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# Sydney B. Mitchell

## Iris Society

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Shamrock  
Bay  
(Wood 1990)

Friday, March 28, 2008  
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.  
Meetings are free and open to the public, all are eligible for door prizes.



PROGRAM: Been wanting to enter an iris show, but didn't know how? Veteran irisarian Alan Robbins will demonstrate *How To Enter Iris In A Show!* Alan can show you all the tips and tricks, what to pay attention to, and little things that make a big difference in how an iris is judged. It's really pretty easy, and lots of fun -- come find out! And all you experienced exhibitionists, come add your tips to the pile!

REFRESHMENTS: Please bring some refreshments to share if you can.  
(p.s. to Marjorie -- don't forget to bring your ginger cooky recipe!).

DOOR PRIZE IRIS: *please see next page!*

**A Gentle Reminder to last year's Trophy winners** -- Please return your trophies to Alan Robbins at this upcoming March 28 meeting (if you have them -- we have Ryan Grisso's & will bring it). Or call to arrange pickup!

*THANK YOU!* Alan Robbins, for several boxes of archived iris material from the late Adele and Lewis Lawyer. I'll be scanning some photos, more later!

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## DOORPRIZE IRIS ~

### ‘Wonderful News’ (Ghio 2007)

Ultrasmooth black mulberry red self with metallic sheen. Old gold beards and light ruffling.

### ‘Grain Exchange’ (Joyce Ragle, R. 2006) Sdlg. 00-29PCKCOP-1. TB, 38”

EM S. bright old gold (RHS 162A); style arms same, slight pale brown tints on sides, laced crests; F. white center, pale barium yellow (10D) overall except for stitched and dotted edge of red-brown (176C); beards buttercup yellow (16C); very ruffled, slightly laced; pronounced sweet fragrance. 96-22PCK-1: (Pink Charming x Kerr 94-86A: (Progressive Attitude x 905602: (Hot Streak x Queen in Calico))) X Change of Pace. Lauer’s Flowers 2007

(Above description from [www.irisregister.com](http://www.irisregister.com); here’s another one:)

Standards are bright old gold. Falls are pale barium yellow overall with a white center and a half-stitched and dotted edge of red brown. Beards are buttercup yellow; heavily ruffled and lightly laced; pronounced sweet fragrance.

‘Sparkling’ (Tasco 2007) IB Reddish spectrum violet standards, lightening slightly near the edges and base. Reddish violet falls with a white luminata patch around tangerine beards tipped white. Moderately ruffled and a slight fragrance.

## 2 Guest Passes to the

**Oakland Museum** (Marjorie will bring these to the meeting)

The annual *California Wildflower Show* is April 19th and 20th Saturday 10 am to 5 pm, Sunday 12 noon to 5 pm. This is a wonderful show and I’m heart broken to miss it. I’ll be just coming back from Austin that day. [Editor -- OK, who can go take pictures for Marjorie?]

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## *Our President Speaks*

We have run into an unusual situation this year with our annual iris show. Due to our show being held on the same weekend as three other local shows and the national AIS convention, we have been unable to obtain judges for our show this year. We are in the process of figuring out how to handle this. One possibility is to hold judging on Saturday afternoon (instead of the usual morning time), and have judges come in then to judge our show after having judged another local show that morning. Another possibility is to have an unjudged show. In this event, we would probably hold a ballot among show attendees for favorite iris, so there will still be a competition among the submitted entries. The final plans will be announced in the next newsletter. The important thing is - the show **will** go on!

~ Jean Richter

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## Vern Wood ~ A sad good-bye at 90

Sad news to report - we have lost our long time member Vern Wood. Vernon Wood, 90, of Chico, died Friday, Feb. 22, 2008, in Chico.

Ryan Grisso, Vern Wood's "apprentice" in hybridizing Pacific Coast native iris, wrote:

"Diane Wood (Vern's daughter) called me today and said that Vern Wood passed away last night. I thought I would let everyone know. There will be a gravesite funeral in Chico on February the 29th and the Glen Oak Cemetery on Hagen Road.

