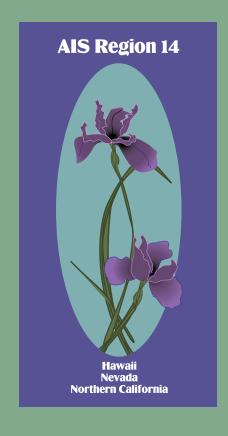
the Bulletin The American Iris Society Region 14

Volume 58, Number I, Spring 2014



Contents



Editor's Notes	3
Region 14 Executive Board	3
The RVP's Garden	4
Voting for What?	5
Calendar	4 5 6 7
It's that time again!	
2014 Spring Regional	8
back in the day — Art Part 2	10
Still a Source of Good Genes	10
Remembering Friends	11
Sixty YearsWho's Counting	11
The Future of Hybridizing	12
Reticulatas	14
Judges' Training	15
AIS Electronic Membership	15
A Virtual Iris Show!!	16
Youth Program	17
Affiliate Presidents	17
Affiliate Happenings	18
About Advertising	23

Cover Photo

'Green Spot' (Paul Cook, 1951) Cook-Douglas Award 1959; Cook-Douglas Medal 1968. Photo by Elm Jensen. A green iris for spring and St Patrick's Day! (related article on page 10)

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Editorial Matters

Editorial submissions and inquiries should be directed to the editor. Deadlines for submissions are February 1 (Spring issue), May 1 (Summer issue), August 1 (Fall issue) and November 1 (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 articles via email in a text file, e.g., .doc, .txt, (not .pdf). Submit images with a resolution of 300 dpi via email to the designer and Mikey Lango (mdlango@aol.com) in a standard graphic format such as .jpg or .tiff. Include the name of the photographer, names of people shown and a brief description of what's going on.

Documents with archival content should be emailed to Internet/Electronic Services Chair Ann Pike (avpike@cruzio.com) for posting on the AIS-14 website.

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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 an 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, see page 23.

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.

Editor's Notes

Tom Karwin

This quarter's AIS-14 Bulletin, in a bow toward familiar grounds, describes AIS-14's Spring Regional Meeting for 2014, provides brief information on the program, speaker, garden tours and other activities, and invites all members to join in the occasion. It promises an enjoyable and inspiring interlude as the iris blooms open. The host committee of the Santa Rosa Iris Society is busily preparing for your participation. Come to the regional meeting to share this seasonal event with your AIS-14 friends.

This issue also has tilts toward a less familiar idea, "Everything is Coming Up Virtual."

Coincidentally, this e-publication announces the AIS's First International Virtual Iris Show and reports on the emerging use of genetic science in the age-old process of hybridization.

The AIS's newest venture into this environment, the International Virtual Iris Show, joins the organization's other virtual aspects of the irisarian's experience:

- national, regional and local affiliate websites,
- national, regional and local affiliate virtual publications (including this Bulletin),
- Iris Encyclopedia,
- AIS News & Notes,
- AIS Blog and the
- AIS Facebook page.

We might reflect on the changes of the recent past as the AIS and our region have discovered—or at least explored—our pervasive digital environment.

Virtual resources are becoming more and more common primarily because they offer certain functions in ways that are more convenient and lower in cost than traditional ways to provide those functions.

The original definition of "virtual" is "effectively equivalent." A virtual [something] has very much the same effect as a real [something], and often is realized or carried out chiefly in an electronic medium.

So, a virtual experience may be close to a real experience, but while not exactly the same as a real experience. For example, a virtual publication doesn't have the familiar feel of paper in your hands, and a virtual iris show has no fragrance (at least not yet).

Still, there are multiple benefits of virtual resources. Basically, they are efforts to make more "good stuff" available to you, and are worth trying. While you do that, email your comments to us, and we'll share them in a future issue of this Bulletin. So

Region 14 Executive Board

Effective November 20, 2013

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The RVP's Garden

Time seems to be flying by faster and faster. Now that the rain is here, which our irises have been craving, as well as a warm winter, Mother Nature is changing our bloom season.

Congratulations to Ted Hawkins on becoming a garden/exhibition judge.

With seven apprentices close to becoming judges we are well on our way to having enough judges for all our shows. Way to go.

Sorry to report that another Region 14 hybridizer, Robert Annand has passed away. I love the iris 'Capitol Debut' that Robert hybridized. The good news is that Rob Marshall is carrying on with Robert's work. (Robert Annand's obituary is on page 11.)

Remember to plan on attending the Region 14 Spring Regional on May 2-4, 2014. The Santa Rosa Iris Society is the sponsor for "A Carnival Carousal of Iris." There will be fun and games for all. There will be five gardens to visit and say, "I want this iris and that one and so on".

PLUS getting to hear Bernard and Heather Pryor, from Australia, talk about Louisiana iris will be very informative. If you think that Louisiana iris grow only in Louisiana you would be wrong, as they do grow well in California and even in the state of New York, where the winter is freezing. If you like the color red in irises you surely must grow Louisiana irises.

Let's get on the iris-go-round in Santa Rosa. I am looking forward to seeing everyone again.

Stay well and look forward to some beautiful iris booms in the garden and in the shows. 9-

Happy Bloom Season,



'Kalifa's Horn' (Annand 1995) by EMcLeester



'Capitol Debut' (Annand 2008) by J Lauritzen



'Mini Bighorn' (Annand 1998) by Anita Moran

There was confusion galore at the last Spring Regional concerning the voting for awards. So what is this all about anyway? It all boils down to the fact that, throughout its history, Region 14 has authorized seven awards, most of which have been named for people who have contributed a great deal to Region 14. There are trophies for each of these awards, but the Awards Chair (Bill Fink, currently) retains the trophies and gives "keeper gifts" to each year's award winners. The previous issue of the AIS-14 Bulletin includes a photo of Riley Probst and Shirley Trio with their trophies.

The usual handling of the awards at a Spring Regional meeting includes the following steps. Each attendee will receive a booklet listing all the irises, each with a colored marker or code that indicates the award for which it is eligible, as determined by the guest iris chair. The same marker or code also will be on each plant's identification stake. Attendees may vote for any iris seen blooming in a tour garden, whether or not it is an official guest iris.









