

The Newsletter of

The Santa Rosa Iris Society

41ST YEAR NUMBER 4

APRIL 2015

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Jim Begley thru 12/16

Marlene Freetly thru 12/16

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2015 Summer Rhizome Sales Chm.

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MONDAY APRIL 13, 7:30 PM JIM BEGLEY, ROSS BEVIER, AND JEFF DAVIS – PREPARING YOUR IRISES FOR THE SHOW

We are privileged to have three Santa Rosa Iris Society members (Jim Begley, Ross BeVier and Jeff Davis) 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 iris stalks so that you can participate in some one-on-one grooming practice. Bring your grooming tool kit.



Rudy Ciuca

Gardening Tips and Musings for April

Anna Cadd

1. Talk about weather! It was so hot recently that working in the garden in a bathing suit would have been preferable to wearing ordinary gardening attire. Then we had high winds, which dried out whatever moisture we had in the ground. We are all eager to go to Portland for the National Iris Convention, but what we will see? The daffodils are super early - what does that say for irises in Portland? Mother Nature needs to blow some cold air into Oregon and quickly!
The Oregon Daffodil Society announced: "Due to the unusually early season here in Oregon there are simply NO flowers left to exhibit. In Portland the Oregon Daffodil Society Show at Crystal Springs on April 11 & 12 has been forced to cancel. We will attempt to provide a non-judged, educational display of refrigerated flowers."
2. Irises are starting to bloom. My first were 'Hi', 'Anxious' and 'Precious Halo', then 'Hakuna Matata', then some PCNs, and on March 28 I took a spuria stalk, either *Iris orientalis* or a seedling from it, to David to the hospital. Go figure - a spuria in March? Most of our other spurias are showing bloom stalks; and what we will have for our show, who knows? I didn't notice at first, but there are at least 4-5 spent stalks on my potted Louisiana irises. SDBs haven't bloomed yet! What a year!
3. So the time for irises is coming up quickly. Make sure that they are not growing in weeds and are lightly fertilized with low nitrogen fertilizer. Have you noticed that this simple task is

harder and heavier with each passing year? Maybe it is time to quit gardening and just travel and visit other people's gardens and see them sweating? Eh, not yet, another year maybe....

4. I always caution: "do not plant tomatoes too early", but I bought tomato plants in small 4-packs. I let them sit for over a week before transplanting, and they are already blooming! If I have time to clean the garden area from weeds, we can have tomatoes in June!
5. Plant some bee- and butterfly-friendly plants in the garden. A huge list of them can be found on the internet. Don't forget to prepare watering holes for butterflies and birds and bees. It is going to be a dry hot summer! Try to attract beneficial animals into your garden: ladybugs, praying mantids, potato bugs, bats, etc. Also butterflies and hummingbirds are desirable. Are there any benefits of gray squirrels?[†] We now have one (or maybe two) in our black walnut and he is barking like a dog all day and thumping on the roof at night. How funny! So much to see if you just lift your head up from the weeds!

[†]Editor's note: Arborists do not encourage tree squirrels in parks or gardens. They eat young bark of trees and shrubs. While working in a park in San Jose a few years back, I watched a squirrel girdle the trunk of a newly planted tree in 15 minutes, killing the tree. It cost the Parks Department well over \$200 and a lot of work!

From the President's Desk

Recent cool weather has slowed plant growth, making it more likely that we will still have bloom for our April 25-26 iris show. If you are growing some irises in pots for our sale, do send a list of the name, hybridizer, year of introduction, and type of iris (in that order) to Joe Lawrence so he can download pictures for the sale. Our customers like to see what they're buying!

My thanks to Kitty Loberg, Rudy Ciuca, Joe Lawrence, Marlene Horn, and Anna Cadd for participating in the LBAGC Board of Managers meeting on March 17 and to Alice Kemper for the homemade lemon bars and Rudy for the ginger tea and veggie straw snacks we provided at that meeting. There SRIS opposed a proposed increase in weekend rental rates for member clubs. The Board clarified that the "market rate" for rental of our hall is \$900/day. Member clubs would pay a sliding scale of up to 60% of that amount (they are not obligated to pay the 40% rental agent fee). Other clubs also questioned the proposed increase and discussion was carried over to the May 19 LBAGC meeting. SRIS will request further postponement of that discussion since most of us will be at the National Iris Convention in Portland on that date.

Many thanks to Jeff Davis, Jim Begley, and Jean Sharp for working with a plumbing contractor to install the new drip irrigation system in our Display Garden. They also weeded the garden thoroughly, but the spurge is now coming back. If you can weed there, we'd appreciate it.

Watch your garden for potential specimens for our April 25 and 26 Show "Irises on Safari" and pick up an exhibitor packet at the April meeting. We'll need help with set up after 5:00 pm on Friday the 24th and during the Show. Remember that specimens will be accepted only from 7:00 – 9:00 am on Saturday the 25th. There will be a sign-up sheet at the April 13th meeting, so please volunteer to help. And bring iris specimens that night when Jim Begley, Ross BeVier, & Jeff Davis give tips on preparing your iris stalks for display. We'll even stage a mini-show. *Alleah Haley*

This Month

Monday April 13 – Jim Begley, Ross BeVier, and Jeff Davis, Preparing Your Irises for the Show. Members will hold a mini-show.

