



The Newsletter of

The Santa Rosa Iris Society

49th YEAR NUMBER 8

AUGUST 2023

Officers 2023:

President

Anna Cadd

Vice President

Diana Ford

Treasurer

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Secretary

Anna Marie Hermansen

Past President

Jeff Davis

Historian

Anna Cadd

Membership Secretary

Anna Cadd

Librarian

Need volunteer

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Anna Marie Hermansen

Assistant Editor

Kathy McCallum

Directors thru 12/24:

Linnea Polo

Steve Albert

Denise Plummer

Directors thru 12/23:

Betty Ford

Jeff Davis

Standing Committees:

Attendance

Diana Ford

Display Garden Chairmen

Jeff Davis

Iris Distribution Coordinator

Anna Marie Hermansen

Hospitality

Diana and Don Ford

LBAGC Representatives

Jeff Davis

Anna Cadd

Alternate - Need Volunteer

Photography

Need Volunteer

2023 Show Chairman

Jeff Davis

2023 Assistant Show Chairman

Need Volunteer

2023 Potted Iris Sale Chairman

Diana Ford

2023 Summer Rhizome Sales Chm.

Need Volunteer



August 14th - noon at LBA&GC

Please come and have fun socializing, eating,
and buying iris for a reasonable price.

Additional information on page 4.

August President's Message *Anna Cadd*

June and July are supposed to be easy in an iris gardener's life. But now we are starting to go and it will be busy. We will have our annual potluck/iris auction fundraiser at our regular meeting day, August 14. But first we need to dig the club irises and prepare them for door prizes distribution and auction. The dig and prep will be on Friday, August 11 starting at 8:00a.m. or maybe earlier, depending on the weather.

Our public rhizome fundraiser will be held on Saturday, September from 9:00a.m. to 3:00p.m. or until sold out. Prior to the sale, we will dig two big beds with different types of irises (SDB, IB, MTB, RE, SA, Historic irises, and Dykes Medal winners). This is a big undertaking and will take two days: Wednesday, August 30 and Thursday, August 31. We will clean and label the rhizomes to get them ready for the sale. Another task to be done before the sale will be making color picture labels for the rhizome bags. Please mark your calendar for all these dates. We need all the help available. This is our club, and our fundraising, but also days of camaraderie that are appreciated by all!

Gardening Tips for August by Anna Cadd



1. As I wrote about on several occasions, this is the time to dig and replant irises. Planting them in a timely manner is very important. In the “normal” year, planting them in August or early September would be ideal, as the rhizomes will have time to grow new roots and get established before the winter. But nothing is normal anymore with climate change. Last year I planted one bed of Arilbreds in early August, having dug them early for the Aril Society International Plant Sale, and replanted my rhizomes right away. In the hot days, even with constant watering, they were ‘cooking’ in the hot soil. The second bed of Arilbreds, planted late in September, grew very quickly and were better looking at the end of the year. So, maybe it would be a good idea to store them in laundry baskets, roots down, and plant them when it is cooler. But don’t wait too long – when you plant them in January or February, they will grow, but bloom will be unsatisfactory. The plants may be in shock, the rhizomes will be small, a lot of them may simply die and they may bloom like medians. If permanent space is not ready, some people put them in pots and then replant them later. I don’t do it, just not enough time. And don’t forget permanent name tags, as the signage on the leaves will be gone by December.
2. Watering bushes and trees doesn’t need to be done every day, but only 3-4 times a month. Simply put the end of the hose under the tree and let water trickle for an hour or two. You can get a “bubbler” on the end of your hose, or a deep watering stick. This is especially important for fruit trees now until harvest.
3. If you care for another bloom on your roses, fertilize them now with systemic rose fertilizer with fungicide and insecticide. This will give you a nice bloom in the fall, prevent the leaf fungus due to early morning fog, and will kill insects that suck juices from the leaves.
4. The annuals probably don’t look great now, after the heat waves and lack of rain. In Sonoma County you actually can plant annuals like pansy, petunias, snapdragons, vinca and begonias in fall and some of them will survive, giving you an early bloom in spring along with paper white narcissus. If you didn’t see my snapdragons this spring, you missed the show!
5. Harvest is just around the corner. There is already a nice zucchini overproduction. Soon the Gravenstein apples will be available. Tomatoes are getting ready and red, and cucumbers are also available. What about a nice salad for dinner? Please share the bounty with the less fortunate. There are always some neighbors without a garden, or overwhelmed with jobs, trying to make the payments. It is hard to imagine that there is hunger in God’s chosen spot on earth. A bright smile on the receiving side will repay you like being in heaven for the entire burden of sowing, watering and weeding.

