



MT. DIABLO IRIS SOCIETY NEWS

AUGUST 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.

▶▶ **FUNDRAISER at PEDDLER'S FAIR** ◀◀
▶▶ **Saturday, Aug 8, 7am – 5:30pm** ◀◀
▶▶ **Event is 8am – 5pm** ◀◀

▶▶ **1st Street and "D" Street** ◀◀
▶▶ **Benicia, CA** ◀◀

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Mid-summer greetings MDIS,

As I write this on August 2nd, we are finally getting some summer heat. Until now, I had only two days over 90 degrees at the garden this year, which is amazing but not complaining. By this time, I'm counting the days to the first rains in hopefully October. The older I get, the more I hate the heat. Keeping your plants watered, especially the potted ones, is definitely a challenge. I think potted things, like irises, could almost use a pop-up tent over them to prevent leaf burn. Hopefully yours are doing well.

A HUGE thank you to Linda and Riley and Jan for their work at the auction in July. Then of course there is all the work Linda did the packing of our door prize wins beforehand so they were available at the auction. We even had our runner girl, Eileen, bringing our irises to us as we sat in a nice airconditioned room. Growing the door prize iris is an 11-month

chore going on behind the scenes for you. Jeff and Riley are the two main growers that I know of. [Corrina is also growing 20.] If you have room to grow even a few successfully, please let Linda know if you are up to the commitment. Thank you all for your dedication!

Instead of a meeting in August, we have our biggest fundraiser of the year at the Benicia Peddlers Fair on Saturday August 8th. We start setting up our three booths at 5:30 am. Tents up first, then tables, shoe boxes for rhizomes, signage, chairs and other miscellaneous things before sales start at 8am.

Help is always needed throughout the day. The busiest time is about 9 am to 2 pm. We encourage you to come help at one of our biggest fundraisers! Answering iris questions and helping customers select their choices is what we do. It's really a bunch of fun and we all work well together. The sale ends at 5 pm and everything gets taken down and put back in my truck for me to return to the shed at work. Grab bags are very popular as a grab

and go. We decided to make the grab bags have 8 rhizomes starting this year to keep the price the same. One reason is, iris prices are, on average, \$8 and up to \$12 each. So, selling a bag of 10 for 20-30 dollars is just not fair to those that do all the work of digging and washing and labeling and packing at 75% off an individual rhizome price. They can't buy them anywhere for this price. Individual rhizome price structure remains the same, for now. The weather will be in the mid 80's. Bring water and wear sunscreen and come and enjoy talking irises and walking the faire for goodies.

Our regular meeting schedule is back in September through November.

Your MTB President,
Jeff Bennett

Benicia Peddler's Fair
Aug 8th, (7am setup) 8am – 5pm
~1st St & D St, Benicia, CA

The upcoming Benicia Peddler's Fair is one of our primary fundraising events where we sell bare root rhizomes. We'd love to have 2 or more hours of your time to help at this event. And while you are there you can browse the 11 blocks of vendor booths. Yes, there are usually a couple other plant booths.

Our booth – well, actually our iris are so popular we have are 3 booths wide - is usually located at or near **1st Street and D Street**. Be sure and have Linda's or Jeff's phone number in case you have trouble locating our booth. Parking can be a bit challenging midday. I noticed a new perk this year is the SolTran bus service is providing free transportation during the event. There is a flyer at the bottom of webpage, but I haven't had time to research the route. www.beniciapeddlersfair.org

If you have helped in the past, you know how busy we are interacting with the public to answer iris questions. We are busiest between 9am and 2pm. It is a fun day and a chance to get to know other club members better.

Jan and Kathy usually help Jeff set up at O Dark Hundred but we need many hands to set out rhizomes alphabetically **before 8 AM** to start selling – and there are sometimes people waiting for that 8 AM bell! A 7am arrival would be great. With enough helpers throughout the day we can rotate and take coffee and lunch breaks. Bring a camping chair if you wish to take a break during the day. We will have bottled water available and there are coffee shops and food trucks nearby. Members who come will receive a door prize. Come make a day of it!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2026

Aug 8	Benicia Peddler's Fair Approx 1st Street & "D" Street Benicia, CA
Sep 13	MDIS Meeting. Pleasant Hill Senior Center, Pleasant Hill, CA
Oct 11	MDIS Meeting. Pleasant Hill Senior Center
Nov 8	MDIS Meeting. Pleasant Hill Senior Center
Dec	No Meeting

BIOCHAR Opportunity

Jeff Bennett is willing to pick up bags of BIOCHAR for MDIS members. The bags are two cubic feet and the cost, including tax will be \$12.75 each or \$25.50 for two bags. Jeff will bring a sample bag to the Benicia Peddler's Fair on Saturday. Bring your money or check to pay Jeff. He will take orders and bring orders to the September meeting. Or you can pick up orders at Dry Creek. An alternative is to get it yourself at American Soil in Richmond by the 80 freeway – 2121 San Joaquin St, Richmond, CA.

