

MT. DIABLO IRIS SOCIETY NEWS

OCTOBER 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, October 12th, 1-3 pm** ◀◀
▶▶ **Pleasant Hill Senior Center** ◀◀
233 Gregory Ln, Pleasant Hill

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to Autumn,

The daylight hours are really getting noticeably shorter. The shorter days and a first good rain will get a few weeds starting. To prevent weeds, many people use Preen to prevent new weeds from sprouting. It does nothing to stop perennial weeds that are already established. If small weeds are already sprouted, you can use vinegar to kill them off. Just shield your desirable plants with a piece of cardboard as you spray so that the leaves don't get damaged. Vinegar will kill off the weeds within a couple hours. Adult weeds will be burned back to the ground, but will re-sprout from the established roots.

Last weekend was the AIS Region 14 Fall Regional meeting in Los Altos. If you didn't go, you missed a great speaker and live auction and silent auction. Kevin Vaughn from Salem, Oregon was flown in for the meeting. He did a judge's training on median irises.

MTB, IB and BB categories. These shorter and smaller irises give a great impact in the home garden with their flush of blooms that should bloom just before the tall bearded irises. Kevin's main talk was on his hybridizing efforts of the dwarf and median classes. His knowledge of genetics is amazing and he showed photos of the median irises he is producing. He also hybridizes many other plants. Daffodils, Dianthus, Kniphophia, Hosta, Sempervivums, Louisiana, Spuria, Siberian, and Pacific Irises are just some of the things he hybridizes. He's a busy guy in the garden. He has written two iris books and is working on a third, won many awards and just recently was awarded the Foster Memorial Plaque from the British Iris Society. Everyone really enjoyed both of his talks and learned many new things. We auctioned off 24 newly introduced Japanese, Louisiana, Siberian and Spuria irises. Fantastic prices were had on these irises that would be triple to quadruple the price from retail sources. Wish you could all have been there.

It's October, and it's election time. A note for nominations was put out last month in the newsletter for President, Vice President and Secretary. We now have a nominating committee that is searching for possible candidates. Please consider a role you could do for the society. We have refined our duties over the last few years so it is easier for new people to step in. We need you.

For our meeting topic this month, there will be an awards presentation for the Virtual Show and I will talk about planting iris seeds and planting out seedlings.

See you at the meeting on Sunday!
Jeff

October Meeting

We will be holding our Oct 12th meeting from 1-3pm at Pleasanton Hill Senior Center, 233 Gregory Ln, Pleasant Hill, CA

As Jeff mentioned above - there will be an awards presentation for the Virtual Show and he will talk about planting iris seeds and planting out seedlings.

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2025

Oct 12	MDIS Meeting, Pleasant Hill
Nov 9	MDIS Meeting, Pleasant Hill
Dec	No meeting.
Jan 12	MDIS Meeting, San Ramon
Feb 9	MDIS Meeting, San Ramon
Mar 9	MDIS Meeting, San Ramon

Apr MDIS Meeting & Alden Lane Setup, Livermore

Apr Alden Lane Show & Fundraiser

Upcoming AIS Events 2026

May 15-17 Region 14 Spring Regional
Reno, CA

2025 MDIS Virtual Iris Show

Jan created two outstanding videos of the 2025 Virtual Show. Prepare your cup of coffee or tea, then settle in to enjoy viewing irises. Remember to vote for the People's Choice Award!

Thank you to all our club members who took the time to enter. Notice how their names appear frequently in the awards categories! And thank you, Jan for the vast number of hours you have dedicated to the Virtual Show, and for condensing the huge undertaking it into the enjoyable videos.
From Jan:

<https://youtu.be/qVXp-05BNwo>

This is a 45 minute video on YouTube. Turn up the volume on your computer and use a FULL screen
Email MDISVirtual@gmail.com with your favorite iris for The People's Choice Award.

https://youtu.be/gPLLeOyuBv_c

Watch this 8.5 minutes Awards video to learn all the Best of Section iris and the winners of the silver and gold medals. Drum roll, please...

The 2025 MDIS Virtual Show Best of Show is: **LUNAR RING exhibited by Riley Probst.**

We had 526 entries in the 2025 Virtual Iris Show. Exhibitors came from six AIS regions. Our judges came from five AIS regions. Amazingly, they were able to complete all the judging in less than two weeks.
We propose a few changes for next year:

1. Have a unique email for the show:
MDISVirtual@gmail.com
2. Limit entries to 25 per section with a total of 100 per exhibitor.
3. Accept only 4UP pictures with a correctly completed Registration Form.
4. Hire nine judges, three teams of three, to judge sections.
5. Allow judges to enter sections they are not judging.
6. Enlist the help of more MDIS members. Think about how you can help!
7. Put ribbons and rosettes only on rosette winners.
8. Arrange the Full video by section by exhibitor by ribbon.

