

THE BULLETIN

Region 14

Summer 2013

American Iris Society



AIS Region 14



Hawaii
Nevada
Northern California

The Bulletin of Region 14 The American Iris Society

Volume LVII, Number 2, Summer 2013

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Cover Photo

Marilyn Boro at Mary Ann Horton's garden, Roseville, CA
Photo by Mikey Lango

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Editorial Matters

Editorial submissions and inquiries should be directed to the Editor. Deadlines for submissions are February 1st (Spring issue), May 1st (Summer issue), August 1st (Fall issue) and November 1st (Winter Issue). Rights to all submissions will be treated as unconditionally assigned for publication and copyright purposes, and as subject to the Editor's unrestricted right to edit and comment editorially. Submit text materials via email as an unformatted text file in a standard font. Submit images via email with a minimum resolution of 300 dpi.

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The Bulletin is published online in March, June, September and December by the American Iris Society's Region 14, a nonprofit mutual benefit corporation whose sole purpose is promoting the culture and improvement of the genus *Iris*.

Subscriptions

The Bulletin is distributed electronically, without charge, through the societies of AIS Region 14, and is posted on the website of AIS Region 14. Anyone may request a printed copy of the Bulletin through a AIS Region 14 society or its members.

Advertisements

Iris growers and suppliers of gardening-related goods and services are welcome to advertise in the Bulletin and the Region's website, www.aisregion14.org. For current information on rates for directory listings and display advertisements, contact the Editor/Advertising Manager. Fees for advertisements should be payable to AIS Region 14 and sent to the Treasurer.

Editor's Notes

The conversion of the Region 14 Bulletin to a digital publication avoids previous costs of about \$5,000 per year for printing and mailing. The digital version also allows quarterly publication and unlimited use of color at no additional cost.

Interested persons now can access the Bulletin on the Internet. AIS members who do not use computers and the Internet can receive the Bulletin with help of their local iris society. Region 14 will defray local iris society costs for providing paper copies of the Bulletin to their local AIS members (see the meeting minutes elsewhere in this Bulletin).

As an online publication, the Bulletin also is freely accessible by interested persons. This openness could encourage some to appreciate the genus iris, and perhaps to join the AIS or an affiliated society.

We have the Region's approval to include garden-related advertising in the Bulletin, but we need an advertising manager to make it happen. Someone could enjoy this way to participate in the Bulletin and support the Region. If you are interested, let me know (tom@karwin.com) and we'll work it out.

We welcome your articles and photos for each issue of the Bulletin. Our deadlines are February 1st, May 1st, August 1st, and November 1st (these are one month before each quarterly publication date). E-mail written material to tom@karwin.com in a text file, e.g., Microsoft Word, not in an Acrobat file. Send photos to Ann Pike (baynews@baymoon.com) in a standard graphic format such as .jpg, .png or .tif. Include the name of the photographer, name of people shown and a brief description of what's going on in the body of the email. Replace automatic filenames with a short descriptive name.

Finally, I have asked RVP Pesek to request review of the AIS policy that limits our ability to recognize young people in the Bulletin.

Present policy: "AIS policy prohibits the posting on the Internet of photos of youth identified in any way, such as by name, region, or club affiliation. The publication of photos of youth, identified or not, is permitted in AIS and related publications whose distribution is limited primarily to AIS members."

Suggested rewrite: "AIS policy requires written permission by the parent or guardian of a youth prior to the publication or posting on the Internet of photos of youth identified in any way, such as by name, contact information, region, or club affiliation. The editor of the publication or Internet site is responsible for securing and appropriately filing that permission."

There are pros and cons for this change. Your questions and comments are welcome.

Tom Karwin

Region 14 Executive Committee 2012

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The RVP's Garden

WOW!! What a wonderful Spring Regional that the Sacramento Iris Society held. It was terrific in all phases from a full registration packet to the last sage word from Fred Kerr. I am proud to have attended our 2013 Spring Regional. The weather was great as were Mary Ann Horton and Ruth Ostroff's gardens. The picnic lunch at Mary Anne's was relaxing and everyone enjoyed the dinner and conviviality at Cattlemen's.

On a sad note, Margaret Sutton passed away after a long illness. You can read about her dedicated life to Christ, George, music and iris elsewhere in this bulletin.

Notes from the AIS Convention in Dallas, Texas:

You know how Texans brag that everything is bigger and better in Texas. Well that isn't so when it comes to iris. We grow them bigger and finer in Region 14 as demonstrated by the awards our region's hybridizers won.

