

MT. DIABLO IRIS SOCIETY NEWS

APRIL 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** ◀◀
▶▶ **Friday, April 11th, 3-5 pm** ◀◀
During Show and Fundraiser Setup
▶▶ **Alden Lane Nursery, Livermore, CA** ◀◀

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Tis' The Season,

Well, here we are on the cusp of bloom season. Are you ready? Weeds all pulled? Irises labeled. It's never too late you know. I've enjoyed the cooler than normal weather we have had, but it has slowed down the iris stalks a rising. Mine are looking so strong and healthy, sans the stalks. It will happen. One thing gardeners have is patience.

Our Iris Show at Alden Lane Nursery in Livermore is just days away. Please assist in any way you can. On Friday afternoon until 5pm, Saturday and Sunday throughout the day. Talk to visitors answering any questions they may have about irises and their culture. Encourage them to try growing irises in their yard. We will have hundreds of potted irises for fundraising and could use assistance both days with fundraising. We are so thankful that Alden Lane Nursery allows us to fundraise with potted irises at the show. A big thank you to everyone involved in growing the potted irises since last Fall and to Nancy Pahl for making

the pictures on stix for our pots. Without the pictures, we would not distribute nearly the number of pots that we do. So, on that note, I look forward to another successful show and fundraiser with all your help. Jan and Mary have done all the background work to make the show possible, now let's show them how much we appreciate their stamina!

Dry Creek Garden in Union City will be open for your free iris viewing from April 24th to May 17th. Don't wait until the 17th to view them though. It will be open on Thursday through Sunday from 10am to 4pm during those dates. The Google or Mapquest address to use to find it is 400 May Road Union City, Ca. Once you arrive to the parking lot, follow the signs up the road to the iris area. We have planted an additional 1,200 irises over the last year along with all the other flowers interspersed throughout. Parking is easier in the afternoon than the mornings on the weekends. I will be absent from the garden on the first weekend in May due to our Regional Iris Conference in Santa Rosa. I hope to see many of you at the show, garden and the conference.
HAPPY SPRING EVERYONE!
Jeff Bennett

Botanical Word of the Month

APICAL: Grow, baby, grow.

April Meeting and Setup Saturday April 11th, 3-5pm

We will have a brief meeting during set-up for the show and fundraiser at Alden Lane Nursery in Livermore. Please join us, if you can, to help set up. Bring any iris you have potted for the fundraiser – tidied up and clean for a nice appearance.

Mt. Diablo Iris Society will lead tours at Ruth Bancroft's Iris Garden

MDIS has been invited, once again, to lead tours at Ruth Bancroft's private iris gardens. Four tours a day will be offered, from 9 AM – 12:30 PM on Tuesday through Friday, April 22-25, 2025. Members are invited to help answer questions and enjoy the beauty of Ruth's iris. Email MtDiabloIris@gmail.com if you can help any of those days. We will be able to sell our leftover potted iris so there are many jobs available. Hope to see you there.

Alden Lane Show and Fundraiser

The Alden Lane Show and Fundraiser is this weekend. The staging of iris stems and arrangements is 7 – 9:30 am on Saturday April 12th. Judging is at 10am. If you are clerking for the judging, please be there by 9:45. The show display will be open to the public from 1-5pm on Saturday and 9am-4pm on Sunday. You are encouraged to join the fun of sharing our obsession with irises.

Sad News

We have just learned of the passing of Bob Canning - long-term, committed member of MDIS. His published obituary is included near the end of this newsletter.

VIRTUAL SHOW PHOTO INFO

Instructions for using WORD to create your 4UP picture have been included near the end of the newsletter. Keep taking pictures!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2025

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| Apr 11 | Alden Lane Show Setup & MDIS Meeting. 3-5pm. 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 |
| June xx | Awards Picnic, TBD |
| July xx | Bearded Auction, TBD – likely July 13 th |
| Aug 9 | Benicia Peddler's Fair |
| Sept 14 | MDIS Meeting, Pleasant Hill |
| Oct 12 | MDIS Meeting, Pleasant Hill |
| Nov 9 | MDIS Meeting, Pleasant Hill |

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/ |

SEE FOLLOWING PAGES for

→ **April Door Prize Iris** pg 3-5

→ **Alden Lane Show Event Poster**
pg 6

→ **Virtual Iris Show – Creating 4UP
photo set** pg 7-8

→ **Bob Canning Obituary** pg 9

→ **Mar 2025 Meeting Minutes**

pg 10-13

MDIS Door Prizes – APR 2025

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



STREAKING SKIES (Tasco 2024) TB, 41", L. Standards pale blue, changing to white; falls dark blue-violet, with veining; beards gold throat, grey middle, grey end; absent fragrance.



