

The Newsletter of

The Santa Rosa Iris Society

44th YEAR NUMBER 5

MAY 2018

Officers 2018:

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

Need volunteer

Newsletter Editor

Alleah Haley

Directors thru 12/19:

Betty Ford

Anna Marie Hermansen

Directors thru 12/18:

Kathy McCallum

Delores McKey

Alleah Haley

Standing Committees:

Attendance

Diana Ford

Display Garden Chairmen

Jeff Davis

Jean Sharp

Door Prize Coordinator

Anna Marie Hermansen

Hospitality

Diana and Don Ford

LBAGC Representatives

Jeff Davis

Anna Cadd

Alleah Haley (Alternate)

Logistics Coordinator

Jim Begley

Photography

Marlene Horn

2018 Show Chairman

Kitty Loberg

2018 Assistant Show Chairman

Jeff Davis

2018 Potted Iris Sale Chairman

Need volunteer

2018 Summer Rhizome Sales Chm.

Need volunteer



MONDAY, MAY 14, 6:00 PM BOARD MEETING

No Member Meeting in May

In order to allow members to spend more time in their gardens, we decided to forego a Member Meeting and only hold a Board Meeting. All are welcome! Come and enjoy the snacks and help plan the rest of 2018's activities.

Pictured is Anna Cadd's "A Winkle in Time", judged best arrangement at our show on April 28.

Musings and Gardening Tips for May

Anna Cadd

1. Ever heard of an overdose of flowers? It started in February, when I got really excited by five blooming stalks of the BB iris 'Yonkers'. I spent time walking the driveway just to see it blooming. Then in April irises really started popping out; and it was fun to see the new stalks, even without open flowers. Then I went to the Aril Iris Convention in Las Cruces, New Mexico, then the American Iris Society and Louisiana Iris Society Conventions in New Orleans. They were fun! When I came back, there was the Arrangers Guild meeting, judging an iris show in Chico, and then the Santa Rosa Iris Society Show. I tried my best to build arrangements for beautification and to enter the Artistic Division and to enter stalks in the Horticultural Division. It was really a challenge to fit all the vases, props and accessories in boxes and deliver them to the Center in my Buick. This involved a lot of thinking about what to take and what not and several trips to flower shops, because iris bloom in my garden was still sparse. Then Friday was the "big day" at the Center, working until 11:00 PM. I got up at dawn on Saturday. Then another challenge - taking everything home in two trips on Sunday and rearranging the flowers in buckets on my front porch. Would you believe that 10 days after the show I still have flowers there? In between new irises opened in my garden and I had had a lot of visitors demanding attention plus I went to Kate Frey's garden in Hopland; Betty's garden, Rudy and Joe's garden in Sonoma and Jim's garden in Santa Rosa. So when I did the flowers last

weekend for my niece's wedding, I really wasn't feeling very inspired. The bouquets came out okay, but I lacked the unusual joy! Professional arrangers probably feel this way, doing it over and over every day. But I will get over it, because I am already creating new designs in my mind. Old habits never die!

2. It is still cold at night, warm during the day and extremely dry. We saw a lot of "snaking" iris stalks this spring, growing quickly on the sunny side of the stalk during the day. Such stalks are good for flower arrangements, but not for an iris show. Beardless irises had a lot of "crinkled" leaves. When the soil is cold, tomatoes, cucumbers and beans hate it; but irises don't mind and the flowers last longer! Memorial Day (May 28 this year) sounds far off for putting in a vegetable garden; but last year my trial tomatoes planted in April give me only an average of ten tomatoes per bush in comparison to an abundance of Memorial Day "boys and girls".
3. If you are going to a big box store to get cheaper plants, beware of the advice of the kids working there. They usually have no training and can give you a bum steer. Common sense and a good book can be useful. You may not know it, but we have a lot of gardening knowledge in comparison.
4. It is good to understand the cultural requirements of plants. Plants grown under ideal conditions are naturally more vigorous and pest and disease resistant. Sometimes we put plants in spots where we want them to be, not where they are supposed to be. Hostas will not grow in full sun and irises will not bloom in the shade.
5. Investing in soil is always a good idea. Buying cheap, mostly shredded wood "soil" will make your soil deficient in nitrogen. Soil is a special place. Under ideal conditions soil is full of billions of beneficial microorganisms, fungi, worms and insects, which provide the healthy plant with everything it needs to grow and thrive. Of course, this is when we don't damage this balance with overuse of chemical and synthetic fertilizers. Improving the soil with organic matter like compost, shredded leaves or aged manure will benefit us all in the long run.
6. There needs to be balance with chemical fertilizers. They usually have numbers like 6-24-24 or 15-15-15 or such. That's the proportions of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium in the mix, as stated on the package. The fertilizer needs to be balanced, as the element which is in the shortest supply will determine the amount of other ingredients that the plant can absorb. Now, after cutting back spent iris stalks, apply balanced fertilizer and water irises until July. They will reward you with big rhizomes!
7. Think twice about using pesticides. About 97% of insects in the garden are either beneficial by helping to pollinate our plants or fight other pests or at least neutral, so they do not harm our gardens. Even aphids, as the source of food for lady bugs, are "useful" in the garden. Most insects are an important food source for birds, bats and other wildlife. There is never a good reason to carpet poison all the bugs in your garden with non-specific, chemical pesticides.