The weather did not cooperate as it changed daily, from cold to mild and windy to slightly less windy and back and forth.

At the Awards Dinner for irises seen at the convention, Region 14 won top honors in two of the three categories. (We were not eligible for the President's Cup for in region irises.)

The Cook Cup—out of region favorite

- 1st 'Double Platinum' by Joe Ghio,
- 2nd 'Bottle Rocket' by Michael Sutton,
- 3rd 'Bohemia After Dark' by Fred Kerr.

The Hagar Cup—median favorite

- 1st 'Boy Genius' by Joe Ghio,
- 2nd 'Birds And Bees' by Paul Black,
- 3rd 'Holiday In Mexico' by Riley Probst.

The AIS 2012 Garden Awards were also presented at the Awards Dinner:

The Williamson-White Medal—best MTB

'Plum Quirky' by Riley Probst,

The John C. Wister Medal—best TB

'Kathy Chilton' by Fred Kerr.

NOW it is time to order new irises for your garden. Soon it will be time to dig, divide, sweat, improve the soil, and finally plant our newly acquired irises.

john pesek

Regional Meeting Plans

The Clara B. Rees Iris Society will host the 2013 Fall Regional meeting, to be held in Los Gatos on Friday, October 18th and Saturday, October 19th. The meeting's theme will be "Fall into Iris." Riley Probst will be the guest speaker. The registration form and meeting schedule will be included in the fall issue of the Bulletin (September 1st, 2013), and will be posted on the AIS-14 website.

The Santa Rosa Iris Society will host the 2014 Spring Regional meeting, to be held in Santa Rosa from Friday, May 2nd to Sunday May 4th. Details will be included in the spring issue of the Bulletin (March 1st, 2014) and on the AIS-14 website.

The High Desert Iris Society will host the 2014 Fall Regional meeting. See the fall issue of the Bulletin (September 1st, 2014) for all the information.

The Yosemite Iris Society will host the 2015 Spring Regional. See the spring issue of the Bulletin (March 1st, 2015) and the AIS-14 website.

Erratum

The initial version of this Bulletin inadvertently omitted mention of the award of the Clarence G. White Medal for 2012 to Rick Tasco, of [Superstition Iris Gardens](#). The AIS awards this medal each year to recognize the best arilbred iris with half or more aril ancestry.

We regret the omission of this prestigious award to a hybridizer in AIS Region 14.

Wayland (Pete) Rudkin won the Mary Swords DeBaillon Award (LA) for 'Ginny's Choice'.



Anna Cadd & spuria SPUxxx winner of best seedling show

L. Figueroa

In Memoriam

Region 14 of the American Iris Society recently lost two highly valued members: Margaret and George Sutton.

Margaret Sutton was known for her musical talents, including perfect pitch and an emotive quality to her performances. She served as organist for St. John's Episcopal Church in Tulare for more than twenty years. She also taught elementary band music in the Ukiah Unified School District for many years.

Margaret passed on April 23, 2013, after a lengthy illness, at the age of 78.

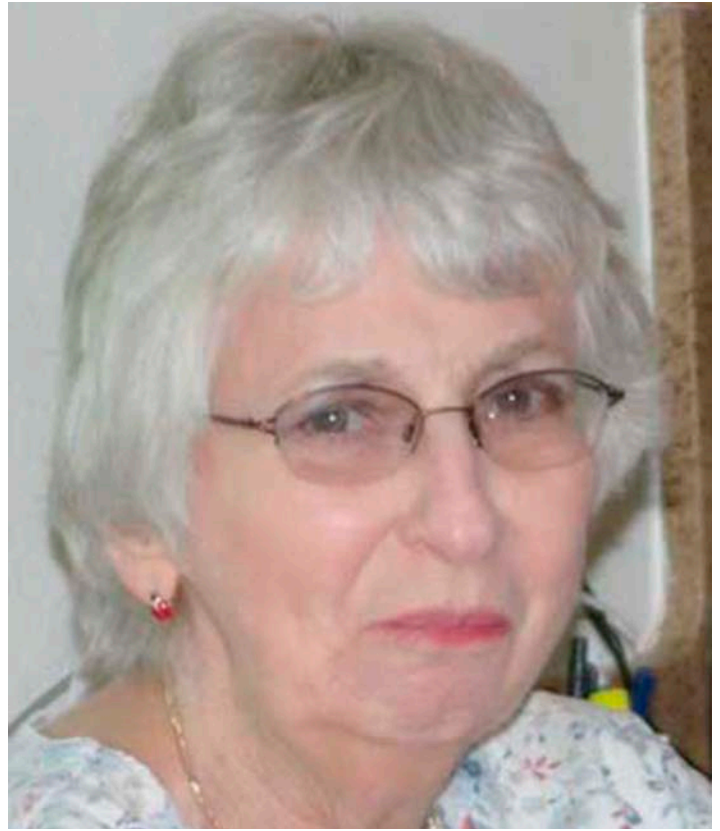
George Sutton passed on May 29, 2013, also after a lengthy illness, at the age of 80.

