

The Newsletter of

The Santa Rosa Iris Society

41ST YEAR NUMBER 11

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

NOVEMBER 2015

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 3:00 PM

HOLIDAY POTLUCK/ COME
DRESSED AS AN IRIS NAME
COSTUME PARTY



The party will be at the Luther Burbank Art & Garden Center, 2050 Yulupa Avenue, Santa Rosa, our usual meeting location. Doors open at 3:00 p.m. for set up and decorating. We'll begin guessing iris names by 4:00 p.m. and eat around 5:00 p.m. Rudy Ciuca will fix ham and a turkey breast, courtesy of the Club, aided by Bob Breckwoldt, Jr. and Jeff Davis in the kitchen. Members should bring their family or guest, a side dish to feed at least eight, eating and serving utensils for their group, and beverage. The Society will furnish coffee, tea, and the bread. Do come at 3 p.m. to help set up and decorate. We'll elect officers for 2016.

Almost as important, come dressed as the name of an iris. We'll have a contest with prizes for the best costumes, coordinated by Betty Ford. So put on your thinking cap. To stimulate your creativity, a report on last year's event is reprinted in this issue. Even if you can't think up a costume, please come and join the frivolity, fellowship, and great food!

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 6:00 PM - SRIS BOARD MEETING
LUTHER BURBANK ART & GARDEN CENTER

The Board will meet to brainstorm ideas for next year's programs. Do think about a program you'd like to see, a speaker you'd like to hear, or volunteer to give a program. All are welcome.

Gardening Tips for November

Anna Cadd

1. Fall is time to slow down and relax ... really? There is so much to do to prepare the garden for winter that we usually don't know where to start; so most people just let it go, read a book, and relax in front of the fireplace. But not us seasoned gardeners!
 - a. The first rule is to water your garden well now, so your plants will get a good root system before winter. Easier said than done in Sonoma County, but there is hope in El Niño!
 - b. Next, clean your garden. For annuals, since they only live one year, feel free to remove annuals from your containers and garden whenever you are ready to part with them. For perennials that lose their leaves in winter, cut back and

remove foliage once it begins to go dormant. Evergreen perennials should never be cut back in fall as this can easily kill the plant. For shrubs, most are best pruned in early spring; so just clean up their foliage once it falls.

- c. If you'd like to use the leaves as mulch, shred them first. Keep in mind that oak leaves and evergreen needles tend to increase soil acidity slightly as they break down. Most of your perennials and shrubs will enjoy the acidity, but your lawn will not. If the leaves are small, you may just leave them on the beds. They will decompose and meanwhile will discourage sprouting weeds.
 - d. Plant spring bulbs like daffodils, tulips, muscari, onions, etc. Mark the spots, as you will not remember where they are planted next summer!
 - e. Mulch the garden. It will protect the soil against drought, retain moisture, control weeds, and regulate soil temperature, not to mention the aesthetic finish of the garden.
 - f. Apply some weed preventer, so weeds will not grow like mad!
 - g. Remember not to break your back during fall cleanup. Know when enough is enough and it's time to call in reinforcements to get the job done.
2. It is fall and few flowers are in bloom - just some roses and mums, perhaps. But usually there is not a lot of color. So what about planting pots of different succulents? You can easily move the pots to desired spots and there are so many succulents that look good all year round. Succulents usually don't need deep pots, don't require a lot of water (but more than cactuses), and have so many varieties and different shapes and colors ... from large leaves and colorful blooms of *Echeveria* to cold-hardy stonecrop and the spectacular flowers of South African agave-like *Aloes*. There's a succulent to brighten most winter gardens. Plant them now so they'll take root. Choose carefully by zone as not all succulents stand up to frost or a hard freeze. For ideas, visit your local nursery or consult the article at: [http://www.GardenSMART.com/?p=articles&title=Secret Stunners for Late-Season Color](http://www.GardenSMART.com/?p=articles&title=Secret+Stunners+for+Late+Season+Color).
3. Fall is the best time to plant trees, and there are a lot of them in nurseries. But what about trees that look great in fall – changing green leaves into hues from yellow, orange, red to brown? Do you remember leaf collections stashed in phone books or our parents' encyclopedias? How many of us "got lessons" with a belt for ruining the books when our explanations about scientific inquiries fell on deaf ears? That's probably why Wikipedia was invented ... but I digress. The best trees for fall color are:
- a. Sugar maple *Acer saccharum*. Featuring 5-inch leaves with 3-5 toothed lobes, autumn foliage morphs from gold, yellow and fiery orange to an unmatched deep red.
 - b. Red maple *Acer rubrum*. Fall colors vary from bright yellow to burgundy.
 - c. Sassafras *Sassafras albidum*. Leaves are red, purple, yellow, or orange, with an added bonus of a sweet smell and red-stemmed dark blue berries that attract birds. Great also for making root beer!
 - d. Japanese maple *Acer palmatum*. It can be green all year round or have different colors and delicate leaves.
4. Black gum tree *Nyssa silvatica*. You'll find varying hues of peach and wine-red often on the same branch. It has interesting bark, resembling alligator hide, which also makes this tree an exceptional choice for fall. Bees love this tree for its late spring blooms.
5. Halloween time, and we all will get fat on candy. But not so for our pets. While all chocolate is toxic to pets, dark chocolate contains a higher concentration of theobromine and caffeine, which can haunt furry friends with diarrhea, vomiting and increased heart rate and blood pressure. It can even be fatal depending of the amount ingested. Also, even in small doses, raisin consumption can cause kidney failure. Foil, cardboard, and paper wrapping can cause just as much mischief as the candy inside! Carved pumpkins grow a mad scientist's worth of bacteria inside them, which can give pets a terrible tummy ache if eaten. The pets may run scared, dressed in weird costumes, which can be chewed also. So be careful, because Halloween can be scary big time at the vet's office. Never attempt first aid on a poisoned pet without the guidance of your veterinarian or a pet poison helpline, and get your best friend to the emergency vet as soon as you see signs of trouble. Keep these phone numbers handy: Pet Poison Helpline: 800-213-6680, Animal Poison Control: 888-426-4435



Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier'n puttin' it back. Will Rogers

From the President's Desk

I've just returned from the Region 14 Fall Meeting in Visalia, California featuring Chuck Bunnell of Lafayette, Indiana, originator of the 2014 Dykes Medal winner, MTB 'Dividing Line'. Chuck spoke and gave judges training on median irises. I was fortunate to hitch a ride in the back of the "party van", driven by Joe Lawrence, who was aided and abetted by Rudy Ciuca. Santa Rosa Iris Society members Jeanne and Bob Plank's stimulating banter shortened the long drive. Kitty Loberg and Steve Albert completed the SRIS contingent at the meeting. There Phyllis Wilburn of Sacramento and Sierra Foothills Iris Societies was elected RVP and I was elected Assistant RVP/ Judges Training Chair. We'll have our work cut out for us for the next three years! Congratulations to Rudy, who advanced to accredited AIS Garden/ Exhibition Judge. All are pending approval at this November's AIS Board Meeting.

One of the highlights of the Fall Regional was the silent auction, where the SRIS basket of mostly iris-themed gifts was judged "most coveted." Many thanks to everyone who donated items and to Jean Sharp, who donated more and wrapped it beautifully while recuperating from surgery. I also want to thank Jean Sharp for serving as Display Garden Chairperson for several years. Jean "put her back into" this position and worked tirelessly and long to make the garden what it is today. Please welcome new Display Garden Co-Chairmen Jim Begley and Jeff Davis. Volunteer to help them at work parties whenever you can.

We'll hold an election of officers at the Friday, November 6 "Come Dressed as an Iris Name" costume party and holiday potluck. Thanks to the nominating committee: Betty Ford (chairman), Anna Marie Hermansen, Rudy Ciuca, and Jim Begley. The slate for 2015 accepted at our October meeting is:

- President – Rudy Ciuca
- Vice President – Anna Cadd
- Secretary – Diana Ford
- Treasurer – Joe Lawrence
- Directors through 12/17 – Anna Marie Hermansen and Kitty Loberg
- Directors through 12/16 will remain Jim Begley, Marlene Freetly, and Kathy McCallum.

Please do some head scratching and figure out an iris name costume and a dish to bring to our party the afternoon/evening of Friday, November 6. We'll start decorating at 3:00 p.m., guessing iris names at 4:00, and hope to eat at 5:00. Betty Ford will officiate the contest (this will be her 15th year I think), and Rudy will be assisted in the kitchen by Bob Breckwoldt, Jr. and Jeff. I really appreciate everyone's contributions to this, one of our funnest events of the year. Do come!

Alleah Haley

This Month

Friday, November 6 – Holiday Potluck/Come Dressed as an Iris Costume Party, LBAGC. Election of officers for 2016.

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

- Monday, November 9, 6:00 PM
- Monday, December 14, 6:00 PM

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 out last month. Use the renewal form in this issue.