ISLAND BLUSH (Schreiner 2024) TB, 40", M. Standards pink; style arms pink; falls pink; beards orange; tinted foliage; slight fragrance.



OTERO MESA (Dash 2024) AB, 20", E. Standards beige, light yellow veining; style arms light yellow; falls light yellow overlaid on beige base, light yellow rim; diffuse brown signal; beards light orange.



VIKES (Schreiner 2022) TB, 38", M. Standards yellow-cream; falls deep purple, lighter rim; beards orange; slight fragrance.



GIRLS WANNA HAVE FUN (Black 2022) TB, 35", M-L. Standards light pink; falls cream to white haft encompassing beard, lined black and sanded mid purple between lines ending in white darts terminating in lower 3/4 purple black, fine white dotted rim; beards mid creamy tangerine; pronounced sweet fragrance.



VISION OF LOVELY (Aitken 2023) **BB**, 24", M. Standards rich lavender-pink; style arms rich lavender-pink; falls rich lavender-pink; beards soft orange; slight fragrance.



BURST OF SUNSHINE (Sutton 2022) TB, 35", M. Standards palest cream, heavily flushed and veined yellow; falls white zone around beard veined yellow blending into plum halfway down petal, 1/4" greyed yellow band, plum wire rim; beards yellow; ruffled.



FOR THE AGES (Johnson 2024) TB, 36" M. Standards light violet, flushed deeper with buff rim; style arms buff, violet lined crests; falls rich deep violet, wide medium lavender band; beards purple base, orange tips; sweet fragrance.



EMBELLISHED (Keppel 2023) TB, 35", L. Standards oyster to marguerite yellow faint lavender shading deeper on reverse side; falls abbey violet, edge slightly paler, extreme ruffling; beards cadmium yellow in throat, chrome yellow with blue base in middle, ends blue.



VENETIAN GOLD (Filardi 2022) TB, 32", EM. Standards and style arms golden yellow; falls golden yellow, lighter area in center; beards golden yellow; heavily ruffled; slight spicy fragrance.



ITALIAN SUMMER (Dash 2022) TB, 33", M. Standards peachy pink, faint rim; falls ruby red on peachy pink zone around beard; beards orange; slight fragrance.



WILD ABOUT YOU (Black 2024) TB, 33", M.
Standards light pink ground, wide mid mulberry plicata band, midrib and sanded center; falls light buff pink, mid red-purple plicata band and hafts; beards white base, tangerine tips; pronounced sweet fragrance.



GILTY (Sutton 2022) TB, 34", M-L, SA.
Standards white, thin gold rim; falls white, blending into violet blue 3/4 way down petal; beards orange in throat and middle, ends yellow-orange, fuzzy 1" yellow-orange horns.



Jeanne Clay Plank
Best of Show Winner in 2024
(Tall Bearded, 2011 by Fred Kerr)
Exhibited by Mary Sindicic

MT. DIABLO IRIS SHOW & PLANT FUNDRAISER

Saturday, April 12, 2025 & Sunday, April 13, 2025

Alden Lane Nursery
981 Alden Lane
Livermore, California

Saturday, April 12

Cultivar Staging: 7:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
Judging: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Open to the Public: 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Demonstrations: 3:00 p.m. Planting &
Growing Iris

Sunday, April 13

Open to the Public: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



An affiliate of the American Iris Society

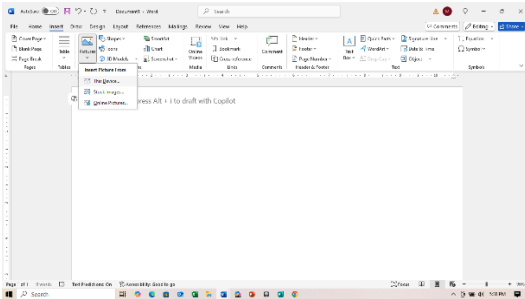


Find us on Facebook, Mt. Diablo Iris Society
Or email: MtDiabloIris@gmail.com

VIRTUAL IRIS SHOW INFORMATION

Instructions for using WORD to create your 4UP picture (You can also use PUBLISHER and EXCEL)
Each month we will insert a different set of instructions. But for now, TAKE THE FOUR PICTURES!!!!