Margaret and her husband George established Sutton's Iris Gardens in Porterville, through which they provided exceptional irises and gained countless friends throughout the world. They also participated in creating the Porterville Iris Festival, which has become the signature event for that community.

Jeanne and Bob Plank expressed feelings that are shared by many friends of the Suttons: "Losing two such vibrant and creative individuals within a little more than a month's time is a difficult loss to assimilate. We are grateful for having been able to call them friends, and their unmatched vitality will remain in a vivid and happy place in our memories."

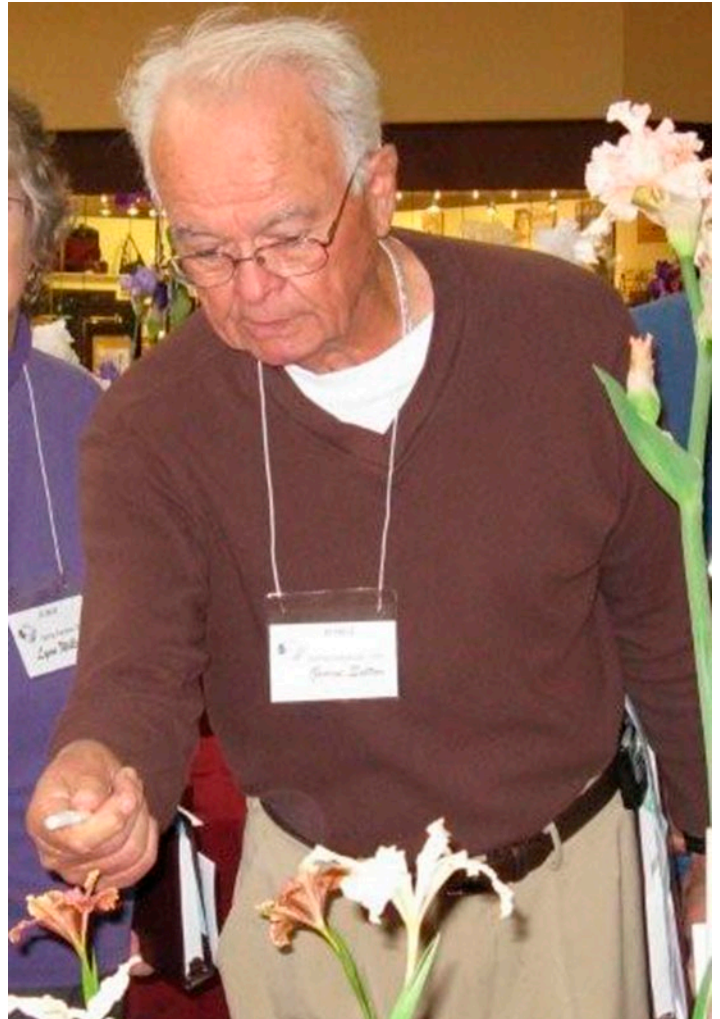
On May 17, 2013 the AIS-14 Executive Board, acting through electronic messages, approved two actions in memory of Margaret Sutton: one donation in the amount of \$100 to the St. John's Episcopal Church Building Fund, and one donation in the amount of \$100 to the American Iris Society General Fund.

The Executive Board may consider future actions in memory of George Sutton.



Margaret Sutton

C. Modra



George Sutton judging at 2009 MBIS iris show

AV Pike



Texas Two Step, George Sutton, 2013 Introduction

M. Sutton



Riley Probst scheduled speaker Fall 2013 Regional with Fred Kerr during Spring 2013 Regional S. Trio

Abstract of the Minutes of the Executive Committee and General Meetings Spring Regional April 26–28, 2013, Roseville, CA

Note: The following is an abstract of the official minutes by AIS-14 Secretary Mary Sindicic. The unedited minutes are available on the AIS-14 website.

RVP John Pesek called to order the combined meeting of the Executive Committee and General Membership Meeting at 8:00 a.m., and asked for a moment of silence in memory of Margaret Sutton.

