

The Newsletter of

The Santa Rosa Iris Society

41ST YEAR NUMBER 12

DECEMBER 2015

Officers 2015:

President

Alleah Haley

Vice President

Rudy Ciuca

Treasurer

Joe Lawrence

Secretary

Jeff Davis

Past President

Anna Marie Hermansen

Historian

Anna Cadd

707-433-8633

Membership Secretary

Betty Ford

Librarian

Juanita Breckwoldt

Newsletter Editor

Alleah Haley

Directors:

Marlene Horn thru 12/15

Jeanne Plank thru 12/15

Jim Begley thru 12/16

Marlene Freetly thru 12/16

Kathy McCallum thru 12/16

Standing Committees:

Attendance

Marlene Horn

Display Garden Chairmen

Jim Begley

Jeff Davis

Door Prize Coordinator

Rudy Ciuca

Hospitality

Diana and Don Ford

LBAGC Representatives

Alleah Haley

Rudy Ciuca

Joe Lawrence, alternate

Logistics Coordinator

Jim Begley

Photography

Marlene Horn

2015 Show Chairman

Jeff Davis

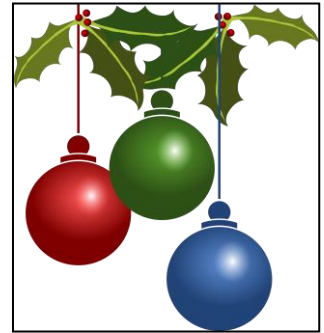
2015 Summer Rhizome Sales Chm.

Betty Ford

SRIS BOARD MEETING

DECEMBER 14 – 6:00 PM

President-elect Rudy Ciuca will preside over our December Board Meeting as our outgoing President will be again be out of state. We'll clean-up loose ends, attempt to finalize 2016 programs, and perhaps start working on the budget for 2016. If a committee you're on needs funds, let Treasurer Joe Lawrence know by contacting him at clvineyard@aol.com. There will be no regular meeting.



Even if you're not on the Board, you're welcome to come and participate. All members and their guests are invited. We always have great snacks and even better iris fellowship. Hope you can make it December 14!

Gardening Tips for December

Anna Cadd

1. Coffee grounds, tea bags, banana peels and veggie scraps are all good and easy organic amendments to enhance your garden. I personally don't like to see these raw materials laying on my flower beds; so I throw all organic wastes including crushed egg shells, along with a spoonful or two of Epsom salts and a handful (not really by hand) of steer manure on the compost pile. I also don't want rats or other vermin to feast on my scraps, even in the Christmas spirit; so I cover the scraps with leaves to give red worms something to chew on. In a month or two the compost is ready to use!
2. Weeds are starting to grow in force, but not everybody can use or can afford commercial chemical weed killers. I heard that sprinkling corn meal on your beds will prevent weeds from sprouting. I haven't tried it, but maybe someone else has? Of course, to cover my garden with corn meal would cost more than Preen or hiring people to weed. You're damned if you do and damned if you don't! Weeds will always win, unfortunately.
3. There are moles in my garden now. They don't eat irises, but just wait! They live underground, are active at night and can dig holes big enough for a truck to fall into – even in rock hard ground. What size they are, anyway? They don't eat rat poison, make my

garden unstable to walk on and nothing bothers them at all. I heard that rags soaked in ammonia are a good repellent for vermin. The animals usually don't like the stink. I may try it. I am also considering stuffing the holes with fish heads. This might ensure that I'll remain a merry widow forever!

4. If you like to plant seeds ahead of time on your windowsill, and who doesn't, consider using an egg carton "as is" or with half egg shells in it. Make a small hole in the bottom of each egg shell for drainage. They hold soil nicely, the seedlings grow in nice groups of 12 or 18, you just stick the whole thing in the ground in spring and voila! Free food is growing! Of course you may need to repaint or replace your windowsill, but this is a small price to pay for extra fun!
5. Don't trim your roses or perennials yet. We can get frost and the new buds will freeze! There will be time after Christmas. If you can make yourself get out and weed, do so when the weeds are still small. Do you know that weeds have increased level of sugars to help them survive the frost? That is why we need extra bars of chocolate to get by in winter! It's the sugar, baby!
6. Christmas is all about warm wishes, friendship, gifts, a cup of hot cocoa under the tree, peace and love. There are also some among us, who don't have these things during Christmas time. Remember our soldiers, who are protecting our freedom, and donate to organizations that are helping our wounded heroes. Remember the policemen patrolling our streets. Remember the doctors and nurses, the people working to deliver electricity and newspapers, sales people working on holiday days far away from their families and all who are tired, sad, sick, poor, or homeless, the refugees...We humans are all a big family.
7. As I was driving back from Milpitas a week ago, after visiting my aunt for Thanksgiving, I stopped at the Safeway on the Great Highway. I was tired and needed a break and an apple or something to chew on. I bought a bouquet of beautiful alstromerias on a whim. As I was leaving, I noticed the Salvation Army kettle and an old man collecting the donations, trying to keep warm in a light jacket. It was a windy, very cold, almost frosty, morning and everybody was passing by in haste. I stopped, stuck a dollar in the kettle, and was rewarded by the nicest huge smile on the old man's face. Suddenly I felt blessed and warm. Please, give a stranger one of your smiles. It might be the only sunshine he sees all day.