When you receive your booklet, it is helpful to review the system of markings to be clear about the voting when you arrive at the gardens. If no iris in a particular garden is eligible for one of the awards, it is not necessary to vote for that award. Also, it is possible that some guest irises will not be eligible for any award.

Because these awards are made only once each year, it is difficult for some of us to remember the purposes of the awards. The full descriptions of these awards are in the <u>Region 14 Standing Rules</u> and will be included in the attendees' booklets. \$\sigma\$

Brief descriptions of the awards are as follows:

Knopf Cup
Cotillion Cup
Clara B. Reese Cup
Jim Gibson Cup
Melrose Cup
Out of Region
Hager Cup–DuBose Cup



'Ink Patterns' (JohnsonT, 2007 Out of Region 2009

Best Seedling from a Region 14 hybridizer

Best current year introduction by Region 14 hybridizer

Best introduction prior to current year by Region 14 hybridizer

Best Plicata, seedling or named variety introduced within last five years

Best Beardless, seedling or named variety

Best iris, seedling or named variety introduced within last five years

Best Bearded, other than TB



'Dazzling' (BlackP, 2008) Hager Cup 2011



'Celestial Explosion' (Tasco, 2004 Jim Gibson Cup 2013

Calendar

Region 14 2014 Upcoming Shows

Contact the respective affiliate president (page 17) for information about time and place.

March 29

Mt. Diablo Iris Society (first show)

April 12

Las Vegas Iris Society Fresno Iris Society Mt. Diablo Iris Society (second show)

April 19

Sacramento Iris Society Yosemite Iris Society

April 26-27

Sierra Foothills Iris Society Sydney B Mitchell Iris Society Leo T Clark Iris Society Clara B Rees Iris Society Shasta Iris Society Monterey Bay Iris Society

May 17-18 High Desert Iris Society

AIS Conventions

2014 Déjà vu Dallas!

April 5 - 10, Dallas, Texas 2014 Convention Chair: Bonnie Nichols, 3365 Northaven Road, Dallas, TX 75229 phone: 214-352-2191 | e-mail: bjnhtn@aol.com 2014 Convention Headquarters: Crowne Plaza Dallas (near the Galleria), 14315 Midway Road, Addison, TX 75001 phone: 972-980-8877

2015 Iris in Wonderland

May 18 - 23 Portland, Oregon 2015 Convention Chair: John Ludi, 35071 SE Hwy 211; Boring, OR 97009 503-668-9230; <kludi@juno.com> 2015 Convention Headquarters: Red Lion Hotel on the River (Jantzen Beach, Oregon) 909 N. Hayden Island Drive; Portland, OR 97217 503-283-4466; www.Redlion.com/jantzenbeach

Calendar

It's that time again!

Raffle Baskets and Auction Items

Carolyn Craft, Fundraising Chair

The Spring Regional is May 2-4 in Santa Rosa. It's going to be wonderful!

Please see if your society can put together a raffle basket. This is fun and all members can participate. Sometimes a member will have a very nice quality item they would like to donate and that sets a theme for the basket. Other society members can fill in with more stuff and a creative person can arrange it, wrap it, tie a bow on the top and it's done.



The theme possibilities are endless! Just to get you thinking, it can be a bed & breakfast basket, a wine and cheese basket, a picnic basket, the book worm basket, a gardening basket or whatever you can come up with.

Now, for the silent auction, please ask your members look around and see what they may want to donate. This can be any iris- or garden-related items. Maybe you have talented creative people in your society who would like to donate a piece of their handwork. We really had some beautiful items donated last time and it was wonderful to see the nice art that other people create. I'm sure there are more ideas but woodwork, painting, sewing, quilting, knit, jewelry, pottery and more come to mind.

Both the basket raffle and the silent auction do raise money to support the Region 14 budget. Start thinking now and it will be easy to have your donations ready in plenty of time. So

Questions? e-mail Carolyn Craft at theladygardens@aol.com

Regional Meetings

2014 Spring Regional

May 2 - 4, Santa Rosa, California
Hosted by The Santa Rosa Iris Society
"A Carnival Carousel of Iris"
Regional Meeting headquarters:
Flamingo Resort and Hotel in Santa Rosa.
Tour gardens will include the society's
demonstration garden at Luther Burbank Art and
Garden Center.

Details on pages 8-9 and on the AIS-14 website

2014 Fall Regional

October 3 - 4, Reno, Nevada
Hosted by the High Desert Iris Society
"Let's Get Lucky"
Regional Meeting headquarters:
Atlantis Casino Resort Hotel and Spa in Reno, Nevada
Master iris judge Kathy Chilton will be our guest speaker
and will conduct the judges' training session.
Look for details in the summer (July 2014) issue of the
Bulletin and on the AIS-14 website.
Contact Billie Shea via email at sheabillie@sbcglobal.
net, or by phone at 775-720-3736

2015 Spring Regional

Hosted by the Yosemite Iris Society. Look for details in the spring 2015 issue of the Bulletin (March 2015) and the AIS-14 website.

2015 Fall Regional

Hosted by San Francisco Bay area affiliates and Nola's Iris Garden.



"A Carnival Carousel of Iris"

May 2 - 4, 2014

Schedule of Activities



FRIDAY - May 2

In Napa: 10am - 5pm: Open Garden: Napa Country Iris (John & Lesley Painter)

At the Flamingo: 4pm - 8pm : Registration

4pm - 7pm : Seedling show set-up 4pm - 7pm : Silent auction items/baskets

7pm - 9pm : Iris Carnival Games

7:30pm - 8:30pm : Judges Training at the hotel

(1 hour - Staging Iris for Showing & Show Bench Judging -

Jim Begley and Ross BeVier)

SATURDAY - May 3

At the Flamingo: 7am - 9am : Registration

7am - 7:30pm : Seedling show set-up 7:30am - 8am : Seedling show judging 8am - 9:30am : Business meeting

In Sonoma: 10am - 11am : Open Garden - Betty Ford

10am - 2:30pm : C&L Vineyards Guest Iris Garden 11:30am - 12:30pm : Lunch at C&L Vineyards

1pm - 2pm : Judges Training at C&L Vineyards - Fred Kerr (1 hour in the garden on Tall Bearded Iris)