Approval of Minutes Fall Regional Meeting of October 27, 2012, as published November 1, 2012 in the Bulletin, with the addition of notice of the Larry Goldberg Award to David & Anna Cadd. MSC

Board Reports (see also the official minutes on the AIS-14 website)

Secretary Mary Sindicic: Late in January 2013, the Clara B. Rees Iris Society offered to host the 2013 Region 14 Fall Regional on October 18th & 19th, 2013. Due to time constraints, the board voted approval of the offer electronically. MSC

Treasurer Helen Franklin: (see the financial report on page seven and eight)

Judges Training Chair Phyllis Wilburn (see the report on page nine)

Bulletin Editor Thomas Karwin (see Editor's Notes on page three)

Standing Committee Reports (see summary reports on pages nine and ten)

Directors Reports

Carol Dahout reported that Clara B. Rees IS will host the Fall Regional Conference on October 19th, probably

at the Campbell Inn, in Campbell, California. The main speaker will be Riley Probst, on "Rebloomers."

Carolyn Hoover reported that Yosemite IS hosted its first iris show with 95 entries and three student youth entries. Terry Toney received twelve blue ribbons and the Silver Medal. At the show, Yosemite IS signed five new members and sold over \$300.00 of potted iris donated by the members. 50% of the proceeds went to the school's iris program.

Old Business

Allocate \$600 per issue to reimburse affiliates' costs for color printing of the AIS Region 14 Bulletin, at the rate of \$4.00 per copy, for AIS members who lack computer access. MSC

New Business

Proposed amendment to the AIS Region 14 Bylaws:

"Meetings of the Executive Board shall may be called by the RVP at each Fall and Spring Regional Conference, and at any other time deemed necessary for carrying on the business of Region 14.

Publish the proposed amendment in the AIS Region 14 Bulletin, for consideration during the 2013 Fall Regional General Meeting. MSC"

Accept High Desert Iris Society to host 2014 fall regional. MSC

Accept Yosemite Iris Society to host the 2015 Spring Regional. MSC

Publish an announcement or advertisement in the AIS Bulletin to invite AIS members who are not members of a Region 14 affiliate to download the AIS Region 14 Bulletin from the AIS Region 14 website. MSC

Announcements

RVP Pesek reported news from the AIS Convention:

AIS membership stands at 4,382 members, down 128 from last fall. There are 167 affiliates, with no change (the AIS lost five affiliates and picked up five, including Yosemite IS). The AIS changed the date for the affiliates to pay their \$25.00 affiliation fee from May 1st to April 30th.

AIS needs a new editor for the Bulletin of the AIS.

AIS-14 hybridizers received several awards:

Williamson White Award

- Riley Probst for his MTB, 'Plum Quirky'.

Cook Cup Awards—for out-of-region favorites

- 3rd place: Fred Kerr for 'Bohemia After Dark'
- 2nd place: Michael Sutton for 'Bottle Rocket'
- 1st place: Joe Ghio for 'Double Platinum'

Hager Cup awards—median favorite

- 3rd place: Riley Probst for 'Holiday in Mexico'
- 2nd place: Paul Black (Region 13) for 'Birds and Bees'
- 1st place: Joe Ghio for 'Boy Genius'

Meeting adjourned



Leave the Light On, Probst, 2013, IB Riley Probst



Power Lines, Probst, 2013 Riley Probst



Tuscan Summer, Keppel, 2010 Riley Probst



Double Platium, Ghio, 2012 Joe Ghio



Opposites, Trio, 2012

Riley Probst

REGION 14 OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY Treasurers Report For 01-01-13 Through 04-20-13

	BUDGETED	Funds At 12/31/2012	Funds At 04/20/2013
CHECKING ENDING BALANCE		\$11,648.42	\$ 10,980.07
SAVINGS ENDING BALANCE		\$21,411.575	\$ 21,514.43
TOTAL ASSETS		\$33,059.99	\$ 32,494.50
EXPENSES BY ITEM			
Bulletin—Publishing			30.00
Editor Expense	50.00		
RVP Allowance	2500.00		399.46
Finance—Summer Fund-raiser			
Beardless Purchases	425.00		
Miscellaneous/Auctions/Raffles	100.00		
Judges' Training	1000		776.13
Office Legal	300.00		
Supplies			45.22
RVP Gift			
Fees			
Printing for special vote RVP			
Office Equipment			
Sales Taxes	240.00		66.00
Committees			
Honorary Awards	300.00		
Historian	100.00		
Internet Services	110.00		
Membership	50.00		
Scholarship	575.00		
Science	500.00		
Youth	300.00		65.00
S. F. Flower Show-2013	600.00		355.00
Donation	100.00		
Seed Money—New Societies	400.00		400.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 8,500.00		\$ 1,382.35



