

MT. DIABLO IRIS SOCIETY NEWS

APRIL 2026



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.

▶▶ **Alden Lane Setup with Short MDIS Meeting** ◀◀
▶▶ **Friday, April 24th, 3-5 pm** ◀◀

▶▶ **Alden Lane Nursery** ◀◀
981 Alden Lane, Livermore

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello MDIS Members,

It's finally here! I'm talking about Spring. If your garden is the same as mine, everything is either blooming early or growing early. Some things are a full 4-5 weeks earlier than normal. Those 90 degree days in March really gave a big push. I don't mind, but it does mean we will see different things at the iris shows this year.

In other news, we have new tables and pop-up tents for Benicia and a new set of Alcatraz style gates on the storage container to deter thefts. The custom steel doors are quite formidable and should protect everything even better than before.

Dry Creek Iris Garden will be open to the public beginning on April 23, and ends on May 15th. Thursdays through Sundays from 10am to 4 pm. The address to our parking lot is 500 May Road Union City, California. Visit as often as you like and tell your friends. Parking is free and so is garden entry. Every year is different and this year is no exception. Some

plantings have matured while others have waned.



The Formidable Doors!

The May garden tour will be at Dry Creek as we discussed at one of our earlier meetings. Since the second Sunday in May is Mother's Day and we don't want to interfere with those plans, I propose the first Sunday in May, the third, as an open Garden Tour date for Mt. Diablo Iris Society. Our regular start time of 1pm should make things simple. We could all walk around together as I share new

or old varieties and how we use compost and biochar in our beds. It will be a fun and relaxing day. Bring your lunch and watch the birds, bees and butterflies!

The open gardens at Dry Creek is a fantastic way to get more people interested in our society. It would be great if members could spend a couple of hours each morning giving out club information and answering iris questions from the public. It could really help our club grow and it fits with our Mission Statement of educating the public and it costs nothing to participate. Pick a couple dates you can contribute some time for the society.

Lastly, the next big thing is our event at Alden Lane Nursery in Livermore. Set up is Friday April 24th and the morning of April 25th. This year it will be an exhibition rather than a judged show. This would be a great time to bring your flowers to display. The individual irises will still be displayed like at a show with name cards; they will just not be judged. We will still have our potted iris fundraiser. So please bring your potted irises you have been growing and remember to have your pictures on sticks in them too. Thank you to Jan and Mary for all their hours of work already put into the exhibition. And Nancy, for creating the pics on sticks.

I would also like to thank Linda Woods on her continued excellence in providing our monthly newsletter and updates. She keeps us all in the loop. We all wish her and her family much Joy as a new grandchild arrives this month.

Don't forget to sign up for the Spring Regional in Reno on May 15, 16 and 17th. They have worked hard readying their gardens for us to tour and would like our support as they always have for us. Please find the registration sheet elsewhere in this newsletter.

That's it for now. Enjoy not just your iris flowers but all your spring flowers and invite others to come see your Garden of Eden.

Your MTB President,
Jeff Bennett

April Meeting

We will be holding a *brief* April meeting during the Alden Lane setup on Friday, April 24 at Alden Lane Nursery, 981 Alden Lane, Livermore.

Door prize iris drawing will be done a little differently since people will be coming and going at different times. In fact, each person who participates in the setup on Friday, or the Exhibition/Fundraiser on Saturday/Sunday can win a door prize! You will simply draw a door prize iris name from a hat – once.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2026

- Apr 23 – May 15** Dry Creek Garden Open to public Apr 23 – May 15, Thursday – Sunday 10-4.
Volunteer to interact with the public about our club and iris!
- Apr 24** MDIS Meeting & Alden Lane Setup, 3-5pm. Livermore
- Apr 25-26** Alden Lane Show & Fundraiser
- May 2** Volunteer Event at Ruth Bancroft Garden. Walnut Creek
- May 3** MDIS Meeting at Dry Creek Garden
- June TBD** MDIS Meeting, TBD (perhaps Essig Museum of Entomology)
- Jun 27** MDIS Board Meeting
- July 12** MDIS Auction
- Aug 8** Benicia Peddler's Fair

