

The Newsletter of

# The Santa Rosa Iris Society

44<sup>TH</sup> YEAR NUMBER 11

NOVEMBER 2018

## **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**

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 Sale Chm.**

Jeff Davis

Saturday, November 3,  
12 – 5 PM – Come Dressed as a  
Iris Name Costume Party and  
Potluck Dinner

*Where? Luther Burbank Art & Garden  
Center, 2050 Yulupa Ave., Santa Rosa*

*Time? Doors open at 11; we'll eat at 1 PM  
and finish before dark.*



All members and their guests are encouraged to attend. Set up and decorating starts at 11 AM. We'll eat about 1:00 PM. Bring a dish to serve 8-10, with serving spoon, for the buffet. Society master chef Rudy Ciuca will prepare ham and Alleah Haley will fix turkey breast. Bring your own table service and napkin. Coffee, tea, rolls, and butter will be provided. After we eat, we'll have the costume contest, organized, for the 19<sup>th</sup> year in a row, by Betty Ford. For inspiration, see coverage of last year's party elsewhere in this Newsletter. If all this seems too intimidating, come as you are! You'll still have a good time. And the food emphasizes why we jokingly call ourselves "The Santa Rosa Iris and Eating Society."

This get-together will provide some much-needed iris fellowship, fun, and great food. So put on your thinking cap and exercise your individuality and creativity. Some costumes can be very labor intensive while others are easy. It's up to you!

**Board Members: Don't forget the Board Meeting Monday November 12, 6:00 PM at the Center. All welcome.**

## Gardening Tips for November

Anna Cadd

1. Our days are getting shorter and not just because of the weather. We work really hard, but all tasks require so much effort... In every American Iris Society meeting, in a Region or on the National level, there is discussion about recruiting young people to iris societies. We, in SRIS, are doing our share to teach "youngsters"; but we aren't seeing much change in our membership. Maybe we should put this on the agenda for discussion in the coming year 2019, or we in our Society will be soon as old as AIS – 100 years old!
2. It's time to pull all the dry leaves from your irises. Do it gently. Don't make wounds which may be ports of entry for diseases. Discard the leaves in the garbage can.

3. Fertilize your irises lightly before winter and apply pre-emergent weed killer. I am someone who needs to have this point printed in bold letters on a sign above my bed. If I could only open my eyes in the morning....
4. Our priceless "friends" (garden tools) need some tender loving care before winter. I made a promise to myself to find my clippers between dead iris leaves; to clean, oil and hang rakes, hoes and shovels overhead on special racks; and to store baskets of seeds in dry spots. I hope that maybe someday I can meet someone who will help me achieve my goal.
5. Now is the time to clean and repair bird houses and feeding stations. Soon the birds will need some help! Some migrating birds are already showing up on bushes with berries, and they are fun to watch.
6. If there are still green tomatoes on the vine, you can rip out the whole bush and hang it in a dry, sunny, protected spot. The tomatoes can be picked until Christmas! Or make a green tomato salad.
7. If you want to plant a winter garden, now is the time to do it. But there will be a lot of "free-loaders" that feed on newly planted veggies, so babysitting them is necessary! I am talking about snails, slugs, and even scrub jays, pulling the sprouting veggies from their beds. They did this with my peas!
8. I just spent a whole week in Reno, and it was wonderful to walk alongside the Truckee River and enjoy a "rain of falling gold leaves" with every breeze. This reminds me – don't rake the leaves from your iris beds. They are a wonderful cover and will protect the beds from sprouting weeds. You be amazed next spring at how much less weeding you have to do. The leaves will also decompose and add nutrients to your soil.
9. Some of our members have been a little under a cloud recently, but we are all hoping that they will feel better soon. Our prayers are with everyone who needs some spiritual support. And remember - "If you see someone without a smile today, give them yours."



