

The Newsletter of

The Santa Rosa Iris Society

43RD YEAR NUMBER 4

APRIL 2017

Officers 2017:

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Jeff Davis

Vice President

Anna Cadd

Treasurer

Joe Lawrence

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Diana Ford

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Anna Marie Hermansen

Kitty Loberg

Directors thru 12/18:

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2017 Show Chairman

Kitty Loberg

2017 Assistant Show Chairman

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2017 Potted Iris Sale Chairman

Alleah Haley

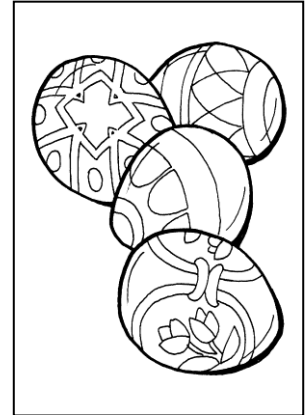
2017 Summer Rhizome Sales Chm.

Need volunteer

MONDAY, APRIL 10, 7:00 PM

JIM BEGLEY AND ROSS BEVIER – PREPARING YOUR IRISES FOR THE SHOW

We are privileged to have two Santa Rosa Iris Society members - Jim Begley and Ross BeVier - orient us on How to Groom and Show Irises. For those attending this hands-on demonstration at our regular meeting place, the Luther Burbank Art and Garden Center, you should bring your grooming tool kit and some blooming iris stalks so that you can participate in one-on-one grooming practice. And we'll have a mock mini-show. Remember that is also a "judges training" session, so bring your AIS *Handbook for Judges and Show Officials* and qualify for one hour judges training credit by completing the test.



Maybe Jeff Davis will add some important information about what to keep in your grooming kit and how to transport tall stalks in a small car. Proper "delivery" is the most important thing; staging is easy, if you practice at home ahead of time! And don't forget to fill out your entry tags – the best thing is to have them ready in abundance, because you never know how many irises you will bring to the show at the last minute. Free mailing labels, sent from charities, are best for filling out name and address. So come, learn and have fun. Blue ribbons, rosettes and medals are waiting!

Anna Cadd

Gardening Tips for April

Anna Cadd

1. It's April already and we wake each morning full of anticipation, as every day more and more irises open in this nice weather. Of course they are all well weeded and fertilized, so all that's left to do is to check the name labels to see that everything is properly identified. Please, consider buying the annual Registrations and Introductions booklets from the AIS Storefront at: http://www.irises.org/Member_Services/AIS_Storefront.html. Don't rely on Dave's Garden or various websites. The AIS booklets and 10-year Check Lists are the only proper sources of information about iris varieties. You can buy them all at reasonable prices, even older ones like those from 1939-1979 if

you are growing historic irises. The Iris Encyclopedia at <http://wiki.irises.org/bin/view/Main> with color pictures can also be helpful in verifying names.

2. On April 1, 2017 I helped judge the Artistic Division at the very early Clara B. Rees Iris Society show in San Jose. There weren't a lot of irises, but 23 flower arrangements; and they were beautiful! Please, enter a flower arrangement in our SRIS Show on May 6. Everybody can enter up to seven arrangements! They will really beautify our Show! You don't have to grow your own flowers, but you must make the arrangements yourself. For specifics on entering the Artistic Division, see the March SRIS Newsletter.
3. We travel a lot; but sometimes, going here and there, we don't visit less known gardens, because we don't know about them. The Tall Bearded Iris Society has a limited garden directory for all of the United States. Go to www.tbisonline.com, then click on Display Garden directory or contact Steve Barotta, 4200 Lake Crest Drive, McKinney, TX 75071; email: sbarotta@alumni.unc.edu; phone: 972-540-6337. If you would like to add your garden to the directory, from Garden Directory you can print off the application or send a self-addressed envelope to request an application.
4. This is the time of year when all the gardens are in the full bloom, irises and all, and it is time to stop running around and doing different, less important tasks. Please, sit in the sun, invite your neighbor for a cup of jasmine tea or drop an iris stalk off at a Senior Center or hospital. The smiles on people's faces will be the pay-off for long hours of weeding and sweating on your knees.

From the President's Desk

It's only a few weeks until we get to show off our best iris at our annual Iris Show and Sale, but the real reason we grow them is to experience the beauty of each as they continue to open in our gardens. Just yesterday I watched with wonder as seven stalks of 'Jesse's Song' began opening over a couple of hours. From the first flowers to the last I soak up the infinite variety of color and shape. Yes, it is work, almost year round, to grow this beautiful genus that our hybridizers have bred for us to grow in our gardens. Is it worth it? You bet! Please come to this month's meeting and bring one of your own jewels from your garden and learn how best to stage it at the show with our own masters, Jim Begley and Ross BeVier.

