

March, 2009

Next meeting Friday 20, 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, February 20.....7:30 P.M.

Program

TBA

Refreshments

Megan & Marie

Regular Meeting

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

Program

Flower Arranging

Refreshments

Brenda and Larissa

Regular Meeting

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

Program

Mini Show

Refreshments

Diane S

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

REBLOOMERS

Bring your reblooming irises now through March for show and tell and to drawing for first choice of door prizes.

Newsletter

Deadline for March is an early one, Friday March 27th.



Edifice, Ghio, 2009

From The Prez

MEMBERS WHO ATTENDED OUR FEBRUARY MEETING enjoyed Gesine Lohr's presentation on historic irises. Most iris lovers ("irisarians") have at least one much-appreciated iris that qualifies as an historic iris, so it was good to hear Gesine's knowledge and enthusiasm and to receive a free copy of *Roots*, the Journal of the Historic Iris Preservation Society (HIPS).

The primary purpose of the Historic Iris Preservation Society has been to identify important irises from history that are in danger of being lost and help to preserve them for future generations to enjoy.

Some of our members might wish to join HIPS (even though its acronym suggests a rose society!) or visit its very attractive and informative website: www.hips-roots.com.

The programs at our meetings are consistently informative and enjoyable. Sheryl is planning a session on flower arrangements with irises for our March meeting. More details to come!

The MBIS board plans to convene one of its rather rare meetings, so we expect to have some items of business at the March general meeting.

If you will attend the San Francisco Flower and Garden Show this year, make a point of visiting the AIUS Region 14 information booth to say hello to the volunteers from MBIS and other AIS-14 societies. They will be spreading the word about AIS and encouraging more gardeners to add irises to their landscapes. The Show runs from Wednesday, March 18th to Sunday, March 22. For information, see the third page of this newsletter and also visit www.gardenshow.com/sf/.

Meanwhile, 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! 🌸🌿 *Tom*

CULTURE TIPS

WE HAVE HAD SOME VERY HEAVY RAINS in February. If you fertilized prior to the beginning of these rains, much of the fertilizer has either been washed out or leached out. When the rains stop it is wise to give them another light application of a balanced fertilizer. The soil is very saturated, so just scratching it in should be enough unless your soil is very sandy. In that case water it in some.

By the end of the month, the early dwarfs and Pacificas will be blooming. In normal years, peak of the Pacificas has been April 5. We'll see how close they come to that date this year. Growth on everything is rapid now, even the earliest TB's are budding. It has not been a particular cold winter. Actually we had several days of very warm weather in January, then several rainy days in February. It is hard to predict just now what kind of a bloom season we will be having.

Rapid new growth and rainy weather almost assures some problem with leaf spot. Not much can be done about it. The irises grow out of it as the weather dries and warms. Aphids make their appears as the weather warms. Spraying with a systemic insecticide now and again a week or so before the show, will take care of them especially on your show specimen.

Wet soil can bring on soft rot. The best way to handle it is to clean out all the "soft" material and apply a bit of bleach straight on the area and/or dust with a chlorine cleanser. 🌸🌿 *Joe*

Contest for Youth Members

"How my Interest In Irises Can Help Me" is the topic for this year's AIS 2009 Ackerman Youth Essay Contest. There are two prizes of \$100 awarded to the age categories, 12 years and under, and 13 years and up. So! If any youth member is interested in this opportunity, you should send a completed essay of 500 words or less, along with your name, address and date of birth, to Claire Honkanen, PO Box 24, Signal Mountain, TN 37377, or email her at Claire235@aol.com. Deadline for entries is March 15, 2009

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SPRING SHOW UPDATES

It is not too early to start planning for our Annual Iris Show at the Capitola Mall. It will be held May 2 & 3 this year, providing us an excellent opportunity to display our prized blooms. Our show is also very popular among mall visitors. We are able to educate the public and usually gain new members. And, we have fun showing off our irises!

If you are nervous about how to display your irises, don't be. At the April meeting, we will have a "mini show" with Joe Ghio explaining the fine points of displaying the bloom-stalks. The procedure isn't difficult, but certain rules must be followed if you want to win a blue ribbon.

Starting with the March meeting, we will be recruiting members to volunteer at the show. We need help setting up Friday night, to help arrange the entries on Saturday morning. And then we need members to cover hospitality shifts during Saturday afternoon and all day Sunday. A sign up list will be available at the meeting. Please be generous with your time—that is what makes the show a success.

We also really need someone to be in charge of publicity. Publicity is key to having a good attendance.

We do not have someone to head up the Artistic Division of our Spring Show. This person would create entry categories, prepare an entry sign up sheet, set up the display tables at the show, and be on hand Saturday morning for accepting entries and working with the judge. We have a judge lined up already. Lisa Ayala has experience in this area and is willing to coach and advise on the preparation. Co-chairs would work too, if you would like to work together with someone. If you would be willing to take on this much needed job, please let Charley Kearns know right away. You can contact him at 408-315-1520 or kcf@verizon.net. Unfortunately, if no one comes forward we will not be able to include an artistic section this year.