**Two VIRTUAL BEST OF SHOW
Won by MDIS Members**



'LUNAR RING' exhibited by Riley Probst
Best of Show at the MDIS Virtual



'CUBS WIN IT' exhibited by Jan Blaedel
Best of Show at the SBMIS Virtual

BOTANICAL WORD of the MONTH

ACHENE

[A sunflower seed is a fruit?]

FOLLOWING PAGES for

→ **October DOOR PRIZE IRIS** pg 4-5

→ **September Meeting Minutes** pg 6-7

MDIS Door Prizes – OCT 2025

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



EMBER IN THE DARK (Sutton 2024) IB, 22", E-M. Standards dark violet; style arms violet; falls dark violet, near black; ruffled; beards yellow-orange; sweet fragrance.



MATINEE QUEEN (Tasco 2023) AB, 20", M-L. Standards light lavender; falls magenta, diffuse black signal surrounded by burgundy wash; beards yellow.



GATSBY (Schreiners 2025) TB, 40", M. Standards yellow; style arms yellow; falls yellow; beards orange; slight spicy fragrance.



SOFT SELL (Keppel 2025) TB, 36", M. Standards martius yellow; falls white, pinard yellow inner shoulders, 1/2" soft lavender band; beards yellow throat, yellow middle, white end; sweet fragrance.



SUNDAY'S BEST DRESS (Sutton 2025) TB, 35", ML. Standards light yellow-pink falls light yellow-pink; heavily ruffled; beards tangerine pink; sweet fragrance.



ECSTATIC (Collins 2023) TB, 36", M. Standards pink orchid; style arms orchid; falls pink orchid; beards tangerine base, white tips; slight sweet fragrance.



CARAMEL CRAVING (Johnson 2025) IB, 23", M. Standards dark golden yellow, with red-violet shaded wash in center; falls dark gold, with large black cherry central signal spot; beards tangerine base, deep red brown tips; slight sweet fragrance.



CALYPSO JOE (Black 2025) TB, 33", M-L. Standards light butter ground, wide near solid dark wine plicata band; falls mid yellow, dark wine near solid sanded darts around beard.



UPSCALE (Kepel 2024) TB, 40", M. Standards lime yellow, lightly flushed red violet; falls lemon yellow, plicata edge and partial midline purple-red; beards red-purple base, orange peel.



OH SO DIFFERENT (Black 2023) TB, 30", M-L. Standards light tan, widely banded dark plum veins; falls white, hafts and upper center veined dark purple black, becoming closer spaced and; beards dull marigold



JUST BETWEEN US (Johnson 2023) TB, 35", M. Standards medium pink in center, white with pink veins, pink rim; falls white, rose-pink band; beards orange throat, pink middle, white end; slight sweet fragrance.



REGAL FANTASY (Tasco 2025) TB, 41". Standards white, gold rim; brown veined crest; falls black, white starburst beneath beard; slight fragrance.

MDIS Minutes September 2025



Mt. Diablo Iris Society Monthly Meeting Minutes *September 14 , 2025*

Attendees included: Jeff Bennett, Jan Blaedel, Marilyn Kaplan, Joelle Medina, Sergey Melnikov, Kathy Oldham, Gayla Peek, Eileen Roark, Alan Robbins, Mary Sindicic, Riley Probst, Ken Walker, Corinna Wise, Linda Woods

Quorum is ten. Quorum met

The Mt. Diablo Iris Society monthly meeting was called to order by president, Jeff Bennett at 1:15 PM at the Pleasant Hill Senior Center.

The minutes of the **June, 2025** were approved/revised. Motion was made by Riley Probst and seconded by Joelle Medina. Motion passed unanimously. The Board minutes of the July meeting were approved but will be voted on by the board at the January meeting.

Meetings have an extra half hour, 12:45 to 3:15. Next year, one hour will be added.

