

Officers 2025:

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Anna Cadd

Vice President

Jeff Davis

Treasurer

Kitty Loberg

Secretary

Diana Ford

Past President

Jeff Davis

Historian

Anna Cadd

Membership Secretary

Anna Cadd

Librarian

Cheryl Bryan

Newsletter Editor

Anna Marie Hermansen

Assistant Editor

Kathy McCallum

Directors thru 12/25:

Paul Barthlome

Ellen Johnson

Directors thru 12/26:

Linnea Polo

Steve Albert

Denise Plummer

Standing Committees:

Attendance

Diana Ford

Display Garden Chairmen

Jeff Davis

Iris Distribution Coordinator

Anna Marie Hermansen

Hospitality

Diana and Don Ford

LBAGC Representatives

Jeff Davis

Anna Cadd

Alternate - Paul Barthlome

Photography

Need Volunteer

2026 Show Chairman

Need Volunteer

2026 Assistant Show Chairman

Need Volunteer

2026 Potted Iris Sale Chairman

Need Volunteer

2026 Summer Rhizome Sales Chm.

Need Volunteer



• **December 8th - LBA&GC- noon**

- Board meeting - No program; possible discussions on the budget and/or program for 2026..



President's Message - from Anna Cadd

As my term as the President of Santa Rosa Iris Society is slowly coming to an end, I would like to thank every member of our Society for this wonderful opportunity. It has been a pleasure and honor to guide the Society through the great times in the gardens, hosting National and Regional Conventions, planting and tending our beautiful Display Garden, participating in Iris Shows, learning together about different types of irises and meeting old and new friends. Several of the members are not with us anymore, and we will remember them always. A lot older irises are moved from our gardens, making room for the new varieties. Our financial situation is in great shape. We have gained new members and we are hoping for great fun together next year. We attended the parties, learned all about irises through the AIS Webinars and Zoom meetings. We publish a great Newsletter and are recognized on the national forum. We argued and agreed on different topics. We gained a lot of happy customers selling our irises. We have a great presence on social media. Our meetings on second Mondays of the month are lasting long after the meeting – out on the parking lot. And even if sometimes we have different opinions, we are friends, united in the desire to spread joy and fun with the love of our gardens, our flowers and our irises. We are all a part of Santa Rosa Iris Society. Thank you to all the Members of the Executive Committee, Board Members and all of YOU for the fabulous times during these years.

We welcome Ellen Johnson and the New Officers and Executive Committee members to guide us with joy and knowledge into more happy years in Santa Rosa Iris Society!

