



MT. DIABLO IRIS SOCIETY NEWS

JUNE 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.

▶▶ **Dry Creek Garden Social** ◀◀
▶▶ **Sunday, June 14, 1-4 pm** ◀◀

▶▶ **Dry Creek Garden** ◀◀
500 May Road Union City, CA

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy almost summer everyone,

We spend our entire year to enjoy the precious spring flowers, only to have it sweep by in a flash. Every year is similar but different. This year was more different than similar. The plants in general grew well, but the expected big flush of bloom was more of a trickle of water going down a dry pipe. Irises started to bloom but instead of 10 to 15 stalks coming up in a clump, you maybe got 1-2 stalks or none at all. I had some of my older beds with almost zero bloom. So, although this is weather related, dry January, hot March and continued cooler weather in April and May, the irises are very healthy and should put on a super bloom next year as the irises that didn't bloom this year will bloom next year along with the increases we get this summer. So now is that second time to fertilize for big fat healthy increases to start next month in July. Stay tuned.

For our June meeting, we usually present our show awards, but since we did not have a judged show this year but instead had an exhibition, there are no typical awards to be given. There is the People's Choice Award recognition and I'm looking forward to hearing which that was. Planning for next year's show starts now so please volunteer to shadow Mary and Jan as they would like to pass on the duties to someone willing and able.

Our June meeting will be a picnic of sorts at Dry Creek Garden at 500 May Road in Union City. The garden is closed to the public now but there are still things in bloom to enjoy and have a relaxing meeting to actually just chat without time restraints to leave. I would like to demonstrate how we rejuvenate our planting beds with fresh compost and biochar and show you just how rich our soil has become. There are also a few business items to discuss with the membership including online sales, hosting a spring or fall regional or even a national convention and other happenings. Our auction is in July and the

Peddlers Fair fundraiser is in August. So, the next round of fun has just begun. Why do we do all this work you ask? It's actually quite fun. We have all become quite good friends and work well together in our roles we have and we want to include everyone. I believe our reputation precludes us and carrying on that reputation is important. I thank you all! Come see all the Monarch Butterflies and all the caterpillars and their jewel boxes hanging from the palm trees. We have hundreds of them as I type this. Looking forward to seeing you at Dry Creek Garden again on June 14th.

Your MTB President.
Jeff Bennett

2026 MDIS Virtual Iris Show

We have our first entries already for this year's show. Any of you with computer skills are welcome to get involved! It is such a delight viewing the entries as they arrive – and you can do all of it on your own time schedule and in the comfort of your own home. Think about volunteering to help us.

And a big THANK YOU to Ken Walker who is doing the Electronic Registration (ERF) for us. If you have never worked behind the scenes on the administrative part of an iris show, you may not know that two of our big "duties" are to file a SHOW BULLETIN for approval early in January and following each show, file a SHOW REPORT, both to AIS. Each requires a lot of detail work and Ken Walker's program has saved us hours of "hand counting" work. It is an absolute marvel. If you would like to learn more about either of these reports, let us know. Additionally, Ken's ERF helps us determine medals and, with the addition of a new feature, People's Choice. Many time-saving features. We are lucky to have Ken (in so many ways!)

Remember to get your entries turned in to MDISVirtual@gmail.com whenever you have pictures ready. Because the 4UP pictures are not large files, feel free to combine several of them in one email.

We are looking for someone skilled with combining the four photo images into one 4UP file using only an iPhone. Currently we are suggesting using PUBLISHER or EXCEL. If you are proficient using the iPhone program, please email us at MDISVirtual@gmail.com and we can take some lessons from you or have you write out the instructions for us.

Thank you for helping out.
-Jan

DOOR PRIZE IRIS and THE AUCTION

➔ What They Are

➔ What Happens Behind the scenes

Door Prize (DP) Iris: Members attending meetings have the opportunity to win Door Prize Iris.

Auction: Door Prize rhizomes are given to the winners; Extra Door Prize rhizomes are auctioned. [Save the date – July 12th]

DOOR PRIZE IRIS

Selecting an iris from a list of photos is exciting; then you get to plant it and anxiously wait for the bloom! So much happens to enable this club perk.