Who is eating my tomatoes? The neighbor? Anna Cadd

If your tomatoes are losing leaves, look for huge green caterpillars with V-shaped markings on the body and a horn. They are *Manduca quinquemaculata*. Though very large (more than two inches long), these caterpillars are difficult to find, since they so closely resemble a tomato leaf. Given how quickly tomatoes grow, the damage they cause is pretty minor, until you have a major infestation. They can eat the leaves and fruit completely. To get rid of the caterpillars, use a bucket of soapy water. The adult moth is sometimes referred to as a "sphinx", "hawk", or "hummingbird" moth. It is a large, heavy-bodied moth with narrow front wings, a mottled gray-brown color with yellow spots on the sides of the abdomen and a wing spread of 4 to 5 inches.

The caterpillar reaches the final stage in 3-4 weeks and then drops off of the plants and burrows into the soil to pupate. During the summer months, moths will emerge from pupae in about 2 weeks, mate, and then begin to deposit the eggs of the next generation on tomato plants. By early fall, the pupae will remain in the soil all winter and emerge as a moth the following spring.

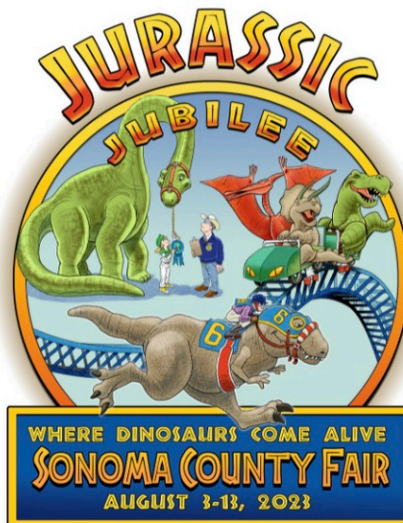




Heather
Paul
Ellen
Alleah

2023 SRIS Dates

- August 30 & 31 - digging/labeling rhizomes at LBA&GC for our upcoming sale
- Saturday, September 9: LBA&GC - Public Rhizome Fundraiser
- Monday, October 9: TBA
- Monday, November 13: Noon at LBA&GC - Holiday party/potluck
- Monday, December 11: Noon at LBA&GC - board meeting



New Member

Ellen Johnson - Healdsburg

1. Digging club irises on Friday, August 11



We will start digging and preparing the irises growing in the club iris bed. These are the irises which SRIS bought from hybridizers in 2022. They are the newest introductions, and also the irises which were selected from last year's planting. There are about 80 clumps to be dug, trimmed, cleaned and labeled. They will be auctioned following our picnic lunch. We saw pictures of them during the July meeting. For this event, we will need clippers, scissors, rags, brushes, markers, and paper bags. I will check in a couple of days what supplies we have left from last year and maybe we will buy markers. Anna Marie will separate out the door prizes people won, and if you are present, you can take them home. We will also select irises for replanting for 2024. Everybody is invited to come. The more people who come, the faster we will finish.

2. Potluck Picnic Luncheon on Monday, August 14

Come to LBA&GC around 11:00 AM to help set up tables for lunch and place rhizomes in alphabetical order for auction. If you have some irises to donate for the auction, please, bring them. These should be irises with a 2023, 2022 or 2021 introduction date. If you have some older (2020 – 2017) irises for the raffle, please bring them.



We will start eating at noon. The club will supply chickens (Cheryl will pick up 7 of them) and special pork roast made by our new member, Ellen. The club will also buy some rolls or bread, water, soda drinks, coffee, milk, and maybe lemonade. Please bring your own plates, utensils, and if you would like some wine, that is okay to bring.

This is a potluck, so please bring your favorite dish, salad or main dish. At previous potlucks, we have had many delicious and sometimes unusual dishes. Maybe a plate of seasonal vegetables or fruits. Your dish should serve about 8 - 10 people. There is a microwave, ovens and refrigerators available for us to use. I can't wait to try something new and delicious!

3. Auction of club irises and raffle

After lunch, we will auction irises. This is a special opportunity to obtain the newest and most beautiful irises for a fraction of the hybridizers' catalog price. This is one of the perks of belonging to Santa Rosa Iris Society. Not every club provides this important service to members. We, individually, can't afford to buy 10-20 irises every year for \$ 50.00 or more apiece. Here we can bring home a box, basket, or bag of wonderful new introductions for almost nothing. Please, come to the auction and bid on the irises. Next year in your garden will be a moment of wonder and for minutes, you will forget all the work and problems, when with pride, you will admire a just opened flower and smile!



