

The Newsletter of

# The Santa Rosa Iris Society

48th YEAR NUMBER 6

JUNE 2022

#### Officers 2022:

President

Anna Cadd

**Vice President** 

Diana Ford

Treasurer Kitty Loberg

Secretary

Anna Marie Hermansen

**Past President** 

Jeff Davis

Historian

Anna Cadd

Membership Secretary

Anna Cadd

Librarian

Need volunteer

**Newsletter Editor** 

Anna Marie Hermansen

**Assistant Editor** 

Kathy McCallum

#### Directors thru 12/22:

Linnea Polo

Steve Albert

Kathy McCallum

#### Directors thru 12/23:

Betty Ford

Jeff Davis

#### **Standing Committees:**

Attendance

Diana Ford

**Display Garden Chairmen** 

Jeff Davis

**Door Prize Coordinator** 

Anna Marie Hermansen

Hospitality

Diana and Don Ford

**LBAGC Representatives** 

Jeff Davis

Anna Cadd

Alternate - Need Volunteer

**Photography** 

Need Volunteer

2022 Show Chairman

Jeff Davis

2022 Assistant Show Chairman

Need Volunteer

2022 Potted Iris Sale Chairman

**Need Volunteer** 

2022 Summer Rhizome Sales Chm.

Need Volunteer



## **June 13th - 12:00 pm at LBA&GC**

Awards will be presented to our winners from the May show. Also, Anna Cadd will be showing her pictures from the AIS National Convention in New Mexico.



## June President's Message ..... Anna Cadd

Iris season is over. Only some re-bloomers are bashfully sticking out small, sun scorched flowers. But it is okay. Flowers which last only for a short time are the most cherished and remembered. We are so lucky that we live in the time of digital photography and can save the moments in gardens forever on disks. Now is the time to look at these pictures and remember the awe and admiration we felt when we looked at the flowers and pressed the button on our cameras. Let me quote some beautiful words by Georgia O'Keeffe: "When you take a flower in your hand and really look at it, it's your world for the moment. I want to give that world to someone else. Most people in the city rush around so, they have no time to look at a flower. I want them to see it whether they want to or not."

It was a very busy season for me this year, but I am sure it was for everybody. Strange rain season and drought, which meant a lot of weeds with no time to pull them all. Somehow this season was very short, with Louisiana and Siberian irises blooming before medians, and everything rushing to bloom before the heat wave. I have a lot of memories of judging iris shows, participating in AIS National Convention in New Mexico, and working on our beautiful SRIS Show. All were very interesting and I am looking forward to having a moment of time to review my pictures.

## Gardening tips for June ..... Anna Cadd

1. It is hard to believe that it is already June, and everything which needs to be planted in the garden is supposed to be growing. The soil is warm, and with proper watering everything will start to grow in no time at all. I put some cucumber seeds in the soil and after 4 days they are already sprouting! Of course, the weed seeds are ready to grow, even after being composted in the



warm compost pile. English scientists just created gene-edited tomatoes which contain huge amounts of calcium that are not from animal sources. I think it is time to cross cucumbers with morning glory, or corn with Bermuda grass. What type of crops will they be - Chernobyl style?

- 2. Weeding is a never-ending story. It is easiest to pull weeds while they are still small. Also, all bloom stalks need to be cut or gently broken from the rhizomes. They don't contribute very much to the rhizome growth, and they can rot.
- 3. Irises have just finished blooming in California, and are still in the active growing cycle. Now they need lots of food and water during the months of June and July. They are building bloom stalks for next year and rhizomes are storing nutrients for the future. A generous application of fertilizers like 10-10-10 or 15-15-15, depending on your soil, is in order now. Water at least twice a week and pay attention in the hot times for soft rot. It can still happen when it is moist and hot, especially in overgrown clumps. Very early morning watering is the best. After July watering, let them go semi-dormant, and clean the diseased leaves so problems will not spread and bad bugs and snails will have no place to hide. Walking through the garden with a cup of coffee, listening to the birds nibbling on dew covered strawberries. What can be better? Ah, the beautiful and relaxing time of tending to the irises!



from Diana Ford - May 22

Blooming now and possible introductions for next year!







