

The Newsletter of

The Santa Rosa Iris Society

42ND YEAR NUMBER 4

APRIL 2016

Officers 2016:

President

Rudy Ciuca

Vice President

Anna Cadd

Treasurer

Joe Lawrence

Secretary

Diana Ford

Past President

Alleah Haley

Historian

Anna Cadd

Membership Secretary

Betty Ford

Librarian

Juanita Breckwoldt

Newsletter Editor

Alleah Haley

Directors thru 12/16:

Jim Begley

Marlene Freetly

Kathy McCallum

Directors thru 12/17:

Anna Marie Hermansen

Kitty Loberg

Standing Committees:

Attendance

Marlene Horn

Display Garden Chairmen

Jim Begley

Jeff Davis

Door Prize Coordinator

Rudy Ciuca

Hospitality

Diana and Don Ford

LBAGC Representatives

Rudy Ciuca

Anna Cadd

Joe Lawrence, alternate

Logistics Coordinator

Jim Begley

Photography

Marlene Horn

2016 Show Chairman

Anna Marie Hermansen

2016 Assistant Show Chairman

Alleah Haley

2016 Potted Iris Sale Chairman

Marlene Horn

2016 Summer Rhizome Sales Chm.

Betty Ford -Heirloom Expo

Alleah Haley -Farmers' Mkt.

MONDAY APRIL 11, 7:00 PM
JIM BEGLEY, ROSS BEVIER,
AND JEFF DAVIS – HOW TO
PREPARE 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 your grooming tool kit and some blooming iris stalks so that you can participate in one-on-one grooming practice. And we'll have a mock mini-show.

Pictured is the 2015 winner of the American Iris Society Sydney B. Mitchell Award for Pacific Coast Native Iris, 'Bay Street' (Ghio, 2008, CA). Photo by Leonine Iris, from the Iris Wiki: <http://wiki.irises.org>.

Gardening Thoughts for April

Anna Cadd

1. Sunday, March 20 was the first day of spring according to the calendar. In California we had spring for real, although many states were still covered by snow. With all the rain this year, I noticed unusual smells in the garden: fresh soil, blooming citrus trees, fresh cut grass, daffodils, roses – all the fragrances were mixed together in a wonderful kaleidoscope of a wet cocktail for the nose. How lucky we are in Sonoma County – “the chosen spot on Earth”, regarding to Luther Burbank!
2. We already have irises blooming in the garden; but, strangely, as of March 31 many SDBs were not blooming yet. But there are a lot of tall bearded blooming, along with medians. I think that after four years of drought the plants decided to do their part, because you never know how long this water abundance will last! Early iris shows will be beautiful!
3. Do you remember 'Beverly Sills' (Ben Hager, 1979, TB) with coral pink standards and falls, the 1985 Dykes Medal winner? It has been constantly voted in the top 100 favorite iris over the years and in 2015 was at spot number 12! 'Beverly Sills' has long since celebrated its 30 years in our gardens and in 2009 became an historical iris.

<http://www.irises.org/pdf/2015TBSymposiumreportfinal.pdf>

4. I bought some new irises, paying big bucks for them, and can't wait to see them in bloom. I just come back from a week's vacation in "Gold Country", where I recalled the famous iris hybridizer from this area, Lloyd Austin, owner from 1946 of Rainbow Hybridizing Gardens in Placerville. He was an instructor in the Pomology Department at the University of California's College of Agriculture at Davis. In 1925 he became the first director of the Institute of Forest Genetics at Placerville. He was famous for his unusual interest in promoting exotic and difficult aril iris species and introducing new, startling creations to the conventional iris world. He hybridized rebloomers and developed the first truly horned irises. His 'Unicorn' (1952, TB) and 'Horned Rosyred' (1958, TB) were sensations among collectors of odd and unusual irises. His work in this line led him to develop the so-called "space age" irises that sport horns, spoons, and flounces below the beards. His first "space ager" was offered at the unheard of price of \$100 in 1950!
<http://theamericanirissociety.blogspot.com/2012/03/iris-classics-unicorn.html>
<http://wiki.irises.org/bin/view/Main/Bio/HybridizerAustinLloyd>
<http://www.historiciris.org/articles/notable-austin.html> .
5. Talking about endless beauty, when visiting Angel's Camp, I discovered the Earth Science Emporium, a gem store. Between thousands of rock displays in museum cases, I found and bought a septarium nodule from Utah, which reminds me of a Louisiana iris rising from a pond. This "iris" was created 50-70 million years ago. Strangely enough, I have a necklace, purchased in Poland, made from extremely rare striped flint from the upper Jurassic period, 200-150 million years ago. The lines in the stone remind me of a Japanese iris and this is why David spent a fortune to buy it for me. I call these treasures "irises locked in stone". I will bring them both to the April meeting for show and tell.
6. We are always advised to plant marigolds and chrysanthemums in our vegetable gardens, because they are known for their insect repellent properties. They contain pyrethrum - a naturally occurring essential oil included in many common pesticides. However, to get the most benefit, the plant has to be ground up to release the oil. And in my experience, planted marigolds are usually eaten the first night by bugs. So much for the organic hope!
7. There is a long standing debate over the plural use of the word "iris". Some of us use "irises" and some use plural "iris". According to the Merriam Webster Dictionary, both forms are correct. So, no matter on which side of the fence you choose to sit, it is the same beautiful flower. Geez, I'm glad we got that resolved!

