

The Newsletter of

The Santa Rosa Iris Society

42ND YEAR NUMBER 6

JUNE 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

Marlene Horn

2016 Summer Rhizome Sales Chm.

Betty Ford –Heirloom Expo

Alleah Haley –Farmers’ Mkt

MONDAY, JUNE 13, 7:00 PM
KITTY LOBERG – 2016 SPRING
REGIONAL IN SAN JOSE



Kitty’s love of irises was kindled by her mother when Kitty was a teen, and she’d watch her Mom share irises with a neighbor. Kitty has kept a couple of her Mom’s irises, now historic, one being ‘California Gold’ (Mohr-Mitchell, 1933), which lives among Kitty’s roses today.

Friends encouraged her to go to an iris show and take irises; but she didn’t know how to cut the stalks, and no one at the show encouraged her to enter her specimens as an English box. Even with those dismal beginnings, it didn’t deter her wanting to do more; and the following year she was back again, entering the Redwood Iris Society spring show. The late George and Margaret Sutton, then living in Ukiah, sold her on joining the local club; and it was then that she discovered she had lots of people to share and obtain irises from. The rest is history.

Even after the Suttons moved to Porterville, they again were recruiting Kitty for the next level up; and eventually she served 13 years on the American Iris Society Region 14 Board, holding positions of Secretary, Treasurer, Regional Vice President, Judges’ Training Chair, and A.I.S. Convention Treasurer for the 1996 and 2004 Conventions in California. Kitty started the Photo Contest for the American Iris Society and ran it for several years before health forced her to step away. Kitty was awarded the Region 14 Larry Gaulter Lifetime Achievement Award and became an Emeritus Judge of the American Iris Society.

Kitty will show digital pictures of the 2016 Region 14 Spring Meeting, held on the 43-acre ranch of Nola and Gary Prevost in the eastern foothills above San Jose. Nola’s Iris Garden opened to the public in April of 2004, and this is the first time her garden has been on display for a regional tour. Nine Santa Rosa Iris Society members attended this spring’s event.



Are you bored with life? Then throw yourself into some work you believe in with all your heart, live for it, die for it, and you will find happiness that you had thought could never be yours. Dale Carnegie.

Gardening Tips for June

Anna Cadd

1. We are wrapping up the iris bloom season for this year. On the one hand, it is sad that the grand iris display is over; and we will have to wait another year for iris flowers. On the other hand, we are thankful that all the rush and fatigue is behind us. This was a strange bloom season, with all irises blooming two to three weeks earlier than usual. It will be interesting to find out how the bloom was at the AIS National Convention in the Newark, New Jersey area. From small tidbits in emails it seems like they had wonderful bloom in some gardens; but they are on the East Coast and they aren't having a drought there. It was a short, busy season here. Maybe this has to do with us getting older. Time seems to compress, and there seems never enough to accomplish all that needs to be done.
2. Now we have time to look at our notes and decide which irises we would like to have in our gardens, what did wonderfully and what needs to be discarded. The bloom stalks need to be cut or broken off and the irises need to be fertilized with 15-15-15 or 10-10-10 fertilizer. Miracle Gro® also works well for a quick boost. Ample watering is crucial during the months of June and July. Irises are producing big rhizomes now and bloom initials for next year.
3. Planting a vegetable garden around Memorial Day gives the best results. Corn, beans and cucumbers will start to sprout in 3-5 days. Water them gently and protect from insects and snails. Tomatoes will be ready in 2 months!
4. With water shortage again hanging over us, plan to invest in a drip irrigation system or soaker hoses. They deliver water straight to the roots and there is little or no waste. Mulching is also a great garden technique; but don't put mulch too close to iris rhizomes.
5. If you love butterflies, invite them into your garden and provide them with fueling stations. Plant nectar-laden, flat topped flowers in masses. Butterflies are attracted to old-fashioned flat marigolds, zinnias, milkweeds, cosmos, coreopsis, sunflowers, coneflowers, asters, gloriosa daisies and Mexican sunflower. They also love tightly packed tubular flowers like yarrow, statice, lantana, verbena, valerian and buddleia. A sunny, sheltered area is best for butterflies and a protected, squishy, muddy area, perhaps under a birdbath, is a necessity. They like the puddle for moisture and a sunny, flat rock nearby will warm them up.
6. When I mentioned that I was going to use a hula hoe on our Display Garden beds, there were several questions. What is it? Many of us own one, or at least have seen one. I can't live without mine! An ordinary flat hoe – the only kind you see in most garden centers – is good for moving and smoothing soil. For weeding, though, the Hula Hoe (also called a stirrup hoe or scuffle hoe) is a far better tool. The sharp steel blade skims horizontally below the soil surface, slicing through weed roots while leaving the soil in place. The blade is designed to have a little play in it - the famous "hula wiggle" - so that it cuts at the correct angle on both backward and forward strokes. Introduced in 1961, the Original Hula Ho Weeder forever changed the way gardeners weed and cultivate their gardens.



From the President's Desk

I can hardly believe that summer is soon upon us and I sure don't know where spring went. This has been an unusual time for me with all the iris challenges.

