



BULLETIN

Region 14

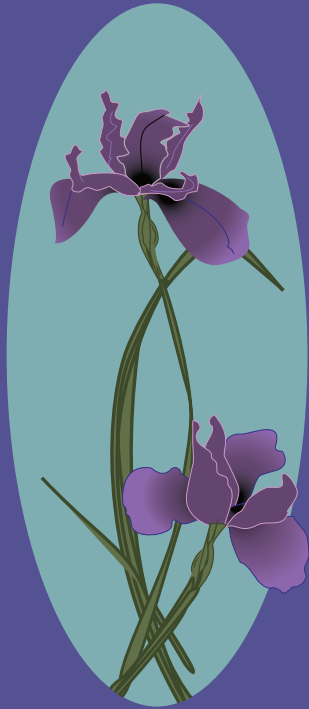
American Iris Society

Spring/Summer

2012



AIS Region 14



Hawaii
Nevada
Northern California

The Bulletin of Region 14 The American Iris Society

Volume LVI, Number 1, Spring/Summer 2012

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Cover Photo

Lunch at Cummins' Scotts Valley house during 2012 Spring Regional, Aptos, CA, Photo by AV Pike

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Editorial Matters

Editorial submissions and inquiries should be directed to the editor. Deadlines for submissions are February 1st (March issue), June 1st (July issue) and October 1st (November issue). All rights to 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, July and November 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.

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Advertisements

Growers & suppliers of gardening-related goods & services may advertise concurrently in the Bulletin & the Region's website, www.aisregion14.org. Four-line directory listings are available for \$15/year. Fees for advertisements should be payable to AIS Region 14 and sent to the Treasurer, Helen Franklin, 5621 Oakhill Court, Santa Maria, CA 93455.

Editor's Notes

March 2012 came and went without an issue of the Bulletin not because of "technical difficulties" or sunspots, but because this editor simply got too busy with other stuff. I regret that omission and I apologize, but that's life. I recently clipped an opinion piece, "The 'Busy' Trap," which I plan to read real soon.

Our March issue traditionally carries a preview of the Spring Regional Meeting, using various messages to encourage attendance. Happily, the word got out through other channels, including the AIS-14 website and e-mails to affiliate contacts, with the result that the event was very well attended and enjoyable to all. An article by John Stremel and Mikey Lango, with photos by them and Carl Boro, shares some experiences that participants shared.

This issue does include the preliminary schedule and registration information for the 2012 Fall Regional Meeting: October 27th and 28th, in Roseville, hosted by the Sierra Foothills Iris Society. Mark your calendar! In preparing this issue, we had very welcome contributions from members. The AIS-14 executive committee's input is always interesting and fundamental to the purpose of this publication. We are always pleased to receive reports from the region's committees, news from the region's affiliates, and articles from members. If you are inspired to share your iris-related thoughts and experiences, please send your material to me for consideration. Certainly, if you would like feedback on an article you are thinking about, let us know.

Some ideas for articles include profiles of Region 14's hybridizers, your experiences with growing irises, design concepts for irises in the garden, historical notes about Region 14, reviews of books about irises, less common species within the Family Iridaceae.

On that last suggestion, do you know that the iris family has worldwide distribution and includes 65 genera and over 2,000 species? At a recent meeting of the Monterey Bay Iris Society, a member brought a sample of one of the less familiar species to show & tell: an impressive blossom stalk of a *Dierama*, the common name for which is Fairy's Fishing Rod.

We particularly appreciate the many hybrid forms of the tall bearded iris, which are based on the German Iris (*I. germanica*), the Sweet Iris (*I. pallida*) or the Hungarian Iris (*I. variegata*). There is however much of the very large iris family for us to explore.

Bring your ideas to the Bulletin. We will all be richer for them.

Tom Karwin

Region 14 Executive Committee 2012

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From the Desk of Jeanne Plank, RVP

Something To Think About—
Since late last December, Bob and I have been wrestling with a huge change in our everyday lives. We moved from Lake County to Sonoma County into an apartment less than half the size of our Lake County home. The location is infinitely better suited to our desire to live closer to family members and favorite destinations without the tortuous drives between Lake County and almost everywhere else. Obviously, such an upheaval brought tremendous changes: often tedious, frequently frustrating, and famously fatiguing—in a word “difficult”—even when the end result is ultimately liberating and rewarding.

With change affecting our personal lives, I found myself reflecting on the changes that have been impacting the life-styles of contemporary society and on the effect these changes are having on organizations of all kinds throughout the world. If you’ve read any of my other RVP messages, I’m sure it comes as no surprise that I am very intrigued by the phenomenon of “change,” so rapid, so persistent and so constantly reshaping modern life.

Just since the turn of this century, information resources and communication tools have grown exponentially at lightening speeds with a profound effect on many venerable institutions. As an example, the 244-year old Encyclopedia Britannica comes to mind. In March the Britannica announced it “will discontinue the 32-volume printed edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica when our current inventory is gone.” This quote was taken off their webpage. The Britannica has an extensive presence on the Internet.

The American Iris Society, a much younger (92-year old), but well-established and respected organization, has been affected by the “information jet-way” along with other well-established information-based organizations.

Primarily serving as a worldwide information repository for the Genus Iris, The American Iris Society is an obviously valuable horticultural resource. Each level of our organization—affiliate, region, section, and national—in its own way contributes to the magnitude of that value.

Affiliates, closest to the public, wield more influence than any other division of the AIS because they have the best resources for attracting potential members through locally held garden tours, shows, and rhizome sales. Affiliate members give the AIS its strength.

Although garden tours, shows, and sales remain important, new, very potent resources have been added to the mix—an electronic presence by way of a web site, an electronically-delivered newsletter, and even a Facebook site.