In Santa Rosa: LBA&GC: 2:30pm - 4:30pm: Guest Iris Garden (Also open Sunday 9am - 11:00am)

At the Flamingo: 5:30pm - 6:30pm : Cocktails - No-host bar

6:30pm - 7:30pm : Banquet 7:30pm - 8:30pm : Speaker 8:30pm - 9pm : Baskets 9:30pm : Silent Auction closes

SUNDAY - May 4

In Santa Rosa: LBA&GC: 9:30am - 10:30am: Judges Training: Heather Pryor

(1 hour in-classroom training on Louisiana Iris)

At Jim Begley's Garden: 12pm - 2pm : Open Garden

12:30pm - 1:30pm : judges training with Jim Begley (1 hour in the garden on judging seedlings)

In Napa: 10am - 5pm: Open Garden: Napa Country Iris (John & Lesley Painter)

*** Locations are as follows:

Flamingo Conference Resort & Spa - 2777 Fourth Street, Santa Rosa

LBA&GC - Luther Burbank Art & Garden Center - 2050 Yulupa Avenue, Santa Rosa

Betty Ford's Garden - 1383 E. Napa Street, Sonoma (less than 5 minutes from C & L Vineyard)

C & L Vineyard - 1595 Denmark Street, Sonoma

Jim Begley's Garden - 980 Scenic Avenue, Santa Rosa

Napa Country Iris Gardens - 9087 Steele Canyon Road, Napa



American Iris Society Region 14 2014 Spring Event - May 2nd, 3rd & 4th

"A Carnival Carousel of Iris"

Hosted by Santa Rosa Iris Society



Guest Speakers - Heather & Bernard Pryor, Australia

Headquarters Hotel will be the Flamingo Conference Resort & Spa, 2777 Fourth St., Santa Rosa, CA

Contact them directly for reservations at (800)-848-8300 or (707)545-8530

For the group rate, **mention Santa Rosa Iris Society** when making reservations.

Rates & rooms are available until April 1st. Rooms are subject to availability after April 1st.

NON-SMOKING PROPERTY - NO ELEVATOR EXCEPT IN ONE WING

Room rates + Taxes per night are as follows for a single or double occupancy:

\$119 - Deluxe Room \$129 - Superior Room \$139 - Executive King Room (elevator) \$219 - Suite **Handicapped rooms available

Banquet Dinner choices:

Registrant 1: First Name	Last Name	9
Dinner choice :		
Dinner choice:	Last Name	
Iris Society Affiliation:		
Address:	City:	Zip:
Telephone:	E-mail:	
Registration fee: if paid by Apri	ludes lunch and banquet on Saturday 1 1st, 2014 \$ 85.00 x pril 1st, 2014 \$ 105.00 x	person(s) Total
	e make checks payable to Santa Rosa I e, 1595 Denmark St., Sonoma , CA 95470	•
Friday - 9 Saturday Sunday -	te the number of people attending each Staging Specimens and Show Bench Jud - Judging Tall Bearded Louisiana Iris Judging Seedlings	

back in the day Art - part 2

Excerpted from: Janick, J. "Ancient Egyptian Agriculture and the Origins of Horticulture." From the International Symposium on Mediterranean Horticulture: *Issues and Prospects, Acta Horticulturae 582* (2002).

Some of the Pharaohs were sophisticated horticulturally. From

foreign campaigns they brought back exotic trees and plants to be grown in their palace or temple gardens. Queen Hatshepsut organized expedition plant delivering living myrrh-trees from Punt (Northeastern Africa) for the terraced gardens of her Temple at Deir el-Bahri in 1500 BCE.

Her nephew, Thothmes III (1450 BCE), had the curious plants brought back from Syria carved upon the walls of the Temple of Amen in

Karnak, from which iris can be recognized. See Excerpted by Stanley Morgan



In 1950, Dr. Kleinsorge registered 'Thotmes III', a 40" TB, brown self, in honor of Thotmes III.

left: The Syrian Expedition -Karnak Wall Carving

Still a Source of Good Genes



'Chipmunk's Charm' (Jensen 2010)

'Green Spot' is still a favorite of mine to play with in hybridizing. I registered this seedling in 2010, and it was introduced through the Aril Society International. The cross is (*I. stolonifera* X 'Green Spot'). It is an RB (regeliabred), and is one-half aril. I named it 'Chipmunk's Charm' because the colors reminded me of the flash of colors on a chipmunk as he scampers away (except for the electric violet flush that came through *I. stolonifera*). It is 18" tall.

I find it interesting that an SDB that was registered in 1951 can still contribute to hybridizing some 50 years later! 9-

Note: The cover image of 'Green Spot' (Paul Cook, 1951) was selected because it evokes thoughts of spring and St Patrick's Day (yes, I'm an Irish lass). The photo that caught my eye is in the 50th Anniversary edition of *The Medianite*. Elm Jensen's photo on the cover of this bulletin is from the AIS Iris Encyclopedia.

Kathleen Sonntag, Design and Layout

Elm Jensen

Bob Annand, the "Iris King" of Leo T. Clark Iris Society and Forest Ranch, has passed away The American Iris Society and the Leo T. Clark Iris Society lost a valued member, Bob Annand.

Robert (Bob) Annand September 14, 1924 – December 14, 2013

Bob Annand,'s formative years were spent on a 1000-acre ranch in Santa Cruz exploring nature, raising iris, as well as milking cows and caring for horses. The wonders of nature that existed on the family ranch opened up many

avenues of interest for Bob, but raising iris was the most profound and lasted his entire lifetime.

Bob earned his B.S. degree in biological science and pursued a long career with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Then, in 1972, Bob and his wife Irene opened Millwood Gardens Florist Shop in Susanville. He retired in 1989 to devote more time to hybridizing, planting and displaying his irises.

Bob is survived by his wife of 65 years, Irene, and his children Mariann Novarina, Tom Annand, Patti Glass and Rob Marshall, three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Rob has worked side by side with Bob in growing irises, is determined to register the remainder of Bob's introductions posthumously in his honor.

Contributions for the Bob Annand Memorial Iris Garden to be built at the Forest Ranch Community Center would be greatly appreciated and may be sent to: Bob



Sixty Years...Who's Counting?