Thank you all, Anna Cadd



Cindy Biehler
P.O.Box 131
Tomales, CA 94971

Michael Sasso
P.O.Box 336
Geyserville, CA 95441

A
CHARLIE
BROWN
Christmas



Gardening Tips for December by Anna Cadd



1. How time flies when you are “having fun!” We are approaching the end of year 2025 and as always, we are wishing that the New Year 2026 will be better. There are always hope and great expectations. We are living in Northern California and this is the “chosen spot on Earth.” One hundred and five years ago folks on the East Coast decided to organize The American Iris Society and - looking into the future - probably didn’t expect it to last so long. But it has lasted and is as strong as ever, with different approaches to meetings, conventions and friendships. It’s 100 year ANNIVERSARY Convention 2020 in New York was canceled because of Covid 19. This year’s Convention in Newark, New York will be in May 2026, with a touch of history. One of the gardens will be Presby Garden, where American Iris Society was first organized. Ladies may be dressed in historic gowns for the opening Banquet.... But here, at home, our gardens next spring will be as beautiful as can be, the irises and different flowers will bloom, the trees will hide the branches in clouds of pink flowers, the birds will sing... Soon there will be hope in the air with Christmas Carols, without beating the crowds in the malls and with angels singing in the manger... Merry Christmas, everyone!
2. Not very much to do in the garden, and still so much to do! If there are weeds, it is time to pull them out, as they are small and their roots are easy to remove in wet soil. Garden tools need to be to put away for a short time. Do not rake the fallen leaves yet. They protect the soil from weeds and are still so beautiful on the ground. Do not prune the roses and “dead” looking flowers, as the old leaves and branches are giving plants “the warm blankets” for morning colds.
3. If you need to see color in your garden, there are beautiful mums, cyclamens and pansies to buy and plant. This is also a great time to plant trees, bushes and perennials. I learned that it is better to buy a little more expensive plant in a reputable nursery. They will be with us forever and extra money will pay out in the long run. But, if you feel like “rescuing” the “tired” plants for half price – this is OK too. Everything needs some love...
4. If you have potted plants, water them twice a week in dry weather. The soil can still dry out. Some more sensitive plants needs to be moved to warmer location or indoors. Sometimes a small blanket on a cold, starry night is all whatever it’s takes...
5. It is cold in the morning, so why not bring some beauty indoors and admire it during your morning coffee? Make a table decoration from the abundance of golden-red branches, twigs of conifers or Pyracantha berries. Maybe you have blooming chrysanthemum in your garden? Everything costs a lot these days, but small handfuls of carnations, mums, sunflowers or marigolds can be bought for less than ten dollars. Floral arrangements look stunning with flowers of two colors. Choose various shades of these colors to provide depth. Slice stems at 45° angles and re-trim them daily. All cut blooms benefit from some food and an antibacterial agent, so make your own batch of flower preservative to keep your newly-created arrangement fresh. Mix 1 t sugar, 1 t lemon juice, and 3 drops of bleach with 32 oz. of water and pour this into the vase.
6. Choose the perfect winter wreath to hang on your door and a Christmas tree, full of the scent of the forest and memories of your childhood. Fresh baked cookies are in order too!!!
7. It is a privilege to write the monthly Gardening Tips for The Santa Rosa Iris Society Newsletter. Sometimes it is easy, sometimes there is writer’s block. And it is always nice to get some feedback from our members and different readers. I wish that in the New Year we will still have something to write about, to brag about, to admire.... I would like to say Thank you to our wonderful Editor, Anna Marie Hermansen and assistant, Kathy McCallum. Also thanks to all of you, who contribute to our newsletter. It is a joy to read it all.
8. I wish everybody a happy, peaceful end of the year, Merry Christmas and many garden adventures in the future. Love to all and hope for the world...

Keeping In Touch

Dianna Murphy - Nov. 2Windsor

Here is Elron's Cloak. I was so happy to see it blooming. I got it at the "member only" iris sale this year.



Ellen Johnson - Nov. 23 Healdsburg

Just got these blooming today ... Chartered Course, Breaking Point and Ridgecrest(?)



Something to Look Forward To.....

2026 Spring Regional - Region 14: May 15 - 17 : Reno

Hosted by the High Desert Iris Society in Reno, Nevada

There will be two guest iris gardens, both in the Reno area. Plans are for general iris viewing, selection of iris for awards, and in-garden judges' training sessions.



2026 AIS National Convention: May 18 - 24: New Jersey and New York

Convention Hotel: Newark Liberty International Airport Marriott Hotel

Convention website: ais2026convention.org

There are four gardens, each with their own day:

Brooklyn Botanical Gardens, Presby Memorial Iris Gardens,
Rutgers Gardens, and Gary Slagle's Garden - Phanaticville

2027 AIS National Convention: April 27 - May 1 (tentative): Oklahoma City

From Kitty Loberg November 10

Today, at our Winter potluck, a couple of members had received the AIS Fall 2025 bulletin. Member Sophia Brantley even came dressed as the iris 'Marigold Princess' which was shown on page 40 of the bulletin, a 2025 introduction by Gary Slagle. She went on to win both the Best Impersonator and Personal Favorite categories because of her iris impersonation!

This issue also included a long article about the trip to Italy by Anna Cadd and Jeff Davis. Anna was invited this year to be one of the International Judges at the Premio Firenze competition in Florence, Italy. A very informative article that will make you feel like you were there!



But the real reason I'm writing about the Fall 2025 bulletin (which was in my mailbox when I got home), is to give a shout out to Diana Ford, for her AIS award this year for Centennial Celebration. It received the HIGHEST number of votes in the tall bearded Award of Merit category, that is an amazing achievement! (see page 18).