Friday–Sunday, April 17-19 – Region 14 Spring Meeting "Spring Fling in the Pines", The Pines Resort & Conference Center, 54432 N. Shore Rd., Bass Lake, California (Yosemite area). Busses to three gardens.

Saturday and Sunday, April 25 & 26 (open 1-5 Sat., 10-5 Sun.) – SRIS Iris Show/ Potted Iris Sale, LBAGC.

2015 Iris Events and Important Dates

Monday May 11 – Nancy Fortner, " Fuchsias – Taking a Second Look".

Monday – Saturday, May 18-23, 2015 – AIS National Convention, Portland, Oregon. Convention Hotel: Red Lion on the River, Portland. Six gardens include Aitken's, Schreiner's, Mid-America, & Chad Harris. Info at: <http://www.ais2015portlandconvention.com>.

Monday June 8 – Joe Lawrence and Rudy Ciuca, Wine and Olives.

Monday July 13 – 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 2 (note revised date) - Potluck Picnic, Iris Auction and Raffle, C&L Vineyard, Sonoma. Set up 10 am, eat at noon.

Monday, August 10 – Chad Harris from Washougal, Washington. Topic TBA.

Saturday, September 5 – Rhizome sale, LBAGC.

Monday, September 7 – No meeting/ pm set up at Heirloom Expo.

Tuesday thru Thursday, September 8-10 – 5th Annual Heirloom Expo, Sonoma Co. Fairgrounds. SRIS will have a booth.

Monday, October 12 – TBA.

Saturday, November 7 – Holiday Potluck/Come Dressed as an Iris Costume Party, LBAGC.



2015 Board Meetings - Board Members and Officers, please mark your calendars:

Monday, May 11, 6:30 pm

Monday, July 13, 6:30 pm

Monday, September 14, 6:30 pm

Monday, November 9, 6:30 pm

Monday, December 14, 6:30 pm

Other Events of Garden Interest

Master Gardener Workshop – Food Gardening in a Drought Year including drought tolerant crops and varieties, **Sunday, April 12**, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm – Stony Point Community Garden, 2150 Giffen Ave., Santa Rosa (off Stony Point Road, 1 mile south of Highway 12).

Russian River Roses, 1685 Magnolia Drive, Healdsburg, will be open every weekend in April and May, 10-5, with special events, rose plant sales, and beautiful fragrant blooming roses. Many events free; others \$2 donation. See http://www.russian_river_rose.com or call 707-433-7455. **120 varieties of irises will be featured April 11 and 12 (free).**

Plant Sales

courtesy of Kay Ashbrook, LBAGC Board

Sunday May 3 – SRJC Lark Hall greenhouse (same bldg. as planetarium).

Saturdays, 9-2 rain or shine, April 18, May 9 & 10, June 20 - Willowside School, 5299 Hall and Willowside Rds, west Santa Rosa. 100's at \$3/gal.; 15 vars Japanese Maples 3-6' tall \$25-35.

Occidental Arts & Ecology Center, 15290 Coleman Valley Rd., Occidental, 874-1557 – three plant sales, **all Saturday & Sunday, 9-5**: Spring – **April 11 & 12**, Summer – **April 25 & 26 and May 2 & 3**, Fall – **August 15 & 16 and 22 & 23**. Tours all plant sale Sundays at 1 pm. Perennial nursery open weekends May 16– June 28 and Sept. 5 – Nov. 1.

Friday, April 10, 9-9, & Saturday April 11, 9-3 – Men's Garden Club, Coddington Mall. 50 varieties of tomatoes, 500 geraniums, succulents & other plants.

Saturdays, 9-noon, April 11 & May 9 – Sonoma Co. Jail Plant Nursery, 2254 Ordinance Rd., Santa Rosa. Checks or cash only. Veggie starts, Calif. natives, annuals, perennials, shrubs, fruit & ornamental trees. Master Gardeners will help you. Info & plant list @ www.scoe.org/jailindustries, call 707-525-8310, or email jailind@mcn.org.

Saturday, April 18, 10-3 – Santa Rosa Garden Club, LBAGC. Drought tolerant plants incl. succulents & perennials, indoor garage sale of garden-related items.

Sunday, April 19, 10-2 - Windsor Garden Club, Windsor Town Green, McClellan & Market St. Ornamental containers, succulents containers, veggie starts & garden crafts.

Friday April 24 & Saturday, April 25, 9-4 – Graton Community Club, corner Graton Rd. & Edison St., downtown Graton. Organic heirloom tomatoes, perennials, succulents, cactus, garden art.

Saturday, April 25, 9-2 – Green Thumb Garden Club, Cloverdale, corner Cloverdale Blvd. & First St. Veggie starts, succulents, outdoor & house plants, garden-related white elephants.

Saturday, April 25, 9-2 – Harvest for the Hungry Garden, 1717 Yulupa Ave., Santa Rosa (behind Christ Church United Methodist). 1000's of organic veggie starts, herbs, >100 kinds of heirloom tomatoes, annuals & perennials. See www.harvestgarden.org.