Ordering: The Door Prize Coordinator, aka me (Linda), orders rhizomes from hybridizers in March. They are received in Jul/Aug. I do not order specific iris. Instead, I send money requesting "recent Introductions", allowing the hybridizers to select rhizomes for the club. I feel that we receive more rhizomes that way – however, I have no proof. The hybridizers usually send rhizomes worth two to three times the value of the money we send. Additionally, varieties grown for DP's can come from rhizomes purchased from the "Regional Dig".

Regional Dig – After each AIS Region 14 spring event, the rhizomes are dug and distributed (with permission of the hybridizers) to Region 14 clubs interested in purchasing them. The cost is at an incredible discount. “Newer” varieties are allocated for DP’s; “older” varieties are for on-line sales, or potted for Spring Fundraise, or sold at the **Benicia Peddler’s Fair** [Save the date – Aug 8th] – another major club fundraising event.

Growing: Growers volunteer to grow DP rhizomes for a year. This allows the plants to increase, providing a rhizome for the door prize winner and hopefully extras for the auction. Growers provided continuous TLC to anywhere from 5 to 50+ varieties for a growing season. Just prior to the auction, growers dig, trim, label, and deliver the DP rhizomes to me. A huge, underappreciated task! Be sure to thank the Growers for this year: Jeff, Riley, and Corinna.

Tracking: Spreadsheets of the varieties being grown are created and maintained by the growers and me. Each month, I create a descriptive list of DP’s to be won. The list is included in the newsletter and added to a master list. The club secretary (Jan) and I track and record the winnings.

Distributing: As previously mentioned, the Growers dig and prep the rhizomes, bringing them to my house a few days before the auction. I sort them alphabetically and bag up the rhizomes won by each person. The DP winner gets the largest rhizome of the variety. Any extras are for the auction. Sometimes a won variety is unavailable; in that case, I select a substitution for the DP winner. The bagged DP irises can be picked up at the Auction. Once you pick up your bag, be sure to note what you have won as you probably don’t want to bid on those! **If you cannot attend the auction to get your DP’s, you must make arrangements to get your DP’s by Aug 31.** Unclaimed DP’s will go back into the club inventory.

Repeating: While I’m sorting DP rhizomes, the new rhizomes are starting to arrive from hybridizers. And the cycle continues....

AUCTION of Bearded Iris Rhizomes

Our club holds an annual fundraiser in July where we auction rhizomes, primarily extra DP increases. The auction mainly consists of “newer”, bearded varieties, typically those introduced within the last four years. Members will be emailed a list of varieties to be auctioned in advance of the auction. This gives you time to make your “must have” and “really, really want” lists. The auction is open to the public, so feel free to invite friends.

Attending: You will be given a numbered bidding paddle, and most likely, a sheet listing the varieties where you can record your purchases. During the auction, a club volunteer typically places your purchased rhizomes in a sack matching your paddle number. You will pay for your rhizomes at the end of the auction.

Auctioning: The varieties are auctioned alphabetically. The auctioneer determines the starting price of a variety and mentions the number of rhizomes available. If you want to bid, you raise your paddle. If there are more raised paddles than rhizomes, the auctioneer increases the price until the number of rhizomes matches the number of raised paddles. So, you lower your paddle when you no longer want to pay the price. Any unpurchased rhizomes go into the club inventory to be replanted or are sold at Benicia and online.

Contributing: As a club member, you can donate your rhizomes to the auction event.

- “Newer” varieties: those introduced within the last 4 years can be included in the auction. You would need to inform Linda (linda.woods@comcast.net) of the variety and quantity in advance so it can be added to the auction list. Even 1 rhizome of a newer variety is fun to include. The rhizomes need to be cleaned, trimmed, and labeled with

variety name. You can simply bring them to the auction and I will get them to the auctioneer.

- “Older” varieties: those introduced 5 years and older can also be sold at the event at the Side Table. Again, they need to be cleaned, trimmed, and labeled with variety name (& year/hybridizer). **It is highly desirable to include a picture!** You bring the rhizomes and place them on the designated “Side Table”.

