

The Newsletter of

# The Santa Rosa Iris Society

43<sup>RD</sup> YEAR NUMBER 12

DECEMBER 2017

## **Officers 2017:**

### **President**

Jeff Davis

### **Vice President**

Anna Cadd

### **Treasurer**

Kitty Loberg

### **Secretary**

Diana Ford

### **Past President**

Rudy Ciuca

### **Historian**

Anna Cadd

### **Membership Secretary**

Alleah Haley

### **Librarian**

Juanita Breckwoldt

### **Newsletter Editor**

Alleah Haley

### **Directors** thru 12/17:

Anna Marie Hermansen

Kitty Loberg

### **Directors** thru 12/18:

Kathy McCallum

Delores McKey

Jean Sharp

## **Standing Committees:**

### **Attendance**

Marlene Horn

### **Display Garden Chairmen**

Jim Begley

Jean Sharp

### **Door Prize Coordinator**

Rudy Ciuca

### **Hospitality**

Diana and Don Ford

### **LBAGC Representatives**

Jeff Davis

Anna Cadd

Alleah Haley (Alternate)

### **Logistics Coordinator**

Jim Begley

### **Photography**

Marlene Horn

### **2017 Show Chairman**

Kitty Loberg

### **2017 Assistant Show Chairman**

Jeff Davis

### **2017 Potted Iris Sale Chairman**

Alleah Haley

### **2017 Summer Rhizome Sale Chm.**

Need volunteer

### **2017 Heirloom Expo Sales Chm.**

Need volunteer

Everyone's Invited: Board Meeting  
Monday December 11, 6:00 P.M. at  
Luther Burbank Art & Garden Ctr.,  
2050 Yulupa Avenue, Santa Rosa



This is the annual board meeting when we plan programs for the coming year. So if there's a program you'd like to hear, have a program you want to give, or just want to eat great snacks (we have these at board meetings too!), come on out and share. Alternatively, call an officer or board member and make your suggestion. But then, you'll miss the snacks.



## G Gardening Tips for December

Anna Cadd

1. Not a lot to do now in the garden. We are all too busy with our lives: cleaning, cooking, baking, shopping, wrapping gifts, visiting with friends and family, anyway. The days are short now, wet in the morning from dew, and we don't want to rake leaves, mow lawns or pull weeds anyway. Some people from snow-covered Europe are no doubt jealous, saying "you people in California are lucky. You can garden all year round, enjoying iris re-bloomers and different plants" Oh, yeah? Lucky? They haven't seen my weeds in February! But we'll deal with them eventually.
2. I hope that all your bearded and beardless irises are planted now. It would be good to weed them, clean away the old, dry leaves and apply some general fertilizer, but not too much. We don't want them to grow too much in early spring, when they are susceptible to bacterial soft rot and leaf spot.
3. There are some beautiful cyclamens, pansies, and primroses in the nurseries. You can also plant daffodils and narcissus, lilies, hyacinths and other bulbs. I have two beautiful clumps of white Peruvian daffodils *Hymenocallis x festalis* in bloom. This belongs to the Amaryllidaceae family. Planting winter vegetables now will reward us in early spring, when Christmas credit card bills arrive. It is nice not to have to go to the store to shop for veggies!
4. Choose the perfect winter wreath to hang on your door and a Christmas tree, full of forest fragrance which solicits childhood memories. Fresh baked cookies are in order too! All are available from Costco® at very reasonable prices, although

you'd have to use a scented candle to get fresh-baked cookie smells from such cookies.

5. It has been a great privilege and honor to write this segment of our fabulous Santa Rosa Iris Society Newsletter each month for years now. I've had a lot of fun! I have so many ideas in my head, but not enough time to put them all on paper. I hope that these musings are an interesting read and provide ideas for easier gardening. I'd like to say "Thank You" to our wonderful editor, Alleah Haley; without her our Newsletter would resemble a lot of small, one page announcements, like many other clubs send. Also "Thank You" to all of you who contribute to our Newsletter. It is a joy to read. And I wish everyone a peaceful Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, with pyracantha bushes covered with red berries, full of sparrows and blackbirds, peaceful winter time in front of fireplaces with eggnog, foggy mornings and bashful afternoon sun and most important - Peace on Earth for All!