From the Editor – **Many thanks** for contributions to this issue: **Juanita Breckwoldt, Anna Cadd, Rudy Ciuca, Elizabeth Cooke, Carolyn Craft** of Clara B. Rees and Monterey Bay Iris Societies, **Jeff Davis, Betty Ford, Diana Ford, Anna Marie Hermansen, Alice Kemper, Kitty Loberg, Vivian Manfree** of Napa, and **Jeanne Plank.** *Alleah*

2014 Come as an Iris Name Potluck Party

Betty Ford

A good time was had by all who attended the Society's annual potluck party on Saturday November 8. The Luther Burbank Art and Garden Center was attractively arranged and festively decorated. Wonderful smells wafted throughout the room from the roasting turkey and ham, thanks to Rudy Ciuca and Joe Lawrence, with Bob Breckwoldt, Jr. helping wherever needed.

Quite a variety of "iris names" showed up, and soon everyone got into the spirit of trying to guess the names of these creations. This is challenging, often frustrating. It is nice to be reminded of irises from the past, newly introduced irises, and, yes, even irises that we have never heard of before. Disguises are always interesting, clever, and make for an entertaining evening. Prizes were awarded to Alleah Haley and Rudy who tied by each guessing correctly, ten of the 20 "iris names" portrayed for the occasion.

The first party iris that I guessed was Alleah who arrived cleverly disguised as ROLL THE DICE (J. Painter 2013) Alleah wore a dinner roll fastened on a ribbon as a necklace, and an apron with a sign that read "Necklace + article (part of speech) + contents of pocket". In her pocket were five dice, which she took out and rolled from time to time. Alleah won the vote for Personal Favorite.

Anna Marie Hermansen attached wings to her shoulders and a realistic life-like bat to her waist. She also had black cutout bats stuck to her clothing. Nobody guessed that her iris was WILD WINGS (Keppel 1999). Anna Marie brought her neighbor, Lori Locke, who also wore wings on her shoulders. Her iris, ANGEL WINGS, (Lynda Miller 2005), also went unidentified.

Best Impersonation was awarded to Anna Cadd who simply carried a bunch of candy bars attached to a copy of Life magazine. The iris? LIFE BEHIND BARS (D. Kanarowski 2011). You may remember that Alleah Haley creating a buzz last year in her jail bird costume when she portrayed the same iris. Interesting how the same iris can be portrayed with a completely different concept. David Cadd clipped all of his casino cards to a cord and wore them as a necklace. He wore a visor and displayed a supply of playing cards, sure signs that he was about to partake in some serious gambling. I couldn't think of a better clue for GAMBLING MAN (Keppel 2014).

Addie Larocque wore a lavender sweater and carried a sprig of lavender. Her Eiffel Tower earrings were also clues and she spoke to us in French. Not that we understood what she was saying, but enough to figure out that she was FRENCH LAVENDER (J. Painter 2011). Addie's daughter, Samira Stimac, dressed comfortably in her pajamas (also known as jammies) and carried her cuddly soft teddy bear. From her appearance, you might assume that she was headed to bed, but you would be wrong. Samira was a 2009 iris by Tom Burseen, SAMMIE'S JAMMIES.

Diana Ford, making her first appearance as an iris name this year, got into the spirit of the game quite simply by wearing a sweater the color of lilacs with two letters stuck to it: A M. It turns out, that the A M stood for the well-known abbreviation for morning. Her iris name? LILAC MORNING (F. Edwards 2010).

Kitty Loberg wore a halo which she and Steve Albert very cleverly created using gold foil-covered chocolate candy pieces. Her iris name, the one and only CHOCOLATE HALO by Fred Kerr (2012). Steve Albert had everyone stumped. If you know your cards, you would have known that he was displaying a winning hand of spades, 10 thru ace, on a placard around his neck. OK, we could see that

it was a winning hand. Why, then, did no one figure out that his iris name was WINNING HAND (Ghio 2012)?

Rudy Ciuca came up with a great idea. He created frozen miniature 'gum drop' size edible clues for his iris name which he served on a platter with a toothpick to pick them up. You had to be quick of hand to gather up one of these delectable clues, as they melted very quickly. The yummy little icy droplets represented CRANBERRY ICE (Schreiner 1976). Joe Lawrence had two blue ribbons running the length of his shirt and one down his back. He represented this year's Dykes Medal winner, the adorable MTB, DIVIDING LINE (Bunnell 2005).

Fifteen designer labels (e.g., Prada, Chanel, Gucci, etc.) covered a paper bib worn by Jeff Davis, which ever so subtly told us what his iris name was. All the labels were, after all, DESIGNER LABELS (Ghio 2002).

Jeanne Plank brought a spoon and a bowl of dry cereal with a question mark on each side of the bowl. What was missing from this scenario? Milk, of course! GOT MILK (Aitken 2004). Bob Plank, forever dreaming of the fancy sailboat he would like to own, carried a picture of his dream boat and wore his Konocti Bay Sailing Club's Konocti Cup shirt. His iris name? Of course, it would have to be the MTB, SAILOR'S DREAM, (Fisher 2004).

