

MT. DIABLO IRIS SOCIETY NEWS

JANUARY 2025



The Mt. Diablo Iris Society exists for the purpose of stimulating and fostering interest in the propagation, culture and hybridizing of the genus Iris. As well the scientific and horticultural education of all those interested in learning about any phase of the genus Iris, and in the protection of these plants in their native habit.

▶▶ **MDIS Meeting** ◀◀
▶▶ **Sunday, January 12th, 1-3 pm** ◀◀
▶▶ **San Ramon Community Center** ◀◀
12501 Alcosta Blvd, San Ramon

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year MDIS Members!

Welcome to 2025. So far, we have had a frost-free Winter, at least my sensitive plants tell me so. The irises, however, have gone fully dormant in the ground. The leaves have died back to little green leaf tips that will be growing on in about another month. One thing I noticed this winter so far is that my Irises I received last fall and potted up in my favorite potting soil, Miracle Grow, still have all their nice green leaves that have grown since I planted them. I don't recall this happening before. It will be interesting if they just start growing where they left off and not die back.

On another iris note, I've had over 30 varieties re-bloom since mid-October, A few more than I usually do since I have added many more historic varieties. One that has bloomed the most is Birchbark by Rudolph Kleinsorge from 1940. It has bloomed in October, November, December and Now

January too. I hope you're getting to some re-bloom on your irises as well.

Now that we have had almost two months off for the Holiday season, it's time to start thinking of the busy bloom season ahead. Get all those dead leaves off if you haven't done so already. Control or remove those weeds while they are small and before they produce any seeds. Double check your labels to make sure they are still there and readable. If you fertilize your iris, make sure you have it ready to use in mid-February. Its best to use a low nitrogen fertilizer like 6-10-10. A high nitrogen fertilizer could either rot your irises or give you too much green growth and few flowers. I prefer to use a lot of compost at planting time and I am now also adding Biochar. Later this year I will do a presentation on Biochar for our club.

Please join us on Sunday January 12, 2025 at 1pm. Please see address for our meeting location in this newsletter. Our speaker will be Jane Jordan. She lives in the

South Bay and grows many types of irises. From Pacific Coast Irises to Bearded Irises, Japanese, Louisiana, Spuria and Pseudata Irises. She has been involved in Region 14 of The American Iris Society, Clara B. Rees Iris Society, Monterey Bay Iris Society and probably other flower societies I don't know about. She will be speaking on Chrysanthemums, yes, she belongs to that society too. It's called the Bay Area Chrysanthemum Society (Bayareamum.org) out of Mountain View. They meet via Zoom each month on the 3rd Sunday at 2pm except November and December. Come learn about the fascinating Chrysanthemum and all it's forms. I know you will enjoy listening to Jane. She puts on a very thorough presentation.

With that, I hope to see you January 12th at 1pm.

Your MTB President,
Jeff Bennett

November Meeting

Topic: Chrysanthemums

Jane Jordan, an iris fanatic, also belongs to the Bay Area Chrysanthemum Society. Read the President's Message above for more details.

Location: San Ramon

The January, February, & March meetings will be at our Sam Ramon location. San Ramon Community at 12501 Alcosta Blvd. The room is 201.

If you need a ride to the November meeting, contact MtDiabloIris@gmail.com

Social Lunch Prior To Meeting

Some of us plan to have lunch before the meeting at 11:30. Feel free to join us. We will be at:

URBAN PLATES, 60 Crescent Dr
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

IRIS, THE QUEEN OF FLOWERS

The theme for *both* the 2025 Alden Lane Iris Show and the 2025 Virtual Show is IRIS, THE QUEEN OF FLOWERS. Put on those thinking caps and plan to enter an Artistic Design in April and again in the Virtual Iris Show. Think: royalty, heraldry, nobility, aristocracy, crowns, castles, etc, etc, etc.

Be sure to **update your 2025 calendar** to include the Alden Lane Iris Show! Set up is on April 11 with the Show and Fundraiser on April 12 & 13.

Botanical Word of the Month

Gibberellins - It is not gibberish!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2025

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| Jan 12 | MDIS Meeting. San Ramon Community Center, 12501 Alcosta Blvd, San Ramon |
| Feb 9 | MDIS Meeting. San Ramon Community Center, 12501 Alcosta Blvd, San Ramon |
| Mar 9 | MDIS Meeting. San Ramon Community Center, 12501 Alcosta Blvd, San Ramon |
| Apr 11 | Alden Lane Show Setup & MDIS Meeting. Alden Lane Nursery, Livermore |
| Apr 12-13 | Alden Lane Show & Fundraiser. Alden Lane Nursery, Livermore |
| May 10 | Shirley Trio Memorial at Dry Creek Garden, 2pm |

Upcoming 2025 AIS Events

May 2-3 Region 14 Spring Regional
Santa Rosa, CA

<https://aisregion14.org/events/spring-regional/>

June 2-7 AIS National Convention
Billings, Montana

<https://bigskyirisclub.com/2025-ais/>

SRPING REGIONAL

The agenda for the 2025 Region 14 Spring Regional has been published. You will find it towards the end of the newsletter.