Jeff Davis

This Month

Monday April 10 – Jim Begley & Ross BeVier, "Preparing Your Irises for the Show". Members will hold a mini-show. 1 hr. judges training credit.

2017 Iris Events and Important SRIS Dates

Friday–Sunday, April 21-23 – Region 14 Spring Meeting "Iris Express", Crowne Plaza Hotel, 5321 Date Ave., Sacramento. Frannie's and Horton's Iris Gardens; guest speaker and judges trainer Dell Perry, Plano Texas.

Saturday and Sunday, May 6-7 (open 1-5 Sat., 10-5 Sun.) – SRIS Iris Show "An Iris for All Seasons" / Potted Iris Sale, LBAGC.

Monday May 8 – Cheryl Bryan, "Irids" (iris family plants).

Monday – Saturday, May 23-27, 2017 – AIS National Convention "Rhythm of the Prairie". Convention Hotel: Des Moines, Iowa, Marriott. Six gardens incl. Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden. For info go to www.irises.org, Member Services, Conventions/Activities. Registration form & hotel info on page 51 of Winter 2017 AIS Bulletin. Registration \$275 on or before March 15.

Monday June 12 – Kitty Loberg & Anna Cadd, Report on 2017 Region 14 Spring Meeting. Show awards presented.

Monday July 10 – Marlene Horn, "Club Irises available at the August Picnic/Auction".

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

Saturday August 5 – Potluck Picnic, Iris Auction and Raffle, C&L Vineyard, Sonoma.

Monday August 14 – No meeting.

Saturday August 26, 9-3 – Rhizome sale, LBAGC.

Tuesday thru Thursday, September 5-7 – 7th Annual Heirloom Expo, Sonoma Co. Fairgrounds. SRIS will have a booth.

Monday, September 11 – Anna Cadd, “Iris Culture”. Free seminar for new members.

Monday, October 9 – Rick Tasco, “My Iris Hybridizing Program”.

Saturday November 4, 15-5 PM – Holiday Potluck/Come Dressed as an Iris Name Costume Party, LBAGC. We’ll eat at 2:00 PM.

To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow. Audrey Hepburn

2017 Board Meetings - Board Members and Officers, please mark your calendars:

Monday, May 8, 6:00 PM

Monday, July 10, 6:00 PM

Monday, September 11, 6:00 PM

Monday, November 13, 6:00 PM

Monday, December 11, 6:00 PM

2017 Plant Sale Dates

Sonoma Co. Jail Plant Nursery & Teaching Garden, 2254 Ordinance Rd., Santa Rosa.

Saturday April 8, May 6, September 9, October 7 – 9 AM – Noon. Checks or cash only. Native & drought tolerant shrubs, perennials, succulents, fruit & ornamental trees, veggies. Master Gardeners on site to help you select plants and answer questions. Info and plant list at www.scoe/jailindustries or call Rick Stern 707-525-8310 or email jailind@mcn.org .

Occidental Arts and Ecology Center Nursery, 15290 Coleman Valley Rd., Occidental.

Saturday & Sunday, April 8-9 – 10 - 5, Spring Plant Sale

Saturday & Sunday, April 22-23 – 10 – 5, Summer Plant Sale

Saturday & Sunday, August 12-13, 19-20 – 10 – 5, Fall Plant Sale

<https://aoaec.org/events/plantsales> .

Nursery open Saturdays & Sundays, April – October, 10 – 5 (closed April 14-15) – vegetables, flowers, herbs, drought tolerant plants, habitat and pollinator plants.

Santa Rosa Junior College

Tuesday, April 11 – 10 AM – 2 PM

Sunday, May 7 (Day Under the Oaks) – 10 AM – 4 PM

Lark Hall Greenhouse, same building as the Planetarium. Cash, check, and credit cards accepted.

Men’s Garden Club, inside Coddington Mall in front of See’s Candies, Guerneville Rd. & Cleveland Ave., Santa Rosa. **Friday April 21 – 9 AM – 9 PM and Saturday April 22 – 9 AM – 3 PM.** Many varieties of geraniums, 50 varieties of tomatoes, succulents, dish gardens.

Willowside School, 5299 Hall Rd., Santa Rosa (corner of Willowside and Hall Rds.)

Saturdays, April 22, May 13, June 3, June 24, August 19, Sept. 9. Sept. 30, October 21, November 11 – 9 AM – 2 PM. Low water & drought tolerant perennials, natives: \$4/ 1 gallon pot. Japanese maples 3-5’ tall: \$25 - \$45/tree. No veggies. Call 707-569-4724 with questions.

Santa Rosa Garden Club, LBAGC, 2050 Yulupa Ave., Santa Rosa.

Saturday April 22 – 9 AM – 2 PM rain or shine. Drought tolerant plants incl. succulents and perennials, deer resistant plants, topiaries, indoor garage sale. Art Downing, the knife sharpener from the Farmers’ Market, will sharpen pruners and other garden tools – see <http://www.sonomacountyknifesharpening.com/prices.html> for prices. For info call 537-6885 or email gardenclubevents@yahoo.com .