As 2015 is almost over, I would like to say thank you to all who helped me live through the difficult times, to all who read my musings in this Newsletter and never got offended and to all my friends, both iris lovers and others. I have you all in my heart and I should do better next year. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

F rom the President's Desk

Please welcome our new SRIS officers for 2016:

President Rudy Ciuca

Vice President Anna Cadd

Secretary Diana Ford

Treasurer Joe Lawrence

Past President Alleah Haley

New Board Members through 2017: Anna Marie Hermansen and Kitty Loberg

Continuing Board Members through 2016: Jim Begley, Marlene Freetly, and Kathy McCallum

I have really enjoyed being your President this past year and I want to thank ALL who helped me, especially Anna Marie who phoned and emailed me often to offer encouragement and reminders of things needing to be done. I accepted an appointment to be AIS Region 14's Judges Training Chair/ Assistant RVP for the next three years. The Judges Training job will require a lot of travel and work, so I chose not to run for a second year as President. I will continue as your newsletter editor, a job I love; and will assist Anna Marie as she once again assumes the Spring Iris Show Chairmanship, this time for 2016. Please be thinking about a theme for our show.

A big, belated thank you to Nancy Fortner for donating about 100 one gallon black plastic pots for members to grow irises for sale at our Show. Some are already in use; but if you need some, contact

me. An equally big thank you to Loretta Figueroa who donated scads of beardless irises for our members to pick up at the November potluck and party. And finally, special thanks to Rudy Ciuca and Bob Breckwoldt, Jr. for preparing the turkey and ham and organizing the food for the party.

I wish you and your families a wonderful holiday season and a healthy and Happy New Year! Working with you was my pleasure. *Alleah Haley*

This Month

Monday, December 14, 6:00 p.m. – SRIS Board Meeting, LBAGC – 2016 programs and budget. All welcome.

2016 Iris Events and Important Dates

Friday-Sunday, April 29-May 1 – Region 14 Spring Meeting “Iris on the Hill”, Beverly Heritage Hotel, 1820 Barber Lane, Milpitas, California. Nola’s Iris Garden; Steve Schreiner will speak.

May 23-28 – AIS National Convention, Newark, New Jersey area “Going East in 2016”. Presby Memorial Iris Gardens, Glenara Gardens of George & Carol Boyce, George Hildenbrant Garden. 888 guest varieties from 99 hybridizers.

DUES NOTICE

Your Newsletter mailing label gives the expiration date of your SRIS dues. If it reads “12/15”, please write a check payable to Santa Rosa Iris Society for \$15/person and mail it to membership secretary Betty Ford. Electronic newsletter recipients, check your expiration date on the membership list sent in October. Use the renewal form in this issue.

From the Editor – **Many thanks** for contributions to this issue: **Anna Cadd, Betty Ford, Diana Ford,** and **Jean Sharp.**

Alleah



Keeping In Touch

Jean Sharp has had her second of six rounds of chemotherapy following cancer surgery. She feels she is tolerating the treatment well; “some days are better than others although more are good than bad.” She’s lost her hair (she quipped that she looks like Sinéad O’Connor), and friends have given and made her hats to wear. Jean welcomes cards and notes/calls to her at:

1945 Piner Rd. #39
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
707-xxx-xxxx

Anna Cadd had marked swelling in her ankles and heels, a result of bursitis (inflammation of the bursae or sacs that cushion the bones, tendons, and joints in these areas). Kaiser Podiatry put her left leg in a fiberglass cast from knee to toe and she’ll wear that for a month, until December 21. She can drive and is still working. If the swelling is reduced when they take the cast off, the doctor will do the same to her right leg and then she’ll be unable to drive. If not, the doctor will recast the left leg for two more months and go from there. Merry Christmas, Anna.

