

The Newsletter of

# The Santa Rosa Iris Society

42<sup>ND</sup> YEAR NUMBER 1

JANUARY 2016

## **Officers 2016:**

### **President**

Rudy Ciuca

### **Vice President**

Anna Cadd

### **Treasurer**

Joe Lawrence

### **Secretary**

Diana Ford

### **Past President**

Alleah Haley

### **Historian**

Anna Cadd

### **Membership Secretary**

Betty Ford

### **Librarian**

Juanita Breckwoldt

### **Newsletter Editor**

Alleah Haley

### **Directors thru 12/16:**

Jim Begley

Marlene Freetly

Kathy McCallum

### **Directors thru 12/17:**

Anna Marie Hermansen

Kitty Loberg

## **Standing Committees:**

### **Attendance**

Marlene Horn

### **Display Garden Chairmen**

Jim Begley

Jeff Davis .....

### **Door Prize Coordinator**

Rudy Ciuca

### **Hospitality**

Diana and Don Ford

### **LBAGC Representatives**

Rudy Ciuca

Anna Cadd .....

Joe Lawrence, alternate

### **Logistics Coordinator**

Jim Begley

### **Photography**

Marlene Horn

### **2016 Show Chairman**

Anna Marie Hermansen

### **2016 Assistant Show Chairman**

Alleah Haley .....

### **2016 Potted Iris Sale Chairman**

Need volunteer

### **2016 Summer Rhizome Sales Chm.**

Need volunteer



## SRIS BOARD MEETING

MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 6:00 PM at  
LUTHER BURBANK ART &  
GARDEN CENTER

On Monday, January 11 the Santa Rosa Iris Society officers, directors, and all interested members will gather at the

Luther Burbank Art and Garden Center, our regular meeting place, to hopefully finalize programs and work out the budget for the Club for 2016. Treasurer Joe Lawrence asks that members wishing to put specific items in the budget notify him in advance of the meeting at 707-xxx-xxxx or email him at [clvineyard@aol.com](mailto:clvineyard@aol.com).

This will be an excellent opportunity for you to have direct input into the workings of our society; so come on out, give a ride to a club friend who might not otherwise be able to come, bring a snack to share, and spend a couple hours with your fellow irisarians working on the program schedule and this year's budget.

## Gardening Tips and Musings for January

Anna Cadd

1. The New Year started with a big bang, even if it was peaceful and quiet in our area. We even got our wish to have a White Christmas! For two weeks mornings started with a light dusting of snow, or maybe just frost, on lawns, iris beds and drooping rose flowers. Irises love this weather; they will bloom spectacularly this spring. Do not force yourself to go out and pull all the brown, thin iris leaves. It is too cold and wet and too easy to catch cold. And the irises will appreciate this thin "leaves blanket" during frosty nights. Even fallen tree leaves covering them here and there will not hurt. Our favorite plants are dormant now, and will appreciate some peace and quiet and not to be forced awake from their "sleeping time", when they are not ready. Intense weeding now can cause wounds and bacterial soft rot (*Erwinia carotovora*) or crown rot caused by the fungus *Sclerotium rolfsii* are just waiting for an easy entry!
2. When David was in the hospital and later homebound, our niece brought him hydrangea flowers and I fell in love with them. They were perfect bouquets for more than month, and brightened our tables. I plan to make cuttings from her mature plants and plant them all over the yard. They love morning sun and afternoon shade, but are easy almost everywhere. They bloom

most of the year and can be dried for dry bouquets. You can buy hydrangea plants at the nursery or make them yourself. Select a stem for cutting. Choose new growth on a stem that is not green, but not hard and woody either. Cut the stem just below a leaf joint and remove the lowest pair of leaves. Make the cuttings 4 “eyes” long. Dip the cuttings in rooting powder and put them 2 “eyes” deep in 1 gallon pots with good soil and a little manure. Place them in a shaded area where they don't receive direct sunlight. You can make tents from Ziploc® bags, propped on sticks, over every pot. Water once a week. After one month put the pots in a sunny location for a week and then plant them! Be sure to make extra pots to share with friends!

