

MT. DIABLO IRIS SOCIETY NEWS

August 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 FUNDRAISER at** ◀◀
▶▶ **Peddler's Fair, Benicia, CA** ◀◀

▶▶ **Saturday, August 9th, 8 am - 5 pm** ◀◀

▶▶ **LOCATION – Usually at 1st and D Street** ◀◀



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy wonderful cool summer to you all!

We have been lucky so far to have an unusually cool summer. We will see if this keeps going. Will rain arrive early this year? I hope so.

We had a very successful auction on July 13th at the San Ramon Community Center. A huge thank you to all the coordination by Jan and Linda to get a list of offerings to us before the event. This is no small feat and we all really appreciate the advance work done to get us new irises for our gardens at extremely good prices. All the door prize growers also deserve a big thank you for planting and labeling and nurturing the door prize collections entrusted to them to grow for a year and then dig, clean, trim and label before they deliver to Linda. Linda then fills our door prize winning bags with what we won during the year. All the extras become auction irises. Those that don't

have buyers, are being offered up online at the prices we sell at the Peddler's Fair in Benicia. Then, any that are still available, are brought to Benicia for that fundraiser. So as you can see, irises are great travelers over a few weeks until they get to their Home Sweet Home.

The final piece of this puzzle is our auctioneer, Riley Probst. He is our faithful, knowledgeable fast talker negotiator and promoter of everything iris. He's able to give some inside information on the iris being auctioned as many have been grown by him for our society over the years. Is it a good grower? Does it re-bloom? How tall is it? These are questions he is often asked during the auction and answers are provided to the best of his knowledge. For this, we owe Riley a big Thank You for all his service as our auctioneer over many years.

Our next big event for the year is our annual public rhizome fundraiser at the Benicia Peddler's Fair on August 9th. I arrive between

5:30- 5:45 am with my truck full of pop ups tents, tables, irises and other necessary items to get us to 5pm. The Fair opens at 8am. If you have rhizomes to donate, please try to have them there by 8am so we have all the hours to have them available. Please have your lists of what you're bringing to Nancy Pahl by August 1st so that we will have photos so people know what they look like. Without photos, they just don't get picked. Your donations should have their leaves trimmed back to about 7-10 inches, all soil washed off, leaves labeled on the middle leaf and the dead roots cut all the way back but white roots left on. Another popular item is our grab bags. We offer collections of 10 irises per bag. Some bags list the contents with photos. These are collections. Some bags are true grab bags with a mixture of named varieties but no picture on the bag. These are popular and we need as many as possible. I can only dig about 300 irises for this which makes 30 bags. We do need closer to 75 to 100 bags to not sell out too early. When the grab bags are sold out, they're sold out.

Volunteer to work at least one two hour shift. The busiest time is between 9am and 2pm. It's fun to talk irises to the public. Ask me how I know. At 5 pm we all chip in to take it all down and load the truck so I can put it all back in storage at Dry Creek. We have become speedy at this and each year is a new record. I think last year it took 25 minutes! I hope to see you all there at some point in the day. Come to also enjoy looking at all the other booths.

There are thousands of people there and the weather starts off cool and gets more pleasant as the day goes on. Let's do this!

Your MTB President,
Jeff Bennett

BOTANICAL WORD of the MONTH

SPORT

(Is it a good one?)

Fundraiser at Benicia Peddler's Fair (No August Meeting)

LOCATION – Benicia, CA

We will be selling rhizomes at a 3-booth site at the Benicia Peddler's Fair. The booth locations are assigned when vendors (that's Jeff) arrives. He gets there incredibly early with the plan to get our usual location at the corner of **1st and D Streets**. If you don't see us there, or nearby, you can call Linda at 925-337-0427 and I will let you know where we are.

Are you Digging Rhizomes for Benicia? Nancy needs Variety Names.

Nancy is creating the photos for the rhizome bins at Benicia. If you plan to contribute rhizomes to our Benicia sale, please read the info below. Nancy needs the variety names.