Upcoming AIS Events

- May 15-17** Region 14 Spring Regional Reno, CA
- May 19-26** National Convention Newark, NJ

Region 14 Spring Regional

The Regional is May 15-17 in Reno, CA. You can find the Registration Form and Schedule near end of newsletter and at: aisregion14.org/events/spring-regional/

MDIS Exhibition and Fundraiser at Alden Lane

The Alden Lane **Show** and Fundraiser has been changed to Alden Lane **Exhibition** and Fundraiser. This is because there are too few available judges and too few workers. You are encouraged to come work the event and join the fun by displaying stems for the public to enjoy. Those who participate in the setup and/or exhibition/fundraiser will draw for a door prize iris. **We still need you to help** to make the Exhibition and Fundraiser successful!!

SEE COMPLETE DETAILS
near end of newsletter.

If you'd like ideas on how to help, contact Mary at: smiata91@comcast.net

A Few NOTABLE Updates

Alden Lane

We are DELIGHTED to have Marilyn Kaplan do a demonstration on Sunday morning on designing a flower arrangement for the Artistic Design portion of our iris shows. Don't miss this at Alden Lane on Sunday, April 26th at 11 AM.

Ruth Bancroft Garden Event

May 2, 2026, is the day of our Iris Celebration at the Ruth Bancroft Garden. MDIS will be offering tours of Ruth's private iris garden, demonstrations on dividing and planting iris, expertise on hybridizing and understanding the science, continuous Virtual Iris videos, and potted iris for sale. We need all of you to help out on May 2nd to make this a successful affair. Be at Ruth Bancroft Garden,

1552 Bancroft Rd (off Ygnacio), Walnut Creek, at 9 AM.

Lunch will be provided. We would love for you to stay the day but if you can only help for half a day, choose morning or afternoon. Afternoon folks please arrive at noon for lunch.

You will love the experience of talking with guests who are very interested in iris and have lots of questions and stories. Hope to see you all there.

Monthly Finance Report Financial Statement March 2026

Checking: 12,163.60

Paid: Ford Iris Farm - 181.63; Mariposa Iris Garden - 162.40; Peddlers - 544.69; Domain Name 7.50

Savings: 6,449.87

A Few of the Blooms at Dry Creek

Thank you for the gorgeous photos, Jeff!



SAN FRANCISCO (Mohr 1927) Dykes Medal



PLOT LINE (Ghio 2011) HM



BLINDED BY THE LIGHT
(Lauer 2017) Wister Medal

FOLLOWING PAGES for

→ **April DOOR PRIZE IRIS** pg 5-6

→ **MDIS Exhibition & Fundraiser**
pg 7-8

→ **AIS 14 Spring Regional** pg 9-10

→ **March Meeting Minutes** pg 11-12

MDIS Door Prizes – April 2026

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



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



SOMEBODY SPECIAL (Keppel 2023) TB, 35", E-M. Standards. opera pink; falls lavender-white, 1/2" edge to, pink shading on inner hafts; beards strawberry in throat, tiger lily in middle, ends pink-white.



BLACKBERRY PIE (Ford 2025) TB, 36", EM. Standards dark purple; falls darker purple; ruffled; beards very dark old gold; slight fragrance.



VANILLA FIZZ (Tasco 2025) TB, 38". Standards creamy pale yellow; falls creamy white; beards orange throat, pale yellow middle, pale yellow end; slight sweet fragrance.



STORM LORD (Tasco 2023) TB, 35", M. Standards white, thin yellow halo on edges; falls dark purple, white starburst; beards orange in throat, yellow in middle and ends. **HM 2025**



AUBRIANNA (Tyson 2024) TB, 34", E-M. Standards light violet streaked dark violet falls light violet streaks and wedges of dark violet; beards burnt orange; slight sweet fragrance.