3. It is too early to prune roses, although there are specific directions now on how to do it in every newspaper and garden club program, Have you thought about planting companion plants among your roses? Irises can be under or between rose bushes. On the same trellis as a climber you can plant clematis, or even pole beans or peas! It may be tricky to pick the pods; but, hey, that's what children are for, if you give them the right motivation! And beautiful purple clematis among orange 'Joseph's Coat' or scarlet runner beans among white 'Sally Holmes' roses sounds like a big improvement to the garden!
4. Daffodils and narcissus are just poking their heads above ground and a big clump of 'Paperwhite' narcissus is wafting fragrance toward my house. In late February I plan to visit Filoli Gardens in Woodside (500,000 bulbs in bloom, primarily daffodils) and in March Ironstone Vineyards in Murphys near Sonoma, where 300,000 daffodils will be in bloom. Do you want to go with me? And we can also visit Villa Fiore at Ferrari-Carano Vineyards in Healdsburg and see 10,000 tulips and daffodils putting on their show! Ready?
5. These gardening tips are not “regular” for this January issue. We are still in the Holiday spirit. So I would like to share with you some words, written by actor Liam Neeson. This has so much truth and I would like to make it a motto for the whole year:

“Everyone says love hurts, but that is not true. Loneliness hurts. Rejection hurts. Losing someone hurts. Everyone gets these things confused with love, but in reality love is the only thing in the world that covers up all pain and makes someone feel wonderful again. Love is the only thing in the world that does not hurt.”

Please, find those you love and tell them. Hold them close and tell them again. Life is so precious and in a blink... it's all gone....

## From the President's Desk

Welcome to a new year. The past year has been one of many challenges and under the presidential leadership of Alleah Haley it has been a rewarding one. The coming year will continue to reflect the best our club can offer. I hope we can focus on meaningful educational programs, increasing young membership, concentration on youth for club survival and continue to work together as a great participating family.

*Rudy Ciuca*

## This Month

**Monday, January 11, 6:00 p.m.** – SRIS Board Meeting, LBAGC - 2016 budget. All welcome.

**Saturday, January 16, 1:30-3:00 p.m.** – Judges' Training “Iris Judging Ethics”. Sailboat House, 568 Bellevue Ave. in Lakeside Park, Oakland. Held in conjunction with Sydney B. Mitchell IS winter potluck.

## 2016 Iris Events and Important Dates

**Monday, February 8** – Anna Cadd, New Trends in Iris Hybridizing.

**Monday, March 14** – Eric Schmidt of Nor Cal Gopher, “Getting the Gophers”.

**Monday April 11** – Jim Begley, Ross BeVier, and Jeff Davis, Preparing Your Irises for the Show. Members will hold a mini-show.

**Friday–Sunday, April 29 – May 1** – Region 14 Spring Meeting “Iris on the Hill”, Beverly Heritage Hotel, 1820 Barber Lane, Milpitas, California. Vans to Nola's Iris Garden. Guest Speaker Steve Schreiner; 2 judges' training sessions.

**Saturday and Sunday, May 7-8** (open 1-5 Sat., 10-5 Sun.) – SRIS Iris Show/ Potted Iris Sale, LBAGC. Theme TBA.

**Monday May 9** – Master Gardener Toni Gattone, “Adaptive Gardening”.

**Saturday and Sunday, May 14-15 (whole days)** – SRIS members Garden Tour.

**Monday – Saturday, May 23-28, 2016** – AIS National Convention, Newark, New Jersey. Convention Hotel: Newark Liberty Intl. Airport Marriott Hotel. Includes Presby Memorial Iris Gardens. Info at: [www.irises.org](http://www.irises.org); go to Member Services, then Conventions/Activities. Registration form & hotel info on page 53 of the Fall 2015 AIS Bulletin. Registration \$299 before Feb. 1.

**Monday June 13** – Kitty Loberg, Report on 2016 Region 15 Spring Trek. Show awards presented.

**Monday July 11** – Marlene Horn, Club Irises available at the August Picnic/Auction.

**Late July** – Digging door prize and auction irises. Exact date, time, and location TBA.

**Sunday, August 7** - Potluck Picnic, Iris Auction and Raffle, C&L Vineyard, Sonoma.

**Tuesday thru Thursday, September 6-8, 11 AM – 8 PM** – 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Heirloom Expo, Sonoma Co. Fairgrounds. SRIS will have a booth.

**Monday, September 12** – Anna Cadd, How to Plant & Grow Irises. Free seminar for new members.

**Saturday September 10 or 17, 8:30 – 1:00 PM** – SRIS Rhizome Sale, Santa Rosa Community Farmers Market at the Vet's Building, Santa Rosa.