Anna welcomes cards, emails and calls to

329 North St.
Healdsburg, CA 95448
707-433-8633
caddsirir@comcast.net

Happy Birthday December Babies

Marlene Freetly 12/2
Bob Plank 12/20
Adina Boyce 12/24
Kathie Hile 12/27

December Wedding Anniversary

Patricia Franz & Bruce Marcoux 12/19
Jan Wax and Chris Bing 12/31

Iris lortetii syn. *Iris samariae*

Anna Cadd

I would like to introduce you to a real beauty, the extremely rare *Iris lortetii*, an *Oncocylus* iris native to the Holy Land. According to the iris wiki (wiki.irises.org/bin/view/Spec/SpecLortetii) *Iris lortetii* Barbey (William Barbey, 1881, Lebanon); **Section *Oncocyclus***; Height 12-20". Flowers 8-9 cm in diameter, somewhat pinkish-rose; standards orbicular, whitish or pale lavender veined reddish, falls reflexed, very pale lavender or whitish ground, with both sparsely and densely dotted areas of pinkish-maroon and a reddish signal patch, beard sparse brown; style purplish-brown with reddish brown lobes.

According to the English botanist who studied this group John Gilbert Baker, "The present plant occupies an intermediate position between *I. susiana* and *I. iberica* It was first found by Dr. Lortet, after whom it is named, about the year 1880, in dry thickets on the slope of the southern part of Lebanon range, at an elevation of about two thousand feet above sea-level." This name is now synonymous with *Iris samariae*, described and pictured below (also from the iris wiki (wiki.irises.org/bin/biew/Spec/SpecSamariae)). I'm wondering if this is the flower that the shepherds brought to the manger to greet the newborn baby Jesus?



Iris samariae (John

resembling *I. lortetii*, but strongly reflexed, with short haft, purple-lined short claw, lined with cm, reddish-brown, the *samariae* Dinsm. now a *lortetii* var. *samariae* has



Edward Dinsmore, 1933, Bayta, Palestine). **Section *Oncocyclus***, 28", E. Flower larger, 12 cm in diameter, and falls wider, not larger dots, 4-5 x 6-7 cm, narrowed slightly to a very and dotted on a creamy ground; spot small, dark-on a white ground. Standards 6.5 cm, orbicular with a dark-pink, dark-brown at the base; style branches 5 crests purple-dotted, recurved. As *Iris* variety of *Iris lortetii*. [*Iris lortetii* W. Barbey]. *Iris* no cultivars other than 'Samariae'.

It's fun to speculate about the flower associated with the Christ child; but we will probably never know. Perhaps it was only a figment of the painter's imagination.

2015 Come as an Iris Name Potluck Party

Betty Ford

Friday afternoon, November 6, SRIS members gathered at the Luther Burbank Art and Garden Center for the annual Come Dressed as an Iris Name Potluck Party. These are always special occasions and

enjoyed by all who attend. It definitely provides entertainment and a great way to engage our minds and memories to recall the iris we know, or just to try to decipher the iris clues that are presented to us.

Thanks go to Bob Breckwoldt, Jr. and Rudy Ciuca who roasted the turkey and ham to five star restaurant perfection. Both were mouthwateringly delicious and very much appreciated. Thanks to all who brought those awesome side dishes for us to share. We are blessed with the best cooks! Thanks to Anna Cadd for the beautiful decorations she dressed the tables and room with. Thanks to Rudy who added to the decorations with beautiful pomegranates grown in his garden along with other special touches. Quite the party atmosphere was created for the enjoyment of all.

As the 'iris names' began to arrive, the guessing games got under way. It's usually the iris that we should all know that eludes us the most. The object is to see how many of these creative 'iris names' that you can guess. This year Alice Kemper, Anna Marie Hermansen, Joe Lawrence, Alleah Haley, and Cheryl Bryan all tied for guessing the most iris names. (Some guessed 8 and some 7, but I figured it was close enough to call it a tie).

Once we had laughed ourselves silly pondering over the 'irises' in attendance and were sedated with the excellent selection of food available, it was time for the full disclosure of 'iris names'. All 'irises' came forth and revealed the iris that they portrayed. At that time everyone voted for the Best Iris Impersonation, their Personal Favorite and the one 'iris name' they found to be the Most Perplexing.

Most Perplexing went to Bob Plank who did an excellent job of portraying his chosen iris name by carrying an unopened bottle of wine and an empty wine glass. The intriguing part was how he pantomimed pouring himself a glass of wine, drinking it, then pouring another glass and drinking it, and so on. No one guessed Bob. Can you? He was I'LL HAVE ANOTHER (Joan Roberts 2013). Jeanne Plank wore the color combinations of her iris name with burgundy slacks and white top, adding a colorful array of colored bead necklaces. She even displayed a photo of her colorful iris, and carried a decorative ball containing the colors. Sadly enough, even with all those clues, I couldn't figure out that she was LIKE A RAINBOW (Lauer 2009). Just like a rainbow, her iris has lots of colors infused in it.

Christie Flum won the award for Best Impersonation. She found a Scottish costume in a thrift store, then went home and looked up a name to go with it. The costume was hilarious. It covered her from neck to feet. A device inside the costume inflated it to several sizes larger than she actually is. It came with a hat and orange hair. Her iris was HIGHLAND LORD (Tasco 2009).