4. Please attend the digging of club irises on August 11 and Potluck/Auction on August 14.

Keeping In Touch:

From Alleah Haley, Asheboro, North Carolina - July 19

I've been missing my Northern California iris friends, so Keren, Heather and I will be coming to the SRIS Potluck/Iris Auction on August 14th to visit you all and, hopefully, take home some new irises. I live in Asheboro in central North Carolina now, about 15 miles from where Heather and her husband Chris Broberg have their seven-acre commercial Broley Homestead iris farm. Despite commuting to demanding full-time jobs, they now grow over 1000 varieties of bearded irises, about 100 beardless irises, a huge vegetable garden, a fledgling orchard, as well as having chickens and bees on their farm. I help out where I can, especially at farmers' market sales and making plant tags.

Please come to the August lunch and iris auction/raffle. I'd love to see you all and introduce you to my daughters, Keren and Heather. If you didn't meet Heather, my youngest, before, she is a 3rd-generation irisarian (my mother was RVP of AIS Region 23 - New Mexico in the 1960's and had a small iris nursery), and is the newest member of the AIS Board of Directors.

From Anna Cadd, Healdsburg - July 21

As I write this message, it is hard to imagine that it has been two months since I fell in the garden and broke my hip. How time has passed! I remember lying helplessly in bed for 10 days, then slowly moving around the house doing my chores. For a week now, I have been trying to do some garden work, using a walker or cane, but slowly making progress cleaning the iris beds. It will take time to be a "spring chicken" again!

Award winners from our show receiving their plaques at our last meeting.



Anna Cadd



Linnea Polo



Cheryl Bryan



Marlene Horn

Companion Plants in a Summer Garden ... by Anna Cadd

Agapanthus - The Lily-of-the-Nile

We forget that most of the world can't grow Agapanthus, this floral fireworks in your garden. It is so happy in California that it is considered a native plant, but it is really from South Africa. The gardener needs to admire its versatility. We can plant it any time of the year. It can grow in full sun or the shade and thrive with regular irrigation or with no water at all. Agapanthus are extremely drought resistant. They will survive our winters. They don't need any care. They also like to grow in containers.

After planting, from the thick, almost bulb like roots new, white, thick roots will soon appear along with new, solid green leaves. They look vibrant all the year around.

The flowers resemble a purple, blue, white or deep purple fireworks show. The stems often rise a few feet above the leaves and the flowers starburst above the sea of green. Does the light blue flowering and most common "*Queen Anne*" make you bored? If so, add to your garden collection the white flowering *Agapanthus africanus* "*Alba*" or the dark purple variety, *Agapanthus orientalis* "*Storm Cloud*." And what about the tiny dwarf variety, "*Peter Pan*?" When you plant them together, they make an outstanding effect and each one stands distinctly from the others. The large seed pods are also very nice in big floral arrangements.

In our world of uncertainty, it is comforting to know that at least one plant is going to look good in the garden, flower well, and accept whatever doses of love we can give it.



Marigolds – Lunacy variety can make you mad with happiness!

Marigolds provide versatile orange colors in the garden. You need to be brave to plant them in masses. But try this relatively new hybrid, Lunacy, and you will be thrilled that it retains the old, reliable qualities gardeners appreciate. They are rugged and flower with abandon on shin-high compact plants. They keep nematodes off tomato roots. They love summer sun and they are low maintenance. If you feed the flowers to the chickens, you will get the most impossibly golden yolks. These marigolds have double bloom, peony style flowers with frilly petals and a very bright orange color. And they will thrill you into autumn, like seeing huge full moons hanging low in your garden among the butterscotch rudbeckias, russet hued nandina, gold ginkgo and red liquid amber.



continued on next page

Daylily – the Queen in the Garden

Daylilies are garden work horses, blooming non-stop even during heat waves, giving the garden a lot of color. And they are yummy edible! While the ancient Chinese ate the daylily crown and roots to treat liver disorders, we now prefer the buds and flowers. Daylily blooms perched on the top of a cake are elegant. Try a daylily stuffed with goat cheese or have them mild and crunchy with a hint of celery. Surprisingly delicious!

The daylilies' botanical name, *Hemerocallis*, comes from the combination of two Greek words for “day” and “beauty.” Daylily flowers are open only for a single day, but their multiple flower stalks are loaded with buds, so the overall show continues for weeks. They are a perfect perennial, because they bloom repeatedly despite drought, shade, heat or poor soil. They are evergreen, and even if they will sometimes freeze in our winter, they will almost certainly recover. During a very cold winter, cover them with mulch. They have relatively few pests and disease problems and they only ask for at least five hours of sun a day. For best bloom give them regular and deep watering and slow release fertilizer.