- Locate your four pictures on your computer
- Locate TEMPLATE4UPWORD on your computer-which you received from MDIS with all your instructions.
- Open WORD
- Open TEMPLATE4UPWORD
- Click on Insert, Pictures, From this Device



- Click on your first required view (I find it easiest to open the STALK view first)
- Resize it, if necessary, to about 4 inches wide (Click on a corner and drag towards the middle of the picture until a good size is achieved.
- Click on INSERT, Pictures, From This Device again and retrieve your second picture
- Resize this one and repeat this process twice more until all four pictures are on your one page.
- You can now adjust all your pictures to be the sizes you want them – to fit on one page
- When all four pictures are arranged as you like them, click File, SAVE AS*, and choose where you want to save this picture file on your computer to enter into the VIRTUAL show. Type YOUR Registration Number, the SECTION, (Class if required) and the variety of the iris. Click on the arrow next to docx under the file name and choose PDF. Click SAVE. You now have all four pictures in one PDF. 00ACHICAGO NIGHTS.PDF

*Choosing SAVE AS (rather than just SAVE) is very important so you don't lose your template.

(Photo examples on next page...)





Robert James Canning

September 17, 1936 – February 21, 2025

Walnut Creek, CA

It is with deep sorrow and much love that we mourn the passing of Robert "Bob" Canning on February 21, 2025 in Walnut Creek, California after a brief battle with brain cancer. He will be lovingly remembered by his wife of 68 years, Janet; children: Cathy (Matthew) and Susan; nephew: Charles (Melody); grandchildren: Jocelyn (Chris) and James (Molly); and his great-granddaughter, Emily. Bob was predeceased by his twin brother, Charles, and his parents Robert Ashton Canning and Ruth Schlesman Canning.

Bob was born on September 17th, 1936, in Allentown, PA, and graduated from Lehigh University (1958, bachelor degree in mechanical engineering). He was a US Army veteran, serving in the Special Critical Skills program at Fort Knox, KY, in the late 1950s. He began his engineering career working for Hercules Powder Company, moving his family to Walnut Creek, CA, in 1961. He began working for Shell Development in 1963 and transferred to Shell Oil Company in Martinez, CA, in 1966 where worked as a project engineer for 27 years. Following his retirement, he served as the historian and a board member for Shell Alumni Museum, where he researched and wrote monthly articles for many years. Bob loved nature and was a long-time avid cyclist, often bicycling up Mount Diablo with friends. In the 1960s he began working to preserve the mountain and nearby hills, becoming a founding member of Save Mount Diablo in 1972. He worked to preserve Shell Ridge Open Space in Walnut Creek and was a watershed sub-committee chairman for the Sierra Club. Bob enjoyed growing & hybridizing irises. He served as the president of Mt. Diablo Iris Society, was the editor of the regional bulletin of the American Iris Society for eight years, and won numerous ribbons and medals for his irises at local and national shows. He had a long and loving relationship to wine, which he loved sharing with dear friends, and loved a good jigsaw puzzle.

Bob passed peacefully on a glorious sunny day. After saying goodbye, the family celebrated his life at the top of his favorite place, Mount Diablo, which he helped to preserve. Bob was laid to rest at Oakmont Memorial Park in Lafayette, CA on March 7. Those wishing to make a memorial donation in Bob's name are encouraged to make a contribution to Save Mount Diablo at save-



Mt. Diablo Iris Society Monthly Meeting Minutes March 9, 2025

Attendees included: Jeff Bennett, Jan Blaedel, Sergey Melnikov, Carl Meier, Stan and Pat Morgan, Nancy Pahl, Gayla Peek, Mary Sindicic, Riley Probst, Ken Walker,

Guests: Fred Newlan. Welcome, Fred, from Antioch via Maryland.

Quorum? Yes

The Mt. Diablo Iris Society monthly meeting was called to order by president, Jeff Bennett at 1 PM at the San Ramon Community Center. Jan Blaedel handed out agendas with the explanation that agendas will be provided in the future to help us stay on time and on track. This will be especially important if we use ZOOM for guest speakers.

Be sure to sign in and add your volunteer hours next to your name.

The minutes of the February 12, 2025 were approved/ revised. Motion was made by Carl Meier and seconded by Mary Sindicic. Motion passed unanimously.

