



The Newsletter of

The Santa Rosa Iris Society

52nd YEAR NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY 2026



February 9 - LBA&GC noon

Different types of irises - Anna Cadd - 1 hour
judges training will be offered

President's Message - from Ellen Johnson

Is it spring time? I sure feels like it. This beautiful weather is perfect for weeding the Iris beds.

We have lots of interesting topics for our upcoming meetings this year. At our February meeting we will be leaning about all the different Iris types. There is always lots to learn. This spring we will plan a few Iris tours to club members' gardens. Let us know if you have a garden you would like to share. We hope to have some judges training available through out the year at different events. The Club Iris show and potted plant sale is in the planning phase but as always should be a fun time. With all this beautiful weather we will have our gorgeous iris blooming in no time (my rebloomers are still going strong) I always look forward to spring. Since joining the club I realize I am not the only one that goes out to the garden every morning in my pajamas and slippers anxious to see what new treasures are blooming.



That is not strange right? Get those weeds pulled, knowing that it is a never ending project. Hope to see you all at our first meeting of the year on February 9th. Oh, and kitten season is already in full swing. I will most likely have my baby kittens in tow.

Officers 2026

- President**
Ellen Johnson
- Vice President**
Jeff Davis
- Treasurer**
Kitty Loberg
- Secretary**
Diana Ford
- Past President**
Anna Cadd
- Historian**
Anna Cadd
- Membership Secretary**
Anna Cadd
- Librarian**
Cheryl Bryan
- Newsletter Editor**
Anna Marie Hermansen
- Assistant Editor**
Kathy McCallum

- Directors** thru 12/26:
Linnea Polo
Steve Albert
Denise Plummer

- Directors** thru 12/27:
Paul Barthlome
Anna Cadd

Standing Committees:

- Attendance**
Diana Ford
- Display Garden Chairmen**

- Iris Distribution Coordinator**
Ellen Johnson & Linnea Polo

- Hospitality**
Diana and Don Ford
- LBAGC Representatives**
Jeff Davis
Anna Cadd
Alternate - Paul Barthlome
- Photography**
Need Volunteer

- 2026 Show Chairman**
Paul Barthlome
- 2026 Assistant Show Chairman**
Jeff Davis
- 2026 Potted Iris Sale Chairman**
Ellen Johnson & Diana Ford
- 2026 Summer Rhizome Sales Chm.**
Need Volunteer

Gardening Tips For February by Anna Cadd

1. This is the *me of year when we have *me to familiarize ourselves with the new iris introduc*ons, even though we s*ll can't see them in the garden. Most of the Hybridizers now have their catalogs on line and you can get lost in the color pictures, descrip*ons and general informa*on. Look at their irises and send your selec*ons to KiCy to purchase them for our club. Try to look not only on Web sites of American hybridizers. Around the world they introduce now some excellent specimens; you can check Igor Khorosh from Ukraine, Robert Piatek from Poland, Tomas Tamberg from Germany, Richard Cayeux from France, Augusto Bianco from Italy or Barry Blyth from Australia. You'll be amazed what is going on in the interna*onal iris world!
2. It was raining, then not raining, then more promises of rain...The irises don't need to be watered yet, they are s*ll semi dormant. If they are covered by fallen leaves, it will be *me to uncover them. If they happen to have weeds (and they grow, no maCer rain or drought), please pull them now. They compete with irises for light and nutrients. There are four or five weeds, which are prevalent in the garden now: *Cardamine hirsuta* (Hairy biCercress), *Senecio vulgaris* (Common groundsel), *Oxalis pes-caprae* (Bermuda buCercup) and different types of grasses. No signs yet of spoCed spurge – *Euphorbia maculate* and bindweed – morning glory – *Convolvulus arvensis*. But they will show in the garden soon. Please, Google these weeds, so you will know what you are pulling your frustra*ons out on!
3. Mid to end of February will be *me to fer*lize with balance fer*lizer 5-10-10 or 10-10-10, depending on your soil. Light applica*on of pre-emergent weed control will help to keep the weeds down. Applying mulch will help also.
4. Roses need to be pruned. It will be good to take some pruning classes, but who has *me! You really can't make the mistakes, they will recover no maCer what. Pull all last year leaves. They can be the source of diseases. Fer*lizing them is also in order, but do not prune temperature - sensi*ve plants yet, even if they look un*dy. We may s*ll get the frosty nights, and fresh pruned plants with the new growth will suffer.
5. If you like radishes and pods of peas, plant them as soon as possible. Strangely, with my usual green thumb, I really can't grow them. Radishes always decide to go to seeds and not producing tasty, swollen red roots, and peas are laying in the ground, don't want to climb on the neang and have small pods, if any. So, usually I go to my garden in the produce department in Safeway. I eat radishes for breakfast, sliced with the touch of salt and some buCered toast. I am easy to feed!!!
6. I think that this will be all for today. It doesn't look like I have more scien*fic advice how to do and when to do it. But let's have some fun on the start of new season. Nothing yet must be done today. We s*ll have *me to plant the garden, and order some seeds and bulbs, and weed and spade and rake. Or just wrap yourself in the blanket with garden books and relax?