Side Table: This is a table where members can donate “older” varieties to be sold at the Auction Event. They are not auctioned. They have a posted, fixed pricing. Prior to the auction they have an initial price; the price goes down at auction break; then again at end of auction. You will inform the person collecting payments of the number and pricing of rhizomes you selected from the Side Table. Any leftover rhizomes go to the club inventory.

- **Note on Donating rhizomes:** The auction is the appropriate place to donate “newer” variety rhizomes and a limited number of rhizomes at the Side Table.

Rhizomes donations are quite important for our fundraiser at the **Benicia Peddler’s Fair [Save the Date Aug 8th]**. *This is the key event where you would donate your extra rhizomes. We are prepared to handle large numbers of rhizomes at this event!* I will write an article about the Benicia Peddler’s Fair for the next newsletter.

Monthly Finance Report

Financial Statement June 2026

- Checking 14,971.17
- Saving 6,449.92.
- Cash 120

A Perspective of the Spring Regional

An entertaining summary of the Spring Regional is included near the end of the newsletter. Take a look!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2026

June 14	MDIS Meeting, Dry Creek Garden, Union City, CA
Jun 27	MDIS Board Meeting
July 12	MDIS Auction
Aug 8	Benicia Peddler’s Fair
Sep 13	MDIS Meeting. Pleasant Hill Senior Center, Pleasant Hill, CA
Oct 11	MDIS Meeting. Pleasant Hill Senior Center, Pleasant Hill, CA
Nov 8	MDIS Meeting. Pleasant Hill Senior Center Pleasant Hill, CA
Dec	No Meeting

FOLLOWING are PAGES for

→ June DOOR PRIZE IRIS pg 5-6

→ A Perspective of the Spring Regional pg 7-8

→ Through A Big’s Eye pg 9-13

→ May Meeting Minutes pg 14-15

MDIS Door Prizes – June 2026

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



LONG GAME (Schreiner 2025) TB, 38", L. Standards white-cream; yellow edges; falls white with purple edge; beards yellow; pronounced spicy fragrance.



DIG IN (Schreiner 2025) TB, 44", L. Standards light yellow; falls light purple, with yellow edges; beards light orange; slight spicy fragrance.



CAN'T BE DENIED (Johnson 2024) TB, 35", EM. Standards deep purple; falls deep purple to near black with narrow lighter edge; beards smoldering orange; pronounced sweet fragrance.



CENTURY MARK (Schreiner 2025) SDB, 8", M. Standards white lavender; tan veined, infused with lavender, lavender infusion deepens with flower aging; beards orange base, blue tips; slight fragrance.



HEARD A RUMOR (Johnson 2025) TB, 36", EM. Standards buff, with gold veins, deep pink centers; falls deep orange; beards orange; slight sweet fragrance.



NEVERENDING STORY (Johnson 2025) TB, 37", E. Standards very light yellow, slightly darker in center; gift horse falls deep magenta, with yellow flash around beard, yellow band; beards yellow; slight sweet fragrance.



FAMILY PRIDE (Schreiner 2025) TB, 35", M-L. Standards blue; falls darker blue; beards silver; slight spicy fragrance



SINGULARIY (Sutton 2023) TB, E-M. Standards white, 1/2" gold gilt edge; falls current red, white zones are veined crimson, yellow center stripe from beard; beards orange; slight sweet fragrance.



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



MOCHA FRAPPE (Collins 2024) TB, 36", E. Standards light mocha brown; falls light mocha brown, violet spot below beard; beards tangerine orange.



UKRAINIAN PRINCESS (Dash 2025) TB, 30", EM (RE). Standards light lavender, lavender veining; falls lavender veining on white base with lavender plicata markings, light brown veining on shoulders; beards light brown; slight fragrance.



NOBLE OFFSPRING (Schreiners 2025) TB, 32", L. Standards white, with violet rim; falls white, with purple rim; beards white base, yellow tips; slight spicy fragrance.