Our garden at the Center is looking great. It is becoming more and more a garden of educational proportion as we all envisioned it to be. The members attending to the details of the garden are incredible people. We are blessed to have so many members devoted to the needs of our club. The garden work sessions have been a wonder with so much hard work and with such low pay. It goes to prove that money isn't everything. Thanks to all who participated in the garden work groups. Our directors Jean Sharp and Jim Begley are doing a great job. We will continue to work with Jean and Jim in all garden needs, designs and changes.

The guest speaker at our last meeting, Toni Gattone, was great and I personally was very impressed. I learned that careful planning of time and energy would result in a meaningful garden experience. I now work in my garden for 15 minutes and rest for 45 minutes. I now get some work done in the garden and one heck of lot more rest. Gee, planning time and energy is great!!

Rudy Ciuca

This Month

Monday June 13 – Kitty Loberg, Report on 2016 Region 14 Spring Meeting. Show awards presented.

2016 Iris Events and Important Dates

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.

Monday, September 5, 8:00 AM – Bag irises for rhizome sale, LBAGC.

Tuesday thru Thursday, September 6-8, 11 AM – 8 PM – 6th 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 & 17, 8:30 – 1:00 PM – SRIS Rhizome Sale, Santa Rosa Community Farmers Market at the Vet's Building, Santa Rosa.

Monday, October 10 – Beardless including Pacific Coast irises.

Saturday, November (5, 12-5 PM – Holiday Potluck/Come Dressed as an Iris Costume Party, LBAGC. We'll eat at 2:00 PM.

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

Monday, July 11, 6:00 PM

Monday, September 12, 6:00 PM

Monday, November 14, 6:00 PM

Monday, December 12, 6:00 PM

Plant Sales

Sonoma County Jail Plant Nursery & Teaching Garden Saturdays: September 10 and October 1, 9 AM to Noon

2254 Ordinance Rd., Santa Rosa, 95403

Checks or cash only; no credit or debit cards.

California native and drought tolerant shrubs, perennials, succulents, groundcovers, fruit and ornamental trees and vegetable starts. 10 Sonoma County Master Gardeners will help you select appropriate plants and answer questions.

Plants are grown by inmates using compost, no fertilizers or pesticides. Information and a plant list at www.scoe.org/jailindustries or call Rick Stern 707 525-8310 or email jailind@mcn.org .Free.

Willowside School Saturdays, 9 AM to 2 PM: May 14, June 4, June 25 (rain does not cancel)

5299 Hall Rd, Santa Rosa (corner of Willowside and Hall Rds; entrance is on Willowside Rd.)

Over 15 varieties of Japanese maples 3-6' feet tall for \$25-\$35 ea., variety of low water & drought tolerant perennials, California natives, grasses, succulents, salvias, and plants that invite beneficial insects, butterflies and hummingbirds into your garden. PRICE: \$4 for 1 gallon container. Questions? 707-569-4724. Gladly accepts donations of healthy plants, garden tools, working wagons, ceramic pots, recycled 1 and 5 gallon nursery containers, etc.

Occidental Arts and Ecology Center Organic Nursery, 15290 Coleman Valley Road, Occidental 95465 874-1557.

OPEN NURSERY WEEKENDS (Perennials Only)

Every Saturday & Sunday, 10 AM to 5 PM: May 14 - June 19 and September 10 - October 30

FALL & WINTER GARDEN PLANT SALE (Two Weekends)

Saturday, August 20 & Sunday, August 21 9 AM to 5 PM

Saturday, August 27 & Sunday, August 28 9 AM to 5 PM

Seasonal plant sales specialize in annual vegetables, flowers and herbs. Perennials Weekends offer a selection of perennial food crops, culinary & medicinal herbs & habitat plants.

Events feature live music, a petting zoo and tours of OAEC. OAEC is an 80-acre research, demonstration, education, advocacy and community organizing center in West Sonoma County that supports the restoration of biological and cultural diversity.

Windsor Garden Club Sunday, October 23, 10 AM to 2 PM, Fall Succulent Pumpkin Sale at the Fall Jamboree, Windsor Town Green @ McClellan and Market Sts. Fall color pots and long lasting succulent topped pumpkins. Fall family activities, music, and farmers' market.

From the Editor – **Many thanks** for contributions to this issue: **Anna Cadd, Rudy Ciuca, Diana Ford, Anna Marie Hermansen, Mikey Lango** of Clara B. Rees Iris Society, **Joe Lawrence, Kitty Loberg, Jean Sharp, and Steve Schreiner. *Alleah***

Recent Work Parties in Display Garden

Four members turned out on Wednesday, May 18 to remove spent iris stalks and weed our Club's display garden. Betty Ford, Jean Sharp, Jim Begley, and Alleah Haley worked a total of 9 gardener hours and got all the stalks removed except for the Dykes bed, and the door prize bed weeded before that day's heat forced them to stop. Remaining was the spurge and other weeds in **all** the other beds and the spent iris stalks in the Dykes bed.

On Sunday, May 22, 11 members came to weed and remove stalks: Jim Begley, Cheryl Bryan, Anna Cadd, Rudy Ciuca, Jeff Davis, Diana Ford, Alleah Haley, Anna Marie Hermansen, Joe Lawrence, Jean Sharp, and new member Mary True. They started an hour earlier, at 8 AM, and the day was cooler; so in 2 ¾ hours they got the rest of the spent bloom stalks removed and all the spurge out of most of the beds. Anna Cadd spent three more hours that day weeding the beardless and reblooming beds including the Hal Mattos Memorial bed.