The days that I keep my gratitude higher than my expectations, those are really good days. Ray Wylie Hubbard, country singer/songwriter

## From the President's Desk

Welcome to our new members: Mindi Marshall, Bryan Raab, Linda Soto and Catherine Stuckey, who all joined at the Heirloom Expo.

Our annual end of the season "Come Dressed as an Iris Name"/ Potluck Party on November 3 is a tradition with our club and is a fun, relaxing pre-holiday gathering. Pick a favorite iris and dress in costume to stump members trying to guess your iris name. Bring a potluck dish to share, and there are the makings of a great time.

Also, we did not get a nominating committee together for officers for next year, but all current officers have agreed to be nominated for 2019. Additional nominations are open to all members. Please let me know if you would like to be on the ballot. There are also three director openings and interested members may apply. We can have an election at the potluck or by ballot through email or snail mail.

2019 is going to be an eventful year with the upcoming National Convention, hosted by our branch of the American Iris Society; so let's end this year with a bang.

*Jeff Davis*

## This Month

**Saturday, November 3** – Holiday Potluck/Come Dressed as an Iris Costume Party, LBAGC. Doors open 11 AM; we'll eat at 1 PM.

**Monday, November 12, 6:00 PM** – Board Meeting, LBAGC. Everyone welcome.

## 2018 Board Meetings - Board Members and

Monday, November 12, 6:00 PM

Monday, December 10, 6:00 PM

### Happy Birthday November Babies

Anna Cadd 11/2

Barb Baruth 11/10

Jan Wax 11/12

Loretta Figueroa 11/15

Phil Edinger 11/18

Juanita Breckwoldt 11/20

Catherine Stuckey 11/20

Mary Pagonas 11/21

### 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 irises.

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.

## AIS Region 14 2018 Fall Meeting

Lynn Williams\*

The Region 14 Fall Regional was held in Reno, Nevada on October 19 - 21, 2018, hosted by the High Desert Iris Society (HDIS). For those of you who didn't attend, you really missed out on a wonderful time. Reno is refashioning itself as a family orientated town, not just a gambling town; and for those of you who came early, or stayed later, the optional tour to the Wilbur May Arboretum at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park was very special. The HDIS is developing a public iris garden there. After the arboretum tour people were taken to the outstanding Moana Nursery, which I have enjoyed before; so didn't stay to visit this time.

The Regional was held in the Best Western SureStay Plus Reno Airport Hotel that is east of downtown and not a casino, thank you very much. When we first arrived, the registration table was just to the right in the lobby and I was handed an interesting guest bag, which had the meeting theme "Iris: A Bridge Over the Sierras" Fall 2018" on the front with a beautiful iris logo that the High Desert Iris Society uses. The bag wasn't your typical bag. It was made out of a felt-like material with instructions telling you that it is a soft sided plant pot. Inside were various items of interest, including a 2019 Soils Planner calendar, a clever weeder that allows you to remove weeds without breaking them off at their roots, three iris note cards, a couple of granola bars, a card for a free cup of coffee at the Human Bean; tubes of lip balm, sun block, hand lotion, emery board, a bookmark, pen & note pad, and a small flash light to mention some of what was in the bag.

As I walked into the meeting room Friday afternoon, the first thing I noticed was all the tables filled with tempting items to purchase at their silent auction, as well as live beardless irises for sale. Of course, I couldn't pass up buying some Siberian and Louisiana irises. Then on the other side of the room beyond the guest tables, were three long tables filled with gift baskets donated primarily by R14 local iris societies, each more tempting than the last and all to be raffled off. Of course, I had to purchase some of those raffle tickets. The room was tastefully decorated with beautiful fall colors and arrangements on each table. It was great fun seeing old friends again and visiting.