Our trip to the 2026 Spring Regional in Reno, Nevada

Jan Blaedel, Kathy Oldham, Linda Woods, and Mary Sindicic (JKLM) went to the convention by train. What a hoot! We boarded the train in Martinez, got our seats and settled in. We went to lunch in the dining car and then on to the Observation Car for card games and great views. Carl Meier was onboard and roamed the train as we did. We detrained in Reno and walked to the Silver Legacy Hotel where we shared a room. Can you imagine? Per Linda's suggestion, we ate in Gordon Ramsay's Restaurant (someone told us there was a bar attached but we wouldn't know about that!) and had a fabulous dinner. We visited Marilyn's iris sales area and spent quite a bit of time looking at the flower entries. Next was a couple hours at the Region 14 Meeting. If you would like to be treasurer for Region 14, contact Dan Williams, RVP (Regional Vice President) at kuha@AOL.com Also, the group voted NOT to have area reports at the meetings but instead, just list them in the Region 14 Newsletter. It was suggested that you simply submit your entries directly to the Area Chair, Honnette????

Saturday morning Ellen Johnson from Santa Rosa Iris Society was kind enough to pick us up and drive us to the two gardens. Our first garden was at "The Edmonds House" near Carson City, Nevada. It was fascinating to see how wind, climate, and altitude all affect iris. Elizabeth Rieniets, one of our distance members, had asked me to take pictures of her iris at the two gardens. Some were huge clumps and others had nothing. I asked Dan Williams, RVP, to be in touch with Elizabeth (and Kimberly) to talk about how their iris did in the Reno climate. Linda Woods and I both took pictures and sent them to Elizabeth. Hybridizing for introduction must be a challenge as iris which grow well in your area, may not make it in another. Buyers would be very frustrated. Dan presented a Judges' Training on Garden Judging, quite different from bench show judging or virtual show judging. Attached is the quiz. Perhaps when we are next at Dry Creek, Jeff and Riley can take us on a brief Garden Judging.

The second garden was again on a hillside in a spectacular setting. Elizabeth's iris had the same hit and miss results in this garden as well. The layout of the garden was totally different from the first garden. Always fun to see how people display their iris and enjoy their gardens. Deb and her husband also have grapevines on their hillside and were sampling their 2020 and 2022 vintages. Amazingly different. Fun experience.

Ellen took us home to The Silver Legacy and we were all hoping for a nap but put the four of us together and there is more talking than sleeping! After our "no nap" we went off to dinner with the other Region 14 members. (Again, there was purported to be a bar at the Gordon Ramsay Restaurant, with a bartender named Micah, but we wouldn't know about that). About 70 of us had dinner together that night -an amazing buffet – no rubber chicken! Well done. Jeff Bennett, Marilyn Kaplan, Sergey Melnikov, Carl Meier, and Riley Probst were there as well. Riley received his Distinguished Award and Jeff received Best Historic in Show. The speaker was Lori ... who we had gotten to meet and talk with several times during the weekend. She was well-spoken and provided very interesting information. She is a hybridizer and uses black and white photos to help her choose the iris with the best form for introducing. She took us through her process and helped us understand the shapes and characteristics of the iris flower. Following Lori's talk the drawings for baskets took place and Kathy Oldham won one with Japanese accoutrements. Of course, then we had to lug that home on the train! Sunday morning was quite brisk. We had breakfast in

the hotel and then walked casually to the train station as we already knew that the train was late. Later we were to learn that it had hit a horse in Utah! Kathy noted it was remarkable how the temperature from the last Saturday hillside garden to boarding the train home varied from 80 arid degrees to snow flurries on the train platform and over Donner pass. Turning blue, we finally boarded the train and watched the wind out our train windows all the way to the Bay Area. Arriving home we each had wind debris to clean up. I had about 20 palm fronds come down – anyone interested in a Christmas reindeer?

