



(Grisso seedlings, photos by Bonnie Petheram)

Sydney B. Mitchell Iris Society

SBM BEARDLESS IRIS AUCTION & SALE!

Pacific Coast Iris, Japanese
Iris, Spurias, Siberians,
Louisianas & Species iris

Friday, October 24th, 2008

Sale 7:30 - 8:30 pm

Auction 8:30-10 pm

SBM BEARDLESS IRIS AUCTION & SALE!

Pacific Coast Iris, Japanese Iris, Spurias,
Siberians, Louisianas and Species iris

~ at ~

Lakeside Park Garden Center

666 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland (directions page 5)

Doors open 7:00 p.m., sale 7:30 - 8:30, auction 8:30 - 10:00 pm

Meetings and auction/sales are free and open to the public

www.pacificcoastiris.org Society for Pacific Coast Native Irises

www.socji.org Society for Japanese Irises

www.signa.org Species Iris Group of North America (SIGNA)

www.spuriairis.com Spuria Iris Society

www.louisianas.org Society for Louisiana Irises

www.socsib.org Society for Siberian Irises

BEARDLESS IRIS AUCTION AND SALE! Pacific Coast iris, Japanese iris, Spurias, Siberians, Louisianas, and Species Iris will be available, from the gardens of commercial growers and veteran members, ready to plant. Of course, you can contribute to the cause by purchasing beardless iris for your garden or as gifts for friends!

DIGGING, WRAPPING, AND REPLANTING BEARDLESS IRIS:

Those bringing in iris are reminded that most beardless iris can be transplanted only during periods of active root growth. If, like many, you have not been watering during the summer months, go out NOW and give them a good soaking! Then, wait til the last possible moment to dig and package.

Some techniques suggested by Alan Robbins for transporting your iris:

Clean them well, label them with their name, color and year of introduction

(if possible) high enough on the leaves so that the buyer can read the info after packaging. Trim the leaves if they are too long for display on the sales table. The rhizomes and roots should be wrapped in wet paper towels or newspaper, placed in a plastic bag or Saran wrap and secured with masking tape. The tape can be an additional or alternate label.

PLANTING ~

Plant as soon as possible. Remember that PCIs, Siberians, Louisianas and Japanese iris prefer acid soil, while Spurias do best in neutral to alkaline soil. Before planting, soak Japanese, other water iris, Siberians and Louisiana iris in enough water to cover the roots. Japanese & other water iris should be soaked for 24 hours or more, whereas 12 hours (overnight) is sufficient for Louisianas & Siberians.

All should be planted promptly thereafter: Siberians and Japanese with their crowns 3-4 inches below the surface, and Spurias, PCIs and Louisianas with crowns just below the surface. PCIs and Spurias need not be soaked if they are still moist. PCIs, being the most sensitive to transplanting, are often given special treatment:

soaking for a minimum of 10 minutes in a solution of Subdue (6 drops per gallon). We will try to have this reagent available at the auction/sale. Some recommend that PCIs be initially planted in pots before transfer to the garden.

Special request -- those bringing in beardless iris, please bring in early so that volunteers can prepare descriptions of iris that lack them. We also plan to have descriptions of all the iris obtained commercially to facilitate selection. Once again, we encourage all members to participate in this Fall auction/sale, the proceeds from which help to keep a roof over our heads and our dues reasonable.

Some doubts, and their responses:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Too much shade/not enough sun -- | Try Louisianas, PCIs or Evansias (crested iris) |
| Too cold | Try Siberians |
| Yard too steep | Try Spurias for erosion control |
| Too little space | Try PCIs in pots or Pseudacorus or Japanese iris in water trays |
| Too wet | Try Louisiana, Japanese or I. virginica |
| Want cut flowers | Try Spurias |
| Soil too acid | Try most beardless iris other than Spurias |
| Too expensive | Our prices can't be beat! |

Thanks again to the Pipers for their gracious hospitality for our Potluck! and the take-home apples were *wonderful!*

Fall Regional was a hit!

A fine time was had by all -- Jeanne Plank gave an entertaining and informative talk about judging the Firenze, the major iris competition in Italy. She also facilitated a provocative and lively judges' training based on her judging experiences in Italy. Thanks to all who worked to make this happen, especially Bob Canning.

A New Sydney B Tradition!

We have members who for various reasons find it difficult or impossible to come to meetings. One of the issues is transportation. This could become a nice SBM tradition -- inviting, and arranging to bring members to our meetings. Makes everyone happy!

If you see **old iris stuff which is about to be tossed**, please contact me (Gesine), so we can conserve these bits of history. I assure you, anything donated will be cherished. (510) 864-7962

ELECTIONS held at Potluck --

In an *astounding and exciting* race, the following candidates were elected for 2009!

President – Jean Richter

Vice President – Gesine Lohr

Secretary – Terry Strathman

Treasurer – Bonnie Petheram

Heartfelt thanks to all who have agreed to serve (hey, that's *us!*).

www.irises.org/listsandchat.htm If you have computer/internet access, see neat iris discussion groups listed here.

