



Sydney B. Mitchell Iris Society

Friday, June 25th, 2010
Jean Richter will present a
slideshow on
**2010 Potpourri -- Desert
Flowers and Iris Old and
New**



Friday, June 25th, 2010 is the date of our next meeting at
Lakeside Park Garden Center
666 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland

Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Program after brief business meeting.

Meetings are free & open to the public, all are eligible for door prizes.



Program: 2010 Potpourri -- Desert Flowers and Iris Old and New

Jean Richter will give a slideshow on the various trips she took this spring. Featured will be desert flowers from Joshua Tree National Park and Anza-Borrego State Park, old iris and new iris from various gardens in California, Oregon, and Washington, and maybe a few pictures of SBMIS members doing decidedly non-iris-related things... This season Jean visited the Spring Regional, Superstition Iris Garden, Fran Madden's historic display garden, Bluebird Haven Iris Garden, Bruce Filardi's iris garden, and Schreiner's.

The iris above is 'Brilliant Disguise' -- (Thomas Johnson, R. 2008)

Refreshments: If you're able, please bring refreshments to share!

Doorprize Iris for June!

(photos from hybridizers' websites)

Dracula's Kiss (Schreiner's 2009)

Dark purple self. 36" E-M. This floral wonder is our entry into the exciting new color class of red bearded dark Iris. Its dusky prune purple standards darken to black purple in the falls. The most outstanding feature is the caterpillar-like bright tangerine beards. These have been inherited undoubtedly from its pollen parent, Local Color. In addition Dracula's Kiss consistently produces 9-12 buds per stalk on a four-branched stem. [Price in 2009 was \$50!]



Expect Wonders (Ghio 2009) White standards with mid cinnamon halo. Cream falls with golden hafts. Lower margin is edged red purple becoming dotted inside. Unique.



My Generation (Lauer 2009) 34" EM & RE. S: White base, solid aster violet top, lighter aster violet lines throughout; F. white ground aster violet lines throughout, thin white rim; B. blue.

AIS Region 14 Summer Auction July 31, 2010 -- Saturday

Region 14 will be holding a Summer Iris Auction at the First Baptist Church in Walnut Creek on Saturday July 31st between 10:00 am and 5:00 pm. All MDIS society members as well as all members of Region 14 Affiliates are invited to attend. The auction will be in the large gym building next to the parking lot. Doors will open at 9:00 am for setup and organization.

This will be a live auction of the guest iris from the Spring Regional. Iris rhizomes from 2010 to 2006 will be available for bid. This will be a great time to add to the MDIS Door Prize list or to your personal garden.

Riley Probst will be the auctioneer and he will be showing color pictures of most of the iris up for auction.

The auction should start around 10:00 am and break for lunch at noon, then resume again in the afternoon. Bring your own lunch, no food will be served. There should be time to socialize with members of the region at lunch and following the auction. All activity will be completed and the building cleared by 5:00 pm. Come early and help out and don't forget to bring your lunch.

This event is not open to the general public, it is only open for member societies of the region and their membership.

HISTORIC IRISES AT SHOWS

by Joe Spears (January 2005)

In 2000 Chapter 26 – Historic Irises – was added to the “Handbook for Judges and Show Officials”. It provided instruction on the proper inclusion of Historic irises in AIS approved shows including the sentence, “Exhibitors should have the choice of entering the 30+ year old iris in the Historic or regular class (TB, MTB, etc.)”. This seemed to say that one exhibitor could choose to enter ‘Stepping Out’, for instance, in the Historic section while another exhibitor could enter their ‘Stepping Out’ in the TB section. Many felt that this would create a situation in conflict with the instruction in Chapter 4, page 41 (*page 42 in the 2007 edition*) under “Award Ribbons” which stated, “Only one first place ribbon (blue), one second place ribbon (red), and one third place ribbon (white) may be awarded to each cultivar.” The concern being that in the above instance the cultivar, ‘Stepping Out’, could be awarded blue ribbons in each of the sections.

This dilemma was discussed at length at the 2002 AIS Fall Board Meeting in Fort Worth. Finally a suggestion by Keith Keppel was adopted adding these four words to the instruction on page 41 (*page 42 in the 2007 edition*): “in any given section”. So now more than one blue, red or white ribbon may be awarded to a cultivar and the potential exists for two specimens of ‘Stepping Out’ (one from each section) to compete for Best in Show. Since only one specimen can win Best in Show this should not be a problem.

But there are problems when it comes to showing and judging Historic irises which have nothing to do with the Handbook, or perhaps these problems simply occur due to ignorance of instructions provided by the Handbook.

