



The Newsletter of

The Santa Rosa Iris Society

50th YEAR NUMBER 7

JULY 2024

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Alternate - Need Volunteer

2024 Show Chairman Denise Plummer

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2024 Potted Iris Sale Chairman

Diana Ford

2024 Summer Rhizome Sales Chm.

Need Volunteer



July 8 - noon at LBA&GC -

We will have a program given by the 8 SRIS members who attended the AIS Convention in Portland that was held June 25-29. This was a beardless iris convention with 5 gardens that bloom Japanese, Siberians, Spurias, and Pseudatas. This unique convention is probably the first time there will be no tall bearded irises in bloom.

President's Message - from Anna Cadd

Sometimes life is not so easy. We are getting more and more letters that someone just passed away, or that someone's home burned down or that someone's kid overdosed...The news from around the world doesn't sound very happy also. When there is an uplifting article in the newsletter, we tend to read it more than once and share with friends. I would like to share the a small poem, full of truth about life...

"Dust off, if you need it, wash windows on Saturday and sweep carpets.

Try to plan, fix, ensure and fulfill all expectations.

But remember, you get old and one day many things won't be as easy to do as they are now. And if you leave, because we all leave one day, no one will care how much dust you vacuumed, how many windows you washed and how many bills you paid.

Even your own house.

Others will only remember your friendship, your joy, your love and what you taught them...

Therefore live your life, make the most of it and enjoy every little moment of joy..."

~ Carmen Herzengel, Lejdis in the World

Keeping In Touch:

From Anna Cadd, Healdsburg - June 21

In three days eight members of SRIS - Kitty, Steve, Anna, Jeff, Lynn, Alleah, Heather and Suzie) will travel to Portland, Oregon for the National AIS Convention 2024. This will be an unusual AIS Convention, with less than 200 AIS members attending, but it will be Beardless Iris Convention with Japanese, Siberian, Spuria and Pseudata irises in full bloom. We will visit 5 of the most beautiful iris gardens in the whole world and this is the event which we will remember to the end of our lives. Future is unpredictable in this stage of our lives, so, I can't wait to go....This reminds me the words of my favorite poet, Maya Angelou:

"Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away".

I am waiting for these moments in Oregon and Washington to take my breath away!

Gardening Tips for July.....



1. July is the month when we think that it will be easy to rest in the garden, but it is not the case. Weed control is a must, then watering the irises, as they still grow the rhizomes for the next year's bloom. I still planted heirloom overgrown and stressed tomatoes, given to me for free, with the hope that they will give me some fruit before winter. I am cutting Spuria irises half way, and cutting the tips of bearded irises, while I am cleaning the bottoms of the plants from old, dry leaves. Flowers of roses and perennials need to be cut also to ensure a later bloom. Pain is the constant and unwelcomed companion!
2. It is always good to learn from different sources. On Saturday, June 8, 2024 The Press Democrat published the article in Section B – “How to win war on weeds”. The conclusion was to just pull the weeds when they are small and work in your garden all your time...

But they printed useful links to different garden problems and solutions. Here they are:

- a. The first step is identifying your weeds because the best method for controlling them varies by type. Here's a link to the most common weeds in Sonoma County: bit.ly/3uqmGBG
 - b. This link will help you identify additional weeds: bit.ly/3KfBh7f
 - c. Using the following link, you can access Pest Notes for individual weeds: bit.ly/3yA7YcZ
 - d. Pest Notes give specific recommendations for removal and control, starting with the safest methods in keeping with the principles of Integrated Pest Management: bit.ly/490guOZ
3. In the middle of the month please check your irises, and if you have newest and good varieties – please, make yourself the list. Please, consider donating them to SRIS Raffles as the fundraising for the club. It is always good to share.

And if you find some free time, enjoy the beauty of the garden, eat some fresh peaches from the tree and count your blessing to live here, in Sonoma Country, the “chosen spot on Earth”....

4.

Straight from the garden! By Kitty Loberg

Most of what I write about today, are irises with very large flowers, or different from the rest. When you get huge flowers, it just astonishes you, and you want them to stay like that forever! These pictures I took in my garden.



On the left, **Diabo Rojo (Schreiner 2021)** has such a rich burgundy purple color, it looks like velvet, and the size is perhaps the largest iris I had this year. On the right, another large bloom, **Baltimore (Keppel 2017)**. This one I had read was large, and I recommended the club buy it in 2021, and decided not to wait, and ordered it myself. I'm glad I did.



This amoena **Dancing Star (Johnson 2009)** I've had for several years. Falls ink blue-black with a bold white sunburst, It makes a showy display in a clump. One of it's parents is the Wister 2007 medal winner Starring, which tells us how it got it's dark near black color in the falls. On the right, **Cherries and Cream (Blyth 2017)**, every flower has these very wide and large falls, and is growing right next to my Blackberry Torte so they compliment each other!



