

The Newsletter of

The Santa Rosa Iris Society

44th YEAR NUMBER 9

SEPTEMBER 2018

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Anna Cadd

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2018 Potted Iris Sale Chairman

Need volunteer

2018 Summer Rhizome Sales Chm.

Jeff Davis



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8,
9-3 - RHIZOME SALE AT LUTHER
BURBANK ART & GARDEN
CENTER

TUESDAY – THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 11-13, 9-9 – HEIRLOOM EXPO, SONOMA COUNTY
FAIRGROUNDS GRACE PAVILION

For the Rhizome Sale at LBAGC: We'll set up starting at 7:00 a.m., putting the prepared rhizomes in bags, affixing photo labels, and placing the bags on tables. Customers should begin to arrive about 9:00 a.m. **We'll need all hands on deck!** Please come help set up, clean and label irises if needed, sell, and help with tear down at the end.

For the Rhizome Sale at the 8th Annual Heirloom Expo: We'll set up in the Grace Pavilion (right behind the main entrance on Bennett Valley Rd.) at the Fairgrounds in Santa Rosa starting at noon on Monday, September 10. President Jeff Davis has the schedule of members who have volunteered to work the two six-hour shifts each day, Tuesday through Thursday. Admission for volunteer workers is free but the Expo limits booths to 3 volunteers per shift. Regular admission to attend is \$15/day or \$30 for 3 days, paid at the entrance gate. Admission for children is FREE! Parking is extra and even our volunteers should expect to pay for parking (the Society will reimburse). Volunteers should arrive ½ hour early for their shifts.

Billed as the "World's Pure Food Fair", the Heirloom Expo includes the world's largest produce display (4000 varieties); tasting and judging of hundreds of tomato varieties; the 4th annual dahlia show; approximately 300 vendors of seeds, tools, garden and farm supplies, produce, and plants; a heritage poultry show; giant pumpkin contest; and 147 lectures and workshops by national and international experts on a myriad of gardening and farming topics. SRIS' double-wide booth has been prominently located just inside Grace Pavilion's north entrance. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year. **Even if you're not a volunteer, pay your \$15 and come share your iris knowledge with our customers.**

I could no more have stopped studying birds, flowers and trees and drawing them than I could have stopped breathing! Caroline Dorman, naturalist, collector and hybridizer of Louisiana irises.

Gardening Tips for September

Anna Cadd

1. We are still in "iris buying" time, as the SRIS rhizome sale, the Heirloom Expo and the distribution of Region 14 irises are just ahead. I want to remind folks of the past editor of the AIS Bulletin *Irises* Kelly Norris' quote: "As a buyer's beware, don't let rhizome size influence you. Rhizomes vary by genetics and environment; and often rhizomes purchased from West Coast growers are phenomenally larger than those purchased from growers elsewhere due to a plusher, less stressful climate and thus a greater opportunity for tissue formation and swelling. While logically indicative of good-quality product, the genetics of the plant will ultimately determine whether or not it's successful in your garden. You'll have the easiest time establishing bearded irises purchased bare-root as opposed to container grown plants." - Kelly Norris, in *A Guide to Bearded Irises*, p. 75. However, this doesn't mean that we should sell small rhizomes!
2. Do you have iris clumps that still need to be divided? If so, do it soon! They can be donated to the Expo sale or given to friends or SRIS projects. Keep a record of all your blooms so you'll have a better idea which iris varieties to keep and which to discard.
3. How to prepare the rhizomes? Dig up your clump and break off the rhizome pieces. Discard rhizomes that have bloomed. Replant a few in your garden for next year. For those rhizomes you plan to donate, trim the roots to about four inches in length and the fan of leaves to about six inches in length. Wash or shake off all the dirt and remove any brown leaves. There are two ways to label each rhizome with its variety name. You can write the name of the variety directly on a leaf using a waterproof marker or staple a paper tag to one of the inner leaves. If you staple, please use two staples to securely affix the label. Please mark rebloomers RE; they are always good sellers!
4. Don't forget to plant your irises in September. As you probably know, even very late planting is sort of okay but they may not bloom the following spring. Then lightly fertilize all the clumps that were not dug. Of course keep weeds under control. They compete with irises and can even kill your collection – Bermuda grass is an example!
5. If you are a purist and like your garden to look neat, pull off and discard all dead leaves. Remove and destroy garden debris, spent bloom stalks and brown tips of leaves. You will remove millions of leaf spot spores and other sources of disease. This will also reduce hiding places for overwintering insects. Cut back remaining foliage to about 6" above the rhizome. This is not required, but trimming the foliage does have benefits. The garden appears tidier and the surface area on which leaf spot can develop is reduced. But don't cut healthy, green leaves! There are always two schools: "to cut" or "not to cut"!
6. When planting and replanting your iris, amend the soil with compost, unsalted alfalfa pellets and/or time-release fertilizer. Adding steer manure or well composted chicken manure is also beneficial. If your new rhizomes look dry, soak them in water for a few hours before planting.
7. Plant new rhizomes starting late this month through October. You can sterilize new rhizomes for 5-10 minutes in a solution of 2 cups water and 4 teaspoons bleach. There are two strategies for dried roots - remove them to allow the rhizome to contact the soil or keep them on to stabilize the rhizome. Choose a spot that with afternoon shade during the summer. Good drainage is essential! Dig a hole deep enough so that the top of the rhizome will be above the surface of the ground. Leave a mound of soil in the hole and fan any remaining roots out over it.
8. Making a map or list during planting is a must so that if your labels become lost or illegible, you'll be able to identify your iris.