- Jan

Judging Tall Bearded Iris In the Garden Region 14 Spring Regional — Reno, NV

Name _____

Date 16 May 2026

Instructor Dan Williams

Region _____

Judge Type _____

Hours 1

- ☒ T F 1. Judges have an obligation to maintain a 'representative collection' of iris types that can be grown in their area and to add some new varieties each year.
- ☒ T F 2. During garden visits, a judge should study new and unfamiliar iris varieties and compare growth habits of familiar iris.
- T ☒ F 3. Evaluation of any iris cultivar can only be based on observations made over at least three (3) consecutive seasons. *two is correct*
- ☒ T F 4. Fully accredited judges should be willing to volunteer to help train, be a mentor to and assist other judges working on their qualifications to become certified.
- ☒ T F 5. The primary duty of the AIS judge is to evaluate iris in the garden and vote their ballot, preferably intelligently.
- ☒ T F 6. Judging an iris in the garden can begin by considering the whole plant from a distance of 12-15 feet.
- T ☒ F 7. For a swift and high quality evaluation of an iris, the experienced judge **must** point score every iris.
- T ☒ F 8. By far the most important garden characteristic of an iris cultivar for the judge to consider is the flower.
- ☒ T F 9. To receive full credit for floriferousness, an iris must bloom over at least a ~~10-day~~ ¹⁴ day period, have 3-5 increase per year and have a stalk/fan ratio between 25% and 75%. *14 is correct*
- ☒ T F 10. Durability of an iris variety refers to its performing dependably as a clump for three (3) consecutive bloom seasons.
- ☒ T F 11. An award-winning iris should have individual appeal, personal charm, possess individuality and exhibit unique qualities that draw the observer from across the garden.
- ☒ T F 12. The ability of an iris to rebloom dependably should be rewarded when the quality of the flower is acceptable.

Gardening Through A Bug's Eye

Human eyes aren't the best. We only get two, are limited by cone and rod photoreceptor cells, our brain does it's best to interpret the images that it's fed literally UPSIDE DOWN... and personally, being nearsighted since childhood, I need to find my glasses to be able to find my glasses. Most insects and other sighted animals have a leg (or five) up on us humans. Pollinators like bees and butterflies have eyes evolved to see in ways that are hard to imagine. New scientific imaging and technological tools are changing that, allowing us to reimagine the world around us and see things from an entirely different point of view.

Learn how to see through a bee's eyes.

Viewing your garden from the perspective of pollinators can change your opinions on everything from color combinations and planting styles to what hardscaping materials and mulch you choose for your space. Instead of focusing on what our eyes see and our brains can interpret, we must think about what exists in nature beyond our human sight.

Light in the visible light spectrum is seen by us humans as colors- our good ol' friend, the rainbow guy Roy G. Biv (Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, Violet). Then there is the full electromagnetic spectrum, which includes light in ranges that humans cannot see, like UV light. I can't see the UV light that helps plants grow and increases my risk of skin cancer, but I know it's there. I can see its effect on the leaves in my garden during a heat wave, and feel the radiation on my skin when the UV index is high. Bees and other pollinators can see these UV light-waves, and flowering plants have co-evolved alongside them to use changes in electromagnetic fields, light-waves and UV-reflective pigments to create bold patterns and signals that help guide pollinators to them.