## From the President's Desk

Life never seems to slow down. When one event is over, another looms just ahead. We've all gotten our iris planted for next spring – right? We can breathe easy now. The meetings, the shows, the sales, the conventions are all behind us. The holidays are ahead. We've got a few months to recuperate. But wait, we have to start planning now for next year's meetings, show, sales, and conventions. The Board is the team that drives this club and I encourage all members to participate in this planning time. It is your club too. We all need to help keep this Santa Rosa Iris Society thriving. So, try and make it to one of the Board Meetings on December 11<sup>th</sup> and January 8<sup>th</sup>. They are a lot of fun and open to all possibilities. Happy Holidays everyone.

*Jeff Davis*

## This Month

Monday, December 11, 6:00 PM – Board Meeting

From the Editor – **Many thanks** for contributions to this issue: **Anna Cadd, Jeff Davis, Betty Ford, Anna Marie Hermansen, Jane Jordan** of Clara B. Rees Iris Society, **Alice Kemper, Jeanne Plank, the Santa Rosa Press Democrat, Jean Sharp, and Dawn Wright.**

*Alleah*

## 2017 Come Dressed as an Iris Name Potluck Party

Betty Ford

Santa Rosa Iris Society members had a delightful afternoon on November 4 to dress up as the name of an iris. The sun was out, providing us with a perfect "party day". Our regular meeting place was transformed into a holiday setting using round tables, a first for us. Anna Cadd created unique table decorations using oranges, persimmons, tomatoes, passion vine, colorful fall leaves, lady bugs and bees. Table settings included copies of the Iris Holiday Songbook containing well known Christmas carols with a twist. The words to all of the songs were changed to fit the dedicated iris gardener.

As I arrived I was greeted by the wonderful aroma of ham and turkey roasting in the oven overseen by Rudy Ciuca. Soon to follow were the many side dishes that folks brought. One by one 16 of the 18 folks that arrived at the party began to put on their "iris name" clues, some in full costumes, some simply wearing a placard; and then there was the very subtle, which I will go into later.

In addition to having a good time at this Come as an Iris Name gathering, it is always fun to see how many "iris names" that you can guess. You don't have to come as an iris to play the game. Anyone can play and ultimately win the top award by guessing the most "iris names". This years' TOP AWARD went to Cheryl Bryan and Alleah Haley. Cheryl named nine iris names correctly, and Alleah named six. Congrats to them both. It was a challenge guessing the irises correctly this year as any year introduction or type of iris could be used. There were TBs, PCIs and one LA. Years of introduction

ranged from 1953 to 2017. The majority of folks could only name a couple of iris.

The BEST IMPERSONATION AWARD went to Lynn Williams. She searched thru iris names until she found '**SNOW LEOPARD**' (Connell Marsh 1990). It fit perfectly with her leopard costume, complete with head and tail, which she had made by hand some years ago. Runner up was Cheryl Bryan, dressed in black, which highlighted the yellow banana she carried and the two she wore in her hair. A real crowd pleaser when she announced her name complete with hand gestures and head bobbing as '**GOING BANANAS**' (Ghio, 2010, PCI). The FAVORITE IRIS AWARD also went to Cheryl.

FAVORITE IRIS runners-up went to Anna Cadd, Alleah Haley and Anna Marie Hermansen. Anna Cadd wore a striped tiger head with tiny arrows pointing to one of the stripes indicating that there was only one stripe (not stripes) in her iris name. '**TIGER STRIPE**' (M. Sutton 2017).

Alleah wore a red Stanford University sweatshirt and carried a ruler. As she revealed her name, she tore a piece of tape off her sweatshirt which was covering Stanford's mascot, the cardinal. Her iris name was '**CARDINAL RULE**' (Ghio, 2011). Anna Marie, carrying note pad and pen, had a white scarf with ghostly black eyes and mouth attached to her waist. When disclosing her iris name, she put this ghostly scarf with the ghostly face over her head and scribbled on her note pad for '**GHOST WRITER**' (Keppel, 2011).

