

MT. DIABLO IRIS SOCIETY NEWS

June 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, June 8th, 1-3 pm** ◀◀

▶▶ **LOCATION – San Ramon Venue** ◀◀
▶▶ **San Ramon Community Center** ◀◀
12501 Alcosta Blvd, Rm 201
San Ramon, CA

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings MDIS members,

Spring isn't over yet, technically, but the iris bloom season is winding down for 2025. Was this a good year for you or average or did you have issues? Every year is a little different due to temperatures and rain. It can also be a reflection on what you didn't get accomplished last Fall. If you had fewer stalks, you probably need to divide those irises this year. If you had shorter stalks, you need to water deeply during dry spells in the months leading up to bloom season. (December to April) Remember, we had a very dry January this year. Our wettest month was three weeks of zero rain. The climate is unpredictable, and you must observe the weather and take action to prevent disappointments. Not only for your iris but for all your garden plantings. If your flowers are good height but just not that big, you may just need to fertilize in February and water them well. At Dry Creek this year, our beds show

signs of all three conditions. Some have not been divided in years and need a complete re-do to entire beds with fresh compost (3") and now biochar (1"). I will experiment with fertilizer this year. One bed with and one bed without.

For our May meeting, instead of a tour of gardens, we attended the memorial for Shirley Trio-Probst on May 10th from 2pm onward. Goodies were passed out by members Jan Blaedel, Mary Sindicic and Linda Woods. Seating for those that needed it was provided by Dry Creek Meyers 1940's era folding chairs for special occasions. This was a special occasion! About 50+ irisarians from across Region 14 attended. One from Riverside County. There was a large display of 8' x 11' color photos of Shirley (and Riley) through the years. Some really great photos of Shirley smiling at conventions near and far. Trophies and awards she had won were also in the photos and on display. Shirley's son Mike was also in attendance. I'm sure he could see how much Shirley contributed to the iris community

by all the stories that were shared from attendees.

The event was centered around the 6-foot teak bench that was purchased as a memorial bench to be on display and used by attendees to the open iris gardens at dry creek for many, many years to come. MDIS donated \$500 towards the purchase of the bench and other donations were accepted from other societies and individuals too. A cast engraving will be placed on the bench that says;

“In Memory Of Shirley Trio-Probst
Who’s Vision Helped Create This Garden
Donated by her husband and Iris friends
1943-2024

The weather was great, lots of iris still in bloom and people just got to enjoy each other’s company and talk about Shirley. She would have loved that! After all was done, as my wife Cheryl and I and Riley and Mike sat near the entry gates of the garden, a beautiful white Egret flew to the top of the new structure roof overlooking the garden. We all knew it was Shirley taking one last look at the garden before “taking off”. RIP Shirley



For our June meeting, it is our annual awards program for the winners of this year’s Iris show at Alden Lane Nursery in Livermore. Once again, it was a great success for our club and the public really embraces the flower IRIS.

Thank you to everyone that pitched in at all levels for the two day event. A BIG THANK YOU to Mary and Jan that plan all year for this event by getting a theme, scheduling judges, registering the show with the American Iris Society, picking up and returning the show supplies to the storage shed at Dry Creek, renting the facility and all the other things we don’t even know about. And then there is “Sister”, as Mary calls her. Mary’s sister, not even an MDIS member, is always helping throughout the event and is a whirlwind of energy and fun. Thank you, Roberta! Please attend our next meeting to congratulate the winners from the show!

Jeff and Riley are off to the AIS Convention in Billings, Montana by the end of May. We will report on our experiences at a future meeting! Happy Summer ahead!

Your MTB President,
Jeff Bennett

June Meeting

LOCATION – San Ramon Venue

We will be holding our Jun 8th meeting from 1-3pm at San Ramon Community Center 12501 Alcosta Blvd in San Ramon. (This is the location near the Bollinger Canyon exit.)

Social Lunch Prior To Meeting

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

Panera Bread
3121 Crow Canyon Place, San Ramon

This is 5 minutes from our meeting place at the San Ramon Community Center.

MEETING

This meeting will include the Awards Assembly to congratulate the Alden Lane Show winners.