Lynda Miller of Canby, Oregon was the guest speaker and her topic was MTBs. It was very informative. She now introduces through Mid-America Garden of Tom Johnson and Paul Black in Brooks, Oregon. We adjourned for dinner on our own and back to the hotel and much earned bed time. Saturday, the business and budget meetings convened; and, as usual, Regional Treasurer Helen Franklin did a great job. Most of the questions were on the 2019 National Convention budget, which Convention Chair Shirley Trio passed out. The nominations for the new RVP were announced along with the rest of the Board and all nominees were voted in. The new RVP is Jean Richter of Alameda, Assistant RVP and Judges Training Chair is our own Alleah Haley, Helen Franklin of Santa Maria is Treasurer, and Jane Jordan of San Jose is Secretary.

Helen Franklin won the Larry Gaulter Award for distinguished service to AIS Region 14 and awards voted at the 2018 Spring Regional were distributed.

After the business meeting we had a nice buffet lunch of assorted breads, deli meats, cheeses, salads, and scrumptious gourmet cupcakes. Thank you, High Desert Iris Society. After lunch we reconvened for Judges Training by Lynda Miller on MTBs. Then after the judges training, we all scrambled to make sure to outbid anyone else who was bidding on silent auction items we wanted. All in all it was a very wonderful Fall Regional and kudos go to the High Desert Iris Society for hosting such a successful one.

\*Lynn helped establish the High Desert Iris Society in Reno when she was the Regional Vice President of Region 14 in 2007-2009.

2018 Heirloom Expo Sale, September 10-13

Linnea Polo

The event started on a Monday with several members coming early to do the Monday morning set up before the event.

As a club we had hundreds of varieties for sale to the public. These were irises left over from the club sale on the 8th of September. Thanks to all the growers and helpers who got all these irises ready for the sale.

The Expo started on Tuesday of that week. Our club members worked 6 hour shifts, starting at 9 AM. I found that by getting there early (8:15), I didn't have to pay for parking or to get into the event. The second shift started at 3 PM. In the day shift it seemed like people arrived in droves. Suddenly there would be lots of people and then a little break. This is much like the line at the grocery store. At times there didn't seem to be room for the workers in the booth.

Many people commented that they were counting on seeing us at the Expo. And they looked for us year to year. Some people bought over \$100-worth of irises.

A special thanks to the following SRIS volunteers who helped to make this event a great success: Jeff Davis, Joe Lawrence, Rudy Ciuca, Alleah Haley, Bob Wright, Jim Begley, Ann Shippey, Anna Marie Hermansen, Betty Ford, Cheryl Bryan, Kitty Loberg, Steve Albert, Diana Ford and Linnea Polo. Anna Marie pulled double-duty – she prepared all the bag labels with color photos of the irises. A huge task! I hope I included everyone who participated.

Kitty gave us an email with a summary of the sales for each day. The figures were impressive!

If you haven't worked the Expo, you might want to try it next year. It was a fun, yet exhausting, event. But everyone had a good time talking to and helping people who are interested in irises.

*February through October of each year meetings of the Santa Rosa Iris Society are held on the second Monday of each month at the Luther Burbank Art and Garden Center, 2050 Yulupa Ave., Santa Rosa, California. The Program starts at 7:00 p.m. and the business meeting follows after the break. Come early and visit. The doors open about 6:00 p.m. for set up and coffee making. The deadline for all submissions for the **December 2018** issue of this Newsletter is **November 20, 2018**. E-mail copy to:*

*[alleah.haley@gmail.com](mailto:alleah.haley@gmail.com).*

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The Iris Learning Center – *Iris pseudacorus*, *Iris foetidissima*, *Iris versicolor* and their “kids”: ‘Holden Clough’ and ‘Roy Davidson’

Anna Cadd

I was cleaning dead leaves from a row of Spurias last week and noticed a clump of nice, fresh green leaves. For a moment I was a little surprised, until I remembered that many years ago I planted a

rhizome of 'Roy Davidson' there and completely forgot about it. It had always bloomed in a row of tall Spurias, and I never paid any attention to it. It had spread in the Spuria bed, forming a nice clump. As I looked at it, I vaguely remembered the story behind this plant. So I did some research in the Iris Wiki.