Revision, Keppel, 2011

Riley Probst



QBDX40PQ, Probst, seedling, MTB

Riley Probst



Boy Genius, Ghio, 2012, BB

AV Pike



Holiday in Mexico, Probst, 2012, MTB Riley Probst

TREASURERS REPORT

	BUDGETED	Funds At 04/20/2013
REVENUES BY ITEM		
Bulletin Advertising	300.00	
Bulletin Subscriptions		
Donations from Societies *	800.00	39.00
Donation—other		25.00
Donations/Raffles	100.00	
Donations/Rm Rent 2010		
Interest	200.00	107.86
Judges' Training	500.00	650.00
Registration fees, Spring Regional	300.00	
Finance, Spring Fund Raiser-Raffle	1,000.00	
Finance, Summer Fund Raiser-Rhizomes	1,000.00	
Finance, Fall Beardless Fund Raiser	900.00	
Finance, Fall Fund Raiser, Raffle/Donations	400.00	
SF Flower Show	200.00	
Use of Reserve Funds		
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 5,700.00	\$ -821.86
Total Expenses	85,00.00	1,382.35
Less Total Revenues	-5,700.00	-821.86
Excess expenses/revenues	2,800.00	560.49



Plum Quirky, Probst, 2005, MTB

Mikey Lango

Committee Reports

Spring 2013 Reports of Chairpersons of Standing Committees

Fund-Raising Chair Carolyn Craft

Carolyn Craft talked about how the raffle of the baskets and a fairy garden would work at the Regional and the silent auction. She invited new and different ideas for fundraising. Also, she asked presidents to pass her fundraising messages to their members. Several new members joined at the San Francisco Garden Show. Phyllis Wilburn shared that the Sacramento Iris Society has potted iris for sale at the conference; 50% of the proceeds will go to Region 14.

Historian Committee Chair Jean Richter

Jean Richter proposed that the Historian Committee keep two copies of each regional bulletin and sell or recycle the rest. RVP Pesek advised that the Standing Rules provide that there shall be a Historian who shall keep a file of the Region's historical records, including publications, and a scrapbook about Region activities and members for display at Regional meetings. Conclusion—the Standing Rules provide sufficient guidance for the Historian Committee.

Membership Chair Mary Ann Horton

Mary Ann Horton reported that there are 442 members.

Scholarship Chair Terri Hudson

In Terri Hudson's absence, Gordon Nicholson reported that ten students applied to the AIS Region 14 for its \$500.00 scholarship; five applicants were outstanding, two exceptional. AIS-14 started the scholarship program about 1996-1998, did not award the scholarship only one time over those years and awarded it twice to students of someone in the region. A committee of five readers and five voters always decide on the awards. James Fong was the winner this year of the AIS-14 \$500.00 youth scholarship. He is going to enroll at University of California, Davis. RVP Pesek commented that Terri Hudson sends 400 notices for the scholarship to schools in and around Nevada and Northern California.

Science Chair John Stremel

John Stremel demonstrated The Lytro Camera, a new camera technology (www.lytro.com), which could be useful as a tool in judges training: if you take a picture of an iris you could focus on the beard and then refocus on the clump. Cost is around \$400.00 and holds about 400 pictures. Jeanne Clay-Plank commented that Stremel's demonstration would be a great program for the affiliates, to update them on modern technology.

Summer 2013

Trophies and Awards Bill Fink

Bill Fink explained the ballot and award process for the Spring Regional. RVP Pesek thanked David and Anna Cadd for many years of toting the trophies around and keeping everything up to date.

Youth Chair Lorraine Nicholson

Lorraine Nicholson reported that Region 14 has 79 youth memberships. The youth need not enter shows or have gardens, but she sends them letters and boxes of iris plants every year so that they will have a good early experience with gardening and later will join AIS. Each one of the youth members will receive an historic iris. RVP Pesek thanked Lorraine Nicholson for the terrific job she has done and commented that Region 14 has the highest number of youth of any Region in AIS.

Summarized by Secretary Mary Sindicic
edited for brevity by Editor Tom Karwin

Report of the Judges Training Chair

Phyllis Wilburn reported that we currently have 29 active students, four apprentices, 24 garden/exhibition judges, twelve master judges, and six emeritus judges. We have one apprentice that will move up to garden judge at the next training.