From the President's Desk

It's early April and irises are already coming into bloom. The rain keeps coming and the weeds keep growing. Our home garden is still requiring a great deal of work. We were not too lucky with our pre-emergent program this year.

I want to thank all of you who participated in the garden clean-up on March 25th. The dedication to the club needs is outstanding. I would also like to thank Anna Cadd for stepping in at the last minute to present a program on irises in art at our March meeting. It was of special interest to me and I don't believe there are many programs on iris that deal with the historical view from an art perspective. Thanks again.

We are looking forward to the Spring Regional meeting and hope to come back with a host of decisions and questions to discuss. At the April meeting we will be putting the final touches on planning for our spring show on May 7-8, so please come to the meeting and sign up to help at the show.

Rudy Ciuca

This Month

Monday April 11 – Jim Begley, Ross BeVier, and Jeff Davis, Preparing Your Irises for the Show. Members will hold a mini-show.

2016 Iris Events and Important Dates

Mid April (2 whole days) – SRIS members garden tour; dates & times TBA at April Meeting.

Friday–Sunday, April 29 – May 1 – Region 14 Spring Meeting “Iris on the Hill”, Beverly Heritage Hotel, 1820 Barber Lane, Milpitas, California. Vans to Nola’s Iris Garden. Guest Speaker Steve Schreiner; 2 judges’ training sessions.

Saturday and Sunday, May 7-8 (open 1-5 Sat., 10-5 Sun.) – SRIS Iris Show/ Potted Iris Sale, LBAGC. Theme: “Around the World with Iris”.

Monday May 9 – Master Gardener Toni Gattone, “Adaptive Gardening”.

Monday – Saturday, May 23-28, 2016 – AIS National Convention, Newark, New Jersey. Convention Hotel: Newark Liberty Intl. Airport Marriott Hotel. Includes Presby Memorial Iris Gardens. Info at: www.irises.org; go to Member Services, then Conventions/Activities. Registration form & hotel info on page 53 of the Fall 2015 AIS Bulletin. Registration \$310 after March 1.

Monday June 13 – Kitty Loberg, Report on 2016 Reg. 14 Spring Meeting. Show awards presented.

Monday July 11 – 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 7 - Potluck Picnic, Iris Auction and Raffle, C&L Vineyard, Sonoma.

Tuesday thru Thursday, September 6-8, 11 AM – 8 PM – 6th Annual Heirloom Expo, Sonoma Co. Fairgrounds. SRIS will have a booth.

Monday, September 12 – Anna Cadd, How to Plant & Grow Irises. Seminar for new members.

Saturday September 10 & 17, 8:30 – 1:00 PM – SRIS Rhizome Sale, Santa Rosa Community Farmers Market at the Vet’s Building, Santa Rosa.

Monday, October 10 – Kitty Loberg, Beardless including Pacific Coast Irises.

Saturday, November 5, 12-5 PM – Holiday Potluck/Come Dressed as an Iris Costume Party, LBAGC. We’ll eat at 2:00 PM.

2016 Board Meetings - Board Members and Officers, please mark your calendars:

Monday, May 9, 6:00 PM

Monday, July 11, 6:00 PM

Monday, September 12, 6:00 PM

Monday, November 14, 6:00 PM

Monday, December 12, 6:00 PM



From the Editor – **Many thanks** for contributions to this issue: **Jill Butler** of CAL FIRE, **Anna Cadd**; **Rudy Ciuca**; **Betty Ford**; **Anna Marie Hermansen**; **Joe Lawrence**; and **Jean Sharp**; *Alleah*

Judges Training Schedule Spring 2016

- Saturday, April 9, 2016, 2:30 PM
1 hour credit, Medians in the Garden, given by Michael Meagher, Meagher garden
4624 Tennessee Walker Ave
North Las Vegas, NV 89031
Contact christinemeagher@hotmail.com
- Saturday, April 9, 2016, 3:30 PM
1 hour credit, Tall Beardeds in the Garden
Given by Christine Meagher, Meagher garden
4624 Tennessee Walker Ave
North Las Vegas, NV 89031
Contact christinemeagher@hotmail.com
or call 702 655-0827
- Saturday, April 23, 2016, 2:00 PM
1 ½ hour garden training credit, Judging MTBs
given by Kathy Braaten and John Pesek
Horton Iris Garden