P resident's Message

Spring ... for gardens, it is the fruition of all the preparations done in the fall. And it's a beginning, with planting for summer and fall harvest. We can start our iris garden new each year, never having to repeat anything; or we can keep what we like for years, enjoying that special plant or plantings. If we are lucky, we can watch trees and shrubs grow to maturity over time, creating their own plant world around them. I am frequently reminded of everyone affected by the fires and how our world can change in a moment, affecting every part of our lives. And then spring comes and hope again fills my heart. ... The cycle of life.

Jeff Davis

This Month

Monday May 14 – no members meeting, but we'll have a Board Meeting at 6:00 PM.

Friday May 11 – Sunday May 13, 2018 – Region 14 Spring Meeting "Butterflies in the Mountains". Bootjack Stompers Hall, Mariposa, CA. Rick Tasco of Superstition Iris Gardens will speak and give 2 hr. garden judging training; visits to the Kanarowskis' Mariposa Iris Garden & garden of Gary & Gail Collings in Oakhurst.

Monday June 11 – Jeff Davis, Region 14 Spring Meeting near Yosemite/Anna Cadd, AIS National

Convention, New Orleans. Show awards presented.

Monday July 9 – 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 5, 10 AM– Potluck Picnic, Iris Auction & Raffle, C & L Vineyard, 1595 Denmark St., Sonoma.

Monday August 13 – Alleah Haley, PowerPoint presentation from Doug Kanarowski “Something for Everyone – The Gardener, the Iris Hybridizer and the Businessman”.

Saturday, September 8, 9-3 – Rhizome sale, LBAGC

Monday, September 10 – Set up booth at Heirloom Expo. Time TBA.

Tuesday thru Thursday, September 11-13 – 8th Annual Heirloom Expo, Sonoma Co. Fairgrounds. SRIS will have a booth.

Monday, October 8 – Glynis Johnson, Enchanting Sweet Peas will speak and sell seed.

Saturday, November 3 – Holiday Potluck/Come Dressed as an Iris Costume Party, LBAGC.

2018 Board Meetings - Board Members and Officers, please mark your calendars:

Monday, May 14, 6:00 PM

Monday, July 9, 6:00 PM

Monday, September 10, 6:00 PM

Monday, November 12, 6:00 PM

Monday, December 10, 6:00 PM

Other Events of Garden Interest

The Frey Garden in Hopland

Kitty Loberg

On May 4 SRIS members visited two gardens in Hopland, one being the lovely garden of Kate Frey. You can read about her garden at: <https://www.gardenconservancy.org/open-days/a-world-in-itself>.

Kate and her husband, Ben Frey, created three gardens at the Chelsea Flower Show in London in 2003, 2005 and 2007, the only American designers to win a Silver-Gilt medal and two Gold medals. At the link given above, in one of the pictures you can see Kate meeting the Queen. Kate is well known for her talent in design and creation of amazing gardens.

Kate and Ben’s garden will be open again on Saturday June 2nd from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., as part of planned Garden Conservancy open gardens. They ask for a \$7.00 donation at the door. Anyone is welcome to go see their garden during those hours. Kate has told us her favorite place to obtain irises is at the Heirloom Expo. With Gretchen LeBuhn, she’s written a book “The Bee-friendly Garden”, copies of which Kate happily autographed for sale in her garden on May 4.