By June 1 of each year, all master, garden/exhibition judges, and apprentices must complete and return an Activity Report to the RVP and the Judges Training Chair. Failure to do so can result in disqualification as a judge. She will give Activity Report forms to those who are present, and the rest will be mailed. Remember that you must return two copies, one to the RVP and one to the JT Chair.

Watch the website for upcoming judges trainings (JTs). Chair Wilburn appreciates that everyone has been diligent about getting approvals for JT sessions and one-on-one training. She especially commends the judges who have taken their time and expertise to conduct trainings and tutor apprentices and students.

On Sunday, June 9, 2013 at 10:00 am at the Shepard Garden and Arts Center in Sacramento, Chair Wilburn will conduct JT on "Awards and Ballots" primarily aimed at apprentices who need this training to be eligible to advance to garden/exhibition judge, but anyone could benefit from hearing this information. There will be a \$5.00 charge at the door to defray cost of the room and refreshments. Contact Phyllis if you are planning to come.

Additional judges training will be announced when scheduled. See the AIS-14 website for the most current information, and for the full schedule of judges trainings for 2013.

Judges' Training Chair
Phyllis Wilburn

Report of the Awards Committee

Attendees of the Spring Regional Meeting for 2013 voted for the Region 14 hybridizer awards based upon the irises on display in the two guest gardens with the following results.

Knopf Cup—best seedling by a Region 14 hybridizer

- 1st Runner up—‘08-10’, Gerald Moorhead.
- Knopf Cup 2013—‘QDBX40PQ’, MTB, Riley Probst.

Cotillion Bowl—best 2013 introduction by a Region 14 Hybridizer

- 2nd Runner up—‘Emblematic’, Joe Ghio.
- 1st Runner up—‘Powerlines’, Riley Probst.
- Cotillion Bowl 2013—‘Leave the Light On’, Riley Probst.

Clara B. Reese Cup—best introduction prior to 2013 by a Region 14 Hybridizer

- 2nd Runner up—‘Innocent Devil’, A&D Cadd.
- 1st Runner up—‘Ancient Charm’, Fred Kerr.
- Clara B. Reese Cup 2013—‘Opposites’, Shirley Trio.

Jim Gibson Cup—best plicata

- 2nd Runner up—‘Artistic Web’, Richard Tasco.
- 1st Runner up—‘Camera Ready’, Richard Tasco.
- Jim Gibson Cup 2013—‘Tuscan Summer’, Keith Keppel.

Melrose Award—best beardless

- Melrose Award 2013—‘Caesar’s Brother’

Out of Region Award—best iris by a hybridizer not in Region 14

- 2nd Runner up—‘Great Balls of Fire’, Terry Aitken.
- 1st Runner up—‘Tuscan Summer’, Keith Keppel.
- Out of Region Award 2013—‘Revision’, Keith Keppel.

Hager-DuBose Cup—best bearded iris other than tall

- 2nd Runner up—‘Boy Genius’, Joe Ghio.
- 1st Runner up—‘Plum Quirky’, Riley Probst.
- Hager-DuBose 2013—‘Holiday in Mexico’, Riley Probst.

For the Awards Committee

Anna Cadd, David Cadd,

Alison Willy and William Fink, Chair

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Fresno Iris Society

Rose Pipkin 559-264-1985 rose.pipkin@att.net

High Desert Iris Society

Billie Shea 775-720-3736 sheabillie@sbcglobal.net

James Gibson Iris Society Co Presidents

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West Bay Iris Society

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Yosemite Iris Society

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Wanted!

We encourage each iris society president, or a representative, to send news from their society for publication in the Bulletin. Please share information on your events, innovative ideas and latest accomplishments to Lorraine Nicholson at iris4u@fire2wire.com by the quarterly due dates listed on page 2 of this bulletin.



Anna Cadd, Alison Wiley, David Cadd, Kathy Bratten & Jim Fink P. Wilburn

Affiliate News

Yosemite Iris Society

Yosemite Iris Society held its 1st Annual Iris Show in Coarsegold, California on April 13th, 2013. It was a big success. Fifteen persons entered a total of 95 varieties, including three entries in the Youth Division.

Dan Cereghino, Yosemite Iris Society member from Madera, CA won best of show with TB 'Bowled Over'. Terri Toney, Fresno Iris Society member, won the Silver with twelve blue ribbons and Bill Tyson the Silver and Best Seedling awards. Over one hundred visitors admired the entries.

The Yosemite Iris Society and the Coarsegold Youth Iris kids raised over \$200 from sales of potted irises donated by Shirley Trio, Riley Probst, Carolyn Hoover and Dan Cereghino.