If anyone is interested in sending a card, Diane's address is Diane Wood

11690 Butte Island Rd.  
Chico, CA 95928

Take care, Ryan"

Ryan Grisso says of his mentor, "Vernon taught me how to hybridize the best of the best."

[From [www.sfgate.com](http://www.sfgate.com) in 2007] "Almost 90, Wood has retired from gardening but not before sharing his knowledge with the 31-year-old Grisso. "Vernon showed me how to make the crossings, how to tag and keep records, and how to stay on the iris' breeding schedule." He showed Grisso how to home in on desirable traits and inspired him to take risks to make unusual "out-crosses," a "marriage" of two distinctly different irises."



'Pink Kitten' (V. Wood, R. 1976) Sdlg. 73-1. IB, 20" (51 cm), E

Blue shade of pink, lined deeper on F.; tangerine beard tipped lighter. 69-2: (New Frontier x Signature) X Dove Wings. Corlew 1977, HM 1978, AM 1980, Sass 1982. (won Hans & Jacob Sass Medal)

[photo copyright 2005 by Laurie Frazer; see her list of photos at <http://lfraser.com/iris/irislist.html>]

I will miss his quiet, often-amused presence at the back of the room at Sydney B. meetings. It is such a treasure that he was able to pass on so much of his expertise to Ryan.

For information about Pacific Coast iris, see [www.pacificcoastiris.org/bullbord.html](http://www.pacificcoastiris.org/bullbord.html)

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# 4th Annual Pacific Coast Native Iris Open House April 5, 2008 10:00-4:00



## El Centro Gardens

The Home Garden of Ryan Grisso, Anna Pascuzzi, and Little Giana



Please join us on Saturday April 5, 2008 (rain or shine) as we open our Pacific Coast Native Iris Garden. This is a rare opportunity to see thousands of Pacific Coast Native Iris hybrids in peak bloom. The garden features thousands of iris seedlings from our own hybridizing work, as well as many of the Joe Ghio and Vern Wood past introductions. There will also be a number of hybrid varieties potted up for sale. We are located off Highway 80, take the Hill-top exit and head East, to El Centro Rd. turn right. We are the third house from the bottom on the right (shingled house). Please park respectfully. Please call or e-mail if you have any questions. We may open up additional dates this bloom season; e-mail us for details.



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**Location:**  
El Centro Gardens  
609 El Centro Rd.  
El Sobrante, CA 94803



**Contact Information:**  
Phone: (510) 222-3877  
Email: [ryangrisso@msn.com](mailto:ryangrisso@msn.com)

**American Iris Society (AIS) Dues can be mailed to Tom Gormley,**  
 AIS Membership Secretary \*new address 8/07  
 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.

**JUDGES TRAINING** Session for Region 14  
**April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008** With Riley Probst & Shirley Trio  
 2701 Fine Ave, Modesto  
 Contact Phone 209 551-6323  
 Cost \$15.00 (lunch)

9:30 am Juice and Muffins  
 9:30am to 11:00am 1 ½ hours on SDB's  
 11:15am to 12:45pm 1 ½ hours on IB's  
 12:45pm to 1:45pm Lunch (BBQ)  
 2:00pm to 4:00pm 2 hours on Ethics on Garden Judging

RSVP by March 25th (**or asap!**) to Kathy Braaten  
 530 477-2811 [katbrat@cebridge.net](mailto:katbrat@cebridge.net)  
 10288 Kenwood Dr Grass Valley CA 95949

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Come to all or part -- Circle which you plan to attend:  
 1. JT Session AM SDB's  
 2. JT Session AM IB's  
 3. Lunch-----Enclose \$15.00  
 4. JT Session PM Ethic's on Garden Judging

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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	
	Alan Robbins	(925) 939-1979	
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
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Historian/scrapbooker	Kat Boswell		
Immediate Past Pres.	Ray Vickers-Traft	(510) 839-9647	wndwsillorchids@aol.com
Past President Emeritus	Chuck Dekker	(510) 525-6536	