Harvest for the Hungry Garden, 1717 Yulupa Ave., Santa Rosa (behind Christ Church United Methodist)

Saturday, April 22 – 9 AM – 2 PM. Huge sale of organic vegetable starts including >100 heirloom tomatoes & 50 varieties of peppers, habitat plants, herbs, flowering plants, garden art & supplies. www.harvestgarden.org .

Valley of the Moon Garden Club, Sonoma Community Center, 276 East Napa St., Sonoma.

Saturday, April 22 – 9 AM – Noon rain or shine. 4” and 1 gallon vegetables, perennials, succulents,

pollinators, handmade bird houses. Master Gardeners and experienced gardeners will answer questions. Call 707-935-8986 for info.

Green Thumb Garden Club, Cloverdale, Ace Hardware parking lot, 750 S. Cloverdale Blvd. **Saturday, April 22, 9 AM – 2 PM**. Tomatoes & other vegetable starts, succulents, drought tolerant plants, houseplants, white elephant table.

Windsor Garden Club, Windsor Town Green @ McClellan & Market St., Windsor. **Sunday, April 23 – 10 AM – 2 PM** (at Windsor's Earth Day Health & Wellness Festival) and **Sunday, October 22 – 10 AM – 1 PM** (succulent- topped pumpkin sale).

Graton Community Club, 8996 Graton Rd., Graton at the corner of Graton Rd. & Edison St.

Friday, April 28 & Saturday, April 29 – 9 AM – 4 PM. Floral arrangements, plant sale: tomatoes & other veggies, drought tolerant plants, succulents, bulbs.

Fall flower show Friday October 13 and Saturday October 14 – features lunch including homemade dessert for \$10 11-2 both days. Handcrafted quilts and tea towels; raffle, live music. 707-829-5314 / www.gratoncommunityclub.org .

Redwood Empire Rose Society, Rose plant sale and rose show, LBAGC, 2050 Yulupa Ave., Santa Rosa. **Saturday, April 29 – 1- 4 PM**. Sale of roses and companion plants.

Healdsburg Garden Club, Healdsburg Senior Living Center, 725 Grove St., Healdsburg.

Saturday, April 29 – 9 AM – 1 PM. Perennials, herbs, vegetable starts, cacti & succulents, plant baskets, teacups, and mugs. Clipper sharpening or orchid repotting for \$5; buffet lunch \$10.

American Fuchsia Society – Sebastopol Branch, Sebastopol Center for the Arts, Veteran's Bldg., 282 High St., Sebastopol. **Saturday, July 29 – 9 AM – 1 PM**. Hanging plants, upright plants. For info contact Gerri Crane 415-892-5808; Facebook Sebastopol Fuchsia Friends.

Milo Baker Chapter, California Native Plant Society, Santa Rosa Vet's Memorial Building, 1351 Baker, Ave., Santa Rosa. **Saturday, October 13 – 9 AM – 1 PM**. Native shrubs, perennials, bulbs, seeds. www.milobaker.cnps.org .

and ... at **Russian River Rose Company**, 1685 Magnolia Dr., Healdsburg – 707-433-7455

Garden and Nursery open every weekend in April and May, 10-5 with events:

April 8 & 9 "Glorious Irises, Bedazzlers of Spring"

April 15 & 16 "Early Blooming Roses & Iris Grand Show"

April 22 & 23 "Fragrant Roses to Fill Your Senses"

April 29 & 30 "Climbing Roses *Magnifique*"

May 13 Prelude to Mothers' Day

May 14 Mothers' Day Open Garden

May 20 & 21 *Deluxe Gourmet Perfume Rose Harvest Tours*

From the Editor – **Many thanks** for contributions to this issue: **Richard Berenter, Anna Cadd, Carolyn Craft** of Clara B. Rees Iris Society, **Jeff Davis, Phil Edinger, Betty Ford, Diana Ford, Anna Marie Hermansen, Joe Lawrence, Kitty Loberg**, and **Jan Tolmasoff** of Russian River Rose Co. *Alleah*

2017 SRIS Show: "An Iris for All Seasons"

Kitty Loberg

A few irises are beginning to bloom! It's always very exciting to see every iris come out! Show preparedness is coming along. I hope to get out community news announcements to places other than the Press Democrat. You all can help me by identifying other local news sources that I can send things to. Just drop me an email if you know of one.

We're going to need to change how we provide hospitality for the morning and lunch... as Rudy has indicated he won't be able to do the main course. At our next meeting, we'll need to expand our hospitality committee or decide on bringing in food from the outside. Bring your ideas please!

