

MT. DIABLO IRIS SOCIETY NEWS

MAY 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 Iris Browsing** ◀◀
▶▶ **Sunday, May 3rd, 1-3 pm** ◀◀

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings everyone,

Well, it's here! Bloom season that is. After a confusing winter of a wet December, super dry January, normal February and late March bringing 90 degree temperatures, the iris don't quite know what to do. Some are normal, many are having a sparse bloom, and even more are having no bloom at all. I'm guessing the high heat in March may have put the iris into thinking its summer and triggered dormancy and telling the iris not to bloom as it is summer. Good news is, all those rhizomes that didn't bloom this year, will be blooming next year along with any other increases. So it should be a banner year in 2027.

Dry Creek Garden opened last Thursday, April 23rd to a busy first day. The opening was featured on East Bay Regional Park's Facebook page and Instagram page too. We had a lot of first-time visitors along with repeat visitors. Bloom is less than previous years overall, but they are spread out over the entire garden rather than just certain areas.

Besides the irises, there are thousands of other flowers to view as well as we keep adding more things.

I hope you can come see the garden on May 3rd. The address to the parking lot is: 500 May Road, Union City, CA]. We open at 10am, but our scheduled gathering is at 1 pm. Bring a lunch to eat before the meeting /tour and to socialize in the peaceful setting that is Dry Creek. Watch the Birds, Bees and Butterflies. Have a seat on Shirley's bench. We have lots of seating throughout the garden for you to sit and view from different vantages. Restrooms are available just outside the garden fence. If you absolutely cannot walk up the road to the garden, contact me either before you arrive or when you do arrive and I will walk down and open the gate. My phone number is 510-677-0803. Unfortunately, I can't just leave the gate open as others will follow you up and it's a one lane road. The temperature will be 64 degrees, which is perfect.

A big thank you to everyone that helped with the iris exhibition set up and take down and those that worked in the sales area and

mingled with the visitors to our show. The fundraising fully covered the rental of the facility and extra for our future budgets. All of this wouldn't happen without Jan and Mary. They plan this out months in advance and coordinate everything from past experience. Remember, they are looking to teach others how to run the show so they can gradually step back as time goes on. So, ask them how you can assist as we approach the next show in 350 days from now.

That's it for now,
Your MTB President,
Jeff Bennett

Ruth Bancroft Garden Event Saturday May 2nd

There are **three important items** about the Ruth Bancroft Garden Event **included near the end of the newsletter**. Be sure to read if you are attending the event.

- **Overview:** Event with times and stations with volunteer worker assignments (that's you!)
- **Parking:** Specific, detailed directions; we do **NOT** park in the nursery parking lot.
- **Map of Garden**

The 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 – 2PM**. **Lunch will be provided.**

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.

Dry Creek Iris Browsing & May Meeting – Sunday May 3rd

We will be holding a *brief* May meeting at the Dry Creek Iris Garden on Sunday, May 3rd from 1-3pm. The address to the parking lot is: 500 May Road, Union City, CA

The gate to drive up the hill will be closed as the park is open to the public this day. If you need to drive up the hill, contact Jeff and he will come down and to open the gate for you. Jeff: 510-677-0803.

Come and browse the blooming irises in the amazing garden! Take pictures; make wish lists. It promises to be a wonderful day.

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!**
- May 2** Volunteer Event at Ruth Bancroft Garden. Walnut Creek
- May 3** MDIS Meeting at Dry Creek Garden, 1pm
- 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/

Monthly Finance Report

Financial Statement May 2026

Current:

- Checking - 13,515.31
- Saving - 6,449.87
- Cash - 120 + 496 (will deposit)

Alden Lane:

- Check - 150
- Cash - 496
- Square - 1,592 (before fees 43.63)
- Venmo - 43

FOLLOWING PAGES for

→ **May DOOR PRIZE IRIS** pg 4-5

→ **Ruth Bancroft Event**

• **Overview** pg 6

• **Parking** pg 7-8

• **Garden Map** pg 9

→ **AIS 14 Spring Regional** pg 10-11

MDIS Door Prizes – May 2026

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



SPARKS TO A FLAME (Kelly 2023) TB, 32", E. Standards center yellow-gold, edges rusty red; falls yellow-gold, rusty red around throat and edges, slight purple streak below beard; beards orange; slight fragrance.



LUCKY ONE (Johnson 2025) SDB, 13", EM. Standards light blue; falls deep butter yellow, with small cream area below beard, lighter cream edge; beards lavender blue; slight sweet fragrance.