From Nancy - I would appreciate your emailed lists as soon as available. I'll take partial lists now if you have one. You can email additional lists as you dig. Please label additional emailed lists so I can distinguish them from previous lists (Additional List 1, Additional List 2,...). I'll confirm receipt of each list only to emailer.

Email: nnpahl@gmail.com

August 5th is the deadline to submit lists. If you only have a 3 or 4 more I can accept them by noon on Thursday, August 7th. I will be printing photos no later than August 7.

FERTILIZER

If anyone needs more fertilizer, email

MtDiabloIris@gmail.com

Fertilizer has been repackaged in gallon jugs at \$8.50 per gallon

If you let us know immediately, we can bring it to Benicia for you to pick up.

AIS Membership Drive Special

Currently, AIS is having a special MEMBERSHIP DRIVE where you can buy a year's subscription to AIS (if you are a new member or your membership has expired) for \$10 for a full year. There are many benefits to membership including the quarterly AIS BULLETIN and NEWS AND NOTES from AIS.

Go to: IRISES.ORG
click on MEMBERS at the top banner
then click on the first option
2025 MEMBERSHIP PROMO

MDIS VIRTUAL IRIS SHOW Deadline is AUG 31st at midnight

This is your last notification to enter the MDIS Virtual Iris Show. **The deadline is midnight, Sunday, August 31, 2025, at midnight PDT.** For those of you new to the event, look in your past emails (March 10, 2025) or contact Jan Blaedel and Mary Sindicic at MtDiabloIris@gmail.com

To enter you submit four required pictures (top, side, front, and stalk) of your cultivar, crop them and combine them into one file using a photo program, Publisher, Excel, or WORD. You complete the Virtual Iris Show Registration Sheet and email it and your pictures to MtDiabloIris@gmail.com

Your entries will be judged by AIS judges and results will be emailed to you by the end of September or whenever we can post them. We will then produce a video of all the entries for you to enjoy.

This is NOT A PHOTO CONTEST. It is an Iris Show – just done **AIS MEMBERSHIP PROMO** virtually by means of photographs. If you would like help preparing your photos for the contest, see the YouTube video we produced:

How to Photograph Iris for a Virtual Iris Show <https://youtu.be/9znsLlfcwrk>

You can use a Smart Phone or digital camera to take pictures. Judges will be assessing the iris not the photo – though the photo must be in focus.

If you have ANY questions or need help, contact MtDiabloIris@gmail.com

We can walk you (talk you) through it or accept your photos and help you combine them for entry. If you live close enough, we can even come to you to help you prepare your pictures and submit them.



SAMPLE entry – Juniper Leigh, SIBERIAN

PS – Since you are reading this electronically, enlarge this picture to full screen so you see what the judges see when they are judging. One of the fun aspects of our VIRTUAL show is that we get to see new iris. I think this Siberian is stunning. JB

Exhibition Only Photos are Welcome

If you have iris photos that you would like included in the Virtual Show video but that will not be judged as part of the show, send them to MtDiabloIris@gmail.com Specify that these photos are for Exhibition Only. We already have several and welcome more.

News From Barbara Whitely!

Jan recently reached out to Barbara. Please read the article at the end of the newsletter for information about Barbara and James, including a note from Barbara. Barbara did include her email address. Contact MtDiabloIris@gmail.com if you'd like to get in touch with Barbara.

Watch your email for news from Linda Woods and MtDiabloIris

Recently, we have been fortunate to have rhizomes available from various sources. We were able to offer them at reasonable prices on a FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED basis to MDIS members. We were able to fill most requests but occasionally someone commented that they had not seen the email in time and missed out on some stellar rhizomes.

We try NOT to clutter your email. If we send you a notice, it is probably worth your while to open it and read it. Now you know. And having said that, Sergey is selling our "leftover" rhizomes online so if there is something you missed buying, contact MtDiabloIris@gmail.com

ALSO, one of the benefits of having the Virtual Iris Show is that we receive entries from all over the United States. If there is a rhizome you are looking for, contact MtDiabloIris@gmail.com and we will try to put you in contact with someone who grows that iris.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2025

Aug 9	Benicia Peddler's Fair, Benicia, CA 8am – 5pm
Sept 14	MDIS Meeting, Pleasant Hill
Oct 3-4	AIS Region 14 Fall Regional Los Altos, CA (Info and Form at end of newsletter)
Oct 12	MDIS Meeting, Pleasant Hill
Nov 9	MDIS Meeting, Pleasant Hill
Dec	No meeting.