Show programs will be available at the April meeting. If you want to obtain your entry number, we'll have a sign-up sheet, and tags, so that you can do some early preparation of the tags to save you time. The morning of the show is always hectic... cutting in your garden at the crack of dawn, then trying to groom. This year, I've lengthened the entry time to allow until 9:30, giving all of us a little more time.

Below is a list of our Entry Classifications. The Artistic Division was printed in the March newsletter. One tip I want to give new exhibitors ... cut the entire bloom stalk, not a short portion. Be sure there is at least one open bloom; it does not need to be the top blossom. Do not pick stalks which have all blossoms expended on one branch as they get disqualified (unless you're bringing a single bloom for an English box). And, the week before the show or earlier, start propping your stalks upright so that you'll have straight stalks! I use big rocks (people always want to know why I have so many rocks in my garden). Plan on how you will transport carefully. And come to our April meeting to learn or be reminded on grooming and preparedness tips.

And we love to have everyone join us at the show, even if your exhibits are limited! Don't forget your camera!

Entry Classifications

Division 1 - Horticultural

Section A : Tall Bearded

Section B : Bearded Other Than Tall

Group 1 : Miniature Dwarf Bearded

Group 2 : Standard Dwarf Bearded

Group 3 : Intermediate Bearded

Group 4 : Miniature Tall Bearded

Group 5 : Border Bearded

Section C : Californicae / Pacific Coast Native

Section D : Siberian

Section E : Japanese

Section F : Louisiana

Section G : Spuria

Section H : Aril and Arilbred

Section J : Historic Iris

Iris introduced 30 or more years ago - 1987 and earlier. You may enter an historic cultivar in its appropriate class, or in Section J, but not both in the same show.

Section K : Space Age Iris

Iris with horns, spoons and /or flounces

Section L : Miscellaneous

Any iris not listed above, including species and bulbous iris

Section M : Collections

Three stalks of the same variety of iris-stressing uniformity

Section N : English Boxes

Five blooms, all of the same type (TB, IB, Siberian, etc.), without stalk, foliage, or buds, each correctly identified by name. Can be mixed colors, or similar in color (e.g. all plicatas, all pink selfs, or very ruffled). Uniformity in size and placement is encouraged.

Division 2 - Seedlings

Section P : Seedlings

Any unintroduced Iris of any type.

Division 3 - Youth

Section Q : Horticultural

Any type of iris by youth under 19 years of age. You may enter Division 1 or 3 but not both in the same show.

Division 4 - Educational

Section R : Educational

A display of some aspect of iris culture, diagrams and explanatory materials. May include plants. Best exhibit to receive a 1 year SRIS membership.

Those who won trophies last year and still have them should bring them to our April meeting, so that they're on hand for the Court of Honor at our May Show.

The Iris Learning Corner – *Iris dichotoma*, Vesper Iris

Anna Cadd

Not a lot of information can be found online about this iris, sometimes called *Pardanthopsis*. This iris is sometimes included in the genus *Iris* and sometimes separated into a genus in its own right. It is in the Iridaceae family and has only one species. It was introduced in 1773 as *Iris dichotoma*, separated out in 1972 as *Pardanthopsis dichotoma* and now considered by many to be *Iris dichotoma* again.

Iris dichotoma is from Siberia, China, and Mongolia and is one half of the combination which produced the so-called Candy Lilies, *Pardancanda norrisii*. The other parent was *Belamcanda chinensis*, now called *Iris domestica*. *Iris dichotoma* is often called the Vesper Iris. This species sometimes behaves as a biennial, so keep an eye on the seed pods! This species grows from a small rhizome that has thick, swollen roots, has a much branched flowering stem with hundreds of short lived flowers, which last only one night! <http://www.pacificbulbsociety.org/pbswiki/index.php/Pardanthopsis>
<http://wiki.irises.org/bin/view/Spec/SpecDichotoma>

The flowers of vesper iris open in the late afternoon over a period of several minutes, just about the time the sound of evening vespers might have wafted over an old monastery garden. It is a valuable addition to the garden also because of its late blooming season (high summer into early fall) and for its ability to bloom from seed started the same spring. The vesper iris has typical iris-looking leaf fans and abundantly branched, willowy bloom stalks rising to 4 feet. The inch-wide flowers range in color from pure white to violet.



And below are pictures of “Candy Lily” - *Pardancanda norrisii*, which has a lot of different colors from white, cream, red, orange to deep purple. It is cross *Belamcanda chinensis* x *Iris dichotoma* (syn. *Pardanthopsis dichotoma*) . The specific epithet honors amateur gardener Samuel Norris of Owensboro, Kentucky, who in 1967 crossed two different genera, *Belamcanda chinensis* (blackberry lily) and *Pardanthopsis dichotoma* (vesper iris) to produce X *Pardancanda*. I think we have this species planted in the SRIS Display Garden.