7440 King Rd.
Loomis, CA 95650
Contact Kathy Braaten (katbrat@cebridge.net)
or call 530-477-2811

- Saturday, April 30, 2016, 1:30 PM
at 2016 Region 14 Spring Meeting
1 hour credit, Garden Judging of Bearded Irises given by Kitty Loberg
Nola's Iris Garden
4195 Sierra Rd.
San Jose, CA 95132
Contact iris.loberg@comcast.net
or call 707 972-5507
- Sunday, May 1, 2016, 9:00 am
1 hour credit classroom, Judging Spuria Irises given by Anna Cadd
Beverly Heritage Hotel, Santa Clara Room
1820 Barber Lane
Milpitas, CA
Contact alleah.haley@gmail.com
or call 707 799-1422
- Saturday, May 7, 2016 (revised date), 12 noon
1 hour credit, Judging of Medians given by Lorraine Nicholson
Mariposa Iris of Douglas Kanarowski
6147 Smither Rd.
Mariposa, CA 95338
Contact tdhawk@att.net
or call 209-968-0852

 Notice: Changes to Roster

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

Paul Varnal
10620 River Rd.
Forestville, CA 95436
pyarnal@aol.com

Paul is the husband of Vicki Yarnal, who joined last year.

Nobody can make you feel inferior without your permission. -Eleanor Roosevelt

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
Chris Bing 4/15
Vicki Yarnal 4/17

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 **May 2016** issue of this Newsletter is **April 20, 2016**. E-mail copy to:*

alleah.haley@gmail.com.

Notice

Please bring iris- or gardening-related items for the basket that SRIS is donating to the Spring Regional fundraising raffle to the April meeting.

Please bring trophies you won at last year's iris show to the April Meeting! We need them for the Court of Honor at the Show on May 7-8. 2015 winners were:

Luther Burbank Cup - Best Specimen – Anna Marie Hermansen
Redwood Empire Cup – 1st Runner Up – Anna Marie Hermansen
Santa Rosa Cup - Best Tall Bearded – Anna Marie Hermansen
Burbank Cup – Best Bearded Other Than Tall – Kitty Loberg
Beeman Memorial Cup – Best Historical – Marlene Horn
Beth Jolly Memorial Cup – Best Bicolor – Marlene Horn
Emmons Cup – Best Plicata – Linnea Polo
Monte Byers Memorial Plaque – Best Space Age – Anna Marie Hermansen
Morris Cup – Best Beardless – Marlene Horn
Peggy Burke Gray Cup – Best Seedling – Jim Begley
Peggy Cadd Memorial Cup – Best Pink – Cheryl Bryan

Win Prestigious Awards at the SRIS Show

Anna Cadd

In SRIS we have 13 trophies available during our iris show and some folks fortunately win three or more trophies. To increase the happiness, I propose to have even more awards. We all can be winners! Some, however, will be interested to learn how to **avoid** the following awards at our spring show, "Around the World with Iris".

1. Professor of Entomology's Award for most "livestock"
 2. FBI's CSI (crime scene investigation) Award for most fingerprints
 3. Edward Scissorhands' Award for most obvious trimming
 4. Leaning Tower of Pisa Award for most horizontal-leaning stalk
 5. USM (user - space - mode support in computers) Award for the most visible sign of support
 6. Backward Glance Award for facing stalk the wrong way
 7. The Accountant's Award for adding leaves and side branches to the stalk
 8. The Machu Picchu Award for staging irises too high
 9. Cosmetologist Award for polishing and powdering the stalks
 10. The Sticky Notes Award for using too much Crazy Glue® and rubber cement
 11. MIA (Missing in Action) Award -for missing names or misnamed irises
 12. Lost in Space Award -for forgetting how to proper fill the entry tags
 13. Sleepy Head Award -for coming with your entries 15 minutes before the show starts
 14. NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard) Award for cutting the stalks from friends' gardens
 15. Back to School Award for putting the stalk in the wrong class
 16. Millipede Award for bringing multiple stalks with the same name from one garden
 17. Double Your Fun Award for forgetting to write RE on the entry tag
 18. Prissy Missy Award for not agreeing with the judges' verdict
- and so on, and so on....

Our April program will show you how to identify these mistakes and how to avoid making them. We'll have live staged horticultural entry examples for review. Plus our panel of esteemed SRIS judges will provide tips and explanations on how to stage your iris to best advantage for show judging. Don't risk landing your iris entries in the Hall of Shame. Attend April's meeting to help propel your beauties to the Table of Fame! Needless to say the winners of the above awards will not want to see their names in print! It will be a great learning experience, so come with your flower stalks!

Partially based on the April and May 2014 Clara B. Rees Iris Society newsletters.

PLANT SALE DATES 2016

Santa Rosa Junior College Wednesday, April 13; Sunday, May 1 “Day Under the Oaks”

Lark Hall greenhouse—same building as the Planetarium!

Cash, check and credit cards accepted – all proceeds go towards horticulture student scholarships.

Parking available for a small fee in the Bech Parking Lot off Elliott Ave. Free parking up to one hour in the surrounding neighborhood.