Left, **Deeper Meaning (Johnson 2017)** I've had a few years. An outstanding amoena iris, I'm really fond of these amoena's with dark, wide falls. The stalks are held above the foliage, wide deep colored falls with a little light lavender rim. On the right, a flat form iris **Scaredey Cat (Schreiner 2020)** and it does tend to look like a Japanese iris! For those who like 'flatties', this is one to get.



Here's a very different iris with different rim colors for the standards vs. the falls. **Reach The Stars (Johnson 2021)** also looks nice in a clump. There was an iris 'In The Loop (2014)' like this previously where the rim colors were lighter... this new iris has distinctly darker rims. On the right, **Powder Keg (Miller 2020)** has a vibrant dark orange beard which I like. Linda Miller put out a similar iris Scattergram in 2021, but I think the beards make Powder Keg more attractive!

Iris Ensata Fun Facts from Anna Cadd^[L]_[SEP]

Iris Ensata is known for its graceful foliage, large blooms of many colors, and sometimes bold patterns. The plant generally grows 36" to 42" tall with some as small as 18" and others reaching over 5' tall. Blooms can be 3" across to more than 10". Flower forms can be single 3 falls, double 6 falls, or multi with 9+ falls. There are also flower forms where the bloom can be found as a true double, hose-n-hose, with one bloom inside of another and others that do not open but remain as a bud for their life. All of these differences have been bred from a single species over hundreds of years. Here are a few photos of some of the many different flower forms that can be found with Iris Ensata. Join us in Portland Oregon for the Convention 'NEW HORIZONS' and discover for yourself the magical world of Iris Ensata.

<https://socji.org/events/>



Carol Johnson, 3 falls



Geishunka, 6 Falls



Mangetsu no koi , 9 Falls



Hakuryu no tsume, Closed Bud form



Yae Katsumi Hose-n-Hose



Mass Planting in the Garden

Behind the background of older irises by Kitty Loberg

I'm writing about a historic iris and how the background of an iris can be challenging to try to figure out. Marlene Horn wrote to me about this iris, and it's made me think it's worth writing about.

Clarence G. White, of Redlands, Calif., was an acclaimed hybridizer in the early part of this century. Mr. White won the AIS Hybridizer Award in 1944. One of his many introductions, Butterfly Wings, is listed as a tall bearded. To many of us, the iris has the look of an arilbred iris. In the year it was introduced, 1945, there was no arilbred category in A.I.S., and so he registered it as a TMB, or Tall Miscellaneous Bearded. On the AIS website, there is a note " *This iris has not been accepted as an arilbred by the Aril Society International because it does not exhibit the aril characteristics necessary for ASI acceptance.*"

A tall bearded iris, Sacramento, introduced earlier in 1929, is in the parentage lineage on both sides of the cross which produced Butterfly Wings. It has incurved standards and is a plicata, so one may see enough resemblance to perhaps think Butterfly Wings is simply a tall bearded. Butterfly Wings lacks the tradition signal of most arilbreds.

60 years later, another iris, Bewildered Blue Butterfly was introduced and registered (2010) as an arilbred. The only known iris in its parentage is Butterfly Wings. It too has no signal, and looks very much like its parent Butterfly Wings, with just a little more shading of blue in its standards. Marlene exhibited this iris in our show last year.



Butterfly Wings 1945



Sacramento TB 1929



Bewildered Blue Butterfly AB 2010

I also want to thank Anna Cadd who has provided me more information about this iris including excerpts from earlier commercial catalogs and the HIPS website which talk about its arilbred characteristics. The A.I.S. handbook for Judges indicates today, that "Arilbreds must exhibit at least two aril flower characteristics.". Considering there are some 50 different species of the *Oncocyclus aril* and many of the *Regelia aril*, there is a large range of flower colors, patterns, and shapes. Additionally, a lot of the earlier Miniature Tall Bearded irises also had the incurve standards and you might think they have arilbred in their heritage... but they don't, their heritage is from *I. aphylla*, *I. variegata* and others.

In conclusion, on this specific Tall Miscellaneous Bearded, as Anna has told me, " We will never know what is correct. " I agree.

Something to Look Forward To.....



2024 Fall Regional - Region 14: October 11 - 12 : Fresno

Hosted by Region 14 with affiliate clubs of FIS, YIS, and JMGIS assisting. Reblooming show on Friday; guest speaker will be Delane Langton, of Eagle Ridge Iris Garden in Billings, Montana. He is co-chair of the 2025 National Convention. He specializes in reblooming iris and has a guest garden for the national convention. If you have any questions about the Fall Regional, please contact Carolyn Hoover, yischoover@gmailcom

2025 Spring Regional - Region 14: May 2 - 4 : Santa Rosa

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

2026 AIS National Convention: New Jersey and New York

July Iris distribution:

Whatever irises remain after the meeting will be up for grabs to the people who did not attend. I will send out an email after the meeting with the remaining choices. If interested, please email me your choices in order of priority. Not all irises selected might survive until the dig, so please be aware that you may not receive what you requested. **This is the last of the door prizes offered for this year.**

