

The Newsletter of

The Santa Rosa Iris Society

42ND YEAR NUMBER 12

DECEMBER 2016

Officers 2016:

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Rudy Ciuca

Vice President

Anna Cadd

Treasurer

Joe Lawrence

Secretary

Diana Ford

Past President

Alleah Haley

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Directors thru 12/16:

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Anna Marie Hermansen

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2016 Summer Rhizome Sales Chm.

Betty Ford –Heirloom Expo

Alleah Haley –Farmers’ Mkt



Wishing you and your family a wonderful holiday season.

MONDAY DECEMBER 12, 6:00 PM – BOARD MEETING

We'll continue planning our programs for 2017. Board members and other interested persons are encouraged to attend; the snacks can't be beat!

Don't forget - 2017 dues are due. See

renewal form on page 11.

Gardening Tips for December

Anna Cadd

1. Not a lot is going on now in our gardens, as we are busy with Christmas preparations, we finally got some rain, dew is making it impossible to work in the garden until late morning, and then it gets dark before 5:00 p.m. But this is okay. We all need some time off from the garden; and with the New Year we will be ready and fully charged to tackle the well grown oxalis, Bermuda grass, chickweed and other winter "weed crops". They are doing well; but just between us, I love to look at the brand new greens after the fall's dry, brown weeds, even if they are not really welcome in the garden.
2. The irises are dormant now, and the leaves are not very tall; but we can see a lot of new increases, especially if we fertilized them before winter. It is good to clean off the old, mushy leaves, as their surfaces can be the source of different diseases, trying to survive the winter on them. They are also perfect hideouts for insects.
3. Perennials, including irises, which were well fed during the summer and fall, are now headed for dormancy. So avoid fertilizing them now, as it stimulates new growth and interferes with cold tolerance. Shut down the sprinklers; there is enough moisture in the soil. Overly wet winter soil causes multiple problems, including root rot and premature death, even in warm-climate gardens.
4. Leave any borderline-hardy perennials un-pruned, especially in exposed areas. The stems add protection. Some tender tropical perennials, such as coleus, only survive outdoors in the warmest growing zones. Before frost hits, take simple cuttings and start new plants indoors.
5. Many container plants, including tender herbs, easily adjust to

indoor winters. These plants also experience dormant periods, so limit water and fertilizer as you would outdoors. Cut plants back, as needed, to keep size manageable; and treat insect pests with a natural, botanically-based pesticide before you bring plants inside.

6. Since ancient times, a freshly brewed pot filled with whole tea leaves has been revered as the richest in character. So, during hectic holiday times, make a moment for you. Curl up with a cup of freshly brewed chamomile-lemon or mint tea under a warm blanket with a good book, and make time for yourself. This beats spending time in stores filled with crazies looking for bargains – and who needs this cheap stuff anyway? Enjoy the peaceful Christmas season. This is the magic of the Mighty Leaf (tea). Happy Holidays! I hope you have enjoyed my musings this past year.

Changing of the Guard

New officers were elected at our October meeting. They will take office on Jan. 1, 2017. They are:

President – Jeff Davis

Vice President – Anna Cadd

Secretary – Diana Ford

Treasurer – Joe Lawrence

Past President – Rudy Ciuca

Board of Directors thru 2017 – Anna Marie Hermansen, Kitty Loberg

Board of Directors thru 2018 – Kathy McCallum, Delores McKey, Jean Sharp

From the President-elect's Desk

Hello to all SRIS members from your new President for 2017. It's hard to believe I have been a continuous member of the Santa Rosa Iris Society since 1984 and have escaped being President all these years. Could it really be 32 years? I have always been kind of in the background filling in on various responsibilities, helping wherever help was needed. My resume in the Club could look like I've done everything already, so it was inevitable that sooner or later the call would come (thanks, Betty Ford) and I would have to step up and see if I am worthy of carrying the torch.

I am really looking forward to the coming iris year. There will be a lot of learning for me to do (with all your help of course) to keep up the great traditions of this vibrant club, the Santa Rosa Iris Society. I wish you all a wonderful Holiday Season.