The event is May 2-3 in Santa Rosa, CA and is being hosted by the Santa Rosa Iris Society. For details go to:

<https://aisregion14.org/events/spring-regional/>

November Meeting Recap

Jeff shared Jane Jordan's presentation on the 2024 American Iris Society top award winners. Take a peek at the Minutes near the end of this newsletter for a recap and some pictures.

We'd like to welcome our newest members, Joelle and Rebecca. Looking forward to getting to know you.



Joelle, Stan, Rebecca

Rebloomer Season

Jeff sent photos of just a handful of his iris reblooming this season. Riley also has many rebloomers. Riley's photos are published regularly on his Facebook page *Fleur De Lis Gardens* and also on Facebook at *Reblooming Iris Society*. Enjoy!



Birch Bark



Tropical Butterfly



Autumn Breeze



Sir Lines Alot
(A Door Prize Iris – perhaps in Feb)



Kazak

SEE FOLLOWING PAGES for

→ **January Door Prize Iris** pg 5-7

→ **Spring Regional Agenda** pg 8

→ **Nov 2024 Meeting Minutes**
pg 9-12

MDIS Door Prizes – JAN 2025

(Iris photos and descriptions are courtesy of commercial hybridizers and wiki.irises.org.)



WATCHING YOU (Johnson 2024) TB, EM, 36". Standards light flesh pink; style arms flesh pink; falls very light flesh pink, red-violet stitched bar across hafts, deep blue-violet dart that extends below beard to halfway down petal; beards red; slight fragrance.



SONOMA SKY (Begley 2023) TB, 36", ML. Standards light violet blue, darker veining, serrated edges; falls light violet blue, lighter around beard; beards white base, yellow throat, pale yellow middle, pale blue end; slight spicy fragrance.



LOCAL OCEAN (Schreiner 2024) TB, 40", L. Standards white; style arms cool lavender; falls purple; beards yellow; tinted foliage; slight fragrance.



ANCIENT REFLECTIONS (Tasco 2024) AB, 30", L. Standards wisteria; style arms tan, mauve midrib; falls brick red, dime sized black signal; beards gold.



JUST FOR KEN (Tasco 2022) TB, 43", M-L. Standards pink, flushed mauve; style arms pale violet, salmon crests; falls lavender, washed magenta; beards orange in throat and middle, ends violet; sweet fragrance. HM 2024.



ADENALINE JUNKIE (Black 2022) TB, 30", E-M. Standards mid peach pink blending to light butter margin; style arms mid peach; falls mid peach blending darker toward edge, dark purple widely spaced veins overall; beards dark orange. HM 2024.



ROMANY ROGUE (Remare by Keppel 2024) TB, 36", M. Standards dandelion; falls shoulders mixed dahlia purple and tapestry red washing down and almost totally covering wisteria violet, 3/16" mustard edge, small light yellow area speckled shoulder color beside beard; beards deep chrome yellow throat, deep chrome yellow middle, cadmium yellow end; slight sweet fragrance.



CHIHUAHUA EVENING (Dash 2024) AB, 23", M. Standards lavender veining on light lavender background; falls lavender veining on light lavender background, diffuse black on white signal; beards dark brown.



MAI TAI JOIN YOU (Schriener 2024) TB, 38", M. Standards light orange; style arms light orange;

falls burnt orange; beards burnt orange; slight fragrance.



LOCAL OCEAN (Schreiner 2024) TB, 40", L. Standards white; style arms cool lavender; falls purple; beards yellow; tinted foliage; slight fragrance.



SINGULARITY (Sutton 2023) TB, 36", E-M-L. Standards white, 1/2" gold gilt edge; style arms white, brushed gold on crest; falls currant red, white zones are veined crimson, yellow center stripe from beard; beards orange; slight sweet fragrance.



SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE (Cummins 2024), TB, 42", EM, SA. Standards misty lavender, yellow rim; style arms white and yellow; falls white, veined yellow, yellow rim; beards orange throat, lavender middle, yellow end with yellow spoon appendages.



STYLE MAKER (Sutton 2022) TB, 37", M-L.
Standards palest red-purple, darker veining at midrib, almond veining near edge, ¼" almond rim; falls dark violet, 1½" lighter violet-purple band at edge; beards orange; ruffled; serrated; slight sweet fragrance.