To continue to thrive, affiliates must examine the various and varied means by which to attract, appeal, or enrich—in short, prove of value—to a potential membership base that is now fully immersed in the present-day, world-wide access to information.

And what does the Region do, poor thing?—Everything it can to strengthen its affiliates.

For one: Region 14 can supply an Affiliate with its own web page through the Region’s domain (a web page “book” so to speak). No affiliate should be without its own web page. The Region can provide the affiliate with that opportunity at no additional cost. The Affiliate assumes responsibility to maintain its web page with current information about the group. An up-to-date page providing local information can aid an affiliate’s growth and potential vigor.

For another: Region 14 can strongly urge both leaders and members of the region to attend and to actively participate in region governing meetings that shape region policies and activities. It should be a practicing goal to keep those meetings free-flowing, but succinct. Regional meetings—spring and fall—might well be considered analogous to a congress made up of affiliate spokespeople, regional-activity chairs, and region members-at-large, with the RVP presiding. This “affiliate congress” is where affiliate leaders and region members get together to direct the region’s activities toward the promotion of irises and iris information. Guest speakers, fund raising offerings, and garden tours add to the allure; but make no mistake; directing region business is its main purpose and most important goal. Entertainment, a secondary attribute, should not detract from the main purpose: to exchange ideas and forge a cohesive approach to promoting irises and iris activities to the gardening interests within their shared area.

All irisarians will be better served if Affiliates and region members, whether affiliated or not, are active participants in the management of their geographic boundary—in our case, Region 14.

My next (and last) RVP essay will examine the practical value of both Regional meetings and affiliate meetings regularly scheduling workshops devoted to managing electronic participation and communication in our iris world. In other words, instruction on how you can expand your iris activities and knowledge through your computer.

Something to think about . . .

Jeanne

A Brief Planting History

By Joe Ghio

In 1953, my first named iris collection was planted in a bed with tree roses down the center. A later collection of two irises ('Elmohr' and 'Green Pastures' from Lloyd Austin's Rainbow Hybridizing Gardens) was planted in a corner bed since there was no more room in the rose bed. My mother had grown a few irises since World War II and two were still growing in our garden at this time.

The following spring (1954) the first crosses were made and the seed sowed around the outer edge of the above rose bed. When the seed germinated, it was obvious there was no room to plant all of those seedlings "at home." My grandmother had a long lot with her home on Rigg Street and I began my first expansion by planting these seedlings in her backyard.

As the named collection and number of seedlings expanded, so did the need for more space. One backyard after another was taken over. The owners were delighted to have a young man who would clean up and maintain their yards for free in return he grew beautiful irises in them. At the height of backyard gardening, I was planting in seven backyards clustered around Rigg Street and Bay Street, about five blocks apart. In addition the surplus of named varieties was planted as backup stock in an uncle's garden on California Street and an aunt's garden, which was still on the family's original Brussels spout ranch on the Wilder Ranch.

As time would have it, age caused one backyard owner after the other pass from the scene. The obvious need to consolidate planting in one location became apparent. But involvement in politics delayed this move until 1994 when "the ranch" was acquired in Corralitos some sixteen miles southeast of Santa Cruz. This seven-acre apple orchard had "magic" soil that could grow anything with a climate similar to Santa Cruz.

No longer was it necessary to severely select and discard seedlings quickly. But it also became rapidly apparent that it is difficult to carefully evaluate and hybridize unless you "lived" with the irises. "Living with them" meant you could go out in the garden at anytime to look at them, evaluate them, breed them. The distant ranch planting did not allow this careful attention but was fine to grow and increase stock and plant any surplus seedlings.

The plan evolved to growing as many first year seedlings here at home, one each of the named varieties and two to six rhizomes of the reselect seedlings here as well. The surplus of named varieties and select seedlings are planted at the ranch. When we would have a large seed crop and the home garden was full, the balance would go to the ranch. Also the "unknowns" (seeds that didn't germinate the first year and tags were gone) would also be planted at the ranch.

NOTE: We invite Joe to provide another chapter of his history with iris.



Barbara Nicodemus, Phil Williams and Joe Ghio

AV Pike

AIS Region 14 Spring Board Meeting Region 14 The American Iris Society, Aptos, CA Friday, April 27, 2012

Phyllis Wilburn, Secretary

Attending

Executive Committee and General Committee

members present: RVP Jeanne Plank, ARVP and Judges Training Chair Kathy Braaten, Secretary Phyllis Wilburn, Treasurer Helen Franklin, Bulletin Chair/Editor Tom Karwin, Director Carol Dahout, Director Gordon Nicholson, Immediate Past RVP Lynn Williams, Honorary Awards, John Pesek, Science Chair John Stremel; Trophies and Awards Chair David Cadd; Youth Chair Lorraine Nicholson.

Absent Board Members: Director Larry Lockhart, Historian Committee, Jean Richter, Membership Chair, Mary Ann Horton Scholarship Chair Terri Hudson; (absent in the line of duty) Carolyn Craft, Finance Chair;

Attending Affiliate Presidents: Mary Collins, CBRIS, Helen Franklin, representing JMGIS; Kathy Braaten, SFIS; Anna Cadd, SRIS; Sandy Mann, representing SJIS; Bill Fink, Sacramento IS; Tom Karwin, MBIS; John Stremel, WIS, Terry Toney representing FIS; Kitty Loberg, RIS.

Affiliates Not Formally Represented: LVIS; LTCIS; SNIS; MDIS; Shasta IS; and SBMIS.

Other signed-in Attendees: Bob Plank, Barbara Pesek, Elaine Fischer, and Joe Ghio.

Call to Order

Regional Vice President, Jeanne Plank called the Spring Meeting of the Region 14 Board of Director's to order on Friday, April 27, 2012 at 7:02 pm. RVP Plank thanked the Monterey Bay Iris Society for hosting this Spring Regional meeting. After introducing regional officers, RVP Plank extended a welcome to all, and asked everyone to sign the attendance sheet being circulated. On a motion from Lynn Williams, seconded by Helen Franklin, the minutes of the Fall 2011 Regional Meeting were approved as published.