The MASTER PERPLEXER AWARD for the most perplexing iris name went to Rudy Ciuca. He wore a sign on his back with a bio of his life. When he revealed his iris name, he stated, "As you can see, my clues are all about me." Eleven entries were his life's bio. The last two were: #12. As in the "Outlander" saga, I continue the story of life but tomorrow is unknown. #13. The iris name is most appropriate. Well, I for one did not get it, and no one else guessed his iris name either. '**THAT'S ALL FOLKS**' (Maryott 2005).

Runner up for the MASTER PERPLEXER AWARD went to our newest member Ann Shippey. She was hilariously dressed up as a big spender and looking a lot like Groucho Marx. Ann carried a big cigar and wore an oversized man's jacket with money sticking out of every pocket. To top this off, she wore a pair of glasses with a huge nose and mustache attached. The obvious choice was, as most thought, 'Money In Your Pocket'. Wrong! Only two folks, Linnea Polo and Anna Cadd, guessed that she was '**BIG MONEY**' (Ghio, 1984, PCI). Way to go, Ann! We can hardly wait to see what you come up with next year.

Linnea Polo chose to wear the colors of her iris. A violet vest for the violet blaze at the beard. Her scarf carried the rich golden bronze most distinctive of her iris. Two clues, Marco Polo (he was a spice trader) and Painter (the hybridizer) were displayed on placards attached to her vest for '**SPICE TRADER**' (J. Painter 2010).

Rick Williams dressed in a long white angel gown complete with gold wings attached to his back and a crown made up of tiny gold stars. It seemed obvious that he was an angel, but no one could figure out his iris name which was '**ANGEL KISS**' (B. Williamson 1979).

Marlene Freetly arrived carrying a Christmas gift. She was dressed in the Christmas holiday spirit wearing a bright red sweater. Christmas jewelry completed her attire. Her iris? '**CHRISTMAS PRESENT**' (Ghio 2007)

Our president, Jeff Davis wore signs covering his chest and back with different gambling terms such as Double or Nothing, Hit Me, Snake Eyes, Hit the Jackpot, etc. Great clues for '**GAMBLING MAN**' (Keppel 2014)

Joe Lawrence exhibited an excellent example of simplicity. He wore a Hawaiian shirt and clipped a small placard onto the pocket with an image of half a sun. Joe was '**HAWAIIAN SUNRISE**' (M. Sutton 2013).

If we had awards for the most subtle iris name, perhaps it would have gone to new members, Bob and Dawn Wright. Each of them had one of their hands stamped with a solid red circle for '**RED HANDED**' (Ghio2008). Good job Dawn and Bob!

Mary True, another candidate for my 'subtle iris name' award, simply dressed up in a lovely purple outfit. She was a very beautiful '**LADY IN PURPLE**' (Cadds, 2011).

Loretta Figueroa's costume also fell into the category of simply subtle. She dressed in black head to toe, and if asked, she would offer up a clue that she had eight legs. This was the only Louisiana iris that came to the party, '**BLACK WIDOW**' (MacMillan, 1953). Rick Williams was the only person who guessed her iris name.

Okay, so now that you've read all about who came as what iris, you noticed that some folks go all out on their "name", and some are every bit as clever with simplicity and/or subtlety. (Subtle is when you can't tell if someone came as an iris and you have to ask them.) Either way, it is always a fun-filled evening. And then, of course, you have an enormous amount of delectable food to pick and choose from. Oh Yes! A good time was had by all. By the way, did you happen to notice how many Ghio iris were at our party?

Thanks to all who helped make this a memorable occasion. Chef Rudy, decorator Anna Cadd, those who helped set up the festive round tables for dining, those who brought side dishes, and those who helped clean up. A special thank you to Anna Marie and Alleah for helping donate prizes.

### Jeanne Plank Wins AIS Gold Medal

The AIS Gold Medal is "presented to those who have provided highly distinctive service over a long period of time. It honors those persons whose contributions have been truly exceptional in the fullest sense of the term." The AIS Gold Medal awarded in 2017 goes to Santa Rosa Iris Society's own Jeanne Plank. She joins 20 past recipients of this honor including AIS' first president John C. Wister (1930) and iris hybridizers Robert Schreiner (1994) and Keith Keppel (1997).

