



MT. DIABLO IRIS SOCIETY NEWS

SEPTEMBER 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.

▶▶ **MDIS Meeting, Pleasant Hill Senior Center** ◀◀
▶▶ **Sunday, Sept 13, 1 pm – 3 pm** ◀◀
▶▶ **233 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill, CA** ◀◀

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello MDIS Members,

It's almost time to slow down, but not quite yet. I'm still in the process of planting new irises I received this year and Door Prize Irises for our society too. Thankfully, I believe I have nothing more "on the way". Most are getting potted first, some are going straight into the ground since I had already revamped a 60 foot bed with compost and biochar.

Our August fundraiser at the Benicia Peddlers Fair went very well as has been the case the last few years. This is due to the concerted efforts of our members at all stages of the event. From Sergey securing our annual spot, Nancy making sure we have great photos for our display bins and grab bags and collections, myself loading the truck up of all needed supplies and returning them to storage. Jan and Kathy being up bright and early to help set up the booth, all the digging and labeling of irises that Linda, Corinna, Stan, Jeff and others I am forgetting about. All the helpers that talked to customers throughout the day, Riley, Stan, Sergey, Marilyn, Jan, Kathy, Linda, Corinna and Jeff. I hope I didn't miss mentioning anyone. The weather was perfect and it was

fun with a little bit of stress in the early hours of sales. We again raised monies to get our society through another year of fun. I appreciate you all, even if you weren't able to attend.

Our next meeting will be a refresher on Biochar basics. It's been a few years since I made my first presentation on biochar. Since then, I have learned a bit more and have experiences to share. Another good thing is that it is now more commercially available at a very reasonable price. It's available at American Soil and Stone in Richmond, Ca. 510-292-3000. 2121 San Joaquin St. Open 7 days a week. You can go there and buy your own 2 cubic foot bags for 11.95 plus tax or I will bring what you want to our meeting on September 13th. I'm only going to do this one time due to the cost of diesel. Going to get it and bring to the meeting is two trips for me. I'm adding \$1 per bag for the cost of diesel. So that would be \$14.00 per bag. Please contact me by email (jeff13bennett@gmail.com) or by texting me at 510-677-0803. That way I have a written request to add up the number of bags. The biochar that American soil has is nice and fine, not chunky. So it blends in with your soil nicely. I will be picking it up on Saturday

September 12th, so let me know if you want any by Friday night, September 11th.

The Fall Regional is coming up next month in Chico, California. October 9-10. Bonnie Nichols, the AIS President will be the speaker. We need to put together a basket for the auction, so let's make sure we discuss this and make our presence known. This has slipped through our radar in the past. I could donate some unusual historic irises that nobody else has to start....maybe a bag of Biochar? That would be different...

Last but not least, our member Carl Meier is recovering from a fall that has knocked him out of service for a while. But we know Carl. He'll be back in the saddle after recovery. You can't slow Carl down when it comes to gardening. Our well wishes are with Carl and his family as he rehabs at a facility. Thinking of you Carl!

See you on the 13th. Ruth Bancroft in the morning, meeting at 1pm in Pleasant Hill.

Your MTB President,
Jeff Bennett



The crew at Benicia: Jan, Corinna, Sergey, Jeff, Linda, & Stan. Kathy & Marilyn. Riley arrived shortly after photo.

Ruth Bancroft Garden Event

Our club will have a booth at the Ruth Bancroft Garden Event: Botanical Bash. This is Sunday, Sept 13th – the same day as our meeting nearby in Pleasant Hill. Make a day or half day of it, attending both our meeting and the RBG event! Jan will stay to manage our booth while others attend the MDIS meeting.

Details on this event were sent in an earlier email **and** is repeated near the end of this newsletter. **The event is FULL. Only those volunteering to work MDIS booth may attend.**

Meeting Topic: BIOCHAR Basics (Place order with Jeff)

Jeff Bennett will be giving a presentation on Biochar Basics. Additionally, he is willing to pick up bags of BIOCHAR for MDIS members. Read how to order biochar in his President's Message.

FERTILIZER – Place order with Jan

If you would like a gallon of 6-20-10 fertilizer, it will cost you \$10. Email MtDiabloIris@gmail.com and place your order. Gallons will be available at the September 13th meeting. You can pay Sergey at the meeting.

OUR OWN MDIS QR CODE!

MtDiabloIris.org has its own QR code. Jan has added this to our BOOKMARKERS, Membership Forms, Minutes, and now it will be in our newsletters. Spread the word- and thank you Sergey for all the work!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2026

- Sep 13 Ruth Bancroft Garden Event
9am-4pm 1552 Bancroft Rd,
Walnut Creek, CA
- Sep 13 MDIS Meeting.
1 – 4 pm
Pleasant Hill Senior Center,
Pleasant Hill, CA
- Oct 9-11 Region 14 Fall Regional
Chico, CA
aisregion14.org/events/fall-regional
- Oct 11 MDIS Meeting.
Pleasant Hill Senior Center
- Nov 8 MDIS Meeting.
Pleasant Hill Senior Center
- Dec No Meeting

PEDDLER'S FAIR RESULTS

Thank you to all who volunteered on Saturday at the Benicia Peddler's Fair for our annual fundraiser. After all the digging, washing, trimming, boxing and driving, making grab bags and collections, loading up the truck of booth supplies etc etc. We spent a fun day together sharing our knowledge with new and regular visitors to our booth. There're always a few glitches. Starting with someone already set up in one of our spots that we helped move at 5:45 am. Set up went smoothly. We had more irises than we had tables for and I brought one extra table.