There are a number of gardens listed in the Bay Area through the Garden Conservancy website. SRIS may want to schedule visits to one or more additional open gardens. On the day the Frey’s garden is open for visiting, the garden of Collette and Peter Rothschild in Boonville is also open during the same hours.



2018 SRIS Show Winners

Kitty Loberg, Show Chairperson

Another successful show this year! This year we had 12 exhibitors, down from last year’s 14 exhibitors. Our total entries were 137 in Horticulture, and 11 in Artistic Design. Last year’s count for entries was 97.

The Santa Rosa Perpetual Trophies this year went to:

Luther Burbank Cup for Best Specimen of Show - CHERYL BRYAN, 'Deep Magic' (PCI)
Redwood Empire Cup for 1st Runner Up to Best Specimen - ANNA CADD, 'Glacier Fire'
Santa Rosa Cup for Best Tall Bearded - ANNA CADD, 'Glacier Fire'
Burbank Cup for Best Bearded other than Tall - ANNA CADD, 'Blackbeard' (BB)
Beth Jolly Memorial Cup for Best Bicolor/Bitone - ANNA MARIE HERMANSEN, 'Mayan Sunrise'
Emmons Cup for Best Plicata/Emma Cook Pattern - ANNA CADD, 'Glacier Fire'
Monty Byers Memorial Plaque for Best Space Age - ANNA CADD, 'Elegant Girl'
Beeman Memorial Cup for Best Historic - ANNA CADD, 'Indian Chief'
Plaque for Best Broken Color/Novelty- STEVEN ALBERT, 'Sonoran Sand' (IB)
Morris Cup for Best Beardless - CHERYL BRYAN, 'Deep Magic' (PCI)
Peggy Burke Gray Cup for Best Seedling - ANNA CADD, 30-91-1

Four Horticultural Sections had winners of the A.I.S. Best of Section Certificate:

Best Tall Bearded - ANNA CADD, 'Glacier Fire'

Best Bearded Other than Tall - ANNA CADD, 'Blackbeard' (BB)

Best Historic - ANNA CADD, 'Indian Chief'

Best Space Age - ANNA CADD, 'Elegant Girl'

The A.I.S. Silver Medal for the most blue ribbons went to Anna Cadd for her 21 blue ribbons. The A.I.S. Bronze Medal for the second most blue ribbons went to C & L Vineyard for 6 blue ribbons and 13 reds. Anna Marie Hermansen also had 6 blue ribbons; but the Medal goes to the one with more reds.)

In our Artistic Design Division, the Best Design of Show went to Anna Cadd for her entry in 'A Wrinkle in Time'. The Artistic Sweepstakes went to Anna Cadd for her 5 blue ribbons.

Many people come to our show not only to see flowers, but to peruse through our potted iris sale; and take many home! A huge thank you to all members who were able to bring potted irises and contributed to the sale, as that is a lot of work ... work planting, work preparing labels and photographs for the display binders, work hauling them all down to the Center on Friday, and work sorting and alphabetically arranging them on tables.

I want to thank everyone who helped with setup, hosting the show and plant sales both Saturday and Sunday, and teardown of the show. I hope you all had a great time!

Work Party at Display Garden

Jean Sharp

Earth Day April 22nd was a perfect day for a work party at the display garden. The weather cooperated and our group accomplished a great deal - pruning, weeding and path mulching - in preparation for show weekend. In attendance were members Cheryl Bryan, Anna Cadd, Jeff Davis, Diana Ford, Alleah Haley, Jean Sharp, and Bob Wright. Anna Marie Hermansen sent her gardener Terre Lucas and our worker Genaro also contributed to the effort. Kudos to Bob Wright for spending five hours on an earlier date weeding the club iris bed, to Joe Lawrence who weeded in the Dykes bed on the 19th, to Jeff for digging out bindweed on the 17th and to Cheryl for some serious hedge pruning on the 21st. Jeff also got three yards of pathway mulch to cover the nearly bare center area of the garden, checked the irrigation and straightened the wood borders at the entrance.

Again many thanks for all who helped. We appreciate any and all efforts.

Mother's Day

Mother's Day celebrations can be traced back to celebrations of spring in ancient cultures. And, throughout history, the celebrations evolved, often along themes of motherhood in religious teachings, and were generally held in most countries around the world.

By the 17th century the celebrations of motherhood had slowly ceased as part of religious celebrations and the celebration waned in America as the early colonists struggled for survival in a new land.