Agenda – June 8, 1 PM, San Ramon Community Center

MEMBERS-PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR ITEMS FOR THE JUNE MEETING TO MtDiabloIris@gmail.com

- Call to Order –
- Approval of Minutes
- Old Business – Tabled motion on the floor to break Section P, Historics into P1 – old form and P2 – new form.
- Drawing for Door Prize Iris:
- Reports:
 - Shirley Trio-Probst Celebration of Life
 - Two videos thanks to Sergey – posted on YouTube
<https://youtu.be/1Z4XTIT8Kl8>
<https://youtu.be/JQxfScSm8Yk>
 - Treasurer's Report – April Show
 - Special AIS membership opportunity – if you are new or your membership has lapsed. \$10 for a year
 - Ruth Bancroft Iris Garden tours
 - Virtual Iris Show
- Adjournment
- Awards Assembly

When you sign in for the meeting, be sure to include your number of iris volunteer hours for the past month.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2025

- | | |
|---------|---|
| June 8 | Awards Picnic, San Ramon Community Center |
| July 13 | Bearded Auction, San Ramon Community Center |
| Aug 9 | Benicia Peddler's Fair |

- | | |
|---------|-----------------------------|
| Sept 14 | MDIS Meeting, Pleasant Hill |
| Oct 12 | MDIS Meeting, Pleasant Hill |
| Nov 9 | MDIS Meeting, Pleasant Hill |
| Dec | No meeting. |

Upcoming AIS Events

June 24-29 AIS/JIS National Convention
Portland, OR

<https://www.irises.org/aismembers/conventions/>

2025 Virtual Iris Show Deadline August 31, 2025

The deadline for entries is August 31, 2025. This means you still have time to arrange your four pictures into one file and record them on your unique Registration Form. We are looking forward to our best year ever. If you have any questions, email Jan and Mary at MtDiabloIris@gmail.com This is the same address where you submit your entries.

Remember that you can enter an Artistic Design using iris that are purchased so even if your blossoms are spent, you can still arrange a design. If you would like to do a design (the theme is IRIS, QUEEN OF FLOWERS) but cannot think of a design, we have a suggestion for you that has been offered by another irisarian. One that we think is very clever. If no one uses it, we will share it with you at the end of the Virtual Show.

Detailed information on submitting your formatted photos is attached to this newsletter.

BOTANICAL WORD of the MONTH

POMOLOGY

(The study of, not the growing of)

**April 2025 Alden Lane Show
and Fundraiser**

A big THANK YOU to everyone who worked on the show this year. A special thank you to my co-chair Jan Blaedel who goes above and beyond with decorations and food. She always makes sure we eat well and look beautiful. I can't imagine a better co-chair. There are so many people who contribute to making our show and it couldn't happen without all of you, including our several new members that helped out. Looking forward to seeing all of you at the June meeting.

We are grateful to even have volunteers who are not club members help with the show: Roberta and Angie. Thank you to all who helped to make our show run so smoothly it couldn't happen without all of you.

Mary Sindicic & Jan Blaedel

Here is the winner list and photos for our 2025 show, provided by Eileen. Thank you, Eileen!



Best of Show Mary Sindicic
Arilbred "Heart of Hearts"

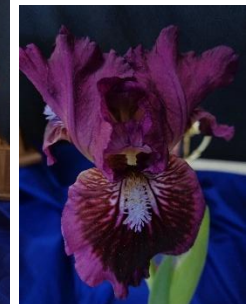
Best Arilbred Mary Sindicic "Heart of Hearts"



Best Tall Bearded Jeff Bennett "Wealth"



Best Median Riley Probst "Sierra Sunrise" IB



Best SDB Riley Probst "Pepi"



Best Historical Jeff Bennett
"Easter Candle" 1946 TB



Best Artistic Arrangement
Marilyn Kaplan "Queen of the Snow"



Best Rebloomer Riley Probst
"Cloudless Sunrise" TB



Best PCN Ryan Grisso "Earmark"



Best Seedling Ryan Grisso #24-5 PCN

Shirley Trio- Probst Celebration of Life



Riley shares his memories with us.



Visitors at Dry Creek Garden during Celebration of Life.



Mary and Jan serve delicious cake.

SHIRLEY – A glowing gem in our club.
A sampling of photos displayed by Riley.





Diogenes 'lantern' in bloom. It is grown from the bulbs Ken Walker offered at a club meeting.



(More of photos displayed by Riley are in the Minutes attached to newsletter.)

Spring in Kathy's Garden



A visitor to my watsonias, not yet open.