Willowside School Saturdays, 9 AM to 2 PM: April 23, May 14, June 4, June 25 (rain does not cancel)

5299 Hall Rd, Santa Rosa (corner of Willowside and Hall Rds; entrance is on Willowside Rd.)

The Middle School Nursery is a working nursery with student involvement and is self-sustaining through plant sales. Thousands of plants: over 15 varieties of Japanese maples 3-6 feet tall for \$25-\$35 per tree, a variety of low water and drought tolerant perennials, California natives, a multitude of succulents, grasses, salvias, and many beautiful plants to invite beneficial insects, butterflies and hummingbirds into your garden.

PRICE: \$4 for 1 gallon container. Questions? 707-569-4724

Gladly accepts donations of healthy plants, garden tools, working wagons, ceramic pots, recycled 1 and 5 gallon nursery containers, etc.

Green Thumb Garden Club, Cloverdale Saturday, April 9, 9 AM to 2 PM

Ace Hardware parking lot, 750 S. Cloverdale Blvd.

Member-grown plants including tomato plants and other vegetable starts, succulents, drought-tolerant transplants and a variety of outdoor and houseplants. White elephant table of interesting gardening finds. Supports scholarships for Cloverdale students plus Cloverdale civic projects the club sponsors.

Sonoma County Jail Plant Nursery & Teaching Garden Saturday, April 9, 9 AM to Noon; Saturday, May 7, September 10, October 1

Sonoma County Jail Plant Nursery

2254 Ordinance Rd., Santa Rosa, 95403

Checks or cash only; no credit or debit cards.

California Native and drought tolerant shrubs, perennials, succulents, groundcovers, fruit and ornamental trees and vegetable starts. 10 Sonoma County Master Gardeners will help you select appropriate plants and answer questions.

Plants are grown by inmates using compost, no fertilizers or pesticides.

Income is used to provide project based education to inmates. Get more information and a plant list at our website:

www.scoe.org/jailindustries or call Rick Stern 707 525-8310 or email jailind@mcn.org .Event is free; bring a cart or wagon to carry your plants.

Men’s Garden Club Friday, April 15 9 AM to 9 PM, Saturday, April 16, 9 AM to 3 PM

Coddington Mall - Guerneville Rd. & Cleveland Ave., Santa Rosa (INSIDE the mall, NOT in the parking lot.)

Specializes in heirloom & hybrid tomatoes, geraniums, succulents, and other plants grown by members. Unique succulent container gardens and plants hard to find in nurseries.

All profits from plant sales and participation in the Sonoma County Fair are used for scholarships to Sonoma County students pursuing careers in plant or animal sciences. Awarded \$13,000.00 in scholarships last year.

Presale at the greenhouse at Piner High School, Wednesday April 13.

Windsor Garden Club Sunday, April 17, 10 AM to 2 PM, Enchanted Gardens Spring Plant Sale

Sunday, October 23 10 AM to 2 PM, Fall Succulent Pumpkin Sale

Windsor Town Green @ McClellan and Market Sts.

Enchanted Gardens Spring Plant Sale @ the Health and Wellness Earth Day Festival is on the Green. Color and succulent pots, veggie starts, water wise butterfly and bee plants, crafts, and gardeners' fine rummage. Amidst music, activities, Earth Day Information, and an old time farmers' market.

Fall Succulent Pumpkin Sale @ the Fall Jamboree on the Town Green. Fall color pots and long lasting succulent topped pumpkins. Fall family activities, music, and farmers' market.

Graton Community Club Friday, April 22 & Saturday, April 23, 9 AM to 4 PM, free admission

8996 Graton Rd, Graton (corner of Graton Road and Edison Street - greater downtown Graton), 707-829-5314.

Flower Show benefits a scholarship program for SRJC graduates continuing on to a four-year college. This spring's flower show 'For the Birds' will celebrate our feathered friends in displays and decorations throughout the clubhouse.

In addition to floral displays, the club will sell hundreds of tomato starts of different varieties, other vegetables, drought tolerant species, potted plants and flower bulbs. The garden area also has a large selection of garden art. The show includes handcrafted items for sale, a raffle, collectibles and live music.

Lunch, served both days from 11 to 2 for \$10; homemade desserts \$4 served all day.

Santa Rosa Garden Club Saturday, April 23, 9 AM to 2 PM (rain or shine)

Luther Burbank Art & Garden Center 2050 Yulupa, Santa Rosa

Plants propagated by members with emphasis on drought tolerant plants including succulents and perennials. Special this year: fairy gardens and color spot pots. Also deer-resistant plants, a Monarch butterfly educational exhibit, and an indoor "garage sale" with garden-related items and other finds. Funds benefit horticultural scholarships at SRJC. For more info contact 537-6885.

Harvest for the Hungry Garden Saturday, April 23, 9 AM to 2 PM

1717 Yulupa Avenue, Santa Rosa (behind Christ Church United Methodist)

Harvest for the Hungry Garden is an all-volunteer garden that grows and donates over 20,000 pounds of food annually to local food programs. This yearly plant sale is their only fundraiser. Thousands of organic vegetable starts, habitat plants, herbs and locally grown flowering plants. Over 100 varieties of heirloom tomatoes, including several bred in Sonoma County, 50 varieties of hot & sweet peppers, and many varieties of eggplant, squash and cucumbers as well as annual and perennial flowering plants suited for Sonoma County gardens. Tips on how to use water wisely during a dry growing season. Features several vendors who offer herbs, bee products, gardening supplies and native plants. Come early for the best selection! See www.harvestgarden.org.