Everyone's Favorite Choice award was bestowed on Anna Cadd. She carried an old rusty pipe approximately 3 feet in length. A picture of wide open eyes was glued to that rusty pipe along with a box of sleep aid and then more wide open bloodshot eyes. Clues indicated that these eyes just weren't getting any sleep. Great way to display the little reblooming IB, RUST NEVER SLEEPS (Lauer 2013).

No one figured out Rudy Ciuca's iris name. A large picture hung from a cord around his neck that featured a roasted turkey and an assortment of delectable side dishes of food. Attached below that picture was a photo of the LA iris THANKSGIVING FEST (M. Dunn 1998). Joe Lawrence wore a crown on his head. An extension cord was coiled up and rested on his head inside the crown. What do you do with a cord? You connect it to something. Right? CROWN CONNECTION (Cadds 2003).

Anna Marie Hermansen stumped everyone except Joe Lawrence. She wore a white top with big black spiders attached to it, including one caught in a spider net. A larger brown spider was attached to her waist. Red droplets emerged from under the spiders which indicated dripping blood for SPIDER'S BLOOD (Clark 2006), an Australian TB iris.

Alleah Haley dressed from head to toe in black (the color of her iris name). Pinned to her shirt were the clues to her iris explaining that it was a combination word. Word 1 – adjective; synonyms – evil, wicked, naughty. Word 2 – plural noun; synonyms – countries, regions, acreages. A map of South Dakota was also attached. Pictures of scenery and animals found in the badlands were posted on her back. What

great clues for BADLANDS (Schreiner 2003). Nothing like a good ‘mind game’ to figure out the name of an iris.

Kitty Loberg wore a lovely tiger patterned blouse with a large eye of a tiger attached to the front and another attached to her back. Her iris? EYE OF THE TIGER (P. Black 2008). Amazing what you can find in your closet that you can incorporate into an iris name. Steve Albert wore a midnight blue shirt, and a placard with a brightly shining star against a dark sky with smaller glittering stars surrounding it. Steve’s iris name immediately jumped out at me, and I believe that I was the only one to guess the median iris as STAR IN THE NIGHT (P. Black 2009). Perhaps it came to mind so easily because I had just recently dug my huge clump of it.

Alice Kemper wore her iris name clues which were: 1. Award-winning white TB 36”, 2. Space Ager, 3. Introduced 1991. She also waved a pendant back and forth in front of us. Yes, that’s it. MESMERIZER (Byers 1991).

Diana Ford carried a cup indicating that it was cappuccino. A strip of lace was wrapped around the cup for CAPPUCCINO LACE (Schreiner 2015). Good job, Diana. Just goes to show what really clever ideas come to our members. Don Ford wore a sign reading ‘Deed’ stating that he was an Official Better for BET THE FARM (Schreiner 2015). Way to go Don! Don and Diana exhibited simplicity at its best!

Jeff Davis dressed as a cowboy wearing a midnight blue shirt, neck scarf, cowboy hat and boots. A placard of a clock with the time set at 12:00 hung around his neck. OK, so we could assume that it was midnight. Right? Excellent clues for MIDNIGHT COWBOY (Maryott 2002).

Cheryl Bryan portrayed a schoolmarm. With a pencil stuck in her hair, chalk and a blackboard, she set out to give us a lesson in French. Written on her blackboard was a message: “For today learn” and then some lessons written in French. Put on your thinking caps, because this literally shouts out her iris name FRENCH LESSONS (Kerr 2014).

Oh yes, then there was me. I wore a name tag stating that my name is Elizabeth, but everyone calls me Betty. Several other small individual placards were stitched around the front and back of my sweater. Each placard with a different name and nickname, i.e. Jeffrey/Jeff, James/Jim, Patricia/Pat, William/Bill etc. My iris name was NICKNAME (Kerr 2008).

Thanks to all the folks that came dressed as an iris name. Your creativity and the uniqueness in the way you portrayed your chosen iris provided us with an afternoon of exclusive entertainment - along with the awesome ‘food feast’. I will wrap up by saying “Wow, another great come as an iris name/potluck party!” And thank you, Alleah and Anna Marie, for your help and help with the prizes.

Longwood Gardens and Pierre S. du Pont

Alleah Haley

My daughter Heather is a product developer for Carolina Biological Supply Company in North Carolina. The company makes science lab kits for elementary and secondary schools, and Heather often works their booth at trade shows and teachers’ conferences. Thus, my trip to Philadelphia to visit with Heather November 7-11 just prior to the National Science Teachers Conference there. When Heather suggested we include Longwood Gardens in our tourist plans, I jumped at the chance!

Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, about 30 miles southwest of Philadelphia, was the weekend home of industrialist Pierre Samuel du Pont II. It was originally purchased from William Penn in 1700 by fellow Quaker George Pierce as a working farm. Pierce’s twin great grandsons Joshua and Samuel Pierce were very fond of trees, and by 1850 they had developed a first class 15-acre arboretum named Pierce’s Park there, and invited the public in. Locals gathered in the Park for family outings and picnics. Subsequent Pierce heirs had other ideas and by 1906 were negotiating to sell 41 acres of timber including the arboretum to a lumber mill.

On a whim, 36-year-old Pierre du Pont bought an initial 202 acres, including the Pierce home and outbuildings, in 1906 for \$15,500, to preserve the trees from logging. Subsequent purchases of surrounding parcels bought the acreage to the current 1077 acres that comprise Longwood Gardens. Du Pont added thousands of trees to Pierce's Park and added a north wing and a connecting conservatory to the modest brick 1730 Pierce farmhouse, which is now a museum. We toured the museum to learn how the du Ponts lived and entertained their nieces and nephews (they had no children of their own). On display was a letter dated November 13, 1934 to Miss Beatrix Farrand, Reef Point, Bar Harbor, Maine, labelled "writing about a plant lost in transit" which concluded:

"I do like iris San Gabriel and would like to have some if you can send it.

Yours very sincerely,
Mrs. Pierre S. duPont."

Longwood Gardens is billed as the "World's Premier Horticulture Display". It is a display garden, not a botanical garden, and includes 11,000 different plants including more than ½ million bulbs planted in October of each year. Following bloom, the bulbs are composted and new, mostly imported bulbs are later planted and covered with netting for "critter control".

Initially du Pont, a bachelor to the age of 45 when he married his cousin, Alice Belin (43), as was the custom in those days among the wealthy to maintain the family fortune, developed his property slowly, starting with the 600-foot-long Flower Garden Walk, as a place to entertain family and friends. Du Pont had graduated from MIT at age 20 with a degree in chemistry and went right to work as an assistant superintendent at Du Pont (founded in 1802 by Pierre S. du Pont II's grandfather Éleuthère Irénée du Pont as a gunpowder mill near Wilmington, Delaware). As an aside, Pierre du Pont also managed General Motors from 1915 to 1920 and became General Motors' president in 1920.

Through the years du Pont travelled the world extensively. He greatly admired classical (especially Italian and French) architecture, gardens like Kew, the Horticultural Hall at the 1876 centennial in Philadelphia, and London's Sydenham Crystal Palace. He especially liked fountains, and began installing them at Longwood, doing the hydraulic calculations for the pumps himself. His first fountain, a simple pool with a single jet of water, is on the Flower Garden Walk today. Heather's and my visit began near the entrance at the Open Air Theater with recorded Oriental music synchronized with a "dancing waters" fountain display of 750 jets and a rainbow effect of colored lights shining through the water sprays. The Italian Water Garden, a complex of pools with 600 jet sprays, was, unfortunately, closed for the season. Likewise, the Main Fountain complex with its 130-foot jets was closed for fountain revitalization. We enjoyed the Flower Garden Walk and marveled at the prominent plantings of winterberry holly (*Ilex verticillata*) 'Red Sprite' with its leafless stems (it's deciduous) and profuse red berries and flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*) from eastern North America with its red leaves and red berries.

Featured Attractions

The Orchid House displays a fraction of the 7,500 orchids at Longwood Gardens. To ensure a continuous display, their orchid grower hand picks and replaces the plants three times a week with others from their five orchid growing houses. Orchids are a focus in winter with their "Orchid Extravaganza." Orchids were a passion of Pierre S. du Pont and his wife; both were charter members of the American Orchid Society. Orchids were one of their first plant collections – started in 1922. In 1948, the collection was greatly enlarged when Pierre S. du Pont's sister-in-law, Mrs. William K. du Pont, donated her collection of more than 2,300 orchid plants to Longwood.

A Chrysanthemum Festival was underway during our visit, featuring 16,000 chrysanthemum plants, most produced on site and many by budding. Several of the 20 "rooms" and "halls" of the Conservatory, a 4-acre greenhouse structure built between 1919 and 1921 to grow fruit – especially oranges, featured mums including exhibits of all 13 bloom types (Irregular Incurve, Reflex, Regular Incurve, Decorative, Intermediate Incurve, Pompon, Single and Semi-Double, Anemone, Spoon, Quill, Spider, Brush or

Thistle, and Unclassified or Exotic); torch form, white cloud form, and pagoda form mums; and the largest One Thousand Bloom Chrysanthemum plant outside Asia (actually bearing more than 1400 blossoms) with a single stem and blooms trained to a specially built wire half-dome frame, 11 feet in diameter. The last named exhibit took 17 months from a cutting and more than 1500 staff hours to nurture and train this plant. The East Conservatory underwent massive renovation in 2003 – 2005. The Conservatory houses the Longwood Organ, a 10,010 pipe organ (the third of a series of pipe organs) that can be heard throughout the building when played.