***Iris pseudacorus* L.** (Carolus Linnaeus, 1753, Europe); Section Limniris, Series Laevigatae. Height 30-64" (75-160 cm); Yellow flowers, sometimes with small brown blotch or delicate brown-purple or violet veining on a yellow or creamy ground; or it may bear brown-purple mottling between the veins. Chromosome count:  $2n=24$ ;  $2n=32$  or  $2n=34$ , according to different authors.

*Iris pseudacorus* can grow in shallow water most anywhere and can be invasive when grown in natural drainage systems. It is illegal to plant it in California watersheds. For this reason, it should be isolated from such situations. It grows also readily under normal garden conditions in full sun and well-drained soil, in my case never watered in the dry Spuria bed.

The general definition of a species is: "the largest group of organisms in which any two individuals of the appropriate sexes or mating types can produce fertile offspring, typically by sexual reproduction". Broadly, it means that two organisms belonging to two different species can't produce fertile offspring. But nature is not easily defined and there are of course exceptions, as we see in *I. pseudacorus* crosses between different species. In theory they are not supposed to exist!

#### ***Iris pseudacorus* crosses:**

- *Iris pseudacorus* X *Iris ensata* (Japanese irises): (Pseudatas):
  - 'Aichi-No-Kagayaki', 'Chance Beauty', 'Eurasia-Blood', 'Eurasia Bride', 'Eurasia-Love', 'Fair Chance', 'Hagi-No-Tsuki', 'Hanazukiyo', 'Hatsuho', 'Kikoshi', 'Kikumakura', 'Kimboshi', 'Kinkei', 'Kinshien', 'Kouryu', 'Midori-ba-kogabe', 'Minori-no-aki', 'Okan', 'PixieWon', 'Rakujitsu', 'Ryugan', 'Ryujin', 'Sayobotaru', 'Sayo-No-Tsuki', 'Shinrinyoku', 'Shirabyoshi', 'Tsukiyono'
- (*Iris pseudacorus* x *Iris ensata*) X unknown: 'Blackleg'
- Siberian X *Iris pseudacorus* 'Ally Oops';
- *Iris pseudacorus* hybrid of unknown parentage: 'Holden Clough', 'Gubijin',
- 'Holden Clough' X self: 'Holden's Child'
- *Iris pseudacorus* hybrid X *Iris versicolor*:
  - 'Appointer', 'Roy's Lines', 'Roy's Repeater'
- *Iris pseudacorus* hybrid X ? (probably *versicolor*):
  - 'Berlin Tiger', 'Phil Edinger', 'Roy Davidson'
- *Iris pseudacorus* X *Iris versicolor*: 'Limbo', 'Regal Surprise'
- *Iris foetidissima* X *Iris pseudacorus*: 'Weber's Golden Sunshine'

#### **Advanced *Iris pseudacorus* crosses:**

- 'Ben's Legacy' ; 'Roy's Lines', 'Roy's Repeater'

One of the hybrids of *Iris pseudacorus* is "Holden Clough". When it was introduced, the Iris Wiki defined it as hybrid between *Iris chrysographes* and *Iris pseudacorus*, because it was found in the garden growing between clumps of *I. chrysographes*: **'Holden Clough'** (Donald Patton, R. 1971). *Chrysographes* hybrid, 26" (66 cm), Late bloom. Yellow, veined purple, giving a rich brown appearance; form resembles *I. pseudacorus*. *Iris chrysographes* X *Iris pseudacorus*. S Linnegar 1971. Then there came a correction: 'Holden Clough' is a completely different *I. pseudacorus* hybrid!, probably



*Iris pseudacorus* x *Iris foetidissima*:



**'Holden Clough'** Donald Patton, R. 1971. Change of classification and description to: Wide apogon hybrid of unknown origin and totally unlike *I. chrysographes* with which it was found growing. and in many respects foliage in warmer outer seedcoat. Flesh Chromosome count



Resembles both *I. pseudacorus* and *I. foetidissima* seems intermediate between the two. Evergreen climates. Occasionally sets seed with colored flesh of rhizome is pinkish as in *I. pseudacorus*.  $2n=37$  made by Ellis.