President's Message

September is here. I repeat: September is here. We spend it digging, planting and selling our iris. It is also our most important time to raise funds for the club. For some it is a small matter. For others it is a major undertaking. Thanks to the hard work of club members at Jim Begley's garden we accomplished the digging, cleaning, labeling and sorting of many of the iris we will be selling for our sale and Heirloom

Expo this next week. Jim's garden alone would have taken him many days (or weeks) to get all that done. And that is only one garden among us all. Most of us do all this ourselves. It is a real benefit that this club has the dedication to pull these events off. It is no small task doing both of these events so close together. Thanks go out to everyone who has helped with all this work. Aren't we glad there is only one September a year!

Jeff Davis

This Month

Saturday, September 8, 9-3 – Rhizome sale, LBAGC. Stuff and label bags starting at 7:00 AM.

Monday, September 10 – 12 Noon - Set up booth at Heirloom Expo, Sonoma Co. Fairgrounds, Grace Pavilion. 7:00 PM – NO MEETING.

Tuesday thru Thursday, September 11-13 – 8th Annual Heirloom Expo, Sonoma Co. Fairgrounds. SRIS booth in Grace Pavilion.

2018 Iris Events and Important SRIS Dates

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

Friday & Saturday, October 19 & 20 – Region 14 Fall Meeting, SureStay Plus Reno Airport Hotel, Reno, Nevada. Registration \$120 by Sept. 30/\$135 thereafter. Hybridizer Lynda Miller, Canby, Oregon, will speak & give judges' training.

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, November 12, 6:00 PM

Monday, December 10, 6:00 PM



2018 SRIS Iris Auction/Raffle

Linnea Polo

On August 5 we had our yearly iris auction. It was a beautiful day. Low clouds in the morning and mild temperatures. We are so grateful to Joe Lawrence and Rudy Ciuca for hosting us at their C&L Vineyard. It makes a lovely scenic backdrop for our picnic and auction. Set up started at 9:30. Tables and chairs were brought by Don and Diana Ford from the Santa Rosa center. A group of us worked for hours alphabetizing the Iris for the auction. And another group helped lay out the iris for the raffle. Meanwhile the eating area and the yummy food area was set up for us. President Jeff Davis picked up the 16 rotisserie-cooked chickens for us at Costco. Thanks Jeff.

After lunch and clean up we moved under the big oaks. Jeff Davis was our auctioneer and Don Ford was our runner. Great job by both people. Alas, we forgot the raffle tickets and it was decided that when a break was called, everyone who paid for tickets could go get an iris. This was later amended to the more tickets you bought the more irises you could pick up. Actually, this was a good idea that worked well.

Kitty did an amazing job keeping track and recording what we bought. With everything going on around her she was right on top of things. Thanks Kitty.

This year there were 17 bidders at the auction. The highest bid for an Iris was for 'Ocean Liner' at \$25.00. There were 2 of these sold. The next highest bid was \$15.00 and there were 5 irises sold at this price. They were, 'Feel the Thunder', 'Flauntress', 'Let's Play Dress Up', 'Late Hours' and 'Menahuna'. A total of \$1,560.00 was spent at the auction. This is all money well spent to support the SRIS club and helps us to buy more irises and support our events. 421 irises were sold at the auction.

A special thanks to all those members who grew and brought irises and food and spent their money to support this event. Everyone seemed to have a good time. And we are lucky to be able to share this time with good friends who love irises.