Jeff Davis

This Month

Monday, December 12, 6:00 PM – Board Meeting on Programs for 2017

From the Editor – **Many thanks** for contributions to this issue: **Anna Cadd, Jeff Davis, Betty Ford, Diana Ford, Marlene Freetly, Heather Haley, and Joe Lawrence.** *Alleah*

2016 COME AS AN IRIS NAME POTLUCK PARTY

Betty Ford

This year's "iris name" party was different from all the past parties. The suggestion was made and then voted on by the members to choose an iris from the 2015 Tall Bearded Symposium winner list of the top 100 iris to portray at the annual come dressed as an iris party. Prior to the party there were some grumblings about not finding anything on the list that they wanted to portray, but everyone complied. Looking over the list, I wondered "how in the world would you portray most of the iris on the list?" As it turned out, folks did amazingly well, which proves what imaginative members we have.

As always our meeting room was transformed into a "party room" with gold tablecloths on the tables, lovely fall arrangements and table decorations by Anna Cadd, delicious turkey and ham roasted by our chief cook, Rudy Ciuca, and favorite side dishes provided by members. Thank you to all who made this such a festive event.

Thanks also to the members who provided the evening's entertainment by coming as an iris name. I'm always amazed to see what our imaginative members come up with. A new twist came into play this year, as we got to "cheat" by checking the Symposium winner list while trying to figure out WHO came as WHICH iris. Folks were so clever that some were tough to guess even with the "cheat sheet".

Barbara Foley, one of our new members this year, didn't come as an iris; but she took a top award by guessing the most iris names, in fact, every iris name at the party (16). If my memory serves me correctly, this has never been done before. Good work and congrats, Barbara! Just goes to show that you don't have to dress as an iris to have a good time and even win a prize. Rudy Ciuca and

Anna Marie Hermansen tied for 2nd place by each guessing 13 iris names.

After dining on our scrumptious meal, it was time for everyone to disclose their iris name. Another new member who joined last spring, Mary True, dressed so subtly, I didn't even know that she was an iris. She was simply but elegantly dressed in black for **BLACK IS BLACK** (*Hager 1979*).

Our president, Rudy Ciuca, was one of the winners of the Master Perplexer Award by stumping most of us once again with his portrayal of **BEVERLY SILLS** (*Hager 1979*, Dykes Medal 1985). He merely blew bubbles as he went around the room. Who knew that the famous opera singer, Beverly Sills' nickname was "Bubbles"? We should have figured this out as Rudy used this iris before at our 2011 party. My guess is that Rudy could do this again in a few years and, once again, I probably wouldn't remember which iris he is.

Joe Lawrence simply wore a placard on a string around his neck with the initials M. F. K. F. for **MARY FRANCES** (*Gaulter 1973*, Dykes Medal 1979). Joe's sign referred to Mary Frances Kay Fisher (1908-1992), the celebrated American food writer who lived for the final 20 years of her life in Glen Ellen.

Loretta Figueroa attached a label to the back of her blouse with the markings XXL, XXXL, XXXXL. You've heard of plus sizes, right? Well, all the X's stand for **EVERYTHING PLUS** (*Niswonger 1984*, Dykes Medal 1991).

Linnea Polo wore a tiara decorated with pink jewels and some fuzzy stuff. She also had signs on the front and back of her that read " $x^2 + y^2 = r^2$ ", which is the formula for a circle. Her iris was Fred Kerr's 2007 Dykes Medal winner **QUEEN'S CIRCLE**.

Kitty Loberg, one of the winners of the Master Perplexer Award, had snack bags filled with cookies and a question mark in each bag attached to her shirt. What goes nicely with cookies? Milk, of course — **GOT MILK** (*Aitken 2002*). Kitty did double duty by wearing a crown on her head as part of Steve Albert's iris name. Steve also wore a crown. The two of them became **CROWNED HEADS** (*Keppel 1997*, Dykes Medal 2004).

Anna Marie Hermansen won the title of Everyone's Favorite. She wore a big red heart attached to her chest with the letters BOO across it. She had two adorable little ghosts, one attached to her front and one to her back. Black netting covered all of this along with some ghostly white stuff. Great interpretation for **HAUNTED HEART** (*Keppel 2010*).

Cheryl Bryan dressed up as a cowgirl complete with black hat and neck scarf. When she divulged her name, she crunched some crispy paper in her hands creating a rustling effect. After that, how could you not guess that it was Keppel's 1987 **RUSTLER?**

Jean Sharp wore her traveling hat and carried a big stick over her shoulder. A bandana stuffed with her worldly goods was tied to the end of the stick complete with a big feather. She posed with an outstretched arm with thumb in the air. You had to love this rendition of **GOING MY WAY** (*Gibson 1972*).