AUBURN TIGRESS (Mego 2024) TB, 33", M.
Standards white, brilliant yellow flush at base of midrib, brilliant yellow veining 3/4 up petal; falls white, heavily veined brown-orange, near solid band of yellow-orange at edge; beards orange; sweet fragrance.



CALYPSO JOE (Black 2025) TB, 33", M-L.
Standards light butter ground, wide near solid dark wine plicata band, light wine sanding over center, mid wine sanded center stripe; falls mid yellow, dark wine near solid sanded darts around beard, solid to edge, wide wine plicata band at hafts, transitioning to narrow at distal edge.



COWBOY COFFEE (Sutton 2023) BB, 26", M.
Standards copper brown, yellow edges; falls dark red-purple, black highlights, thin yellow edge, yellow in throat, luminata pattern; beards yellow; slight sweet fragrance. **HM2025**



GILTY (Sutton 2022) TB, SA, 34", M-L.
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. **HM2025**



LEMON BLUES (Johnson 2025) SDB, 13", EM.
Standards butter yellow; falls butter yellow, with lighter area around beard; beards deep blue; pronounced sweet fragrance.



UKULELE GIRL (Cadd 2025) TB, E-M.
Standards light creamy yellow, darker base and edges; falls white ground, violet-purple plicata with violet-purple dots & center line; beards yellow; slight fragrance.

MDIS EXHIBITION and FUNDRAISER at Alden Lane

As a result of too few judges and too few workers, MDIS will be holding an Iris Exhibition rather than a judged iris show. In addition to NOT judging iris stalks, there are a few other changes to the weekend of April 24-26, 2026, at Alden Lane in Livermore

1ST MDIS IRIS EXHIBITION AND FUNDRAISER –

- **Friday, April 24**, 3 pm – 5 pm = Set up and potted iris placement
- **Saturday, April 25**

8 AM – Iris accepted for EXHIBITION ONLY Tubes will be available. Bring your iris stalks, put

The stalk in a tube and place it on the Exhibition Table in the show room at Alden Lane

9 AM – Nursery opens for the sale of potted iris. We need members to help visitors choose iris for purchase. Pots will be for sale Saturday from 9 AM – 5 PM and Sunday from 9 AM -4PM

Demonstrations will be offered in the Show Room –

HOW TO...

11 AM	Divide and Plant Rhizomes
1 PM	Groom Iris for a judged Iris Show
2 PM	Enter iris in a Virtual Iris Show
3 PM	Divide and Plant Rhizomes

All day – Iris Videos will run continuously

Watercolor exhibit and live painting exhibit by Gayla Peek

People's Choice votes encouraged both days

5 PM - Head home for a well-deserved rest. See you tomorrow!

Please bring your own lunch or take a break and grab a bite at a local restaurant:

The Charming Fig 8 AM – 2:30 PM at 1510 Holmes (corner of Holmes and Concannon)

This is 7 blocks from Alden Lane.

Bubb's Bagels (open until 2) and Extreme Pizza are next to it. Also, a Burger King and Country Waffles are across the street near Lucky's.

Bottled water will be provided both days at Alden Lane. Bring anything else you would like to drink – sodas, coffee, tea, etc.

- **Sunday, April 26**

9 AM – Nursery opens for the sale of potted iris. Members, please come help sell iris.

Demonstrations, videos, watercolors, People's Choice same as Saturday.

4 PM – Clean up. We need to leave the room by 5 PM. Leftover potted iris will be sold at Ruth Bancroft Garden on Saturday, May 2 – all day. See you there!

Please bring your own lunch or take a break and grab a bite at a local restaurant.

The Charming Fig Open 8 AM – 2:30 PM 1510 Holmes (corner of Holmes and Concannon) This is 7 blocks from Alden Lane.