And now an interesting story starts: Ben Hager, the co-owner of Melrose Gardens in Stockton, couldn't let anything unusual happen without his understanding it. He grew a clump of 'Holden Clough'. This hybrid quite often produced seed pods, but they are empty – no seeds. And no wonder with this chromosome count:  $2n=37!$  But to Ben's luck, he found two shriveled seeds in one pod. Of course, he planted them and one tiny seedling promptly died; but the other grew and produced a very nice plant, different from 'Holden Clough'. Ben introduced it with the name 'Roy Davidson'. As we suspect now, this was a cross between 'Holden Clough' (*I. pseudacorus* x *I. foetidissima*) and *Iris versicolor*! Who would expect it, looking at 'Roy Davidson'!



(*Iris pseudacorus* x *Iris foetidissima*) x *Iris versicolor*

**'Roy Davidson'** (Ben Hager, R. 1987). Seedling Clough #3. Apogon hybrid (registered before Species Cross class), height 34" (86 cm), Early thru late bloom. Yellow, lightly veined brown on Falls, deep yellow outline by deep brown crescent signal. 'Holden Clough' open pollinated. Melrose Gardens 1987.



I really like my 'Roy Davidson', and I will try to bring some of the rhizomes for our potluck dinner. This is an iris which very easy can get "Best of Show". And maybe I can also bring 'Holden Clough'? 'Holden Clough' rarely produces seed and this is true also for 'Roy Davidson' For those concerned about the invasiveness of *Iris pseudacorus*, this provides a safe alternative and a very interesting addition to the garden. Maybe someone would like to try to make some interspecies crosses?

<http://wiki.irises.org/Main/Spx/SpxRoyDavidson>  
<http://wiki.irises.org/Main/Spx/SpxHoldenClough>  
[http://wiki.irises.org/Spec/SpecPseudacorus#Chromosome\\_counts](http://wiki.irises.org/Spec/SpecPseudacorus#Chromosome_counts)  
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Species>  
<http://wiki.irises.org/Spec/SpecPseudacorus#Variations>  
<http://wiki.irises.org/Spec/SpecVersicolor>



## Keeping In Touch

Received by email October 15, 2018

Thank you for a wonderful season.



To all of our customers -- past, present and future -- we thank you. You represent our heritage and our legacy. In this season of planning and planting, we embrace the coming winter, and look to the bounty of the spring. But there's no rushing nature.

Not even in this impatient era of "instant gratification" and "what's in it for me" can the forces of nature be hurried. Yet, with lightning speed, we all share our joys and woes; our pleasure or displeasure with a personal experience or product purchased. We share images of our latest acquisition, mountain climbed, or newest blossom to open in the garden (the latter being our favorite always). Comments, praise, and complaints fly through the social cyber waves to our virtual doorstep. We, here at Schreiner's Gardens, receive these messages with open arms, receptive minds and humble hearts. Social posts, emails, and letters all serve to bind us better to you, our customers. For this connection, we are grateful.

For four generations of Iris (and Daylily) farming we've been growing our connections -- building our followers, you could say. With all of you, we share our successes, because we care about what's in it for you.

Thank you for another great season.

Best wishes for a peaceful Autumn,  
*The Schreiner Family*

## Fertilizing Irises

Anna Cadd

After the Fall Regional in Reno Alleah, Jeff, Lynn Williams and I went to dinner together and we had interesting discussions about this and that relating to irises. We wandered into the subject of fertilizing irises and I remembered the articles written by Dean Linscott and Lynn Williams and printed in past issues of this Newsletter. I am definitely not an expert, but we are always telling people – “fertilize three times a year.”