Alleah Haley pinned to her shirt a photo of a building with many steps to climb (the "Spanish Steps" in Rome), along with a big 'EXIT' sign in red letters. On her back was another large photo with an enormous amount of steps (a Mayan pyramid at Chichen Itza in Mexico) and an additional sign that said "NOT IN". So with the clues STEPS, EXIT and NOT IN, it had to be Schreiners' 1964 introduction and 1968 Dykes Medal winner, **STEPPING OUT**, which has enjoyed immense popularity for over 50 years.

Anna Cadd's friend from Carson City, Nevada, Daniel Cooper, was dressed to the nines in the colors of his chosen iris. Black slacks and vest, medium purple shirt, and to make this all come together he added a shocking bright orange tie to match the beard on his iris. A very sharp portrayal of **SHARP DRESSED MAN** (*T. Johnson 2010*). Daniel was voted the Best Impersonation of an iris. Anna Cadd surprised everyone when she donned her costume, a head-to-toe cow suit. Yes, that's right. Anna was dressed up like a cow complete with udder, carried a milk bottle, and periodically she would milk the teats. Yep, you guessed it, she was **GOT MILK** (*Aitken 2002*).

Diana Ford, dressed in black, carried a little black wand with a small black star on top of it. Perfect for **BLACK MAGIC WOMAN** (*Tasco 2008*). Don

Ford carried a beautiful blue antique bottle and wore a jacket with an applique of a rocket on it. Those were the only clues needed to know his iris was **BOTTLE ROCKET** (*Michael Sutton 2010*).

Hopefully, I have not left anyone out. I counted 15 “irises” at our party. Thanks to everyone who gave us the opportunity to revisit a few of the top 100 tall bearded irises, affording us a chance to put on our thinking caps, have a good laugh, and most of all to enjoy the fellowship of our society.

Oh wait, I forgot an iris. Make that 16, as I also came as an iris name. I was so easy to guess that everyone who played the guessing game, except one, guessed my iris name. I dug an old outfit out of the closet that I wore back in 2005. Back then I had spent countless hours sewing all the leftover lace, which I had accumulated during my sewing years, onto a skirt and a blouse. I had added a label to the blouse’s neckline specifying that the fabric content was 100% cotton. My iris was **LACED COTTON** (*Schreiners 1980*).

To wrap up, the general consensus was that all who attended thought that using the top 100 TB iris symposium list was a grand idea. It proved to be more fun with the added clue of having a list to check while trying to figure out the names of the irises in attendance. And thank you, Alleah and Anna Marie, for donating some of the prizes.

The Iris Learning Corner - *Iris palaestina*, the Iris from Jesus’ Territory
Anna Cadd, based on:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iris_palaestina

Iris palaestina (or sometimes *Iris palestina*) is a species in the genus *Iris*, in the subgenus Scorpiris (“Juno irises”, a group of 60 related species of smooth-bulbed bulbous irises). Also known as the Palestine iris, it is a bulbous perennial first published in *Flora Orientalis* by Pierre Edmond Boissier in July 1882. It was originally thought to be a variety of *Iris vartanii*. It is similar in form to the better known and more decorative *Iris planifolia*.

It has been used as a medicinal plant in the Middle East for urinary tract infections by boiling the leaves or the rhizomes in water, similar to the use of *Iris pallida*.

The iris is not hardy and is generally a poor
4

grower. It should be potted in well-drained, fertile compost and have no summer water. It can be seen in the Tel Aviv University Botanic Garden.

It has a short stem about 3.9–7.9 inches high. It has fragrant flowers between January and February, with generally one to three flowers per stem. The flowers are greenish-grey/white flowers. They also come in yellow-white flowers as well. In southern Israel, some specimens have a slight blue tinge. The flowers have winged falls.

Most specimens have up to six leaves, which are 6 inches tall at flowering time. They are normally about 0.39–0.79 inches wide at the base of the plant. The long, narrow, strappy leaves have undulate edges, with a thin white margin. They are normally shiny green in color, glossy on the upper surface. It has oblong capsules and seeds without arils.



Iris palaestina near Jerusalem

Iris palestina was first found in Mesopotamia, part of Syria. It also has been found in the following areas of Israel: Golan, Galilee, on the Mediterranean coast, in northern valleys, Carmel, Samarian mountains, Samarian desert, Judean mountains, Sharon and Shefela. Also Batha, Lebanon. It likes open stony soils (with sandstone material) at low altitudes. Normally, it is found at coastal sites but olive groves are also common.