Healdsburg Garden Club Saturday, April 30, 9 AM to 1 PM

Healdsburg Senior Living Community, 725 Grove Street; 707-433-4877

Perennials, herbs, cacti, succulents, tomato plants with basil, and made-up containers. Master Gardeners will answer your questions!

If your clippers need sharpening, for a small fee we will sharpen them while you shop "Good Garden Goods" (formerly the jumble sale) for useful or decorative gardening objects.

Continental breakfast, 9 AM to 11 AM for \$2.00 donation and/or lunch for \$5.00, served 11:30 to 2 PM provided by the Senior Living Community staff. All profits benefit scholarships to local students studying horticulture-related subjects.

Valley of the Moon Garden Club Saturday May 7, 9:00 AM to 12:00 noon

Sonoma Community Center, 276 East Napa Street, Sonoma.

Vegetable starts, succulents and Mediterranean plants for a water-wise garden, potted plants and flowering plants that make nice Mother's Day gifts. Many of the plants are propagated by club members. Funds VOM community projects which include the Sonoma Hospital garden, school garden projects, and community park projects.

Redwood Empire Rose Society Saturday, May 21, 1 PM to 4 PM

Rose Plant Sale and Rose Show, Luther Burbank Art & Garden Center, 2050 Yulupa, Santa Rosa. 50th Annual Rose Show; roses for sale grown by members of the Rose Society plus companion plants for your rose garden. Sale benefits the display Rose Garden, upkeep at Luther Burbank Art & Garden Center, and the annual Rose Show.

Occidental Arts and Ecology Center Organic Nursery

15290 Coleman Valley Road, Occidental 95465 874-1557

SPRING PLANT SALE

Saturday, April 9 & Sunday, April 10, 9 AM to 5 PM

SUMMER GARDEN PLANT SALE (Two Weekends)

Saturday, April 23 & Sunday, April 24, 9 AM to 5 PM

Saturday, April 30 & Sunday, May 1, 9 AM to 5 PM

OPEN NURSERY WEEKENDS (Perennials Only)

Every Saturday & Sunday, 10 AM to 5 PM: May 14 - June 19 and September 10 - October 30

FALL & WINTER GARDEN PLANT SALE (Two Weekends)

Saturday, August 20 & Sunday, August 21 9 AM to 5 PM

Saturday, August 27 & Sunday, August 28 9 AM to 5 PM

Nursery is 100% CCOF organic and propagates heirloom and rare varieties from seed and “mother plants” onsite. Seasonal plant sales specialize in annual vegetables, flowers and herbs. Perennials Weekends offer a selection of perennial food crops, culinary & medicinal herbs & habitat plants.

Events are celebrations of biodiversity, organic gardening and community, and feature live music, a petting zoo and educational opportunities such as tours of OAEC. Funds raised benefit the OAEC Biodiversity Nursery Program, which seeks to introduce a wide array of crops and varieties appropriate for the Bay Area, ultimately contributing to regional food security. The program also educates the public about plant biodiversity and its preservation. OAEC is an 80-acre research, demonstration, education, advocacy and community organizing center in West Sonoma County that supports the restoration of biological and cultural diversity.

In Memorium – Eric Hansen



Yarda and Eric Hansen – photo by Tin Roof Farm

New SRIS member Eric Hansen passed away February 29, 2016 from a tractor accident on his ranch in Loomis, California. He was 57. Eric was an Eagle Scout. After graduation from Chico State University with a bachelor’s degree in pomology (study of fruit cultivation), he returned to Loomis to farm with his parents at their 100-acre Pine Hill Orchard, established in 1878. A fourth generation fruit grower, he was a certified organic farmer, belonged to the Rare Fruit Society, the Penryn Masonic Lodge, several iris societies, and

was an accredited American Iris Society garden/exhibition judge. A volunteer for the Placer County Sheriff Department, he served four years as manager of the farmers’ markets in Auburn and Roseville, California. He is survived by his wife Yorda, who is also a member of our society, brother Randy, son Clint Johnson, daughter Heidi Quade, and six grandchildren.

On March 20, 2016 a memorial service was held at Eric’s farm. Several SRIS and Region 14 members attended. It seemed the entire population of Loomis turned out for the beautiful spring service beneath shade canopies with several speakers from his family, farmers’ markets, Region 14 RVP Phyllis Wilburn, and local musician. Four top chefs from Auburn who bought fruit for their restaurants from Eric catered a wonderful luncheon including a cobbler from Eric’s peaches for the 200+ attendees. Eric was a good man. We will miss him.