Reports from the Board

Secretary Phyllis Wilburn said that the Standing Rules had been updated to reflect the voting at the Fall Meeting, and that the updated version had been emailed to all affiliate Presidents and Region 14 board members and chairpersons.

Judges Training Chair, Kathy Braaten announced that 7 judges training sessions have been held so far this year. In addition, a blind judging session, coordinated by Linda Stremel, is scheduled for tomorrow, April 28, at the Cummins garden. Joe Ghio will give TB judges

training in his garden on Sunday, April 29. Fred Kerr will give garden training at Horton's Iris Garden in Loomis on May 5, and Anna Cadd will give in-garden TB training on Dykes Medal/Modern iris comparison at the LBGC garden in Santa Rosa on May 12. The current Region 14 judge count lists 3 apprentices, 25 garden/exhibition judges, 12 Master Judges, and 6 Emeritus Judges. Activity reports will be sent out to judges shortly and are due June 1, 2012.

Treasurer Helen Franklin announced that the year-end Region treasury balance should be in the next bulletin.

Director Gordon Nicholson had no report, and Director Larry Lockhart was not present.

Director Carol Dahout reported that the SF garden Show was wonderful affair. RVP Plank expressed the Region's gratitude to the Clara B Rees Iris Society (CBRIS) for organizing and coordinating the Region 14/AIS presence at the show. Carol reported that this year R14 did not pay for electricity, and that members and former members of local clubs had staffed the booth. Discussions followed on the validity of people staffing the booth who were not AIS or local club members, and also on the future possibility of being able to sell irises at the show from the booth.

Historian Jean Richter was not able to be present for this evening's meetings.

RVP Plank pointed out that John Pesek is now chair of Honorary Awards Committee. Anna Cadd, outgoing HA Committee Chair offered help to John during the transition.

Webmaster Ann Pike requested that changes should be sent directly to her when an Affiliate needs their info updated on the R14 web site. RVP Plank strongly suggested that each Affiliate designate an "e-ambassador" to monitor the Affiliate's information on the R14 web site. Kathy Braaten observed that value that could come from having a calendar on the site.

Bulletin Editor Tom Karwin said that he has been overwhelmed with other activities so that the R14 Spring Bulletin has not been published. Much discussion ensued about electronic communication with many suggestions that might help the Region, including: having each Affiliate designate a member-reporter for the Bulletin; having someone synthesize articles from R14 Affiliate newsletters (noting that not all R14 Affiliates have a newsletter); having each Region Director report for their area of the Region; suggested by Kitty Loberg—having a Facebook-like page using a program called WordPress, and relevantly, creating a steering committee to discuss the issue of electronic communications and make recommendations to the Board. Tom indicated that the deadline for the 2012 Summer Bulletin is June 1, and he hoped that everyone would have submittals on time.

Membership Chair Mary Ann Horton, unable to be present, had sent a report to RVP Plank stating that AIS membership in Region 14 was holding steady.

Scholarship Chair Terry Hudson, also not present, sent a letter written by Jason Heutmaker of Modesto, the recipient of the 2012 Region 14 \$500 Scholarship Award. RVP Plank read the award-winning letter. Jason Heutmaker will be attending Humboldt College, studying the relationship between Bees and Irises.

Science Chair John Stremel reported that he would have an article in Bulletin on a future project he is proposing. Awards Chair, Anna Cadd, announced that there would be no Region 14 Garden Awards at this Regional meeting. Monterey Bay Iris Society will have a ballot for the favorite iris.

Youth Chair Lorraine Nicholson announced that four youths via the Las Vegas Affiliate attended the AIS convention in Ontario, CA through scholarships from Region 14. There are now 35 youths in the Youth project and they will be sent irises by Lorraine.

Anna Cadd introduced a discussion about putting advertisements for Region 14 into other horticultural magazines such as Pacific Horticulture. It was moved and seconded that R 14 investigate placing one year of ads for AIS/R14 in Pacific Horticulture and tracking the results. Motion carried.

Kitty Loberg discussed the possible dissolution of Redwood Iris Society. She stated the Affiliate had voted that, in the event of their dissolution, they request that their leftover money be earmarked for a startup of a future club. Lynn Williams moved, Gordon Nicholson seconded that in the event of dissolution of an R14 affiliate, R14 may accept and hold funds in a restricted account for use in starting up new affiliates within the Region. Motion carried.

Kathy Braaten, President of Sierra Foothills IS announced that the 2012 Fall Meeting will be held October 27-29 in Roseville, CA. The speaker will be Paul Black. Early registration is \$55, and the hotel is the Orchid Suites, with a room rate of \$69 for room, Lunch will be included but dinner will be on your own.

John Pesek moved to adjourn, and Kathy Braaten seconded. Adjourned at 8:00 pm.

General Meeting

RVP Plank opened general meeting at 8:10 pm:

Announcements were made as to what was generally discussed at the Board Meeting.

Concerns were raised about the notification process for the Bulletin. Committee Chair Tom Karwin said that Affiliate presidents would be notified when the newest Bulletin issue was available for the web site, but, as he pointed out, we have skipped the 2012 Spring Bulletin. Betty Ford expressed concern and voiced the opinion

that distracting and conflicting activities should not be taking place while the General Meeting is in session. RVP Plank indicated that she wanted to combine the Board and General Meetings sessions. There was also a question about guidelines for Spring Regionals, and whether or not any such guidelines exist.

Kitty Loberg moved, John Pesek seconded, that the Region 14 Board investigate combining the Board and General Membership Meetings, and propose bylaws changes for implementation. Motion carried.