1. End of February – fertilize with 0-10-10 or 5-10-10 fertilizer, as there is a lot of nitrogen falling from the sky in rain water (?)
2. After the bloom in May – fertilize with 10-10-10 or 15-15-15 fertilizer – as the plant is growing and building the flower for next year's bloom.
3. Just before winter – fertilize with 10-10-10 fertilizer to help the plant survive the winter.

All fertilizer labels have three bold numbers. These three numbers represent the percentages of primary nutrients: nitrogen (N) – phosphorus (P) – potassium (K)). This label, known as the fertilizer grade, is a national standard. A bag of 10-10-10 fertilizer contains 10 percent nitrogen, 10 percent phosphate and 10 percent potash.

The above schedule for fertilizing is one standard; others move up the last feeding to Labor Day. But then there is “real life”. As you know, I was sick last fall and planted my irises late, I mean – very late. I then I traveled a lot and didn't have much time to deal with the garden, so I decided to give my irises a “boost” and fertilized 3 times during 2018 with 16-16-16 fertilizer plus top dressing with a lot of organic compost. This treatment was applied to both bearded and beardless irises. When I dug my irises last month, it was a struggle. The rhizomes were huge – “Schreiner's size” and beautiful. My treatment sure “boosted” even plants planted January through March.

So the conclusion of my article is: It is always good to follow the rules, but also use common sense. A 50 lb bag of 15-15-15 costs about \$30.00 at Purity Chemical in Healdsburg and it fertilizes a lot. [A 16 lb. bag of 16-16-16 runs \$16.99 there. *Ed.*] And do a trial in your own garden. Every garden is different and has different soil, so next year make a test and see what works best at your place. You will be surprised how “scientific” the results can be in your own garden. But fertilize – irises are heavy feeders

and they are also “shallow growers”, so top dressing with fertilizers is not taking a lot, when you just water it down to the roots. I hope that I am not committing “blasphemy” against the old and established rules....

References:

[https://www.google.com/search?source=hp&ei=YI7YW9esMrPR9APYk73ICQ&q=what+does+10+10+10+mean+in+fertilizer&og=what+10-10-10+means+in+fertilizer&gs\\_l=psy-ab.1.0.0i22i30.1945.14734..19782...0.0..1.697.4633.15j14j0j3j0j1.....0....1..gws-wiz.....0j0i131j33i22i29i30j33i299.AWmfbeGgyul](https://www.google.com/search?source=hp&ei=YI7YW9esMrPR9APYk73ICQ&q=what+does+10+10+10+mean+in+fertilizer&og=what+10-10-10+means+in+fertilizer&gs_l=psy-ab.1.0.0i22i30.1945.14734..19782...0.0..1.697.4633.15j14j0j3j0j1.....0....1..gws-wiz.....0j0i131j33i22i29i30j33i299.AWmfbeGgyul)

## **An American Thanksgiving** (reprinted from the November 2013 SRIS Newsletter)

Anna Cadd

Most Americans are familiar with the Pilgrim's Thanksgiving Feast of 1621, but few realize that it was not the first festival of its kind in North America. Long before Europeans set foot in the Americas, native peoples sought to insure a good harvest with dances and rituals such as the Green Corn Dance of the Cherokees.

History records various Thanksgiving services including ones on May 27, 1578 in Newfoundland and in Popham Colony, Maine in 1607 -- the same year that Jamestown colonists gave thanks for their safe arrival. The Jamestown colonists held another service in 1610 when a supply ship arrived after a harsh winter.

In 1623, the Pilgrims at Plymouth Plantation, Massachusetts, held another day of Thanksgiving. As a drought was destroying their crops, colonists prayed and fasted for relief; the rains came a few days later. And not long after, Captain Miles Standish arrived with staples and news that a Dutch supply ship was on its way. Because of all this good fortune, colonists held a day of Thanksgiving and prayer on June 30. This 1623 festival appears to have been the origin of our Thanksgiving Day because it combined a religious and social celebration.