SRIS Members Really Dig It at Jim's

Anna Marie Hermansen

A group of iris elves met at Jim Begley's place on Thursday, August 23, for an iris digging, bagging, and labeling party. Workers started to arrive at 8 a.m. and were finished about noon. The morning was perfect for garden work since it remained overcast for most of the time.

The hard working elves included Jim, Jeff Davis, Bob Wright, Don Ford, Jean Sharp, Cheryl Bryan, Linnea Polo, Betty Ford, Diana Ford, Ann Shippey, Anna Cadd, and Anna Marie Hermansen.

As many of you know, Jim has large clumps with big rhizomes. There were some three-year clumps that were gigantic. Over 100 varieties of irises were bagged and labeled, and most bags had many rhizomes. Nobody wanted to label the iris that had more than one word in its name! And, of course, most irises do not have just a one word name. So those of you that hybridize and introduce iris, keep that in mind when selecting a name. Stick to one word and that will make labelers extremely happy!

After finishing our tasks, we relaxed on the deck and poolside with a lunch that Marcelline, Jim's wife, set out for us. There was turkey lavosh, several salads, fruit, cookies, and drinks. After that, we would have loved some hammocks that would have been perfect for a nice afternoon snooze.

Display Garden – Planting Club Irises

Jean Sharp

Tuesday, August 28 was an absolutely perfect day for SRIS members to gather to plant our Club irises. The day was pleasantly cool and overcast. Of course, planting Club irises sounds pretty straightforward, but much preparation was required before the job was completed. Diana Ford ordered the irises, received them, made lists, and made the weatherproof labels for the stakes

Don and Diana Ford brought their rototiller and the irises plus alphabetical lists and labels. Cheryl Bryan, Jeff Davis, Jean Sharp, Ann Shippey and Bob Wright all contributed their efforts. First, Don tilled the bed, then the remaining compost from our pile out back was schlepped to the bed, and then oyster shell flour and 6-24-24 fertilizer was added. The bed was tilled again and raked to perfection- literally. After Diana, Ann, Cheryl and Jean made sure each iris had a printed label, T- tape was laid out and stakes were spaced evenly throughout the bed. Then irises were placed at each stake and planted, and water was turned on. Preen® was scattered over the bed and watered in thoroughly.

We worked from 9:00 to nearly 1:00 – a job well done. We also got rebloomers fertilized and Jeff made some needed additions to the irrigation.

A special thanks goes to Bob Wright who arrived early, about 8:00 a.m., and continued weeding until 3:30 p.m. after everyone had left. He chopped out lots of bindweed and cleaned up a good portion of the Dykes bed.

I know everyone will be proud of the club bed next spring. Thank you all for your efforts

Cornerstone Sonoma

Kathy McCallum

On Saturday, August 25, Anna Marie Hermansen and I visited Cornerstone Sonoma. It is a collection of nine garden areas, each with a different theme, which was inspired 12 years ago by the International Garden Festival at Chaumont-Sur-Loire in France. Five additional gardens have been created by

Sunset to highlight edible plants and bee habitats. Sunset also maintains an outdoor test kitchen at Cornerstone.

We found the gardens to be very beautiful and well-managed; every plant was at its best. The arrangements of color were spectacular. There were densely planted bushes, lush flowers, ornamental grasses, bees everywhere, a meditation garden, a small lake with waterlilies, a desert garden with giant cacti, and a garden of huge agaves; one of the gardens was created by Kate Frey. Whimsical touches here and there included a display of colorful pinwheels and a tall tree with twisting wire branches.

In addition to the gardens, Cornerstone has several upscale shops that are enjoyable to browse through – antiques and home decor, clothing, gifts, kitchen items, garden sculptures, flowers, etc. There is a very nice restaurant with indoor and outdoor seating, as well as three wine tasting rooms and one for spirits (as in, drinks, not ghosts!) Cornerstone is also a venue for special events such as weddings and music. Parking is plentiful, admission free, and the garden pathways are wide and well maintained. There are a few picnic tables. Docent-led tours can be arranged and would be recommended if one wants to know the names of the plants, some of which are labeled at the entrance to the gardens but not next to each plant.

Cornerstone is located at 23570 Arnold Drive, Sonoma. The gardens are open from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. daily; shops and tasting rooms open from 10:00 - 5:00 daily.

We enjoyed our visit to Cornerstone very much and recommend it as a possible Club outing destination.

I have found enduring happiness from the beauty found in the flower garden and from the joy that the love of a garden gives. Doris Day

Happy Birthday September Baby

Susan Wiseman 9/22

September Wedding Anniversaries

Betty and Ken Ford 9/7 61 years!!