Longwood has 27 outdoor gardens including a “rose arbor” of ‘American Pillar’ rambler rose, a single rose, espaliered on 35 arches in bloom in spring and summer, and three enormous treehouses built by Pete Nelson of Treehouse Masters in 2008 for a TV program of the same name on Animal Planet. Two million minor bulbs such as chionodoxa, crocus, muscari, and scilla were naturalized over 20 years starting in 1985 to create huge drifts of late winter color. There are several outdoor and at least one indoor garden of special interest to children including the Idea Garden/Trial Garden devoted to vegetables and herbs where we found a single clump of “orris root” (*Iris germanica* or *Iris pallida*). A search of Longwood Gardens’ extensive and hugely informative website (<http://longwoodgardens.org>) gave a list of 33 irises grown there: 7 Siberian iris cultivars, 12 species iris and introduced cultivars, 5 reticulatas, 1 danfordiae, 3 Japanese cultivars, 2 “dwarf” iris, the above mentioned orris root (labelled *Iris ‘Florentina’*), and tall bearded cultivars ‘Immortality’ and ‘Kazak’ (a 1957 Tom Craig red on yellow plicata).

Heather and I took a guided “Production Greenhouse Insider Tour” where our two tour guides took us through several of the nine production greenhouses, redone in 1999 at a cost of 11 million dollars, just behind the main Conservatory complex (there are other greenhouses not open to the public on the far other side of the property). In these greenhouses 65% of the plants used in indoor and outdoor displays are produced on rolling benches that supply drip irrigation and bear heat tubes that warm pots by being inserted in the soil, not by heated air in the greenhouse itself. Research is also conducted and several educational programs center there and in the outdoor display gardens: a program for high school students; internships for US and international students; a tuition-free 2-year professional gardener program for 8-10 individuals/year who have a high school diploma and at least 1 year of paid horticultural experience; and a graduate program in partnership with the University of Delaware leading to a MSc in public horticulture for students preparing to manage botanical gardens, community greening organizations, and other horticultural establishments. Fifty kinds of soil mixes are produced at Longwood and the compost they make by composting most plant material from the greenhouses and gardens is a major component of them. In all, Longwood Gardens has 1300 employees, students, and volunteers and hosts some 900,000 visitors each year, including 300,000 during their Christmas Display.

In 1972 the Gardens became listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Pierre S. du Pont II died in 1954 at age 84; his wife had died ten years earlier. He had phased out Longwood Farms by 1951. He established the Longwood Foundation in 1937 to “handle his charitable giving” and as a tax shelter from the IRS. Most of Pierre S. du Pont’s estate was willed to the Longwood Foundation. It is under the auspices of the Longwood Foundation with its 50 million dollar/year budget that Longwood Gardens operates today. Entrance fees and fees for special tours are \$20 for adults, \$17 for seniors; \$4 for special tours.

Iris tigridia and *Tigridia pavonia*

Anna Cadd

Perhaps you remember that in the November 2014 issue of this Newsletter I wrote about Tigridias, beautiful spring flowers that grow from bulbs. Anyway, Alleah bought for me two different ones and I planted them last spring in small bowls. No sign of life yet, but I am patient. Suddenly I stumbled on *Iris tigridia* pictures and this wasn’t sounding right. So I did a little research and discovered that they are related, “cousins” almost, but one has bulbs and other has rhizomes and they don’t look the same at all.

They also grow in complete different parts of words, were discovered at different times by different people, have different colors and patterns and growth requirements, and one is readily available and the other is obscure and rare. The word “Tigridia” is not a common one, so how did they get stuck in the same category? There is a lot of mystery in the science world, so am I just trying to confuse you more right before the Christmas rush? Ah, by the way, look for *Tigridia* bulbs in nurseries to plant for spring, but you will need to book a plane to Siberia to get rhizomes of *Iris tigridia*, if you can even find them!



Beautiful *Pseudo-regelia* species *Iris tigridia*. These photos show the natural variation in the population – such a great statement about genetic variability & diversity! (Photos by Andrey Dedov from Barnaul, the city and the administrative center of Altai Krai, Russia, located along the Ob River in the West Siberian Plain.)

So here is how *Iris tigridia* and *Tigridia pavonia* are related and located on the Family tree:

Kingdom: Plantae
 (unranked): Monocots
 Order: Asparagales
 Family: Iridaceae
 Subfamily: Iridoideae
 Tribe: Irideae
 Genus: Iris
 Subgenus: Iris
 Section: Pseudoregelia
 Species: *Iris tigridia*

Kingdom: Plantae
 (unranked): Monocots
 Order: Asparagales
 Family: Iridaceae
 Subfamily: Iridoideae
 Tribe: Tigridieae
 Genus: *Tigridia*
 Species: *T. pavonia*

(unranked): Angiosperms (unranked): Angiosperms

References: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iris_tigridia
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tigridia_pavonia

Minutes of Santa Rosa Iris Society Board Meeting, November 9, 2015

Meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m. by vice president Rudy Ciuca since president Alleah Haley was absent.