MDIS MEMBERS – We respect your privacy

We have several new members, several old members, several life members, and several Virtual members. Here they are, followed by information of interest:

Ainslie Members	Ken /Becky Askin	Virtual
Albertson	Rae	
Balch	Joe & Josie	
Bennett	Jeff	President
Blaedel	Jan	Secretary, Virtual
Show Chair		
DeMara	Ethan & Keitha	
Kaplan	Marilyn	AIS Judge
Lincoln	Kent	
McNamee	Frances	
Medina	Joelle	
Meier	Carl & Barbara	Director
Melnikov	Sergey	Treasurer,
Online Sales		
Morgan	Stanley & Patricia	
Newlan	Fred	
Oldham	Kathy	Vice President
Pahl	Nancy	Photo Librarian
Peek	Gayla	
Pollon	Rebecca	
Probst	Riley	AIS Emeritus Judge
Rieniets	Elizabeth	Virtual Member
Roark	Eileen	
Robbins	Alan & Pat	Life Member
Sindicic	Mary	Show Chair
Walker	Kenneth	
Whitely	Barbara	Life Member,
Virtual Member		
Wise	Corinna	
Woods	Linda	Door Prize Iris,
Auction, Newsletter		

We do not release any sensitive/private information to club members. This includes: telephone numbers, email addresses, addresses, or text numbers. The only people with that information are the secretary and treasurer. The Newsletter Editor has the emails of club members.

If you wish to contact another club member, please email MtDiabloIris@gmail.com

and ask to be in contact with someone. The club secretary will contact that person, giving them YOUR email address and asking them to contact you if they wish to share their information.

Example: Jeff Bennett wants to contact Mary Sindicic. Jeff would email the club secretary with that request. The secretary would send Mary an email: *Jeff Bennett would like your email. Please contact him and share that information if you*

wish. JeffBennett13@gmail.com

Alternatively, ask for the information from the member at a club meeting or event.

Recording Secretary – Proposed New Job

The MDIS Board is considering a new volunteer “job position”: Recording Secretary. This is to offload some of the secretary’s responsibilities and assign some duties that have been floating around. A draft of the job description is included near the end of the newsletter. Take a look and consider whether you would be willing to contribute to the club by volunteering for this position!

AUGUST Door Prize Rhizomes

The August door prize iris will be distributed to those who volunteer at the Benicia Fundraiser.

SEE FOLLOWING PAGES for

→ **August DOOR PRIZE IRIS** pg 5-7

→ **News From Barbara Whitley** pg 8-9

→ **Recording Secretary Job** pg 9

→ **AIS Fall Regional 14 Info** pg 10

MDIS Door Prizes – AUGUST 2025

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



SONOMA BLUE (Begley via Ford 2022) TB, 34”, M. Deep blue-violet self; beards yellow in throat, ends pale blue; slight spicy fragrance.



SIR LINES A LOT (Tyson 2022) TB, 33”, M & RE. Standards red-purple with off white streaks, streaks bolder on inside; falls darker red-purple, off white and cream streaks, yellow hafts with red-purple veins; beards cream-white, yellow in throat; slight spicy fragrance.



NIGHT DANCER (Johnson 2023) TB, 35”, M. Standards rose pink centers, flesh pink edge; falls rich purple, near black purple hafts; beards deep purple base, burnt orange tips; pronounced sweet fragrance.



UKULELE GIRL (Cadd 2025) TB, 43", EM, (RE). Standards light creamy yellow, darker at base, delicate light brown veins; falls white ground, red-purple plicata, with the touch of creamy yellow, delicate lines and purple dots, less colored in center, edged 1/16" brown-purple band; beard hairs based white, tips yellow; pronounced musky fragrance. It may rebloom, but it is not a consistent RE.