By Tuesday, May 24, there were small weeds growing all over the already weeded beds! Anna Cadd and Jim Begley each spent six hours weeding all the beds again. They weeded the spuria bed and hula hoed all the beds which cut any remaining roots of spurge. They also spread pre-emergent weed killer, Preen®, on all the beds and used two hoses to water the Preen® into the soil really well. It is hoped that this effort will get the nasty spurge under control, at least for now. As a result of all this effort, the SRIS display garden looks really good! Many thanks to all those who have worked so hard to help maintain the Display Garden this spring.

Our Display Garden is located at the Luther Burbank Art and Garden Center, 2050 Yulupa Ave., Santa Rosa (where we hold our regular meetings). For future reference, when working in the Display Garden bring gloves, hat, water, gardening tools, and a bucket to hold weeds.

California's Most Common Weed

Jean Sharp

Our lovely display garden is under attack from a true thug of a weed – spotted spurge and its close relative creeping spurge[†]. Repeated efforts of removal seem to have been fruitless, so I decided to find out more about what is the scourge of any garden – spurge.

Spurge is a member of the Euphorbia family. It grows close to the ground forming a dense mat up to three feet in diameter. It's important to wear gloves when dealing with spurge, since it emits a milky

substance that is an irritant to skin and eyes. Ironically, the milky sap is being studied as a cure for various skin cancers.

Getting the entire root out is important, although a mature plant's taproot can extend 24 inches into the soil. The tiny seeds (1/25 inch long) are produced by the thousands and germinate at between 75° and 85°F. At cooler temperatures, seed lie dormant – and just lie in wait. The seeds give a pinkish hue to the plant. That's when you know it has seeds forming. Discard weeds into a container, not your compost; since seeds can germinate and start the cycle all over again. Spurge can produce seeds before the plant gets to be two inches in diameter, and in as little time as five weeks. That's 3-4 generations per season.

Pre-emergents work well, but must be maintained on a regular basis to provide some control. Mulches of two or more inches depth (bark, soil, straw) work well since spurge seeds need light to germinate.

In our well-irrigated garden, spurge is the most prevalent weed. Thanks to all who help in ridding the space of this noxious weed. Pre-emergent was applied after our last work party. With luck and perseverance, we should be able to at least control if not eliminate the scourge of spurge.

†Spurge was also featured on page 3 of the August 2013 issue of this Newsletter.



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 **July 2016** issue of this Newsletter is **June 20, 2016**. E-mail copy to:*

alleah.haley@gmail.com.

“Around the World with Iris” – SRIS Spring Show, May 7-8, 2016 Anna Marie Hermansen

Alleah and I wish to thank everyone for making our spring show a huge success. We had various setbacks, starting with judges, and then with the crazy weather this season, including rain the day before. Our show was also late this year with most people past peak bloom. We had 104 stalks, all of which looked amazing. Our judges were Helen Bliven, Phyllis Wilburn, Jeanne Plank, and Ross BeVier. There were also two apprentices - Joe Lawrence and myself.

Many, many thanks go to our members who always pitch in and help wherever needed: Alice Kemper, Jean Sharp, Gilda DeNiro, Jeff Davis, Cheryl Bryan, Juanita Breckwoldt, Bob Breckwoldt, Jim Begley, Kathy McCallum, Rudy Ciuca, Joe Lawrence, Kitty Loberg, Steve Albert, Don and Diana Ford, Linnea Polo, Addie Larocque, Samira Stimac, and Betty Ford. Special appreciation and thanks go to Jean Sharp and her elves who did a fantastic job with the flower arrangements depicting countries around the world, such as Holland, France, Germany, Egypt, and the USA. Also, kudos to Rudy Ciuca, our private gourmet chef, for preparing a delicious luncheon - rigatoni with meat sauce, rigatoni with mushroom sauce, Asian salad, and toasted garlic bread. Many desserts were contributed by various members. We definitely did not go hungry! Different this year was where we held the luncheon. Since it was cold and showery on Saturday, we set up the luncheon tables inside. The judges finished sooner than prior shows, so we consolidated many of the iris stalks on just several tables and freed up space for an indoor lunch. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves since it was warm and people could socialize with one another much easier.

Congratulations goes to Jim Begley for winning our top award, Best Specimen of Show, with Joe Ghio's 'My Beloved.' Congratulations also go to the following people who were trophy winners:
Luther Burbank Cup - Best Specimen - Jim Begley with 'My Beloved'
Redwood Empire Cup - 1st Runner Up - Anna Cadd, with 'Son of Sun'

Burbank Cup - Best Bearded Other Than Tall - Kitty Loberg with 'Dividing Line'
Beeman Memorial Cup - Best Historical - Steve Albert with 'Superstition'
Beth Jolly Memorial Cup - Best Bi-Color - Jim Begley with 'Illusionist'
Emmons Cup - Best Plicata - C&L Vineyard with 'Patchwork Puzzle'
Morris Cup - Best Beardless - Anna Cadd with 'Son of Sun'
Peggy Burke Gray Cup - Best Seedling - Anna Cadd with Spu XX-19 Short
Santa Rosa Cup - Best Tall Bearded - Jim Begley with 'My Beloved'

Section Medal Certificates go to Jim Begley for receiving the most blues in the Tall Bearded section, and to Anna Cadd for receiving the most blues in the Spuria section.