Jeanne and Bob Plank 9/20 39 years!

Jim Begley and Marcelline Nelipowitz 9/29

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

Keppel's 'Haunted Heart' Wins 2018 Dykes



Haunted Heart (Keppel, 2010) TB - 35 (of 374) votes. Standards pale pinkish grey-white; style arms same, lavender lip; falls pinkish lavender-grey white ground heavily overlaid heliotrope grey to lobelia violet fine lining and texture veining, heaviest toward haft; beards light shrimp pink, light blue at end; light lace, heavy ruffling. SRIS hybridizers Jim Begley and Kathy McCallum have both used this iris in their crosses.

Each year American Iris Society (AIS) judges vote for the top irises in each iris class based on their performance in gardens. This year's

winners were announced in August.

Runners-up for the Dykes Medal were Sharp Dressed Man (Thomas Johnson, 2010, TB) – 34 votes, and Sari's Dance (Ginny Spoon, 2008, MTB) – 24 votes.

Other major AIS awards were:

Wister Medal for top three vote getters in TB Award of Merit (AM) balloting:

51 Notta Lemon (Tom Burseen)

38 bottle Rocket (Michael Sutton)

37 Strawberry Shake (Keith Keppel)

Napa hybridizer John Painter's Spice Trader was 3rd runner up for the Wister Medal and Santa Cruz's Joe Ghio's Double Platinum was 5th runner up for the Wister Medal.

Knowlton Medal for best Border Bearded (BB) – Sheer Excitement (Rick Tasco)

Hans and Jacob Sass Medal for best Intermediate Bearded (IB) – Cat in the Hat (Paul Black)

Williamson-White Medal for best Miniature Tall Bearded (MTB) – Holiday in Mexico (Riley Probst)

Cook-Douglas Medal for best Standard Dwarf Bearded (SDB) – My Cher (Paul Black)

Caparne-Welch Medal for best Miniature Dwarf Bearded (MDB) – Kayla's Song (Donald Spoon)

Clarence G. White Medal for best arilbred (≥50% aril) – Byzantine Ruby (Lowell Baumunk)

William Mohr Medal for best arilbred (25%-50% aril) – Sri Lanka (Thomas Johnson)

Founders of Signa Medal for best species iris – Wildwood Willie (Michael Iler by Will Plotner)

Randolph Perry Medal for best interspecific hybrid – Take No Sato (Hiroshi Shimizu by Carol Warner)

Sydney B. Mitchell Medal for best Pacific Coast iris – Pacific Tapestry (Terry Aitken)

Mary Swords Debaillon Medal for best Louisiana (LA) – Deja Voodoo (Patrick O'Connor)

Morgan-Wood Medal for best Siberian (SIB) – Miss Apple (Marty Schafer/Jan Sacks)

Eric Nies Medal for best spuria (SPU) – Lemon Chiffon Pie (Anna and David Cadd)

Payne Medal for best Japanese Iris (JI) – Kimono Silk (Bob Bauer/John Coble)

Fred and Barbara Walther Cup for most Honorable Mention (HM) votes in any category – Black Lipstick (Keith Keppel)

TB AMs went to:

Tijuana Taxi (Douglas Kanarowski)

Good Morning Sunshine (Thomas Johnson)

Fire and Ice (Paul Black)

Gambling Man (Keith Keppel)

Cow Patty (Tom Burseen)

Arrivederci (Keith Keppel)

Jelly Bean Parade (Douglas Kanarowski)

Storm Rider (Rick Tasco)

Core Values (Joe Ghio)

Edge of Heaven (Thomas Johnson)

Rare Coin (Joe Ghio)

Berserk (Thomas Johnson)

Grateful Red (Schreiner)

Waterline (Keith Keppel)

Why be Normal (Thomas Johnson)

Global Crossing (Robert Van Liere)

Brouhaha (Joe Ghio)

Die Laughing (Paul Black)

Dewuc Whatic (Tom Burseen)

Gloriafied Glenn (Tom Burseen)

Sings with Frogs (Douglas Kanarowski)

Boston Cream (Keith Keppel)

Prissy Christy (Tom Burseen)

Redneck Girl (Schreiner)
Spiral Galaxy (Joe Ghio)
Strawberry Freeze (Thomas Johnson)
Wishes Granted (Keith Keppel)

BB AMs went to:

What's New Pussycat (Paul Black)
Boy Genius (Joe Ghio)

IB AMs went to:

Code of Honor (Thomas Johnson)
Witty (Paul Black)

MTB AMs went to:

Breakfast in Bed (Chuck Bunnell)
Plum Happiness (Lynda Miller)

SDB AMs went to:

Stop and Stare (Thomas Johnson)
Beckoning (Thomas Johnson)
Going in Circles (Paul Black)
Bluebeard's Gold (Michael Sutton)
Brash and Sassy (Thomas Johnson)
Oh So Sweet (Paul Black)

MDB AMs went to:

Black Olive (Paul Black)
Hot Coals (Terry Aitken)

AR and AB AMs went to:

Shaman's Magic (Rick Tasco)
Alakazam (Rick Tasco)

AB AM - No award (only one candidate)

Species AMs went to:

Sushi (Jill Copeland)
Blue Rivulets (Chad Harris)

Interspecies AM went to:

Yarai (Hiroshi Shimizu by Carol Warner)
Kurokawa-Noh (Terry Aitken)

Californicae (PCI) AMs went to

Corralitos Creek (Joe Ghio)
Saltspring Sunburst (Joyce Prothero)

LA AMs went to:

When Pigs Fly (Patrick O'Connor)
Watermelon Wizard (Hooker Nichols)

SIB AMs went to:

Hail to the Chief (Bob Hollingworth)
Fisherman's Fancy (Jim Copeland)

SPU AMs went to:

Ode to a Toad (Brad Kasperek)
Steely Don (Terry Aitken)

JI AMs went to:

Columbia Deep Water (Chad Harris)
Red Repeater (Terry Aitken)

A large number of Honorable Mentions (HMs) were awarded.

Did you know that the AIS website has the yearly lists of winners, including number of votes, from 1999 to the present in PDF format? Go to www.irises.org/About_Irises/Awards_Surveys/AIS_Awards.html ; go about halfway down the page to find the links. From the same page you can find pages devoted to

each of the awards with pictures of the winners.

The Dykes Medal is the highest award judged by the American Iris Society judges. It is awarded by the British Iris Society in honor of William Rickatson Dykes to the best iris registered by AIS. The candidates are chosen from the AIS Medal winners. The Medal winners are the best irises in their class. So this is the best of the best. The British Iris Society (BIS) also presents Dykes Medals to irises registered by the BIS.

AIS Medals Explained

Anna Cadd

In August all irisarians patiently await the results of the American Iris Society judges voting for awards. Usually the AIS president phones the top award hybridizers to tell them the good news. It is a thrill to receive such a call and then dance with joy!

We've all heard of the Dykes Medal, but have you ever wondered how an iris wins this coveted award? The path to stardom begins when the plant is a seedling, when its hybridizer sends it to conventions and other gardens so that AIS judges can see it. With five votes, the seedling wins a High Commendation, an indication that the judges consider this newbie worthy of introduction to the market. The next tier in the annual awards system is the Honorable Mention, which is awarded to varieties in each of 15 categories, including Tall Bearded, Spuria, Louisiana, etc. The plants have been introduced and must be on the market for at least two or three years to be eligible for Honorable Mention, and they must receive at least 35 votes by AIS judges if they are tall bearded. Other types require fewer votes.

Once varieties in each of the 15 categories win an Honorable Mention, they are candidates for an Award of Merit, important because it is a prerequisite for further medals. The top three or four Award of Merit winners can usually boast of receiving 45-60 votes from the AIS judges. Only Award of Merit winners are eligible for the next tier of competition, in which a special medal is awarded in each category. For example, for tall bearded irises, it is the John C. Wister Medal and for Spurias, the Eric Nies Medal. Three Wister Medals are awarded each year, and for the other 14 categories, there is only one winner per category per year.

The Dykes Memorial Medal is the highest award given by AIS. It dates to 1927, and is awarded annually to one iris in North America by AIS, as well as one in Britain and one in Australia or New Zealand by the British Iris Society. Tall bearded irises are the most frequent winners of the Dykes Medal in North America.

There is a strict timetable for qualifying for the above awards, quoted here from the AIS website: "All irises that are registered and first introduced (offered for sale) in North America are included in the Honorable Mention (HM) categories of each classification. Bearded iris are placed on the ballot the second year after introduction; beardless irises are placed on the ballot the third year after introduction. They remain eligible for the award and on the ballot for three years or until they are awarded the HM. One year after an iris is awarded the HM it is placed in the Award of Merit (AM) category, where they remain for up to three years. One year after an iris is awarded the AM it is placed on the ballot under their respective Special Medal award sections, remaining for up to three years. Winners in the Medal categories that were originated in North America move up the following year to compete for the Dykes Medal, the American Iris Society's highest award. Candidates remain eligible for the Dykes medal for up to three years."