PARADISE VALLEY (Schreiner 2022) TB, 35",
M. Standards white; falls coral; beards orange; slight fragrance.

Irises, Redwoods, and Wines

The Santa Rosa Iris Society invites you to the AIS Region 14 Spring Regional, May 2 – 4, 2025

Meetings, lunches, and the Banquet will be held at the Luther Burbank Art Garden Center, 2050 Yulupa Ave, Santa Rosa, CA. We have two display gardens for visitation, plus two optional gardens. The Luther Burbank Art and Garden Center is where the club maintains its club's irises, bearded and beardless, and a Dykes Medal collection. It also has half of the Regional Guest Irises. The Santa Rosa Rose Society maintains a rose garden there as well. The 2nd garden, will be the Diane and Don Ford's iris farm in Hopland, Ca. In addition to the Regional Guest Irises planted there, you will see thousands of their iris seedlings which grow in the fertile soil of the Sanel Valley.

The Meeting Schedule for the 2025 Spring Regional is as follows:

Friday, May 2, 2025

4:00PM- 7:00 PM Registration Check-in at LBA&GC, Silent Auction is Open

4:00PM- 6:00 PM Seedling Show entries made, followed by Judging

5:00PM- 6:45 PM Dinner on your own

7:00PM- 9:30 PM Welcome & General Board Meeting at LBA&GC

Saturday, May 3, 2025

7:00 AM- 8:00 AM Breakfast on your own

7:00 AM- 8:00 AM Registration Check In at LBA&GC

8:00 AM- Group 1 - Leave for Ford Garden in Hopland via Hwy 101

8:00 AM- 11:00 AM - Group 2 -View Display Garden @ LBA&GC

9:00 AM- 11:00 AM - Group 1 – Visit Diana & Don Ford's garden

11:00 AM- Group 1 - Return to LBA&GC

Group 2, followed by Group 1 - Lunch at LBA&GC

12:00 PM- Group 2 - Leave for Ford Garden in Hopland via Hwy 101

1:00 PM- 4:00 PM - Group 1 - View Display Garden at LBA&GC

1:00 PM- 3:00 PM - Group 2 - Visit Diana & Don Ford's garden

3:00 PM- Group 2 - Turn in garden voting ballots at Ford's, or 4:00 PM at LBA&GC

3:00 PM- Group 2 - Return to LBA&GC

4:05 PM- Deadline for turning in ballots at LBA&GC

5:00 PM- 7:45 PM No host cocktails followed by Banquet Dinner at LBA&GC

7:45 PM- 8:45 PM Guest Speaker: Diana Ford "Hybridizing Irises"

8:45 PM- 9:15 PM Awards Presentation: R14 Awards Chair

9:15 PM- 9:30 PM Silent Auction Closes and Basket Raffle Drawing occurs

Sunday, May 4, 2025

8:00 AM- 12:30 PM Breakfast and Lunch on your own.

9:00 AM- 10:30 AM Judges Training (In garden) @ LBA&GC 1.5 hrs.

9:30 AM- 12:30 PM Optional Garden, Anna Cadd, Healdsburg

9:30 AM- 12:30 PM Optional Garden, Ellen Johnson, Healdsburg



MDIS Monthly Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the **Mt. Diablo Iris Society** was held at **the Pleasant Hill Senior Center** on November 10, 2024. The meeting was called to order by President Jeff Bennett at 1:15 PM.

Attendees included: Attendees included: Jeff Bennett, Jan Blaedel,, Ethan & Keitha DeMara, Marilyn Kaplan, Fran McNamee, Joella Medina, Sergey Melnikov, Stan and Pat Morgan, Kathy Oldham, Riley Probst, Ken Walker, Linda Woods. Rebecca Pollon joined at the meeting. She was a landscape manager at Rossmoor and planted iris there.

Guests: None Quorum: Yes

The minutes of the October 2024 meeting were approved.

Drawing for Door Prize Iris:

Allen James Tetreault	Kathy Oldham
Angel of the Garden	Fran McNamee
Caribbean Soul	Ethan DeMara
Cast A Tall Shadow	Kathy Oldham
Covert Capers	Linda Woods
Cruise Sips	Jan Blaedel
Edge of Eternity	Joelle Medina
Fabulistic	Keitha DeMara
Flip A Coin	Marilyn Kaplan
Golden Miracle	Rebecca Pollon
Grays Peak	Jan Blaedel
Justify	Riley Probst
Separate Ways	Jeff Bennett

While rototilling at Dry Creek, Jeff found half of a native American mortar. A week later he found the other half. Coyote Hills has a collection. Jeff will contact them with the details.