Door Prize iris drawing:

AUBRIANNA-Stan Morgan

CREOLA-Pat Morgan

DANGER AHEAD-Carl Meier

DESERT NECTAR- Riley Probst

EASTER WEEKEND-Sergey Melnikov

FULLY CHARGED –Sergey Melnikov

LIGHTED PATH – Jeff Bennett

MAGIC IN THE AIR SDB RE-Pat Morgan

MARK MY WORDS-Jeff Bennett

PUSSYCAT EYE-Mary Sindicic

SOMEBODY SPECIAL-Gayla Peek

TODAY'S SPECIAL RAINBOW -Gayla Peek

UKULELE GIRL-Carl Meier

Program special hybridizer from the 1930's to the 1950's. **Dr. Rudolph Kleinsorge** is the Hybridizer of 104 named varieties of bearded irises he grew from about 100 square feet of area at his home garden in Silverton, Oregon. He line bred his irises for 25 years to create many award winning irises competed with all the top hybridizers of his time. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T8kvXKYQ5zE>

Watch the video for the first time or as a refresher on the fascinating man and his iris. (Might I also suggest you view <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5knUEVev3tg> for a wonderful half hour of historic iris.

A lively discussion followed about identifying iris (Stan Morgan) and chromosomes (Ken Walker) and finding "lost" iris overseas (Jeff Bennett). Jeff has 45 from Switzerland and 20 from England. Jeff received 'ADVANCED GUARD' from Phil. 'ADVANCED GUARD' has the first vestiges of a Space Age beard.* Jeff Bennett also talked about Phil Edinger and his contributions to preserving historic iris. Phil has also introduced his own hybrids. Jeff read aloud the description of Phil's iris, 'XANADU' (on the left below) based on the poem by Samuel Taylor Coleridge. (on the right below. Thank you, Nancy Pahl)

"In Xanadu did Kubla Khan
A stately pleasure-dome decree:"—
The standards of this iris arch into a
vaulted dome of crystal white embellished
by a wide band of intricacies in purple design.
Fimbriated style crests stand as violet gateways
leading into the spacious, cool interior
from which the vast, broad-hafted falls spread
outward like carved white marble
and the purple decorations continue
down each side of the falls,
diminishing as the distance increases.
Nobly held on exceptionally well
branched stems with numerous buds and above
salubrious foliage.
The architecture of the flowers
is the most impressive so far seen in a plicate, and
yet throughout, the soaring lines are softened by the
flowing fantasies of surging furbelows.

"It was a miracle of rare device,
A sunny pleasure-dome with caves of ice."

IN XANADU DID Kubla Khan
A stately pleasure-dome decree:
Where Alph, the sacred river, ran
Through caverns measureless to man
Down to a sunless sea.
So twice five miles of fertile ground
With walls and towers were girdled round;
And there were gardens bright with sinuous rills,
Where blossomed many an incense-bearing tree;
And here were forests ancient as the hills,
Enfolding sunny spots of greenery.
But oh! that deep romantic chasm which slanted
Down the green hill athwart a cedarn cover!
A savage place! as holy and enchanted
As e'er beneath a waning moon was haunted
By woman wailing for her demon-lover!
And from this chasm, with ceaseless turmoil
seething,
As if this earth in fast thick pants were breathing,
A mighty fountain momently was forced:
Amid whose swift half-intermitted burst
Huge fragments vaulted like rebounding hail,
Or chaffy grain beneath the thresher's flail:
And mid these dancing rocks at once and ever
It flung up momently the sacred river.
Five miles meandering with a mazy motion
Through wood and dale the sacred river ran,
Then reached the caverns measureless to man,
And sank in tumult to a lifeless ocean;
And 'mid this tumult Kubla heard from far
Ancestral voices prophesying war!
The shadow of the dome of pleasure
Floated midway on the waves;
Where was heard the mingled measure
From the fountain and the caves.
It was a miracle of rare device,
A sunny pleasure-dome with caves of ice!

<https://youtu.be/DZhPrwZr9Oc?si=GMTdw4qnvblEgFxS> read by Sir Ian McKellen

Old Business: A Wizard of Oz theme won the vote at the February meeting but we need to decide between Somewhere Over the Rainbow or Lions and Tigers and Bears, Oh My!

For the 2026 Iris Show Theme. Somewhere Over the Rainbow won 8-2.

Some ideas for 2026 – Lions, Tigers, and Bears, Yellow Brick Road, Flying Monkeys, Dorothy, Toto, Scarecrow, Tin Man, Poppy Fields, Auntie Em, Wizard of Oz, Green City, Red Shoes, etc.

Ruth Bancroft Gardens has Biochar for sale.

Jan Blaedel handed out engraved medals as the Directors decided to once again engrave the Silver and Bronze Medals.