Saturday, May 2, 9-2 – Healdsburg Garden Club, Healdsburg Senior Living Community, 725 Grove St. Perennials, shrubs, veggie starts, and hobby extras. Call 707-433-4877 for info.

Saturday, May 2, 1-3:30 – Redwood Empire Rose Society Show & Sale, LBAGC. Rose bushes including new grandiflora 'Anna's Promise'.

Saturday, October 10, 9-1 – Milo Baker Chapter, Calif. Native Plant Society, Vet's Memorial Bldg., 1351 Maple, Ave., Santa Rosa. Native shrubs, perennials, bulbs, seeds, books & posters.

Sunday, October 25, 10-2 - Windsor Garden Club, Windsor Town Green, McClellan & Market St. Succulent topped pumpkins and fall color pots.

My Blooming Irises

Anna Marie Hermansen

Yes, irises do grow in San Francisco, although they tend to bloom later than in Santa Rosa. The only one that has bloomed so far is 'Alpine Spring'. It is a 2000 TB by Fred Kerr with blue-white standards and light blue falls. This year, it beat out 'Navy Blues', which is generally first to pop. All my irises in SF are growing in sandy soil in ground beds and have not yet been disturbed by the gopher community, which is thriving in the neighborhood!

More growth has occurred in Santa Rosa. My first bloomer was 'Cache of Gold', a beautiful buttery-yellow self (it's described as a gold) with the same colored beard tipped in white. This 2004 SDB rebloomer is from George Sutton. It won an HM in 2006 and AM in 2008.

'Chocolate Halo' was my first TB to bloom. It is a 2012 introduction from Fred Kerr with yellow standards. The falls are white overlain with sulfur yellow and a lovely chocolate edge. The beards are mimosa yellow.

My first IB to bloom was 'Double Overtime', a rebloomer by Rick Tasco introduced in 2005. It is a darker iris with violet standards and reddish purple-violet falls. The beards are bluish-violet with white hairs tipped tangerine in the throat. It has a slight sweet fragrance.

Joe Ghio's 2012 'Boy Genius' was my first BB to pop a bloom. It has dark gold standards with mahogany midribs and mahogany-black falls edged gold.

Currently, I have four more irises in bloom. Jim Begley's 2005 TB 'Carnival Carousel' is that lovely, laced iris we all remember from last year's regional. The standards are orient pink with pale lavender-pink central flushing. It has dark rose-purple falls that become washed and an apricot rim. The beards are mandarin red. It received an HM in 2007. 'Pure and Simple' is a 2004 TB by Bill Maryott. The standards are light yellow while the falls are white with light yellow hafts and a yellow margin band. This iris received an HM in 2006. 'Camera Ready' is a warm colored 2009 TB from Rick Tasco. The standards are a bronze yellow, dotted slightly darker in the center. The falls are speckled burgundy-brown over an Indian yellow. This 2011 HM winner has very light purple base foliage. 'Line Drive', a 2007 IB by Michael Sutton, is a beautiful rebloomer. The standards have white ground that's washed violet-blue. The falls are also white ground, but heavily lined violet-blue. The beards are white with

orange tips. It has a slight spicy fragrance. Unfortunately, none of these irises will still be in bloom for our show, but I hope stalks will develop on other lovely irises for me to bring.

Please bring trophies you won at our 2013 Iris Show to the April Meeting! We need them for the Court of Honor at the Show on April 25.

Selecting and Preparing Iris Stalks for a Show

Vince Lewonski, submitted by Anna Cadd. Reprinted (with light editing) by permission from the Delaware Valley Iris Society website: <http://www.dvis-aid.org/iris-prep.html>, accessed April 7, 2015.

The ...Iris Society is having a show again this year. We would like to encourage all of you to bring some stalks, even if you have never done so before. Here are some tips for selecting and preparing iris stalks for a show.

STALK SELECTION

This may be the most critical part. How do you decide what looks good enough to take to a show? Start looking at your garden several days beforehand to see which stalks appear to have potential. If a stalk looks like it will have fresh flowers open by show day and the branching and spacing look good, you may want to mark it with a piece of colored yarn. Some people cut their stalks the night before the show, but I wait until the morning of the show so that I can pick ones which have just opened. If bad weather threatens, however, you may want to cut the stalks and bring them inside ahead of time.

The flowers should have NO faults. This is hard to find, and even harder still to get those perfect flowers to the show. Bent petals, bruised petals, holes from aphids, extra petals, petals pointing in strange directions, and spider webs all detract from the flower's beauty. Tears in the petal are okay as long as they are naturally occurring, and do not deform the petal. Having multiple flowers open is a plus, but not a requirement. You are better off having a stalk with one nice flower than several flowers that are starting to shrivel, have tears, or display other faults. And you want flowers that will look good at the time the judges view them, not just when you see them hours before the show.

If the stalk is leaning badly, don't bother to cut it. You won't be able to get it to stand up straight in the [container], and the flowers will tend to be pointing outwards. If you have a leaning stalk that you think has the potential to be a good show stalk, make sure that you stake it a couple days before the show. This will give the flowers time to change their alignment so that they again are pointing upwards.