Linnea Polo had three clues attached to the silky blouse that she wore. "See my blouse", "Bees make this", and "2006 Blyth". Upon feeling her blouse, you could tell it was silky, and what do bees make? What else could her iris name be? SILK AND HONEY (Blyth 2006). Sometimes clues are so simply stated, it is shameful that we still can't figure out the iris name.

Marlene Freetly wore a blue shirt with money sticking out of the pockets for MONEY IN YOUR POCKET (Black 2007). Clues can't get more specific than that!

Marlene Horn dressed elegantly from head to toe in the beautiful colors of fall. Yes, this was her clue, and her lovely red hair complimented her outfit. She was undoubtedly AUTUMN COLORS (M. Sutton 2010).

The Master Perplexer award went to Cheryl Bryan. Now picture this. Cheryl made a cape out of white fabric, and then she must have spent hours gluing Hershey's Kisses® all over it. Anyone care to guess what her iris name was? Alleah was the only one to guess correctly that she was, appropriately, COVERED IN KISSES (Black 2010).

Now for myself, I just wrapped some old cell phone charger cords around my head and down my arms for WIRED (M. Sutton 2011). You would be surprised how many folks asked me if I was an iris name! Go figure!

Thanks to all who created such delightful and entertaining "iris names" for us to ponder over and enjoy. It didn't really matter if we could guess any of the names, but it was so much fun trying. Whether a spectator or dressed as an "iris name", all shared in the laughter, frivolity, companionship, and then to top off the evening, we feasted on the delicious ham, turkey and the bounty of delectable casseroles, salads, desserts, etc. that everyone brought to share.

Rebloom Report

On August 31 **Elizabeth (Susan) Cooke**, who now lives in the far southwest corner of Kansas (in Elkhart) reported that "The rebloomers have begun! She sent photos of 'Adventurous' (M. Sutton, 2010), a yellow over violet luminata TB; and 'Sugar Blues' (Zurbrigg, 1985), a medium blue TB, with lighter area on the falls. "Nine blooms on one stalk!" Susan commented.

On October 25 Susan sent photos of 'Blue Suede Shoes' (Schreiner, 1996), a blue TB; the white TB

'Immortality' (Zurbrigg, 1982) noting it was "reblooming for the third time"; and paleish yellow TB 'Harvest of Memories' (Zurbrigg, 1984). 'Immortality' is the "gold standard" by which rebloomers are judged, as it's one of the most reliable rebloomers.

On October 19 **Diana Ford** wrote from Hopland:

"Traffic (Lauer, 2004) is still blooming away and putting up new stalks. This year it bloomed 9 months out of 10. I've given away 4 small clumps this year. It just keeps expanding. It is well named. Peggy Sue and Bonus Mama are blooming now also. Stalks are up on Rosalie Figge, Clarence and on one of my 2014 seedlings (pod parent Traffic of course). Earlier this summer and fall I had Chocolate Halo, Precious Halo, Snapshot, Mesmerizer, Queen's Circle, Concertina, Carry On, Struck Twice, Huckleberry Fudge and Betty Ford (for 11 weeks). Now it all depends on our frost pattern. The roses and iris are really enjoying this cooler weather."

On October 21 **Juanita Breckwoldt** gave the following summary of her 2015 rebloom. Numbers refer to number of stalks:

SDBs

Forever Blue – 2 Sept., 1 Oct.
Glitter Bit – 1 Sept.
Inner Space – 1 Oct.
Returning – 1 Oct.
Sitting Pretty – 1 Sept.

IBs

Double Overtime – 1 Sept., 1 Oct.
Many Mahalos – 1 Sept.
Mariposa Wizard – 1 Sept.

TBs

Fall Rerun – 1 Sept.
Juicy Fruit – 1 Sept., 2 Oct.
Rosalie Figge – 1 Sept., 1 Oct.
Suky – 1 Oct.

Anna Marie Hermansen had 'Lady in Purple' (Cadd, 2011) rebloom during the latter part of October, 2015.

Alleah Haley's most outstanding rebloomer this year was Fred Kerr's 2012 BB 'Precious Halo'. It has orange standards, white falls with wide orange outer bands, tangerine beards. This September rebloom gave 10 flowers on one stalk!

Some experts think the first Thanksgiving dinner was served by the Pilgrims in 1621 at Plymouth, Massachusetts.