AIS awards are achieved through the process of annual voting by accredited judges. Eligibility for the Award of Merit begins the second year after the iris variety has received the HM Award and eligibility continues for three years. As an accredited judge myself, I was allowed to vote for up to 32 varieties in the AM category, and once all the votes are tallied from across all of the USA, only the top 32 vote recipients receive the AM Award. (Out of 3,210 votes cast)

Diana's iris Centennial Celebration had already received the HM (Honorable Mention) award in 2023, and **in it's FIRST year of eligibility for the AM award, it went to the top of the list!** I can't say enough about how amazing and unexpected this accomplishment is!

This award now makes Diana's iris eligible in future years to receive the John C. Wister Medal, and perhaps even the Dykes Medal. I won't be a bit surprised if we see it continue to get higher awards! It is an early bloomer for me, and a very strong grower.

Hip, Hip, Hooray Diana!

From Anna Cadd

Our Club, SRIS, is doing great! Congratulations, Diana!
Also my introduction "Poetry In Bloom" got 24 votes and is listed on the 9th place from the top with both of us getting the Award Of Merit.
Let's go for Wister Medal!



Potluck Party - delicious food photos from Anna Cadd and Linnea Polo



Potluck Party decorations and prizes courtesy of Anna Cadd



Potluck Party pictures. Enjoy the people with their costumes representing an iris name.

Dorothy Quong - Poetry in Bloom



Jeff Davis - Zebra Butter



Cheryl Bryan-Smiles All Around



Anna Cadd - the Other Side of Pluto



Trang Bui - Got Milk



Ellen Johnson - Splashacata



Diana Ford - Haunted Heart



Steve Albert - Cat's Eye



Kitty Loberg - Bottle Rocket



more on the next page

continued from previous page

Linnea Polo - Wintry Sky



Sally George - Notta Lemon



Bev Fleming - Wilder Ranch



Clara Brown - Queen's Circle



Sophia Brantley - Marigold Princess



From Kitty LobergPotluck Party winners received a nice plant

Member who guessed the most Iris impersonations: Sally George (12 of the 15 total)



Member who had the Best Impersonation:

Sophia Brantley with 'Marigold Princess'

Member whose personal favorite received the most votes:

Sophia Brantley with 'Marigold Princess'

Member who had the Master Perplexer (hardest to guess), was a tie:

Steve Albert with 'Cat's Eye' and
Cheryl Bryan with 'Smiles All Around'

Welcome New SRIS Members in Year 2025...by Anna Cadd, SRIS Membership Secretary

This was a very joyous year for our club. We welcomed many new members, with the hope that they will attend our meetings and participate in SRIS activities. Please don't feel intimidated if maybe you don't know some of the terminology that we "older members" use almost without thinking. Don't be shy to ask how we know the growing conditions of the irises and different types of them and how we know the tricks to enter and win the iris shows. We all started from zero, and we learned along the way all what we know about irises. And, believe me, we don't know enough! You will learn with us and this will be a joyous way to learn. There is a lot of information on the Internet, but nothing is better than personal interaction. So, ask your questions, because there is no silly question. Contradict our methods if you know how to do something better. Contact us by phone or by e-mail, if you have the questions. Be part of this small group of friends who have fun together! It is all about spreading joy, beauty and friendship in sometimes darker days.

Welcome the new members in 2025:

Mike Bernard, Cindy Biehler, Sophia Brantley, Trang Bui, Dana DiRicco, Bev Fleming, Tom Henry, Sharon Johnson, Morgan Marchbanks, Cherri Marcucci, Phil Marcucci, Dianna Murphy, TJ Murphy, Clark Plummer, Dorothy Quong, Michael W. Sasso, Petcharee Tamawong.