There are more than 50 thousand varieties with more being added every year. Modern versions are bold with complex colors, including ones with starkly contrasting edges. They also range in form, from thin and spider-like to voluptuous with serious ruffles. A small division of a new introduction can cost from \$ 250.00 to \$ 300.00! Ouch!



Something to Look Forward To.....

2023 Fall Regional, October 13 - 14:

Hosted by the Monterey Bay Iris Society in Aptos

There will be a reblooming show

Joe Ghio from Bay View Gardens will be the speaker

2024 AIS National Convention, June 26 - 29: Portland, Oregon

Convention Hotel: Holiday Inn Portland - Columbia Riverfront

Hosted by the Greater Portland Iris Society

2025 AIS National Convention, June 2 - 7: Billings, Montana



Minutes: Meeting - July 10th Anna Marie Hermansen

Members in attendance: Anna Cadd, Kitty Loberg, Jeff Davis, Steve Albert, Paul Barthlome, Linnea Polo, Cheryl Bryan, Denise Plummer, Marlene Horn, Anna Marie Hermansen and guest, Ellen Johnson.



The meeting was called to order at 12:10 p.m. with welcoming members and guest, Ellen Johnson. Minutes from June were approved. Treasurer's report was given by Kitty. She said we need to establish a budget for the 2025 regional to advance expenses, such as garden stakes, can be paid. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to put aside a budget of \$5,000. A motion was also made and passed to give Kitty the authority to sign any contracts that may arise for the 2025 regional. A discussion occurred about the status of garden stakes and whether we should just purchase new ones, which could be used later for our own center garden, rather than track down stakes from a prior regional. The number of guest iris to accept was discussed as well as possible speakers for the banquet dinner. Of the possible names presented for our 2025 regional, it was decided we would use the title "Irises, Redwoods, and Wines."

Anna did a short presentation of pictures from our show. The pictures included preparation, iris displays, artistic entries, seedlings, award winners, and the close of the show. As a surprise, Anna also showed pictures from the Ukrainian Iris Society show, the botanical gardens of Liev University, and hybridizer Igor Khorosh.

We had a discussion about the potluck picnic and auction that will be on our next meeting date, August 14. Pictures of the iris up for auction were shown. For the picnic, it was decided we would have Costco chickens purchased by the club. Cheryl will do that. Ellen Johnson volunteered to bring pulled pork roast for sandwiches. People should come by 11a.m. and help set up. We plan to eat at noon.

Digging the club auction iris will occur on Friday, August 11th at 8 a.m. Some of the iris will be replanted for next year. Digging for the public event in September will be August 30 and/or August 31. It was asked if people could be reimbursed for paying someone to help dig their iris for our sales. That type of assistance is already an approved budget item.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

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

Alleah Haley and Anna Cadd

September Newsletter Deadline - August 20th



Iris by the Sea

American Iris Society Region 14—2023 Fall Regional
Hosted by Monterey Bay Iris Society
October 13th–14th, 2023

Guest speaker—Joe Ghio from Bay View Gardens



Registration form for Monterey Bay Iris Society Fall Regional

Aptos Grange 2555 Mar Vista Dr, Aptos, CA 95003

Registrant 1 First name: _____ Last name _____

Registrant 2 First name: _____ Last name _____

Address _____ City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Cell Phone _____ Telephone _____

email to receive confirmation _____

Local Iris Society _____

Registration fee if paid before October 4th, 2023—\$95 number of person/s _____ Total \$ _____

if paid after October 5th—\$110 number of person/s _____ Total \$ _____

No Credit cards accepted. Please make check payable to Monterey Bay Iris Society.

Registrations received after October 10th, 2023 will be accepted at the discretion of the Registrar.

Total Amount (Please enter this amount on the check) **TOTAL \$ _____**

Please send this registration to Brenda Wood, Registrar
516 San Miguel Canyon Rd, Royal Oaks, CA 95076
831-818-4515 or email: woodbrenda@aol.com

Hotel recommendation: Rio Sands Hotel, 116 Aptos Beach Dr, Rio Del Mar, Aptos. 831 688-3207. Contact person is Maggie. They are offering a 20% discount and with that the rate will be \$429.83 for the 2 nights and includes tax. Their discounted Thursday night rate is \$143, plus tax; Friday and Saturday rate is \$231, plus tax.

You can also do AirBNB. Gather a group and book a house!