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

Door Prize iris drawing:

Annie's Coconut Cream Pie – Mary Sindicic

Casual Comfort – Jan Blaedel

Gala Glow – Gayla Peak

Happy Cat – Joelle Medina

Heard a Rumor – Riley Probst

Midnight Dreamer – Eileen Roark

Overwhelmed by You - Linda Woods

Pistols at Dawn – Kathy Oldham

Stare into my Eyes - Sergey Melnikov

Stepping In – Mary Sindicic

Sutton's Joy – Jeff Bennett

Tin Cup Chalice – Jeff Bennett

Bombay Eyes – Corinna Wise (from Riley)

Early Morning Rayz – Marilyn Kaplan (from Riley)

Skyward Bound – Eileen Roark (from Riley)

Chartered Course - Sergey (from Riley)

Joy Returns - Joelle (from Riley)

Jan Blaedel presented the Virtual Iris Show Awards Video.

https://youtu.be/gPLcOyuBv_c

There were 526 entries. Riley Probst won BEST OF SHOW with Lunar Ring, hybridized by

This was the first time Riley entered the MDIS Virtual Iris Show. We hope he enters again next year.

Reports:

Sergey – Treasurer Report – \$14954 checking, \$6449 Savings, \$1000 paid for Alden Lane Iris Show and the deposits for the meeting rooms in San Ramon and Pleasant Hill. We did well without needing to go to Niles Street Fair. On our Online Sales, Sergey made \$3000 for the year. There will be \$23000 in our account when all the outstanding invoices are paid.

Sergey thanked all those who helped us raise this money. Corinna Wise donated 873 iris Jan Blaedel transported iris back and forth. Thank you to Jeff Bennett for getting rhizomes from Monterrey Bay Iris Society. We sent them \$50 as a thank you. Thank you to Kathy Oldham and Linda Woods for donating rhizomes.

Jeff reported that we earned over \$5000 at Peddler's Fair, without raising any prices. We set another record in sales this year and a take-down record of 27 minutes.

Jeff and Sergey would like to put names of iris online earlier. Let Sergey know what you have available. Kathy Oldham pointed out that Alan Robbins was the original person (with Bob Canning) to set up the sale at Peddler's Fair. Started in the early 1960's with a pastor who gave MDIS a free booth- sold out the back of a pick-up truck. It has been a positive and consistent fundraiser for our club. A beautiful spot and we've never been rained out! Kathy Oldham thanked Alan for setting this up originally. To assist the secretary taking minutes we will record all meetings, monthly and Board meeting.

Share table is full of iris – please take it all. Bags of iris are from Mary Sindicic, SPUria are from Riley Probst, and the rest of the iris are from Monterey Bay Iris Society. And the apples are from Kathy Oldham.

To help the secretary take minutes, all meetings will be recorded. Recordings will be saved until the minutes are approved.

Because we have a little more time, we took a break. After the break Jeff presented a slide show of iris at the AIS National Convention in Montana. Jeff said it was an excellent convention, and all the gardens were in full bloom. Jeff commented how many iris were new names for him – because they were from gardens in a different section of the country. Dan Walt Gardens (AIS Summer Bulletin, 2025, page 36) had Hosta gardens and Japanese gardens and Rose gardens. A lush garden, house, and business. In the fall, they cut everything down.

Participants also visited Zoo Motana (2025 Summer AIS Bulletin, page 33) and had lunch on the grounds of the zoo. Iris at the Zoo were animal named iris, such as Gnus Flash and Peekaboo Zebu. Caustic Tongue by Hooker Nichols has a thick orange tongue. Colin Campbell is a young hybridizer. Jeff met Paul Black in the garden.

Ignite the Light won Best Out of Region iris and Mama Quel won Best In Region iris, President's Cup.



Ignite the Light



Mama Quel



Imperial Commando



Caustic Tongue



Cascade Locks

Imperial Commando by Howie Dash, another Star War themed iris.

Cascade Locks by Schreiner was an iris Jeff liked in all the gardens.

The Summer 2025 AIS Bulletin has several articles about the gardens featured at the Billings, Montana Convention. Read Jeff's article on page 39, about Tina and Daughters Garden.

Muriel's Garden is featured on page 30. Eagle Ridge Iris Garden (page 23) has over 7000 iris, everything but PCNs. They feature iris from Cayeux in France and Piatek in Poland.

Jeff described Scorch, an ailment of iris which is not totally understood. Jeff suggested that people had success digging up the affected iris and setting them out to "burn" in the sun for several weeks.



<https://wiki.irises.org/Main/InfoCulturalProblemsScorch>

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 PM

Respectfully submitted, Jan Blaedel, Secretary

Approved:

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