Anna Marie Herm
 Cheryl Bryan
 Kathy McCallu
 Dana DiRiccc
 Sharon Johnso
 Nancy Fortne
 Petcharee Tamaw

2026 SRIS Dates

- Monday, February 9 : Noon at LBA&GC -
 Different types of iris
- Monday, March 9 : Noon at LBA&GC - TBD
- Monday, April 13: Noon at LBA&GC
 Plant staging and preparation for the show
- Friday, May 8: prep & set-up for the show
- Saturday - Sunday: May 9 - 10: Show - LBA&GC
- Monday & Tuesday, May 11 - 12: Touring member
 gardens & visiting special gardens
- Monday, June 8: Report from the Spring Regional
- Monday, July 13: Report from AIS National
- Monday, August 10: Potluck, picnic, auction
- Saturday, September 5: public rhizome sale

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 iris viewing, selection of iris for awards, and in-garden judges' training sessions.

2026 AIS National Convention: May 18 - 23: New Jersey and New York
 Convention Hotel: Newark Liberty International Airport Marriott Hotel

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



general

Thank you to the following people for contributions to the newsletter ...
 Ellen Johnson and Anna Cadd

Keeping In Touch

From Ellen Johnson - Healdsburg - Blooming since September!
It's Crimson King - IB (1893)



Forgotten Felines
Fluffy Fund Fundraiser

In Celebration of Peanut
and in Memory of
Julie Canepa Kirkland



March 22nd 5pm-8pm
at YAL Center
6445 Commerce Blvd.
Rohnert Park, CA 

Garlic Bread, Green Salad, Pasta Dinner, and
Desserts for \$25 hosted by our 4-H Clubs
For tickets call or text Ellen 707 486-5866
May your day be full of cuddles, purrs, and joy

From Peanut -



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

Send the form that's toward the end of the newsletter to Anna Cadd.

February Iris distribution:

AWESOME BLUE SKY (T. Aitken, 2023)

BOXING RING (Johnson, 2025)

CHALLENGE ACCEPTED (Johnson, 2025)

FRILLY GIRL (Ford, 2025)

GIFT WRAPPINGS (Keppel, 2025)

GRACIOUS SMILE - BB (L. Miller, 2024)

GROUND RULES (Keppel, 2025)

HAPPILY EVER AFTER (Johnson, 2025)

HEART OF HEARTS - AB (Black, 2015)

INDELIBLE (M. Sutton, 2025)

IRISH BEAUTY (Schreiner, 2025)

LOVE IN THE DARK (Johnson, 2025)

RHIZOME COWBODY (Schreiner, 2023)

SOUTHPAW (H. Stout, 2025)

SWIRLING SURF (Keppel, 2025)



AWESOME BLUE SKY



BOXING RING



CHALLENGE ACCEPTED



FRILLY GIRL



GIFT WRAPPINGS



**GRACIOUS SMILE
BB**



GROUND RULES



HAPPILY EVER AFTER



**HEART OF HEARTS
AB**



INDELIBLE



IRISH BEAUTY



LOVE IN THE DARK



RHIZOME COWBOY



SOUTHPAW



SWIRLING SURF

To Become an Iris Judge - judges training by Anna Cadd

One of the most important duties in any Iris Society is to evaluate the value of introduced varieties of irises and seedlings, which are considered for introduction. We all have limited space in our gardens and limited ability to grow a lot of varieties. The Judges, by voting for the Awards, are telling us which irises are worthy to buy and spend the considerable amount of money on and what to plant in the garden. This is also the way to tell the public, which irises are superior and will grow good in our climate zone. Judges also participate in Iris Shows, and by awarding the best specimens, are educating the visitors during the Show about the quality of the irises.