Keith Keppel started hybridizing iris in 1954. That's 60 years! Congratulations Keith.

Keith's Dyke's Medal winners (clockwise)

2004: 'Crowned Heads' 1997 2011: 'Drama Queen' 2003 1972: 'Babbling Brook' 1966 2012: 'Florentine Silk' 2005 2006: 'Sea Power' 1999







All photos from Shreiners Gardens

The Future of Hybridizing

Tom Karwin

The future of hybridizing has already begun; we soon will see the transformation of Nature's ancient methods, and the rapid introduction of amazing new cultivars.

The basic method for creating new varieties of ornamental and edible plants has been practiced by bees and other pollinators for a very, very long time. This approach, called crossbreeding, involves sexual propagation: fertilizing one plant with the pollen of another plant produces seeds that carry the traits of the two plants. When the seeds germinate, the next generation of plants shows combinations of the traits of their two parents.

In 1865, Gregor Mendel explained how the traits of the two parents are represented in subsequent generations of plants. His three laws of inheritance were not fully appreciated until 1900, when other scientists rediscovered his work. He later became known as the father of modern genetics.

Plant hybridization has advanced greatly since 1900, but still follows the natural process. Rather than combining plants randomly, like bees, human hybridizers try to combine the visible traits of two plants to produce hybrid plants that are better than either parent. With ornamental plants, for example, a hybridizer might strive to improve the plant's overall form or develop blossoms that are larger, more attractively colored, more numerous, etc. Other qualities that might be targeted by the hybridizer include vigor, disease resistance, habit typical for the kind of plant, etc. The hybridizer's methods combine science, art and clairvoyance as he or she selects plants for crossbreeding.

This process requires considerable time for seeds to develop and germinate, grow into new plants and reproduce to produce a marketable number of hybrids. Often the majority—or all—of the seedlings do not equal the hybridizer's vision and are discarded, so the process begins again.

For example, iris hybridizer Ray Schreiner once commented that he raises 10,000 seedlings each year, selects only fifteen for further testing, and then only two or three are included in catalogs. This anecdote is from *The Gardener's Iris Book*, by William Shear (The Taunton Press, 2002).

Genetic researchers recently have developed ways to hybridize plants faster and with greater control than has been possible with the bees' method. The new approach uses "genetic marking," a technique to identify the gene or gene combination that results in a desirable trait in the plant.

The modern hybridizer then crossbreeds plants with

desirable traits, grows the resulting seeds, and analyzes the genes in the hybrid to determine if it exhibits the desired trait(s).

An important tool in this process (first developed in 2006) is the seed chipper, a device that helps in determining if seeds will produce plants with desired traits. This process of "breeding without breeding" greatly speeds conventional hybridization. The seed chipping process takes a tiny sample from a seed without damaging the embryo, so the seed can still germinate. A separate complex and costly chipper is needed for soybeans, corn, wheat, and each other kind of plant.

Monsanto Company is pioneering the new methods for accelerating and controlling hybridization. These new methods do not involve transferring the genes from one species into another species so they differ from Monsanto's highly controversial work in genetic engineering.



Seth Dobrin, Ph.D. serves as the Monsanto director of Global Applied Genotyping Labs. He is pictured here with the corn seed chipper.

The new methods have already been applied to vegetables: Bellefina peppers, Beneforte broccoli, Melorange melon, Fescada lettuce and Evermild onions. Some "super produce" has already appeared in selected markets. Monsanto recently completed a \$31 million expansion of its vegetable seed research facilities in Woodland, California, where research on these new methods will be continued.

Clearly, Monsanto and agribusiness companies are focused on high-volume vegetable crops. The cost of highly specialized hardware and software ensures that orientation for the present.

Given the inexorable progress of technology, however, we will see "super ornamentals" in the future. Today, we can only speculate about how they will look and how they will grow. Marker-based selection should work with ornamental plants, although some have seeds too small for chipping off a sample for analysis. Iris seeds, however, are about one-eighth to one-quarter inch in size, and presumably large enough for chipping.

An important question: could hybridizers identify genetic markers for the desired traits of an iris? New methods, new plants, and new questions! 900

Additional information about hybridizing:

For a brief introduction to traditional hybridizing:

<u>Three Steps to Pollinating Irises</u> on the AIS Region 18 website

Advice for Beginning Hybridizers by Clarence Mahan in the AIS Bulletin, July 1997

William Shear's article, <u>Try Your Hand at Hybridizing Irises</u>

For more information on the new technology for hybridizing:
Ben Paynter's article, <u>Monsanto Is Going Organic in a Quest for the Perfect Veggie</u>, or <u>Monsanto's Technology Platform in Wheat</u>,



Joe Ghio has been hybridizing iris since 1954. That's 60 years! Congratulations Joe. Some of Joe's award-winning iris (left to right):

'Bubbles Galore' 2002

'Double Bubble' 1998

'Drifting Bubbles' 2005

All photos from **Shreiners Gardens**







Reticulatas

Alleah Halev



Photo: 05-GO-4 black on yellow ground 2013 sdlg. Alan McMurtrie

Reticulatas are bulbous irises; i.e., they grow from a bulb like Dutch irises do, rather than a rhizome. The reticulatas are native to Russia, the Caucasus (area between the Black and Caspian Seas including the Caucasus Mountains, Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan), and northern Iran; but are cultivated widely in temperate regions. The reticulata group of irises is characterized by a fibrous net surrounding the bulb.

They are small plants to 6 inches, with tubular, sharply-pointed, ribbed leaves, and flowers of yellow, blue or purple with an orange blaze on the falls, appearing in early spring. They are hardy, but prefer a well-drained sunny position in soil which dries out in summer; they are therefore suitable for rock gardens. Reticulated irises are often called "dwarf irises" in lay parlance.

Dykes in 1913 listed eight species of reticulatas: *I. reticulata*, *I. histrio*, *I. histrioides*, *I. vartani* (sometimes spelled vartanii), *I. danfordiae*, *I. bakeriana* (sometimes spelled bakerana), *I. kolpakowskiana*, and *I. winkleri*. The latter two were not cultivated.