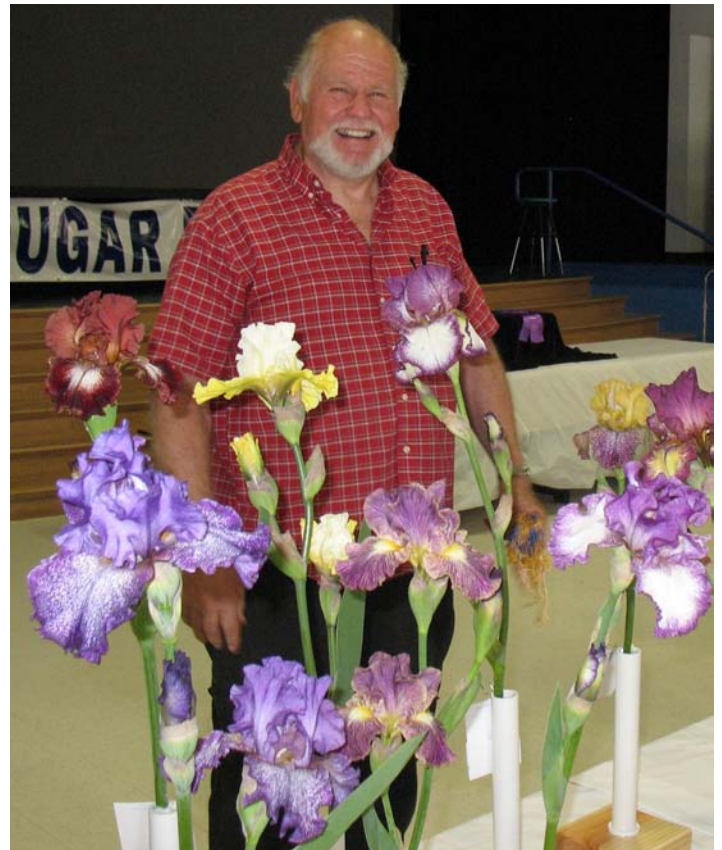
The Yosemite Iris Society signed up five new members at the show, and now has 18 members.

Lorraine Nicolson has assisted more than twelve youths from Coarsegold in getting signed up to AIS; Region 14 is supporting them by paying the AIS yearly membership fees. Thank you Region 14!! The kids can't wait to see their first AIS Bulletin arrive at their homes. Their youth iris garden is doing well at Coarsegold School and several plants have bloomed, including 'Mystic Dragon' which was in full bloom on May 1st.

More News: YIS got voted on and was accepted by Region 14 members to host the 2015 Spring Regional to be held in Coarsegold, in Eastern Madera County,

southern gateway to Yosemite National Park. We will have three guest gardens. More information will follow in the next issue of the Region 14 Bulletin.

Carolyn Hoover



Bill Tyson, Best Seeding and Silver medal winner

C. Hoover



Dan Cereghino, Best of Show winner

C. Hoover

Spring Regional 2013



Linda Woods of Mt Diablo in Ruth's garden

M. Lango

Ruth Ostroff's Garden

Participants at the Roseville regional were split into two groups to accommodate the lunch rush on Saturday. Most Santa Rosa members started in Ruth Ostroff's garden. Ruth's garden in Rio Linda encompassed two acres that were purchased in 2001. It started with a house, barn, and bare pasture with portable animal corrals. The 32 eucalyptus trees that once encircled the property have mostly been removed, replaced by the wonderful gardens that Ruth has created along with a lovely gazebo that overlooks these gardens. Amongst the multitude of irises are many California natives, water efficient plants, vegetables, roses, fruit trees, and a variety of other plantings.

Upon arrival we were greeted by a slate painting easel, which acted as a garden sign. Written in colored chalk was "2013 American Iris Society Regional Show Garden." In the garden were the many guest irises, a section of Fred Kerr irises, rebloomers, Dykes Medal winners, and door prize irises for the Sacramento I.S. Many iris beds were infiltrated by a multitude of California poppies in bloom. It was a gorgeous sight. Many irises were in

Ruth Ostroff

M. Lango



bloom here that were not blooming in the Horton garden and visa-versa. There were a multitude of impressive blooms by many hybridizers including Ghio, Keppel, Lauer, Tasco, Duncan, and the Cadds. I enjoyed the wonderful blooms of 'Double Platinum', 'Superhero', and 'Engagement Ring' by Ghio. 'Ghost Writer' by Keppel was a white with prominent veining and 'King of the Road' by Lauer was a warm yellow and orange. 'Highland Lord' by Tasco was a very heavily ruffled bluish-purple. Duncan's 'Go West' had shades of yellow with purple veins and a warm orange beard. Several of the Cadds space-agers, 'Arctic Unicorn' and 'Innocent Devil', were blooming nicely.