Monthly Finance Report **Financial Statement Aug 2026**

Checking - 15,695 and saving - 6,450.03

MDIS Door Prizes – AUG 2026

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



SECOND POUR (Schreiner 2025) TB, 37", M.
Standards yellow; style arms deep yellow; falls violet, with ruffled lavender edges; beards yellow; slight fragrance



BREAK TIME (Schreiner 2025) TB, 38", M-L.
Standards purple; falls dark purple, white stripes on base; beards yellow; slight spicy fragrance.



IRISH BEAUTY (Schreiner 2025) TB, 36", L.
Standards pink; style arms pink; falls pink; beards orange; slight spicy fragrance.



OREGON BOUND (Schreiner 2025) TB, 36", L.
Standards silver top and light purple base, which fades to pure white; falls silver and purple base; beards yellow throat, yellow-white middle, white end; pronounced spicy fragrance



RHUMBA MAN (Schreiner 2024) TB, 28", L.
Standards dark purple; falls dark purple; beards yellow throat, yellow middle, purple end; tinted foliage; slight sweet fragrance.



SAND AND SURF (Van Liere 2024) TB, 34", M-L.
Standards sandy yellow; falls white, light purple irregular margin, yellow and red-purple hafts; beards golden yellow.



CRANBERRY COUNTY FAIR (Kanarowski 2023) TB, 38", M-L. Standards mid-cranberry; falls slightly lighter mid-cranberry, deep cranberry shoulder, slight violet flash around beard; beards mid-orange; pronounced sweet fragrance.



SPLASH OUT (Black 2021) TB, 31", E-M. Standards mid smoky mulberry, wide light tan band, gilt-gold rim; falls velvety dark burgundy overlaid near black lines, narrow mid rose band, ruffled; beards big, dark marigold; slight musky fragrance.



ABOVE IT ALL (Sutton 2020) TB, 39", M-L. Standards bright white, 1/4" chestnut rim with gold highlights, chartreuse at base of midrib; falls white zonal burst blending into violet-blue to dark purple at edge, yellow central stripe extending down petal from beard; beards lemon yellow; slight sweet fragrance.



TILLAMOOK BAY (Schreiner 2021) TB, 37", M & RE. Standards white; falls blue wash on white ground; beards yellow; slight fragrance.



BOUNDLESS BEAUTY (Tasco 2019) TB, 37", M. Coral pink standards; falls have a pale silvery lavender center and a wide band of cyclamen purple, some purple veins along upper beards. Bright burnt tangerine beards. Diamond dusted moderately ruffled flowers. Show stalks produce 7-to-10 buds.



HIGH ON LIFE (Black 2025) TB, 33", M-L. Standards dark lilac, blending to wide light silvery lilac margin; falls white ground, washed light pink, paler in center, mid pink texture veins; beards coral; pronounced sweet fragrance.



Mt. Diablo Iris Society Monthly Meeting Minutes July 12, 2026

Attendees included: Jeff Bennett, Jan Blaedel, Marilyn Kaplan, Sergey Melnikov, Tom Meyer, Stan and Pat Morgan, Fred Newlan, Kathy Oldham, Gayla and Roy Peek, Eileen Roark, Mary Sindicic, Riley Probst, Corinna Wise, Linda Woods

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

The Mt. Diablo Iris Society monthly meeting was our annual bearded auction which began at 12:45 PM at the Pleasant Hill Senior Center. Before auctioning began Jan Blaedel presented a few awards:

1. Mary Sindicic her Bronze Medal engraved, from the 2025 Annual Iris Show for second most blue ribbons in the show.
2. Riley Probst and Stan Morgan (and Pat Morgan) LIFETIME memberships in MDIS for their many years of service to MDIS. Thank you for all your time and expertise and enthusiasm.

On the back table are:

Sign up sheet for Benicia Peddler's Faire, Saturday, August 8

Reminder that the Virtual Show deadline is August 31

Your sign up number is your bidding number so be sure you have a paddle

Put your hours next to your name when you sign in

Program today is the AUCTION – Thank you Linda for organizing and Riley for being auctioneer

Thank you Marilyn and Kathy for being the Rhizome Runners

Thank you Sergey for collecting and reporting the money

Thank you Elizabeth Rieniets for donating your beautiful hybrids

Thank you Jeff, Sergey, Corinna, Linda and Riley for growing the DP iris

See you all on Saturday, August 8, 2026 at Benicia Peddler's Faire. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year so hope you all can come and help make it successful. Besides, it is just fun to get to talk with the public and each other.

Respectfully submitted, Jan Blaedel, MDIS Secretary



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