Silver Medal will go to Anna Cadd for receiving the most blue ribbons at the show and the Bronze Medal will go to C&L Vineyard for receiving the second most blue ribbons.

Again, many thanks to all our members who helped out in all aspects of the show including set-up, staging, selling, information, publicity, and tear down.

Region 14 Spring Regional 2016

Mikey Lango. Reprinted by permission from the June 2016 Clara B. Rees Iris Society Newsletter.

Did you miss the Spring Regional? If so, you missed a very fun week-end. First of all there was the Iris Show on Friday evening. Can you believe that there were 126 entries? You should have seen John Pesek hopping around - adding more tables, searching for more display tubes and adding another panel of judges. There were many more entries than expected. John was quite happy with the turnout. Region 14's very own RVP, Phyllis Wilburn won best specimen of the show with a historic 'Ariane'. ... After the show we met upstairs to see a slide presentation of Riley Probst's that included all the guest irises that had been planted at Nola's Iris Garden. It was a good preview to the following day's trip.

Nola's Iris Garden - How many of you were worried about it being too steep? Not so. Those bus drivers took the less than two miles of windy road easily. They parked those buses just fine. However, we all stood clear when they turned around. The paths were wide and easy enough for everyone to traverse on the hill. There was plenty of room to pass people that had stopped for note taking or to take photographs. The iris had already peaked but there were plenty of blooms to view.

Nola Prevost was a very busy lady the morning of the garden visit as there were a lot of last minute details to attend to. She did get a bit upset with Mother Nature that morning. Wherever did that wind come from? A gentle breeze would have been nice for the day but Mother had other ideas. She decided to send some wind – not a gentle breeze but a stiff wind and one that would last all day. At least it was not cold but it was a bit hard to snap that sharp focused photo of your favorite iris. We were all a bit wind tossed by the end of the day.

Nola and Gary [her husband] were very gracious and welcoming. There were juices and muffins to tide you over until the barbecue was ready. There were hamburgers, hot dogs, salads and chips, along with dessert. There were plenty of drinks and water. If Nola heard that you needed something, off she went to get it for you. What a busy lady and a smile on her face all the time. Thank you, Nola and Gary. We will be back.

Judges training up your alley? Kitty Loberg gave a pretty intense class on garden training. If you thought that you knew all about garden judging, you would have discovered that you were wrong. We were there to learn and so we did. Thanks, Kitty.

Back to the buses, back to the hotel, remember to fill out your ballot, check the silent auction and the raffle baskets. Get ready for dinner but cocktails first. Where did the time go? We all had a lovely dinner with time to visit friends.

The evening was not over yet. We went upstairs to hear Steve Schreiner as the guest speaker. He gave a presentation on 'A Year at Schreiner's Iris Garden'. This included some photos, a bit of history, and some culture tips. Steve is always a good speaker. Sometimes you have to listen closely as he can say some funny things while keeping a serious expression on his face. He is clever, witty and very knowledgeable. After Steve's presentation Garden Awards were given out. [Awards were listed in last month's SRIS Newsletter.]

Tickets were drawn for the raffle baskets. ...Carol Dahout [from San Jose] was one of the very lucky ones as she won two baskets, one from Santa Rosa Iris Society and the other from Leo T. Clark Iris Society. ... The evening ended with Riley [Probst] auctioning off some irises for Region 14 coffers. This should have helped the Region's finances a bit.

Rest up, everyone, there was a bit more for Sunday morning. There was another judges training. This one was given by Anna Cadd on Spurias. Yes, we learn, learn and learn some more. It was another excellent judges training. Thanks, Anna.

Soon it was time to go, time to say goodbye. Wait. I am not ready. When is the next Regional? I can hardly wait- irises, friends, food, fun, and knowledge. I will be there for the Fall Regional to do it all over again.

Want to Trade PCIs?

When I was doing research for the beardless iris orders for SRIS, I received an email from Bob Seaman of Seattle, which I am sharing below. We've ordered \$100.00 of PCIs from him for the club. However, he extended an invite to anyone in our club who grows PCIs, if they would like to swap and share PCI's that they have. Anyone who is interested can contact him. **Kitty Loberg**

Bob Seaman emailed Kitty on March 20, 2016: "I'm always looking for PCIs that I've not been able to add to my collection yet; building up my collection is my highest priority. If SRIS is like KCIS, members have a lot of the same irises, so seeking iris outside the group is necessary to keep local interest. If SRIS members grow PCI that I don't have, I'd be willing to trade 1 division for 1 division, or 2 maybe for 1. (My divisions are 2-3 fans; I'd expect the same in return.) Your only expense would be the shipping to me.