When we needed nourishment or to rest, we were able to sample snacks and relax under the covered animal corrals. Fortunately, it was not overly hot that morning. After touring this lovely setting, we then moved on to Mary Ann Horton's Garden and Farm in Loomis for lunch and more irises.

By Anna Marie Hermansen



Jean Richter of SBMIS getting an iris close-up M. Lango



Elaine Fischer noting iris M. Lango



Betty Ford of SRIS photographs Ruth garden M. Lango



Wayne Craft naps in the shade M. Lango



Tom Karwin in a sea of irs

M. Lango

Horton's Iris Garden and Farm

The beautiful entrance into the Horton's garden took us along a narrow one-way road that curved through the rolling hills. We drove past flowerbeds showcasing irises, antique farm equipment and granite boulders. The road took us by a small lake, then up over a crest and there before us lay the Horton Iris Garden and Farm in all of its glory. The "guest irises" came into view to our left, located on top of a knoll.

Lunch was first on the agenda. After we were fortified with nutrition, we headed up the knoll to examine the guest irises. As I approached them, 'Kachina Dancer' (Kerr 2010) was an instant eye catcher; undaunted by the heat, she stood tall and stately with her ruffled sunshine yellow standards. The falls are dark red with a narrow rim of lighter brown, edged again by a dark red rim. Five bloom stalks were gloriously in bloom.

'Ancient Charm' (Kerr 2011) displayed huge blooms, four bloom stalks, 7 buds, and 7 increases for next year's bloom. This one got added to my personal "want list." Another standout was 'Revision' (Keppel 2011), white with a blue band on the edge of the falls. Apparently I was not the only one to think that this was a standout, as it won the Out of Region Cup.

'Dragon King' (Tasco 2011), another favorite, has been performing nicely in every garden that I've seen it growing in this year. It consistently shows off very nice branching. The flowers will fade, but they still look nice. Huge clumps of 'Opposites' (Trio 2012) were performing beautifully with many bloom stalks and increases in both the Ostroff and Horton gardens. No surprise to me that it took home the Clara B. Rees Cup for Best



Jeanne Clay Plank and Carolyn Craft

M. Lango

Introduction before 2013 from Region 14. 'Revision', 'Dragon King' and 'Opposites' are all growing in our SRIS club garden. Watch for them at our SRIS August auction.

I'll sum up the guests by saying that there were too many lovelies to mention each and every one. All were healthy, beautiful and in peak bloom despite the heat. Oh yes, it was a very hot day. I just can't get by without mentioning that. While the guest irises were looking lovely, the "guest people" were looking pretty wilted.

The Horton's 40-acre farm, located near Loomis, includes a five-acre park-like setting featuring over 1300 varieties of iris. The garden flows around and over the rolling hills that surround the 95 year-old farmhouse; heritage oaks provide shade, a welcome relief as the days warm up. Sweet peas, all in shades of pink, covered the slope below the Horton's home. Lavender plants were starting to send up their flower stems preparing for their big burst of color. Daylilies, also starting to show their buds, will take over when the irises have finished blooming. Granite boulders of all sizes decorated the landscape and flowerbeds. Antique farm equipment was uniquely incorporated into the landscape and became focal points for flowerbeds.

The small lake, which was surrounded by vast areas of lawn and strategically placed flower beds, was a haven for several artists trying to capture the beauty on canvas. Up over the hill behind the house, I encountered an old Chevy pickup along with another large display of irises. More artists were scattered in this quiet area trying their hand at capturing the beauty. This garden is an extremely popular place for artists and iris lovers. You could spend an entire day here, and still not see all of it. You could also just sit on one of the many benches placed throughout the garden, and enjoy the view and the fruit of someone else's labor. As the saying goes, "A feast for sore eyes." The opportunity to visit this fabulous garden was much appreciated.



Fred Kerr and Jim Begley

P. Wilburn



By Betty Ford

Mary Ann Horton and Betty Schmidt

P. Wilburn



In a field of iris

M. Lango



Big raffle winner, Shirley Clark

M Lango



fun and winners at the Regional raffle

P. Wilburn



Fred Kerr giving the Judges' Training

M. Lango

Raffle & Judges' Training



Judges' Training test taking

P. Wilburn