Festivals of Thanksgiving were observed sporadically on a local level for more than 150 years. They tended to be autumn harvest celebrations. But in 1789, Elias Boudinot, Massachusetts, member of the House of Representatives, moved that a day of Thanksgiving be held to thank God for giving the American people the opportunity to create a Constitution to preserve their hard won freedoms. A Congressional Joint Committee approved the motion, and informed President George Washington. On October 3, 1789, the President proclaimed that the people of the United States observe "a day of public thanksgiving and prayer" on Thursday, the 26th of November.

Most of the credit for the establishment of an annual Thanksgiving holiday may be given to Sarah Josepha Hale. Editor of Ladies Magazine and Godey's Lady's Book, she began to agitate for such a day in 1827 by printing articles in the magazines. She also published stories and recipes, and wrote scores of letters to governors, senators, and presidents. After 36 years of crusading, she won her battle. On October 3, 1863, buoyed by the Union victory at Gettysburg, President Lincoln proclaimed that November 26 would be a national Thanksgiving Day, to be observed every year on the fourth Thursday of November.

Only twice has a president changed the day of observation. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, in order to give depression-era merchants more selling days before Christmas, assigned the third Thursday to be Thanksgiving Day in 1939 and 1940. But he was met with popular resistance, largely because the change required rescheduling Thanksgiving Day events such as football games and parades. In 1941, a Congressional Joint Resolution officially set the fourth Thursday of November as a national holiday for Thanksgiving.

Today, Thanksgiving is a time when many families come together, and many churches are open for special services. We have both Native Americans and immigrants to thank for the opportunity to observe a day of thanksgiving.

This article was condensed from the Smithsonian Institution, Thanksgiving in North America: From Local Harvests to National Holiday at: [http://www.si.edu/Encyclopedia\\_SI/nmah/thanks.htm](http://www.si.edu/Encyclopedia_SI/nmah/thanks.htm)

From the Editor – **Many thanks** for contributions to this issue: **Anna Cadd, Rudy Ciuca, Jeff Davis, Betty Ford, Anna Marie Hermansen, Linnea Polo, Steve Schreiner, and Lynn Williams.**  
*Alleah*

## Join the American Iris Society

Consider joining AIS if you're not a member. Membership benefits include 4 issues/year of the full color Bulletin *Irides*, and membership in its Northern California/Nevada/Hawaii chapter (Region 14). Dues are \$30 single annual, \$70 single triennial, \$35 dual annual, \$85 dual triennial. Emembership is \$15 annual but does not include a printed Bulletin. Does provide online Bulletin viewing, access to online iris register database of registrations and introductions. Make check payable to the American Iris Society or provide your VISA or Master Card number (see [www.irises.org/About\\_AIS/Membership\\_Info/AIS\\_Membership.html](http://www.irises.org/About_AIS/Membership_Info/AIS_Membership.html)). Send membership form (available at above website location) and check to:

Tom Gormley – AIS Membership Secretary  
PO Box 177  
DeLeon Springs, FL 52130



## News from HIPS

Anna Marie Hermansen passed along the September, 2018 HIPS e-newsletter. HIPS is the Historic Iris Preservation Society, a Section of AIS. The mission of HIPS is to promote and foster the preservation of historic irises.

Irides introduced over 30 years ago are considered historic. Those that have survived this time period generally are the toughest of plants of their generation. Many Irisarians collect older irises. Some look for plants to fill in gardens that match the time period of historic homes and are creating restoration gardens. Others are interested in the evolution of the modern iris, while others simply prefer a simpler form and look of these antiques.