If the iris has multiple branches, they should all be in the same plane. Even having several nice open flowers might not be enough if the branches are all pointed in different directions. The stalk selected should be free or nearly free of leaf spot. Some trimming to eliminate this is allowed; but if extensive and obvious, it will be penalized by the judges.

If at all possible, choose a stalk that has the terminal bud open. If there are multiple flowers open, they should all be the same size. Secondary buds from the same socket tend to be smaller. The spacing should be well away from the stalk. You don't want any flower to be rubbing up against the stalk or against another flower. The flowers should be nearly vertical. Pointed in towards the stalk is known as "[toeing] in", and pointed out away from the stalk is known as "[toeing] out". Both of these are faults, and will be penalized. You can help the flowers that are "[toeing] in" or have a petal rubbing up against the stalk by wedging a piece of cotton or cork between the branch and the stalk. This may be enough to keep it in that position by show time. Just don't forget to take out your wedge when you get to the show!

If the cultivar is a space-ager, make sure that all flowers are uniform. Space-agers tend to have some beards with horns, some with flounces, and some with just a regular beard. If it is supposed to have

horns, it may be penalized if only some petals have horns and others do not.

Label the irises at home as you cut them so there won't be any memory lapses at the show. Do not write on the stalk. If this is noticed by the judges, they may take points off. Instead, write the names on a string tag, which you can loosely wrap around a branch until you are at the show.

GROOMING

Always cut the stalk as close to the ground as possible. You probably will not keep it that length, but you can always cut it shorter, while it is impossible to make it taller. Usually there is a leaf or two attached near its base. If they are going to end up crammed into the [container] neck and all bent over, take the leaves off! On the other hand, keep any leaf that is attached to the stalk above the [container] neck. Stick the stalk into the [container] and step back. Does the curve of the stalk at the base prevent it from standing straight? If so, you may want to trim off a few inches. Does it look top heavy because all the branching and flowers are well above the [container]? Again, you may want to trim the base of the stalk. Generally, the bottom branch should start a few inches above the neck of the [container].

Often the bottom branch starts so low to the ground that when you put it in the [container], the base of the stalk does not touch bottom of the [container]. This can make for an unstable stalk, but having the lower branch right up against the [container] neck makes it look unbalanced. Raise it up to a level that is pleasing, and wedge the stalk at that height by putting cotton or a cut section of stalk into the [container] neck. You can use this same method to hold the stalk in place even if it is all the way down. Make sure, though, that the cotton or pieces of stalk are not sticking up above the neck of the [container].

If there is a branch where all of the buds have already bloomed, don't leave this branch attached. Carefully cut it off where it joins the stalk. This is hard to do and still make it look natural, so such stalks should be chosen only if they are otherwise excellent. Take off any spent blossoms, carefully cutting the ovary off at the base. Use a cotton ball to wipe off any fingerprints from the stalk. If there are cobwebs, insects, etc., take these off carefully. Sometimes the tip of the leaves can turn brown or have leaf spot. Use a scissors to carefully trim off the brown area, but maintain the graceful shape of the leaf, and cut off no more than ¼ inch. Never, ever cut the leaf straight across!

For the ... show, [containers] are provided by the show committee to provide a uniform appearance. Other clubs may allow you to bring and use your own containers provided they meet the show requirements. ... Some clubs use brown bottles or PVC pipe as their containers. ...[W]ine bottles tend to be forgiving for less than perfectly straight stalks. If there is too much of a curve at the bottom, however, no container will be able to compensate, and the whole stalk will be leaning. Often you can compensate by cutting the stalk a little shorter, eliminating the worst of the curve.

Occasionally you have a really thick stalk which is just too fat for the [container]. If possible and if allowed by the show committee, try to find a wider necked [container] for this monster. These are very hard to find; therefore, you may have to trim the base of the stalk vertically to a size that you can cram into the [container]. Make sure that the cut portion is not exposed above the neck of the [container], as this is unsightly.

For other than tall bearded, a smaller [container] can provide better proportion for a smaller, shorter iris. If this is permitted by the show committee, try a dessert wine bottle, a beer bottle or even a little wine bottle such as those served on airplanes. In any case, the smaller [container] should be the same color as the other show [containers] and, of course, the labels should be removed. The show committee, nevertheless, may require only one size of [container] for overall show uniformity.

Flowers that are partially opened at the time they are judged will be marked down, so if you have a bud that is only partly opened, you may be able to speed it along by putting warm (not hot) water in the

[container], keeping it in a warm room, judiciously using a blow dryer, and, as a last resort, carefully helping it along with your fingers.

TRANSPORTATION

The tricky part is getting the stalks to the show. I put the [containers] in a box that once held a case of wine, making sure that they are spaced far enough apart so that no petals hit one another or any car parts. Generally, I fit about six stalks into a case-sized box. Newspapers can be used for wedging in the [containers].

Various other techniques are used. People make holders out of wood with PVC pipe mounted at an angle. There are caps or corks at the bottom of the pipes. Others use chicken wire in a 5-gallon pail with water in the bottom. Still others put the stalks in bottles, and then lay the bottles down with the stalks resting on the edge of a cardboard box with "V"s cut into it to hold the stalks in place.