Following a motion from Kathy Bratten, seconded by Helen Franklin, and carried, the meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Iris Vote

With 80 ballots submitted, the top ten iris are: Super Hero with 30 votes; Bravery and Engagement Ring tied at 28; Brouhaha, 26; Center Ice, 22; Foolish Dreamer and Winning Hand, 19; Montmartre, 18; Boy Genus and Dragon King, 16, and It's Magic and Spectacle with 14 and a tie for tenth place. Engagement Ring won the vote for the favorite iris.



Jim Cummins, the driving force behind the Spring Regional

M Lango



Super Hero, Ghio, 2012

AV Pike



REGION 14 OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY Treasurers Report For 12-31-11 Through 06-05-12



Bravery, Ghio, 2012

Joe Ghio



foolish Dreamer, Keppel, 2011

AV Pike



Winning Hand, Ghio, 2012

Joe Ghio

	BUDGETED	Funds At 12/31/2011	Funds At 06/05/2012
CHECKING ENDING BALANCE		\$ 9,659.45	\$ 11,488.90
SAVINGS—LOUIS OBRIEN		\$ 551.22	\$ 554.02
SAVINGS ENDING BALANCE		\$20,477.55	\$20,534.94
TOTAL ASSETS		\$30,688.22	\$ 32,577.86
EXPENSES BY ITEM			
Bulletin—Publishing	200.00	687.00	
Postage/Label/Mail	250.00	151.48	
Color Pages	.00	400.00	
Editor Expense	50.00		
RVP Allowance	1500.00	1215.28	399.46
Finance—Summer Fund-raiser	.00		
Beardless Purchases	425.00	430.12	
Miscellaneous/Auctions/Raffles	100.00	32.30	29.64
Sales Taxes	190.00	184.00	108.00
Judges' Training 2012	1000		27.00
Judges' Training 2011		360.00	
Science Committee	500.00		
Awards and Trophies	650.00	306.81	
Honorary Awards	300.00		
Office Legal	200.00		
Supplies		101.84	50.00
Fees		20.00	
Printing copies for meeting			
Office Equipment		30.00	
Historian	100.00		
Scholarship	575.00	559.29	500.00
Youth Committee	300.00	351.50	30.00
Membership	50.00		36.00
Internet Services	110.00	88.79	
S.F. Flower Show-2011		173.46	
S.F. Flower Show-2011	600.00	355.00	93.20
Donation—Weiler2011	100.00	300.00	
Spring Regional 2010			
Spring Regional 2011		2,082.23	
Fall Regional 2011		2,107.77	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 7200.00	9,936.87	1273.30



Spectacle, Ghio, 2012

AV Pike



Brouhaha, Ghio, 2012

AV Pike



Boy Genius, Ghio, 2012

AV Pike



Montemartre, Keppel, 2009

Mikey Lango

TREASURERS REPORT

	BUDGETED	Funds At 12/31/2011	Funds At 06/05/2012
REVENUES BY ITEM			
Bulletin Advertising	200.00	145.00	
Bulletin Subscriptions	15.00		
Donations from Societies *	800.00	862.00	766.00
Donation—other			
Rm rent			
Memorials		200.00	
Donations/Raffles	100.00		
Donations/Rm Rent 2010			
Interest	150.00	268.36	65.19
Judges' Training	500.00		
Registration fees, Spring/Fall Regional	300.00		
Finance, Spring Fund Raiser-Raffle	1,000.00		2036.75
Summer Fund Raiser-Rhizomes	1000.00	1235.50	300.00
Summer Fund Raiser-Donations			
Fall Beardless Fund Raiser	700.00		
Finance, Fall Fund Raiser, Raffle/Donations	250.00		
Fall Regional 2011		4194.00	
Spring Regional 2011		5010.00	
Subtotal	5015.00	11914.86	3167.94
Use of Reserve Funds			
TOTAL REVENUES			
	\$	11914.86	3167.94
Total Expenses	7,200.00\$	9,936.87	
Less total Revenues	\$-5,015.00	\$-11,914.86	\$ -3,167.94
Excess expenses/revenues	2,185.00	\$ -1,977.99	\$ -1,894.64



Engagement Ring, Ghio, 2011

Joe Ghio

Committee Reports

Science Project—A Bit of Fun?

How about a science project that is fun, rather than serious? As the regional science chair, I have been considering efforts that would be interesting and enjoyable for all of us. This article poses a question: Are you interested in developing a software application available on a hosted website that allows you to review iris pictures for fun and enjoyment? Perhaps even some educational content?

The challenge is how to do that in a way that allows us to pursue our favorites but also occasionally leads us into expanding our horizons.

So, for your consideration, consider a web page with a button that hosts a software application (click the button as you would to play a game.)

The application brings up random pictures of two irises and asks you to vote on which one you like best. When you make a selection, information is provided (year, description, hybridizer). As a player, you can click and choose and see which irises you like.

Each month (or even each week) there would be a theme: Irises of the 20s; Irises of the 50s; Illuminatas; Diploids, etc. A scoring can keep track of the selections and a ranking might result in publishing the top 4 or 5 (court of honor) for the round.

There are some challenges.

Most notable is the source of photos. Having a standard that is also a level playing field is important. Perhaps the photos can come from the AIS Iris Encyclopedia (a wiki). The few hybridizers that I have broached the project with seem mildly interested – if the photos were consistent quality and accurate. I am looking for suggestions.

The algorithm used to evaluate the performance of chess players in competition can determine a simple ranking. I have reviewed the algorithm; it would be easy enough to apply. But perhaps a more horticultural based approach would be better. Should we ask viewers to offer a reason for the selection? If so, how to translate to the ranking?

This is not a costly project. As a software project, it is straight forward if we keep the design simple. Select a base of 100 irises or so for each round. Use a common source for photos, and publish on existing web sites. Once we get a working prototype in use, it is surprising how many software folks are also irisarians.