**Monday, October 10** – TBA

**Early November (weekday or Saturday, 12-4:00 PM)** – Holiday Potluck/Come Dressed as an Iris Costume Party, LBAGC.

**OROROROROROROROROROROR**

**2016 Board Meetings** - Board Members and Officers, please mark your calendars:

Monday, January 11, 6:00 PM

Monday, March 14, 6:00 PM

Monday, May 9, 6:00 PM

Monday, July 11, 6:00 PM

Monday, September 12, 6:00 PM

Monday, November 14, 6:00 PM

Monday, December 12, 6:00 PM

**Other Events of Garden Interest**

**Friday – Sunday, February 26-28** – Pacific Orchid Exposition, Ft. Mason, San Francisco. Largest orchid show in the U.S. See [www.orchidsanfrancisco.org](http://www.orchidsanfrancisco.org) or call 650-548-6700. Hours Fri. and Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5. Admission \$15/\$12 senior; \$1 less if you order tickets online.

**March 16-20, 2016** – San Francisco Flower and Garden Show, San Mateo Event Center. [www.sfgardenshow.com](http://www.sfgardenshow.com). Wed.-Sat. 10-7; Sun. 10-6. \$17.50 online before Feb. 28; \$22 at the door. AIS R14 will have a booth; contact Carolyn Craft (408-266-0945 or [theladygardens@aol.com](mailto:theladygardens@aol.com)) to volunteer for free admission.

**Saturday & Sunday, April 2 & 3** – Sonoma County Orchid Society Show “Orchids in Art”, Veteran’s Memorial Bldg., 1351 Maple Ave., Santa Rosa (across from the Fairgrounds). Hours: Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; admission \$8.00.

**Saturday, April 23** – Santa Rosa Garden Club Plant Sale, LBAGC.

### DUES NOTICE

Your Newsletter mailing label gives the expiration date of your SRIS dues. If it reads “12/15”, please write a check payable to Santa Rosa Iris Society for \$15/person and mail it to membership secretary Betty Ford. **Electronic Newsletter recipients: check your expiration date on the membership list printed in the October 2015 Newsletter unless you know you’ve paid for 2016.** Use the renewal form in this issue.

From the Editor – **Many thanks** for contributions to this issue: **Anna Cadd; Rudy Ciuca; Jeff Davis; Betty Ford; Heather Haley** of Mebane, North Carolina; **Anna Marie Hermansen; Keith Keppel; Joe Lawrence; Jean Sharp; John Viebranz;** and **Jan Wax.** *Alleah*



*Celebration of Life*

*Genevieve Agnes (Gen) Mattos*  
*Saturday January 16, 2-4 PM*  
*Sandalwood Estates Clubhouse, Petaluma*

Gen Mattos passed away at her son's home in Burlingame on October 20, 2015, just six days past her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. She was a member of the Santa Rosa Iris Society since the mid-1980's.

You are invited to attend a "**Celebration of Life**" on Saturday January 16<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 PM at the Sandalwood Estates Clubhouse, 576 N. McDowell Blvd., Petaluma. A brief program will be followed by a light reception with wine, finger foods, and sweets. Come share your stories and favorite memories. Jean Sharp from the Santa Rosa Iris Society is doing the flowers.

You may make donations to the charity of your choice or Gen and Hal Mattos' favorites: The Santa Rosa Iris Society, Democratic Club of Southern Sonoma County, or Hospice of Petaluma.

You may express condolences to:

The Mattos family  
c/o Patrick Mattos  
833 Linden Ave.  
Burlingame, CA 94010

Vivian Manfree (Gen's sister) &  
family  
3360 Soda Canyon Rd.  
Napa, CA 94558

### Judges' Training on January 16, 2016

In conjunction with the Sydney B Mitchell Iris Society annual potluck, a judges' training session on "Ethics of Judging Irises." will be held in Oakland on January 16, 2016. AIS Region 14 RVP Phyllis Wilburn will moderate a panel discussion, and 1 ½ hours of AIS judges' training credit will be given. Here are particulars:

Panelists: Master Judge Alleah Haley, Emeritus Judge Kitty Loberg, and Emeritus Judge Riley Probst  
Doors open at 11:00 a.m.

Lunch at 12:00 noon - bring a dish to share

Training at 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

Location: Sailboat House, 568 Bellevue Ave., Oakland, CA. In Lakeside Park at Lake Merritt. \$5 entry fee upon entering the park.

Drive past the Garden Center on the left for 1/4 - 1/2 mile. The blue Sailboat House is on the right.

Bring your own table service and serving spoon. Distance guests bring appetizers, salads, desserts or beverages to feed 10. Locals will bring hot dishes and the Society will provide napkins, hot drinks, rolls, and the main dish. Come for the potluck or just the training.

Contact Jean Richter 510-xxx-xxxx re food and for driving directions.