For transporting, SUVs and minivans are ideal, as they have enough height that you don't have to worry about the stalks hitting the roof. Cars are more difficult, but you can put a box with the bottles on the floor, usually at an angle so that the stalks won't hit the windshield, seat back or roof. Usually, after you have struggled to get everything loaded, you vow to begin growing more of the shorter, more easily transported SDBs and IBs. Be very, very careful driving to the show. Corners and stop lights are not your friends!

SHOW TIME

Bring scissors, cotton balls, a sharp knife, Q-tips, a bottle with extra water and a pen. Make sure that you get to the show in plenty of time to unload (carefully!), make out tags, and do any last minute touchups or adjustments. Also remember that for ... shows, all your stalks need to be transferred and repositioned into the club [containers]. There will be a lot of hustle and bustle as people try to get their stalks ready: [containers] get positioned on the tables, carts filled with [containers] roll across the floor, and others are designing arrangements in the corner. You don't want to be caught short of time. The show committee usually is quite strict as to the cut-off time, after which no further entries will be accepted. Usually it is around [9:00] a.m., but check the show schedule to be sure.

Every stalk entered needs a tag filled out. These are special tags with a bottom section that can be torn off after the judging. Usually you can get tags ahead of time This will allow you to fill them out at home, saving time and aggravation at show time. To fill out the tag, you will need to know the registered name of your iris, and the type (tall bearded, Siberian, etc.). You will also need to know the division and section codes for each stalk. These can be found in the show schedule. If you are not sure of the name of your iris, please don't guess. Label it a mystery iris or unknown, and [display it as a specimen not to be judged]. It is helpful to have a supply of return address labels handy, as it is quicker to put a label on than to fill out your name and address on a whole lot of tags. Make sure that you fill out both the top and bottom portions of the tag! The bottom portion is folded up and tucked in so that only the name of the iris and the class show. [SRIS uses drapery hooks to attach the tags to the containers]. Some clubs use rubber bands, which go through the hole in the top of the tag then around the [container]

You may only enter one stalk of each variety. A historic tall bearded stalk may be entered either in the Historic Class or the Tall Bearded Class, but not both. If entering the Collection Class (three or more stalks of the same cultivar), however, you may also enter the same cultivar as an individual stalk.

Your iris stalk is now ready to be placed by the show committee. Except for the people assisting the judges, no one is allowed in the area with the stalks once judging starts. Now is the time to get coffee and be nervous! After all judging is finished and the best stalks are moved to the head table, you may go into the show area and see how well your entries did. But even if you aren't on the head table, it's still a lot of fun to see all the different entries, and admire all the irises that you've never seen before. Write down the names of those you might want to buy. Talk to the other exhibitors and the judges to find out how you could have prepared your stalks better. And look forward to the next time!



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 7:30 p.m. and the business meeting follows after the break. Come early and visit. The doors open about 6:30 p.m. for set up and coffee making. *The deadline for all submissions for the **May 2015** issue of this Newsletter is **April 20, 2015**. Email copy to: alleah.haley@gmail.com.*



An Invitation from the Fords in Hopland

A gal I know who writes for the Ukiah Daily Journal came by April 3 with a photographer and collected info for an article on my iris and hybridizing. It was really fun and her eyes didn't even glaze over. Anyway, I gave a plug for the SRIS and the show and sale this month.

Since I got it cleaned up nicely for the photo shoot, I thought I'd invite anyone who would like to take a drive. [The irises] are just coming in with about 30 of the 500 blooming right now and dozens with fat buds showing color. [By April 10] it will be ridiculous. I'm at 1310 University Road in Hopland. Please give me a call at 707-367-2610. I'm home most of the time, weekdays and weekends. We are the first left on University Road.

We all love to show off our hard work. Our home and most of the property is wheelchair accessible. There is a lot of parking so no problem. We can't make the Yosemite trip, so I'll be here that weekend as well. I'm hoping to get up to Napa to see Painters' garden at some point, so call before you come.

Diana Ford (& Don)



Keeping In Touch

David Cadd fell in the garden on March 2, 2015, tripping on a piece of root and twisting his knee. The injury was undetected until a week later. He spent one week in Kaiser Hospital because his vital signs were out of whack. Treatment included his receiving two units of blood. He was then sent to a rehabilitation center for recovery. After nearly three weeks there and substantial water weight gain, he was transported back to the hospital. With appropriate diet and care, in one week he lost over 20 lb. of water! David returned home the evening of Thursday April 2. The Cadds plan to go to Portland, although they may miss the regional meeting.

Update from **Anna Cadd**, Tuesday, April 7: David was extremely happy to be home after being in the hospital/rehab/hospital for a whole month, and he did okay for about 18 hours. Friday afternoon April 3 he began having urination problems and we increased the dose of Lasix, a diuretic. I think they pulled the catheter too soon and released him too quickly. On Saturday morning April 4 he was readmitted to Kaiser Hospital through Emergency. They put him on a catheter again and a different diuretic, and in four days he lost 40 lb. of water weight from between the tissues. The hospital had been seriously worried about the potential for heart attack or kidney failure. He seems to be better now. He is in good spirits and ready to live.