### Keeping in Touch

As most of you know, our Display Garden Chairman **Jean Sharp** lost her home in the October fires. She could not attend our Potluck party November 4 because she was working. Jean sent the following note for the occasion:

"Dear Fellow Irisarians:

October was a tough month for many in the area and especially for the five members who lost their homes. I'm sorry I'm unable to share this afternoon with you, but I'm grateful to be working – so many folks are displaced or worse due to this catastrophe.

I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has been so supportive. You are all a blessing in my life. Thought losing my sweet dog was tough – then October happened.

So many helped with the display garden [in October] which was a healing distraction for me. Thank you so much for your time, offers of help, phone calls, emails, texts, cards and more ... it really brought the strength to plod through day to day.

My girlfriend sent me this little tidbit: Hope is seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. Faith is believing it is not a train! Keep the faith ....

Hope you have a wonderful gathering — I am with you in spirit. Again, many thanks.

Jean

## The Most Frightening Day of My Life

Anna Marie Hermansen

My story is inconsequential compared with thousands of others during the North Bay fires, but here goes. It was early Monday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, when I awoke in northeast Santa Rosa to find the power out. I thought it must have been caused by the gale force winds. When I got out of bed, I heard and saw the headlights of many vehicles driving down my street, which is normally quiet. I thought it must be morning when people are leaving for work. I opened my iPad to discover it was 2 o'clock in the morning. The traffic kept coming, so I poked my head out the door.

OMG! The sky was full of smoke and red with fire. The neighbors were out looking toward the north and west. I realized I needed to get dressed. I wanted to get my car out of the garage, but realized the door was too heavy for me to lift. I called a friend, apologizing for calling so early. He was already up and had been following info on the radio and internet. He came and opened the door. I pulled the car out, and parked it on the street heading away from the house. Then, I started dragging out hoses and watering the roof, surrounding ground around the base of the house, air vents under the eaves, and nearby trees. The wind was exceptionally strong, and I think I got more water on me than where I wanted it to go. All items seemed to dry out quickly due to the wind, but I kept at it. Embers were flying all around. At least I felt I was doing something to hopefully stop any possible burning around my property. My neighbors were all doing the same.

At 10:30 a.m. the police came and told everyone to evacuate! It was mandatory. Many of my neighbors decided to stay, but I left. Thought I'd get some breakfast at the nearby McDonald's. They were closed as were all places in the area, probably due to the power outage as well as people dealing with their own homes and evacuations. I decided to head to Rohnert Park. I knew the casino had many restaurants there, so I could get something to eat. Yikes! The place was packed with people, dogs, and a few other miscellaneous pets. And there was only one place serving food. They had a long line, and besides, I'm not a fan of Chinese food, so I passed on the food. The casino gave us coffee and water. I chatted with many people. One couple had lost their home already and another man was hoping his home would be standing when he returned. Many fast food places in Rohnert Park were closed, but Walmart was not. By this time, it was 1:00 p.m. and I was starved. So I ended up getting yogurt and bananas at Walmart to eat.

I decided to return to the house about 3:00 p.m. The drive back was quiet with few cars and people out and about. It was so eerie. I could still see the smoke as well as where the fire was still burning, but it seemed to be moving west. That was in my favor. The power was back on at the house which surprised me. I checked on everything, loaded a few more items into the car, and headed to San Francisco. I asked myself if my home would still be standing when I returned again to Santa Rosa. I stayed in the city until the mandatory evacuation order was lifted.

I returned at the end of the week just to check on everything. Fires were still burning. The area was quiet and void of the usual traffic from cars and people. It wasn't until days later that I realized the fire had reached within two blocks of me and had destroyed the BeVier's home up the road from me. All these North Bay fires caused multiple fire-ravaged communities which now resemble a war zone. Such extensive devastation of a vast area was, and is still, just so very unbelievable and inconceivable! I was one of the lucky ones whose home is still standing.

First Responders at October Fires

Alleah Haley

The Santa Rosa Press Democrat newspaper assuredly deserves a Pulitzer Prize for its coverage of the October North Bay fires and their aftermath. Its November 23, 2017 issue listed by name all 382 fire agencies including 30 inmate conservation camps, 82 law enforcement agencies, and 8 ambulance and paramedic providers who worked the effort.