## SCHEDULE OF SBM MEETINGS and other events for 2008

See Sydney B. Mitchell's own website! at [www.bayareairis.org](http://www.bayareairis.org)

[www.aisregion14.org/reg14calendar.html](http://www.aisregion14.org/reg14calendar.html)

<b>Friday, March 28</b> SBM Meeting	7:30 pm open, 8 p.m.	<b><i>How To Enter Iris In A Show!</i></b> Alan Robbins
Saturday April 5th Ryan Grisso's open house at El Centro Gardens!	10 am - 4 pm	See flyer earlier in this issue!
Mount Diablo Show Saturday April 12th	April 12, 2008 1 p.m.-5 p.m.	Mt. Diablo Iris Society, First Baptist Church 2336 Buena Vista Ave. Walnut Creek, Ca. Bob Canning 925-935-3980
Westbay Iris Society Show <i>AIS Sanctioned/judged show</i> Saturday April 12th	April 12, 2008 Flower entry 8 - 10:30 am	Regan's Nursery (in the greenhouse) 4268 Decoto Road Fremont, California 94558
Tues-Saturday April 14-19 AIS Convention		AIS Convention, Austin, Texas <a href="http://www.irisarian.com/lonestar2008">www.irisarian.com/lonestar2008</a>
Friday April 18	7 p.m.	<b>SET UP for SBM Iris Show</b>
<b>Saturday April 19,</b> <b>Sunday April 20</b> <b>SBM Iris Show &amp; Sale!</b>	Enter early Sat! Public: Sat. 1-5, Sun 10-5	<b><i>SBM Iris Show and Sale!</i></b>
Santa Rosa Show 19 & 20th	<i>[same date as SBM show!]</i>	Sat. 1-5 pm, Sun. 9 am- 4pm
Saturday April 25-27 SPRING REGIONAL		2008 Spring Regional <a href="http://www.aisregion14.org/reg14calendar">www.aisregion14.org/reg14calendar</a>
<b>Sunday May 20</b> (tentative) POTTED IRIS sale	11 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Potted iris sale at Heritage Rose Show, El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane, El Cerrito
<b>Friday May 24</b> <b>SBM Presentation of Show</b> <b>Awards, &amp; slide program</b>	8 p.m.	<b><i>Presentation of Show Awards.</i></b> Jean Richter – <b>Slides of 2008 AIS</b> <b>Convention</b>
<b>Friday June 27</b>	8 p.m.	<b>TBA – possibly a field trip!</b>
<b>Friday July 25</b> SBM Bearded Iris SALE	7:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.	SBM Bearded Iris Sale (7:30-8:30) and Auction (8:30-10:00)
<b>Saturday July 26</b> <b>Sidewalk Iris Sale</b>	9 am – 2 pm	Sidewalk Iris Sale in front of Downtown Oakland YMCA, 2350 Broadway, Oakland

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Our condolences to Marjorie Murray on the death of her treasured cat. Marjorie wrote, “Sadly, we had to put our dear Zoe to sleep. She had her final illness. She was into her 21st year.” Thank you for loving Zoe so well she lived a long full life!

SBMIS joins the Information Age!

Calling all members with email! Would you like to join the SBMIS email list? Send your email address to [richter@eecs.berkeley.edu](mailto:richter@eecs.berkeley.edu), and we’ll add you to our club email list.

Calling all phone numbers!

In an effort to stay better connected, we’d like to go back to including phone numbers on the club roster. While we have phone numbers for some longtime members, we don’t have ones for members who have joined within the past 6-7 years (or who have moved recently). Please call (510) 864-7962 or email [richter@eecs.berkeley.edu](mailto:richter@eecs.berkeley.edu) with your phone number to help us update our roster!

In 2006, Bonnie Petheram took this photo of a Vern Wood seedling, at Ryan Grisso’s --





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