Both David and Anna wish to thank all SRIS members for their calls, emails, and visits. The Cadds welcome cards and/or emails:

David and Anna Cadd
329 North St.
Healdsburg, CA 95448
707-433-8633
caddsisiris@comcast.net

 Notice: Changes to Roster

Please note the following new member and help her feel welcome to our club:

Shirley Tatham

4065 Montecito Ave.
Santa Rosa, CA 95404
707-xxx-xxxx
Shirley@williamtatham.com

Happy Birthday April Babies

Debby Hertz 4/6
Alice Kemper 4/9
Richard S. Shore, M.D. 4/10
Betty Ford 4/12
Joe Lawrence 4/13

From the Editor – **Many thanks** for contributions to this issue: **Kay Ashbrook** of the LBAGC Board, **Anna Cadd, David Cadd, Rudy Ciuca, Margy Clapp** of Scottsdale, Arizona, **Don and Diana Ford, Donna Hawley** of Helena, Missouri, **Anna Marie Hermansen, Marlene Horn, Joe Lawrence, Vince Lewonski** of the Delaware Valley Iris Society, and **Jan Tolmasoff** of Russian River Roses.

Alleah



Wife texts husband on a cold winter's morning: "Windows frozen, won't open." Husband texts back: "Gently pour some lukewarm water over it and gently tap edges with hammer." Wife texts back 5 minutes later: "Computer really messed up now." – submitted by Margy Clapp.

Minutes for Santa Rosa Iris Society Board Meeting, March 9, 2015

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm by President Alleah Haley. Members present: Alleah Haley, Rudy Ciuca, Alice Kemper, Anna Marie Hermansen, Betty Ford, Joe Lawrence, Anna Cadd, Jim Begley, Marlene Freetly, Don & Diana Ford, Linnea Polo, Steve Albert, Kitty Loberg, Kathy McCallum, Marlene Horn, Cheryl Bryan, Juanita Breckwoldt, Jean Sharp, Jeff Davis.

Kathie Hile announced the Orchid Show at the Veteran's Memorial Building on 3/28 & 3/29 2015. She asked members for help volunteering on Saturday and Sunday.

Alleah announced invitation to the Leo T Clark Spring Show April 25 in Chico. Get well card for David Cadd was passed around. Volunteers are still needed for the S. F. Garden Show on 3/20 & 3/21. Marlene Freetly will put together the audit by the end of the month. There was discussion about a proposed change to the LBAGC Standing Rules. Change will affect the cost of clubs fees for events held at the Garden Center on weekends. Proposal will be discussed at the regular meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Jeff Davis, Secretary

Minutes for Santa Rosa Iris Society Members Meeting, March 9, 2015

Meeting called to order at 7:40 pm. by President Alleah Haley.

Alice Kemper was introduced and gave a slide presentation on Louisiana Iris.

Alleah presented Juanita Breckwoldt with a gift of thanks for all the years of hospitality at SRIS meetings and events. Publicity for the SRIS Spring Show will be in the Sonoma Co. Gazette for March.

Minutes for February were approved. Treasurer's Report: Total bank accounts as of 3/8/15 were \$25,710.39. Income was \$230.32 and expenses were \$449.22. from 2/8 – 3/8/15. Joe proposed to move 1/2 of the money from checking account to savings account. Motion and second. Motion approved. Treasurer's report was approved.

Old Business: Work will be completed this month to improve the irrigation system at LBAGC. Spring Show update by Jeff. Gift basket for the Spring Regional will be put together by Anna Cadd.

New Business: Update on the Spring Regional April 17,18,19, 2015. There was discussion on rate changes to the LBAGC Standing Rule 3c. "Special Events". Change affects clubs using the center for events on weekends during the calendar year. Members were encouraged to attend the LBAGC Board meeting to voice their concerns.

Announcements: Training for using the new sound system at LBAGC will be on 3/13 at 10:00 am and on 3/16 at 1:30 pm. Motion to donate \$50.00 for the new system was approved. Upcoming events announced.

Raffle for March was given out.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Jeff Davis Secretary

Overview of Santa Rosa Iris Society – Spring, 2015

Alleah Haley, presented at the March LBAGC Board of Managers Meeting, where SRIS was the featured club

The Santa Rosa Iris Society was organized on September 8, 1974. We held a 40th Anniversary party this past January, which was attended by our oldest member who's 99 and still works in her garden daily. The Society meets the 2nd Monday of each month, February through October at 7:30 PM here at the Luther Burbank Art and Garden Center. Each meeting features approximately 20 door prizes of irises. We hold Board Meetings every other month and during the winter each month at 6:30 PM. Each November we have a holiday potluck/"Come Dressed as an Iris Name" costume party with prizes for the best costumes.