Sources:

Shear, William. 1998. *The Gardener's Iris Book*. Taunton Press, Newtown, CT, pp. 158-159.

AIS website Awards section and Wiki section.

Partially based on the Tucson Area Iris Society Newsletter, September 2018.

'Lemon Chiffon Pie' Wins Eric Nies Medal



'Lemon Chiffon Pie' - photo by Jan Lauritzen

'Lemon Chiffon Pie' (Anna and David Cadd, R. 2006). Creamy yellow self; large gold signal blending to cream; ruffled. 'Media Luz' X 'Candle Lace'. Cadd's Beehive 2006. Honorable Mention 2010; Award of Merit 2014.

This medal is restricted to spuria irises. It is named in honor of Eric Nies (1884-1952). Eric Nies was born in Saugatuck, Michigan; but soon after Nies moved to California, he became interested in irises of all types. He obtained his first spuria irises from Jennett Dean, who operated one of the first iris specialist nurseries in the U.S. Spurias were his special interest. His first cross was with *I. orientalis* with 'Monspur'. He interbred seedlings from this cross, and in the second generation there was a virtual explosion of color: blue, lavender, brown, bronze and cream. During his lifetime, Nies was recognized as the foremost breeder of spuria irises in the world. Marion Walker took over his seedlings and breeding lines after he died in 1952.

The World of Irises blog will be posting once a day all of the medal winners. The entire list of winners can be found at:

http://irises.org/About_Irises/Awards_Surveys/AIS_Awards.html, the AIS Encyclopedia and later in the AIS Bulletin, IRISES. Pictures can be found at <http://wiki.irises.org/Main/InfoAwards2018>.

Posted by Bryce Williamson at:

<https://theamericanirissociety.blogspot.com/2018/08/eric-nies-medal-2018.html>.

Region 14 Guest Iris Dig

The final step in winding up the fantastic 2018 Spring Regional is the digging of the guest irises in the Collings' Garden in Oakhurst and the Kanarowski Garden in Mariposa. The dig has been scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday, September 11 and 12, starting with a dig in the Collings' Garden, and ending with digging, labeling and distribution in the Kanarowski Garden on Wednesday. We need help both days to do this big job, as there are almost 200 guest irises to dig. As usual, some rhizomes are returned to hybridizers, and the seedlings will be destroyed; but there will still be around 150 for distribution to clubs who wish to receive them and reimburse Region 14.

I know that it is late in the season for some auctions, but it is still possible to pot them for selling during the year. This has been the practice of Sacramento Iris Society for years. As you may know, as a courtesy to the hybridizers, it is agreed that clubs will not sell the rhizomes directly to the public. However, holding them over in pots does allow them to be sold later. Of course, newer introductions should only be sold within your club to members. By doing this, you are helping members to have new introductions in their gardens for shows and evaluation by judges. In this way, the guest iris process supports the hybridizers and the clubs at the same time.

Please let me know if you will be sending members to help with the dig. Many hands make light work, and I hope to see you there. If you send someone to help, they can take the distribution for your club when they leave. If the rhizomes have to be shipped, the club will have to pay for shipping.

Phyllis Wilburn, AIS Region 14 RVP, 2018 Guest Iris Chair
P.O. Box 9
Rescue, CA 95672

Note: This dig is during SRIS's rhizome sale at the Heirloom Expo at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds. Anna Cadd will be helping with the dig and has reserved a time share in Bass Lake from Monday night to Thursday morning that sleeps six, so members not working the Heirloom Expo are invited to help with the dig and share expenses at the resort.



Keeping In Touch

Juanita Breckwoldt and her son Bob moved into their new home in Oregon on May 7, 2018. It's 1500 square feet on ½ acre in a quiet, friendly neighborhood (the next-door neighbor met their arriving U-Haul and helped them move in their furniture); 3 bedrooms, 1 ½ baths, with several outbuildings: a 20' x 40' greenhouse, 20' x 40' shop, 10' x 16' former art studio that Bob's converting to a "man cave", and a garden shed. It's on city water with a well for irrigation, located within five miles of Schreiner's and Mid-America Iris Gardens and one mile of Keppel's. They have apple, hazelnut, and cherry trees, and asparagus. They planted the iris they moved in raised beds in the greenhouse (just to get them preserved until they could start planting outside). Kaiser-Permanente is within three miles, Safeway and a super Walmart are within five miles. The Oregon Trail Iris Society meets monthly just two miles from their home.