The firefighting force peaked at 6700 personnel from these 382 fire agencies, drawn from mostly the western US from Alaska to Nebraska (primarily city, county, state, tribal and National Forest fire departments) but including such agencies as the New York Forest Rangers, the Intermountain Regional Office of the National Park Service in Denver, and the Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base. The effort included 800 National Guard troops and 4,300 workers from PG&E, the latter based on two cow pastures marked "Gas" and "Electric" along Stony Point Road west of Graton Casino in Rohnert Park.

As an experienced fire news reporter (your editor was a Fire Information Officer in California for CAL FIRE for 25 years), I was tempted to poo-poo the breadth of draw of fire assistance until I began toting up the numbers. In all, about 11,000 personnel worked the fires directly – that's a lot of people. I've worked at 4,000-person base camps and met firefighters from as far away as Florida and Australia, Native American handcrews from Arizona and New Mexico, private contract crews from Montana – but 11,000? Wow! You can read the list prepared by CAL FIRE yourself at:

<http://www.pressdemocrat.com/specialsections/7610667-181/a-special-thank-you-to?artslide=0> .

The Iris Learning Corner – Fernald's Iris (*I. fernaldii*)  
Anna Cadd

We all know about *Iris douglasiana*, which is the Pacific Coast native (PCN) iris species, widely distributed in Sonoma County. There are actually 12 different PCN species in California, separated into three main groups:

**A. Unique species:**

1. Douglas iris (*Iris douglasiana*)
2. Siskiyou iris (*I. bracteata*)
3. Golden iris (*I. innominata*)
4. Thompson's iris (*I. thompsonii*)

**B. Long-tube species:**

5. Bowl-tube iris (*I. macrosiphon*)
6. Fernald's iris (*I. fernaldii*)
7. Purdy's iris (*I. purdyi*)
8. Yellow-leaf iris (*I. chrysophylla*)
9. Shasta iris (*I. tenuissima*)

**C. Short-tube species:**

10. Sierra iris (*I. hartwegii*)
11. Tough-leaf iris (*I. tenax*)
12. Munz's iris (*I. munzii*).

Today I would like to focus on the long-tube species Fernald's iris (*I. fernaldii*). Why this species? Because I am very worried about the future of this native iris. It's only known from dispersed locations in a few northern California counties: Sonoma, Napa, Solano, Mendocino, Lake, Glenn, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz. The best population is located in the Petrified Forest on Petrified Forest Road in northeastern Sonoma County.

As you probably know, the October fires ravaged this area for several days. The Petrified Forest is temporarily closed as they are trying to assess the damage to the property. I hope that the unique population of *I. fernaldii* will survive the fire. I remember trips to the Petrified Forest with David to adore the clumps of this beautiful PCN species.

And for those who don't know — the Petrified Forest is the site of the only petrified forest in California from the Pliocene. It also has the largest petrified redwood trees in the world.

Approximately 3.4 million years ago a volcanic eruption at Mount St. Helena covered the trees and caused them to become petrified. The process took thousands of years to complete. Diane Erwin, from the University of California, Berkeley, stated in 2012, that the Petrified Forest shows that redwood trees were once located more inland, unlike their contemporary descendants that are primarily coastal.

The forest was discovered in 1870 by Othniel Charles Marsh. Marsh determined that the petrified trees were *Sequoia langsdorfii*, a species that is now extinct. There is also one petrified pine tree in the forest. Robert Louis Stevenson mentioned the forest in his book *The Silverado Squatters* (1883).

But back to ***Iris fernaldii* Foster** ([Robert C. Foster](#), R. 1938; collected Lake County, California): CA ([Series Californicae](#)); 8-18" (20-45 cm). Two pale primrose yellow flowers sometimes faintly purple tinged or veined; style crests oblong to spear-shaped; distinguished by its long funnel-shaped perianth tube, which opens to a relatively wide throat at the base of the flower; bracts closed; ovary ovoid. The narrow (1/4") evergreen, dull leaves are often glaucous [covered with a greyish, bluish, or whitish bloom that is easily rubbed off] and stained purple-red, and exceed the length of the stems.

This iris grows in moderately to mostly shaded inland woodlands, usually in loose, duff-covered soil. Plants are usually singular, but small clumps can form when seeds of several generations fall in the same patch. It was named by Robert C. Foster, after Merritt Lyndon Fernald, a respected Harvard University professor of botany.