Should we be concerned about negative reactions? I am interested in your perspectives and how we might improve the project to address those issues.

If you saw the Facebook movie, you may remember

that Mark Zuckerberg, CEO of Facebook, got himself into a bit of trouble at Harvard by creating a “facemash” program. It brought up photos of students in the class for students to vote on the hottest date. Lore is that he created it in a day or two and that it was an overnight sensation—so much so that the sudden surge in Internet traffic crashed Harvard’s internal Internet system. Well that is the story. I am sure Mark had already developed most of the software components needed to build the application.

It is not my intention to compete with his genius or to race against his time schedule. And, it is not the intention to offend our peers or bring down the AIS web sites. But, it may be a fun extension of what we already have on line that can serve an educational purpose as well as being a bit of fun.

At this point I am only committed to a proof of concept for the core capability. The real question is what would make this fun for you.

Please send comments to John Stremel: jpstremel@yahoo.com.

By John Stremel, Science Chair

Nominating Committee Notice of Election

This is the official notice that there will be an election for the Regional Vice President and the Assistant Regional Vice President/Judges Training Chair at the 2012 Fall Regional Meeting.



Committee Reports

Awards Committee

The Region 14 Honorary Awards Committee is seeking nominations for the Larry Gaulter Lifetime Achievement Award.

Nominations must meet the following criteria.

The Larry Gaulter Award may be awarded to an individual, firm, or couple that has made a significant, long-term contribution to Region 14. The individuals selected as recipients must be currently living in Region 14 at the time of the decision of the committee.

A Larry Gaulter Award recipient shall have demonstrated an exceptional dedication to serve Region 14 over a long period of time. The award is meant to honor those individuals that have demonstrated exceptional service over a period of eight years or more.

Service to the region is demonstrated by (but not limited to) any of: service on regional committees, as regional committee chairs, as regional officers, on the executive or general committee, and service in conjunction with Regional or Regionally sponsored shows and meetings.

Service to local societies, iris shows, Judges training, other local activities and general promotion of irises can be considered, but only as an adjunct to primary service as defined above. Service at the national level is not to be considered.

In making nominations and supporting your candidates, please include as much information as you can that meets the above criteria.

Please send your nominations for this award to the Chairman of the Honorary Awards Committee:

John Pesek 4631 Mayfield Drive, Fremont, California 94536

Phone: 510-793-5089, E-mail, jmpesek@sbcglobal.net



RVP Jeanne Plank presenting the AIS 2011 Wister Metal won by 'That's All Folks' to hybridizer Bill Maryott AVPike

Region 14 Spring Meeting 2013

On April 26th-28th, 2013, the Sacramento Iris Society will host "Cause for Celebration," the AIS Region 14 Spring Meeting. Kathy Chilton has agreed to be guest speaker and judges training instructor. Two gardens are hosting guest rhizomes from a good variety of west coast hybridizers. Ruth Ostroff's garden is in the central valley while Mary Ann Horton's garden in Loomis is at a somewhat higher elevation so we should have somewhat different viewing windows of the bloom season. Every effort is being made to keep costs low while maintaining opportunities for high irisarian fellowship and a great regional meeting. More details will be provided in the Region 14 Bulletin for November.



RVP Plank presenting the AIS 2011 Sydney B. Mitchell Medal won in a tie by 'Bar Code' and 'Star of Wonder' to Joe Ghio AV Pike



Joe Ghio speaking at the Spring 2012 Regional Banquet AV Pike

Affiliate News

Clara B. Rees

Clara B. Rees Iris Society has had a busy year filled with happiness and some sorrows. We lost Jill McGraw at the end of last year. She was our President from 2007 until her illness in 2009. She will be missed. We also lost long-time CBRIS member, Dorothy Goble, in January. Dorothy submitted the name 'Fleur de Lis' in a club contest to name the newsletter and her entry won.

CBRIS has a web site thanks to Peter Marra. Check us out at cbris.org. Peter does a great job for us!

CBRIS members assisted the AIS in hosting a booth at the San Francisco Flower & Garden Show in March. It is always a fun place to be.

At the end of March, CBRIS sold potted irises at the Spring Garden Market in San Jose. The club did well with sales and informing the public about the wonderful world of irises.

In April, Clara B. Rees Iris Society's Spring Show was held in conjunction with Westbay Iris Society at Westgate Mall in San Jose in April. It was a good show and member, Jane Jordan, took Queen of Show with an IB, 'Ruby Sands'.

Club secretary, Barbara Pesek, has become a judge for Region 14. We were fortunate to have Barbara's first judging occur at our Spring Show last April. Congratulations, Barbara!

CBRIS will have an iris display at The Filoli Flower Show on Mother's Day weekend. For several years the club has had beautiful irises there.

CBRIS maintains a garden of tall bearded at Guadalupe Gardens on Taylor Street in San Jose. We are in the process of revamping the gardens with the leadership of Valda Evans.

Several members attended the National Convention in Ontario, California. Of course, we had members attending the Spring Regional in Aptos. A number of our members belong to both clubs. MBIS did a terrific job! Thank you.

CBRIS had their annual Garden Tour on May 6th. We were fortunate to have four gardens to tour this year. Garden hosts were Elaine Fischer, Valda Evans for Guadalupe Gardens, Jane Anne Walters and Jane Jordan. There were irises to view in each garden and refreshments were served. It was a fun and relaxing day!

Mikey Lango

Monterey Bay Iris Society

Our group had a great time preparing the 2012 Spring Regional Meeting, and an even greater time during the event: meeting new friends, renewing acquaintances and seeing their investment of time and energy yield a smooth-running and well-attended event. The gardens of Jim and Irene Cummins, Brenda Wood, Larissa Daniel and Joe Ghio looked great, and all the events were successful.