The World of Irises added to the above list I. hyrcana, I. pamphylica, and I. winogradowii. Gordon Blackwell, writing "Bulbous Irises" in the latter publication, lists the following as cultivated: I. histrio var. aintabensis, I histrioides, I. bakerana, I. danfordiae, and I. reticulata, with the others either for collectors only or unavailable in the trade.

Reticulata iris and its cultivars 'George' and 'Katharine Hodgkin' have received the Royal Horticultural Society's Award of Garden Merit. Another known cultivar is 'Harmony'.

One of spring's earliest bloomers and earliest to bloom among irises, reticulatas look best when planted *en masse*. Suitable for xeriscaping, they peter out quickly in garden plantings and need to be divided frequently, with bulb fertilizer at planting, or replaced with additional stock. Occasionally, they can be purchased in "big box" stores in fall, but better sources include John Scheepers which offers seven varieties and Brent and Becky's Bulbs, which lists thirteen varieties.

Alan McMurtrie of Toronto, Canada is a current hybridizer of this group of irises. His website includes fabulous pictures of his new hybrids of *I. reticulata* (2n=20) and associated *I. histrioides* and *I. winogradowii* (2n=16) and I. danfordiae (2n=18). McMurtrie reports that they take about five years from seed to bloom. His irises are available from Janis Ruksans Bulbs in Latvia. >

Mr. McMurtrie was awarded the British Iris Society's Foster Memorial Plaque for his work on Reticulata Iris. His third article in the January/February 2013 *IRISES* is *Reticulata Iris: The Journey Continues*.

References

Dykes, W.R. (1913). *The Genus Iris*. Reprinted by Dover Publications, Inc. 1974 Warburton, B.,Ed. (1978). *The World of Irises*. Wichita, Kansas: American Iris Society. 494 pages the websites cited above.

John Scheepers

Brent and Becky's Bulbs
Reticulata Iris

Ed: See also J.P. Braselton, "Chromosomes and Plant Reproduction"

The daffodils are starting to bloom in my garden, so I know that spring is on the way. I also know that most iris shows have lined up judges for their shows. One of the things that we should think about is one-on-one training. As set out in the Guidelines for Training and Accreditation of Judges (available on the Judges Training) page of the AIS-14 website: http://aisregion14.org/ it.php) both students and apprentices have requirements for one-on-one training from an AIS judge. For master judges, there has been a change in the rules for receiving credit as of the AIS Fall Board meeting. In the past, master judges were not given hourly credit for giving one-on-one training. However, now a master judge may receive up to one hour of credit during a three year period for giving garden training to an apprentice judge. (See page 6 of the Jan/Feb 2014 AIS Bulletin, Judges' Training).

Now that show planning is underway, it is time for students and apprentices to line up those AIS judges to give them one-on-one exhibition training. Students may arrange for one of the judges to give them one hour of training after the regular judging is completed at a show. For an apprentice, the requirement is that they observe the judging during the actual judging, with tutoring by one or all of the judges on a panel. In either case, the instructor of the individual training must secure advance approval by the JT Chair, the trainee must take a written test (10 questions for a student, 20 questions for an Apprentice) and the instructor must validate the training by signing and submitting an "Instructor's Report of Individual Training" (available on the Judges' Training page of the AIS-14 website).

The strategy for organizing individual training is for the student or apprentice to contact the show chair and learn who the judges are, then contact one of the judges to arrange the training. Alternatively, the show chair could ask the judge. Remember that there can only be one apprentice with a panel of judges, so be sure to act in a timely manner. As show chair for the Sacramento Iris Society, I know that we do not have an apprentice coming to the SIS show on April 19, 2014, so contact me if you are interested.

As gardens soon will be in bloom, it is also time to line up a judge to give the student or apprentice one-on-one garden training (one hour for a student, two hours for an apprentice). Sometimes the training could be done at the Spring Regional guest gardens, or at a garden near your home or show location. However, this also requires advance approval from me, as JT Chair.

To get advance approval by the JT Chair, let me know the judge's name and the date and location for the individual training so that I could send an approval letter.

Remember that individual training should include a written test (10 questions for a student, 20 questions for an apprentice) and validation by a signed "Instructors Report of Individual Training."

The Spring Regional promises to offer four different judges' training sessions. It will be a great opportunity

AIS Electronic Membership

AIS Emembership is separate from the normal AIS membership. Emembers do not receive printed copies of the AIS Bulletins. Instead, they have access to online AIS Bulletins using an easy to use viewer. Emembers also have access to online viewing of *The Basic Iris Culture Booklet* and access to irisregister.com, the online database of iris registrations and introductions. Additional services may be made available in the future.

A summary of the current AIS service links found within the AIS Emember service area includes. <u>Iris Register Database</u>, the online database of iris registrations and introductions, maintained by the American Iris Society. The AIS is recognized and acknowledged as the official world registry of iris cultivars.

AIS Bulletin Library At present the library contains AIS Bulletin issues from the years 1920 to 2009 inclusive. *The AIS Basic Culture booklet* is published by the American Iris Society, Third Edition 2011, 48 pages total. Recent AIS Bulletins Emembers view some of the more recent quarterly AIS Bulletins online; from January 2010 to the current issue.

You may purchase an AIS Emembership through the AIS Membership information area of the website for \$15 per year. \$\sigma\$

Clik on **Emembers** on the right side of the AIS home page.



Joe Ghio's garden at the Region 14 Spring Regional in 2012 by AV Pike.

What now? A Virtual Iris Show!!

Reprinted from IRISES, January/February 2014

Robert Pries, AIS Public Relations and Marketing

Have you ever had a fantastic clump or stalk that you know would have astounded and amazed everyone at an iris show but the timing was off? Perhaps it was all buds or had finished blooming by the day of the show. Or perhaps the show dates are such that your favorite iris group never gets seen. Too early! Too late! It seems those "best in show" specimens always get away.

Now there is an opportunity to avoid the hassle of driving to the show, breaking stalks along the way. In essence the show can come to you at your best time and season. Introducing the virtual flower show.

How will it work? Entries, all types including seedlings, sorted in categories will be judged the same way as at a real time flower show: horticulture 75 percent, presentation 25 percent. Flower shows are more about judging the exhibitor than the particular iris. For this show there is no reason to cut the iris and put it in a vase. You will take pictures in place in the garden. AIS judges will rate the entries in a juried show.