Bob Seaman
Leonine Iris
7051 S 126th Street
Seattle, WA 98178-4337
206-235-7358
ordersupport@leonineiris.com
www.leonineiris.com "

Notice: Changes to Roster

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

Barbara Foley
PO Box 4851
Petaluma, CA 94955
bfoley2010@gmail.com

Alexa Pagonas
986 Lillian Way
Sebastopol, CA 95472
AlexaP48@gmail.com

Mary Pagonas

986 Lillian Way
Sebastopol, CA 95472

Happy Birthday June Babies

Elizabeth Rice 6/4
Kitty Loberg 6/24
Barbara BeVier 6/26
Jeff Davis 6/29

June Wedding Anniversary

Diana and Don Ford 6/28



Keeping In Touch

Anna Marie Hermansen was walking in San Francisco on June 1 and tripped on a raised square of sidewalk. She fell, injured her previously broken (some years ago) nose and broke her right elbow. Somehow she managed to drive herself a mile to urgent care where they patched her up and set her right arm in a soft cast. By June 3 the doctor had removed the cast, saying it was a “non-displaced fracture” that would heal better without the cast. Now she’s icing the elbow, taking Extra Strength Excedrin®, doing exercises, awaiting physical therapy, being driven by friends, and dealing with limited wardrobe choices.

Anna Marie welcomes get well messages to:

2121 17th Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94116
amrmah@ix.netcom.com

Joe Lawrence had cataract surgery on his left eye on May 26. Joe reported some clouding at first but by June 3 his vision was beginning to clear. The doctor told him his vision should be clear within another couple weeks, but he will be on eye medication until September.

You can express get well wishes to Joe at:

1595 Denmark St.
Sonoma, CA 95476
clvineyard@aol.com

Steve Schreiner was the guest speaker at the Spring 2016 Region 14 Meeting, April 29-May 1. On May 28 Steve emailed:

“It was wonderful seeing you again, too, in San Jose. ... I really liked everyone I met. And it was especially enjoyable seeing familiar faces again from the Santa Rosa society. Prevost’s Garden was impressive for how much of it there was, and the setting.

“We had the most unusual bloom season, as we head into our last weekend. There are comparatively few flowers. Yet people are accustomed to coming on Memorial Day for our one ‘event,’ music and BBQ chicken enjoyed under big tents.

“April and the first half of May were so warm, our peak bloom was a few days after Mother’s Day (May 8). Usually we have 3 heavy bloom weekends. The third one, last weekend was just OK. But the last 2 weekends had rain on both Saturday and Sunday, taking away 4 of our 7 heavy visit days. We ain’t propitiating the gods right.

“But the last 2 weeks have been cool so even though we don’t have that many iris, they are being held by the low temperatures.

“Do you notice all the typos in the [news]papers? It’s ISIS this and ISIS that. I’m trying to get the word out, it’s IRIS not ISIS.”

Schreiner's History

Bob Schreiner, as subsequently revised by Tom Abrego and Steve Schreiner. Distributed by Steve Schreiner at his talk on Schreiner's Iris Garden at the Spring 2016 Region 14 Convention.

In 1915, F.X. Schreiner, a buyer for a department store in St. Paul, MN, decided to move his family to the country to more seriously pursue his hobbies of gardening and animal husbandry. In 1920, while on a buying trip to the east, F.X. met John Wister, the first president of the recently founded American Iris Society. This chance meeting sparked F.X.'s interest in Iris and soon he was a serious collector. Few Iris were available at that time from American sources. Most had to be imported from England and Europe. Since F.X.'s work involved lots of travel, his eldest son, Robert, was given the responsibility for nursing the new Iris acquisitions along in the harsh Minnesota climate.

To encourage his son's interest, F.X. gave Robert the great Dykes monograph, *The Genus Iris*. Bob keenly studied this book, reading of obscure Iris species growing in exotic locations around the globe. His curiosity piqued, Bob would write botany departments or consulates in these far-off lands, requesting seed of these Iris, contributing many wonderful varieties to his father's growing collection. By 1925, F.X.'s interest in Iris had grown to the extent that he was growing over 500 varieties on over an acre of ground. He decided to sell these Iris commercially in order to finance the acquisition and care of new Iris. In 1925, F.X. Schreiner published his first price list. His first catalog, black and white with no pictures, was published in 1928.

F.X. passed away in 1931. Before his death, though, he offered his three children, Bob, Connie, and Bernard (Gus), two pieces of advice. First, that if they were able to get along, the Iris venture would be a nice business. Secondly, should they decide to pursue the business, a more agreeable climate would offer a better chance of success. Robert opted to withdraw from his plant science studies at the University of Minnesota in order to tend the Iris business. Connie worked in the office in her spare time while attending the University of Minnesota. Gus, still in school, worked in the fields during his summer vacations.

The serious dust storms of the 30's had a devastating effect on the Iris, however. Bloom seasons would be ruined with one strong windstorm. The harsh Minnesota winter would wipe out whole breeding lines. Bob began studying USDA yearbooks determined to find a more suitable site. Iris were sent to several willing growers in various areas of the country to be tested. Although we didn't move to Oregon permanently until 1946, our Iris were fostered in Grants Pass, Oregon from 1935 to 1937! Finally, the Willamette Valley was selected as the new home for the Schreiners. The decision was based on excellent soil, an ideal climate for growing Iris, and the proximity to transportation facilities. We have been in the Brooks district north of Salem ever since. This country has been a happy choice for growing Iris.