Contact Alleah Haley [707-xxx-xxxx](tel:707-xxx-xxxx) or [alleah.haley@gmail.com](mailto:alleah.haley@gmail.com) for info on the Judges' Training.

### Notice: Changes to Roster

Please welcome the following new members and help them feel welcome to our club:

**Chris Bing**  
3001 Holmes Ranch Rd.  
Philo, CA 95466  
[janwax@yahoo.com](mailto:janwax@yahoo.com)

Chris is the husband of Jan Wax, who entered our 2015 Spring Iris Show and then joined our Club. See her note under "**Keeping InTouch**".



## John Viebranz

Gimje, Republic of Korea

[jviebs@gmail.com](mailto:jviebs@gmail.com)

John has been a friend of your editor since the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. After a long and distinguished career as an attorney, John moved to South Korea so his wife Je-Won could be near family. He teaches English there.



### Keeping In Touch

Your editor received this photo and quip by email from her youngest daughter Heather on December 20, 2015:



“I didn’t know I was getting ‘Garnet Slippers’ for Christmas.”

Heather lives in central North Carolina and requested only rebloomers this year. Alleah provided ‘Garnet Slippers’ (Keppel, 2005, IB). It’s rebloomed for Alleah at least twice although not this fall.

When they sent the photo and info to the hybridizer Keith Keppel, he replied: “Sometimes you just don’t know how your (iris) kids are going to act, once they leave home. Garnet Slippers was a ‘oncer’ for me.

I remember the year I intro’d Broadway (when I was in Stockton)...altho I had NEVER had it rebloom, about eight customers reported it bloomed for them that fall. Well, obviously the bud had to have been ‘set’ before it was shipped. So why no bloom at home? Oh, and one woman in Mississippi said it NEVER bloomed for her in the spring, but did each year in the fall.

Hope you’re getting some rain, tho I don’t wish you all we’ve been getting. Almost 13” so far this month [December] and it is raining more now. ... All I want for Christmas is some drier, sunnier weather for awhile. Keith”

**Jan Wax**, who lives in Mendocino County, emailed recently asking club-related questions. Alleah has been trying to facilitate her (and now husband **Chris Bing**’s) hitching a ride to meetings. Jan, who’s a potter (Wax and Bing Pottery in Philo; [www.waxbing.com](http://www.waxbing.com)) replied:

“I’m sorry that time and distance limits our participation.

I was just 79 and I’m having painful shoulder problems that are keeping me out of the studio - after 40 years of working in clay. Glad that Chris can still dig iris beds, because I’m so tempted by all the new introductions!

I do appreciate those of you who do the hard work of keeping the organization thriving.

Best wishes, Jan.”

Alleah has been emailing our Newsletter to **John Viebranz**, our new member who lives in South Korea, since they reconnected at their 45<sup>th</sup> high school class reunion in 2008 (Valley High School, Albuquerque; Go Vikings!). Turns out John’s wife Je-Won is a gardener and John is a photographer.



On November 4 John sent this picture saying: “This is the same plant that I’ve sent pictures of in the past. Our only ‘re-bloomer,’ as I think you dubbed it. A lovely treat as the days shorten and the temps drop.”

In response to Alleah’s complaint about having a cold, on December 27 John emailed the following: “I have a dandy recipe for a tea that will cure anything. 1 quince (unpeeled, chopped), 1 pear (unpeeled, chopped), licorice, ginger, just the peel of a whole orange, lots of water. Simmer a goodish while. Drink hot. Drink lots. Viola!!! You’re good to go.

## Happy Birthday January Babies

Lucille Bisagno 1/2

Christie Flum 1/5  
Bill Tatham 1/9  
Patricia Franz 1/22  
Bill Fuller 1/23  
Linnea Polo 1/28  
Jim Begley 1/29

## January Wedding Anniversary

Kathie and Joe Hile 1/27

February through October of each year meetings of the Santa Rosa Iris Society are held on the second Monday of each month at the Luther Burbank Art and Garden Center, 2050 Yulupa Ave., Santa Rosa, California. The Program starts at 7:00 p.m. and the business meeting follows after the break. Come early and visit. The doors open about 6:00 p.m. for set up and coffee making. *The deadline for all submissions for the February 2016 issue of this Newsletter is January 20, 2016. E-mail copy to:*

[alleah.haley@gmail.com](mailto:alleah.haley@gmail.com).



Life is not holding a good hand. Life is playing a poor hand well. Danish Proverb.