6
From http://www.flowersinrael.com/Irispalaestina_page.htm



Keeping In Touch

Marlene Freetly had complicated back surgery October 7. She reported by email on November 28, "At my six week checkup all looks good. Just need to heal more. They say it could take up to a year to fully recovery. ... I hope to get to the meetings soon. Hope you have a nice Christmas."

Get well wishes may be sent to:
1632 Adobe Rd.
Petaluma, CA 94954
marlene.freetly@gmail.com

Happy Birthday December Babies

Marlene Freetly 12/2
Deborah Bellen 12/7
Bob Plank 12/20
Adina Boyce 12/24
Kathie Hile 12/27

December Wedding Anniversaries

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

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 2017** issue of this Newsletter is **December 20, 2016**. E-mail copy to: alleah.haley@gmail.com.*

Flat Out and Up to Date!

Clive Russell, England; reprinted from the BIS Yearbook in the AIS Bulletin, January 2003, pp. 66-72. Reprinted by permission.

It may come as something of a surprise to some of you to learn that although it has been going on for centuries in Japan, iris hybridizing in the western world only started at the beginning of the last century. Yes, there are iris registered in the latter quarter of the 19th century, but these were the result of "natural" crosses, as the Victorian morality at that time was of the opinion that God and nature needed no help in their grand design.

There appears to be no record of why there was a change in attitude, but with the big man himself (William Rickatson Dykes) at the forefront of this

new development, there was little hope for a return to former attitudes, and, to mix metaphors, once the floodgates had been opened, everyone jumped on the bandwagon.

It was the UK that was originally at the forefront of hybridizing (as it became known), and remained so until the outbreak of WWII put an end to such activities. This gave US hybridizers the chance to leapfrog the work being done in the UK, which gave them a big lead that they have never relinquished, and, in the main, they are responsible for the majority of developments in the last 60 years.

And developments there have been. Dykes managed to isolate yellow in TBs before his untimely death in 1925, and out of the yellows came the pinks, and out of the pinks came the oranges. Other hybridizers were working on different lines, which produced not only new colors, but also new color combinations and blends, and novelties appeared such as Space Agers (SA), rebloomers (RE) and color breaks (CB). Surprisingly enough, the first introduction by Keith Keppel, who is not known for favoring "novelties", was a CB, (Humoresque '61) but he went on to become better known for his line of variegata plicatas, and now appears to be concentrating on luminatas and red bearded "blacks", although BROKEN DREAMS ('97) shows that he has not abandoned the CBs altogether.

There is, however, one form of TB known have been around since the 1920's, but which, although surfacing from time to time, has, in the main, been studiously ignored by all and sundry, and that is the 6-fall type, or "flatty". But why? This form appeared in Japanese iris a long time ago, and was quickly recognized as very desirable, and consequently efforts were made to cultivate and develop it. There is even an *I. laevigata* flatty, (originally sold as MIDNIGHT, but subsequently renamed and registered as WEYMOUTH MIDNIGHT) which is a true flatty, as all 6 falls have a white blaze on midnight blue, and in the April 2002 *Bulletin* Marty Schafer makes mention of two 6-fall hybrids of *I. cristata*. So as the form is already in existence, and there is always a demand for "novelties", why has no one thought to take it up and develop it further in TBs? It is not as though there is nothing to work with, as the earliest registered variety I have been

able to find is MAY ALLISON ('20), although the 1939 Checklist only describes it as a Double. JAPANESE (Farr) (1) was registered the following year, then there seems to have been a 20-year gap, at the end of which RHYTHM ('50) was registered. NO TOP followed in 1957, and then there was another gap until EXOTICA (Crossman) appeared in 1969. Maybe its introduction stimulated the hybridizers of the time, as there seems to have been a flush of registrations in the 1970's, including GO GO GIRL ('70), IMPERSONATOR ('74) and TOPLESS DANCER ('76). However, it is more likely that they were already working with the same varieties that produced EXOTICA, so the surge of flatties at the time might have been inevitable. (2) But where did they come from?