Iris albicans

On March 21 **Anna Marie Hermansen** emailed photos of an iris growing in a friend's garden in Glendale, California. "The clump was there in 1968 when the people moved into the home. House was built in 1945. She measured and it's about 22" tall. Picture was taken last week."



The closest Anna Marie could come up with was *Iris florentina*, and she asked for help with the ID.

Your editor forwarded the pictures and description to several members of HIPS (Historic Iris Preservation Society), and our own **Phil Edinger** responded almost immediately: "Good guess, but not quite. This is Albicans! Florentina is a grayed white (with different form) that never looks quite clean."

Phil emailed again on March 21: "Albicans is one of the first irises I grew when I was a kid. At the time I didn't know its name, just that it was fairly common in southern CA. But when I joined SCIS [Southern California Iris Society], I learned it was Albicans, that the common purple was Crimson King, and that the tall yellow with brownish wash on the falls was Alta California. That was in the early '50s, when there were a number of 'old timers' around who knew these things from the Old Days. Here's a photo of Albicans here several years ago as well as a shot of its blue form, Madonna. (More likely, Albicans is the white form of Madonna; I don't know of any instance of a white sporting to a color--always the color produces a white, i.e. colorless, form). ... These two are 44 chromosomes which makes them "germanicas" by chromosome count, but they stand apart from all others by their precision of form.

"Both have opened this week, along with assorted germanicas and various SDBs. All else (TBs) have no sign of bloomstalks yet--for which I'm glad! With the overall coolness so far (except for the faux spring recently), maybe the SRIS show won't be on the late side after all.

Happy Spring!
Phil'



Keeping In Touch

Newer member **Richard Berenter**, who lives in Marin County, emailed on March 19: "We went to Napa [Country Iris Garden] last year and what a treat. We have friends that live in Sunnyvale and thought it would be fun to visit [Nola's Iris Garden in San Jose] and introduce them to the beauty of an Iris farm. This will be our third year; went to Pleasant's Valley Iris 2 years ago and Napa last year. Hope one day to get to Superstition and see Rich's garden, but that will have to wait. And sorry to learn that Joe [Ghio] doesn't allow visitors in Santa Cruz, but his hybrids sure are amazing as evidenced by our Plot Line which opened on March 15 The weirdest thing about this year is that we've already had 4 TB iris bloom and today I noticed a bloom stalk on one of our standard dwarf plants (the first ever for us). Maybe the dwarfs are late because they are acclimated to Oregon time zone? Who knows? After having 4 TB open already I assumed that we wouldn't get any dwarf blooms because of something you mentioned last year- that perhaps they needed a colder winter to help them set bloom and the factors (warmer fall/ winter/ spring) that allowed our TB to bloom so early this year would also explain the absence of dwarf Iris. Making me possibly regret ordering dwarfs from Mid America this year, but at least that order will include Keppel's Brazilian Art and Florentine Silk. I'll see if my friends want to buy any Iris and offer [the Nola's coupon] to them; our garden is full and I can only add if I subtract at this point and there are already 2 Painter Iris we'll probably order next year when I decide what's got to go (Rustic Charm- Lesley's intro this year and John's Spice Trader from a few years back)."

Dr. Berenter emailed again two days later: "When our dwarf and miniature dwarf didn't set bloom in the beginning of the month (and with 4 of the TB's already open) I was coming to the conclusion that maybe it's just not feasible for us to grow them in our climate/ or my care just wasn't up to par. I am thrilled to find out this past week that all of them seem to be forming flower buds with the exception of Keith's Decorum (my favorite of course). What a relief; as I was thinking I may have made an error in purchasing more SDB Iris this year from Mid-America. Now I might actually add more to the order! The next big hurdle for us; trying our hand at PCI later this year."

Richard and Annie" [**Danberg, Dr. Berenter's** wife – our newest member]

We'd like to encourage Dr. Berenter that his iris culture appears to be excellent, that irises bloom in response to not only their culture but also their genetics and the location and weather conditions where

they are planted (not where they originated be that Australia or Oregon, or wherever, although irises perform best in the general area where they were selected); and that early flowering/winter flowering is a mark of good care and often rebloom potential. Good work, Richard!

Happy Birthday April Babies

Debby Hertz 4/6
Tulug Kenaoglu 4/7
Alexa Pagonas 4/8
Alice Kemper 4/9
Richard S. Shore, M.D. 4/10
Betty Ford 4/12
Joe Lawrence 4/13
Chris Bing 4/15
Mary True 4/15
Vicki Yarnal 4/17

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 **May 2017** issue of this Newsletter is **April 20, 2017**. E-mail copy to: alleah.haley@gmail.com.*

Irises in My Santa Rosa Garden

Anna Marie Hermansen – March 30, 2017

'Leave The Light crazy! It was since it didn't do well bloom stalks as well On its way out is has several lovely took a hit. Trying to Smith. It's shorter so maybe it needs bloom stalks on 'Double Overtime', 'Bravery', 'Brouhaha', 'Edge of the World', and 'Stolen Sweets', so maybe some blooms will appear in a week or two depending on the weather.