By the end of World War II, both Connie and Gus had decided to join the business full time. The move to Oregon was completed in 1947, the original site being a home (now Schreiner's office) and 15 acres. There was a sense of security in the new climate. The long growing season allowed the business to expand and it grew rapidly. The success of the business had other manifestations – the first color catalog was printed in 1947 and the Iris breeding program was in full swing. During this time, Connie managed the business affairs of the office. Connie loved traveling and meeting people, so she often represented Schreiner's at national conventions.

Bob wrote the annual catalog each winter and took photographs each bloom season. His natural, curious spirit and fascination with plants enabled him to assist Gus with the hybridizing program each spring. Bob and Gus loved the onset of spring, anticipating the promise the seedling fields held. In addition to hybridizing, Gus' duties included running the outside crew, which dug and processed the orders in the summer and transplanted the fields each fall. He loved working with the soil and meeting the challenges he faced in the field culture of the Iris.

In the early 70's there was an explosive interest in Iris, with huge national nurseries needing enormous numbers of bearded Iris. This signaled a period of rather rapid change and expansion for the business. From a stable size of 50 acres the planting quickly doubled to 100, and then again to 200 acres. This excitement was tempered, however, by the untimely deaths of the Schreiner siblings who had built this company up from the dirt of Minnesota. Connie died in 1971, Gus passed away in 1982, and Bob died in 2000. During the 1980's the third generation gradually assumed responsibilities in running the business. David, Robert's son, was largely responsible for the catalog and business matters. Tom Abrego, David's brother-in-law, served as the controller; he also worked on the catalog and advertising. In 2011, Tom and David retired. Gus' son Ray is in charge of the hybridizing, field culture and production, landscaping the gardens, and wholesale accounts. Liz (Schreiner) Schmidt, Gus' daughter, manages the office, Gift Shop, business matters, catalog, etc. Another of Gus' sons, Steve, handles the flower show, photography and retail shipping. Leonard Schmidt, Liz's husband, helps with the general maintenance and keeps track of the required farm regulations. During the summer some of the fourth generation may be found in the packing sheds.

Over the years, the Schreiner hybridizing program has become internationally recognized as one of the best. Schreiner Iris have won an unprecedented eleven Dykes Memorial Medals, the highest award given by the American Iris Society. The latest was in 2003 for their Celebration Song. In addition, Schreiner's has garnered numerous foreign awards over the years

Since 1980 Schreiner's display gardens under the direction of Ray Schreiner have evolved from being primarily an Iris show, to one with a mixture of perennials, annuals, and Iris, still the main attraction. Visitors volunteer that they love the variety of blossoms on display throughout the gardens. Once bloom season subsides in June, our attention turns toward the business of digging the Iris in the fields. The main task of the summer's first half is filling wholesale and retail orders. Millions of Iris are processed and sent out on trucks, several a week in July and August, each packed with 100,000 rhizomes. The second half of the summer is taken up with transplanting 200 acres.

The Iris grown here at Schreiner's Iris Gardens have reaped praise from our thousands of customers as well. One of the most cherished possessions is the file of letters from customers, gathered over the years. Many steadfast friendships have developed over time with people we have met through the Iris. These human connections as well as the awards and achievements enjoyed by the Schreiners are a result of the hard work of Robert, Connie and Bernard. Their hard work, sacrifice and vision expanded upon the small enterprise initiated by F.X. Schreiner. Inspired by their dedication to and love of horticulture, and Iris in particular, Schreiner's continues to offer the newest and finest in bearded Iris.

Iris sibirica or *Iris sanguinea* 'Kamayama'?

Anna Cadd

Perhaps you remember the big clump of purple Siberian iris that was in full bloom in my garden during this spring's SRIS members' garden tour. Rudy was intrigued by it and said he really loved it – much more than the Spec-X 'Ally Oops', which he calls 'Graffiti' So, acting like a smart aleck, I explained to Rudy that my clump is the Siberian iris – *Iris sibirica* 'Kamayama'. Well, there is more to this story....

Several days later I received an email from my friends Jan Tolmasoff and April Lance. They both had this iris in bloom and wanted to know the name. They said they probably got it from me. So I answered them like I did to Rudy and then I checked with the AIS Wiki Encyclopedia to be sure. And here is the kicker: <http://wiki.irises.org/bin/view/Spec/SpecKamayama>

'Kamayama' This cultivar was obtained from Japan in 1968 by Jean Witt and has not received a properly registered name. It is 36" (91 cm) tall, a vigorous rich violet and is probably an example of *Iris sanguinea* variety *violacea* Makino. *Iris sanguinea* Hornem ex Donn.

References: Flora of Japan, 1965 notes "Var. *violacea* Makino. *I. kamayama* Makino 'Kamayama-Shobu'. Leaves narrower and firmer, slightly tortuous, deeper green; flowers deep violet, the inner

perianth-segments slightly longer. Said to have been introduced from Korea and sometimes to be planted in our area."

So I fired another email to the girls - Jan and April: "The iris in question is Beardless Iris species with not quite known pedigree – it is *Iris sibirica* named "Kamayama" or *Iris sanguinea*, which is probably the same in this case. These names are used as synonyms. It may have come from our garden, as I had 2 clumps of it for many years. I don't remember what I gave April. But this is the only Siberian iris which is doing great in Northern California. For other Siberians we don't get enough winter "chill".