See Historic & modern pictures at Rick Tasco/Roger Duncan's photo albums

<http://community.webshots.com/user/rickt103>

Volunteer needed to represent Sydney B on the Board of the OEBGC

~ Chuck Dekker had served as our representative for SBMIS on the Board of the Oakland East Bay Garden Center. We need a volunteer, preferably someone residing in Oakland. OEBGC meets once a month for 1 hour (9-10 am) on the 3rd Monday. It's a well-run organization which is gradually remaking and modernizing the formal gardens (fenced area) at Lake Merrit. Anyone interested, please call Jean Richter for details of activities and responsibilities. (510) 864-7962

American Iris Society (AIS) Dues can be mailed to Tom Gormley,
 AIS Membership Secretary
 10606 Timber Ridge Street
 Dubuque, IA 52001-8268
 Telephone and Fax - 563-513-0504
 E-mail: aismemsec@earthlink.net
 \$25.00 single, \$30.00 dual.
 See www.irises.org/

Please pay your 2008 **SBM Membership Dues** ~ please give to Bonnie Petheram, or send checks made out to Sydney B. Mitchell Iris Society to Bonnie at 1226 High Street, Alameda, CA 94501. \$10 household.

Historic Iris Preservation Society (HIPS) dues can be mailed to HIPS Membership: Judy Eckhoff, 7911 South Yoder Road, Haven, KS 67543
 E-mail: judye@msinter.net
 \$10.00 single annual, \$12.00 dual annual.
 www.hips-roots.com

Directions to the Garden Center:

666 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland

From the north or west; take Highway 580 or 24 to 980; take the West 27th Street/Grand Avenue exit, turn left on 27th Street, go east to Grand Avenue, watch for Lake Merritt on the right, take a left on to Grand Ave., then a right at the stoplight into the park. Proceed on Bellevue to the Garden Center. From the south or east; take the Lakeside (Lake Merritt) or Grand Ave. exit in Oakland; follow around the lake on the north and west side to Grand Ave. and Bellevue, turn left into the park.

Proceed to the Garden Center, park on either side of the road. We hope you can come -- everyone is welcome!

[On weekends only -- Expect to pay \$3.00 at the toll booth to park. Show your parking stub for a \$2 rebate on your iris purchases]

AC Transit Bus -- AC Transit but #12 runs on Grand near the entrance to the park

List of SBM Officers:

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|--|
| President | Jean Richter | (510) 864-7962 | richter@eecs.berkeley.edu |
| Vice-President | Gesine Lohr | (510) 864-7962 | Gesine.Lohr@gmail.com |
| Secretary | Terry Strathman | (510) 642-3795 | strath@berkeley.edu |
| Treasurer | Bonnie Petheram | (510) 864-7962 | bpetheram@highlandtechnology.com |
| Directors-At-Large | Marjorie Murray | (510) 525-3397 | |
| <i>also Grand Poohbah</i> | Alan Robbins | (925) 939-1979 | ADRSAFETYWPC@Earthlink.net (rarely seen) |
| Newsletter | Gesine Lohr | (510) 864-7962 | Gesine.Lohr@gmail.com |
| Door Prize Chair | Marjorie Murray | (510) 525-3397 | |
| Hospitality | ~ t.b.a. ~ WE NEED A VOLUNTEER! ~ | | |
| Shows and Exhibits | Jean Richter | (510) 864-7962 | richter@eecs.berkeley.edu |
| Program Chair | Gesine Lohr | (510) 864-7962 | Gesine.Lohr@gmail.com |
| Library Chairpersons | Alice Dekker | (510) 525-6536 | |
| Membership | t.b.a. | | |
| Publicity & website | Terry Strathman | (510) 642-3795 | strath@berkeley.edu |
| Historian/scrapbooker | Kat Boswell | | |
| Immediate Past Pres. | Ray Vickers-Traft | (510) 839-9647 | wndwsillorchids@aol.com |
| Once and Future President | Chuck Dekker | | |



SCHEDULE OF SBM MEETINGS and other events for 2008

See Sydney B. Mitchell's own website! at www.bayareairis.org (looking good, Terry!)
www.aisregion14.org/reg14calendar.html

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| Friday October 24th SBM Beardless Iris Auction & Sale! | Sale 7:30 - 8:30 pm Auction 8:30-10 pm | SBM Beardless Iris Auction & Sale! |
| <p>A Memorial Service for Chuck Dekker will be held on Sunday, November 2nd at 2 pm at the Morrison Library on the UC Berkeley campus. See details inside this issue. We miss you Chuck!</p> | | |
| <p>VOTE! Tuesday November 4th, 2008 Find your polling place at www.smartvoter.org/ The polling places are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. If you're registered, you can always vote with a provisional ballot. http://ca.lwv.org/lwvc/edfund/elections/e3person.html</p> | | |
| January 2009 Region 14 Budget Meeting | | We host the Region 14 Budget Meeting & Potluck |
| February 2009 | | Alan Robbins slideshow, including fascinating material from Adele and Lewis Lawyers' iris estates. |



Global warming is here – you know what to do
 SBMIS Newsletter -- Gesine Lohr
 1226 High Street, Alameda, CA 94501