On', a 2013 IB by Riley Probst, is blooming like planted in 2015 and moved as a clump last year where it was. It's now a huge clump with lots of as blooms!

'Cache of Gold', a 2004 SDB by George Sutton. It blooms, but when the rains hit, the blooms also bloom now is 'Starwoman', a 1997 IB by Marky than the 25" as indicated. I just planted it last year, another year to get a good foothold. I do have bloom stalks on 'Double Overtime', 'Bravery', 'Brouhaha', 'Edge of the World', and 'Stolen Sweets', so maybe some blooms will appear in a week or two depending on the weather.

Another Rebloom Report

Mary True emailed on March 9: "[The March] newsletter ... reminded me I was going to send you the name of the iris that bloomed through my dining room window for two weeks during Christmas and New Years. It is "Free as the Wind", an iris I received from the club at the auction and I planted in a medium sized clay pot. It grew several stalks that bloomed sequentially with long lasting, lovely lavender blooms. When it was finished blooming its well shaped narrow leaves look attractive in the flower pot. It is about -12"- 14" tall. I appreciate whoever donated this wonderful rhizome."

'Free as the Wind' (Tasco, 2015) is an arilbred. Its pollen parent is a reblooming SDB.

Irises at Point Reyes National Seashore

Carolyn Craft of Clara B. Rees Iris Society in San Jose emailed on January 21, 2017: "Have you ever gone to Point Reyes during iris bloom season? It takes a whole day and the first time, there were

blooming iris for miles. Luckily Garry [Knipe, a PCI hybridizer] took lots of photos or no one would have believed us how many iris were there and blooming. Last year my husband took me there ... and we had a wonderful day. I recommend it to all irisarians.”

A call to the ranger station at Point Reyes National Seashore on April 5 elicited information that peak bloom of the local irises (*Iris douglasiana?*) should occur this year during the last three weeks of April.



We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give. Winston Churchill

Minutes of Santa Rosa Iris Society Board Meeting, March 13, 2017

Meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m. Members present included: Delores McKey, Anna Marie Hermansen, Alice Kemper, Alleah Haley, Cheryl Bryan, Anna Cadd, Dan Cooper, Betty Ford, Kitty Loberg, Steve Albert, Marlene Freetly, Juanita Breckwoldt, Bob Breckwoldt Jr., Kathy McCallum, Marlene Horn, Diana Ford, Jim Begley, Mary True and Joe Lawrence.

There was a discussion about the January Board meeting and minutes.

Correspondence questions included: Payment of affiliation, club audit, trouble finding a person at UC Davis to accept our donation, letter from the Heirloom Expo requesting our reservation.

It was agreed to pay the affiliation fee, Kitty will do an audit of 2016 and we will reserve the booth at the Heirloom Expo.

There was a question about Rick Tasco doing our October presentation. Joe reported that Rudy is in conversation with him and we will pay his transportation. The region may want to add this event to their bulletin, since other region 14 members may wish to attend.

Kitty reported on the Spring Show preparations. The Show is approved by AIS, the program and posters have been printed and ribbons ordered. There was question about publications and newspapers and radio. Kathy McCallum will contact the Press Democrat. Still looking for information on other publications and radio stations to carry the notice. Continue this next month. Joe will supply the master of the culture sheet and some other handouts needed. Anna Marie and Alleah will print out labels and make up the book of pictures. Anna Marie will send out a notice calling for lists of potted plants members can bring for the sale. A number of suggestions were discussed for the food at the show luncheon. Several people will bring dishes and a main dish will be ordered or prepared on site. More food discussion will be needed next month.

Garden report included: Anna, Jeff and Jean pulled weeds for a number of days and worked on fertilizer, weed guard and irrigation. The garden looks spectacular. Some of the new signs are designed and done and some signs and sign boards are nearing completion. Jeff will ask for guidelines at the LBC meeting for placing permanent signs.

Jeff is trying to find a good date for our Spring Show in 2018. He will try to request April 28 and 29 for next year if it is available. We have to coordinate with other garden clubs for the prime spring weekends.

We need items for the gift basket our club donates to the spring regional. Please bring items to next meeting.

Form for LBC rent is due. Joe will work on that.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Program: Anna Cadd spent all afternoon preparing an amazing show with arrangements for every class and section of the Artistic Division. It was beautiful. She explained what sort of thing would be required for each entry and then prepared arrangements out of her leftover materials. She made up kits for all of us containing the items we would need to make our own arrangements. This was a spectacular presentation.

Minutes of Santa Rosa Iris Society Members Meeting, March 13, 2017

The General Meeting was called to order at 8:45 p.m. Jeff encouraged members to pay this year's membership dues.

Treasurer's report was presented and approved. Minutes were approved.