Before going any further, I should perhaps define a "flatty"... As you all know the standard form for iris is to have 3 upright petals called standards, and 3 pendant petals called falls. It is unlikely that we will ever know whether they were a result of deliberate crosses, or just Mother Nature being her usual perverse self, but forms of *I. ensata* appeared where the standards were moving out in varying degrees from the vertical to the horizontal. Crosses were made to encourage this development, especially when the standards were seen to be taking on the characteristics of the falls, and thus was created what has become known as the 6-fall type. However, it is interesting to note that even today, some *I. ensata* hybrids appear which do not know quite what they are, as the standards may not have the fall blaze, even though they are horizontal, or the blaze may be there when they are semi-vertical. (These are occasionally given names and registered, but strictly speaking, they are not eligible for any awards, as, although they may be stable in their own right, they are not deemed to be either 3-fall or 6-fall types. Not so the TB's, but I shall come to them presently.) So a *real* flatty will consistently have 6 falls, all of which have the same characteristics, i.e. a yellow blaze in *ensatas*, a white blaze in *laevigatas* and a beard in pogons.

The obvious starting point was to find out the names of as many registered varieties as possible, and I am indebted to both Bruce Filardi and Mike Lowe for their continuous flow of e-mails, usually starting with "I have found another one". (The list is to be found at the end of this article, but I am sure it is not definitive, and I

would be pleased to hear from anyone who can add to it - and even supply me with pieces.) The next stage was to look up their ancestry, and with international registrations starting in the 1920's, most of today's hybrids can trace their parentage back for many generations. What turned out to be most surprising was that in those parentages, there are only 3 named varieties that recurred (3), none of which were flatties themselves, and that none of the registered flatties have a flatty as an ancestor. This would seem to confirm that not only would the flat form appear to be genetically very recessive, but also that if there has been one, no one has seen fit to register the cross of a flatty with a flatty.

So why have flatties not had more work done on them? The probable answer is that whereas conversion to tetraploidy and the appearance of CBs, and even the advent of SAs maintained the traditional form of the TB, flatties are a complete break with the norm, and therefore anathema to traditionalists. But if the 6-fall form became acceptable in *I. ensata* for the Japanese, who are sticklers for "good taste", then there is no reason why, with some patience, it could not work for us in the western world with TBs. But it must be borne in mind that in these days of instant gratification, we are up against time, as we have no idea how long it took the Japanese. Not all the varieties of flatties that I grow have bloomed for me as yet, but those that have are without exception all late bloomers, a virtue that would normally be extolled as being instrumental in extending the season. But, unfortunately, there are a number of faults with the current flatty form, which means that they are not yet really ready to make a formal debut.

The first problem is that unless the bloom can open very quickly, the edge of the blade seems to dry out, so that by the time the flower is fully open, the outer edges are papery and brown (see photograph of IMPERSONATOR). This in itself is unusual in iris, as under normal conditions the substance tends to go thin and watery as they are going over, and therefore it is one of the first problems that need to be solved. The alternative of giving them plenty of water does not seem to work, as here in the UK, we get *plenty* of natural water, and the problem persists.

Accompanying the report I wrote covering the 1996 AIS convention for that year's British Iris

Society Year Book, there is a photograph of a dark maroon-red flatty, photographed in Joe Ghio's seedling patch. It was one of two, (the better one), but sadly, both have since been composted, as Joe described them as "unstable". And this is the second problem with flatties. With current varieties, it is highly unlikely that every flower on a stem will open flat, as the earlier blooms tend to open as expected, but the later ones can be indecisive, opening with any combination of standards and falls, with and without beards. However, they do seem to do better when grown in full sun, as I have found that those not given the maximum exposure possible not only do not open quickly, but also rarely develop fully flat blooms, and those in the least sunny part of the garden open as normal iris. (Playing musical iris around the garden has proved to me that relocation does make them bloom correctly.) In some cases, I have observed bicolored flatties opening with some of the non-standards as chimeras, in other words having beards, but one side of the petal the color of the standards, and the other side the color of the falls, and this could also be a result of less than ideal positioning in the garden.

A further problem is the succession of bloom, and the position of the booms on the stem. For the second part of the last century, while hybridizers in the US were increasing bloom size and developing the different characteristics we have today, those in the UK were concentrating on increasing the bud count and bloom succession on the stem. Now, at the start of the 21st century, the two requirements have merged, and for TBs the norm is a *minimum* of 7 buds spaced evenly along the stem, with 3 out at any one time, although in the US you only approve of 2 out at a time. Another problem is that the fullness of 6-fall blooms at varying points on the stem not only detracts from the plant's appearance, but also prevents them opening out properly, and it would therefore appear that to look their best while in flower, flatties need to be produced that either hold their blooms at the top of the stem (much as *I. ensata* hybrids do), or hold them away from the stem in candelabra formation. To breed for the former, of course, would go against the grain of all the work that was done in the last century.