In colorful magazines promoting California's wine industry, *Iris fernaldii* is sometimes called the "little yellow wild iris". "Wine country iris" would be equally appropriate, since its distribution coincides closely with the best wine producing regions in the central coastal ranges. Evidently, unique soil and climate conditions favor both Fernald's iris and good vineyard crops. The difference is that the little yellow wild iris lives on the cool, shaded floor of the same oak forests that vineyard owners clear cut so their grapes can grow in full sun.

Genes from *I. fernaldii* might be the source of the yellow color of some of the natural Pacifica hybrids, like the "Santa Cruz iris", the "Marin iris" and yellow *I. macrosiphon*.



References:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petrified\\_Forest\\_\(California\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petrified_Forest_(California))

<http://www.petrifiedforest.org/>

<http://wiki.irises.org/Spec/SpecFernaldii#Distribution>

[http://www.pacificcoastiris.org/wildiris\\_irisfernalddii.html](http://www.pacificcoastiris.org/wildiris_irisfernalddii.html)

Santa Rosa Iris Society Election Results



An election was held in conjunction with our November 4, 2017 “Come Dressed as an Iris Name” party and potluck. All 2017 officers will continue on for another year. 2018 SRIS officers will thus be:

- President – Jeff Davis
- Past President – Rudy Ciuca
- Vice President – Anna Cadd
- Secretary – Diana Ford
- Treasurer – Kitty Loberg

Directors through 12/19 were elected – Betty Ford and Anna Marie Hermansen

One other Director was elected. Alleah Haley will serve the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of resigned Director Jean Sharp, through 12/18.

### DUES NOTICE

Your Newsletter mailing label gives the expiration date of your SRIS dues. If it reads “12/17”, please write a check payable to Santa Rosa Iris Society for \$15/person and mail it to new membership secretary Alleah Haley. **Electronic Newsletter recipients: check your expiration date on the membership list printed in this Newsletter unless you know you’ve paid for 2018.** Use the renewal form in this issue.

### Reflections about the October Fires

Anna Cadd

Fall is usually a peaceful time, with shortened days and lowered angle of the sun, so the whole landscape seems to whisper with nostalgia. Life gets quieter; flowers fade and leaves in autumn colors of yellow, gold, red and green are falling like a snow blanket on our peaceful landscape. We slowly start to tidy our gardens and prepare them for winter sleep. We are trying to remember the good times with the abundance of tomatoes and zucchini, peaches and apples and trying to make plans for the next year.

As the fires ravaged our peaceful landscapes in October, many of us are left with just the memories of homes, the gardens surrounding them, and with memories of special places, which were absorbed into our subconscious without really thinking about it. Still we are able to retrieve them from memory in an instant. Even those who didn’t sustain losses will be forever changed by landscapes of charred trees, strange and disorienting spaces and grief. Sonoma, Lake, Napa and Mendocino Countries will recover. They are changed, but the memories will live with us. Our thoughts and hearts are with others.





“Santa Rosa Strong” cake brought to our Nov. 4 potluck party by Anna Marie Hermansen.

## **Happy Birthday December Baby**

Marlene Freetly 12/2

## **December Wedding Anniversaries**

Patricia Franz & Bruce Marcoux 12/19

Chris Bing & Jan Wax 12/31

## Glorified Rice

Dawn Wright

This side dish was a big hit at our November potluck, but it can also be served as a dessert. The recipe is from Bob Wright's mother. All amounts are approximate.

2 cups long grain white rice cooked in 4 cups water. Let cool. Add a bit less than ½ cup sugar; refrigerate. Add:

1 can crushed pineapple, drained

1 pt. whipping cream, whipped

Mix together; cover with shredded coconut. Chill overnight and serve.

## Region 14 Fall Meeting, Chico, October 26-27, 2017

Jane Jordan, from *Fleur de Lis*, Clara B. Rees IS Newsletter, November 2017

The Fall Regional was hosted by Region 14 and Leo T. Clark Iris Society at the Ramada Plaza Hotel in Chico. Santa Rosa Iris Society was well represented with 11 members in attendance.