### A New Learning Proposal

Anna Cadd

It never ceases to amaze me how much knowledge members of Santa Rosa Iris Society have, which they readily share with other members and the public. But sometimes even the judges and hybridizers in our Society are stumped by a question and aren't sure how to answer it. I know that I am! Then I need to look at reference books or surf the web; and the person who asked has already moved on, gotten on with life, and forgotten that he still doesn't know the answer. Sometimes we are too intimidated to ask. We have a lot of new members and it is not easy to ask questions and really understand, when everyone else looks like they got it all already. But have they?

I try to include some information about different irises and iris-related problems in every Newsletter. Looking back over several years I am amazed at how much knowledge has been published in our Newsletters. Every issue seems to be informative and enjoyable. We are getting great feedback from all over the country!

But to my point: *I propose that in most of our Newsletters we reprint important articles about different aspects of the Iris World. I encourage everyone to read and study these articles. We might even devote 15 minutes during the next meeting to discussion about the featured article and have a "question and answer" session if something is not clear or is difficult to understand.* I am sure that someone will have the answers! What do you think about my proposal?

So today I will explain how an iris gets its name and how to read the *Registrations and Introductions* books or iris descriptions on the Iris Wiki. Have fun reading the excellent article below, from the AIS online blog (<http://theamericanirissociety.blogspot.co.nz/2015/11/understanding-iris-descriptions.html>), reprinted by permission of the author.

### Understanding Iris Descriptions

Tom Waters

If you've spent some time looking for information about particular irises, you've probably encountered something like this, which I've copied from the American Iris Society (AIS) online Iris Encyclopedia:

'**Montmartre**' (Keith Keppel, R. 2007). Seedling 01-49B. TB, 33" (84 cm), Early thru midseason bloom. Standards greyed red-purple (M&P 45-J-5), 1/4" straw yellow (10-F-2) edge; style arms straw to reed

yellow (10-I-1), midrib flushed red purple; Falls velvety dark red purple, darker and brighter than raisin purple (54-B-12), narrow oyster white (10-B-1) edge, inner haft lemon (9-L-2), white around beard; beards chrome yellow (9-L-7), white and lemon at end. 99-61A: (96-11D, sibling to 'Moonlit Water' x 'New Leaf') X 'High Master'. Keppel 2008. Honorable Mention 2010, Award of Merit 2012, Wister Medal 2014.



Most of this text is from the official description of the variety as published by the AIS. The information is presented in a standardized order and format. Even unofficial descriptions, as you might find in catalogs or other publications, tend to follow this format to some extent, although usually somewhat simplified.

This is a rather intimidating mass of text for the novice iris enthusiast to process. In this post, I will step through it all one piece at a time, explaining what it all means and sharing some interesting background information along the way.

The first portion is this: "**Montmartre**" (Keith Keppel, R. 2007)." **Montmartre** is the name of the iris; Keith Keppel is the person who created it, and 2007 is the year it was *registered* ("R.") with the AIS.

Registration is the process by which a new iris is assigned a unique name. Why is this necessary? Can't the person who breeds a new iris just call it whatever he or she feels like? That was essentially the state of affairs in the nineteenth century, when nursery businesses devoted to ornamental plants were coming into their own. The result was a great deal of confusion. Different plants were being sold under the same name, and some plants were being sold under more than one name. Furthermore, plants were sometimes given names that looked like botanical names but were not. To bring order out of chaos, an international system for naming cultivated plants was created. This is the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants (ICNCP). The code includes rules about what form a name may take (it can't look like a botanical species name, for example, cannot be excessively long, or be just a descriptive word like "yellow"). For many types of ornamental plants, the ICNCP rules are implemented through a designated International Cultivar Registration Authority. For all irises except those that grow from bulbs, the registration authority is the AIS. So it is the role of the AIS to ensure that new irises are named according to the rules, and that each name is officially assigned to a single particular cultivar. (The world "cultivar", coined from the phrase "cultivated variety", is the technically correct term for a unique plant. Although the term "variety" is often used, that word has a different meaning to botanists.)

Cultivar names are enclosed in single quotes, according to the ICNCP. There was an older practice of printing iris cultivar names in capitals, which you may still encounter from time to time.