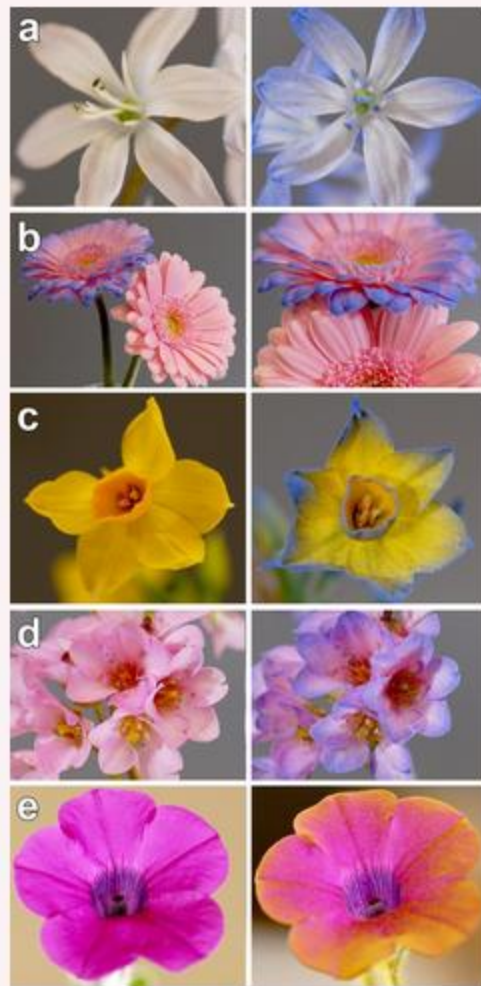
The violet in the top photo looks like we expect, this is how we see it using visible light. The middle photo is in UV light, showing a stark color difference and specs of bright UV-reflective pollen. The reflected light highlights a food source that can be seen by pollinators from further away, like the neon sign of a late-night diner. The bottom photo shows the same violet in infrared light, showing the light blue nectar guides pointing to the center of the bloom.



This gladiolus 'Priscilla' may look pretty in pink to our eyes, but from the bee's perspective, she's a gothic garden knockout with blue and gold highlights and dark nectar guides to lure in her visitors.



Electromagnetic fields change after pollinator interactions. While we can't sense these fields, researchers have designed experiments using electrostatic dusting to figure out what's happening. The dust sticks to the flowers where there are higher negatively charged fields, which can be detected by pollinators. In the photos here, the left side shows flowers without the added electrostatic dust, and the flowers on the right show us what the bees can sense. More concentrated color indicates where the highest electric fields are. Flowers carry a small negative electric charge, while bees carry a positive charge. When a bee lands on a flower, the negatively charged pollen grains stick to the bee, like a balloon would stick to your hair after shuffling in your socks across a carpet. After the visit, the flower no longer carries a negative charge, which indicates there is no pollen left to collect, and the next bee will move along.



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Photos by: [Dominic Clarke](#)¹, [Erica Morley](#)¹, [Daniel Robert](#)¹.

These colors and patterns are only visible to humans through the lens of a camera, and these new images are confirming some long-suspected theories on effective pollinator waystations and the best ways to get pollinators to visit your garden, and to stick around too. Scientists are studying which combinations of plants best support high numbers of pollinators, and current research indicates that native plant combinations offer the biggest bang for the buck. Native plants have evolved alongside their native pollinators to provide higher quality nectar and pollen than some imported species commonly used in the horticultural trade. Mass planting in larger swaths can make it easier for pollinators to spot the right blooms, and alluring color combinations that they prefer, like purple and gold, can entice even more travelling pollinators to make a pit stop.

What does this all mean for gardeners? When beginning a new pollinator garden, or when adding new beds to an established garden, we can start by evaluating our plant and color choices. Whether you are strictly a native plant person or like to mix in exotics that feed your soul, we can make choices that will support more biodiversity in our gardens. Consider this: Am I gardening with the full Roy G. Biv, or am I planting only my favorite colors? If the latter, can pollinators even see my favorite colors? If not, I may be creating a lovely landscape for my eyes, but it's a food desert for native bees. I love red flowers, but bees do not see red as red. Instead, it looks muddy and brown or black. What they do see on these flowers are the UV-reflective nectar guides and pollen. By using multiple floral cues, bees will find the paydirt, but they might use more energy doing it. Should I get rid of all my *Alstroemeria Tall Red*? Nope. But maybe I could add some purples and oranges to benefit the pollinators; *Erigeron 'Cape Sebastian'* and some *Eschscholzia californica* would do the trick.



Mt. Diablo Iris Society Monthly Meeting Minutes May 3, 2026

Attendees included: Rae Albertson, Jeff Bennett, Joe and Josie Balch, Janet Caprile, Bruce Harden, Marilyn Kaplan, Kent Lincoln, Fran McNamee, Sergey Melnikov, Carl Meier, Catherine and Tom Meyer, Stan and Pat Morgan, Fred Newlan, Nancy Pahl, Gayla Peek, Rebecca Pollon, Riley Probst, Eileen Roark, Alan Robbins, Jeanne Savarese, Mary Sindicic, Ken Walker, Corinna Wise, Linda Woods

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

Guests:

Quorum (10)? Yes / No

The Mt. Diablo Iris Society monthly meeting was called to order by president, Jeff Bennett at 1 PM at the Iris Gardens at Dry Creek in Union City, California.