And the final, and probably least significant problem I have noticed is that in most varieties, the stems are bent as they come out of the

leaves, (see photograph), although they do straighten up as the flowers develop and open.

So is there any future for flatties? Well, until someone actually starts working with them, we will never know, but I can offer a few pointers from personal observations. Firstly, we need to find out whether flatties are fertile, then see what happens when one is used as either one or both parents, and it may be necessary to go unto the 9th or 10th generation, or even further, before any kind of conclusion can be drawn. At the same time, there is no reason why work cannot be done crossing flatties with regular TBs which have either candelabra or top branching. Ideally, to get it right first time, the person to do this has to be a latter day Monty Byers and have the Midas touch, but are there any volunteers?

If this article has stimulated your imagination, and you have no qualms about ruffling aged feathers, then you might like to try your hand at growing and hybridizing flatties. As with any kind of hybridizing, it makes more sense to utilize the work that has gone before, rather than starting from scratch, but with so few registered varieties, it might be better to first assess what is available before starting to daub the pollen. From what I have been able to deduce, in most cases, where a flatty has appeared, it has been the end of the line, with it either being registered if stable, or composted if unstable. The latest ones in my collection are WHAT A MIXTURE (Grosvenor '99) and BEG TO DIFFER (Kerr '99), but there are even newer hybrids in the pipeline. I saw two in maiden bloom in the Suttons' seedling patch in 1996, one a creamy yellow (parentage unknown), and the other a cross of (STARMASTER x SKY HOOKS) X sib (photographs of both), and I have heard on the irisevine that Terry Aitken has a spectacular white flatty in his seedling patch, which I look forward to seeing before too long. (This one has IMMORTALITY as one of its parents, which means that reblooming genes have now been introduced into the line. We only need to add SA and CB blood to have a full house, but I leave that up to Mike Sutton, as even my fertile imagination cannot cope with the result of that combination!)

I have been collecting flatties since first seeing them in 1996, adding a few each year as I became aware of them, but although I had AMARYLLIS early on, it has only ever bloomed

once for me, rotting on every other occasion. Good bloomers are SIX PACK, FLAT RATE, IMPERSONATOR and INCOGNITO TOO, but these are all blue, which, being the dominant color in iris, means their "blood" is not too diluted and therefore they are stronger plants. Other blues, which have not performed as well, are TOPLESS DANCER and UNFURLED FLAG. The more recently registered varieties, WHAT A MIXTURE, and BEG TO DIFFER, (both bicolors) have given satisfactory first bloom, but JUDY MOGIL (another blue self), is taking a little longer to settle down. Two real surprises were RHYTHM and LADY PHYLLIS MOORE. The former was registered as a TB, but at 24" is now considered too short for that category. From the form it has shown so far, it is more of an MTB than a BB type, as it is smaller and daintier than other flatties. The latter is an unregistered hybrid of *I. pallida* which consistently has 6 falls, but once established, blooms with 3 additional long, but very narrow (2 mm wide) standards, as well as the 6 falls (see photo). Could it be the starting point for bearded doubles?

In the show "Oklahoma!", one of the musical numbers starts with the line: "Everything's up to date in Kansas City", and goes on to say, "They've gone about as far as they can go." We all know that the breeding of iris will carry on as long as there is anyone left sufficiently interested to do some pollen daubing, but one would think that by now all iris forms had been explored. However, in the April 2002 issue of the Bulletin there was a photograph of a newly introduced TB called TEACUP (Christopherson ('01), which has 3 short open standards, and 3 very large falls. In other words, looking to all intents and purposes like a 3-F JI. Yet *another* TB form! They've gone about as far as they can go? NO WAY!

List of registered flatties:

AMARYLLIS (R Goebel '89)
 BEG TO DIFFER (F Kerr '99)
 CLEMATIFLORA (W Vallette '60)
 EXOTICA (G Crossman '69)
 FLAT RATE (J Ghio '93)
 FLOPSY (Loomis '90)
 "FRAN'S FLATTY" (not registered)
 GAZOO (M Knopf '66)
 GO GO GIRL (L Noyd '70) •
 IMPERSONATOR (S Babson '74)
 INCOGNITO TOO (K Mohr by B Williamson '95)
 JAPANESQUE (Farr '21)

