



Sydney B. Mitchell Iris Society

SBM *BEARDLESS* IRIS
AUCTION & SALE!
Pacific Coast Iris, Japanese Iris,
Spurias,
Siberians, Louisianas &
Species iris

Friday, October 26th, 2007

is the date of our

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 6)



Doors open 7:30 p.m., auction 8:00 - 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.spuriairis.com Spuria Iris Society

www.socsib.org Society for Siberian Irises

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

www.louisianas.org Society for Louisiana 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!

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**DIGGING, WRAPPING, AND REPLANTING BEARDLESS IRIS:**  
[Apologies from your Editor for getting the newsletter out late!]

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:

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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!                                       |



PCI seedlings at Ryan Grisso's

\*Friday

October 26



Easter Design  
photo, Spuria  
Iris Society  
website

**SBM *BEARDLESS* IRIS  
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Siberians, Louisianas and Species iris

**Directions to the Garden Center:** *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.

*Public transit -- AC Transit bus #12* We hope you can come - everyone is welcome!



Iris ensata variegata -- photo from Iris City Gardens (Japanese iris)



I japonica -- photo from SIGNA website  
Easter Tide - photo from Louisiana site



*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!*

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Your SBM Officers:

President Ray Vickers-Traft (510) 839-9647 wndwsillorchids@aol.com  
Vice-President Gesine Lohr (510) 864-7962 gesine.lohr@gmail.com (NEW)  
Secretary Jean Richter (510) 864-7962 richter@eecs.berkeley.edu  
Treasurer Bonnie Petheram (510) 864-7962 bpetheram@highlandtechnology.com  
Directors-At-Large  
Marjorie Murray (510) 525-3397  
Alan Robbins (925) 939-1979  
Newsletter Gesine Lohr (510) 864-7962 gesine.lohr@gmail.com (NEW)  
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 (NEW)  
Library Chair Alice Dekker (510) 525-6536  
Membership t.b.a.  
Publicity & Website Terry Strathman (510) 642-3795 strath@berkeley.edu  
SBM Historian/Scrapbooker Kat Boswell  
Immediate Past Pres. Chuck Dekker (510) 525-6536

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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

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A Great Time Of Year to give potted iris for wedding, solstice presents!  
Call Chuck and Alice Dekker (510) 525-6536.

[www.irises.org/listsandchat.htm](http://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>

[www.bayareairis.org](http://www.bayareairis.org) Our Sydney B. Mitchell Iris Society Website!  
by Terry Strathman. Website is still a work in progress! Let her know your thoughts! and cheer her on! email Terry at [strath@berkeley.edu](mailto:strath@berkeley.edu)

Sign up for the Iris Register, [www.irisregister.com](http://www.irisregister.com) -- contact John Jones  
John I. Jones, 35572 Linda Drive, Fremont, CA 94536-1523  
phone: (510) 795-9723 e-mail: [jijones@usjoneses.com](mailto:jijones@usjoneses.com)  
\$10/year, well worth it! [www.irises.org/irischecklist.htm](http://www.irises.org/irischecklist.htm)

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**American Iris Society (AIS)** Dues can be mailed to Membership:

Tom Gormley, P.O. Box 28, Cedar Hill, MO 63016-0028. \$25.00 single, \$30.00 dual  
aismemsec@earthlink.net See [www.irises.org/](http://www.irises.org/)

Please pay your **SBM Membership Dues** for 2007 ~ 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 per household. Your mailing label shows when your dues are paid up to (according to our records – please let us know if it's incorrect!).

**Historic Iris Preservation Society (HIPS)** dues can be mailed to

Membership Secretary, Judy Eckhoff

7911 S. Yoder Rd

Haven, KS 67543-8114

or you can pay online at [www.hips-roots.com/visitors/v-membership.html](http://www.hips-roots.com/visitors/v-membership.html)

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Photos of PCIs taken by Bonnie Petheram at Ryan Grisso's garden, of seedlings

Photo of Easter Tide by Harry Wolford, Society for Louisiana Irises website

Global Warming negatively affects iris growing!

SBMIS Newsletter -- Gesine Lohr

1226 High Street

Alameda, CA 94501