Kitty reported on the Spring Show. Entries will be accepted on the day of the show. Asked for anyone with information on publications or radio for advertising. The seed bank will display a poster. There was a discussion about the award cups and may need a committee for this. Anna had borrowed some possible award plaques to view and they were approved. There was a discussion of the logistics for setting up this show and the additional room needed to house the artistic division.

Alleah apologized for the mishap with the electronic newsletter where she left out part of the president's message.

There was a reminder about the spring regional. Go to www.aisregion14.org for information.

Jim Begley asked if anyone had sprayed BannerMax® in the garden. He agreed to spray it.

The presentation next month will be Jim Begley and Ross BeVier explaining how to present iris for the show. They will go over the equipment supplied by the club and how to use it, what judges will look for and even how to prepare iris ahead of time for their big day. This presentation will be a judges training event as well as a general meeting. Please bring your judges manual if you want credit for a training.

Diana Ford, SRIS Secretary

Door Prize Winners for March

Ancient Airs – Anna Cadd

Bet the Farm – Anna Marie Hermansen

Blushing Grapes – Alleah Haley

Bold Pattern – Kathy McCallum

Celtic Tartan – Jeff Davis

Fanta – Barbara Foley

Fire Danger – Marlene Freetly

Get Back - Alice Kemper

High Desert – Diana Ford

Infidel – Steve Albert

Lavender Lemon Cake – Delores McKey

Mixed Signals - Joe Lawrence

Oh Canada – Juanita Breckwoldt

Pure Majestic – Linnea Polo

Puzzled – Marlene Horn

Rainbow Sunset – Anna Cadd

Shine on Me Sunshine – Betty Ford

Sweet Child of Mine – Mary True

Tickle My Fancy – Jim Begley

Watercolor Print – Kitty Loberg

Waves of Joy – Ellyn Mavalwalla

Wingman – Bob Breckwoldt

The Spring Regional and SRIS Gift Basket

At the spring and fall AIS Region 14 meetings, gift baskets are raffled off for fundraising for the Region. Santa Rosa Iris Society always donates a basket, and it is often spectacular! Please bring your donations of iris, gardening, or Sonoma County items to the April meeting.

The Spring Regional meeting will be held April 21-23, 2017, co-sponsored by Sacramento & Sierra Foothills Iris Societies. The Crowne Plaza Hotel on Date Ave. in Sacramento is the convention hotel. The guest speaker / judges trainer is Dell Perry from Plano, Texas. About 160 guest irises have been planted and we will be carpooling to view them in two Sacramento- area commercial gardens: Horton

Iris Garden in Loomis and Frannie's Iris Garden in Elk Grove. Ruth Ostroff's garden in Rio Linda is an optional tour garden. You can use the Registration Form in this Newsletter.

Preparing Irises for the Show

Anna Cadd

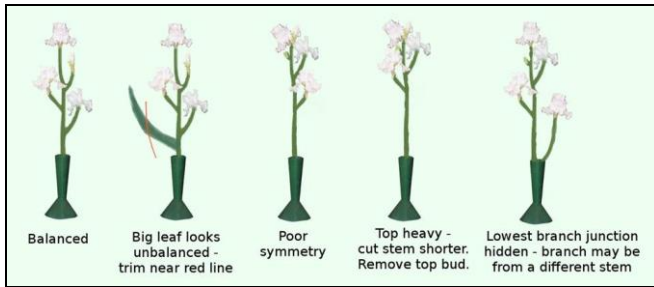
This short note cannot include everything that you need to know to successfully enter irises in our Show. For our April program Ross BeVier and Jim Begley will tell you all the secrets. But based on David's and my experience in entering about 100 specimens each year, here are some thoughts.

Iris stalks on the show bench are not judged for the color of the flowers or the growth habits of the plant. The gardener has nothing to say about why the iris was introduced by its hybridizer or about the garden value of the iris. Iris stalks at the show are judged for the freshness of the blooms, the symmetry of the stalk, and on whether the exhibitor has presented the stalk according to the criteria of the show. So we can almost say that it is the **gardener = exhibitor** who is being judged for his skills of growing, preparing and exhibiting the iris. Beautiful, ruffled modern iris will lose points on the show bench to an old fashion, "ugly" one, if the older one is properly grown and exhibited - and the "beauty" is grown and prepared poorly. **This is the most important distinction to learn about exhibiting iris at a show versus iris estimation and evaluation in the garden.** Please give it some thought. The gardener can't improve the value of an introduced variety, but he can grow and exhibit it to the best of his ability and this is what the judges are evaluating – they are evaluating the skills of the gardener. And this is what we need to teach show visitors.