As a courtesy of Santa Rosa Iris Society all new SRIS Members will be now become members of American Iris Society for one year. They will receive 4 issues of AIS Bulletins, monthly AIS electronic Bulletin and all the perks of being the AIS member. This organization has now about 8000 members and this is our "parent" organization. Presently, the AIS President is: Bonnie Nichols

3365 Northaven Rd., Dallas, TX 75229

Phone: (214) 676-9892 E-mail: bjnhtn@aol.com

AIS is divided by Regions, with Regional Vice Presidents and Clubs affiliated with the Region. There are 22 Regions in USA and we are in Region 14; California, Nevada and Hawaii. Our Regional Vice President is:

Dan Williams, Reno, NV

phone: 775-851-5220 E-mail: kuha@aol.com

For all AIS information – please go on line and Google <https://www.irises.org/> You will enter the AIS website and please, check all the tabs. And don't forget to check the Iris Wiki Encyclopedia at <https://wiki.irises.org/>. There you will find the pages for every introduced iris with pictures and information about each iris, all organized by different types of irises. You will also find the info about Hybridizers, Iris Blogs and all sorts of iris knowledge.

Please, use this valuable resource to learn about irises.



Popularity Poll Open to All Irisians. Please Read and Vote from Anna Cadd



The new AIS Iris Popularity Poll opened for voting on November 1 and will close on January 31, 2026. The poll is open to all classes of irises, both bearded and beardless, not just tall bearded.

Instead of providing you a list of irises (as in the Tall Bearded Symposium, which this is replacing), you will be able to type in the names of your favorite irises on an online form and submit it electronically. You will be asked to give the state where you garden, the name of the iris (up to 25 different cultivars) and the class of each iris you named. **We will also be asking for the voters' names just in case several people use the same email address in order for those to be counted as separate voters. For those without a computer, please submit your votes to your RVP or affiliate chair.** We hope you will restrict your votes to irises you have seen growing well in your region or home garden.

The committee sees huge potential from data collected from iris lovers who live all over the US and Canada. This poll is open to anyone, so your fellow club members who have not yet joined AIS may also vote. Because the poll includes all classes of irises, we can find out what irises people are enjoying all over North America. Some of the cooperating societies and affiliates such as the Dwarf Iris Society have their own polls, which provide useful information about what their members grow. This poll, under the auspices of AIS, can reach beyond the AIS membership, such as affiliates, sections and cooperating society members, plus other gardeners who also love irises.

We are hoping that analysis of the data (especially useful if enough of you vote) will show us favorite irises by region and state. We'd also like to use the data to see what irises do well in the frozen north, the humid southeast, the hot desert, and under other growing conditions. Maybe you will find that there is a class of irises you didn't know does well in similar growing conditions to yours. Results could let you know the names of different types of irises you might want to try. To participate in the 2025 Iris Popularity Poll, choose up to 25 favorite irises that you have seen growing well in your area. If you are unsure how to spell an iris name, please check the Iris Encyclopedia <https://wiki.irises.org/>. You (or a helper) can access the online popularity poll between November 1, 2025, and January 31, 2026. To submit a response:

- 1) Click this [online form link](#) or use the QR code to reach it.
- 2) Enter an email address and the respondent's name.
- 3) Select the appropriate state, province, or territory.
- 4) Select the appropriate AIS region (if known)
- 5) For each of the 25 favorite irises, type its name and classification (if known).
- 6) There will be dropdowns to help select state, AIS Region and iris type.

We are looking forward to your votes.

**MEMBERSHIP
RENEWAL**
Annual Dues

Update on SRIS's youngest guest member, Peanut from Ellen Johnson

Peanut has been to many Iris Society functions. He came with a mass on his cheek with his siblings and mom. Had to pull him from mom as he was not able to nurse. Peanut was 4 ounces to his siblings' 12 ounces. He is a happy spunky loving kitten. He has never let this phase him. He is a fighter for sure. He was at the regional with me all day. He has struggled and tried to gain weight to get big enough for testing at UC Davis. Tests show it is a large cyst involving his trachea, lymph node and salivary gland, thus deforming his jaw and ear drum. On Dec 5th, Peanut will finally get his cyst removed. It will be a scary surgery, but he is in great hands. Prayers for a successful outcome. I will be a worried momma until I get the news he is ok.



Minutes: Meeting - November 10 Diana Ford

Those attending included: Sally, Pam, Trang, Sofia, Bev, Cheryl, Linnea, Clara, Ellen, Anna, Jeff, Dorothy, Kitty, Steve and Diana.