The minutes of the March, 2026 meeting were approved/revised. Motion was made by _____ and seconded by _____. Motion passed unanimously.

Door Prize Iris Drawing for Club Members in attendance

ANNIE'S COCONUT CREAM PIE (Kanarowski'24)	Corinna Wise
FULLY CHARGED (Sutton 2022) TB, 36", M-L.	Fred Newlan
GOLDEN ROSE (Ford 2025) TB, 36", M.	Riley Probst
HAPPY CAT (Dash 2025) TB, 36", EM. Standards	Nancy Pahl
INK AND PINK (Kanarowski 2025) TB, 40", M.	Sergey Melnikov
LUCKY ONE (Johnson 2025) SDB, 13", EM.	Mary Sindicic
MEDIATE (Sutton 2022) IB, 21", M. Standards	Gayla Peek
PURPLICIOUS (Van Leire 2024) TB, 36", M-L.	Jeff Bennett
RAIN OF ANGELS (Cadd 2025) TB, 40", L.	Mary Sindicic
SHIFTING GEARS (Keppel 2023) TB, 36", E-M.	Gayla Peek
SPARKS TO A FLAME (Kelly 2023) TB, 32", E.	Fred Newlan
VAVAVOOM (Miller 2022) TB, SA, 31", M	Roy Peek

Announcements:

- Be sure to put your volunteer hours next to your name on the sign-in sheet.
- The deadline for the VIRTUAL IRIS SHOW is August 31, 2026 at midnight. Sergey Melnikov is helping Jan Blaedel work out ways for entrants to use their cellphones to crop, combine, and submit photos. You have all received registration numbers and information and if you have any questions, submit them at MDISVirtual@gmail.com
- Ron Wolberg, a past MDIS member, is in a care facility suffering from dementia. His partner, Lei, was at the Alden Lane Show and will share information and well wishes with Ron. Ron's email is RonWolberg5@gmail.com if you would like to be in touch with him. Lei retrieves the emails each time he visits and reads them to Ron and helps him remember who the authors are.

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Old Business -

- Thank you to all members who worked at both the Alden Lane Show and Sale, April 2026, and at the Ruth Bancroft Garden Tours on May 2, 2026. Talking with the public fulfills one of our mission statements.
- Please consider coming to the Iris Garden at Dry Creek, Thursday – Sunday from 10-4 until May 15, 2026 to help Jeff answer iris questions for folks visiting the garden.
-

New Business – June 2026 meeting

- Barcodes on plants at Alden Lane allowed Sergey Melnikov to track what was sold and what was available for Ruth Bancroft. Barcodes will be placed on all ONLINE SALES rhizomes to track ONLINE what is still available. Corinna Wise and Sergey Melnikov are pioneering this endeavor. Thank you to both. This will be reviewed in the fall to tweak how we might use the barcodes.
- VISIT the MDIS website, **MtDiabloIris.org** Sergey Melnikov has done a tremendous amount of work creating and maintaining the website. Please enjoy it. Newsletters will be posted there as well as pretty pictures and some ugly cat pictures (inside joke between Jan and Sergey).
- MDIS has two gmail accounts, **MDISVirtual@gmail.com** for all things relating to the Virtual Iris Show and **MtDiabloIris@gmail.com** for all things relating to our club, club meetings, etc.
- A HUGE THANK YOU to Sergey for all his work on the website and the Online Iris Sales. You have no idea how much time he has committed to these projects. THANK YOU, SERGEY

PROGRAM – Visiting the Iris Garden at Dry Creek.

Respectfully submitted,
Submitted to the MDIS Newsletter

Acting Secretary

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 –

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Directors – Jan Blaedel, Carl Meier

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