VAVAVOOM (Miller 2022) TB, SA, 31", M. Standards and style arms coral pink-orange; falls orange-coral; beards red-coral, dark peach horn; slight musky fragrance.



MEDIATE (Sutton 2022) IB, 21", M. Standards dark chrysanthemum crimson; falls pale yellow ground around and below beard, 1 1/2" dark ruby red near solid plicata band at edge; beards old gold; ruffled; sweet fragrance.



HAPPY CAT (Dash 2025) TB, 36", EM. Standards khaki; falls brown fading to tan, medium orchid flush around beard, tan rim; beards burnt orange.



INK AND PINK (Kanarowski 2025) TB, 40", M. Standards salmon pink; falls deep inky black-violet, eighth-inch precise salmon pink rim, white and black veined spray pattern across entire shoulder; beards very deep red-orange; slight sweet fragrance.



RAIN OF ANGELS (Cadd 2025) TB, 40", L.
Standards creamy white, very light yellow overlay fading to white, light yellow at base; falls creamy white, light lavender overlay, beards light lavender base, yellow tips; pronounced musky fragrance.



SHIFTING GEARS (Keppel 2023) TB, 36", E-M.
Standards chrome lemon; falls pale lavender center ground, progressively heavier overlay blended Chippendale, brass edge; beards golden glow. **HM 2025**



FULLY CHARGED (Sutton 2022) TB, 36", M-L.
Standards yellow-orange; falls greyed orange, mottled red-purple, 1/2" yellow-orange band at edge; beards red-orange; ruffled; sweet fragrance. **HM 2024**



PURPLICIOUS (Van Leire 2024) TB, 36", M-L.
Standards light to grey purple; falls white, with dark purple veining beards white base, orange tips; absent fragrance.



GOLDEN ROSE (Ford 2025) TB, 36", M.
Standards gold, pale rose veins, flush at midrib; falls burgundy rose, gold rose below beard, gold rose dart; beards orange, darker in throat; slight sweet fragrance.



ANNIE'S COCONUT CREAM PIE (Kanarowski 2024) TB, 36", E. Standards pristine white, touch of cream at base of midrib; falls pale yellow-cream, lighter at beard, darker edge, quarter-inch white rim, beards red-tangerine, brilliant and large; pronounced sweet fragrance.

RUTH BANCROFT GARDEN EVENT

Assignments for Ruth Bancroft Garden Saturday, May 2, 2026 9 AM to 2 PM

Because this is a shorter day than I had anticipated, I am hoping you will be able to spend the entire time with us. Tour groups will start arriving at 9:30, the garden opens at 9 AM to visitors so we need to be set up by 9 am to begin. Should be fun! Lunch will be available at any time. I will bring a cooler with sandwiches, water, and iced tea. Please grab a sandwich and find a place on the patio and relax.

8-9 AM – If you are dropping someone off or dropping off supplies, pull into the main RBG entrance at **1552 Bancroft Road off of Ygnacio Blvd.** Unload your car and re-park it following the Parking Instructions attached.

If you are coming to help out and do not need to drop off pieces or people, follow the parking instructions to the back of the property and walk through the garden to the front Great Room. I will post a map of the garden so you can find your way back to the front.

On the back patio the tour members will meet for a brief introduction by Jan Blaedel and then move to the gardens with an RBG volunteer guide. In the garden they will meet:

Corinna Wise, Fred Newlan, Tom Meyer, Marilyn Kaplan, others

After the garden tour they will be escorted to the Great Room where they will find:

Station A – Sales table of potted iris and fertilizer- Sergey Melnikov, Eileen Roark

Station B – How to Divide and Plant Iris -Mary Sindicic

Station C – The Science Guys – Stan Morgan, Ken Walker, Riley Probst, Carl Meier
Hybridizing, colors, chromosomes, identifying, etc.

Station D – Videos on a continuous loop – chairs for weary gardeners – Pat Morgan,
Greeter and influencer

Station E – Table of handouts- unmanned

Botanical Painters – Gayla Peek

See next 2 pages for important Parking Instructions



BACK LOT PARKING INSTRUCTIONS

Please plan on parking on the north side of the Garden property instead of the Main Lot in order to accommodate Garden visitors & Nursery customers. No parking on neighboring streets, please.

Please read ahead for specific instructions on where to park and how to enter the Garden premises.

1. From Bancroft Rd, **go past** the RBG Main Lot/entrance and turn right into the first driveway. (You'll see mailboxes with a green sign underneath that has the numbers 1400 & 1500.) Then slowly drive up the private driveway to the Folly (green wooden structure) area:



Pass by the green Folly structure (on the right) and continue going up the driveway until you see a red barn.