Notice: Changes to Roster

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

Susan Carney

7666 Adrian Dr.
Rohnert Park, CA 94928
707-xxx-xxxx
scarney7666@outlook.com

Delores McKey has a new email address:

dmckey74@gmail.com

Lynn Williams has only one email address – it is:

wumc@willitsonline.com



Keeping In Touch

Jean Sharp is recuperating from her cancer surgery in San Francisco on October 7 and is preparing to start chemotherapy in early November. Jean welcomes cards and notes/calls to her at:

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

Jacob (Jake) McKey, age 23, grandson of SRIS member **Delores McKey**, was seriously injured in a single vehicle accident in late morning of September 29 when the pickup he was driving left Sherwood Road in Willits, went through a barbed wire fence, and hit a concrete pole. He spent several weeks at Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital but as of October 29 he was at home in Willits and doing "O.K." Delores emailed: "He is trying to recover too fast but I guess that is a good sign. I believe he started some therapy up there this week. I just want to thank everyone for their cards and phone calls during this difficult time."

Delores welcomes notes or calls:

Delores McKey
3803 Skyview Dr.
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
707-xxx-xxxx
dmckey74@gmail.com

Barb Baruth's oldest son Alex, 31, is living with them while being treated for aplastic anemia, a serious rare condition that occurs when the body stops producing enough new blood cells. Aplastic anemia leaves the person feeling fatigued and with a higher risk of infections and uncontrolled bleeding. As a result he has a fungal lung infection and goes to the hospital every other day for blood counts, transfusions, and doctors' appointments. Barb sent good news on October 29 that "Alex is beginning to see some increases in his neutrophil (type of white blood cell) count, which may mean his immune system is starting to come back. Perhaps other types of blood cells will also start to be made by his bone marrow and he will eventually recover. He is thin and tired, but has a good appetite, looks good and has a good attitude."

Barb emailed that she misses coming to SRIS meetings and asked about our drought and how our irises are doing. Barb would welcome cards and notes:

Barb Baruth
1900 E. Newton Ave.
Shorewood, WI 53211
barb.baruth@gmail.com

In Memoriam – Betty Coyle

Betty Coyle, American Iris Society Region 14 RVP from 2004 - 2006, passed away after a long illness on October 17, 2015 in Texas.

Chairman of the AIS 2004 National Convention in Fresno and a member of Redwood Iris Society, Betty was an accredited AIS Garden/Exhibition judge and served in several Region 14 positions over time. At one point Betty owned a commercial iris garden in Fortuna where her husband Bill was a Professor at Humboldt State University. In retirement they RVed all over the U.S. Unfortunately Betty suffered a stroke several years ago; and they settled with their daughter and son-in-law in Texas where Bill took care of her while fighting his ongoing battle with bladder cancer. Betty was cremated and Bill plans to bring her remains back to Fortuna for a memorial service when he is able. The message below was posted on their Facebook page by their daughter.

"My dear friends and family - thank you for your fervent prayers, thoughts, and well wishes for Betty and my Dad during this time. Earlier today, at approximately 4:45 p.m., Betty went to her heavenly home. Our hearts are sad, but we know she is finally at peace and no longer suffering. This was a particularly difficult year for

her. Please continue to pray for my Dad, as a huge piece of his life was caring for her, and he did it wholeheartedly! He is the BEST example of faithfulness and true love that I have ever witnessed. Much, much, love to you all.

Lisa Nelson”

Send condolences to:

Bill Coyle and family
3209 Canyon Ledge Cv.
Round Rock, TX 78681.

In Memoriam – Genevieve (Gen) Mattos

Gen died at her Burlingame home on October 20, 2015, just past her 90th birthday.

Born Genevieve McCabe in San Francisco on October 14, 1925, she graduated from Commerce High School there. In the 1940s and '50s she held a number of secretarial positions in San Francisco, first at Bethlehem Steel near Hunter's Point, then with the Veteran's Administration, and then at the "Rad Lab" at Hunter's Point where she worked for a chemist who was studying decontamination of radiation from the atomic bomb.

She met Harold (Hal) Mattos at Big Sur where their families were camping near one another. Hal was in the Navy, stationed at Big Sur. They married May 15, 1954; Hal was 30, she was 28. Gen worked small jobs, on and off, after their two sons entered school; but she was primarily a homemaker in Foster City and supporter of everything Hal did, from working in a plant nursery in Burlingame to acting as a docent at Filoli for 15 years. Hal loved irises from his youth, and Gen complemented and cultivated his passion. In retirement, they moved to Petaluma in the mid-1980s and joined the Santa Rosa Iris Society and the Democratic Club of Southern Sonoma County.

Hal and Gen celebrated 59 years together. Following Hal's death in August 2013, Gen moved to Napa to live with her sister and a niece Debbie Manfree. She moved to Burlingame just two months ago to live with her son Patrick Mattos, who survives her. She also leaves son James Mattos of San Mateo, sister Vivian Manfree of Napa, brother Douglas McCabe of Little Creek, Oregon, and numerous nephews and nieces.