THIS and THAT

- Kathy found a new video on Schreiners you may like to watch. It is about 16 minutes long.

<https://youtu.be/EcTfDEvCOWs?si=8f1HJKWtQYUqPDla>

- An article featuring Ryan Grisso, who hybridizes PCN's, is included in this newsletter. He graced our show with many of his PCN's including the Best PCN and Best Seedling winners.
- The Bay Area Chrysanthemum Society recently presented at a club meeting. They are having a cuttings sale June 7 & 8. The flyer is attached to this newsletter.
- AIS has a special membership drive for new (or lapsed) members. Information is attached to this newsletter.

SEE FOLLOWING PAGES for

→ **June DOOR PRIZE IRIS** pg 8-10

→ **Virtual Show Photo Format Details**

pg 11-12

→ **Flyer: Chrysanthemum Cutting Sale** pg 13

→ **Article featuring Ryan Grisso**

pg 14-16

→ **AIS Special Membership Drive Form** pg 17

→ **Apr 2025 Meeting Minutes** pg 18

→ **May 2025 Shirley's Celebration of Life Summary** pg 19

→ **Mar 2025 Meeting Minutes** pg 20-23

MDIS Door Prizes – JUNE 2025

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



THIS IS CRAZY (Johnson 2023) TB, 36", M-L. Standards deep lemon yellow; falls rust to burgundy, white rayed pattern extending out from beard, wide lemon border that is etched by a thin red line; beards orange; pronounced sweet fragrance.



JIMMY'S JAM (Schreiener 2024) TB, 34", M. Standards dark purple; style arms dark purple; falls dark purple; beards dark purple; slight sweet fragrance.



BOUNTIFUL BLOOM (Black 2024) TB, 35", M-L. Standards mid pink, blushed light violet up midrib; style arms peach; falls mid red-violet, pale pink hafts veined to mottled light plum; beards mid tangerine; slight sweet fragrance.



AIR KISSES (Ford 2023) TB, 36", M-L. standards medium pink, lighter at edge, darker veining at base, serrated edge; falls cream, blending to pink edges, darker veining around beard, pink shoulders and reverse, ruffled; beards white base, red tips, darker in throat, lighter at end; slight sweet fragrance.



NEW MEXICO SKY (Dash 2022) TB, 32", M. Standards and style arms sky blue; falls powder blue; beards orange to powder blue; slight fragrance. **HM 2024.**



SPICED UP (Sutton 2022) TB, 34", M-L. Standards dark ruby red, streaked and splashed yellow; falls dark ruby red, streaked and splashed yellow with occasional white streaks; beards golden yellow; slight spicy fragrance.



BY YOUR SIDE (Sutton 2023) TB, 34", M-L. Standards pale cream, light yellow at edges, pale pink flush up midrib; falls pale butterscotch, darker at edges, faint pink influence near edges, lighter at end of beard; heavily ruffled; beards orange; sweet fragrance



STYLE AND SUBSTANCE (Sutton 2022) TB, 40", L-VL. Standards white; slight golden yellow crests; falls dark beetroot purple, white around beard and in throat; beards yellow; laced; slight sweet fragrance.



DART MISSION (Tasco 2023), AB, 23", ML. Standards white; falls white, purple striations beneath beard signal; beards gold throat, yellow middle, white end; slight fragrance.



DOT MATRIX (Dash 2024) TB, 35", M.
Standards brown, yellow brown on the midrib; falls brown plicata overlaid on white base, pale yellow reverse; beards orange brown; slight fragrance.



ENCHANTED RING (Filardi 2022) IB, 19", M.
Standards white ground, heavily plicata marked dark wine-purple, solid at top; falls white, narrow dark wine-purple plicata edge; beards light gold, dark blue at ends; slight spicy fragrance.



COLOR ME FANCY (Markham 2024) TB, 38", M.
Standards light, clear yellow, darker at edges; falls white ground, blending to pale yellow at hafts, 1 inch band of heavily sanded raspberry around petal, line of raspberry sanding down the centerline, soft yellow-beige edges; beards orange throat, orange middle, yellow end; slight fragrance.



WINTERCREST (Keppel 2024) TB, 35", M.
Standards marguerite yellow at edge, remainder blended columbine blue; falls blue-white lightly shaded afterglow in throat near beard, hafts sulphur yellow faint sulphur yellow shading at distal end; beards chrome yellow throat, chrome yellow middle, lavender white tipped yellow end; slight sweet fragrance.