The feast was huge, enough for three clubs.

The costumes were all inventive and interesting, the guessing was going wild. Anna took pictures of everyone and Kitty kept track of the votes. There was a table filled with lovely Chrysanthemums for prizes. Sally guessed the most names, Sofia won best impersonation, Sofia won favorite impersonation with Pam in second place, Steve and Cheryl got the perplexer awards. Anna started the meeting by stating that she was handing over her power as president to Ellen. Jeff agreed to stay on as Vice President, Kitty agreed to stay on as Treasurer and Diana agreed to stay on as Secretary. Those present agreed to these officers. We still need two directors since the terms are up for two of our directors as of January 1. This is a very simple job, you need to attend meetings once a month and give your input on projects and events.

Anna Marie has agreed to continue making the newsletter but has to give up being the door prize coordinator. The responsibilities for this job include examining the Iris planted in the club bed, determining the number of increases each plant is making (counting the number of fans), and making up a list of 15-17 Iris to choose from as door prizes each month, starting in February. The coordinator needs to record who won which Iris and send the list to the newsletter editor. At the dig in July, the coordinator will need a bag for each participant with a list of which Iris were won that year. Then when the bags of Iris get processed, the Iris are doled out to the bags or the replant tub or auction tub. Linnea has agreed to help the coordinator figure this part out. The coordinator's job can be shared by more than one person.



A Note of Caution – Hackers are Phishing the Internet by Anna Cadd



There is important information about threats to our communication. This threat is not only for the iris world, but for everyone using computers.

What is important for us to know? I just got another fake e-mail from supposedly our member Alleah. And not the first one. The note is short: usually it is something like "your pictures are here" or "look at the memories." I got one like this also from Anna Marie, Dan Williams, Riley or Shirley Probst, and several different members of Region 14. There

usually is an attachment. When you click on the attachment, the computer crashes and the only thing to do is to turn everything off and wait to restart again. In the worst case scenario, it may prompt the computer owner to pay the hacker, but the hacker is still in the computer. This has happened to official institutions, universities, etc....

I know that this information is disturbing and I don't want to cause panic, but this is important. Better to be alert than sorry. If you don't expect an e-mail with an attachment, don't click on it. With every e-mail, before I open an attachment, I hover the mouse over the sender's name, and if I recognize the sender, I open the attachment.

Soon we will send the e-mail addresses of all the SRIS members, so you can check who is sending you the e-mail. Please, be very careful.

Thank you to the following people for contributions to the newsletter

...

Anna Cadd, Kitty Loberg, Linnea Polo, Dianna Murphy, and Ellen Johnson

Meetings & Membership

Santa Rosa Iris Society meets the second Monday of each month February through October at 12:00 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 for single/\$25 for dual. Send payment to: Santa Rosa Iris Society, Anna Cadd, 329 North Street, Healdsburg, CA 95448. Membership offers regular meetings, iris door prizes, special programs, use of our library, a monthly newsletter, an annual iris show and rhizome sale, and fellowship with other iris lovers. For more information call Anna Cadd at 707-433-8633.

January Newsletter Deadline - December 20th

Please note: Articles for the newsletter which are submitted after the 20th of the month may be placed at the end of the newsletter, due to formatting that has already been done.

Membership in the Santa Rosa Iris Society is on an annual basis from January thru December. **Renewals are due January 1st of each year.**

Single Membership - \$15.00

Dual Membership - \$25.00

Membership form is on the last page.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL IN THE SANTA ROSA IRIS SOCIETY

Membership in the Santa Rosa Iris Society is on an annual basis from January thru December.

Renewals are due January 1st of each year. The current dues are:

Single Membership - \$15.00 and Dual Membership - \$25.00

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

Anna Cadd
329 North Street
Healdsburg, CA 95448

NAME(S)

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE

_____ TELEPHONE (H)

_____ (C) _____ e-MAIL

ADDRESS _____

BIRTHDAY (excluding year)

AIS MEMBER: YES _____ NO _____

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

ALL NEWSLETTERS WILL BE E-MAILED, UNLESS YOU HAVE NO ACCESS TO A COMPUTER. Then, it will be snail-mailed to the address above.