You may express condolences to:

The Mattos family
c/o Patrick Mattos
833 Linden Ave.
Burlingame, CA 94010

Vivian Manfree and family
3360 Soda Canyon Rd.
Napa, CA 94558

Anna Cadd would like to thank SRIS for donating to the AIS Foundation in memory of David.

Interspecies Crosses among Beardless Irises

Anna Cadd

Recently we dug some beardless irises from the Display Garden and made them available to SRIS members for free. Alleah took the "leftovers" and donated them to the Fall Regional for their fundraising. A lot of the rhizomes were *Iris pseudacorus*. I hope that you took some of them home and will make some interesting crosses, like with Japanese irises or other iris species. Please try. The road to AIS awards in this group is wide open! You could have a cabinet full of trophies in no time!

When we were digging and weeding the beardless iris bed, I noticed three seedpods with seeds inside(!) on 'Gerald Darby' a beautiful blue violet species iris with heavily colored purple leaves and stems. Lucky me - I will plant the seeds! Do you want some of them to try? As described in the iris wiki::

'Gerald Darby' (Gerald Darby, deceased, by Coe, R. 1968) LAEV apogon hybrid, up to 6' (183 cm), June. Change of classification, description and parentage. Blue violet with violet-colored leaf bases. Chromosome count $2n=88-89$. Sets few good seeds. Appears to belong to '*I. robusta*', E. Anderson, the cross of '*I. versicolor*' with '*I. virginica*'. Norton Hall 1967.

So the real pedigree of Gerald Darby is not known, but is probably *I. versicolor* X *I. virginica*. What about crossing it back to *Iris pseudacorus*? You could win a Dykes Medal. Anyway, I found a very interesting article written by Jean Witt, the "expert" on species and interspecies crosses. Reprinted below is this article from the Species Iris Group of North America (SIGNA) Bulletin Number 92 (Summer 2015), page 22., reprinted with permission of Rodney Burton, SIGNA Editor: who noted: "As always, if you must share please do so responsibly, and please do not post it to any web site".

Beating the Odds

Jean Witt

Recently I managed to track down an article by Louise Sawyer entitled "Crossing *I. pseudacorus* and *I. versicolor*" which appeared in the Botanical Gazette, vol. 79 #1, March 1925, pp. 60-72. She made protected crosses of *I. pseudacorus* and *I. versicolor*, and selfings of *I. pseudacorus* and studied the subsequent development of the pollen tubes and ovules.

Microscopic examination of the growth of the pollen tubes of the two species on *I. pseudacorus* flowers showed it to be normal for both.

Examination of the ovaries, showed that fertilization took place in both instances.

In the ovaries of the selfed plants two-celled embryos were found after the seventh day, surrounded by endosperm nuclei and development continued normally.

However, in crossed ovaries, the embryos began to die at day six and by day twenty six most were shriveled and without endosperm. The most advanced embryo was only a mass of undifferentiated cells, and the cells of the endosperm were empty and pith-like.

The author concluded that even though pollen tube growth was normal, and fertilization actually took place, the failure of the crosses was due to the early death of the embryo and the failure of the endo-sperm to develop properly.

How, we might ask, did 'Holden Clough' (D. Patton, R. 1971) escape this fate? Louise Sawyer would get quite a surprise if she could see the list of today's hybrids! What has made the difference? I am guessing that where bees are active and large numbers of flowers are available, an occasional embryo succeeds in completing its development, accompanied by enough endosperm to push the first leaf out of the ground so photosynthesis can take over. Conditions vary from one season to another, so that crosses may work one year and not the next. Further, once such a hybrid occurs, further generations become possible, as witness the now extensive list of seedlings from 'Holden Clough', (Its pollen parent is now considered to have been *I. versicolor*.)

We have two primary registrations from crosses of *I. pseudacorus* and *I. versicolor*: 'Limbo' (J. Ellis, R. 1988) and 'Regal Surprise' (J. Ellis, R. 1988).

I find the following registrations of secondary crosses:

'Roy Davidson' (B. Hager, R. 1987) Holden Clough open pollinated

'Phil Edinger' (B. Hager, R. 1991) Holden Clough probably selfed

'Ben's Legacy' (K. Vaughn, R. 2001) Hager F2 'Holden Clough' sdlg. X 'Phil Edinger'

'Berlin Tiger' (T. Tamberg, R. 1988) 'Holden Clough' X unknown, colchicine treated seed (Tetraploid)

'Roy's Lines' (T. Aitken, R. 2000) 'Roy Davidson' X unknown possibly *I. versicolor* 'Between The Lines'

'Roy's Repeater' (T. Aitken, R. 2002) Sib to 'Roy's Lines'

'Roy's Surprise' (D. Borglum, R. 2006) 'Roy Davidson' X unknown

So when somebody tells you that a certain cross of beardless iris can't be done, think of this article - - - and do it anyway. Some combinations still have not been tried, and others from the past have no extant examples. Set some far-cross hybrid seed this spring. You could get lucky.