The duty of the judges is to attend training sessions during three years, visit as many gardens as possible, take notes, judge different shows and vote the AIS Award Ballot. This sounds like a lot, but it is really a fun time, learning a lot about irises and making the friends along the way. Knowing what is important in growing good varieties enlarges our knowledge and helps us understand how our favorite flower will bring us joy and the admiration of others.

And you feel good about yourself, knowing that your knowledge can be shared with friends and strangers. Your garden will be your pride and joy.

I am inviting you today to read some information about being the iris judge. As for the start of 2026 growing season we will have the 1 hour of Judge Training – “Different types of Irises”. This training will be given by Anna Cadd, the AIS Judge Emeritus and we will have more trainings in the future. If you start the AIS Judges' Training Program, you will have fun, learn a lot, and you'll be glad you did!

During the December 2025 SRIS meeting the discussion occurred on becoming an Accredited AIS judge for judging irises in the garden and/or judging an iris show. KiCy Loberg, AIS Emeritus Judge volunteered to get some information to everyone to cover the initial basics and what training you may/must take. This article was written with her notes.

The starting point of becoming an AIS judge is called becoming a “Candidate for Judgeship”. This is a three year process.

- a. The first thing one should do, is to apply for and send in dues to become an AIS member. A Candidate must be an AIS member for a full 3 years of training.
- b. One also needs to submit an application to the Region's RVP to indicate they wish to start training as a Candidate, and to inquire as to the Region's policies.
- c. Here's the form: https://pdf.aisregion14.org/pdfs/application_for_jc.pdf
- d. Review this site for more info: <https://aisregion14.org/events/judges-training/>
- e. Carol Cullen is the current R14 Judge's Training Chair, she can be reached at 805-441-4433 or carolcullen80@gmail.com

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To Become an Iris Judge

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And it's OK if you don't have answers to some of the ques*ons... you are at the beginning as a learner! During those 3 years, a Candidate must take a minimum of 10 hours of training, covering two sessions (or more). The training years are August 1st through July 31st of the following year.

1. The Candidate can take a classroom training (including sessions offered through Zoom) or a garden training, and complete every session with a wriCen exam following the training (usually about 10 ques*ons per hour of training).
2. Another important thing a Candidate must to do, is to obtain the current 'Handbook for Judges and Show Officials', from the American Iris Society. It can be obtained through the AIS Storefront, on line at [hCps://www.irises.org/aismembers/ais-storefront/](https://www.irises.org/aismembers/ais-storefront/)
3. Purchase the copy with a cover (\$35.00), as you will be taking it into the garden during training sessions, and also into the classrooms.

To summarize, these are the requirements to be completed as a Candidate for Judgeship:

1. Maintain three years of con*nuous AIS membership.
2. Make applica*on for entry into the Judges' training program.
3. Successfully complete a minimum of two training sessions for a total of ten hours (or more) with the passing wriCen examina*ons on each session.
4. Obtain the recommenda*on of five fully accredited judges.
5. Complete any addi*onal regional requirements.

Please don't be disheartened that it seems to be that we're in the middle of a training year.

Most of the garden training is going to occur when irises bloom, and that's coming up in the spring. If you make your applica*on now, you will likely find and get some training this spring and before July 31st, 2026. There are always sessions at a Spring Regional, this year it's in Reno on May 15-17, there is one session on Saturday and one on Sunday.

You do have 3 years, so you don't have to do all required training in one year. If you complete the 10 hours before the 3 years are up, any con*nued training will be counted towards the next level. You can also aCend a training session as an observer.

We won't know if you've decided to apply... if you tell KiCy or me that you have, we will try to keep you up to date on upcoming training sessions.

MARCH Newsletter Deadline, February 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.