So **'Montmartre'** was registered with the AIS by Keith Keppel, the hybridizer who created it, in 2007. The person who registers an iris is usually the hybridizer who made the cross that produced it, but this is not always the case. One can register a particular or distinctive form of an iris species found in the

wild or raised from collected seed with no deliberate cross-pollination involved. In this case, the person who registers the cultivar is just the person who has grown the plant and decided it should be named. It also sometimes happens that one person selects the plant to be registered, even though the cross that produced it was made by someone else. For example, **'Brown Lasso'** resulted from a cross made by Gene Buckles, whose seedlings were passed on to David Niswonger when he died. So it was Niswonger who registered 'Brown Lasso' on behalf of the deceased hybridizer. The registration for this iris reads as follows:

**'Brown Lasso'** (Eugene Buckles by David Niswonger, selector. R. 1972).



There is no requirement that the person who made the original cross be acknowledged in this fashion, but it is a commonly observed courtesy.

It also sometimes happens that an iris has been in circulation for many years, without ever being registered, and an iris society or knowledgeable individual may step in and register it, so that its name can be officially recorded with a proper description.

I sometimes encounter people who are under the impression that registration somehow implies that the iris is deemed worthy by the AIS, or "approved" to be sold. This is not the case. The AIS does not make any judgment on the merits of the cultivars that are registered. The sole purpose of registration is simply to officially assign a name to a cultivar.

The next part of the description of **'Montmartre'** is

Seedling 01-49B. TB, 33" (84 cm), Early thru midseason bloom.

First comes the hybridizer's seedling number. Hybridizers usually raise so many seedlings that they use numbers to keep track of them until a few are selected to be named. There is no standard format for numbering seedlings; each hybridizer has his or her own system. Why is this number included in the official description? It seems superfluous once a name has been chosen. One reason is that the iris may have been used for breeding, and referred to by number in a pedigree, before being registered. It also helps people in the future interpret the hybridizer's breeding records. Furthermore, the iris may have been grown and seen under its seedling number, for example at an iris convention, and this lets everyone know that this new iris is the same one they admired (or detested) when they saw it earlier.

TB stands for "tall bearded". Each class of iris has its own abbreviation. Next follows the height in inches and centimeters. The height of an iris can vary considerably, even in one garden, and much more so if grown in different climates and soils. So the height figure is best taken with a grain of salt.

Next comes the season of bloom ("Early through midseason"). You may also see the bloom season expressed in abbreviations: E-M, in this example. Bloom season is not referred to calendar dates, because that changes enormously from one climate to another, and even from year to year. Rather, it is expressed relative to other irises of the same type. So in this case, we know that **'Montmartre'** starts blooming somewhat earlier than most TBs and continues blooming into the middle of TB season. These

designations are always relative to the type of iris involved, so a standard dwarf bearded (SDB) iris with midseason bloom means it blooms in the middle of SDB season, even though this may be a month or so before TBs bloom.

Next comes the color description, which is often the longest part. The standards (upper petals) are described first, followed by the falls (lower petals, which technically are sepals). In this particular description, you will notice alphanumeric codes being used to describe the colors. There are a number of different color charts published by various individuals and organizations to help identify colors more precisely than common language can do. In this case, the system being used is that of Maerz and Paul (note the "M&P" given the first time a code appears in the description). Other color systems often encountered are RHS (Royal Horticultural Society) and Ridgeway. If you have access to the specified published color chart, you can consult it to see precisely which colors are referred to in the description. There is an important caveat, though: colors can vary depending on soil and weather and the age of the bloom. So the precision implied by using a color chart is somewhat illusory.

The M&P color system used in this description also assigns English names to colors, and these are used in the description ("reed yellow", "raisin purple", and so on). These sometimes strike me as rather too fanciful to be useful without consulting the color chart, but they can convey some general distinctions. (I think we all have a sense of how straw yellow differs from lemon yellow, for example).

One is not required to use a published color chart when describing an iris, and many hybridizers do not. In recent years, the AIS have been collecting photographs along with the registration descriptions, which is a wonderful development. A picture is indeed worth a thousand words. A photograph is not required, however, just encouraged.

At the end of the description comes the parentage, or pedigree, of the iris. The pod parent is given first, then a large X, then the pollen parent. These may be named cultivars, or seedlings identified by number, parentage, or both. The parentage can sometimes be dauntingly complex if the hybridizer has been using their own seedlings for many generations.

Let's untangle this particular parentage, which is fairly easy as such things go. First look for the large X that separates the two parents. We can see right away that the pollen parent is '**High Master**'. What about the pod parent? It is this:

99-61A: (96-11D, sibling to 'Moonlit Water' x 'New Leaf')

The pod parent is a seedling numbered 99-61A. (Since no other hybridizer is indicated, this is one of Keith Keppel's own seedlings.) That seedling's parentage is given inside the parentheses, after the colon. Its pollen parent is '**New Leaf**' and its pod parent is another seedling, 96-11D, which we are told is a sibling to '**Moonlit Water**'. So if we want to know that seedling's parentage, we can look in the description of '**Moonlit Water**' (siblings have the same parentage, by definition.) Why refer to it that way? Why not just give its parentage? In this case, it is an enormous space saver. Look up the parentage of 'Moonlit Water' and you'll see what I mean!