## 2022 SRIS Dates . . . . . . . . . .

Monday, June 13: Noon at LBA&GC - show awards as well as pictures from the April AIS National in Las Cruces, N.M.

Monday, July 11: Noon at LBA&GC - Even though we had a great show in May, we will discuss any suggestions or ideas you have to make our show even better for next year. While the show is fresh in your mind, do we need to clarify rules, modify the program, increase hours for setting up, change the length of the show, or need more help in certain areas of the show? Bring your ideas!!!

Monday, August 8: Noon at LBA&GC



Melanie Webster Kitty Loberg Jeff Davis



New SRIS members from our Spring Show:

Clara Brown

Denise Plummer

Lilianne Sleebos

Mary Wall

## SRIS member Nancy Fortner and Alan Salazar!





## **CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SHOW WINNERS!**

Best Of Show	Denise Plummer	But Darling	TB
First Runner-up Of Show	Cheryl Bryan	Night Crossing	PCI
Best Tall Bearded	Denise Plummer	But Darling	TB
Best Bearded Other Than Tall	Jan Wax	Cranapple	BB
Best Beardless	Cheryl Bryan	Night Crossing	PCI
Best Plicata or Emma Cook Pattern	Jeff Davis	Rings True	ТВ 🤏
Best Space Age	Marlene Horn	Bye, Bye Blues	TB
Best Bicolor, Bitone, or Reverse	Nancy Fortner	Deschutes	TB
Best Broken Color or Novelty	Anna Cadd	Downstream	TB
Best Historic	Kitty Loberg	Honorable	MTB
Best Seedling	Diana Ford	139MBM6	TB
Best Design Of Show	Jeff Davis	"Leprechaun's Gold"	1
AIS Silver Medal	Anna Cadd	. *	N.

Marlene Horn

#### BEST OF SHOW/ BEST TALL BEARDED:

AIS Bronze Medal

*But Darling -* Denise Plummer



## FIRST RUNNER-UP/ BEST BEARDLESS:

Night Crossing -Cheryl Bryan



All show pictures courtesy of Kitty Loberg and Anna Marie Hermansen



Horticulture judges, pictured from left to right:
Michaela (Mikey) Lango, Santa Clara
Carol Dahout, San Jose
Phyllis Wilburn, Rescue
Patricia Eisenberg, Reno, NV

Cindy Eastman, Auburn

Not pictured:

Apprentice: Mary Hanson, San Diego

Artistic Division Judge: Cheryl Feuerborn, Petaluma



More show news on pages 7 and 8

# **BEST ARTISTIC DESIGN:** *Leprechaun's Gold -* Jeff Davis



**BEST SEEDLING:** 139MBM6 - Diana Ford



## Keeping in Touch ......

#### Nancy Fortner, as of May 22



Nancy went in for surgery May 17 for a cancerous tumor that began in her sinus and extended under her eye. It was a 12 hour surgery with 3 surgeons, one being a neurosurgeon. There was reconstructive surgery using tissue from her thigh to replace tissue removed from her head. She will probably need to have radiation at some point.

#### Update from Linnea - May 27

Nancy is home from the hospital and Alan says she is doing well. She and Alan have gone today to Sacramento for a post-op checkup. She's eating only very simple things like oatmeal and pasta cut up into small bits. Nancy is still requesting no visitors nor phone calls, texts, messenger messages, but email is fine, because emails don't wake her up. Nancy would welcome emails or cards.

#### Rudy Ciuca, as of May 22

Rudy is recovering from a fall in the garden on May 6 while gathering flowers to use in his arrangements for our show the next day. He fell forward, without letting go of the flowers, injuring his face and neck. He finally decided to go to the doctor after the neck pain did not improve. You can call or send him a card.

#### Update from Rudy - May 27

Joe and I were getting things together for the SRIS Iris Show. Joe had the potted irises loaded in the car and I was getting my design arrangements ready to take to the Show.



I had five designs planned out and was ready to collect the irises that I needed for each one.

Class B "Me and My Friends" Class G "Leprechaun"





Class C "Iris - The Goddess of The Rainbow" Class D "Reaching for the Rainbow"

Class H "The End of the Rainbow"

I had collected the first three irises and was walking back to the transportation hold when the next thing I knew, I was flat on my face on the ground. Luckily, Joe

was close by and came to help me up. At that time I knew that I was not going to be able to make it to the show.