Minutes: Meeting - January 12: noon Diana Ford

Members attending included: Ellen Johnson, Sophia , Dorothy, Beverly,
Anna Cadd, Jeff Davis, Steve , Kitty
Loberg, Paul Barthlome,
Denise Plummer, Linnea Polo,
Diana Ford and Cheryl Bryan



Ellen presided over the meeting and thanked Anna for making up and sending out an agenda. Ellen has been participating in a dog show over the weekend. (Georgia did great - Georgia is a 7 month old basset hound - see below)

Minutes were approved.

Kitty gave the Treasurer's report. Sales Tax and the website fees were paid. The Treasurer's report was approved.

Paul and Anna were nominated to be directors.

There was a discussion about the need to include some judges training in some upcoming meetings. Anna Cadd agreed to give some training at the February meeting. Kitty agreed to give some training later in the spring at Ellen's garden, combined with a lunch.

Paul will be the Show Chair with Jeff as his assistant. Four judges have already been engaged for our show this spring. Kitty will help with the booklet production since she has the files from two years ago. She will check to make sure the wording on medians class complies with AIS rules. Ellen and Diana will manage the potted iris sale for the show. A possible theme suggested was painting with Iris. To be voted on in February.

There was a motion made on extending life memberships to Betty Ford, Anna Marie Hermansen, and Kitty Loberg. It was seconded and approved to be voted on in the February general meeting.

There was a discussion of using stronger sprays for morning glory suppression. There was a motion made to have the club help pay for some yard work for Marlene who has been hospitalized and will be returning home.



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.

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

An Eye-Opening Example

By Anna Cadd

We, the iris Hybridizers, are approaching that *me of the year when we sit in front of our screens in search of "good" crossings to make them this spring. Who knows it beCer than Diana Ford, our main SRIS hybridizer! It is also *me for the release of the novel*es 2026. KiCy is asking us to look for the new catalogues and choose the best irises to plant in SRIS Display Garden, to auc*on them to our members next year, not to men*on – get the ACendance (door) prize!

Each day brings us a bundle of images that are more temp*ng than the other. Some*mes we wonder, what makes a great iris and what pedigree makes a difference.

It is interes*ng, that Tom Johnson from Mid America Garden, between many excellent varie*es, has some intriguing introduc*ons. These iris have something in common: It's about the seedling TN27 crossover: 'Mood Ring' X 'Easy On The Eyes'. Crossing these two irises gave him the seedling TN27.



'Mood Ring' ([Keith Keppel](#), R. 2015). Seedling# 10-99B. TB, 36" (91 cm). Midseason bloom. Standards plumbago purple (M&P 47-E-6), olive-grey (13-G-2) upper edge; style arms midrib violet (41-D-8), crests green-beige (12-G-1); falls mimosa yellow (10-J-2) ¼" band around silver-lavender (42-AB-5), ha~s suffused chamois (11-I-5); beards spanish yellow (10-L-7). ['Idle Rich'](#) sibling. Keppel 2017. [Honorable Men*on 2019](#); [Award of Merit 2021](#), [Nelson Award 2022](#).



'Easy On The Eyes' ([Thomas Johnson](#), R. 2019). Seedling TG41A. TB, 36" (91 cm), Early to midseason bloom. Standards blended lavender, violet and peach, deeper violet center shading, *ps peach; style arms mauve; falls light mauve, medium orange shoulders and edge; beards tangerine, ends *pped white; sweet fragrance. ['Role Reversal'](#) X seedling TB138AA: (Blyth seedling P28-1: (['Jazz Band'](#) x ['Restless Heart'](#) sibling) x ['Adoree'](#)). Mid-America 2019. [Honorable Men*on 2022](#)

In 2025 there are two introduc*ons selected using this seedling TN27 and in 2026 there are 6 introduc*ons.

Here's the list: 'In Good Company', 'Just Released' for 2025 and 'Ar*ficial Intelligence', 'At First Light', 'Baker's Secret', 'Dream Believer', 'Magical Wonderland', 'Main Menu' for 2026.

This is the proof about the quality of both parents and it must be a record (and it's not over, there may be more irises with this "parent" iris in 2026 or 2027). Interes*ng, that there is recently a manifesta*on of registra*ons of many seedling "brothers".

A few years ago, French hybridizer Sylvain Ruaud had already no*ced this phenomenon and men*oned it on his blog "Irisenligne".

