. DRIVE MY CAR, L. Lauer, S. blue; F. violet, copper shoulders, white whiskers at beards
4. HOME SWEET HOME, D. Spoon, Sky blue self
5. KENNADI'S ANGEL, B. Nicodemus, Icy white self; light yellow beards
6. MAGICAL, J. Ghio, Very ruffled light pink; vigorous
7. NICKNAME, F. Kerr, Red violet fancy luminata
8. PLASTIC MONEY, Burseen, Pinky lavender w/red white horned beards
9. SNOW LION, M. Smith, Pinky lemon glaciata
10. WORSHIP ME, Burseen, pink lavender w/blue spoons



DOOR PRIZES IRISES

1. **ACCESSIBLE**, J. Ghio, Ruffled neglecta w/red beards
2. **BETA GNU**, Kasperek, Deep violet purple w/white streaks, Spec-X
3. **BEV**, G Richardson, Bronzy red self
4. **CASINO CRUISER**, Burseen, Buttercup yellow w/huge spoons
5. **CHEYENNE SKY**, Schreiner, Peachy apricot w/shrimp overlay on F
6. **CREATIVE URGE**, F. Kerr, White, blue rim on F.;
sometimes tan rim on S.
7. **DIALECT**, T. Johnson, Rosy orchid wine luminata
8. **ENAMORED**, J. Ghio, Very broad orchid bitone
9. **FINE WINE**, Schreiner, Huge wine
10. **GENEALOGY**, T. Johnson, S. white, cream midribs;
F. honey yellow
11. **HIGH EMOTION**, L. Painter, S. peach pink; F. black violet; peach sunburst
12. **ICELANDIC SEA**, L. Johnson, Deep blue violet amoena
13. **JACOB**, F. Kerr, Blue violet w/red beards
14. **LEGERDEMAIN**, Keppel, Pale blue w/parchment blending on F.
15. **MEERKAT MANOR**, Kasperek, S. rose; F. red purple; white streaks overall, BB
16. **NOUVEAU RICHE**, Keppel, S. brassy yellow; F. gold
17. **PEP RALLY**, J. Ghio, Red purple luminata
18. **RED HANDED**, J. Ghio, Mahogany with blue blaze in F.
19. **SNAPSHOT**, T. Johnson, S. gold; F. mahogany red; gold sunburst
20. **SPOT ON**, M. Sutton, S. white; F. red purple w/white starburst; RE
21. **STOLEN IDENTITY**, Burseen, Odd “fluffy” bowl of fluff w/odd colors and horns
22. **THAT’S HOT**, L. Lauer, Pink w/purple shoulders
23. **TRUMPED**, Burseen, S. white; F. plus w/bronze hafts
24. **VENITA FAYE**, Keppel, Pastel: S. pink; F. lilac
25. **WORSHIP ME**, Burseen, Pastel pink lavender w/blue spoons



ARTISTIC DIVISION EXHIBITION

In addition to the Horticultural Division, in which iris are staged in various sized tubes, the club is including an Artistic Division. This division displays irises in floral arrangement, utilizing different irises according to each category and each person's design creation. Artistic Division Exhibition Rules

- 1 Entries should be registered by May 1st, 2009 with Lisa Ayala by calling 408-244-7200, by emailing her at herbtalk@earthlink.net, or at the April 17th meeting. If not registered in advance, entries will be accepted if space is available and in the order of arrival.

- 2 Exhibitors may enter only one design in each section they are qualified to enter.

- 3 Entries will be received between 8 and 10:45 a.m. on Saturday May 2nd. Judging will begin promptly at 11:00 a.m. Entries must remain in place until the close of the show.

- 4 An entry card (provided) must accompany each entry. Exhibitor writes their name on the back.

- 5 Each design must be the work of only one person—the exhibitor. The flower portion must be constructed at the show. The foundation may be made elsewhere.

- 6 Containers, bases, mats, etc are permitted, but must be provided by the exhibitor.

- 7 One or more iris must be used in each design, with the iris providing the dominant interest. The exhibitor need not have grown the plant material used.

- 8 The emphasis is on fresh plant material. Accessories are permitted. Dried or other natural materials (rocks, shells, etc.) must be used in categories where called for. The use of artificial/plastic flowers or foliage is NOT permitted. Judging of Division VI will be by a National Council of Garden Club Judge. The decision of the judge is final.

Ribbons will be awarded as merited.