Minutes from August and October were approved with one change. Anna-Marie Hermansen stated that Marlene Horn was timing out as director, not Marlene Freetly.

Joe Lawrence gave the Treasurers report and it was approved.

Old business:

Usually the officers are voted on at the potluck, but this year there was some confusion and that didn't happen. Since Betty Ford is the chairman of the nominating committee and she was absent, this was tabled until the December board meeting.

Continued problem with the watering system. Ask Jeff to report on this in December. Recent rain is temporarily solving this problem.

New business:

Anna-Marie made a motion to donate \$50 to AIS for the general fund in honor of Gen Mattos, who recently passed away. Jim Begley seconded the motion. Anna Cadd made the same motion to honor Betty Coyle and Jim seconded the motion. The motions were approved.

There was a discussion of Center policies and politics. Rudy asked for two people to attend the Center's meeting since he would be out of town. Kitty Loberg and Anna Cadd said they would attend if possible.

There was a discussion of using the farmer's market at the Wells Fargo Center as a place for the rhizome sale in 2016. Alleah Haley will be responsible to find out the particulars and report back. Also there was a discussion of switching the dates around, to do the Heirloom Expo first because it brings in more money. Discuss this again next month.

There was a discussion of having a Program in October about the correct way to plant and take care of iris given by Anna Cadd for new members and people who purchase iris at the Heirloom Expo and from our sale. Anna Cadd is going to develop a handout sheet inviting people to that meeting. We will distribute these at our sales. May also offer doorprize rhizomes at that meeting. Anna to report at the February general meeting.

Jim Begley suggested bringing larger rhizomes to the sale, giving the purchaser a better chance for a bloom the first year. Also giving away bigger free ones, even older ones for the same reason. This to be discussed at the April meeting.

Anna Cadd developed a calendar to use for determining programs needed. A number of suggestions of possible programs were discussed, including a mushroom program, gopher control program, gardening as you age with adaptive tools, speakers from farmers market, seed bank, bee program and many more. Anna offered to do a program on new trends in tall bearded hybridizing, what we can expect in the future. This may be the February program. Betty Ford will find out about the gopher control program. Alleah will find out about the adaptive tool program. Kitty will coordinate the regional report slide show in June. Marlene Horn will organize the slide show of iris for the auction held in August (this will be the July 11th meeting). Kitty will contact the mushroom person to see if he can give us a presentation in March. Picnic will be August 7 at the same place. Dates of the Heirloom Expo are September 6, 7 and 8. Regular rhizome sale still to be determined at the general meeting.

Jim Begley and Anna brought up the idea of a bus or carpooling to Napa Country Iris Garden and another iris farm nearby, also the idea of an informal tour of member gardens this spring. The idea of carpooling was well received and will be discussed again at the next meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Diana Ford, Acting Secretary

Ways to Give a Holiday Helping Hand

From the November 19, 2015 Press Democrat

Even in times of plenty, some people struggle. Charitable organizations work hard to help, but they rely on gifts of time and money from donors.

Here are some worthy organizations in Sonoma County that give food and other assistance to people in need:

- The Redwood Gospel Mission, PO Box 493 (addr.:101 Sixth St.), Santa Rosa, CA 95402. Donate or download a shopping list at srmission.org or call 707-578-1830. Provides Christmas dinner & services all year.
- The Redwood Empire Food Bank supplies 178 agencies around the region including soup kitchens and food pantries. Donate online at refb.org, send contributions to 3990 Brickway Blvd., Santa Rosa 95403, or call 523-7900.
- Friends in Service Here (FISH) is an all-volunteer food bank providing free groceries to 65,000 people/yr. in Sonoma Co. Donate at friendsinsonomahelping.org, 2900 McBride Lane, Santa Rosa or call 527-5151.
- Catholic Charities distributes food through its rural food program which serves communities away from pantries and food banks. It also gives clothing, mail services, showers, beds, counselling and job search help. Donate online at srcharities.org or call 528-8712.