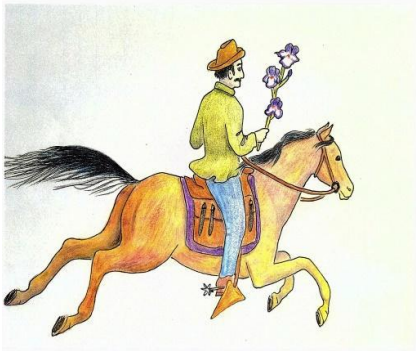
Preparing an iris stalk for a show might be thought of as a special type of Floral Art. Here is a summary of what judges are looking for in an AIS sanctioned show:

1. The top flower on the stalk looks the best when it is fully open, but it is not required to have the top flower open.
2. At least one flower on the stalk (and preferably 2 or 3) must be open.
3. The stalk must be standing upright, not leaning over.
4. Branches must be fully in view – it is not acceptable for the junction of stem and branch to be hidden inside the vase. 1" of the stalk is preferred to be shown above the top of container.
5. The packing material (usually pieces of iris stem or leaves) which holds the stem upright must not protrude out the top of the vase.
6. Flowers should be clean and fresh, without insects, and free from damage and blemishes.
7. Flowers should be well spaced, not crowded together. Prop the buds in the garden a week before the Show with pieces of stem, cotton balls or Styrofoam peanuts.
8. Spathes may be gently trimmed or glued to keep them tidy and unobtrusive. Don't let judges see your work!
9. If a leaf interferes with the flowers, it can be trimmed with scissors or a razor blade. Keep a natural curve and taper to the leaf, don't chop it off square.
10. If you get lots of fingerprints on the stem while preparing it, then wipe the stem gently to restore a smooth finish. Do not polish the stem or powder it!
11. Overall, the stalk should appear well balanced, with its 'best side' towards the front. Placement of the entry tag will tell where you would like to have the front of your entry.
12. Come early the morning of the show. You can ruin a good stalk by rushing. Also you may do a "dry" run the day before to learn how to transport the stalks and the location of the pot-holes!

The following illustration shows a well-balanced stalk, followed by a few stalks that have various faults.



A duck walked into a store and asked, "Got any candy?" The storekeeper said, "No, we don't." The next day, the duck went into the same store and asked the same thing and got the same answer. The duck went back every day for a week, asked the same thing, and kept getting the same answer until the storekeeper got so angry he said, "if you come in here and ask that again, I will hit you on the head with a hammer!" The next day, the duck walked into the store and asked "Got a hammer?" The storekeeper said, "No." Then the duck asked, "Got any candy?" - subm. by Anna Cadd



2017 Spring Regional April 21, 22 &23

“Iris Express”

**Co-sponsored by Sacramento Iris Society and Sierra Foothills Iris Society
Guest Speaker – Dell Perry from Plano TX**

**Conference Hotel
Crowne Plaza 5321 Date Ave, Sacramento, CA 95841
Contact for room reservations at (877) 504-0054**

**To receive the group rate, use the name Regional Iris Society when making your reservation.
The room rate is available until April 3, 2017.
Hotel room rates are \$109.00+ tax for double or single per night.
Breakfast is included for hotel guests. No pets allowed.**

Registrant #1 First Name _____ Last Name _____

Registrant #2 First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____ City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail for confirmation _____

Local Iris Society _____

Registration fee if paid by April 1st 2017 \$95.00 x person (s) _____ Total \$ _____

if paid after April 1st 2017 \$105.00 x person (s) _____ Total \$ _____

(No refunds after April 8, 2017)

**Registration includes lunch and dinner on Saturday
Please indicate registrant # 1 or #2 for lunch choice**

Lunch:

Roast Beef Sandwich _____

Ham Sandwich _____

Turkey Sandwich _____

Veggie Sandwich _____

Dinner Buffet includes: Salad-Green and Caesar, Marinated Grilled Tri-Tip, Marinated Grilled Chicken, Rice Pilaf, Mashed Potatoes, Vegetable, Rolls, Carrot Cake.

Please make checks payable to Sierra Foothills Iris Society.

Please send registration to: Yvette Meador, P O Box 332 Applegate, CA 95703

E-mail ymeador@yahoo.com or phone 530 878-0944

Judges Training Sunday April 23rd 9am Horton’s Garden

Will attend Yes _____ No _____ Maybe _____

Iris Show Friday April 21st Crown Plaza Hotel

Will enter Yes _____ No _____ Maybe _____

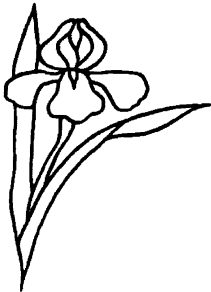
Iris Entries accepted Friday 3:00-5:30pm Judging at 6:00pm

Meeting Region 14 Board/General meeting Friday, April 21, 2017, 7:00 pm

Yes _____ No _____ Maybe _____

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

43^dRD YEAR NUMBER 4

APRIL 2017

President:
Jeff Davis

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.

May Newsletter Deadline – April 20th