Here are the rules. Take 3-4 pictures of each entry.

- 1. Image of a flower from the side
- 2. Image of the same flower from the top looking down
- 3. Image of the whole stalk or clump on which the flower sits
- 4. (optional) Image of the flower/plant from any direction which best to glorifies the plant

With this combination of images, it is possible to analyze how well the plant was growing (horticulture 75 percent) and the quality of the photograph (presentation 25 percent) The set of images for each entry will be sent to me as show clerk and I will create a set of image galleries on the <u>Virtual Iris Show</u> in the Iris Encyclopedia for the show. Entries can be photographed from January to end of July and submitted anytime during that period. I will begin assembling entries as they come in. Last day to enter is July 31. On August 1 when all the entries are in I'll finish assembly and it will be open for judging. The winners will be announced between August and September. The winners will be "exhibited" in the October/November edition of *IRISES*.

This first show is experimental. I hope enough people find it fun. Then again if I start getting too many entries I reserve the right to limit them. I wish I could say the American Iris Society was the first plant society to have a virtual show. But even though we do not lead the horticultural world we can still do interesting things. I am looking forward to seeing all the iris that never make it to the show.

If you would like to participate please e-mail me and we will work out the best way for you to send your entries. robertpries@embarqmail.com. 9-



Joe Balch was caught taking a photo in Joe Ghio's garden at the Region 14 Spring Regional in 2012 by AV Pike.

Youth Program

Our Youth Program is doing well. Twenty-five new second-grade students are participating in the Coarsegold Elementary School's Classroom Iris Project



(CIP), which Carolyn Hoover leads. The students are learning all about irises and will plant more irises in the CIP garden. Two students who were in last year's program, David and Brayden, are excited to learn more about irises along with the new students. Each new

student will receive an iris donated by Carolyn Hoover or another Yosemite Iris Society member.

This new CIP began on February 25, 2014. Students will make giant Iris posters to post around the school and town, inviting the public to attend our Annual Iris Show & Iris Fundraiser and enter our iris raffle.

'Crimson King' (Barr, 1893) bloomed in front our school library during February and students learned about rebloomers and historic irises.

Carolyn Hoover will be in the classroom each week as part of the science and math curriculum. We will forward a list of the new students' names and addresses to AIS-14 Youth Director Lorraine Nicholson.

Carolyn Hoover



'Crimson King' (Barr, 1893) by LM (HIPS-ROOTS.org)

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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.

Clara B Rees Iris Society

Clara B. Rees Iris Society members are excited about attending the Spring Regional in Santa Rosa. Since Friday, May 2 is our usual meeting night, CBRIS will convene our meeting at the Spring Regional!

Plans are being made for our Spring Show, "Irises On Parade," to be held on April 26-27. We hold it at Westgate Shopping Center in San Jose under the leadership of Carol Dahout.

There are reports of excellent growth of irises in the many microclimates that comprise the Clara B. Rees members' gardens. Several members of our society are aster Gardeners. \$\infty\$

Barbara Pesek







Fresno Iris Society

Through our efforts, many in the horticultural scene have become aware of irises as one of the most beautiful, easy to care for, drought-tolerant plants available.

We had a great time at our February meeting with Don Fennell, Terry Toney and Bill Tyson sharing their expertise. Don talked about soil and irrigation, Terry brought soil-sampling kits and gave the results of those members who wanted their soil checked. Bill Tyson spoke about pests in our gardens.

Our dear Jim Sutherland surprised us with his donation of a beautiful 14" x 16" stained glass piece he created for the club. (see at left) It was designated for the "Best of Show" trophy at our upcoming Spring Iris Show.

Speaking of which, Fresno Iris Society will hold its Spring Iris Show April 12 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Clovis Sierra Vista Mall. For more information contact Janet Smith, Show Chair. Come join us—you might win a beautiful trophy!!!

Some of the Fresno Iris Society's members are also Master Gardeners in Fresno County. They have presented "Iris Care and Culture" seminars at the Home & Garden Show in Fresno and as an Adult Education Class at the Garden of the Sun, the Master Gardener's Demonstration Garden in Fresno. The Society also is participating in water-wise events at California State University, Fresno and at the Clovis Botanical Garden.

Other exciting things are happening. Thanks to Mayra Guzman (CSU Fresno student and member of the Fresno Iris Society) and Pat Caffrey, Coordinator, the Fresno Iris Society has been helping Fresno State's Ornamental Horticulture Division lay out the John Weiler Memorial Learning Garden. The garden, which includes a lot of John's introductions, is coming along nicely. We hope to have it finished for the Water-Wise Day coming up in May.

Dr. John Weiler was not only the founder of the Fresno Iris Society 47 years ago, he was also a Professor of Plant Science and Landscape Design at California State University, Fresno for 27 years. He is also recognized in the iris world for his introductions of reblooming irises.

The guest speaker at the FIS June meeting will be Fred Kerr. He will talk about hybridizing. So

Janet Smith

High Desert Iris Society

The High Desert Iris Society is located in the beautiful Truckee Meadows just east of the Sierras. Founded by Evelyn Condo and now in its fourth year, our organization is comprised of a diverse group of iris enthusiasts who are dedicated to sharing their wisdom and rhizomes with their fellow gardeners throughout northern Nevada.

We hold our regular meetings on the third Saturday of each month. Officers generously provide their homes for meetings and members are notified via email the address of each month's meeting. Membership dues for 2014 are \$15.00 for individuals; \$25.00 for couples.

We are pleased to announce the following slate of officers for 2014:

- President: Billie Shea
- 1st Vice President(s): Carolyn Jensen & Evelyn Condo
- 2nd Vice President: Sue Taylor
- Treasurer(s): Jane Wertzberger & Billie Shea
- Secretary: Patricia Eisenberger
- Events Committee Chair: Darcy Anderson
- Newsletter Editor: Pam McAllister

So far, we have three spring and summer events planned:

Silver State Iris Show: May 17-18, at Moana Nursery in Reno. Judges: Phyllis Wilburn, John Pesek, Barbara Pesek, and Kathy Braaten, Alternate

Summer Sales: July 19-20 at Greenhouse Garden Center in Carson City and July 26-27 at Moana Nursery in Reno.