SUNSHINE STATE (Schreiner 2022) TB, 39", M-L.
Standards yellow; falls cream, light yellow rim; beards yellow.

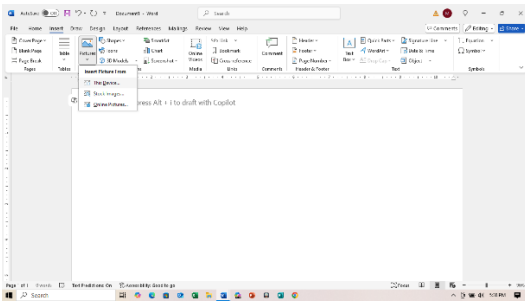


YOU MAKE ME BLUSH (Sutton 2022) TB, 35", ML.
Standards honeysuckle, slight red-violet flush up midrib; falls same, greyed purple in throat, veined darker; beards terra cotta; ruffled; sweet fragrance.

VIRTUAL SHOW Picture Formatting

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.

See next page for example:





Mark your
calendar

Bay Area
Chrysanthemum
Society

2025 Cuttings Sale



Location: Yamagami's Garden Center
1361 South De Anza Blvd,
Cupertino, CA 95014

Time:

Saturday, 6/07, 10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, 6/08, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.



For more info, visit us on:

Website



Facebook



Instagram



www.bayareamum.org

Iris hybridizing novice quickly grew masterful
11, 2007

By Jannie Dresser, *Special to The Chronicle* April

Pacific Coast Native iris hybridized by Ryan Grisso include an iris with a pink-purple center and black striations on light yellow petals. Photos by Ryan Grisso



Like musicians, storytellers, and craftspeople, gardeners learn best by watching and listening to masters who have come before. So when Ryan Grisso shows off his Pacific Coast native iris hybrids, he is the first to acknowledge those who have inspired him, especially his mentor, Vernon Wood. "Vernon taught me how to hybridize the best of the best."

Almost 90, Wood has retired from gardening but not before sharing his knowledge with the 31-year-old Grisso. "Vernon showed me how to make the crossings, how to tag and keep records, and how to stay on the iris' breeding schedule." He showed Grisso how to home in on desirable traits and inspired him to take risks to make unusual "out-crosses," a "marriage" of two distinctly different irises.

On weekdays, Grisso is a mild-mannered water conservation coordinator for the North Marin Water District. On evenings and weekends, he turns into Iris Man, passionate maven of the Pacific Coast native iris. "The old-timers in the iris community were so encouraging," Grisso says. Three years into creating his first hybrids, his flowers were winning horticulture awards at local iris shows.

Grisso grew up in El Sobrante and worked at a Richmond nursery owned by a high school classmate's family. In 2001 he bought a house not far from where his parents and grandparents live. His backyard tumbles down a half-acre hillside, the relatively steep descent broken into terraced rows. At the bottom of the slope, berry brambles, willows, shrubs and other trees create a formidable barrier.

On each terrace that Grisso has wrenched from the raw hillside, he has built raised beds that provide good light and drainage to more than 4,000 Pacific Coast native irises of varying size, height and color.

The Pacific Coast natives are beardless iris, as showy and beautiful as exotic orchids. A perennial, it blooms in a pattern of three layers of three petals. The innermost are called styles, the middle layer standards and the three sepals forming the bottom row the falls. Each row's color and design can either harmonize with the other petals or create a startling contrast; petals can be soaked in deep magenta, indigo or sun yellow, or be more lightly shaded pastels flecked with veins or dashes of contrasting colors.



For example, one of Wood's hybrids, called 'Wine & Cheese,' features burgundy-colored falls and yellow-orange styles. The skilled hybridizer has a varied palette at his disposal. In addition to having gorgeous flowers, Pacific Coast native iris can grow in sun or shade. An added bonus for local gardeners is that the deer don't like them.

While it may seem taboo to mess with a plant's genetic material, Grisso suggests that human beings merely take their cue from Mother Nature's own experimental drive to create the most adaptable plants. Eleven species grow along the coast from Southern California to northern Washington, and all of them cross-pollinate. Our native iris is closely related to a Siberian one, whose ancestors probably ventured across the Bering Strait during the last Ice Age. From these original species, hybridizers like Wood and Joe Ghio, "the god of native iris," have created hundreds of new varieties.