JUDY MOGIL (J McWhirter by A Feuerstein '99)
 LITTLE FREAK (J Steel by R Nelson ('99)
 MAY ALLISON (Allison '20)
 NO-TOP (L B Lawson '57)
 RHYTHM (W R Ballard '50)
 SIX PACK (Slade '83)
 TOPLESS DANCER (L Bellagamba '76)
 UNFURLED FLAG (B Hager '82)
 WHAT A MIXTURE (G Grosvenor '99)

List of not exactly flatties

BLUE TULIP (FJ Knocke '62)
 DAUBER'S DELIGHT (M Osborne by G Sutton '91)
 HELLO HOBO (P Blyth '88)
 PEACE AND HARMONY (J Ghio '91)
 PINK MAGNOLIA (O Brown '68)

HELLO HOBO and PEACE AND HARMONY have been listed above as they consistently bloom for me with very open standards, and they might prove to have some flatty genetics in their background. BLUE TULIP and DAUBER'S DELIGHT are more magnolia form with upcurving falls which are trying to become standards, so there is obviously something in *their* genetic makeup that is not of the TB norm. PINK MAGNOLIA registration details specifically state "no standards, 6 falls", but I am told that it is also magnolia in form, although it has yet to bloom for me.

(1) There seems to be some discussion at the present as to whether FRAN'S FLATTY and JAPANESQUE are not one and the same. FRAN'S FLATTY does not appear to have been registered, so a comparison of parentage with JAPANESQUE is not possible. I cannot yet comment from the visual point of view, as whereas my piece of FRAN'S FLATTY has bloomed (see photograph), I am still waiting for JAPANESQUE.

(2) Subsequent research has shown that although S Babson introduced SHIPSHAPE in 1968, and it became the pollen parent of IMPERSONATOR, none of the other registrations listed in this section have a common ancestor.

(3) PIERRE MENARD (Faught '42) ROCOCO (Schreiner's '59), and SHIPSHAPE (Babson '68)

This article appeared in slightly different form in the Yearbook of the British Iris Society. Ed. note: More recent flatties are listed/shown at wiki.irises.org/bin/view/Main/InfoNoveltyFlatFlowe

rs and include Kerr's 2009 'Orbison' and McWhirter's 2001 'Crew Cut'.

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

Meeting called to order 6:12 p.m.

Attending: Rudy Ciuca, Kitty Loberg, Steve Albert, Anna Cadd, Joe Lawrence, Jean Sharp, Alleah Haley, Jeff Davis, Betty Ford, Diana Ford, Anna-Marie Hermansen, Cheryl Bryan, Kathy McCallum, and welcome back Jim Begley!

Treasurer's report was presented and approved.

Rudy would like the April iris staging presentation to also serve as a judges training. Alleah Haley will organize it and Jim Begley will do the presenting. He will ask Ross BeVier to join him.

There was a discussion regarding the September basic planting demonstration. It was decided to make it even simpler. Anna Cadd has agreed to organize materials and do the demonstration. A suggestion was made to offer one or two free iris at the planting demonstration. An invitation to the meeting with a promise of the free iris will go to people who purchase iris at the Heirloom festival.

After a discussion it was agreed that Anna Cadd and Kitty Loberg would set up an artistic division for the 2017 Spring Show

The main purpose of this November meeting was to set up the programs/presentations for next year. This is the schedule agreed on at the meeting:

The December 2016 meeting will finalize the programs and Budget.

January 9, 2017 will be Budget finalizing.

February 13 we will try to have a gopher presentation.

On March 13 Anna Cadd will present an explanation and training for the newly added Artistic Division.

April 10 will be the Staging/Judges Training with Jim Begley and Ross BeVier.

The Spring Show will be May 5, 6 and 7. Kitty Loberg is Show Chair.

May 9 Cheryl Bryan will present Irids, iris family plants.

June 12 will be show awards and a report from regional by Anna Cadd and Kitty Loberg.

July 10 Marlene Horn will show us pictures of the iris available at the auction/picnic.

August 14 NO MEETING

September 11 the program is iris culture for new members by Anna Cadd.

October 9 Beardless sale and program by an iris hybridizer. (Rick Tasco a possibility)

November 13 Board Meeting to discuss 2018 programs.

Round Robin:

Cheryl asked if individuals might be in charge of, or curate a specific part of the garden as a way to divide up the duties. She pointed out that at this time Anna Cadd does the Spuria area and Joe and Rudy take care of the Dykes section. It was decided to add this to the agenda of the next general meeting.