Silver Medal for 2024 April Iris Show – Jeff Bennett

Bronze Medal for 2024 April Iris Show – Mary Sindicic

Bronze Medal for 2024 Virtual Iris Show – Sergey Melnikov

Silver Medal for 2024 Sydney B. Mitchell Virtual Iris Show – Sergey Melnikov

New Business

Jan Blaedel – Moved to separate the historic iris into old form and new form, P1 and P2 (roughly up to 1959 and 1960-1996) for the 2026 Iris Show, to be voted on at the June meeting. (See the newsletter for a short explanation article)

Jan Blaedel moved that Shirley's May 10 memorial at Dry Creek be our May meeting and Garden Tour. Passed unanimously.

Reports

Mary Sindicic – April Iris Show at Alden Lane – Come help setup on April 11 at 2 PM at Alden Lane Nursery in Livermore, CA Be sure to clean the pots you are bringing for sale and place the Pics on Stix. There will be a quick meeting and Door Prize iris drawing following set up.

Jan Blaedel and Mary Sindicic will visit the NEW SHED at Dry Creek to get all the show supplies.

Jan Blaedel – Virtual Iris Show – emails will go out Monday (tomorrow) with your registration form, three sets of instructions for 4UP pictures, Registration instructions, and a Show Bulletin. See the display board on the back table.

Sergey Melnikov – Treasurer's Report

Checking \$9365

Savings \$6449

Membership – 22 current members plus 3 Lifetime Members

Announcements:

Be sure to put your volunteer hours next to your name on the sign-in sheet.

Announcements from the floor – Nancy Pahl - If you still need Pics on Stix, get your requests to Nancy by Friday, March 14, 2025.

Share Table – Exhibition Tag Exhibit and Virtual Show Exhibit

One bag of a cookie per person – Happy March Birthdays

The next meeting will be Friday afternoon, April 11, 2025 at Alden Lane Nursery. If you have agenda items, send them to MtDiabloIris@gmail.com

At the end of the meeting – Riley expressed some frustration at having been late due to traffic and missing the Door Prize Iris Drawing, considering that he had brought Rebloomers to be distributed. Jeff authorized a vote to move the Door Prize Iris Drawing to the middle of the meeting. Passed 8-1. In light of the fact that we had just moved the Door Prize drawing to the beginning of the meeting at the request of a member who had to leave early, this topic needs further review. To be reconsidered at the June meeting. Discussion to be encouraged in the NEWSLETTER. Read more about it.
Meeting ended at 3 PM

Respectfully submitted, Jan Blaedel, Secretary

Approved:

* From AIS Bulletin 161. April 1961: To immediately dispel any thoughts of sorcery invoked to bring about the one original basic change from which all forms of horned iris have since evolved, let me explain at once the simple manner in which the first horned iris came about. The rudimentary beginnings of a horn first appeared among the seedlings of the late Sydney B. Mitchell, at Berkeley, California. The cause is uncertain, but most likely the first slight projection at the end of the beard represented a mutation brought about by the forces of nature, possibly radiation of some kind. And if so, these space-age iris may perhaps trace their origin right back to bombardment with radiation from interstellar space. Be that as it may, the fact remains that it was in May, 1944, in the garden of Professor Mitchell, that I first observed this phenomenon on his ruffled plicata seedling No. M-5-38. This was two years before I issued my first iris catalog, and before I even had an iris garden. As Professor Mitchell was not interested in working with this apparent sport, he kindly allowed me to use it in my first iris hybridization experiments. I selfed it and crossed it with eight of his other plicata seedlings, none of which had any signs of horns. The resultant seeds were sowed that fall in my first iris seedbeds at Placerville, in the mountains of northern California. Thus began my initial efforts to intensify and extend the horns sufficiently to become decorative features. Most of the seedlings from these crosses bloomed in 1946, and among them all there was only one that had the beginnings of horns. This came from one of the 37 seeds resulting from the selfing of Mitchell's No. M-5-38, which he introduced in 1945 as ADVANCE GUARD. Lloyd Austin 'Controlled Evolution of the Horned, Spooned, and Flounced Iris'.

Mini agenda handed out to members

1 PM, Call to order
hand out agendas-explain
remind people to sign in with volunteer hour
take roll and determine a quorum (silently)
approve the February minutes
do the Door Prize Iris drawing.
1:30-2:15 Video- Dr. Rudolph Kleinsorge

Old Business

Jan – Medal Presentations
Over the Rainbow or Lions, Tigers, and Bears, Oh My

New Business

Jan – Motion P1/P2 - to be voted on in June
Jan - Motion May 10 at Dry Creek

Reports

Mary - April Show at Alden Lane
Jan - Update on Virtual Iris Show
Sergey - Treasurer's/Membership Report

Announcements

Announcement Add-Ons from The Floor
(Items not previously added to the agenda)

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