While the MBIS will be pleased to host another regional event in the future, our hard-working members will gladly wait several years while other societies reap the rewards of hosting a spring regional meeting. Seriously, serving the AIS-14 in this way is both rewarding in itself and a good team-building exercise as well.

Because the date of the spring regional meeting (April 29th–May 1st) was on top of the regularly scheduled date of the MBIS annual show (around May 1st) we skipped the annual show for this year. We'll be back at it in 2013, however.

Meanwhile, as we prepare this report for the summer 2012 AIS-14 Bulletin, MBIS members are gearing up for the 2012 edition of The Garden Faire, an annual event in our area. This occasion provides a good opportunity to promote gardening with irises, invite new members and perhaps raise a few bucks by selling rhizomes or potted irises.

The following events include our Summer Picnic in July and our annual Iris Sale in August. Then, between regular monthly meetings, we can start thinking about our Holiday Party.

The work of the MBIS is never done!

Tom Karwin



Dragon King, Tasco, 2011

AV Pike

Affiliate News

Sacramento Iris Society

With the mixed up weather we have had this year, spring started coming in March and the Sacramento Iris Society matched it with participation in the Shepard Garden and Arts Center Spring sale on March 24 and 25. We sell potted iris and all the other clubs at the Center sell their wares. It's a grand craft and plant sale and a good chance to promote Iris to the public.

Our annual iris show is locked into the third weekend of April in order to keep our place at the G & A Center, so that this year's show on April 21–22 overlapped a bit with the national AIS convention in Ontario. Members had to choose between completing the national AIS convention and participating in the show. Nevertheless, the show was a good success with about 150 entries, over 300 public visitors to the show, and a sell out of the potted iris we had available for sale.

The artistic division attracted the attention of the Sacramento Designers Guild, thanks to SIS member Betty Schmidt, also a member of SDG. Those SIS members with creative arrangement entries remarked that there was a distinct "raising of the bar" thanks to the SDG participation.

May 1st we held a garden tour at Ruth Ostroff's and Mary Ann Horton's, the two gardens that are hosting guest rhizomes for the Region 14 Spring 2013 meeting. We can report that the guest irises are well-installed and throwing up gorgeous blooms.

We are all looking forward to a wonderful spring meeting in 2013.

Bill Fink

Sierra Foothills Iris Society

Our annual iris show was held May 5th & 6th at the Rose Room in Auburn. After the judging we met at Horton's iris garden for Judges Training on Tall Breaded Iris with Fred Kerr.

The speaker at our May meeting, Peter Beesley from PG&E, who will be speaking on invasive plants in our area.

Our summer picnic potluck will be June 24th at the orchard of Yarda & Eric Hansen, where we will be joined by members of the Sacramento Iris Society.

July 28th & 29th is the date of our Rhizome Sale at Eiseley's Nursery in Auburn.

Don't forget to join us in the foothills this October when we host the 2012 Fall Regional.

Eric Hansen

Southern Nevada Iris Society

The Southern Nevada Iris Society held its annual iris show, "Iris on Parade," April 14, 2012. The event, held in a public mall, was well attended and provided the opportunity for individuals unfamiliar with iris, to learn about growing iris in the desert. Kathy Braaten and Phyllis Wilburn were the show's judges. Mr. Earl Rusk was awarded Queen of Show for his iris entry, 'Parisian Dawn.' The society looks forward to our public iris sale in July with the hope that most of the attendees' wish list irises are available.

Sue Witt, President, SNIS

Sydney B. Mitchell Iris Society

The Sydney B. Mitchell Iris Society is gearing up for their annual show on May 5th. This year we'll be doing things a bit differently, having a one-day show in a new venue. May will be a busy month for us, as we're also having our regular meeting on May 25th, which will feature HIPS journal editor Gesine Lohr giving a presentation on comparing historic iris.

Jean Richter

Westbay Iris Society

Westbay Iris Society participated in a joint show with Clara B. Rees Iris Society in April.

Our next event will be the summer rhizome sale at DeAnza College, July 7th.

John Stremel



Day on the Bay, Ghio, 2012

AV Pike

American Iris Society Region 14

2012 Fall Regional—Foothill Journey

Hosted by the Sierra Foothills Iris Society

Saturday October 27th & Sunday October 28th

Regional Schedule

Saturday, October 27th and Sunday, October 28th

Friday, October 26th, 2012 Region meeting room open 10 A.M..

7:00 P.M.–8 P.M. Registration

7:00 P.M.–8 P.M. Reblooming Iris Show set-up; iris accepted

NOTE Evening arrival on October 26th is encouraged, but optional

Schedule of Meeting Events

Saturday, October 27th, 2012

9:00 A.M.–10 noon	Registration
10:00 A.M.–12 noon	Reblooming show—setup, entries accepted, and staging
10:15 A.M.–10:30 A.M.	Show Judged
10:30 A.M.–12:30 P.M.	Region 14 Budget/Board Meeting.
12:30 P.M.–2:00 P.M.	Lunch—provided by Sierra Foothills Iris Society at Hotel
2:00 P.M.–3:30 P.M.	Region 14 General Meeting—election of RVP, JT-ARVP, & R14 Director
3:30 P.M.–3:45 P.M.	Break
3:45 P.M.–5:00 P.M.	Facebook, internet, websites sharing
5:00 P.M.–7:00 P.M.	Dinner on your own—many local restaurants nearby
7:00 P.M.–8:30 P.M.	Guest Speaker Paul Black of Mid America Garden
8:30 P.M.–10:00 P.M.	Social evening Raffles, live Auctions, refreshments—Fun!