The High Desert Iris Society is excited to host this year's AIS-14 Fall Regional Meeting. Themed "Let's Get Lucky," it will be held at the Atlantis Resort Hotel and Spa, Saturday and Sunday, October 3-4. Master iris judge Kathy Chilton will be our guest speaker and will conduct the judges' training session. Details will be in the Summer Bulletin and on the R14 website.

For more information about our organization or any of these events, contact Billie Shea <sheabillie@sbcglobal. net> or by phone at 775-720-3736. \$\sigma\$

Pam McAllister

Leo T Clark Iris Society

Leo T. Clark Iris Society Spring Show April 26-27

The Leo T. Clark Iris Society will hold its Spring Show on Saturday, April 26th and Sunday, April 27th, in the Sears Courtyard of the Chico Mall. The public can view the judge's awards starting at 1AM on Saturday, and 10 Sunday. Viewing ends at 6PM on both days. The AIS judges of iris specimens will be Fred Kerr, John Pesek and Lynn Williams. Erna Garton of the Chico Designers Guild will be the artistic arrangement judge.

This year's theme is "Over the Rainbow." Irene Annand very generously donated Bob Annand's entire collection of remarkable medals, iris tote bags, etc. to be distributed as prizes. The Spring Show is dedicated to the loving memory of Bob Annand.

Leo T. Clark Iris Society's New Board Members

Carol Cullen is now the Treasurer of Leo T. Clark Iris Society. Rob Marshall kindly accepted the position of Board Member at Large that was held by his father.

Irises Honor Veterans

The Leo T. Clark Iris Society elected to plant a Memorial Iris Garden at VECTORS in Chico as its Community Service Project this year. VECTORS (Veterans Executive Corporation To Organize Rehabilitative Services) is a non-profit 501-3c housing facility chartered to provide supportive services to clients of the North Valley Veterans Center.

Members of the Iris Society spent one day preparing the site for the garden. Marva Van Gilder served as Coordinator of the VECTORS garden project. Rob Marshall was in charge of removing the existing heavy sod. Marva Van Gilder and Kathy Hutchinson placed and leveled the perimeter of the garden's stones while Mary Old-Kooi served as go-fer materials and tools. Bob and Irene Annand provided encouragement and advice.

The second workday brought out more Iris Society members. Kathy Hutchinson and Carol Cullen purchased and planted the especially worthy irises that Marva donated from the Painters of the Napa Country Iris Gardens. Delores Bates gave IB irises that were planted in the surrounding areas. Cloudia Owen planned the placement of iris for best color location and provided a five-gallon bucket of special soil amendments. Mary Old-Kooi provided and planted pansies for each side of the iris-flanked walkway leading to the flagpole.

Lowes' Home Improvement Warehouse generously provided the stones for the Memorial Iris Garden project as well as a discount on the gorgeous metal bench that the Iris Society purchased so future visitors or Veterans

might sit to admire the flowers. Virgil Van Gilder spent hours chopping roots in order to level the ground beneath the metal bench.

Members of the Leo T. Clark Iris Society feel privileged to honor our Veterans with the Memorial Iris Garden at VECTORS of Chico, the first grass-roots rehabilitative housing in the USA for Veterans. So

Mary Old-Kooi

Monterey Bay Iris Society

Amazingly warm and sunny winter weather we are having in the Monterey-Santa Cruz area—again! First sooo hot, then soooo cold, now balmy. The recent drops of rain hopefully signal a jet stream shift around that "ridiculously resistant ridge" of high pressure diverting our rightful share of flooding and recharged groundwater.

Spring is coming quickly, and we will have iris anyhow—amen to that!

Joe Ghio has predicted this could be a very good year for irises, based on his experience with bountiful gardens in the drought of 1976-77. Even a dark cloud can have a silver lining.

I have had a couple re-bloomers up recently—love to see them. Iris high season is approaching.

We are marking our calendars now to attend the San Francisco Garden Show in San Mateo in March, the 2014 AIS Convention in Dallas in April, the 2014 AIS-14 Spring Regional Meeting in Santa Rosa, and our very own Monterey Bay Iris Society Iris Show in May. MBIS hopes to see folks from all over the iris world at these upcoming events of the iris world! \$\infty\$

Barbara Hanson

Mt. Diablo Iris Society

As March approaches, our club is preparing for non-stop activity as we host two iris shows within a two-week period.

Our first and newest show will be held on March 29 at Alden Lane Nursery in Livermore, California. This is a beautiful setting among mature oak trees.

Our regular annual show will be at The First Baptist Church in Walnut Creek, California on April 12.

We invite all Region 14 members to come to these shows. We look forward to seeing you there. So

Eileen Roark

Sacramento Iris Society

The February meeting was held the day after Martin Luther King Day at the Shepard Garden and Art Center. Our program speaker from the Master Gardeners, Barbara Poll, focused most of her remarks on water conservation and provided several useful ideas for conserving water.

Our business meeting approved the budget as proposed by Mary Ann Horton, with the addition of a line item for a scholarship award in the amount of \$250, which the club had authorized last year.

Our next club activity will be the Spring Sale at the Garden and Arts Center, Saturday and Sunday March 22-23. Stan Logan has graciously agreed to chair the event. We will be selling potted iris that Alison Willy is keeping for the club.

At our March 18 meeting, Mary Ann Horton will be our speaker on the varied forms of iris. 9-

Bill Fink

San Joaquin Iris Society

So many questions this year! Will we have enough rain? Will it come in time? How will it affect our blooms? Better yet, will we have blooms? If we have blooms, will it be "timed" as usual or when will it happen?

At our February meeting, as we discussed these issues over snacks, we concluded, "Not much we can do about it," so we should enjoy what we are blessed with.

Our speaker for that meeting was Jennifer Johnson, who spoke about her most recent trip to New Zealand and Australia. Her presentation was very informative, with a Power Point display and many personal observations.

We did plan an update for our standing rules and by laws.

We will not conduct a garden tour for our area, but interested persons are welcome to call and visit individually.