Condolences may be sent to:
Yarda Hansen and family
PO Box 1845
Loomis, CA 95650
ylhansen@gmail.com

Mosquitoes – the “Vampires” Around Us Anna Cadd



There is much to worry about in the spring garden. Pruning roses is a big task, and our hands look like disaster. Weeding beds and even walkways is a constant battle between the forces of nature and our time and ability to pull the overgrown weeds faster than they can grow. Grass seems to grow with a mind of its own, especially after rain. There is almost never time to lay in a recliner, read a book and enjoy the spring beauty. And when we do, there is this horror buzzing around our faces – mosquitoes. With warm weather these pests love

to attack us and there is no escape.

Mosquitoes are everyone’s favorite pest to hate, especially now with the scare of Zika virus. They belong to family Culicidae. The word “mosquito” is Spanish for “little fly”. Females of most species are ectoparasites, whose tube-like mouthparts (called a proboscis) pierce the host’s skin to consume blood. Though the loss of blood is usually not very important to the victim, the saliva of the mosquito often causes an irritating rash that is a serious nuisance. But even more serious is the role of many species of mosquitoes in spreading diseases. In moving from host to host, some transmit extremely harmful infections such as malaria, yellow fever, West Nile virus, dengue fever, Zika virus and many more, making them one of the deadliest animals in the world.

The oldest known mosquito with an anatomy similar to modern species was found in 79-million-year-old Canadian amber from the Cretaceous. A sister species with more primitive features was found in Burmese amber that is 90 to 100 million years old. They have changed very little; and some dead ones may be in my amber collection.

They have a bizarre life cycle: like all flies, mosquitoes go through four stages in their life cycles: egg, larva, pupa and adult or imago. In most species, adult females lay their eggs in stagnant water; some lay eggs near the water's edge; others attach their eggs to aquatic plants. The first three stages—egg, larva, and pupa—are largely aquatic. These stages typically last from five to 14 days. The adult mosquito emerges from the mature pupa as it floats at the water surface. Bloodsucking mosquitoes, depending on species, sex, and weather conditions, have potential adult life spans ranging from as short as a week to as long as several months.

Female mosquitoes use two very different food sources. They need sugar for energy, which is taken from sources such as nectar; and they need blood as a source of protein for egg development. Their life cycle is extremely interesting and can be found on various websites. It’s like reading an exciting horror novel!

Prevention, like emptying the stagnant water from containers, proper clothes or insect repellent is fine; but we can plant mosquito repellent plants in gardens and they will help a lot. Here are some:

1. Citronella Grass - *Cymbopogon nardus*. Oil from this lemon-scented grass is commonly used in candles, torches and mosquito coils and it produces a mosquito-repelling smoke. Its strong smell overshadows the scent of other plants that mosquitoes are attracted to and helps keep them away.

2. Marigolds – *Tagetes* sp. Not only are these bright orange flowers beautiful, they can also help repel mosquitoes! Pyrethrum, a substance found in marigolds, has a distinct smell which insects just happen to hate.
3. Peppermint - *Mentha x piperita*. Many herbs can help prevent mosquitoes, but peppermint has a bonus. If a mosquito manages to make its way past the repellent plants and bites you, rubbing fresh peppermint on the bite can offer immediate relief. Other helpful garden herbs include basil, rosemary and lemon thyme.
4. Catnip – *Nepeta cataria*. Research showed that the essential oil in catnip could be even more effective than DEET when it comes to repelling bugs. To help keep mosquitoes out of the garden, try planting this perennial. Adding catnip to the repellent arsenal can't hurt, as long as felines are welcome in the garden.
5. Lavender – *Lavendula* sp. This beautiful purple plant's reputation precedes it. From teas to candles to soaps, the scent from this member of the mint family has been pleasing for a long time – to people. But some insects, including mosquitoes, avoid the herb. It's not the plant itself – but the oil inside it – that repels mosquitoes.

Loosely based on several websites. No local mosquito-borne Zika virus disease cases have been reported in US states, but there have been travel-associated cases.

Minutes of Santa Rosa Iris Society Board Meeting, March 14, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m.

a. Donation for Eric Hansen.

Action: a \$50 donation to Certified Organic Farmers Foundation and \$50 to Region 14.

b. Spring Regional.

Information: for problems with group registration be sure to contact Peong at 408-570-5405.

c. Suggestion from Jeanne Plank for the costume party in November.

Action: Continue until April general meeting.

Round Robin:

Kitty will organize the photos needed for the new Luther Burbank website.

Rudy would like someone to be point person for National Convention in two years to represent the club.

Jim reported on member garden tour, possibly April 22 and 23. Members participating: Betty Ford, Joe Lawrence and Rudy Ciuca, Anna-Marie Hermansen, Kathy McCallum, Jim Begley, Diana Ford and Anna Cadd. Discuss this and finalize dates at the April meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Program

Anna Cadd presented a beautiful program about iris in art throughout the ages.

Minutes of Santa Rosa Iris Society Members Meeting, March 14, 2016

General meeting called to order at 7:45 p.m.

Last month's minutes accepted as written.

Treasurer's report approved.

A question was raised regarding the cost of the second, third and fourth weekend day. It appeared to be different than expected. Alleah agreed to look this up for the next meeting.