Bubb's Bagels (open until 2) and Extreme Pizza are in that same shopping center. There is a Burger King and Country Waffles across the street. Bottled water will be provided but please bring anything else you would like to drink – sodas, coffee, tea, etc.



May 15-17, 2026 at the Silver Legacy Hotel and Casino, Reno NV

This venue is entirely smoke-free except in the casino. Amenities include a complimentary self-parking garage, free airport shuttle, valet parking, gym, pool, spa, and five restaurants. Indoor walkways to the El Dorado and Circus Circus provide additional dining options.

Friday Events

- Iris Show: Entries are accepted from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. in the Silver Baron Rooms.
- Attendees are invited to enjoy dinner on their own.
- The General Business Meeting will be held in the Silver Baron Ballroom at 7:00PM.

Saturday Events

- Two guest garden tours, including a box lunch for participants.
- Judges Training session.
- Buffet banquet in the Silver Baron Ballroom, featuring dinner speaker Lori Rhodes, iris hybridizer, Crafton Hills Iris Farm.
- Silent auction and live iris auction.

Sunday Events

- Judges Training
- Optional garden tours

USE THIS LINK TO REGISTER YOUR SPECIALLY PRICED ACCOMMODATIONS ONLINE

BEFORE APRIL 15, 2026: <https://book.passkey.com/go/SRAIS6>

HIGH DESERT IRIS SOCIETY

AIS REGION 14 SPRING 2026 REGIONAL REGISTRATION FORM

May 15-17, 2026 at the Silver Legacy Hotel and Casino, Reno NV

DEDICATED LINK FOR ONLINE ROOM RESERVATIONS FOR THIS EVENT

<https://book.passkey.com/go/SRAIS6> (Cutoff date for special pricing on room reservations and reduced resort fee is April 15, 2026)

Tentative Schedule: Friday: Iris show, entries accepted 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm, general business meeting.
Saturday: Registration includes a judges training, a box lunch, self-guided tour of 2 guest gardens, buffet banquet dinner followed by our guest speaker Hybridizer Lori Rhodes, silent auction, and live iris auction.
Sunday: judges training, optional local garden tours and sightseeing



Registrant 1 First name: _____ Last name: _____

Registrant 2 First name: _____ Last name: _____

Address _____ City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email (for confirmation) _____ Local Iris Society _____

Will you attend Judges Training? Box Lunch: Vegetarian choice GF choice

Registration fee if postmarked before April 15, 2026: \$125 Number of person/s _____ Total \$ _____

Registration fee If postmarked after April 15, 2026: \$140 Number of person/s _____ Total \$ _____

Registrations postmarked after May 1, 2026 will be accepted at the discretion of the Registrar.

Please make check payable to High Desert Iris Society (HDIS). Mail the check and your registration form to: HDIS c/o Michele Swarts, 300 Shady Valley Road, Sparks NV 89441



Mt. Diablo Iris Society Monthly Meeting Minutes March 8, 2026

Attendees included: Jeff Bennett, Jan Blaedel, Marilyn Kaplan, Sergey Melnikov, Carl Meier, Tom Meyer, Fred Newlan, Kathy Oldham, Nancy Pahl, Gayla and Roy Peek, Mary Sindicic, Riley Probst, Corinna Wise, Linda Woods

Distant Members: Ken Ainslie and Becky, Elizabeth Rieniets, Barbara Whitely

Quorum? Yes

The Mt. Diablo Iris Society monthly meeting was called to order by president, Jeff Bennett at 1:08 PM at the San Ramon Community Center.

The minutes of the February 8, 2026 meeting were approved as revised. Kathy did not receive the iris Parisienne. Jan Blaedel will double check Door Prize Iris. Motion was made by Linda Woods and seconded by Sergey Melnikov. Motion passed unanimously.