Bob and Juanita would love to have SRIS members come visit. They have a guest room with twin beds, a sleeper sofa in the living room, and a place to park an RV on-site. You can reach them at:

Juanita and Bob Breckwoldt
3415 48th Ave. NE
Salem, OR 97305-2910

Anna Cadd took a tumble at the iris dig on August 23 and injured her right hand. Two trips to the emergency room showed no breaks, but a severe sprain and serious swelling. Painkillers and a brace are helping, but she's still trying to dig irises and type articles for the Newsletter. We recommend REST!

Minutes of Santa Rosa Iris Society General Meeting, August 13, 2018

Members present: Jim Begley, Bob Wright, Ann Shippey, Anna Marie Hermansen, Betty Ford, Kathy McCallum, Steve Albert, Kitty Loberg, Jeff Davis, Anna Cadd, Alleah Haley, Diana Ford, Delores McKey, Linnea Polo, Cheryl Bryan.

Jeff opened the meeting by wishing Alleah a Happy Birthday. Jeff also thanked all the people who helped with this year's dig and said it was the fastest it had ever been done.

Diana offered an opinion that the auction low end price was too low. That bidding should start at four dollars and if there wasn't sufficient interest in the iris at four dollars that it should be offered at the next meeting or at the sale to the general public. There was a lively discussion. A motion was made to keep to lowest price of two dollars. This motion passed 8 to 6.

A date was set to plant the new club iris: August 28th at 9 a.m.

There isn't a chairman for the Heirloom Expo. Next year that will start being addressed in February. Jeff will organize the best he can at this point. A paper was circulated to get volunteers for hours of operations. Anna Marie will send out an email to our list of interested parties. We voted to reimburse members parking cost for working the Heirloom Expo.

For our sale and iris organizing on September 8th members are encouraged to have their iris cleaned and marked and in separate bags ready to go into the sales bags. Try to arrive at 7 a.m. to organize. It will open to the public at 9 a.m. Jeff will get the signs up. After the sale the bags will be gathered up and stored until Monday when they will go to the Heirloom Expo. Setup for the Expo will begin at noon on Monday, August 10.

Kitty reported that when she and Steve were packing to evacuate, she looked through a box she had brought from her evacuation in October last year. In it she found the two hundred dollar petty cash fund for the club. She was very relieved it hadn't burned in the fire.

AIS awards were announced. 'Haunted Heart' for the Dykes; 'Strawberry Shake', 'Notta Lemon' and 'Bottle Rocket' won the Wister. Our own Anna Cadd won the Eric Nies medal for the best spuria with 'Lemon Chiffon Pie'!



This from AIS Convention Liaison Paul Gossett on the passing of Oklahoma iris hybridizer Perry Dyer on Monday, September 3:

Dear Folks,

It is with a very sad heart I inform you of the passing of Perry Dyer this morning. Perry was released from the hospital last week and had a major heart attack on Sunday. The only family member I am aware of is a sister. If you would like to send a card, please send it to below address. I had been told he did not want a memorial service.

Cathlene Daugherty

P.O. Box 924

Eufaula, OK 74432

Perry gave judges' training on arilbreds this past spring during the aril trek in Las Cruces, New Mexico. He was renowned for his "Contemporary Views", an annual compilation of varietal comment on irises. It was from his article "The Dykes That Got Away" in *Irises* 94(3) (October/November 2013) that I learned that the white self 'Cup Race' (Buttrick, 1963, TB) was more underrated in Dykes Medal voting because it was an East Coast iris. The West Coast white self 'Winter Olympics (Opal Brown, 1963, TB) won the Dykes Medal instead. West Coast irises generally get wider distribution. *Ed.*

2018 Region 14 Fall Meeting

The Fall Regional is October 19-20, 2018 at the SureStay Plus Reno Airport Hotel by Best Western in Reno, Nevada. Hotel address is 1981 Terminal Way, Reno. Contact the hotel directly for room reservations: 775-348-6370; mention the group name AIS Region 14 Block Rate to get the special \$75.00 + tax room rate. Pets extra. Event registration (\$120/person by Sept. 30; \$135 thereafter) includes continental breakfast and Saturday lunch. Registration form enclosed.

The guest speaker and judges' trainer on MTBs will be award-winning iris hybridizer Lynda Miller of Miller's Manor Gardens, Canby Oregon. Eleven years ago she moved from Indiana to Oregon after years of running a plant nursery.

Please bring donations for an SRIS gift basket to be raffled at the Regional to the October 8 SRIS meeting. Proceeds go to help support AIS Region 14.