2. You can park here (on the west side of the barn):



Or here (on the south side of the red barn):



You are on private property; **do not wander around** or enter any buildings in this area.
Please do not pick any fruit or plants.

3. After you park, walk down the driveway back to the Folly. Walk in-between the green tool shed and the Folly/west shade house to enter the Garden.



You will see a gate that has a "Staff Entrance Only" sign; you will be entering through there.

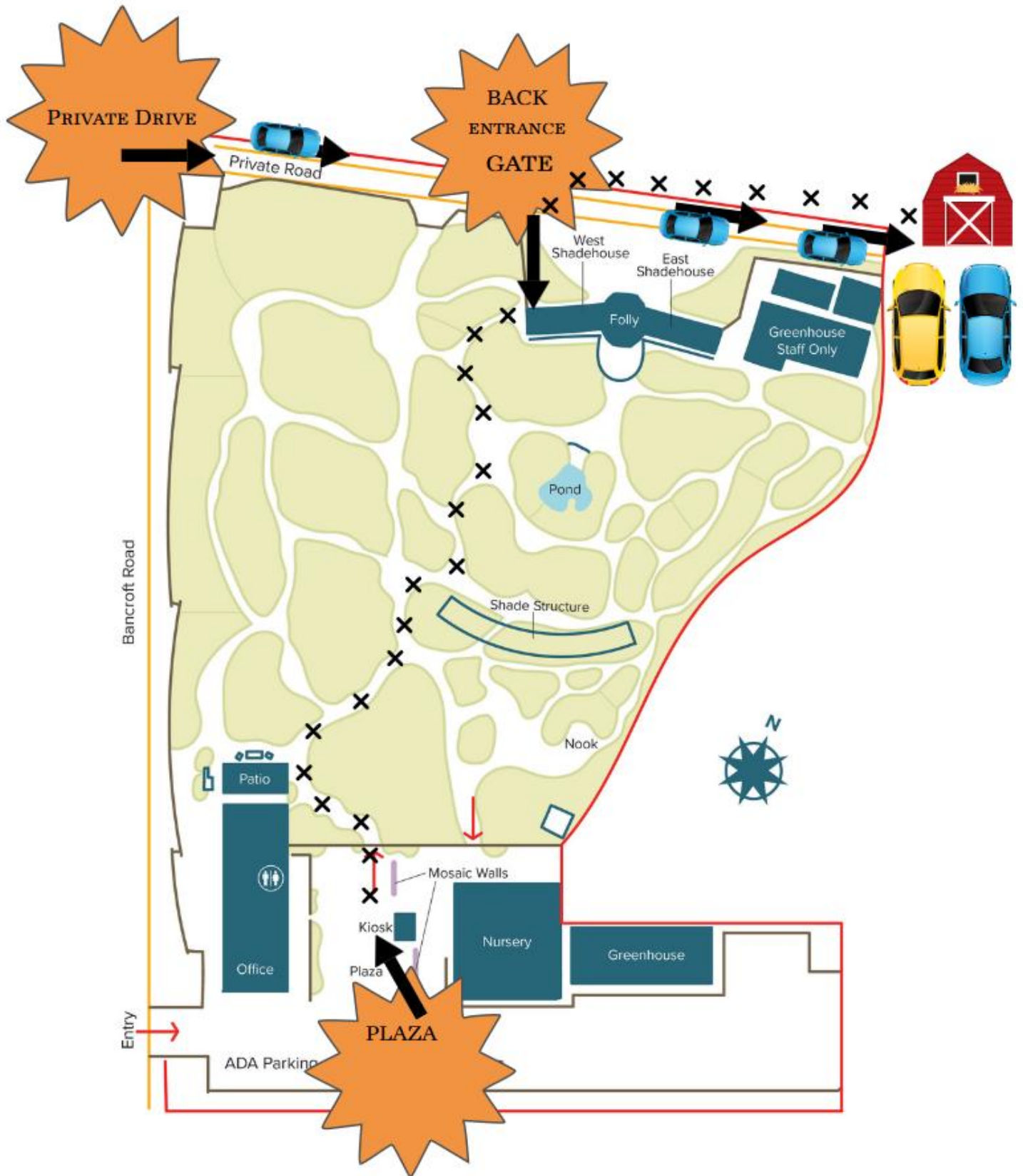


4. In order to open the Garden gate, you will need to PULL the knob. Please make sure that the Garden gate closes securely behind you.

5. Walk through the Garden to the main plaza.

THANK YOU for your support of the Garden!

Ruth Bancroft Garden Map





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,

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