Sometimes you will see a description that says "parentage unknown", or lists a pollen parent as unknown. When the pollen parent is unknown, it could be that the cross was made by insects, rather than the hybridizer. (These are often referred to as "bee pods".) This is not always the case, however. Particularly when the entire parentage is unknown, it is likely to be a case of an intentional cross with lost or confused records.

Following the parentage, we see "Keppel 2008". What is this? We already saw at the beginning that the iris was registered by Keppel in 2007. This last bit of information is the record of *introduction*. "Introduction" is short for "introduced into commerce" and refers to when and by whom the iris was first offered for sale to the public. In this case, Keith Keppel sells his irises himself, so we just see his name and the year 2008. It is rather common for an iris to be registered in one year and first offered for sale in the following year, although the gap can be longer, or an iris can be introduced the same year it is

registered. If the iris were introduced by a commercial garden, it is the name of the garden that is used. For example, Mid-America Garden introduces irises bred by Paul Black and Thomas Johnson.

Why is introduction important? One reason is that where and when an iris is introduced determines its eligibility for AIS awards. (AIS awards are given only to cultivars introduced in North America, and the year of introduction determines when an iris becomes eligible for awards.) The AIS does not recognize an iris as having been introduced until the person who registered it sends evidence of introduction to the registrar.

In fact, the year of introduction is so important that when an iris is referred to in text, the hybridizer and year of introduction are often given in parentheses following the name: '**Montmartre**' (Keppel, 2008).

Can an iris be registered and not introduced? Indeed. Registration, remember, is just the official assignment of the name to the plant; it does not imply anything about whether the iris should or will be offered for sale. The hybridizer might lose the plant, decide not to sell it, or be unable to sell it for some reason.

Conversely, there are irises (mostly older ones) that have been introduced into commerce but never registered. The ICNCP is not a legally binding set of rules, nor does the AIS have any legal standing to require irises to be registered before they are sold (although an iris must be properly registered to be eligible for AIS awards). So there have been iris hybridizers (mostly in past eras, and mostly working outside the US) who did not bother with registering their creations before selling them. Finally, at the very end, is a list of the awards the iris has received: in this case, Honorable Mention, Award of Merit, and the Wister Medal.

## **Minutes of Santa Rosa Iris Society Board Meeting, December 14, 2015**

Meeting called to order at 6:10 p.m. by incoming President Rudy Cuica.

Minutes from November were approved. Joe Lawrence presented the treasurer's report. He recommended keeping the checking and savings accounts as they are. Treasurer's report approved.

**Old Business:** Anna Marie reported that three judges have been secured for the Spring Show and Plant Sale. Programs for 2016 were reviewed. Jean Sharp will check into the gopher program for March. Fee for the May program will be \$150.00 for the speaker. Garden tour for SRIS members will be during the weekend of May 14-15. DTBD. A decision was made to change the iris culture program from October to September. There will be a regular SRIS meeting on September 12 after the Heirloom Festival. Decision for Rhizome Sale location at Farmer's Market postponed until Alleah returns with information. October program TBD. November Pot Luck date will be determined by members for Saturday or a weekday.

**New Business:** Joe Lawrence presented the 2016 Budget for discussion. Budget will be approved at the February General Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Jeff Davis, SRIS Secretary

## **Docent Training for Western Hills Garden**

Western Hills Garden is a membership/admission fee garden whose mission is to give people the opportunity to see rare plants in a beautiful natural setting. Designated a Preservation Assistance Garden by the Garden Conservancy.

Docent training for Western Hills Garden begins January 28<sup>th</sup>. It lasts six weeks, Thursdays 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Call the office or email to [stacie@westernhillsgarden.com](mailto:stacie@westernhillsgarden.com) to sign up.

Stacie L. Miller

Garden Manager/Volunteer Coordinator

Western Hills Garden

16250 Coleman Valley Road  
Occidental, CA 95465  
Office: 707-872-5463



A man walks into an inn and greets the innkeeper at the front desk. The man asked the innkeeper for a room and the innkeeper says, "OK, \$15 for a room, \$5 if you make your own bed."

So the man says, "OK, I will make my bed".