Class H "The End Of The Rainbow"

This is what I looked like the next morning.

Thank God for no spinal injures. I was put on two weeks of steroids. Still unable to sleep in bed. I have to sleep in a recliner.



### 

It has been 4 years since our last show. In the weeks leading up to this year's show I was worried about the late date and lack of rain. Bloom in my garden was well past peak and I scrambled, looking to find any acceptable stalks and hoping that other members would have enough entries to make up a good show. We had 5 judges confirmed, plus 1 judge for the Artistic Division and 1 apprentice judge who was driving all the way from San Diego. It was decided the club would sell 1 gallon pots of tall bearded iris both Saturday and Sunday. On Friday, Anna Cadd and Diana Ford brought 200 pots to the garden center that were spread out on the back patio. Anna also brought all the flowers for the decorations and arrangements that she would assemble that night for display.



Big thanks go to the set up crew on Friday of Anna Marie, Cheryl, Diana, Don, and Anna. All went well arranging the tables with a different layout from previous shows, with hopes that enough stalks would fill the room. As show chair, I knew I would not have the time to enter on Saturday morning. Both Anna and I would be entering in the Artistic Division as well as individual stalks. It was going to be a long night. Diana returned with around 30 seedlings to stage. Marlene Horn and Denise Plummer brought their stalks as well. It was after midnight when Diana finished, and Anna and I did not finish until almost 4:00 am. I would have to be back to open the garden center at 7:00 am.



It was gratifying (and a relief) to see everyone who brought in their iris on Saturday and to see all the tables fill up. The exhibitors were: Kitty Loberg, Steve Albert, Jan Wax and Chris Bing, Marlene Horn, Denise Plummer, Linnea Polo, Cheryl Bryan, Nancy Fortner, Anna Marie Hermansen, Diana Ford, Anna Cadd and myself. It was unfortunate that Joe Lawrence and Rudy Ciuca were unable to enter, as Rudy had fallen the night before. It was a beautiful sight to see such a nice display and the judges were impressed with the size of the show on such a late date. I had forgotten how much work and last minute rush it is to get the show ready for judging.

I heard during a judges training at the National Convention a couple of weeks before that judging should begin with seedlings. We had one of the largest number of seedlings for many years. Judges spent over an hour on just the seedlings. There is a new push to have AIS Judges also judge the Artistic Division, so all 6 judges listened to the Artistic Judge explain how the each entry was judged. The judges were then divided into 2 groups to judge the individual entries.

Amazingly, judging finished on time and 12 awards were given to 9 different people. Doors were opened to a nice crowd of people waiting and the show looked spectacular. Potted iris sales were excellent and 3/4 of the pots were sold during the day. A nice lunch was enjoyed by the judges and club members on the patio after judging was complete.

Sunday was Mother's Day and the show was well attended by the public. Diana brought another 70 pots to sell and there were very few pots left at the end of the day. This was an excellent show and all my worrying about such a late show was for naught. Thanks to all who helped to make this such a successful event. I am grateful that we have so many good iris people in our club.

Results from our May 2022 Show ...... by Kitty Loberg

Our 2022 show had 12 exhibitors, who entered a total of 138 entries. Our show hall was nicely filled with stalks and arrangements! By exhibitor, entries were as follows:

Anna C.	44	Linnea P.	4
Diana F.	29	Steve A.	3
Marlene H.	14	Nancy F.	3
Jeff D.	13	Denise P.	3
Kitty L.	11	Cheryl B.	3
Jan W.	9	AnnaMarie H.	2

Looking back to our show in 2018, we had 12 exhibitors and 149 entries, so our shows were very similar.

Our judges awarded 48 First place, 38 Second place, 16 Third place, and 6 Honorable Mention ribbons. Anna Cadd had the most horticultural blue ribbons, with Marlene Horn coming in second.