MIGRATION RUN (Schreiner 2024) TB, 31", M. Standards lavender-purple; falls streaked lavender-purple; beards orange; slight musky fragrance.



SHIFTING GEARS (Keppel 2023) TB, 36", E-M. Standards chrome lemon; falls pale lavender center ground, progressively heavier and darker striated overlay blended chippendale yellow veining, outer 1/4" lime yellow to brass edge; cadmium yellow.



RUNNING IN CIRCLES (Johnson 2023) TB, 38", M. Standards light blue, white center; falls white, thick blue-lavender band and plicata dots, deeper blue hafts, few random dots on the white ground; beards orange throat, lavender middle, blue end; sweet fragrance.



MYSTERY MAN (Keppel 2023) TB, 40", EM. Standards perilla purple blended coronation. Falls dark purple at edge, velvety deeper purple remainder, white near beard; beards huckleberry base, tips mustard.



MAKE UP YOUR MIND (Black 2024) TB, 33", EM. Standards white, wide dark charcoal purple nearly solid plicata band midrib, random dotting over center; falls white, irregular dark charcoal purple broken color, solid and dotted, mottled plicata segments; beards mid purple base, dark sienna tips; slight sweet fragrance.



SUCH A SWEETHEART (Johnson 2022) TB, 36", M. Standards light pink ground, overall light lavender plicata dots; falls cream, deep violet hafts, faint light violet dotted edge, deep violet dart below beard; beards tangerine in throat, lavender in middle and end, tips orange and violet; sweet fragrance.



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.



ANGEL OF THE GARDEN (Tasco 2022) TB, 34", M. White self; beards based blue, tips white, yellow in throat; sweet fragrance.



SUPER SIZED (Johnson 2022) TB, 36", E-M. Standards pure white; icy blue-white with a sky blue diffused rim; beards bright yellow-orange, white tip; slight 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.**



LIGHTED PATH (Ford 2023) TB, 30", E-M. Standards white flushed yellow, yellow veining, dark veining in throat; falls dark red violet, lighter pink-violet belly stripe, darker veining, edges lighter, dark wire rim, white hash marks around beard; beards cadmium orange, tipped violet in throat; slight sweet fragrance.

News from Barbara Whitely –

Barbara Whitely is a Lifetime Member of MDIS. When I first joined MDIS back in 2009, Barbara and James (deceased) were members. James was a hybridizer who worked very much with Mary Sindicic. Perhaps that is how Mary's interest in Arils developed.

James Whitely hybridized :



'Eglon'; 2001 OGB

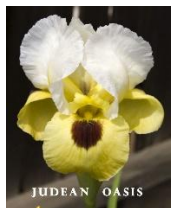
'Glacier Sunrise' OGB (James Whitely, R. 2006). Seedling W03-07A. AB, 26" (66 cm). Early midseason bloom. Standards white, domed, strong midrib; style arms white, underside tinted gold yellow; Falls white, recurved; large semi-circular orange-mahogany signal; beards wide yellow. 'Masada's Glory' X unknown. (NO PICTURE)

'Horma', ([James Whitely](#), R. 2003). Seedling AB-N87H, AB (OGB), 24" (61 cm), Midseason bloom. Standards wine violet, midrib darker toward base, darker veining; style arms brown tan; falls brown rose to tan at edge, blackish nickel-size signal; beards brownish yellow; standards domed, high arching, falls rounded, recurved. Seedling T-84CC: (Holden seedling Hr-18T x Holden seedling Hq8-T: (((Bushey seedling B66P3 x [I. sari](#)) x (Bushey seedling B66T x [I. sari](#))) x ('[Shalah](#)' x Bushey seedling B66J))) X '[English Cottage](#)'.

(Holden is John Holden, an Aril hybridizer from the 1960's through 1980's. He used Austin seedlings and he and his wife, Bertha, had an Aril Iris Farm in Ridgecrest, California.

