



# MONTEREY BAY NEWS

www.montereybayiris.org

October, 2006

Next meeting Friday, 20, 2006  
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



Bowl of Fluff

photo by Diane Harrison

## From The Prez



EAR IRIS SOCIETY,

For three years I have led the Monterey Bay Iris Society, through the first ever Regional gathering in Spring 2005, and to the present. My obligations with my children and teaching at Mount Madonna School necessitate my turning over the reins to others. I will stay on the board as past president, but ask everyone to consider saying yes when the nominating committee—(Jim, Irene and Sheryl)—asks you to serve as an officer on the board. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Jim Cummins at 831-438-1369 or Sheryl at 831-212-5861. The tasks of making the club viable do not take long when you consider the adage “many hands make light work.”

This month, Joe Ghio will present his annual talk on Pacific Coast Native irises. Joe has won the Sydney B. Mitchell award for the best Pacific Coast Native iris 14 times since 1979, and is the best known expert in the field. The Monterey Bay Iris Society always enjoys his presentation, and it continues to be one of the best attended meetings of the year. Come to the meeting and take home several new Pacific Coast Native Irises—the club will have live plants to give away as door prizes!

We also will begin taking reservations for our holiday dinner at the Green Valley Grill. Members pay just \$10, and the club picks up the rest of the tab (\$16.47) for a lovely buffet dinner. We will vote on entrees, with Salmon, Tortellini, and Tri-Tip being popular choices. Often we have 40 attending the holiday dinner, so put in your reservation soon!

I hope to see everyone at the meeting!  
Happy Gardening, Happy gardening 🌸 Diane

## 2006 Calendar

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

### Regular Meeting

Friday, September 15, 2006..... 7:30 P.M.

Program..... Tall Beardless

### Refreshments

Cindy Schuette & Lisa Ayala

### Regular Meeting

Friday, October 20 ..... 7:30 p.m.

Program..... Pacific Coast Iris

### Refreshments

Gary Knipe & Rosa Radicchi

### Regular Meeting

Friday, November 17 ..... 7:30 p.m.

Program ..... TBA

Refreshments.....

CharLynn Ford & Sharon Brodrick

### Annual Holiday Dinner

Green Valley Grill

Friday December 15.....6:00 p.m.

## October

This month we turn our attention to the Pacificas. This is the month to dig and replant them. It is best to do this after the weather cools and before the rains start: mid-October to mid-November. These are more temperamental in replanting. Be sure to keep their roots wet after digging, and well watered when replanting. It is a good practice for all types of irises to put a tablespoonful of bone meal in each hole. You will reap the rewards later in better growth and bloom color.



## CULTURE TIPS



OUR WEATHER DOESN'T FOLLOW THE SCRIPT it should. Normally we have very hot weather by now, but here at the beginning of October we're have cool weather and even some rain. As the soil cools, here comes the winter weeds. You can control them by hand weeding and the use of mulches. But, I caution the use of the latter in the winter. While they do help in suppressing weeds, they also hold water which is not to the liking of bearded irises in particular.

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.

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.

Snails seem to have a resurgence about now. Snail bait is effect or simply step on them! 🐌 Joe

## New member

Let's all welcome our new member! Stacey Hart  
P.O. Box 1214  
Boulder Creek, 95006  
831-588-0819  
831-338-6692 home  
email stacey@hortlandscaping.com

## DUES ARE DUE

Single dues are \$10 Two or more at same address \$15. Please pay at the meeting or send to our treasurer, Rosa Radicchi; 730 Modesto Ave; Santa Cruz, CA 95060.

## REBLOOMERS

Bring your blooms to the meeting. Doing that will get you a chance for the first pick of Door Prize irises.

## Board of Directors 2006

### President

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Spuria Wyoming Cowboy with other beardless iris

## **SYDNEY B. MITCHELL AWARD**

From the page about Sydney B. Mitchell award from the PCN web site

By 1996, there were more than 800 named varieties of Pacific Coast Native Iris. Some originated from unique plants—species or natural hybrids—found growing in the wild. But most were created through deliberate crossings by breeders trying to develop new iris with characteristics they considered desirable (like colorful flowers, longer blooming season, resistance to disease, more flowers per plant, or evergreen leaves).

The Mitchell Medal recognizes success in the hybridizer's craft—the year's single best new variety of Pacific Coast Native Iris. It is the highest award for excellence given by the American Iris Society to a Pacifica iris.

Sydney B. Mitchell was the first president of the California Horticultural Society, an author of several gardening books, and one of the earliest to urge the use of native plants in home gardens.

1973 *Ojai*, M. Walker

1974 *Amiquita*, E. Nies

1975 *Native Warrior*, S.A. Phillips

1976 *Western Queen*, G Stambach

1977 *Sierra Sapphire*, L. Lenz

1978 *Canyon Snow*, D. Emery

1979 *Los Gatos*, Joseph Ghio

1980 *Soquel Cove*, Joseph Ghio

1981 *Restless Native*, Joseph Ghio

1982 *Councilman*, Joseph Ghio

1983 *Santa Rita*, Joseph Ghio

1984 *City Hall*, Joseph Ghio

1986 *Big Wheel*, Joseph Ghio

1987 *Simply Wild*, Joseph Ghio

1989 *California Mystique*, Joseph Ghio

1991 *Drive You Wild*, Joseph Ghio

1992 *Mimsey*, V. Wood

1995 *Sierra Dell*, L. Lawyer

1996 *Idylwild*, Joseph Ghio

1997 *Night Editor*, Joseph Ghio

1998 *Pacific Rim*, B. Jones

1999 *Chief Sequoia*, John Weiler

2000 *Pink Cupid*, Vernon Wood

2001 *Jean Erikson*, Colin Rigby

2002 *Sea Gal*, Lois Belardi

2003 *Sea Admiral*, Vernon Wood

2004 *Raspberry Dazzler*, Vernon Wood

2005 *Sierra Azul*, Joseph Ghio

2006 *Cozumel*, Joseph Ghio



Mission Soledad

photo by Diane Harrison



Star of the Evening

photo by Diane Harrison



### **DOOR PRIZES**

For this month's door prizes we have Joe's Pacific Coast Iris. Pacific Coast irises, Bring any surplus Pacific Coast Irise you may have and want to share.



Joseph J. Ghio, Editor  
1201 Bay Street  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