Many SRIS members enjoy both “modern” and historic irises. Our Society includes three Dykes Medalist gardens (one belonging to Rudy Ciuca and Joe Lawrence, one of Alleah Haley, and the Dykes Garden at the LBAGC planted by Rudy and Joe), that focus on the best irises of their time, 1927-present. Betty Ford is passionate about her father's favorite iris ‘Oriental Glory’ and Marlene Ford loves ‘Shah Jehan’. Anna Cadd donated many of the historic irises in the “historic section” of the LBAGC Display Garden.

HIPS membership is \$13 single annual, \$33 single triennial, \$15 dual annual, \$39 dual triennial. Join online (their website is <http://historiciris.org>) or send a check or money order to HIPS, membership chair Judy Eckhoff, 7911 Yoder Rd., Haven, KS 67543.

Here's the latest from the HIPS e-Newsletter:

## New Breeder Collections Program

At their August meeting, the HIPS Board voted to establish a Breeder Collections Program as another avenue to preservation. HIPS members who are interested in the irises of a particular hybridizer will be encouraged to collect as many of the remaining introductions as possible, including modern irises (they'll eventually become historic, too!). This will complement the work of the Guardian Gardens

network, and as we build a directory of known collections, perhaps some of the missing cultivars can be located. Watch the Fall issue of ROOTS for more information! Whose irises would *you* like to collect?

### **2018 Rhizome Sale is a Smash Hit**

Despite heavy rains in the East and widespread reports of rot this spring, donations to the rhizome sale were strong. Thanks to our generous donors, we had over 4000 rhizomes available, and when the public sale finished we had sold 800 more rhizomes than last year. We even had some bulk boxes to offer. All this translates into another great year, netting HIPS a profit of a little over \$16,000. Thank you to all who participated, and enjoy your irises!

### **Guardian Gardens Needs Clerical Help**

It started in 2015 with about 15 HIPS members, and it's now approaching 400 enthusiastic iris lovers. Our Guardian Gardens program has grown to the point that GG Administrator Doug Paschall needs some help with the recordkeeping. If you are proficient in Excel and would like to help GG continue to grow, contact Doug at [wdpaschall2@gmail.com](mailto:wdpaschall2@gmail.com). He'd love to hear from you.

### **HIPS Membership Grows**

A big welcome to all our new HIPS members! We're glad you're here. Our current HIPS membership is approximately 850, which is about a 5% increase from 2017. One issue we face (along with other plant societies) is retention of new members. We have many new folks join each year, but a significant number don't renew. We're reaching out via e-mail to let members know when their dues need to be renewed. If your membership lapsed in February, this will be the last newsletter you receive unless you chose to renew. August expirations will receive an e-mail soon. Don't forget to check the mailing label of ROOTS to find your expiration date. And consider renewing for three years – you'll save 15% on your dues.

### **Sale on ROOTS Back Issues**

We have too many back issues of ROOTS and need to make room. Visit our HIPS Shop on our website and get them before they're gone. We also have the 1988 – 2014 issues available for purchase as a set of PDF files, on a flash drive for your convenience.

### **Welcome Home, Irises!**

Thanks to the help of some very special HIPS members, an experimental iris exchange has returned a few rare irises to North America. Our HIPS Research Curator in France, Catherine Adam, worked some magic and located Bee Warburton's 'Jennie Grace', and sent us several rhizomes. They will be divided between two Warburton collections (one of which is held by Bee's granddaughter) and the GG program, where we will get it growing so it can be shared soon. We hope to send the Vilmorin iris 'Fra Angelico' back to France next year.

## **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\_\_\_\_\_

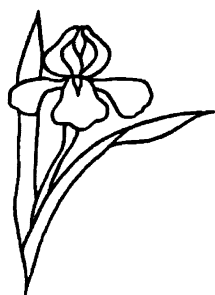
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**I would like my Newsletter by email: YES\_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_**

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***

44th YEAR NUMBER 11

NOVEMBER 2018

**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.

**December Newsletter Deadline – November 20<sup>th</sup>**