Our grand total for the Fair is \$4,233.00. That's about \$900 less than last year. Only due to our best customer not buying this year. He bought approximately \$1,200 last year. So, in reality, we did about \$300 more this year sans his purchase last year, and about \$100 more than 2024 including his \$900 purchases that year. We did very well. Thank you all for the tireless work. I took a 3 hour nap when I got home.

- Jeff (edited by Linda)

Monthly Finance Report Financial Statement Sep 2026

Checking - 19,595.60

Savings - 6,450.08

Cash – 120

KITTY LOBERG

Sadly, Kitty Loberg passed away in July. Many of our club members knew her. The information on her Celebration of Life is near the end of this newsletter.

FOLLOWING are PAGES for

→ Sept DOOR PRIZE IRIS pg 4-5

→ Kitty Loberg Celebration of Life pg 6

→ Ruth Bancroft Garden Event
pg 7-9

MDIS Door Prizes – SEPT 2026

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



HITS THE SPOT (Sutton 2026) TB, 35", M. Standards pale yellow ground, near solid purple-red plicata markings; falls yellow ground, dotted purple-red near black at edge, white ground in throat and around base of beard; beards orange; slight sweet fragrance.



CASTLES IN THE SKY (Black 2026) TB, 33", L. Standards blue-white, with wide light cornflower blue plicata band; falls white, solid mid-dark violet-blue hafts and band with narrow mid violet-blue plicata markings inside band; purple base foliage; beards, light greyed blue end; slight musky fragrance.



SENIORITIS (Schreiner 2026) TB, 34", M-L. Standards yellow-orange, with greyed orange outline; falls greyed orange, yellow at hafts; beards orange; pronounced fragrance.



FIRECRACKER FRISBEE (Ford 2026) TB Flat, 31", M. Standards lavender-pink, blending into orange-lavender edges, pale orange with slight veining; falls are similar. beards bright gold yellow; sweet fragrance.



MY BELLE (Dash 2026) TB, 34", L. Standards white, pale pink on midrib; falls pink veining transitioning to pale pink; beards orange base, white tips; fragrance.



FLASHY DRESSER (Keppel 2025) TB, 38", M-L. Standards aureolin yellow; falls colonial buff ground, under textured veined violet washed petal, with darker midline, beards brown end; slight sweet fragrance.



MAIN MENU (Johnson 2026) TB, 38", EM.
Standards deep plum centers, lighter towards edge;
falls amber to orange, with small white area below
beard; beards orange; slight musky fragrance.



PURPLE STORM (Tasco 2026) AB, 22.5", L.
Standards white; falls white, half dollar sized purple
signal; beards brown-yellow throat, yellow middle,
yellow end; slight fragrance.



BANANA WIND (Schreiner 2024) TB, 36", M-L.
Standards yellow; falls maroon with lighter edge;
beards orange; fragrance.



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



SHARK WEEK (Kanarowski 2026) TB, 31", M.
Standards white, with discrete brownish-violet-
cream halo, light blue-violet random bite marks;
falls deep black-violet, extensive white veins
covering petal, dual white and black wire rims;
beards antique tangerine-orange; slight sweet
fragrance.

KITTY LOBERG

Hello all, this is Kitty's Daughter Alissa.

I am sorry to have to let you all know this, Mom passed away July 11th, 2026 surrounded by her immediate family. I realize this comes as a shock to many of you as she kept her medical information close to her chest. She is now free to water and weed her iris beds pain free.

Thank you all for being a part of her beautiful life and enjoying her passions with her. She left us too soon and we'll all miss her beyond words.

There will be a Celebration of Life on Oct 3, 2026 at 1pm in Healdsburg. [See less](#)



RUTH BANCROFT GARDEN EVENT

Sept 13th, 9am – 4pm

Letter from Jacki at Ruth Bancroft Garden regarding BOTANICAL BASH on Sunday, Sept 13. The RBG will be open free of charge that day so bring your family! We need your help to hand out bookmarkers and sell rhizomes and answer iris questions. We will have a display and sell fertilizer and rhizomes. I will be there at 8:30 unloading my car and parking and setting up. As always, park in the back and walk to the Great Hall unless you need to unload your car. I have attached a map for parking and walking back to the Great Room. Jan Blaedel

Dear Mt. Diablo Iris Society

We are so pleased you and your organization can join us on **September 13th (Sunday)** for our **Botanical Bash!**

Few things I wanted to touch base about:

- Arrival time: Gates will open as early as 8:30am. The Garden and Nursery officially opens at 9am but we do not expect you to be ready to interact with the public until 10am (which means people may be milling around while you set up).
- You can unload in the main lot (and we will provide assistance) and then you will be asked to park in the overflow lot on the other side of the Garden. (See attachment parking directions.) I recommend that you factor in an extra ~ 15-20 minutes for this, for your set-up planning purposes. You will be expected to have a complete set-up and be ready to interact with visitors at 10am. If you have a disabled parking placard, please let me know ASAP so I can make special parking accommodations.

SCROLL DOWN FOR PARKING INFO!



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.

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. (FOLLY - a costly ornamental building with no practical purpose, especially a tower or mock-Gothic ruin built in a large garden or park.)

1. 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.

2. 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.



3. 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.

4. Walk through the Garden to the main plaza.

THANK YOU for your support of the Garden!





**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