



Sydney B. Mitchell Iris Society

(above): **Dark Aura** (Hewitt 1996)
photo: Ensata Gardens

WEDNESDAY,
October 25th, 2017
7:30 p.m.
**Beardless Iris Auction
& Sale**
Pacific Coast iris, Japanese iris, Siberians,
Louisianas, Spurias, and Species Iris
Doors open 7:00 p.m., sale & auction
7:30 - 9:30 pm



SBMIS Beardless iris auction & sale!

WEDNESDAY, October 25th, 2017 is the date of our auction & sale at
Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland
Doors open 7:00 p.m., sale & auction 7:30 - 9:30 pm
Meetings and auction/sales are free and open to the public
(see page 5 for directions)



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!

All iris pictured in this newsletter are included in our sale! *right: Greywoods Vanity Fair*

(Wilkinson 2007) Japanese *photo: Ensata Gardens*



Some iris in our sale!



iris photos: Ensata Gardens

*left top: **Blue Marlin**
(Copeland 1983)*

*right top: **Blackberry Jubilee**
(Schafer/Sacks 1997) Siberian*



*bottom left: **Ardith Ann**
(Copeland 2014) Japanese*

*bottom right: **Dirigo Black Knight**
(White 2005) Siberian*



President's Message

Don't forget that our beardless iris auction and sale is on a different day this year: Wednesday, October 25 from 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. We'll have all of Joe Ghio's 2017 Pacific Coast iris introductions, Japanese, Siberian, and Robusta iris from Ensata Gardens, and spuria iris from Comanche Acres. If you have beardless iris for the auction or sale tables, please bring them! We've had a few special requests for Iris confusa and the Japanese iris Light at Dawn, so it would be especially helpful to bring those if you have some to spare.

Please support our club by taking part in our sale!

~ Jean

below: Moonlight Fair
(Hollingworth 2011)
Siberian. *photo: Ensata Gardens*

with Whirlpool Galaxy - Hubble telescope



Here's a list of the iris we'll be getting from Ensata Gardens - there are pictures of all of them on their web site:

Japanese iris:

Ardith Ann (Copeland 2014)
Blue Marlin (Copeland 1983)
Greywoods Vanity Fair (Wilkinson 2007)
Midnight Clouds (Bauer/Coble 2010)

Siberian iris:

Blackberry Jubilee (Schafer/Sacks 1997)
Dirigo Black Knight (White 2005)
Moonlight Fair (Hollingworth 2011)
Yankee Ingenuity (Schafer/Sacks 2008)

Robusta (I. versicolor x I. virginica):

Dark Aura (Hewitt 1996)

We'll also have all of Ghio's 2017 PCI introductions (for which there are no pictures), and some spuria iris from Comanche Acres (unfortunately also no pictures).

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!

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.socsib.org
Society for Siberian Irises

www.louisianas.org
Society for Louisiana 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 2017 **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
For amounts, please see www.historiciris.org

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].

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://tripplanner.transit.511.org>

By phone -- Dial 511 and say, "AC Transit," to speak with a person about route info

List of SBM Officers:

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Library Chair	Gesine Lohr	(510) 864-7962	Gesine.Lohr@gmail.com
Publicity	**need a volunteer!		
Historian/scrapbooker	**need a volunteer!		
Immediate Past Pres.	Ray Vickers-Traft	(510) 277-4200	new# wndwsillorchids@aol.com
Once and Future President	Chuck Dekker		

Global warming is here—you know what to do
SBMIS Newsletter -- Gesine Lohr

1226 High Street, Alameda, CA 94501

below: This iris is in our sale! **Midnight Clouds**
(Bauer/Coble 2010) Japanese iris. *photo: Ensata Gardens*



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



Yankee Ingenuity (Schafer/Sacks 2008)
Siberian *photo: Ensata Gardens*

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!