Kitty gave a report on the Spring Show. She has engaged Yorda Hansen, John Pesik, Carolyn Hoover and Christine Dickinson for judging. She asked for theme suggestions. Some suggestions included Iris for all Seasons and Chasing the Iris Rainbow. Please direct other theme ideas to Kitty. She questions some of the awards that have been given for a long time. Some started to encourage certain colors and patterns. She would like to have the Artistic Division and a section for Rebloomers with awards. At a general meeting she would like to have members review the current awards and vote. Jim stated that in the past the show chair has picked awards to give and calls for a vote.

AIS wishes to stop giving out medals for the most blue ribbons and most red ribbons. They are looking for feedback. The board voted to say no change.

There was a discussion about the water system and valves. Jeff will bring a layout to the next meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Making sure everyone has a holiday meal from the November 18, 2016 Press Democrat

The most recent Sonoma Co. Hunger Index report found that 34 million meals were missed in 70,000 at-risk households in the county in 2015 because they couldn't afford enough groceries. 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 for 5000 & services all year.
- The St. Vincent de Paul Society provides daily lunches at 610 Wilson St., Santa Rosa. To

donate, go to svdp-sonoma.org or call 584-1579.

- The Redwood Empire Food Bank supplies 177 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 fish-of-santa-rosa.org, 2900 McBride Lane, Santa Rosa 95403 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. Donate online at santorosa.salvationarmy.org or at 93 Stony Circle, Santa Rosa 95401.
- The Committee on the Shelterless (COTS) provides shelter, transitional housing, training, and meals and distributes food. 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 285,000 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 42,000 meals through its Meals on Wheels and cafe programs. Send donations to petalumapeople.org, 1500A Petaluma Blvd. S., Petaluma 94952 or call 765-8488.

Join the American Iris Society

AIS exists for the sole purpose of promoting the culture and improvement of the genus *Iris*. Membership brings you four issues/year of the publication *Iris*es plus other benefits. Membership is \$30 single annual, \$35 dual annual, \$70 single triennial, \$85 dual triennial. Make check payable to American Iris Society. Mail to Tom Gormley, AIS Membership Secretary, P.O. Box 177, 10

DeLeon Springs, FL 32130 or go to www.irises.org.

Christmas Greens

from the CGCI – Golden Gardens e-News, December 2016, submitted by Anna Cadd

1. Poinsettia: The ancient Aztecs (ruling tribe in central Mexico at the time of contact with Europe) prized the poinsettia as a symbol of purity. Centuries later, Mexico's early Christians adopted the poinsettia as their prized Christmas Eve flower. The Mexican poinsettia, known as the Christmas Flower in North America, is used in most Christmas decorations, owing to its bright red color and its blooming season coinciding with the Christmas holiday season. However, florists dye them in common colors or even add shimmers to make them more visually engaging during Christmas.
2. Christmas cactus: Christmas cactus, also known as orchid cactus or zygo-cactus, often blooms around Christmas time. Pendulous stems of Christmas cactus make it a great choice for hanging baskets. There are a number of different cactus species sold as "Christmas cactus."
3. Christmas rose: One plant called Christmas rose is regarded as a true Christmas flower in certain parts of the world. Christmas rose (*Serissa*) is also known as the "snow rose" or "winter rose." Originally from tropical regions of Asia, cultivated *Serissa* often blooms during the winter. Another plant known as Christmas rose is *Helleborus niger*.
4. Holly: Holly is the plant most associated with Christmas in many European countries. Holly wreaths are hung on doors, and sprigs of holly used to trim Christmas puddings.
5. Ivy: Like most of the other Christmas flowers, ivy leaves symbolize eternity and resurrection. The ivy leaf has been associated with the Egyptian god Osiris, and the Greco Roman god Attis, both of whom were resurrected from the dead.
6. Mistletoe: Mistletoe is a Christmas plant whose origin is said to date back to the Pagans. Druid priests used this Christmas plant two hundred years before the birth of Christ in their winter celebrations. A more modern tradition is to exchange kisses under a sprig of mistletoe.

The best things that can come out of the garden are gifts for other people. Jamie Jobb.

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 _____

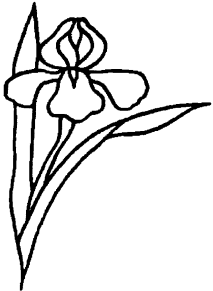
AIS MEMBER: YES _____ NO _____

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

42ND YEAR NUMBER 12

December 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, was held this year on Saturday, November 5 from 12:00 to 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.

January Deadline – December 20th