In the late 1850s, Ann Jarvis, an Appalachian homemaker and social activist, struggled to unite women in America for social change with a "Mother's Friendship Day." By the 1870s the United States and Europe saw a revival of the holiday as a peace movement initiated among women around the world in response to the bloody Civil War in the United States and the Franco-Prussian War in Europe.

Much of the work in the 1870s is attributed to Julia Ward Howe - who wrote the words to the Battle Hymn of the Republic - and who, in the 1870s worked through women's activists' organizations in Europe and the United States to establish a Mother's Peace Day. She is especially noted for her 1870 Mother's Day Proclamation, a plea for mothers throughout the world to unite for peace.

It was Ann Jarvis' daughter who, in the early 1900s, was able to establish a nationally recognized Mother's Day in the United States, celebrated much as we know it today. In 1913 Congress and the President recognized the holiday with official proclamations.

The holiday has continued to evolve from a celebration among women implementing social change to a worldwide day of tribute to our mothers. It is celebrated the 2nd Sunday in May, this year May 13th.



Notice: Changes to Roster

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

Melanie Webster

5696 McFarlane Rd.

Sebastopol, CA 95472

melweb617@yahoo.com

Juanita Breckwoldt and her son Bob have moved to Salem, Oregon, within 5 miles of Schreiner's Iris Garden. Her new contact info is:

Juanita Breckwoldt

3415 48th Ave. NE

Salem, OR 97305-2910

We misspelled **Ross and Barbara BeVier's** new street name in the April newsletter. Here's the correct info:

The BeViers' new address is:

481 N. **Barr** Rd., Port Angeles, WA 98362

or

PO Box 544, Carlsborg, WA 98324-0544

Ross' email address remains bevier@sonic.net. Their 2nd email address is rhbbbeb@aol.com.



Keeping In Touch

Steve Schreiner emailed on April 16:

"I'm grateful to Anna [Cadd] for the wonderful article on the history of broken color iris [that was printed in the April Newsletter].

P.S. It's rained every day but one in April and our peak bloom will be in the second half of May, with dates like May 25 seeming foolproof and Memorial Day, our one event (BBQ and Jazz) certain to have good bloom. I say 'certain' unless there's a lot of very hot days, quite unlikely. Also, though we hated to do it, we're charging admission this year, for the first time: \$5 per car.

I hope you all have a wonderful bloom season, which is now, isn't it?"

Members **Jan Wax** and **Chris Bing** from Philo in Mendocino County were able to enter our Show but couldn't make the tour to Kate Frey's and Don and Diana Ford's gardens in Hopland on Friday, May 4 because Chris had to work that day. Chris teaches art 1/2 time at the Anderson Valley Elementary School.

Jan emailed May 3:

"There's a slim chance that we'll make it to Diana's open garden. Chris will be headed down with our pottery to the Saratoga Rotary Art Show Friday night – the show is all weekend, He'll be so busy before he leaves. I really depend on his driving, since I stopped driving about a year and a half ago, - after my shoulder surgery. My reflexes aren't what they were.

"I'm sure it will be a wonderful event. Her irises are spectacular!

Best, Jan

Jan Wax Wax and Bing Pottery"

[Jan's been a potter for 40 years; and they make their living from their art, pottery, and Chris' sculpture.]

About a year ago, your editor learned that the Las Vegas (Nevada) Iris Society was having trouble fundraising because local government had placed severe restrictions on water usage because of ongoing drought. Members couldn't grow irises to increase and sell rhizomes. So last fall, she and her daughter Susan Wiseman, who lives in Elkhart, Kansas, shipped several boxes of rhizomes to them to grow in pots for sale. On April 16, 2018 Aleta Kerr of Las Vegas emailed:

"Hi ladies. Thank you so much for the rhizomes. For the 1st time ever we cancelled our show. We did our yard tour and no one had iris that would be blooming. Not to disappoint the public we set up a display. Usually we have 150 to 200 entries of show quality. We managed to get about 25 stalks with buds and flowers.

The star of the day was your rhizomes. I had about 25 in pots with bloom stalks and they sold like hot cakes. Vicki who does our Facebook page had her cell phone and was answering questions to our followers and giving directions to the club house. When our f/b friends got there, Vicki pulled up pics and descriptions for them.

Social media is terrific for reaching out to the public. We had three people say they would come back for our final meeting in May!