But I couldn't sleep at night. So I contacted SIGNA experts, Rodney Burton and Ken Walkup. Isn't the computer an amazing thing? Pony Express would take me three weeks or more to get smarter! I got answers from both of them in one day!! But in between I did some research and found that *I. sanguinea* has no branching and also blooms "inside" the leaves, and *I. sibirica* has branching and blooms high above the leaves, as mine does. It is beautiful, and this year with extra rain was really beautiful. So I still don't know for sure - not that it matters in the grand scale of the universe, but I was curious....

Answer from Rodney:

"The SIGNA checklist has it as *I. sanguinea* and says it was obtained in Japan in 1968 and was never properly registered. It would be hard to determine if it is actually this clone or just another purple *sanguinea* without provenance linking it to Jean Witt."

Answer from Ken:

"Here's my two cents: 'Kamayama' is definitely a *sanguinea*; it's confusing mostly because people can correctly refer to it as "a Siberian iris", in other words, *I. sibirica*, *I. sanguinea*, and *I. typhifolia* are all closely related irises commonly referred to as "Siberians". Historically *I. sanguinea* wasn't separated from *I. sibirica* until the early 20th century. *I. sibirica* is found in Europe, east to about the western part of Russia; *I. sanguinea* is far eastern. Most modern "Siberian" irises are mostly *sanguinea*, in fact.

I grow this; I'm reasonably sure what I have is the real item. But I have to admit it's possible this is a seedling of the original, either a self or a hybrid, and the same goes for yours. That's just what happens with plants that set good quantities of seed and are widely distributed; over time the parent can be replaced by an imposter.

What are most noticeable and striking about it to me are the great red bracts, which give it its species name. Probably this was selected for the same reason; it's a very handsome, stately example of the species, and exhibits the chief characteristic that the species is associated with. For me it has two terminal buds and occasionally one on a branch, blooming just about at the top of the foliage."

So, Rudy – it looks like it is Siberian Iris – *Iris sanguinea* 'Kamayama'. And to be sure, I plan on contacting Jean Witt!

Minutes of Santa Rosa Iris Society Board Meeting, May 9, 2016

Board meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m.

1. Rudy reported that the Spring Show was a big success and we are happy to have so much good help.
2. Alleah Haley has agreed to print the photos for the rhizome sale bags. Diana Ford, Anna Cadd and Marlene Horn will help. Joe Lawrence will setup the format for computer entry and Alleah will create the list.
3. To make the November 'Come dressed as an Iris name' party simpler, it was agreed to present a plan to the general membership to use the list of 100 favorite iris names from the recent symposium. This list will be printed in the newsletter prior to the party. People could choose one of these names for their costume. This will be voted on at the general meeting.
4. Singing program was voted down.
5. Betty Ford, Diana Ford and Marlene Horn will work on the problem of incorrectly labeled door prize iris.

Welcome four new members; Mary True, Barbara Foley, Mary and Alexa Pagonas.
Meeting adjourned 6:25 p.m.

Minutes of Santa Rosa Iris Society Members Meeting, May 9, 2016

There was a wonderful program on Adaptive Gardening given by Toni Gattone.

General Meeting was called to order at 8:25 p.m.

The President, Rudy Ciuca began by thanking everyone for their hard work at the Spring Iris Show. He especially thanked Kathy McCallum for her work with the Press Democrat. They gave us a great boost with the front page of the gardening section. We had great turnout and sales.

Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's report was approved. The Spring Show brought in \$3050 before expenses.

Four members are starting judges training: Samira and her mother, Gilda, Kathy McCallum and Diana Ford. Mentors were assigned: Jim Begley will be Gilda's mentor, Betty Ford will work with Kathy, and Kitty Loberg will work with Diana.

A weeding party was set up.

A resolution was passed to allow up to \$120 for materials for Jeff Davis and Don Ford to build shelves in the shed.

Show Awards:

[listed on page 5 of this Newsletter]

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Ford, Secretary

Door Prize Winners for May

CANINE CAPER – Kitty Loberg
DESTINATION FABULOUS – Alexa Pagonas
DOUBLE WEDDING – Betty Ford
DOWN TO THE WIRE – Jim Begley
FREE AS THE WIND – Marlene Horn
GENTLE SOUL – Mary True
GOSSETT'S GAMBLE – Mary Pagonas
GREAT ESCAPE – Marlene Freetly
HEART OF HEARTS – Anna Cadd
HOSPITALITY – Bill Tatham
ISLAND NIGHTS – Don & Diana Ford
JUST A TOUCH – Linnea Polo
LITTLE LOVE SONG – Jean Sharp
MAGIC MIRROR – Lynn Williams
NOT BROKE THISTIME – Rudy Ciuca
OH CANADA – Alleah Haley
SEASONS IN THE SUN – Barbara Foley
SHINE ON ME SUNSHINE – Shirley Tatham
2 Iris Potholders – Mary True, Barbara Foley
1 Iris Coffee Cup – Kathy McCallum

Door Prizes for June

Rudy Ciuca

Please look over this list and familiarize yourself with the choices. When your name is chosen, please call out your name (not "me!"), which helps us keep track of the winners. We will try to pass out a list at the meeting so you can cross out selections as they are chosen. This should speed up the drawing.