There is a perception that, while there may be a place for Historic irises in a show, irises entered in the Historic section may not win Best in Show. There are several instructions that refute that idea. On page 65 it says, “Each stalk is evaluated against the maximum typical performance of the variety being judged.” It would seem then that even a typically ugly variety could win provided that it is ugly, grown and groomed well and is in good condition. Beginning on page 219 the Handbook says of judging Historic irises, “Emphasis should be on the excellence of the horticultural specimen rather than any proximity of the cultivar itself to currently preferred style in flower form, stalk or overall size.” Also on page 54, “The judge must make every effort to eliminate any ideas or opinions that reflect personal preferences.”, and on page 17, “Personal preferences in color and form should

not be allowed to interfere with selection of worthy specimens for awards.”

In the first paragraph of Chapter 2 (Page 13), Duties and Responsibilities of Judges, the Handbook states that an AIS member “should never accept the appointment (of Judge) unless he/she is willing to follow all rules concerning AIS judges”.

Throughout the Handbook are admonitions to judges to grow many different irises and visit as many gardens as possible to gain a “thorough knowledge of irises and their characteristics” (page 15). “Both new and *old* varieties will be shown, and this points to the need for much garden visiting.” The Historic Iris Preservation Society (HIPS), a section of the AIS, publishes annually a directory of gardens that are open to the public and growing Historic irises. It would seem that this directory would be an excellent resource for judges interested in improving their knowledge of Historic irises.

The Handbook suggests on page 14 that “Every judge should continue to study written material...to improve judging techniques.” Another superb resource from HIPS is the semi-annual publication, *ROOTS*, containing extensive information about and color photos of Historic irises. HIPS also makes available reproductions of older catalogs and publications that prove invaluable in helping identify older varieties in lieu of the confusing codes in older Checklists. Local societies are encouraged to acquire these older publications and make them available to judges at shows (page 220).

Selecting the best specimen of the show is covered in Chapter 22 of the Handbook. “This selection is the most important evaluation judges will make from *every* section of the show...” “The choice is made from *all* competitive single specimen classes except seedlings and bulbous.”

The handbook is very clear that **all** entries are eligible for best specimen of the show. The only distinction reads as follows: “When two specimens are judged equal in all respects except for the date of introduction, the newer variety should be placed higher...” Maybe some judges will consider including a mention of these ideas in their future judges training classes.

The perception mentioned earlier, unfortunately, becomes reality in some shows. Many of the irises grown by new members, especially, are older irises. As we encourage them to get involved and enter their specimens in the show, shouldn't we ensure that these entries receive the same consideration afforded to newer specimens? Let's encourage all judges to become more familiar with recent changes in the rules governing judging Historic irises.

American Iris Society (AIS) Dues can be mailed

to Tom Gormley - AIS Membership Secretary
205 Catalonia Avenue / P.O. Box 177
DeLeon Springs, FL 32130
Phone and fax: 386-277-2057
E-mail: aismemsec@irises.org
\$25.00 single, \$30.00 dual.
See www.irises.org/

Check your AIS membership status: Need to know your membership expiration date? expiration date for club members or your Region's members for Affiliation? www.aislookup.org

Please pay your 2010 **SBMIS 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 \$5.00 at the toll booth to park. Show your parking stub for a \$2 rebate on your iris purchases]

AC Transit Bus -- AC Transit bus #12 runs on Grand near the entrance to the park -- check transit before planning, as routes do change.

http://triplanner.transit.511.org
By phone -- Dial 511 and say, "AC Transit," to speak with a person about route info

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	Shirley Trio	(314) 605-5789	shirleytrio@clearwire.net
Treasurer	Bonnie Petheram	(510) 864-7962	bpetheram@gmail.com ~ new
Directors-At-Large	Marjorie Murray	(510) 525-3397	
<i>also Grand Poohbah</i>	Alan Robbins	(925) 939-1979	ADRsaftywpc@earthlink.net
Newsletter	Gesine Lohr	(510) 864-7962	Gesine.Lohr@gmail.com
Door Prize Chair	Marjorie Murray	(510) 525-3397	
Hospitality	Shirley Trio	(314) 605-5789	shirleytrio@clearwire.net
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	**need a volunteer!		
Historian/scrapbooker	Kat Boswell		
Immediate Past Pres.	Ray Vickers-Traft	(510) 839-9647	wndwsillorchids@aol.com
Once and Future President	Chuck Dekker		

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

<http://historiciris.blogspot.com/>
has some very neat stuff!

www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Sydney-B-Mitchell-Iris-Society/116888028332187?ref=ts

Still no trophies -- (they still haven't fixed their engraving machine)!

*A 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!*



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



'Camera Ready' (Tasco 2009)