Santa Rosa Iris Society is an affiliate (or local society) of the American Iris Society, one of 15 such local societies in Northern California and Nevada. Its sole purpose is the promotion of the culture and improvement of members of the genus *Iris*, of which there are up to 300 species worldwide, mostly in temperate areas of the Northern hemisphere. The Santa Rosa Iris Society promotes irises through its educational meetings, our development and maintenance of a public display garden here at the Center which contains a broad collection of most of the types of irises including species irises and hybrids, an annual spring iris show and sale of potted irises, summer sales of iris rhizomes, and support of the American Iris Society's "Classroom Iris Project" in Sonoma, Mendocino, and Lake Counties where local members donate iris rhizomes for planting in school gardens, instruct and help teachers in horticultural practices, and promote students' participation in iris shows and educational displays. We have a lending library available to all members that includes all the major literature pertaining to irises. We have a monthly newsletter, a sample copy of which I've passed out. Each Newsletter lists all of our activities for the year, including this year's Spring Show and Sale on April 25 and 26, where we expect up to 200 cut iris stalks on display and up to 700 potted irises for sale. Our group includes two highly skilled floral designers who will create arrangements with this year's theme "Irises on Safari". We will hold our bare root iris rhizome sale on Saturday September 5 this year, here at the Center, followed almost immediately by participation in the 5th Annual Heirloom Expo in Grace Pavilion at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds Sept. 8-10 where we'll have a booth selling iris rhizomes and providing educational information on different types of irises and their culture. Last spring we hosted the American Iris Society Northern California/Nevada Regional meeting and garden tour, attended by over 100 people and featuring two world renowned Louisiana Iris hybridizers from Australia.

Our Society is very active, and includes nine fully accredited American Iris Society Garden/ Exhibition Judges and at least three Apprentice Judges with more in the pipeline. The Society counts among its membership three past American Iris Society Regional Vice Presidents for Northern California/Nevada

and a former American Iris Society National President. Our number includes eight active iris hybridizers who are creating new garden varieties of irises, two of which (Anna and David Cadd) are world renowned breeders of spuria irises, and three others who are known nationally for their hybrids.

Door Prize Winners in March

ARRO REECE - Cheryl Bryan
AUTUMN EXPLOSION – Rudy Ciuca
BLONDIE’S BLUSH - Anna Cadd
BLUE RAPTURE – Juanita Breckwoldt
CARVED PUMPKIN - Delores McKey
CORE VALUES - Jim Begley
DOUBLE CHOCOLATE - Kitty Loberg
EARTHLY PLEASURES - Marlene Horn
GENTLE REMINDER - Anna Marie Hermansen
LEAVE THE LIGHT ON - Don Ford
MIDNIGHT RAIN - Jeff Davis
MY LADY’S MANOR - Diana Ford
NO RESTRAINT - Diana Ford
POIGNANT – Alice Kemper
VOW OF SILENCE - Linnea Polo
Iris Plates, set of four – Alice Kemper
Iris Cups, set of two – Alleah Haley
Iris Apron – Juanita Breckwoldt
Iris Hand Painted Window Art – Joe Lawrence

Potting Soil for Succulents

Succulent expert Aaron Ryan from Cottage Gardens Nursery spoke to SRIS at our May 12, 2014 meeting. **Marlene Horn** recently asked for his recipe for potting soil for succulents. For Mexican hens and chicks, *Echeveria elegans*, he recommends cactus soil: 25% lava rock, 25% pumice, 50% potting soil.

Door Prizes for April

Rudy Ciuca

Please look over this list and familiarize yourself with the choices. All are TBs unless otherwise noted. 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.

ANNIE OAKLEY (G. Sutton, 2012) **SDB** 10” E-M. S. canary yellow; F. same, small white spot below beards; beards lavender blue tipped marigold.

ARRIVEDERCI (Keppel, 2014). 37” ML. S. pale peach; F. warm lavender blend, slight lobelia-blue central flush, pale peach suffusion beside beard; beards orange-vermilion, lavender-white end.

ARTS AND CRAFTS (T. Johnson, 2013). 36” M-L. S. yellow; F. maroon, sl. yellow blending, yellow band; beards mustard; slight fragrance.

BLUEBERRY TRAIL (G. Sutton, 2012). **BB** 27” E-M-L. S. white ground, heavily dotted and edged bluebird blue; F. white, veined and dotted dark blueberry around beards, 1/2” ripe blueberry edge; beards golden buff; slight sweet fragrance.

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

CAVE WOMAN (Worel, 2013) 36” ML. S. light yellow, lighter edge, darker on ribs and base; F. light yellow to cream, lighter than standards, darker yellow on hafts; beards outer half blue, inner half light

yellow; slight sweet fragrance.

CHEROKEE BLAZE (J. Painter, 2013). 36" M. S. brick-red; F. brick-red, shoulders slightly golden, lavender-violet signal; beards gold.

CODE OF HONOR (T. Johnson, 2013). **IB** 25" M. Icy blue-white self; beards medium blue; slight fragrance.

DEEP BURGUNDY (M. Sutton, 2012). **IB** 22" E-M. S. ruby red; F. white and yellow ground, ruby red band and dotting, violet veins in throat; beards brick; slight musky fragrance; ruffled.

EMBLEMATIC (Ghio, 2013). 34" ML. S. oyster-white, pink midrib veining out to edge; F. cocoa rose-pink; beards tangerine.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH (Black, 2013). 35" M-L-VL. S. mid smoky orchid-violet; F. mid orchid-violet, center quickly pales to chalky silvery violet-blue leaving dark red-violet narrow band; beards big, red-orange; slight musky fragrance.