ABSOLUTE PERFECTION - IB (Black, 2023)

ALL SYSTEMS GO (VanLiere, 2023)

ALPENGLOW PEAKS (VanLiere, 2022)

BROKEN BORDER - BB (Tyson, 2016)

BABY CHARGER - SDB (Schreiner, 2022)

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE (Keppel, 2022)

CINEMAGIC - SDB (Black, 2023)

DEMURE PRINCESS - SDB (Black, 2023)

ELRON'S CLOAK - SDB (Morgan, 2023)

EMBELLISHED (Keppel, 2023)

HEY Y'ALL - SDB (Sutton, 2023)

IMMACULATE HEART (Keppel, 2022)

LAST OF THE WINE - BB (Black, 2022)

LOVELY LIVVY (Johnson, 2023)

NAKED BEAUTY (Johnson, 2023)

ON A BREAK - IB (Tyson, 2021)

ON THE PODIUM (Blyth, 2023)

OWYHEE OPAL - MDB (Schreiner, 2022)

PEACH DREAMS (Ford, 2022)

POLITELY PINK (Black, 2022)

RED CLIFFS (Sutton, 2022)

SIERRA FIRE FROM HEAVEN (Kerr, 2022)

SOFTLY SINGING - MTB (Markham, 2020)

SUPERSTITIOUS - IB (Johnson, 2023)

THINK TWICE (Edwards, 2022)

Sorry, but no pictures this month.

Minutes: Meeting - June 10, noon Diana Ford

Meeting attendees: Anna Cadd, Jeff Davis, Diana ford, Kitty Loberg, Sue Duffield, Marlene Horn, Steve Albert, Paul Barthlome, Ellen Johnson, Linnea Polo, Cheryl Bryan, Pam Whiting, Kathy McCallum, and Anna Marie Hermansen



Correction to last month's minutes:

Kitty Loberg showed Power Point Presentation about Spring Regional Region 14 in Auburn. At the Spring Regional Convention in Auburn, Anna Cadd won the Gibson Cup for Best Plicata for her iris, "Poetry in Bloom".

Anna Cadd won the David Niswonger Perpetual Trophy for Best Spuria Iris as seen in the Convention Garden, for her iris, "Nebula Wind" (2022) during the Spuria Iris Convention in Dallas, Texas.

Minutes - June 10, 2024

There was a delicious pot luck followed by a talk and program by Jeff Bennett. Jeff spoke about the Biochar grant and project the East Bay park system is participating in. This will process many of the trees lost in the drought in a more sustainable and positive way. Lots of questions and information exchanged in this segment.

The program included a historical perspective on the Union City park. It started with information about the native tribes and the Ohlone Village, continued through to the three sisters who donated the land to the park system in 1975, and finally to present day and dealing with flood damage. This was a wonderful presentation with many photos and interesting gardening perspective. (Our favorite perspective.)

At the meeting, we discussed corrections to the minutes and when to do our digs. The treasurers report was read and approved.

Agreed to the budget for 50th Anniversary celebration, more details to discuss next month.

The club iris dig for the picnic, auction and door prizes will be August 5 at 8:00am. If this is too early for you, come when you are able. It should be finished between 11 and noon. The picnic and auction will be August 12. Come help with setup at 10:00, eat at noon. Bring a dish to share and the club will provide the main dish.

Rhizome sale is Saturday September 7, with setup Friday the 6th at 2:00pm. More details next month. We will revisit printing labels.

Our 50th Anniversary celebration will be Saturday, September 21. More details to come.

Thank you to the following people for contributions to the newsletter Kitty Loberg and Anna Cadd

AUGUST Newsletter Deadline, July 20th



Region 14

2024 Fall Regional October 11-12-13, 2024

'A Fall Harvest of Colors'

Hosted by Region 14

Guest Speaker

Delane Langton, Co-Chair of the 2025 AIS National Convention,

Eagle Ridge Iris Garden, Billings, MT

Conference Room of the Redeemer Lutheran Church, Fresno, CA

1084 W. Bullard, Fresno, CA 93711

Lodging in your choice at hotels or Air B & Bs in the greater Fresno area.

Registration includes a full lunch on Saturday, and during the meeting Saturday morning there will be a light breakfast served consisting of coffee, tea, juice and light pastries on Sat and Sunday mornings. In garden tour and 1 hr. garden training at Bee Haven Iris Garden, Coarsegold on Sun. 10/13 @ 10:30 AM/

Registrant 1 First Name _____ Last Name _____

Registrant 2 First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____ City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail for confirmation _____

Local Iris Society _____

Registration if paid by September 7th, 2024, \$75 per person x person (s) Total \$ _____

If paid after September 7th, 2024 \$80 per person x person(s) Total \$ _____

Make checks payable to: Region 14 & mail to Registrar:

Joan Earnest, 40755 Griffin Dr. Oakhurst, CA 93644. (559)760-9873 bjearnest93644@yahoo.com