3. Board actions and reports:

Marlene Horn would like to have tables for potted iris at spring show to avoid bending over. Will pick up some white tablecloths.

Anna Marie got 2 judges for the spring show to replace Yarda and Eric. They are Phyllis Wilburn and Jeanne Plank. She handed out some samples to make up programs and handouts for the show. A list was sent around for helpers. It will be circulated again at the April meeting. Kathy McCallum will do the advertising.

Kitty Loberg is having some bulk shipment of assorted Pacific Coast Iris and Siberians. These will be available for purchase by members or as door prizes.

Jim and Diana suggested that an additional week day be added to the member garden tours. Further discussion at April meeting.

Reducing Library materials. Continue this to April meeting.

Remove item 4.

5. Problems with Reg. 14 Scholarship Application.

Action: Joe is sending a letter with the application form to each county office of education.

No 6 or 7

8. Betty Coyle Memorial.

Information: It was well attended and very nice.

Round Robin:

Marlene needs two people to help with coverage at the spring show.

Big thank you to the people who helped weeding: Jim, Cheryl, Linnea, Betty, Bill. Jim sprayed pre-emergent, Banner Max and fertilizer. Another work group needed for March 25th. (That group came and worked on weeding and Jim painted the white pipe. The group included: Cheryl, Linnea, Jean, Jim and Diana.)

Jeff reported that we need a special workday to clean out the shed.

Anna Marie reported that Marlene Freetly was having back problems and was unable to attend or participate at this time.

Anna Cadd presented a Santa Rosa Garden Club Cookbook to Rudy.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Diana Ford, SRIS Secretary

Door Prize Winners for March

ANGELS ABOUND – Jeff Davis

ARRIVEDERCI – Diana Ford

BET THE FARM – Anna Cadd

BETTY FORD – Gilda De Niro

BLACKWATER – Anna Cadd

BOLD PATTERN – Alleah Haley

BORDER SKIRMISH – Kitty Loberg

DARK ICON – Marlene Horn

GOING BIG TIME – Cheryl Bryan

GOLDEN SNITCH – Anna Marie Hermansen

MIDNIGHT ROSE – Steve Albert

ONE STEP BEYOND – Linnea Polo

READY FOR MY CLOSEUP – Rudy Ciuca

VOULEZ-VOUS – Jean Sharp

WINGMAN – Joe Lawrence

Door Prizes for March

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.

ALABASTER LACE (Aitken, 2015, **TB**). Blue-white; heavily laced; soft blue beards.

BOSTON CREAM (Keppel, 2014, **TB**). 31” E. S. warm white; F. warm white, faint green texture veining, shoulders lightly shaded apricot-buff; beards shading from flame to white at end.

CELTIC TARTAN (Keppel, 2015, **TB**). 36” EM. Ruffled rosy purple, straw and buff luminata with golden orange beards.

COSMIC BLAST (Kerr, 2014, **TB**) 36” M. S. bold yellow; F. lavender with olive tan edge, reddish brown center & dark brown veins; beards yellow.

COZY COTTON (M. Sutton, 2015, **TB RE**). Soft white self with serrated edges; warm butter yellow beards and glow in throat

DOUBLE CHOCOLATE (J. Painter, 2014, **TB**). 41" M. S. chocolate brown to red-brown;; F. deeper chocolate brown; beards old gold.

ESPIONAGE (Keppel, 2015, **TB**). 37" M. S. light blue, tan center; F. have irregular deeper blue wash; heavily flared and ruffled.

FIRE DANGER (Keppel, 2015, **TB**). 33" M. Rusty burgundy and lemon yellow plicata.

GOLD REWARD (Aitken, 2015, **SDB**). Deep rich gold self with inky dark blue beards.

HIGH DESERT (Keppel, 2015, **TB**). 40" M. Variegata-plicata: S. chrome lemon; F. yellow to cream with narrow red purple edge.

HUCKLEBERRY SUNDAE (T. Johnson, 2014, **TB**). 36" E. S. white ground, near solid deep mulberry-red plicata; style arms mulberry; F. large white ground with deep mulberry-black plicata border; beards mustard-brown; sweet fragrance.

IN THE LOOP (Ghio, 2014, **TB**). 40" EM. S. white, cream halo; F. white, precise red-violet band; beards red.

MIDNIGHT VELVET (T. Johnson, 2014, **TB**). 32" E. S. deep purple plicata over white ground; F. deep purple bar across hafts & wide purple-black plicata fall band on white grd., purple center stripe; beards purple, hair tips orange; slight fragrance.

PAYBACK TIME (Schreiner, 2014, **TB**). 44" M. S. creamy yellow; F. red-purple, darker veining, small white veining by beard; beards yellow.

RARE COIN (Ghio, 2014, **TB**). 36" ML. S. gold; F. white at beard washing to pale yellow toward edges, precise deep brown rim; beards yellow

SHIVAREE (Keppel, 2015, **TB**). 33" M. Bright yellow-toned orange, shoulders with rosewood tracery; solid red orange beards.