Jeff brought seeds from ONE Japanese iris clump – impressive **R. Giskard'** (Stephen Smith, R. 2000



If you took an English Box last year, please return it. In January we will start accepting signups for Artistic Design and English Boxes. The theme for this year is **IRIS, THE QUEEN OF FLOWERS**

Jeff shared Jane Jordan's pictures of Iris Awards for 2024.


Dykes Medal	Perry Dyer' - AB iris - (Paul Black)	
John C. Wister Medal Rise	Like A Phoenix' - (Paul Black)	TB
Knowlton Medal	'Sicilian Orange' - (Michael Sutton)	BB
Hans and Jacob Sass Medal	'Lakota' - (Marky Smith)	IB
Williamson-White Medal	'Candy Basket' - (Chad Harris)	MTB
Cook-Douglas Medal	Cheerful Chipmunk' - (Michael Sutton)	SDB
Caparne-Welch Medal	Wee Dragons' - (Lynda Miller)	MDB
Clarence G. White Medal	Enchanter's Spell' - (Richard Tasco)	At least 50% aril content
Willaim Mohr Medal	'Signal Butte' - (Richard Tasco)	At least 25% aril but less than 50%
The Founders of SIGNA Medal	'Lavender Moonbeams' - (Richard Tasco)	Species iris
Randolph Perry Medal	Violet Swallows' - (Chad Harris)	Spec-X
Sydney B. Mitchell Medal	'Caught In The Wind' - (Joseph Ghio)	PCI
Mary Swords Debaillon Medal	'Eyes Wide Open' - (Heather Pryor)	LA
Morgan-Wood Medal	My Girl Emily' - (Dean Cole)	Siberian
Eric Nies Medal	Red Warlord' - (Lee Walker)	Spuria
Payne Medal	'Columbia Crest' - (Chad Harris)	Japanese
Fred and Barbara Walther Cup	Dare To Be Different' - (Thomas Johnson)	Most HM in any one category

American Iris Society Awards

- [The American Dykes Medal](#) for best Iris from an American hybridizer
- [The Caparne-Welch Medal](#) for best Miniature Dwarf Bearded
- [The Cook-Douglas Medal](#) for best Standard Dwarf Bearded
- [The Debaillon Medal](#) for best Louisiana Iris
- [The Eric Nies Medal](#) for best Spuria
- [The Founders of SIGNA Medal](#) for best species cultivar
- [The Knowlton Medal](#) for best Border Bearded
- [The Mitchell Medal](#) for best Pacific Coast Native
- [The Mohr Medal](#) for best quarter Arilbred
- [The Morgan-Wood Medal](#) for best Siberian
- [The Payne Medal](#) for best Japanese
- [The Randolph-Perry Medal](#) for best Species Cross
- [The Sass Medal](#) for best Intermediate Bearded
- [The White Medal](#) for best aril or arilbred
- [The Williamson-White Medal](#) for best Miniature Tall-bearded
- [The Wister Medal](#) for best Tall Bearded Iris

John C. Wister Medal

Tall Bearded Iris




Rise Like a Phoenix
Paul Black 2015

Knowlton Medal



Border Bearded
Sicilian Orange
Mike Sutton 2016

The Founders of SIGNA Medal



Species



Lavender Moonbeams
Rick Tasco 2014
I. Unguicularis

The Mary Swords Debaillon Medal



Louisiana

Eyes Wide Open, Heather Pryor 2016

Morgan Wood Medal



Siberian



My Girl Emily
Dean Cole 2012

**Hans and Jacob
Sass Medal**

**Intermediate Bearded
Iris**



**Lakota
Marky Smith 2014**

Caparne-Welch Medal



**Miniature Dwarf
Bearded
Wee Dragons
Lynda Miller 2017**

Meeting was adjourned at:3:00

Jan Blaedel, Secretary

Date of Approval

**MT. DIABLO IRIS SOCIETY IS AN AFFILIATE OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY
AND REGION 14. VISIT THE REGION WEBSITE: WWW.AISREGION14.ORG**

Dues are \$12.50 annual or \$30.00 tri-annual, Please send payment to club treasurer.

American Iris Society dues – \$30 print only, \$45 print and Emembership. Dual and multiple year pricing available. Visit: <https://www.irises.org/ais-memberships-emember/>

YOUR CURRENT BOARD:

President – Jeff Bennett, e-mail: jeff13bennett@gmail.com

Vice-President – Kathy Oldham

Treasurer – Sergey Melnikov

Secretary – Jan Blaedel, Secretary

Newsletter Editor - Linda Woods, e-mail: linda.woods@comcast.net

Directors – Jan Blaedel, Carl Meier

Past President – Kathy Oldham