AIS Rosettes were given for Best Specimen of Section when the section had at least 3 exhibitors and at least 5 cultivars, and for Special Awards as selected by the Judges. Only our Tall Bearded Section had enough cultivars and exhibitors. In addition to the AIS Rosettes, 11 Santa Rosa Trophies and Plaques were awarded:

#### Rosettes, Medals and Trophies awarded in the Horticultural Division 1 were:

AIS Best Specimen Of Show AIS Best Tall Bearded Specimen	Luther Burbank Cup Santa Rosa Cup
First Runner-up Of Show Specimen Best Beardless	Redwood Empire Cup Morris Cup
Best Bearded Other Than Tall	Burbank Cup
Best Bicolor, Bitone or Reverse	Beth Jolly Memorial Cup
Best Plicata or Emma Cook Pattern	Emmons Cup
Best Space Age	Monty Byers Memorial Plaque
Best Historic	Beeman Memorial Cup
Best Broken Color or Novelty	Best Broken Color/Novelty Plaque
AIS Silver Medal - 11 cultivars in Division	ı 1
AIS Bronze Medal - 4 cultivars in Division	n 1
AIS Rosette, Special Award	Tall Bearded
AIS Rosette, Special Award	Tall Bearded
AIS Rosette, Special Award	Tall Bearded
AIS Rosette, Special Award	Tall Bearded
AIS Rosette, Special Award	Spuria
y AIS Rosette, Special Award	Arilbred
	AIS Best Tall Bearded Specimen First Runner-up Of Show Specimen Best Beardless Best Bearded Other Than Tall Best Bicolor, Bitone or Reverse Best Plicata or Emma Cook Pattern Best Space Age Best Historic Best Broken Color or Novelty  AIS Silver Medal - 11 cultivars in Division AIS Bronze Medal - 4 cultivars in Division AIS Rosette, Special Award

#### A Rosette and Trophy awarded in the Seedling Division 2 was:

Diana Ford Seedling 139MBM6 Best Seedling Peggy Burke Gray Cup Tall Bearded

#### Rosettes awarded in the Artistic Design Division 5 were:

Jeff Davis "Leprechaun's Gold" - Best Design Of Show

Anna Cadd Artistic Design Sweepstakes – Large Purple Rosette For Most Blue Ribbons

## Farm Day in North Carolina, by Alleah Haley

SRIS member Heather Haley and her husband Chris Broberg hosted about 40 guests at their second annual "Farm Day" on Saturday, May 14, 2022 at their rural *Broley Homestead* near Ramseur, North Carolina.

The property is 7.3 acres of a 30-year-abandoned tobacco farm that includes a small tractor barn, a toolshed, and a restored 100-year-old farmhouse. A tobacco-drying barn was found among the overgrowth about a year into their residence. Both Heather and Chris have demanding day jobs, so what they've been able to accomplish in their three years of residence is astounding. In addition to Heather's plot of about 900 bearded irises plus another hundred beardless irises, mostly in pots, Chris has planted a fruit orchard and tends a large vegetable garden.

Morning showers gave way to sunny breezes as visitors trekked past Chris's chicken house with beardless

irises planted in a nearby wash:

Chicken house "Taj Mahal," built by Chris. The adjacent chicken run is completely enclosed by the roof and wire that extends below ground to keep out predators from nearby woods.

Heather Haley photo.

North Carolina avian influenza precautions prevented folks from entering the chicken run to sit and pet the 15 hens of four different heirloom breeds and rooster "Brewster."



Hen that Chris named "Feather-footed Dinosaur" is a good mother to her three chicks. Heather Haley photo.

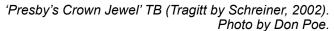
Chris with "Red" the chicken. Heather Haley photo.

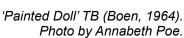




Most guests walked the 16 150-foot rows in the iris field, busily snapping pictures of their favorites.

Broley Homestead irises in full bloom. Heather Haley photo.







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Soon, the dinner bell was rung for a Mexican food luncheon featuring Chris' culinary skills, including pork and chicken tacos, homemade salsa, and unique Spanish rice. Several guests brought desserts and assorted beverages. Farm cat "Trouble", who showed up on the farm as a kitten and decided to stay, appeared for petting and tried to scrounge from the buffet, befitting his name.

"Trouble", the farm cat. Courtney Johnson photo.