Sunday, October 28th, 2012

	Full Breakfast for hotel guests
9:00 A.M.–10:30 A.M.	Judges Training—Paul Black
11:00 A.M.	End of meeting

American Iris Society Region 14

2012 Fall Regional—Foothill Journey

Guest Speaker—Paul Black

Proprietor, Mid-America Garden

Hosted By Sierra Foothill Iris Society

Saturday, October 27th and Sunday, October 28th

Conference Hotel

Contact hotel direct for reservations. To receive group rate use the name Iris Convention when placing reservation. Group rate available until October 13th, 2012

Orchid Suites

130 N. Sunrise Avenue

Roseville, CA 95661

Phone: (916) 784-2222 orchidreservations@heritagehotelgroup.com

Hotel room rates are \$69, plus tax for double or single room with full breakfast & daily evening reception of beer, wine, soft drinks and light appetizers. Wireless Internet

Registrant 1—First Name _____ Last Name _____

Registrant 2—First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____/_____/_____

Phone _____ Email for confirmation _____

Iris Society—list one only _____

Registration is \$55.00 per person if received at the Registrar's desk before October 10th, 2012

Note After October 10th, 2012 Registration is \$65.00

Registration

- ~ Includes Luncheon on Saturday; Saturday Guest Speaker, Paul Black
Sunday Morning Judges Training given by Paul Black

Please make checks payable to Sierra Foothills Iris Society

Send to:

Yvette Meador

P.O. Box 332

Applegate, CA 95703-0332

Tel: (530) 878-0332 Email: ymeador@yahoo.com

Number of registrants x \$55 = \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed—No Credit Cards \$ _____

2012 Directory Of Advertisers

Bluebird Haven Iris Garden, 6940 Fairplay Road, Somerset, CA 95684
2,900+ varieties, including 1,600 antiques, rebloomers, Austin introductions.
Catalog \$1.00. Open daily 11:00 to 5:00 from the 2nd weekend of April to the 3rd
weekend of May. Call on rainy days
530 620-5017 mhess1863@innercite.com bluebirdhavenirisgarden.com

Fleur De Lis 2701 Fine Avenue, Modesto, CA 95355
We carry many varieties of SDB, IB, MTB, BB, & TB. If looking for something special
please ask, we probably have it but do not list all we grow. Catalog with some color
is \$2.00, refundable with a bonus iris with order. Hours are 10-7, from April 1st until
bloom is over.
fleur-de-lis@c1earwire.net rprobst020@earthlink.net

Horton Farm Iris Garden 7440 King Road, Loomis, CA 95650
Over 1,100 varieties: TB's, Re-bloomers, Antiques, etc. in a park-like setting, with pic-
nic areas for groups. Open Fri.-Mon. during April & May, 10-6. Catalog \$1.00.
916 652-4351 hortonirisgarden.com

Napa Country Iris Gardens 9087 Steele Canyon Road, Napa, CA 94558-9634
Visitors are welcome during bloom time, Fri.-Sun., 10-5. Send first class postage
stamp for catalog of TB's.
707 255-7880 irises@napairis.com napairis.com

Nola's Iris Garden—Prevost Ranch & Gardens 4195 Sierra Rd. San Jose, CA 95132
Featuring Tall Bearded, Re-blooming, Space Age and Median Collections, and many
Historics. The viewing gardens are open during the bloom season, April & May,
with picnic tables. Groups welcome Sat. & Sun. 10-5. Call or visit our website for
up-to-date schedules.
408 929-6307 info@walking-p-bar.com walking-p-bar.com

Pleasants Valley Iris Farm 7317 Pleasants Valley Road, Vacaville, CA 95688
We carry over 400 varieties of bearded iris (mostly tall) including space age iris,
reblooming iris, scented iris and a few very special medians. We welcome visitors to
our gardens during our iris bloom season. This year our iris farm will be open Friday,
Saturday, and Sundays from mid-April thru mid-May from 10-4. Potted iris will be
available for sale. We encourage visitors to bring their cameras and a picnic lunch.
Picnic tables are available.
707-451-3367 markrichard7777@yahoo.com www.irisfarmer.com

Sutton's Iris Gardens 16592 Road 208, Porterville, CA 93257
Specializing in REBLOOMERS. Full color catalog \$5.00 featuring Rebloomer & Me-
dian Collections and a Re-bloom Reliability Chart. Official Median Display Garden.
Open during the month of April, 10-6. During the rest of the year, call ahead for
re-bloom conditions. Fax: (559) 784-6701
559 784-5107 info@suttoniris.com suttoniris.com

Wanted!

We want your Society's input! What are you doing? We need your photos from the Regionals and Nationals! Give us the highlights from your newsletters! News about your society could appear on this page in the future. Please contact us with your submission. Submissions can be made by email or snail mail.



Elena Leborde & Joe Ghio prior to banquet

AV Pike



Photo 1, drive up to Cummins' garden

John Stremel

View from the Garden—Cummins Garden—Region 14 Spring Convention

By John Stremel and Mikey Lango

Photos by John Stremel, Mikey Lango and Carl Boro

The national convention was a week prior to the Region 14 Spring Convention. At the national, we asked several hybridizers about which iris they liked best—not of their own introductions. The discussions focused on what was new, improved and just different. However Rick Tasco pointed in a different direction. He brought attention to the particular requirements and criteria of a hybridizer: bud count; clump formation (stalks per clump); and, vigor. Ouch! Right, isn't that in the Judge's Handbook? And isn't that the point of new introductions?

So, this article is about the stunning Cummins Garden and the judge's training at that garden which reinforced exactly the point Tasco was making.

If there is a place in heaven for iris, it will be the garden of Jim and Irene Cummins. Located in Scotts Valley, California, it is a family garden on several acres of level ground facing a county open space meadow and forest. Turning into the garden, there is a clump of 'Drive My Car' (Lauer) and 'Art Deco' (Schreiner 1997), leading the bus up the driveway to the house (Photo 1).