Then finally the innkeeper says: "Great, here is some wood and nails. Get working." – submitted by Anna Cadd

## 14 Surprising Uses for Your Microwave

source: [www.realsimple.com/food-recipes/tools-products/14-surprising-uses-for-your-microwave](http://www.realsimple.com/food-recipes/tools-products/14-surprising-uses-for-your-microwave)

1. Disinfecting and Deodorizing Sponges - Don't throw out the kitchen sponge that smells like last night's salmon. Soak it in water spiked with white vinegar or lemon juice, then heat it on high for 1 minute. (Use an oven mitt to remove it.) This will also disinfect any sponges you used to wipe up the juices from a raw chicken.
2. Cooking an Entire Dinner in Under 10 Minutes - Not just the TV variety. We mean braised salmon with green beans & mashed potatoes. Use the microwave for any recipe that calls for braising, poaching, or steaming. Just subtract 3/4 of the cooking time. Stir liquids often to redistribute the heat, and always take the food out a minute or two before it's completely done, since it will continue to cook.
3. Disinfecting Plastic Cutting Boards - Wash the board well, rub it with the cut side of a lemon, then heat for 1 minute.
4. Making Potatoes - While the microwave won't give you a baked potato with a crisp skin, it will cook an average russet in 4 minutes. You can simultaneously cook as many as will fit. (The general rule for heating more food is to check for doneness every 30 seconds beyond the regular cooking time.) Prick the potatoes all over with a fork & cook for 2 minutes. Turn them over & cook for 2 to 3 minutes longer. For mashed potatoes, heat the milk in the microwave before adding it. (Cold milk makes for cold mashed potatoes.)
5. Softening Brown Sugar - Keep the sugar in its plastic packaging, add a few drops of water, & heat on medium for 10 to 20 seconds.
6. Decrystallizing Honey - Honey that has solidified can be brought back to liquid life by uncovering the jar & heating on medium power for 30 seconds to 1 minute.
7. Proofing Yeast Doughs - Yeast doughs that normally take an hour or more to rise at room temperature can be proofed in the microwave in 15 minutes. Place the dough in a very large bowl & cover with plastic. Place 1 full cup water in the back of the microwave with the bowl of dough in the center, & set the power as low as possible (10 percent). Heat 3 minutes, then let the dough rest in the microwave for 3 minutes. Heat for 3 minutes longer, then let rest for 6 minutes. Dough will double in bulk.

... *To be continued* ...

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL IN THE  
SANTA ROSA IRIS SOCIETY

Membership in the Santa Rosa Iris Society is on an annual basis from January through December. Renewals are due January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. The current dues are:  
Single Membership \$15.00 Dual Membership \$30.00

Please make your check payable to the **Santa Rosa Iris Society** and mail it with this form to the Membership Secretary:

BETTY FORD  
1383 EAST NAPA STREET  
SONOMA, CA 95476

NAME(s) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

e-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

BIRTHDAY \_\_\_\_\_

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY AND SPOUSE'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

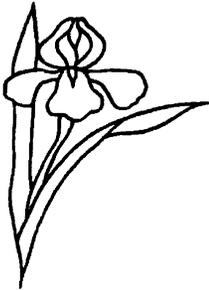
AIS MEMBER: YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

ENCLOSED IS \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for ( ) SINGLE ( ) DUAL

I would like my Newsletter by email: YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

Santa Rosa Iris Society  
Alleah Haley, Newsletter Editor  
208 Eucalyptus Ave.  
Cotati, CA 94931

Name and Address Correction requested



The Newsletter of

# *The Santa Rosa Iris Society*

42<sup>ND</sup> YEAR NUMBER 1

JANUARY 2016

**President:**  
Rudy Ciuca

**Vice President:**  
Anna Cadd

**Newsletter Editor:**  
Alleah Haley

## **Meetings & Membership**

The Santa Rosa Iris Society meets the second Monday of each month February through October at 7:00 p.m. at the Luther Burbank Art and Garden Center, 2050 Yulupa Avenue, Santa Rosa, California. In November instead of having a regular meeting, we have our annual holiday potluck dinner and dress up as an iris name costume party.

Membership dues are \$15.00 per year. Send payment to: Santa Rosa Iris Society c/o Betty Ford, 1383 E. Napa St., Sonoma, CA 95476. Membership offers regular meetings, iris door prizes, special programs, use of our library, a monthly newsletter, annual iris show and rhizome sale, and fellowship with other iris lovers. For more information call Anna Marie Hermansen , Betty Ford, or Juanita Breckwoldt .

**February Newsletter Deadline – January 20<sup>th</sup>**