TASTY (Black, 2015, **SDB**). 14" ML. Heavily saturated glaciata. Precise, classic form. Yummy citrus colors.

TICKLE MY FANCY (Black, 2015, **TB**). 38" L. S. white with wide purple plicata bands and sanding over centers; F. yellow with narrow red plum plicata bands; white luminata type patches are lined dark violet blue around burnt orange beards.

2 IRIS HOT PADS

1 IRIS COFFEE CUP

How I Waste my Time in the Garden – AKA the Sexual Life of Bugs

Anna Cadd

When I am weeding on my knees, ripping out weeds like a machine, I barely look up. Sometimes a bird will catch my attention, or a running gray squirrel, but usually you can see me with my tongue hanging out, in dirty clothes and knee pads, small hoe on my side and madness in my eyes. But today I noticed an unusual number of ladybugs. This insect, *Coccinella septempunctata* ("seven-spotted ladybug") is usually red with black legs, heads and antennae and seven small black spots on their wing covers. This cute insect, loved by everybody, is in real life a vicious predator feeding on aphids or scale insects. Within the colonies of such plant-eating pests, they will lay hundreds of eggs, and when these hatch, the larvae will start feeding on the pests immediately!

Coccinellidae are known as ladybugs in North America, and ladybirds in other countries. Entomologists in the United States widely prefer the names ladybird beetles or lady beetles as these insects are not really true bugs. They are really beetles as they are, as described in Webster's Dictionary: "any of the order of insects with two hard, shiny cases to cover the wings when folded".

But that's enough of all this science. What stopped me in my weeding tracks was two of them in a most intimate moment. They were in a small hole next to an iris plant. The "boy" was sitting on the "lady's" body and was shaking her violently. I observed them for a whole hour and the action was intense the whole time. Then suddenly he finished, shook his tail (you know what I mean) and just left. She was left there alone, no flowers, wine or diamonds and was sitting tired in the hole. I doubt that he will participate in the raising and education of the youngsters. Ah, the luck of ladybug! Now you know why my garden still isn't weeded!

Hoe while it is spring, and enjoy the best anticipations. It is not much matter if things do not turn out well. ~Charles Dudley Warner

Q: How well is your garden going to grow?

A: Only thyme will tell.



American Iris Society Region 14
Iris on the Hill

2016 Spring Regional ~ April 29, 30 & May 1

Guest Speaker – Steve Schreiner

~ from the world famous Schreiner's Iris Gardens ~

Conference Hotel – Beverly Heritage Hotel, 1820 Barber Lane, Milpitas, CA 95035

****Contact the hotel directly for room reservations at (408) 943-9080****

To receive the group rate, use the name AIS Region 14 when making your reservation. The room rate is available until April 8, 2016.

Room rate is \$115.00 (single or double occupancy), \$135 (triple occupancy), or \$155 (quad occupancy), plus all applicable taxes, per night.

The Hotel is 100% non-smoking. However, smoking is allowed outside and on the patios.

There are pet friendly rooms for an additional \$75.00 per pet, per stay (not per day).

Registrant 1 First Name _____ Last Name _____

Registrant 2 First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____ City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail for confirmation _____

Local Iris Society _____

Circle your choices (Saturday): Lunch:

Person 1: BBQ (meat) or vegetarian

Person 2: BBQ (meat) or vegetarian

Dinner:

beef, chicken, or vegetarian

beef, chicken, or vegetarian

If special dietary restrictions, please advise.

Register by March 1st to be entered in a drawing for a 2016 introduction!

Registration fee if paid by April 1, 2016 \$120.00 x person (s) _____ Total \$ _____

If paid after April 1, 2016 \$130.00 x person (s) _____ Total \$ _____

Please make checks payable to SBMIS or Sydney B. Mitchell Iris Society

Please send registration to: Jean Richter, Registrar, 1226 High Street, Alameda, CA 94501

e-mail jeanrichter@berkeley.edu or phone (510) 864-7962

Refunds before April 18, 2016 require a \$10.00 per person handling fee.

No refunds after April 18, 2016, or may be decided at the discretion of the registrar.

*****We will be having a full Iris Show and will need to set up enough tables.

Will you be bringing bloom stalks? Yes _____ No _____ Maybe _____

Clara B. Rees Iris Society will bring containers & entry tags; please bring your own grooming material.

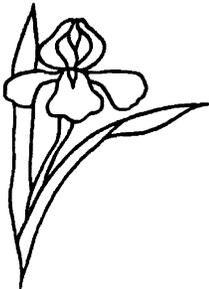
Will you (write 2 if 2 people) be attending Judges' Training? Yes _____ No _____ Maybe _____

If yes, which session? _____ Saturday 1:30 p.m. in Nola's Garden

_____ Sunday 9:00 a.m. in the hotel, Oak Creek Room

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

42ND YEAR NUMBER 4

APRIL 2016

President:
Rudy Ciuca

Vice President:
Anna Cadd

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, scheduled this year on Saturday November 5 from 12:00-5:00 p.m.

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.

May Newsletter Deadline – April 20th