Grisso began cultivating iris in 2002. Before that, he was a breeder of Birmingham roller pigeons. Allergies became an unpleasant consequence of tending pigeons, and finally he took his doctor's advice and started to look for a new hobby. At a San Francisco flower show, he was floored by the beauty of one of Wood's Pacific Coast irises at a local iris society's booth. A visit to Wood's garden, and Grisso was hooked by his new mentor's try-anything attitude.

Hybridizing flowers is "not rocket science," Grisso says. "Anyone can do it." First, he had to transform his backyard by pulling out the grass and replacing it with a soilless mix of sand, red lava rock, coconut core and fir bark. As a water conservation adviser, he welcomed the excuse to get rid of old lawn. In the second year, he cautiously mixed in native clay, which secures nutrients but can inhibit proper drainage. "When you put a native plant into a garden, you're typically injecting water into the plant's survivability equation. For most natives in our Mediterranean climate zone, that's bad news."

What drives native plant hybridizers is the anticipation that accompanies each new crossing. Adventurous crossbreeding can result in either an odd-looking plant with unattractive flowers or a dazzling blossom with a unique pattern and colors. Grisso winnowed his 2006 crop of 3,500 Pacific Coast native irises to about 75. He carefully follows Wood's instructions for "best practice" as he scrutinizes color, pattern and growing ability. The process involves discarding plants that do not meet certain standards, then planting the best new seedlings. "You've got to make room for the offspring. You're always going for the next generation and can't worry about what you are throwing out." Grisso looks a little sad as he points out several large black garbage bags filled with recent culls.

Getting started in native plant cultivation is easy, Grisso says. Most plant auctions are sparsely attended, even though the plants are often inexpensive. The more experienced hybridizers welcome newcomers. In the Bay Area, several iris societies provide basic information and host sales and shows at local garden centers. Two are scheduled in the East Bay this month: Saturday and Sunday at Oakland's Lakeside Garden Center and April 28 and 29 at Heather Farms in Walnut Creek.

Every so often Grisso sends photographs of new seedlings and interesting flowers to Wood, who has moved nearer to his family in Chico. Since Grisso works full time and has his own young family, he says his biggest challenge is finding the time to work with his plants, but he has a good grounding from his retired mentor, and a good helper in his 2-year-old daughter, Giana, an expert in bug identification and weed eradication. In a few years, Giana will know enough to create hybrid flowers of her own.

Growing Pacific Coast native iris

Plant iris on slopes, in raised beds or in well-drained areas of the garden.

Plant an already potted plant "division" after the flower has bloomed (usually in late May).

Mulch with organic material (aged compost, sandy potting soil, etc.). Water only once or twice a month in summer, once a week in fall. In autumn, divide the plant and replant these divisions when new white roots emerge (usually late October).

Where to see Pacific Coast native iris

San Francisco Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco: www.strybing.org.

The East Bay Regional Parks Botanic Garden, Tilden Park in the Berkeley Hills: www.nativeplants.org.

The [University](http://www.mip.berkeley.edu/garden) of California Botanical Garden: www.mip.berkeley.edu/garden.

Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens in Fort Bragg is a 47-acre public botanical garden featuring native iris: www.gardensbythesea.org.

Garden tours and shows are often arranged through the various native plant societies.

Resources for local and national iris societies:

Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris: www.pacificcoastiris.org.

California Native Plant Society: www.cnps.org.



The American Iris Society

Application for the 2025 Membership Drive Special

You are invited to join The American Iris Society (AIS) at a special introductory rate of \$10.00 for a 1-year membership, a \$45.00 value.

Your membership will be a **Full Membership** which includes:

A subscription to the *AIS Bulletin*, a quarterly publication, which provides fresh information on iris culture, color photographs of both old and new irises, plus a directory of commercial iris nurseries located in the United States and Canada.

An Electronic Membership which provides early access to the online *AIS Bulletin* and a growing list of other online resources.

New AIS members receive AIS's Basic Iris Culture Booklet, an informative booklet which provides guides, facts and tips for successful iris growing.

All members receive News & Notes, AIS's monthly electronic newsletter.

AIS's website [www.irises.org] is filled with resources for all iris lovers, growers and hybridizers, including links to the AIS StoreFront and the Iris Encyclopedia, which contains pictures and detailed information for over 70,000 irises and much more.