I will be bringing more of your [potted] rhizomes to the meeting.

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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 **June** issue of this Newsletter is **May 20**. Email copy to: alleah.haley@gmail.com.*

From the Editor – Many thanks for contributions to this issue: **Juanita Breckwoldt, Anna Cadd, Jeff Davis; Betty Ford, Diana Ford, Anna Marie Hermansen, Aleta Kerr** of Las Vegas Iris Society, **Joe Lawrence, Kitty Loberg, Steve Schreiner, Jean Sharp, Jan Wax, and Melanie Webster.**
Alleah

Happy Birthday May Babies

Steve Albert 5/26

Don Ford 5/27

Minutes of Santa Rosa Iris Society Meeting, April 9, 2018

Happy Birthday to Alice Kemper, Betty Ford and Joe Lawrence.

A get well card was circulated for Jim Begley.

Members present at this meeting included; Betty Ford, Ross Bevier, Rudy Ciuca, Joe Lawrence, Delores McKey, Cheryl Bryan, Linnea Polo, Marlene Horn, Marlene Freetly, Kathy McCallum, Barb Baruth, Anna Marie Hermansen, Steve Albert, Kitty Loberg, Jeff Davis, Diana Ford and a visitor, Joe's sister.

There was an informal meet and greet with Ross and many members. Ross is headed up to Washington to a new home. He is one of our members who lost a home in the 2017 fires. Ross, Kitty, Steve and Delores spoke of their fire experiences. We are glad for Ross to have a new start in the great place he found in Washington, but sad to see him go. He agreed to come and give our Show Prep presentation while he is very busy moving. Jim was unable to attend because of foot surgery.

The minutes from last month's meeting were approved.

The Treasurer's report was presented and approved.

The main purpose of this meeting was to discuss the Spring Show preparations and organization. Volunteer sheets were passed around for: hospitality, show clerks, welcome desk duty, sales personnel, floaters to answer questions, people to organize sale plants and take down and clean up on Sunday. People are to bring in potted plants on Friday evening. Anna Cadd will be there to help with flower arrangements.

There was an agreement to purchase a cart to help haul iris to and from vehicles.

Members were reminded to bring in their trophies from last year. Trophy company is working on the replacement trophies and engraving.

Jeff has taken care of the signs and will put them out two weeks before the show.

Rudy suggested we should have coloring tables for young children attending.

The sale on Saturday will run from 10 am until 4 pm with signs placed out to direct customers around back while the judges are working inside.

The Garden tours were discussed. Friday May 4, 2018 will be Kate Frey's garden in Hopland from 10:30 until 11:30 and then Don and Diana Ford's home and garden for a tour and lunch/meeting.

Betty Ford agreed to have a garden tour at her home on May 5, 2018 at 10 am and then Rudy and Joe will have a tour after. It is still unclear if Jim Begley will be able to have a tour later that same day.

There was a discussion about weeding the club garden. It was agreed that a time and date would be set up by email.

After a short break the door prizes were raffled off and Jeff Davis and Ross Bevier demonstrated and discussed show procedures.

Then Ross gave a talk on his 'secret stuff': things he learned while running an iris nursery. He gave us some special information on how to get pots to bloom on your schedule and increase plant vigor. He discussed the general hydroponics complete fertilizers. This talk was interesting, very informative and specific.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Ford, Secretary

April Door Prize Winners

Bee My Honey – Ross Bevier

Black Cherry Sorbet – Joe Lawrence

Black Mirror – Rudy Ciuca

Brazen Gold – Jeff Davis

But Darling – Cheryl Bryan

Candy Basket – Delores McKey

Close to my Heart – Barb Baruth

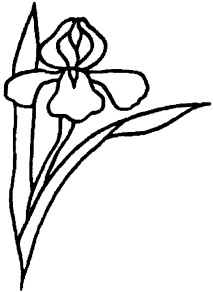
Crazy Over You – Kitty Loberg

Cybergrape – Steve Albert

Electric – Marlene Horn
Higher Love - Diana Ford
Luminaire – Bob Wright
Marital Bliss – Betty Ford
True Patriot – Anna Marie Hermansen
Under My Spell – Marlene Freetly
Winter's Smile – Kathy McCallum
Zebra Butter - Linnea Polo

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

Name and Address Correction requested



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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.

June Newsletter Deadline – May 20th