Bushey is Frank Bushey who was an Aril hybridizer from the 1970's and used seedlings from Kerr and Austin.) (NO PICTURE)

'Jebel Musa', 2006 OGB ([James Whitely](#), R. 2006). Seedling W98-07. AB, 24" (61 cm). Midseason late bloom. Medium brown self; signal arrowhead shape; dark brown edged yellow; beards dark brown. Seedling W94-5: (seedling W88-97N: (seedling W86-100-26 x '[Arabian Archer](#)') x '[Arabian Archer](#)') X Rich seedling 84-66M; (Rich seedling 79-45A: (Rich seedling R69-112B x Rich seedling 77-57A) x Rich seedling R79-149E: ('[Sand Etching](#)' x Rich seedling R75-46)). (Note from Jan – I believe "Rich" refers to Jonnye Rich) (NO PICTURE)



'Judean Oasis' 1994, OGB



'Kedesh', 2001 OGB



'King Jehu', 2003 OGB+



'Masada's Glory', 2001 OGB+



'Peresh', 2001 OGB



'Tekoah', 2002 OGB

As Sergey and I were trying to clean the MDIS Membership rosters, I kept coming across Barbara's name and realized that after James died, we had lost touch with her. Alan Robbins was able to help me with an address in Tustin, California for her son and I wrote a lengthy letter to her about our club's activities and news about some of the early MDIS members. I gave her the MDIS email address and Barbara wrote me the following:

"Enjoyed your letter. I am trying to place Ryan's father. James and I became members in approximately 1960. At that time Glen Corlew, Charley Barnes, the Radcliffs, the Boswells, and Joyce and her husband are the few I remember. Was told that members from Sydney B wished for a club over on hill. Grace Mills, the station agent in Antioch was there in at the beginning.

When James and I attended they were meeting at the Ambrose Recreation Center. Our shows were held at Sun Valley mall.

Now in southern CA.

Barbara Whitely

(Barbara did include her email address. Please contact MtDiabloIris@gmail.com to get in touch with Barbara.)

Job Description Recording Secretary Mt. Diablo Iris Society

1. Read MtDiabloIris@gmail.com every day
 - a. Forward emails to responsible person (i.e. President, online sales person, Virtual Show chair, Newsletter Editor)
 - b. Respond to emails which are membership or club related (i.e. Dates of shows, authenticity of online sales person, request for membership information,)
 - c. Write thank you notes and condolences as appropriate or as assigned.
 - d. Help with online sales as requested
 - e. Help secretary with creation and uploading of videos for YouTube
 - f. Maintain the MDIS YouTube Channel
 - g. Possible:
 - i. Create bidding sheets for auction
 - ii. Make Handouts for RBG events
 - iii. Request and record volunteers for events
 - iv. Record Board online votes
 - v. Maintain the MDIS GOOGLE DRIVE

'Meet Me at the Garden House'

American Iris Society Region 14 - 2025 Fall Regional
Hosted by Clara B Rees Iris Society



October 3-4, 2025

**Shoup Park, Garden House
400 University Ave, Los Altos, CA 94022
Friday 4:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Saturday 8:00 am-4:00 pm**

Guest Speaker —Kevin Vaughn

Registrant 1 First name: _____ Last name: _____

Registrant 2 First name: _____ Last name: _____

Address _____ City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Cell Phone _____ Email to receive confirmation _____

Local Iris Society _____

Registration includes Friday rebloomer show, entries accepted 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm, 1-1/2 hours judges training by Kevin Vaughn, 'Judging the Medians' at 7:30 pm. Three median classes occupy the same height range: IB, BB, and MTB. However, each class has distinct characteristics. These distinctions will be described with the hope of improving judging in these classes.

Saturday includes a continental breakfast, business meeting, lunch, our guest speaker, Kevin Vaughn, silent auction, live iris auction, and access to Shoup Park and trails.

Will you be attending Judges Training? _____ Would you like a vegetarian lunch? _____

Registration fee if received before Sept 12, 2025 — \$75.00 number of person/s _____ Total \$ _____

If received after Sept 15 — \$85.00 number of person/s _____ Total \$ _____

Please make the check payable to Clara B Rees Iris Society (CBRIS). Mail the check and registration to:
Jane Jordan, 2315 Gunar Dr., San Jose, CA 95124.

Registrations received after Sept 20, 2025 will be accepted at the discretion of the Registrar.

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