Within the AIS community there are several Special Interest Sections and Cooperating Societies, each with their own dues structure, meetings, and publications (more information and links available on the AIS website). Iris special interests include: Aril, Dwarf, Historic, Japanese, Louisiana, Median, Novelty, Pacific Coast Native, Reblooming, Siberian, Species, Spuria, and Tall Bearded

AIS supports and encourages the growing, hybridizing, and celebration of irises – in all their beauty, and expanding diversity.

AIS provides and promotes education, exhibitions, field explorations, and gardening activities.

Offer limited to the first 750 applicants

As a volunteer in a member organization, there are multiple opportunities for participation in AIS at every level – local, regional, national, and global.

AIS offers many opportunities to those looking for an enjoyable gathering of like minded gardeners; or, interested in exhibiting their favorite beauties in a show, serving as a host garden, participating in educational events, becoming a judge, serving on a committee, or serving in office.

AIS looks forward to welcoming you!

Registration Information

Name _____

Address 1 _____

Address 2 _____

City _____

State _____

Zip code _____

Country _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Youth Member Only – Year of Birth 20____

Online Payment, \$10.00:

<https://tab.so/AISMemberD2025>

By check, \$10.00 – made out to AIS:

**AIS Membership Secretary
1226 High Street
Alameda, CA 94501**

2025 Special Membership offer valid from 1 March 2025 to 1 November 2025 for new members or memberships that have lapsed 1 year or more only.



Mt. Diablo Iris Society Monthly Meeting Minutes **April 11, 2025**

Attendees included: Jan and Ken Blaedel, Marilyn Kaplan, Carl Meier, Kathy Oldham, Gayla Peek, Eileen Roark, Mary Sindicic, Riley Probst,

Guests: Roberta Davies, Angie Diamond

Quorum? Yes

The Mt. Diablo Iris Society monthly meeting was called to order by vice president, Kathy Oldham at 4:30 PM at Alden Lane Nursery, Livermore, CA.

The minutes of the **March 9, 2025** were approved. Motion was made by Eileen Roark and seconded by Mary Sindicic. Motion passed unanimously.

Door Prize iris drawing:

Embellished	Gayla Peek
For the Ages	Riley Probst
Gilty	Roberta Davies
Island Blush	Jan Blaedel
Italian Summer	Marilyn Kaplan
Otero Mesa	Mary Sindicic
Streaking Skies	Carl Meier
Venetian Gold	Kathy Oldham
Vikes	Angie Diamond
Vision of Lovely	Barbara Meier
Wild About You	Eileen Roark

Program :

Set up at Alden Lane Nursery – Iris Show starts April 12 and runs for two days.

Announcements:

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

Ruth Bancroft Iris Garden tours will be held Tuesday through Friday, April 22-25 from 9 to noon

May meeting will be at Shirley Trio-Probst's Celebration of Life at Dry Creek Garden on May 10, 2025 at 2 PM

Awards Assembly will be June 8th at 1 PM at the San Ramon Community Center

Auction July 13 at 1 PM at the San Ramon Community Center

Benicia Peddler's Faire, Saturday, August 9 – sign up to work that day

Share Table – Yellow Limes from Kathy Oldham

Respectfully submitted, Jan Blaedel, Secretary

Approved: 2025

Report on Shirley Trio-Probst's Celebration of Life Saturday, May 10, 2025

Seventy people were in attendance at Dry Creek Iris Garden to honor Shirley's life as an irisarian. Standing around Shirley's bench, many people spoke and shared stories about their experiences with Shirley. Sergey Melnikov was able to record the entire ceremony and it is posted on the MDIS YouTube Channel.

<https://youtu.be/1Z4XTIT8Kl8>

<https://youtu.be/JQxfScSm8Yk>

Mt. Diablo Iris Society was well represented by twelve members, thirteen if you count Shirley and I have no doubt she was checking out the event – she never missed a meeting with food!

Following the gathering, cake was served and there was a drawing for Shirley's hybrid, 'OPPOSITES'



Riley had created Story Boards about Shirley which lined the border of the garden.



Visitors signed a Guest Book which will be a comfort for Riley to read in the future.

Sign on Shirley's bench:

IN MEMORY OF SHIRLEY TRIO-PROBST
WHOSE VISION HELPED CREATE THIS GARDEN
DONATED BY HER HUSBAND AND IRIS FRIENDS
(1943-2024)



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