So what could be the cause? Possible answer is:

Decades of selec*on have concentrated quality genes and through the one important cross the number of "superior" irises is tending to grow. As for me, as a hybridizer and prospec*ve buyer, having to choose from so many varie*es is geang a bit tricky. Buying the irises with concentrated quality genes will guarantee more success. And using irises to hybridize with seedling TN27 in the pedigree will be the way to go!

I would like to men*on here, that in my early years of hybridizing, the cross between irises Needlepoint and Shenanigan gave me several good introduc*ons in the Border Bearded class. They were all “siblings”!



'In Good Company' ([Thomas Johnson](#), R. 2024). Seedling **TN27A**, TB, 40" (101.5 cm), Early midseason bloom. Standards toasted watermelon centers, lightening towards edge; style arms toasted watermelon; falls deep mustard yellow; beards yellow; slight sweet fragrance. ['Mood Ring'](#) X ['Easy On The Eyes'](#). MidAmerica Garden 2025.



'Just Released' ([Thomas Johnson](#), R. 2024). Seedling **TN27G**, TB, 36" (91.5 cm), Early midseason bloom. Standards lavender, with yellow overlay in center, becoming veins towards yellow buff edge; style arms lavender, with gold crests; falls very light lavender-white, with a deep golden yellow edge; beards yellow; slight sweet fragrance. ['Mood Ring'](#) X ['Easy On The Eyes'](#). Mid-America Garden 2025.



'ArDficial Intelligence' ([Thomas Johnson '26](#)) TB Early-midseason 36" (91cm) Sweet fragrance. Standards have centers that are a deep purple gradua*ng deeper towards the heart of the flower. A wide buff yellow band with subtle deeper gold veins rim the standards. White falls have wide, overlapping form, with a deep golden yellow band. A stunning reverse bicolor with large, wide, and ruffled flowers. Seedling **TN27C**: [Mood Ring](#) X [Easy On The Eyes](#)



'At First Light' ([Thomas Johnson '26](#)) TB Early-midseason 36" (91cm) Sweet fragrance. Sky blue standards have a deep reddish violet central wash. Falls are creamy white with slightly goldtouched ha~s and a wide gold band. Well formed, ruffled, budded, and branched, At First Light comes from a very good cross that produced many introduc*on-worthy children. Seedling **TN27EE**: Ar*ficial Intelligence sibling



'Baker's Secret' ([Thomas Johnson '26](#)) TB Early-midseason 36" (91cm) Sweet fragrance. Standards have an interes*ng blend of yellow and violet that creates a very rich brownish confec*on. The color reminds me of a dark cinnamon bun dripping with sweet fros*ng. Falls are white with the faintest of lavender overlaid, then edged with a deep golden yellow ha~ and band. Baker's Secret is absolutely amazing in a clump!! Seedling **TN27QQ**: Ar*ficial Intelligence sibling



'Dream Believer' ([Thomas Johnson '26](#)) TB Early-midseason-late 36" (91cm) Sweet fragrance. Standards are a very complex color; deep rosy lavender centers blend to medium lavender, edged with a yellow buff band. Falls are a rich mustard yellow, with a lighter wash from below the beard to the deep mustard edge. Dream Believer is a super strong grower, and is very floriferous, completely covering itself in bloom, to create an eye-popping display. Seedling **TN27FF**: Ar*ficial Intelligence sibling



'Magical Wonderland' ([Thomas Johnson '26](#)) TB Midseason-late 35" (89cm) Slight musky fragrance. Deep plum to grape purple standards rise above light lavender white falls with a deeper lavender wash below the beard, extending out to a wide peach orange band. Magical Wonderland has fantas*c form, with very heavy substance. Its flowers are very, very ruffled; it is gorgeous in full bloom. Seedling **TN27HH**: Ar*ficial Intelligence sibling



'Main Menu' ([Thomas Johnson '26](#)) TB Early-midseason 38" (96.5cm) Slight musky fragrance. Standards have a deep plum center, becoming lighter towards the edge. Falls are amber to orange, with a small white area below the orange beards. Main Menu is a very strong grower and bloomer. Show stems with 2 branches and a spur carry 9 to 11 buds. A knockout in a clump. Seedling **TN27PP**: Ar*ficial Intelligence sibling