



MONTEREY BAY NEWS

www.montereybayiris.org

October, 2009

Next meeting Friday, 16, 2009
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



New Ghio seedling

Photo by Joe Ghio

From The Prez

OUR OCTOBER MEETING, AS ALWAYS, will be on Pacific Coast Irises, and will include Joe Ghio's discussion of hybridizing, propagating and planting our native irises. I expect we will also have divisions to share. If you have PCIs that need dividing, please bring them to the meeting.

I two brief announcements to share through this month's Bay News:

First, the Carmelo Bay Garden Club (in Carmel) has asked if we could provide a speaker for one of their monthly meetings. According to the club's Vice President Susan Uydess, they have many members (including herself) who are interested in growing irises in the Carmel area and would love to have a member of our Society speak to their group.

Their meetings are on the first Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the home of one of their members. They would like a speaker to talk for about 45 minutes and then answer questions. The meetings usually include 15 to 18 women and I'm told they always have a nice continental breakfast to share with their speakers.

For an MBIS member whose schedule could include an hour or so in Carmel, this would be a nice low-key opportunity to share knowledge and enthusiasm for the genus *Iris*. The club would welcome an iris talk on November 3rd, 2009, or January 5th, 2010, or February 2, 2010, or March 2nd, 2010.

2009 Calendar

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

Regular Meeting

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

PCIs

Refreshments

Philippa and Carolyn

Regular Meeting

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

Program..... TBA

Refreshments

Charley & Rosa

Annual Holiday Dinner

Green Valley Grill

Friday December 18..... 6:00 p.m

Spring Refreshments

January

Elena & Barbara

February

Lisa & Ann

March

Brenda & Larissa

April

Pat Lindstrom & Charley

Newsletter

Deadline for November is October 30th. Please have all submissions in by the deadline. Getting material in on time will insure a newsletter out on time. With my work and school schedule, I need material in on time.



I don't feel free to publish Susan Uydess' contact information in Bay News, so if you would like to volunteer to talk to the Carmelo Bay Garden Club, please let me know (tom@karwin.com or 760-6727) and I will provide her contact information.

On another topic, Shirley Trio of the Mt. Diablo Iris Society has asked a question related to the AIS-14 Spring Regional in Modesto (April 23rd, 24th and 25th). She and her society are deciding between busses and a car pool for their garden visits, and would like to know the preference of Iris Society members. Do you like the car pool's freedom of movement and opportunity to get lost? Or do you prefer the camaraderie and exhaust fumes of a big old bus? There is plenty of time to respond, so I will raise the question during our October meeting. If you wish to express your view before that meeting, please send me an email. I will compile the views of individual MBIS members and pass them onto Ms. Trio.

Mark your calendar for our October 16th meeting. We will convene as usual at 7:00, have a brief business meeting at 7:30 (featuring the report of our Nominating Committee) and our program at about 8:00. It is time to plant PCIs and the MBIS is on the job! 🌸 Tom

Bloomers

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

CULTURE TIPS

AS THE SOIL BEGINS TO COOL at this time of the year, winter weeds begin germinating. You can control them by hand weeding and the use of mulches. While mulches work well around woody plants like roses, they can be a problem around irises. Mulches do help suppress weeds, but they also hold water, and over wet conditions especially is something bearded irises do not like. They foster soft rot and botritis rot. So use them sparingly or not at all. Pre-emergents are the other answer. But you need to remember they are just that: pre-emergents. They must be applied before the weeds germinate. Ideally you have clean beds and just before a significant rain you apply it and the rain works it in. If it doesn't rain, you have to water it in. Just leaving it unwatered on the top of the soil will break down its effectiveness. Various brands are available at garden centers and even sometimes at Costco. Pre-emergents are weed specific, so read the label to see that the brand gets the majority of weeds that trouble you.

After mid-October until early November is the best time to replant Pacificas. Be sure the new white roots are showing before setting them in. If none show, put the rhizomes in a bucket of water. New roots should appear in 7 to 10 days. Replant them at that time.

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Also all other replanting should be done by now. Well established bearded irises need little to no more water at this time of the year. Beardless need to be watered regularly until the winter rains take over.

If you made crosses or collected seed, this is the month to plant them. If you have just a few crosses, you can plant them in a gallon pot—one cross per pot and be sure it is labelled. Potted seed needs to be watered regularly. Seed will begin germinating in February. 🌸 Joe

Nominating Committee

This is the month we start the process of getting our set of officers for 2008.

Brenda Wood, appointed as committee chair, and with the assistance of her committee members, will present the slate to be voted on at the meeting. Further nominations may be made from the floor and the election is held at the November meeting. The new officers are installed in December.

DUES ARE DUE

Single dues are \$10 Two or more at same address \$15. Please pay at the meeting or send to our treasurer, Charley Kearns, Post Office Box 2361, Los Gatos, CA.

Door Prizes

Pacificas have been ordered from Bay View Gardens and will be given as door prizes. Also if you have surplus to share, please bring them. I



OCTOBER— PCI MONTH



Soon to be introduced Ghio PCI

photo by Joe Ghio





Soon to be introduced Lois Belardi iris

photo by Joe Ghio



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