Happy Birthday November Babies

Anna Cadd 11/2
Ginny Howard 11/3
Barb Baruth 11/10
Jan Wax 11/12
Loretta Figueroa 11/15
Phil Edinger 11/18
Juanita Breckwoldt 11/20

Pomegranate Pound Cake

Carolyn Craft, Clara B. Rees & Monterey Bay Iris Societies

3/4 cup sugar
6 Tablespoons butter
2 large eggs
1 large egg white
3/4 cup lowfat buttermilk
2 teaspoons grated lime rind
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
2 1/2 cups all purpose flour
1/4 tsp salt
3/4 cup pomegranate seeds

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Beat sugar and butter until well blended (about 7 minutes). Add eggs and egg white one at a time, beating well after each addition. Combine buttermilk, rind, vanilla and baking soda. Lightly spoon flour into a dry measuring cup and level it. Combine flour and salt.

Add flour mix to sugar mix alternately with buttermilk mixture. Fold in pomegranate seeds. Spoon batter into an 8" by 4" loaf pan coated with cooking spray. Bake at 350° for 1 hour or until wooden pick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool in pan 10 minutes on a wire rack.

I think it would be fine to add more pomegranate seeds. This is not a fancy cake but good and fun with those liquid bursts. Enjoy!

Here's a variation from Jeanne Plank:

Using the packaged "Krusteas" brand lemon pound cake made as directed on the box, but adding 3/4 to 1 cup of fresh pomegranate seeds, one ends up with an outstanding and very easy to make pomegranate pound cake. Follow the cake mix directions but add the seeds. Bake according to directions and when the cake is cool enough, frost and add another cup of fresh seeds to cover the entire cake topping. Yum!

Minutes of Santa Rosa Iris Society Meeting, August 10, 2015

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Alleah Haley.

Alleah introduced speaker Chad Harris, owner of Mt. Pleasant Iris Farm in Washington State. Chad gave an informative presentation on using iris as texture in the garden throughout the year and the history and pictures from his garden. A dinner in his honor was held at the Union Hotel before the meeting and was attended by members from SRIS.

Returning member Rita Cardoza was announced and welcomed to the club.

Minutes from July were voted and approved. Treasurer's report for August by Joe Lawrence was voted and approved.

Old Business: Update by Jeff Davis on the irrigation project at LBAGC. New valves and water lines were installed and Jim Begley spread and tilled in the new compost for planting. A work party needs to be organized to remove spurge from the garden. Kitty Loberg reported on the proposed revision of Standing Rule 3c and suggested we propose to the LBAGC Board a sliding scale for event fees of \$85 for the first event, 25% rate for the 2nd event, 50% for the 3rd event and 75% for events thereafter. A motion was made to accept the proposal. Motion voted and approved. Proposal to be presented at the LBAGC Board meeting on Sept. 15th.

Annual Rhizome Sale is on Sept. 5th at LBAGC. The banners will be put up 2 weeks ahead. The Heirloom Festival at Sonoma Co. Fairgrounds is on Sept. 8-10. Members need to sign up for scheduling over the 3 days.

New Business: Betty Ford has ordered the new iris for 2016. A work party to plant at LBAGC will be on Sept. 21. A volunteer is needed to report club activities for the Region 14 Bulletin.

Announcements: 2015 Fall Regional is on October 16-17 in Visalia. Region 14 will be hosting the 2019 National Convention. Kitty Loberg said she has styrofoam peanuts for propping up iris stalks for anyone who wants them.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Jeff Davis, Secretary

Minutes of Santa Rosa Iris Society Meeting, October 12, 2015

Meeting called to order at 7:10 p.m. by President Alleah Haley.

A moment of silence was held for the memory of devoted and beloved SRIS member David Cadd.

Alleah introduced speakers Rudy Ciuca and Joe Lawrence who gave a presentation on "Food and Wine Pairing", how to choose the right wine with the type of food. Several different wines were sampled as well as their own vintage Gewurztraminer. Joe gave information on the different types of grape vine growing techniques and how they have changed over the years.

New members Susan Carney and Vicky Yarnal were introduced.

Minutes for August were read by Jeff Davis. Treasurer's Report: Heirloom Festival brought in \$3,000.00, Rhizome Sale brought in \$1,300.00.

There was a discussion of Valley Fire stories. A motion to donate up to \$200.00 if needed to help with Jean Sharp's recovery from surgery was voted and approved.