We also were invited to enjoy/work at the Kanarowski garden. Doug will announce a date when "bloom tells him." >>

Lorraine Nicholson

Santa Rosa Iris Society

The Santa Rosa Iris Society (SRIS) is busy preparing to host AIS-14's 2014 Spring's Regional Meeting. This event is titled, "A Carnival Carousel of Iris", to honor SRIS's longtime member and hybridizer Jim Begley and his 2005 tall bearded iris introduction 'Carnival Carousel' (pink with falls streaked and washed purple).

The convention hotel will be the Flamingo Conference Resort and Spa in Santa Rosa. Region 14 hybridizers have sent guest irises that are planted in two gardens that convention attendees will view: the public demonstration and display garden that SRIS members maintain at the Luther Burbank Art and Garden Center in Santa Rosa and the private C & L Vineyard garden of members Rudy Ciuca and Joe Lawrence in Sonoma.

Three optional gardens will be open for viewing: the commercial Napa Country Iris Gardens of hybridizers John and Lesley Painter in rural Napa County, the private home garden of Betty Ford in Sonoma, and the private hybridizer's garden of Jim Begley in Santa Rosa. Jim's wife, Marcelline Nelipowitz, also has a gorgeous rose garden there, so come prepared to be wowed by roses as well.

Co-chairmen for the Regional are SRIS President Anna Marie Hermansen and former AIS President Jeanne Plank. They have tapped nearly every member of the Society to help as garden hosts, snack preparers, servers, weeders, writers, logistics suppliers, or gofers.

The banquet speakers will be the world-renowned Louisiana iris hybridizers Heather and Bernard Pryor, owners of the commercial Iris Haven in Sydney, Australia, who will also give judges' training on Louisiana irises.

Three other judges' training sessions will be conducted:

- Fred Kerr on garden judging tall bearded irises,
- Jim Begley and Ross BeVier on staging iris for showing and show bench judging, and
- Jim Begley on garden judging of seedlings.

Be sure to register early for the convention. The low \$85 registration fee will increase to \$105 after April 1, and hotel rooms and rates will be subject to availability after April 1.

SRIS looks forward to welcoming everyone to Wine Country and "A Carnival Carousel of Iris" on May 2-4, 2014 in Santa Rosa. \$\infty\$

Alleah Haley

Sierra Foothills Iris Society

Sierra Foothill's show will be on April 26-27. The theme is "Rock-n-Roll."

Judges training tall bearded irises will be on April 26 at 2 p.m. at the Horton's garden. Kitty Loberg will conduct the training, which will continue for 1.5 hours. So

Eric Hansen

Sydney B. Mitchell Iris Society

SBMIS held a December Potluck. John Jones spoke about Awards and Ballots during his Training Presentation.

Below is 'Pearls Of Summer', (George Sutton 2012 TB-RE). The iris stalk was brought by Shirley Trio/Riley Probst of Fleur De Lis Garden. This stalk was picked on December 4, 2013 before freezing weather started. Today was January 12. It has been residing in our barn since it was picked. \$\sigma\$

Riley Probst







L to R: Barbara Pesek, John Pesek, JoAnne Jones, Larry Toney, Terry Toney, Allen Robbins (back), Helen Blevin, Philippa Alvis (back), Carolyn Hoover, Betty Bridger, Loretta Figueroa, Rudy Ciuca, Shirley Trio-Probst & Joe Lawrence.

photos by Riley Probst

Yosemite Iris Society

The date for our second Second Annual Iris Show, "Irises on Parade," is Saturday, April 19, 2014. We will hold the show in the multipurpose room of Coarsegold Elementary School, Coarsegold, California. Judging will begin at 10:00 a.m. The show will include a Youth Division!

RVP John Pesek was the guest speaker at our February meeting. John described affiliation with AIS Region 14 and how the AIS assist each of our members and our society by providing judges training, show ribbons and awards and the quarterly bulletin. He also provided information and flyers on the upcoming 2014 Spring Regional meeting, to be hosted by Santa Rosa Iris Society. We enjoyed sandwiches, cake and drinks provided by our hospitality gal, Shirley Trio. Big thanks for the goodies!

Our officers have two-year appointments and will remain the same as for 2013.

We talked about how the weather may be affecting our three guest iris gardens that we planted just last fall in preparation for the 2015 Spring Regional Meeting. The Yosemite Iris Society will host that meeting, to be held in Coarsegold.

Next month, our meeting topic will be "How to Show an Iris," for the benefit of many of our members who are new to the iris world and might have joined our society at last year's show. Bill Tyson, Riley Probst and Shirley Trio will give pointers on how to win blue ribbons! Our society is blessed to have such knowledgeable irisarians sharing their expertise. We are thankful for them! •

Carolyn Hoover



About Advertising

The AIS Region 14 Bulletin is published four times each year: spring (March 1st), summer (June 1st), fall (September 1st), and winter (December 1st). We distribute the Bulletin online through the Region's website, http://www.aisregion14.org/, where it is available for downloading by all interested persons without charge.

We will publish advertisements for irises and other garden-related goods and services.

Submit text advertisement copy or display advertisement artwork to the editor, Thomas Karwin, tom@karwin. com. We cannot accept MS Publisher or Word Perfect files.

Deadlines for advertisement submissions are as follows: February 1st (spring issue), May 1st (summer issue), August 1st (fall issue) and November 1st (winter issue).

Payment is due at the same time. Send your check, payable to AIS Region 14, to:

AIS-14 Treasurer Helen Franklin 5621 Oakhill Court Santa Maria, CA 93455

At our discretion, we will place ads throughout each Bulletin, or group them together.

Category & Dimensions	One Issue	Four Issues
Text-only Advertisements (black & white) 2" text advertisement (2.25"w x 2.00"h)	\$30	\$ 96
3" text advertisement (2.25"w x 3.00"h)	\$40	\$128
Display Advertisement (color)		
1/4 page (3.65"w x 2.50"h)	\$35	\$112
1/8 page (3.65"w x 4.875"h)	\$50	\$160
1/2 page, horizontal (7.50"w x 4.875"h)	\$100	\$320
1/2 page vertical (3.65"w x 9.875"h)	\$100	\$320

For technical questions, including full-page ad copy, For technical questions, including full-page ad copy specifications, contact bulletin designer Kathleen Sonntag, kathwrites@