Photo 3, Rustic House

M. Lango

Each fencepost along the drive displays a birdhouse (Photo 2) with a unique and beautiful welcome for the visitor. Made from wayward materials (Photo 3), each is whimsical, creative and an enjoyable diversion from the iris bloom.

The meadow views were magnificent and a fitting background for the gardens (Photo 4). High fences protect most of the irises, although those along the fence line suffer a little from deer envy to taste a morsel of the sequestered garden. Farm implements, birdhouses, and scarecrows abound. In one inspiration, Jim welded a bicycle frame to a push lawnmower; we caught the judge who organized the blind judge's training, Linda Stremel, in the garden trying it out (Photo 5).



Photo 2, Birdhouse

Mikey Lango



Photo 4, Meadow views



Photo 5, Linda Stremel

John Stremel

Spring Regional

(Continued from pg. 17)

The convention offered an opportunity to recognize two AIS awards from the prior week. ‘That’s All Folks’ was awarded the John C. Wister Memorial Medal, hybridized by Bill Maryott and introduced by Joe Ghio. ‘That’s All Folks’ was living up to its reputation, standing tall, growing vigorously and opening up for the first time this season (Photo 6). The blossom’s vibrant yellow and crisp white is a real crowd pleaser. Joe Ghio also received the AIS Sidney B. Mitchell Medal (Best Pacific Coast Native Iris) for ‘Bar Code’ and ‘Star of Wonder’, which unfortunately were no longer blooming.

Region 14’s Convention did not include hosted plants. The convention chose to focus on existing family and commercial gardens without the special plantings to display introductions from hybridizers. Although we all like to see the latest and greatest, the change in focus created an active discussion of the vigor and growth habit of the garden plantings.

Eye Popping Iris

‘Engagement Ring’ (Ghio 2011) (Photo 7) has clean yellow standards and falls with pristine white background and a clean rose ring. It measured well with three bloom stalks per clump, three increases and eight buds per stalk. It was simply striking across the garden.

‘Teenybopper’ (Keppel 2009) (Photo 8) with its dark red-violet falls drew immediate attention with a vigorous two-year clump with over a dozen plants and 5 bloom stalks. This well-branched luminata shows good substance with its closed standards, flaring falls and a light-hearted bounce in the breeze.

You might otherwise overlook ‘Babylon Queen’ (Blyth 2002) because it was introduced in Australia (Photo 9). But the tangerine beards on a large lavender flower (largest in the garden) bring you in. Standards are very upright and frilly. It definitely makes a statement and radiates a pronounced sweet fragrance for good measure.

Blind Judging

How about judging with just one eye? How much does depth perception matter? Seriously though, Kathy Braaten is the AIS Region 14 Judge’s Training Chair and has developed a one-hour course for credit for judges’ training. The course emphasizes the AIS garden judging guidelines.



Photo 6, That’s All Folks

Mikey Lango



Photo 7, Engagement Ring

Mikey Lango

The purpose of the exercise is to practice applying the garden judging criteria. It is a refreshing way to revisit the Judge's Handbook and put into practice its recommendations. Of course, judging is personal and relative. There is no right answer. But it is useful to apply the standard and recalibrate thinking.

There were twelve selections in the blind judging which gets its name from the fact that the hybridizer and variety name are obscured in the garden to prevent that information from influencing the rating.

Of the twelve selected for blind judging and independently evaluated by more than 30 participants in the judges' training three stood out: 'Pep Rally', 'Center Ice' and a seedling by Jim Cummins.

'Pep Rally' (Ghio 2008) is a mahogany-violet red with luminata pattern (Photo 10). There were two great looking stalks just above the foliage in a two-year clump with eight new fans.

'Center Ice' (Ghio 2010) is a white with blue haze at the edge in the standards and a violet band in the falls (Photo 11). The two-year clump was working on world domination. There were nine bloom stalks and at least 20 new fans. It was a sight to be seen, even from the far reaches of the garden.

In a surprise showing, one of the seedlings by Jim Cummins (Photo 12) caught the Judges' eyes. Good branching, vigorous growth and good flower-to-increase ratio helped propel it to favor. The coloring was very pleasing and several siblings were showing similar traits. The exercise gave every hybridizer in the convention the opportunity to offer encouragement, insight and suggestions for Jim. Although new to iris breeding, it looks like Jim has a good start and a bright future in the iris world!

Other Views

Irene is the history buff in the family. As the 5th generation to work the land, she has seen the changes as the valley has grown. In the 40s and 50s the family raised thousands of turkeys. The iris beds are raised beds because Irene's mother was in a wheel chair but wanted to work the garden and be able to get around. Irene has created several special alcoves for historic iris (Photo 13) that creates the continuity between the wild flags, early introductions and ever-changing tastes and improvements. I did hear one criticism of the Cummins garden that I think many would agree. I overheard a visitor commenting that Jim and Irene definitely needed to add a bed & breakfast next door so that we all could enjoy their spectacular garden more regularly.



Photo 8, Teenybopper

Carl Boro



Photo 9, Babylon Queen

Mikey Lango



Photo 10, Pep Rally

John Stremel



Photo 11, Center Ice

Mikey Lango



Photo 13, Sierra Blue

Mikey Lango



Photo 12, J Cummins Seedling

Mikey Lango



Jose Luis from Spain

AV Pike



Jane Jorden, Alleah Midding, and Linda Woods

AV Pike

Cummins' Garden



Barbara Pesek

AV Pike



Bob Plank, Brad Collins, Jim Begley, & Joe Lawrence

AV Pike



AV Pike

At Brenda Woods' Garden



Brenda Woods with Roseanna Kennedy

AV Pike



Joe Ghio's Gardens



Joe Lawrence, Stanley Morgan, Alleah Middliling with Joe Ghio



AV Pike Joe Balch

AV Pike



Brad Collins, Joe Ghio, Leah Middleton and Kitty Loberg

AV Pike