Region 14 Fall Meeting – Lynda Miller, Speaker and Trainer – An Autobiography

I married into the iris world. My husband had worked as a teenager for Emma Cook, Paul Cook's widow. The first spring after we married, my husband showed me how to hybridize iris, big mistake on his part. That was 48 years ago and I have been hybridizing ever since. Even though my first crosses were on tall bearded, my first love was MDBs especially pumilas. This led me to winning three Caparne-Welch medals. The more I hybridized the bigger the varieties I crossed leading me to winning the Cook-Douglas medal for 'Dark Vader' which is in the background of most of the modern black SDBs. Occasionally I have introduced an IB, but my main love moved on to MTBs partially because I

was born in the same town that MTBs were discovered in and the town was also the county seat of the county I lived in most of my life. This led to me winning three Williamson-White Medals. The first one was for 'Bangles' which was the first iris to win both the President's Cup and the Franklin Cook Cup at two different conventions. All of this happened while we were living in Indiana with our garden in four different locations.

Eleven years ago I made the move to Oregon after running a plant nursery for 30 years. My husband had made the move almost a year earlier, while I stayed behind to shut down the nursery. He found a home on two acres that had perfect soil for irises. I shipped my seedlings to him and he planted them along with lots of irises our Oregon friends gave us to replace what we were leaving behind. Because the plant nursery had taken up so much of my time in the spring, my hybridizing program needed a reboot which I got living in Oregon. Even though I went to work at Sears full time and we were doing spring plant sales, I still had time to hybridize. Now I am hybridizing mostly MTBs and Tall Bearded and am retired, so life is good. My husband's dream was always to have our garden on tour at a national convention. His dream came true in 2015; not only was our garden on tour but I won the President's Cup with TB 'Football Hero' and the Ben Hager Award with my MTB 'Moose Tracks'. Two years later my 'Moose Tracks' had the most votes for HM and won the Walther Cup; 'Football Hero' was first runner up. Along the way I also became an Emeritus judge, won the AIS Hybridizers Medal, and the Median Iris Society's Hybridizers Award.

I have no idea how many irises I have introduced. I think someone told me it is around 450. I am back introducing approximately eight a year. Since moving to Oregon I have let others introduce my irises, first Aitken's and now they are offered thru Mid-America.

I have left out the physical problems I have had to endure. I am just glad I can do as much as I do now after having two knee and two hips replaced and a ruptured disc repaired in two and one half years. Thank God for modern medicine.

As for judges training, my specialty is MTBs. I hybridize both tets and dips, so I would prefer to do the judges training on MTBs. I will give you a program on what I am working on and what I have been up to.

Luther Burbank Images Digitized

Anna Cadd

The Sonoma County Library and the City of Santa Rosa recently completed a project digitizing more than 1700 images preserving the collection of pioneer Sonoma County horticulturist Luther Burbank and providing online access to scholars and to the public. Belonging to Luther Burbank Home and Gardens in Santa Rosa, the collection includes photos, slides, panoramic and stereographic images, postcards, greeting cards and negatives from 1860 to 1980. The bulk of the collection originates from the estate of Burbank's wife, Elizabeth Waters Burbank. Some items were purchased, and donated, by private estates and the Western Sonoma County Historical Society. The collection includes rarely seen images of Burbank's family including images of him as a child.

Head library cataloger Geoffrey Skinner led the detailed effort to catalog, digitize and provide online access to the images. The digital images were uploaded to the Sonoma Country Heritage Collection.

Luther Burbank lived in Santa Rosa for 50 years and developed more than 800 strains and varieties of plants, including vegetables, grains and flowers. The City of Santa Rosa owns his home and gardens, which are operated by the non-profit Luther Burbank Home and Gardens Association.

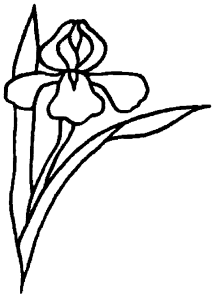
Rachel Speatch, the association's garden curator, said that the collection was previously restricted to protect the historic and fragile images. View the collection at:

www.heritage.sonomalibrary.org/digital/collection/p15763coll22

From the Editor – Many thanks for contributions to this issue: **Juanita Breckwoldt, Anna Cadd, Jeff Davis; Diana Ford, Anna Marie Hermansen, Kathy McCallum, Linnea Polo, and Jean Sharp.**
Alleah

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 9

SEPTEMBER 2018

President:

Vice President:

Newsletter

Editor:

Jeff Davis

Anna Cadd

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.

October Newsletter Deadline – September 20th