FRED AND GINGER (Black, 2013). 31" E-M. S. dark purple base blending to light violet, darker purple veins from base to 1/2" buff laced band; F. silver, bluish textured veins, 3/4" tan band, rose-amber throat; tangerine beards, white at ends, hairs based violet-blue; slight musky fragrance.

FULL OF GRACE (T. Johnson, 2013). 38" M-L. S. light peach-pink; F. white, darker peach-pink hafts, narrow band; beards peach-coral, blue-white tip; sweet fragrance.

GAMBLING MAN (Keppel, 2014). 38" M. S. chrome lemon; F. blue, 1/16" pineapple edge, inconspicuous hafts blended yellow and brown; beards mustard with hair bases lavender-white.

GOING BIG TIME (Ghio, 2014). 35" L. S. white, hint of orchid at distal edge; F. deep royal purple edge bleeds into white starburst, hint of pink in heart of bloom; beards tangerine.

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

LITTLE BLUE GIRL (L. Lauer, 2013). **IB** 22" E-M. S. aster-violet, white along lower midrib; F. same, white area around beard with two white lines shooting out; beards beech-brown, aster-violet ends; slight sweet fragrance; ruffled.

LOVE OF LIFE (Ghio, 2013). 32" L-VL. S. light to mid pink; F. pink, shaded lighter at edges; beards tangerine, hairs tipped white.

MAKING TIME (L. Lauer, 2013). 35" E-M-L. S. aster-violet, white lines from midrib to a solid white rim; style arms lobelia-blue; F. sea-lavender violet, large luminata center area below beard, white lines down to a light aster-violet rim; beards aster-violet, cadmium-orange in throat and middle, aster-violet end; pronounced sweet fragrance; ruffled..

MEN ARE FROM MARS (Black, 2013). 40" M-L. S. old gold center and 3/4" band, outer 1/3 white with overall old gold filigree veining; F. lilac, chestnut haft and 1/4" band, tan sanded veins over haft, beards old gold becoming lighter at ends; pronounced sweet fragrance.

Out of the Mouths of Babes

submitted by Margy Clapp, Scottsdale, Arizona

An elementary school teacher had 26 students in her class. She presented each child in her classroom the first half of a well-known proverb and asked them to come up with the remainder of the proverb. It's hard to believe these were actually done by first graders. Their insight may surprise you. While reading, keep in mind that these are six-year-olds, because the last one is a classic.

1. Don't change horses until they stop running.
2. Strike while the bug is close.
3. It's always darkest before Daylight Saving Time.
4. Never underestimate the power of termites.
5. You can lead a horse to water but how?
6. Don't bite the hand that looks dirty.
7. No news is impossible.
8. A miss is as good as a Mr.
9. You can't teach an old dog new math.
10. If you lie down with dogs, you'll stink in the morning.

11. Love all, trust me.
12. The pen is mightier than the pigs.
13. An idle mind is the best way to relax.
14. Where there's smoke there's pollution.
15. Happy the bride who gets all the presents.
16. A penny saved is not much.
17. Two's company, three's the Musketeers.
18. Don't put off till tomorrow what you put on to go to bed.
19. Laugh and the whole world laughs with you, cry and you have to blow your nose.
20. There are none so blind as Stevie Wonder.
21. Children should be seen and not spanked or grounded.
22. If at first you don't succeed get new batteries.
23. You get out of something only what you see in the picture on the box.
24. When the blind lead the blind get out of the way.
25. A bird in the hand is going to poop on you.

And the WINNER and last one!

26. Better late than pregnant.

Extra Knowledge

submitted by Donna Hawley, Helena, Missouri

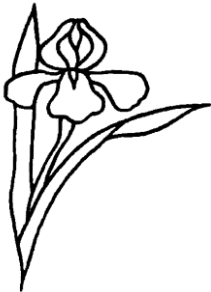
You will definitely gain extra knowledge from reading this. Some facts you may already know.

- Our eyes are always the same size from birth, but our nose and ears never stop growing.
- The sentence: "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog" uses every letter of the alphabet.
- The words 'racecar,' 'kayak' , and 'level' are the same whether they are read left to right or right to left (palindromes).
- There are only four words in the English language which end in "dous": tremendous, horrendous, stupendous, and hazardous
- There are two words in the English language that have all five vowels in order: "abstemious" and "facetious."

About growing older: *When you are dissatisfied and would like to go back to youth, think of Algebra.*
Will Rogers, submitted by Donna Hawley

Santa Rosa Iris Society
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Name and Address Correction requested



The Newsletter of

The Santa Rosa Iris Society

41ST YEAR NUMBER 4

APRIL 2015

President:

Alleah Haley

Vice President:

Rudy Ciuca

Newsletter Editor:

Alleah Haley

Meetings & Membership

The Santa Rosa Iris Society meets the second Monday of each month February through October at 7:30 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, held this year on Saturday, November 7.

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 David Cadd 433-8633, Anna Marie Hermansen 415-xxx-xxxx or 707-xxx-xxxx, Betty Ford xxx-xxx, or Juanita Breckwoldt 415-xxx-xxxx.

May Newsletter Deadline – April 20th