AMBER RAINBOW (Kerr, 2014). **TB 36"** M. S. pinkish amber with red lavender flush from the base. Style arms amber; F. pinkish amber darker at halves, center blue lavender.

ANGELS ABOUND (Kerr, 2014). **TB 38"** M. White with ruffling and shearing at edge, pinkish yellow hafts; red beard tipped white.

BETTER TOGETHER (Schreiner, 2014). **TB 40"** M. S. light violet-blue, cream veining; F. darker blue-violet; beard hairs based purple, tips gold.

BETTY FORD (Kerr, 2014). **TB 38"** M. S. white; style arms same, light blue stigma; F. white to very light blue, strong medium blue edge; beards red; slight sweet fragrance.

BLACKWATER (Schreiner, 2014). **TB 38"** M. S. grey-purple; F. black; beards black.

BLUE MY MIND (Schreiner, 2014). **TB 35"** L. S. purple center, light blue edges; F. same; beard hairs based yellow, tips light purple.

BORDER SKIRMISH (Ghio, 2014). **BB 26"** EM. S. orange; F. orange base washed red to an almost solid red edge; beards tangerine.

BOSTON CREAM (Keppel, K., 2014). **TB 31"** E. S. warm white; style arms white; F. warm white, very faint green texture veining, shoulders lightly shaded apricot-buff; beards flame in throat, white tipped cadmium-orange in middle, white end.

CAMEO KEEPSAKE (Lynda Miller, 2015). **SDB 11-12"** M-L. S. and style arms clear peach-pink; F. slightly lighter peach-pink; beards baby blue.

COMMANDING PRESENCE (Black, 2014). **TB 31"** E-M. S. light lavender-blue; F. mid dark lavender-blue blend, narrow light blue blended band, plum haft veined pale blue; beards orange; pronounced sweet fragrance.

CORAL SUNRISE (L. Miller, 2014). **MTB 19"** EM. Coral self; beards dark coral.

COSMIC BLAST (Kerr, 2014). **TB 36"** M. S. yellow; F. lavender with olive edge, reddish brown center with dark brown veining; beards yellow.

ESCAPE FROM BOREDOM (Black, 2014). **TB 36"** E-M. S. butter cream flushed peach; style arms butter cream; F. cream center lined purple, blended to wide light peach band to narrow cream margin; beards orange; slight spicy fragrance.

GENTLE REMINDER (Keppel, 2014). **TB 42"** M. S. pale yellow; F. light lavender-blue, light yellow in throat; beards light yellow, lavender-white end.

GOLDEN SNITCH (Robert Skaggs, 2014). **TB 40"** M. S. light bronze tinted purple; F. light gold; beards bold gold, large; slight sweet fragrance.

HEAVENLY HOST (Ghio, 2014). **TB 42"** ML. S. white, pink base & midrib; F. white; beards same.

MARDI GRAS BALL (T. Johnson, 2014). **TB 35"** M-L. S. and style arms white; F. violet wash below beard becoming dark violet toward edge, touched yellow at hafts, 1/8" white band at rim; beards tangerine; slight fragrance.

MIDNIGHT ROSE (L. Painter, 2014). **TB 36"** L. S. light mauve-pink; style arms grey-pink, purple lip; gold-brown edges on sides; F. black-plum; beards old gold, hairs based purple, old gold tips; slight sweet musky fragrance.

MIDNIGHT VELVET (T. Johnson, 2014). **TB 32"** E. S. deep purple plicata over white ground; style arms deep purple; F. deep purple bar across hafts and wide deep purple-black plicata fall band on white ground, slight purple center stripe; beards purple, hairs tipped orange; slight fragrance.

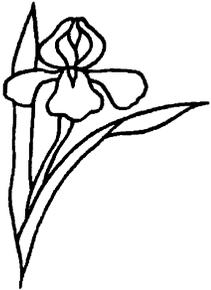
ONE LAST KISS (T. Johnson, 2014). **TB 40"** L. S. light pink; F. white, deep pink thumbprint hafts, light pink edge; beards deep blue-violet.

ONE STEP BEYOND (Tasco, 2014). **TB 34"** M. S. oxblood to brick red, light bronze lower midrib; F. velvety jet black, yellow veins near back portion of beard; beards golden orange, few purple-black hairs at end; lightly ruffled; medium purple based foliage; slight spicy fragrance.

WHAT A BEAUTY (Ghio, 2015). **TB 38"** EM. S. dusky rose-pink; style arms pink; F. white, rose-pink band; beards tangerine, tips white.

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

42ND YEAR NUMBER 6

JUNE 2016

President:
Rudy Ciuca

Vice President:
Anna Cadd

Newsletter Editor:
Alleah Haley

Erratum: In the May 2016 SRIS Newsletter the Minutes of the April 16, 2016 General Meeting were correctly presented but under the incorrect title "**Minutes of the Santa Rosa Iris Society Board Meeting, December 14, 2015.**" We regret the incorrect title for the April 16 General Meeting Minutes.

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 .

July Newsletter Deadline – June 20th