Heather had made Alleah a Mother's Day flower arrangement the weekend before, using skills she learned during an Eastern North Carolina Iris Society hands-on program given by master arranger Don Myers at the farm in 2021.



Heather's Mother's Day arrangement for Alleah featuring irises 'Best and Brightest' TB, 'Lady of the Night' BB, and 'Raven Girl' TB. Heather Haley photo

Alleah admiring Dykes Medal winner during Farm Day.
Cindy Ivy photo.



Guests included friends and past and current coworkers of Chris and Heather and neighbors of Alleah. Heather's best friend from kindergarten, Brett Laugtug, flew in from California for the event. Another guest brought a corn hole game set-up, which sparked a rousing competition. Others lounged in chairs under the carport and just chatted. Most of the guests are young professional urban dwellers or students, so "Farm Day" at Broley Homestead provided them a near-unique experience.

**S**RIS Cherry Tree - RIP..... by Cheryl Bryan

In our SRIS Garden, the beautiful weeping cherry tree that supplied gentle shade to the thankful PCI's is doornail dead. Although we can temporarily drape a shade cloth

over its skeleton, it will eventually have to be replaced for the good of the Pacific irises underneath. There are other candidates but "Holodiscus discolor" appears a particularly good one to me.

Holodiscus is a California native, also called Oceanspray (or less elegantly, Creambush). It blooms from May to July with the long panicles of white tiny flowers which hold on the shrub as they gradually turn from white to russet-orange. Its water needs are very moderate and its stretch easily kept below 10 feet. Both flowers and leaves are lightly aromatic and host Swallowtail and Admiral butterflies. It is deciduous and hardy.



Some other possibilities are Kolkwitzia, Loropetalum, Leptospermum, or some small growing magnolia or crabapple. The qualities that we need are: hardy, tolerating full sun in Santa Rosa, moderate water need, deciduous, under 10 feet but more than 5 feet tall and wide, arching, and deep rooting.

## Results from the Spring Regional on April 30th in Union City

## The winners are...



Knopf Cup Best seedling by a Region 14 hybridizer 814D TB Bryce Williamson

> Clara B. Reese Cup Best past introduction by a Region 14 hybridizer 'Commedia Dell'Arte' TB Bryce Williamson 2022





Jim Gibson Cup Best plicata, fancy plicata, luminata, broken color, or visual plicata 'Serenade to Music' TB Bryce Williamson 2022

> Out of Region Best iris by a hybridizer not in Region 14 'Arctic Chill' TB Keith Keppel 2020





Hager-DuBose Cup Best bearded other than tall 'Shampoo' IB Virginia Messick 1975

> Melrose Cup Best beardless 'Cajun Sunrise' LA Joseph Mertzweiler 1993



Photos by Jeff Bennett and Mikey Lango

#### **Door Prize Drawing for June-**

Those of you who attend the June 13th meeting will select your iris there. Those of you who do not attend the meeting will have a choice of what remains. I will send out an email after the meeting to inform you of what irises are remaining to select. Please email me with your top 5 selections, in order of preference, by noon **June 20th**. If your choices have already been selected, a random item from the list will be substituted. Let me know if you would rather receive no prize than a substitution. If door prize rhizomes need to be mailed, you must be willing to pay the postage.

**ARCTIC CHILL** (Keppel/2020) 40" M; S. white with a slight cool blue cast; F. same w. faint warm tone toward center; B. light blue tipped cream, yellow in throat

BANANA BOAT (Dash/2020) 33" M; S. gold; F. sandy brown; B. orange

**BOUNDLESS BEAUTY** (Tasco/2019) 37" M; S. coral pink; F. pale silvery lavender center, wide band of cyclamen purple; B. burnt tangerine

**CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION** (Ford/2019) 35" E; S. white brushed with med. yellow at midribs and yellow veining; F. dark maroon with pale edge and dark wire, maroon lines and yellow flash around beards; B. yellow tipped orange

ENTHRALLED (Schreiner/2020) 31" L; S. yellow; F. violet with gold black; B. orange

EYES OF AN ANGEL (Johnson/2021) 35" L; S. pink; F. white with pink band; B. powder blue

FASHION EVENT (Keppel/2020) 38" M; S. violet; F. peach cream deeper at edge; B. coral tangerine

**GROUP HUG - IB** (Keppel/2021) 24" M; S. dark purple; F. white with dark prune-purple band, few dots and faint midline; B. pale yellow tipped brown in throat, middle white, ends dark blue.