Judges Training Reminder

On April 11th, 2009 there will be a Judges Training at the garden of Riley Probst and Shirley Trio, 2701 Fine Ave, Modesto, CA. The fee is only \$15.00. Please send a check payable to Region 14 to Kathy Braaten, 10288 Kenwood Dr., Grass Valley, CA 95949. Questions, call 209-551-6323 or 530-477-2811. The classes are Shirley Trio: Awards and Ballots, 10 a.m. to 12 noon and Riley Probst: Tall Bearded Iris, garden training, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

There will be a Mexican luncheon and 3 free irises of your choice to be sent to you at their digging time. Remember Judges Training is for anyone that wants to learn more about the iris. You do not have to be a judge.

A REMINDER TO ALL

The San Francisco Flower and Garden Show is coming up FAST and you need to note these changes! The Show site will be held at the San Mateo Event Center (previously known as the San Mateo County Fair Grounds) on Delaware Avenue off Highway 92. **THIS MAY BE THE LAST YEAR OF THIS SHOW AS THE PROMOTOR IS RETIRING AND HAS NOT FOUND A BUYER FOR HIS BUSINESS!** So, if you always planned to attend, but never got around to it, this is definitely the year to get it on your calendar.

The Show this year runs from Wednesday, March 18th through Sunday, March 22nd. Hours are Wednesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased at the door. Advance sale tickets are \$16.00.

Parking will be \$8.00 for the day. Wear comfortable shoes; lots of walking, as usual.

CBRIS members and members from other Bay Area Iris Societies who are working the AIS booth at this event will have to pay the general parking fee, but will get into the show free in exchange for their work shift at the booth. Workers will receive a letter from Philippa Alvis prior to the event explaining ID bracelet pick-up, booth location, day and time of their shift, duties, and other details. Workers may arrive

as early as 9:00 a.m. before the show opens and may stay all day if they wish. However, **WORKERS MUST BE IN THE AIS BOOTH FOR THEIR FULL SHIFT ASSIGNMENT** during the day that they are on duty.

There are a couple of late day shifts still open--Thursday, 5:30 to 8 p.m. and Friday, 5:30 to 8 p.m. Last Call! If you are now interested in staffing the booth and attending on these days, please call Philippa at 408-395-2144 ASAP



The Artistic Division is always draws a crowd of viewers!

This and That

The new bookmarks with the 2009 dates are back from the printers. Pick some up at the show or the next meeting.

Charlie also gave a brief overview of his trip to the Presidential Inauguration

Tom reported on the region 14 meeting. They are trying to put the last 2 bulletins on their website as a trial. He will give us updates on this project.

Marlene Wiley announced at the last meeting that she and M'Jeanne Erwin were going to the Spring Regional in Santa Rosa and offered to take 2 people with them if they wanted a ride. Contact them if you need a ride!

Brenda Wood brought Sweatshirts to the last meeting. They have the previous logo on them and she is offering them to the members at her cost, Thank You Brenda.

Spring Regional

Region 14's Spring Regional is being held in Santa Rosa on April 24-25, 2009. Send in your registration application by March 24th in order to get the lowest price. Please see the last page of this newsletter for an application form. Any questions call Joe Lawrence at 707-938-2951.

TROPHIES

Show time is coming on fast. If you won any trophies, CLEAN them up and bring them to the meeting. We need to get things together for the Show.



DOOR PRIZES IRISES



1. **ACCESSIBLE**, J. Ghio, Ruffled neglecta w/red beards
2. **BETTY CUNNINGHAM**, D. Spoon, Lacy intense yellow
3. **BLACK MAGIC WOMAN**, Tasco, S. red purple; F. black; red beards
4. **COMPANY OF ONE**, J. Ragle, S. magenta rose; F. tan peach blends to lavender edge
5. **CREATIVE URGE**, F. Kerr, White, blue rim on F.; sometimes tan rim on S.
6. **FOR LOVERS ONLY**, P. Black, Bubbly pink
7. **HIGH EMOTION**, L. Painter, S. peach pink; F. black violet; peach sunburst
8. **ICON**, Keppel, S. orange; F. wine. MDB
9. **LA SCALA**, Keppel, S. violet orchid; F. pink
10. **LOVING PINK**, D. Spoon, S. pink; F. lavender pink
11. **MONTMARTE**, Keppel, Purple luminata w/straw rim on F
12. **PIANOFORTE**, J. Ghio, Cherry with nice stems
13. **PUGZILLA**, Kasperek, Orange yellow w/tangerine beards, SDB
14. **RAY DALE KERR**, F. Kerr, Golden yellow w/rusty brown band on F
15. **SANTORINI**, Schreiner, Beautiful blue amoena
16. **STARRING ENCORE**, D. Spoon, S. raspberry; F. plum, cream starburst; RE
17. **THROUGH THE CLOUDS**, J. Ghio, Superformed light blue
18. **VALENTINO**, J. Painter, Cardinal red w/gold beards
19. **VENITA FAYE**, Keppel, Pastel: S. pink; F. lilac
20. **ZESTING LEMONS**, R. Ernst, Different lemon w/white blending in F



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