A reblooming iris show was held on Friday afternoon. Over 20 irises were entered by eight individuals qualifying it as an AIS-accredited show. The Best of Show was 'Rosalie Figge' entered by Riley Probst and Shirley Trio-Probst.

Chad Harris was the guest speaker. His Friday evening presentation was on the Water Iris from Asia. He focused on *Laevigata*, *Ensata* (Japanese Iris), and *Pseudata* (Species-X between *pseudacorus* and *ensata*). He shared lots of photos and information on these irises. One photo was especially dramatic. It showed how the Japanese iris rhizomes grow upright rather than sideways like other iris. His Saturday afternoon judges' training focused on Japanese iris. He stressed that the foliage of the plant was more important than the bloom. The plant must have vertical or full fountain foliage. He explained the desired qualities of blooms, in particular that the blooms are above the foliage and they bloom sequentially not all at once.

The Saturday morning business meeting began with the budget for 2018. The changes from 2017 budget were that the youth budget was increased by \$1000 to \$3500 and the summer fundraiser was increased by \$500 to \$1500. The total expenses are \$12,270. Total Income is \$7,700. The deficit is \$4,370. Other business included a change of the Standing Rules for the Region Bulletin to be published only twice a year, in February and August; Lorraine and Gordon Nicholson were awarded the Larry Gaulter Award for their service to Region 14; two scholarships were awarded to college students, Natalie Brown and Clare Bardsley; Craig Tarr was elected Director of the Central Iris Societies; Region 14 is donating \$1000 to the Fire Fund for the irisarians who lost their homes in the recent fires; the 2018 Spring Regional will be in Mariposa, California; the 2018 Fall Regional will be in Reno.

At the buffet lunch on Saturday, we each found a nicely wrapped gift on our chair from the Leo T. Clark Iris Society. Each gift was iris themed. There were plates, vases, and other knick-knacks.

The fundraising at the Regional was very successful. The silent auction had many iris themed items. There was an impressive array of baskets that the affiliates donated for the raffle. Raffle tickets were selling like hotcakes. ... There was also many, many beardless iris available for purchases that were donated by individuals and societies. Riley Probst was the auctioneer for the live auction of recent introductions from Chad Harris and Joe Ghio. The bidding was very enthusiastic. Many of the bids well exceeded the retail price of the irises.

Everyone had a great time and went home with lots of information on beardless iris and a number of beardless irises for their gardens that they probably don't have room for.

### SRIS Donation to Ukiah School District

Kitty Loberg sent along the text of a note she had tossed in a tub when evacuating from the October fire that destroyed her home in Redwood Valley. These irises were leftovers from the Heirloom Sale which she donated on behalf of Santa Rosa Iris Society to the Ukiah School District.

October 12, 2017

Dear Santa Rosa Iris Society:

At the October 12, 2017 board meeting, the Ukiah Unified School District Board of Trustees took action to accept your donation of 60 iris bulbs, with an estimated total value of \$180.00, for our school gardens and school beautification.

The Board of Trustees and I would like to thank you for your generous donation. The support you have provided to Ukiah Unified is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,  
Debra Kubin  
Superintendent



**Legend has it that when the Phoenix resurrects from the flames, she is even more beautiful than before.**

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 1<sup>st</sup> 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:

ALLEAH HALEY  
208 EUCALYPTUS AVE.  
COTATI, CA 94931

NAME(s) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

e-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

BIRTHDAY \_\_\_\_\_

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY AND SPOUSE'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

AIS MEMBER: YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

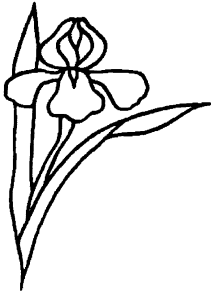
ENCLOSED IS \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for ( ) SINGLE ( ) DUAL

I would like my Newsletter by email: YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

If "NO", Newsletter will be snail-mailed to the physical address above.

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*

43<sup>d</sup> YEAR NUMBER 12

DECEMBER 2017

**President:**  
Jeff Davis

**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.

Membership dues are \$15.00 per year. Send payment to: Santa Rosa Iris Society c/o Alleah Haley, 208 Eucalyptus Ave., Cotati, CA 94931. 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 Newsletter Deadline – December 27<sup>th</sup>**