**HEADLINE NEWS** (Johnson/2021)

HEADSHOT (Johnson/2020) 33" M; S. bright canary yellow; F. same with wide black cherry band; B. orange

HEAT OF THE MOMENT (Johnson/2020) 34" M; oxblood red self; B. orange

**LAVENDER BUTTER** (Sutton/2020) 36" M-L; S. soft canary yellow; F. soft violet with 1/2 pale yellow rim; B. pale lavender under yellow tips

**MY PRETTY** (Johnson/2021) 34" L; S ivory, blue cast, deep pink center spot; F. light blue-pink and ivory blend, deep pink thumbprint on hafts; B. orange in throat and middle, blue-white ends.

OFF THE SHOULDER (Schreiner/2019) 35", L; S. white; F. red-purple, white zonal spot and edges; B. blue

OLDIE GOLDIE (Schreiner/2020) 37" E; dusty gold self; B. orange gold

**POETRY IN BLOOM** (A. Cadd/2021) 42" VE; S. It. creamy yellow, darker at base, delicate light-brown lines; F. white base, reddish purple plicata, 3 distinctive dk. purple lines in center and small lines on falls, darker purple at end of falls, densely dotted between lines; B. white, tipped yellow

**RODEO COWBOY** (Johnson/2020) 36" E; S. yellow; F. rust red with light lemon edge and surrounded by a deeper yellow band; B. yellow-orange

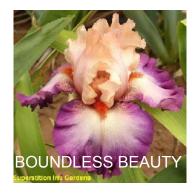
ROYAL ACADEMY (Keppel/2021) 39" M; S. fluorite violet; F. vatican purple; B. dk. concord

**SUPERCHARGED** (Ghio/2019) 33" LM; S. brassy gold; F. hot maroon-red w. tan-violet thin edge; B. brass

**TAPATIO** (Schreiner/2020) 30" M; darker orange bitone; B. red-orange.













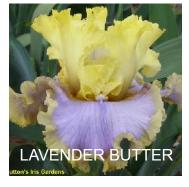


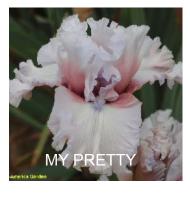




























**S**omething to Look Forward To......

**2022 Fall Regional : October 7 - 8: t**o be hosted by Leo T. Clark and Shasta Iris Societies - at the Doubletree by Hilton, Chico

**2023 Spring Regional, May 12 - 14:** hosted by Yosemite Iris Society in Oakhurst, CA visiting Kanarowski Gardens and Gonzalez Iris Garden, Ahwahnee, CA

AlS National 2023 Convention April 10 - 15 in Dallas, Texas

AIS National 2024 Convention June 17 - 22 in Portland, Oregon

#### From the World of Irises

The <u>World of Irises</u> AIS blog always has interesting iris topics and this month was no exception. Seedlings and Louisiana iris conservation have been featured this month.



- •The <u>Louisiana Iris Conservation Initiative</u> is preserving and restoring Louisiana iris to habitats where it once thrived. <u>It was a Challenging Year, but the Iris Bloom Made it all Worthwhile</u> by Gary Salathe is their latest chapter in the World of Irises.
- •<u>This N That</u> by Mel and Bailey Schiller is much more than that. It shows some of their reselect seedlings from their last season.
- <u>First Flowers From "Dark Rose with Gold Signal" Seeds</u> by Kathleen Sayce illustrates the range of irises from one cross. Kathleen started with seeds from the <u>SPCNI seed exchange</u>, another great reason to join <u>SPCNI!</u>

Thanks to the following people for contributions to the newsletter ...

Cheryl Bryan, Mikey Lango (CBRIS), Alleah Haley, Heather Haley, Kitty Loberg,
Diana Ford, Rudy Ciuca, Joe Lawrence, Nancy Fortner, Linnea Polo, and

Anna Cadd

July Newsletter Deadline - June 20th