Door Prize Iris Drawing for Club Members in attendance

ADMIT IT (Sutton 2025) SDB, 13",	Gayla Peek
BRING IN THE CLOWNS (Black 2023)	Sergey Melnikov
CAN'T STOP LOVING YOU (Johnson 2023)	Fred Newlan
CELEBRITY DREAM (Johnson 2024) TB,	Kathy Oldham
DESERT CHAPARRAL (Keppel 2024)	Gayla Peek
DIVINE MADNESS (Tasco 2025)	Riley Probst
MERCED EASY STREET (Kantarowski 2025)	Jeff Bennett
MOM'S GARDEN (Ford 2025)	Corinna Wise
SCRUMDIDDLEYUMPTIOUS (Schreiner 2023)	Riley Probst
STARE INTO MY EYES (Tasco 2025) AB	Linda Woods
THIS IS CRAZY (Johnson 2023) TB,	Tom Meyer
TROPICAL CHARM (Dash 2025) TB	Marilyn Kaplan
Riley Probst brought additional Re-Bloomers:	
DOUBLE SHOT	Jan Blaedel
I I STUTTER	Linda Woods
JOY RETURNS	Kathy Oldham
SIR LINES ALOT	Corinna Wise
ZURICH	Jan Blaedel

Program: Jeff Bennett talked about the dahlia show, his plants, and labeling iris and how he typed iris labels. Members offered suggestions as to how they created labels. QR codes on the labels is very helpful for visitors to look up detailed information from the AIS Iris Encyclopedia.

Treasurer Report: An updated report will be posted in the April Newsletter. Sergey has paid all the bills to the State of California and to the Pleasant Hill Senior Center. He is working on the Mt. Diablo Iris website.

Announcements:

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

- Jan has tentative assignments for May 2nd. You will be getting an email with instructions and directions. This should be a fun day.
- A sheet is coming around with food allergies – Jan does not need to know WHO you are, just what food allergies she should prepare for at lunch at the May Ruth Bancroft presentations.

Old Business It was reaffirmed that we will meet at Pleasant Hill for the Auction on July 12, 2026 from 12:30 to 4 PM. We do not have a meeting room for June and perhaps we should schedule a visit to the Essig Museum in Berkeley in lieu of that meeting.

New Business – Mary Sindicic is sick so Jan Blaedel presented our show dilemma to the club.

We have only two judges and while we have absolute confidence in their ability to judge, we are concerned what this would mean for them. In the event of illness or car trouble, we would be down to one judge. Additionally, it might not be feasible timewise for two judges. Also, we do not have enough sign-ups to cover all the jobs. What would the club like to do? Shall we cancel the Spring Show? Do just a sale? Your thoughts.

After much discussion and very helpful suggestions, Linda Woods made a motion.

“I move that we keep the rooms for the weekend of April 25-26, 2026 and we set up on Friday afternoon as usual. People will bring their potted iris and they will be set up on the tables. Saturday morning members can bring stems of iris to exhibit but not be judged. Times will be the same for the two days but we will add demonstrations. People’s Choice will still be voted and members will be asked to bring their own lunch or go out for lunch. The event will be titled ‘Exhibition and Fundraiser’” Seconded by Kathy Oldham. Passed unanimously. And as a reminder, you may submit iris entries to the MDIS Virtual Show to be judged. Deadline is August 31, 2026

Jan Blaedel announced that we are looking for some new people to run the Iris Show starting in 2027. Jan and Mary will be willing to help out and guide the new chairs through the show process. Let us know if you are interested.

Share Table was brimming with plants and fruit.

Meeting adjourned before 3 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Jan Blaedel, Secretary
Submitted to the MDIS Newsletter, March 27, 2026

Approved: 2026

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 –

Treasurer – Sergey Melnikov

Secretary – Jan Blaedel, Secretary: mtdiabloiris@gmail.com

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

Directors – Jan Blaedel, Carl Meier

Past President – Kathy Oldham