- The Salvation Army distributes food and other aid to needy families. Address is 93 Stony Circle, Santa Rosa 95401, phone 542-0998.
- The Committee on the Shelterless (COTS) provides shelter, transitional housing, training, and serves 100,000 meals and distributes 500,000 lbs. of food annually. Donate online or see a wish list and volunteer opportunities at cots-homeless.org or send a donation to COTS, PO Box 2744, Petaluma 94953.
- Food for Thought, a Forestville-based food pantry at 6550 Railroad Ave., Forestville, serves AIDS and HIV patients. Donate online at fffoodbank.org. To volunteer, email volunteer@fffoodbank.org or call 887-1647.
- The Council on Aging delivers more than 250,000 meals annually to seniors and provides social, financial and legal services. Volunteer or donate at councilonaging.com or send donations to 30 Kawana Springs Road, Santa Rosa 95404 or call 525-0143.
- Petaluma People Services Center gives housing and job training and serves more than 40,000 meals through its Meals on Wheels and cafe programs. Send donations to petalumapeople.org, 1500A Petaluma Blvd. S., Petaluma 94952 or call 765-8488.



February through October of each year meetings of the Santa Rosa Iris Society are held on the second Monday of each month at the Luther Burbank Art and Garden Center, 2050 Yulupa Ave., Santa Rosa, California. The Program starts at 7:00 p.m. and the business meeting follows after the break. Come early and visit. The doors open about 6:00 p.m. for set up and coffee making. *The deadline for all submissions for the **January 2016** issue of this Newsletter is **December 20, 2015**. Email copy to:*

alleah.haley@gmail.com.



Kitty Cat Do's and Don'ts

from Colorful Images® catalog

- I do ... hear
- I don't ... listen
- I do ... ignore
- I don't ... think ... I know
- I do ... require catnip
- I don't ... eat leftovers
- I do ... have attitude
- I don't ... do mornings
- I do ... what I please
- I don't ... do tricks
- I do ... know I am special
- I don't ... take walks
- I do ... know the boss is ME!
- I don't ... fetch anything ... EVER!

Funny Christmas Jokes

found on the internet

- Where does Santa stay when he's on a holiday?
At a Ho-ho-tel
- I'm so strong I could lift a reindeer with one hand.
Yeah, but where are we going to find a one-handed reindeer?
- What do snowmen eat for lunch?
Icebergers !
- How do snowmen travel around?

By iceicle!

- How do snowmen greet each other?
Ice to meet you!
- What do you call a snowman in the summer?
A puddle.
- What's a snowman's favorite Mexican food?
Brrrrrr-itos!
- Why does it take longer to build a blonde snowman?
You have to hollow out its head first
- Q: What do you get if you cross Father Christmas with a detective?
A: Santa Clues!
- "I don't care who you are, fatso. Get the reindeer off my roof!"
- Sherlock's favorite Christmas song:
"I'll be Holmes for Christmas"
- How do sheep in Mexico say Merry Christmas?
Fleece Navidad!
- What is green, covered with tinsel and goes "ribbet ribbet"?
A mistle-"toad"!
- What did the grape say to the peanut butter?
"Tis the season to be jelly!"
- Why did the gingerbread man go to the doctor?
Because he was feeling crummy!
- What kind of money do they use at the North Pole?
Cold cash!
- I keep Christmas in my heart every month of the year. That's because it's on my charge card statement that long!
- Why is Christmas just like another day at the office?
You do all the work and the fat guy with the suit gets all the credit!
- CHRISTMESS: Five minutes after the gifts are opened!
- What kind of music do elves like best?
"Wrap" music!
- Who sings "Blue Christmas" and makes toy guitars?
Elfis!
- How did the chickens dance at the Christmas party?
Chick to chick!



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL IN THE
SANTA ROSA IRIS SOCIETY

Membership in the Santa Rosa Iris Society is on an annual basis from January through December. Renewals are due January 1st of each year. The current dues are:

Single Membership \$15.00 Dual Membership \$30.00

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

BETTY FORD
1383 EAST NAPA STREET
SONOMA, CA 95476

NAME(s) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

e-MAIL ADDRESS _____

BIRTHDAY _____

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY AND SPOUSE'S NAME _____

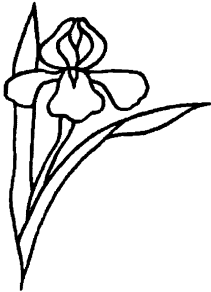
AIS MEMBER: YES _____ NO _____

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

I would like my Newsletter by email: YES _____ NO _____

Santa Rosa Iris Society
Alleah Haley, Newsletter Editor
208 Eucalyptus Ave.
Cotati, CA 94931

Name and Address Correction requested



The Newsletter of

The Santa Rosa Iris Society

41ST YEAR NUMBER 12

DECEMBER 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 7:00 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, held this year on Friday, November 6.

Membership dues are \$15.00 per year. Send payment to: Santa Rosa Iris Society c/o Betty Ford, 1383 E. Napa St., Sonoma, CA 95476. Membership offers regular meetings, iris door prizes, special programs, use of our library, a monthly newsletter, annual iris show and rhizome sale, and fellowship with other iris lovers. For more information call Anna Marie Hermansen, Betty Ford, or Juanita Breckwoldt.

January Newsletter Deadline – December 20th