Old Business: Report on the display garden. Jim Begley and Jeff Davis will co-chair the display garden at LBAGC. Report on the LBAGC Board of Managers decision to accept the SRIS proposal to amend Standing Rule 3c. Proposal was accepted and the new rate for weekend events for member clubs will be \$85.00 for the 1st event, \$135.00 for the 2nd event, \$270.00 for the 3rd event, \$405.00 for the 4th event and \$540.00 for any event thereafter. Member Clubs shall not pay the 40% rental agent commission.

New Business: Rudy reported that LBAGC Board is accepting nominations for a new president. Anna Marie made a motion to donate \$50.00 to AIS in memory of David Cadd. Motion voted and approved. Report from the nominating committee on the new club officers for 2016: President-Rudy Ciuca, Vice President-Anna Cadd, Secretary-Diana Ford, Treasurer-Joe Lawrence. Board members will be Anna Marie Hermansen, Kitty Loberg, Jim Begley, Marlene Horn, Kathy McCallum. Fall Potluck "Come Dressed As An Iris" will be November 6. Open at 3 p.m., costume guessing at 4 p.m. and dinner at 5 p.m.

Announcements: 2015 Fall Regional will be on Oct. 16-17 in Visalia. Board meetings in Nov/Dec. Nov-Programs, Dec-Budget. Email Anna Cadd with program ideas.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Jeff Davis, Secretary



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 **December 2015** issue of this Newsletter is **November 20, 2015**. E-mail copy to:*

Giving to Valley Fire Victims

Lake County Fire Victims Fund (administered by Redwood Credit Union) – Update 10/28/15

While federal and state funds are supporting urgent safety, medical, housing and food needs, the Lake County Fire Victims Relief Fund's focus is:

- Urgent/immediate needs of shelter, housing and food
- Children and schools
- First responders
- Animal care

Funding allocated to date = **Over \$739,000**, including:

- \$525,000 to 350 Lake County residents who lost homes. Funds were distributed through North Coast Opportunities to support immediate needs for shelter, housing and food.
- \$74,400 in gift cards to replace school clothes and supplies were provided to 372 Lake County students, teachers, and school staff who lost homes.
- Nearly \$40,000 to Lake County first responders, including firefighters and sheriff office employees who lost their homes while protecting the community.
- \$100,000 in animal support through the Lake County Farm Bureau to provide materials to replace pens or homes for displaced animals/livestock.

Mail check payable to Lake County Fire Victims Fund to

Lake County Fire Victims Fund
c/o Redwood Credit Union
PO Box 6104
Santa Rosa, CA 95406

Middletown Animal Hospital

Dr. Jeffrey Smith, DVM, and the staff of Middletown Animal Hospital worked tirelessly to help 500 animals hurt in the Valley Fire and to find and help lost pets and farm animals. They served as a clearinghouse for Valley Fire veterinary efforts throughout the North Bay. They have a "Go Fund Me" feature on Facebook: <https://www.gofundme.com/h24mk7qk> that raised over \$209,000 in the first month after the fire.

If you would like to contribute directly, send donations to:

Middletown Animal Hospital
21503 Highway 29
Middletown, CA 95461
707-987-2000

This was the animal hospital mentioned by Kitty Loberg at the October SRIS meeting.

Forestry Crabfeed

CAL FIRE is providing financial support for the four helitack crewmen who were burned during the initial fire attack and 18 CAL FIRE employees and volunteer firefighters that lost their homes. Alleah is a personal friend of two of the employees who lost their homes. The fund "Forestry Crab Feed" sounds a bit hokey, but it's a valid non-profit 501c3 that was established to assist employees in the Sonoma Lake Napa Unit. 100% of the money collected will be given directly to the affected employees. Checks may be sent to:

Forestry Crabfeed FF Relief Fund
PO Box 265
Fulton, CA 95439

Or

Forestry Crabfeed FF Relief Fund
2210 W. College Ave.
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

Attn: Olga Leitch

In addition a Go Fund Me account (<https://www.gofundme.com/uk43reww>) reached almost \$15,000 in the first month. That will also be distributed to affected CAL FIRE employees.

President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed Thanksgiving a national holiday in 1863.

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 _____

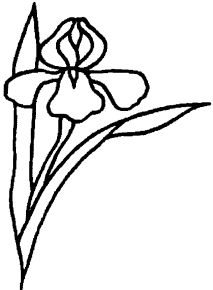
AMS MEMBER: YES _____ NO _____

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 11

NOVEMBER 2015

President:

Alleah Haley 707-xxx-xxxx

Vice President:

Rudy Ciuca 707-xxx-xxxx

Newsletter Editor:

Alleah Haley 707-xxx-xxxx

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.

December Newsletter Deadline – November 20th