



*the
Bulletin*

Summer 2015

The American Iris Society
Region 14

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AIS Region 14

Hawaii

Nevada

Northern
California

Team Bulletin

Shirley Trio-Probst, Editor shirleyjtrio@gmail.com
 Gesine Lohr, Designer gesine.lohr@gmail.com
 Mikey Lango, Photo Coordinator mdlango@aol.com
 Riley Probst, contributing photographer
 Jean Richter, Proofreader jeanrichter@berkeley.edu

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 Ann Pike (baynews@baymoon.com) for posting on the AIS Region 14 website.

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Advertisements

Iris growers and suppliers of gardening-related goods and services are welcome to advertise in the Bulletin and at www.aisregion14.org.

For current information on rates for directory listings and display advertisements, see page 29.

Cover Photo

'What A Beauty' (Ghio 2015)

photo: Riley Probst

The RVP's Garden

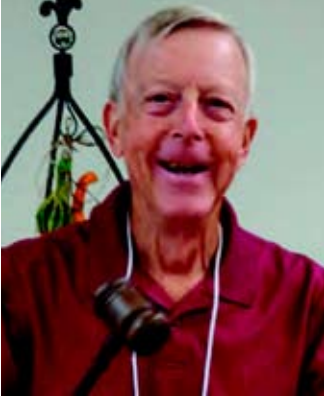


photo: Phyllis Wilburn

Irises in bloom all over Region 14. I was fortunate to see ten affiliate iris shows and nine iris gardens and am in awe of how well irises from all over the region are grown and shown.

Region 14 had a well attended Spring Regional hosted by the Yosemite Iris Society at Bass Lake California. A great iris show (thank you to those that entered, the judges and those members from the James Gibson Iris Society for assisting with the show), three wonderful gardens each lovingly cared for (thank you Dan Cereghino, Carolyn Hoover and Bill Tyson), a very tasty dinner (thank you The Pines Resort), an entertaining speaker (thank you Jim Hedgecock), a raffle (thank you all who donated and those that bought and thank you Carolyn Craft for organizing it all), and an auction

of iris (thank you Riley Probst for getting people to dig deep into their pockets). All had a good time.

The nomination committee has completed their work under the direction of Jeanne Clay Plank. I thank Phyllis Wilburn and Alleah Haley for accepting the nominations to shepherd Region 14 into the future.

Again Region 14 is #1 in AIS for membership and youth. No one else is close to us, (thank you Mary Ann Horton for reminding those that forget to renew).

Thanks to Rudy Ciuca and Joe Lawrence for donating their own money to help the youth in the schools in the Santa Rosa area and to Lorraine Nicholson for coordinating all the youth in the region with AIS. John Pesek, RVP



above: We judged at Alden Lane Nursery in Livermore for Mt. Diablo Iris Society and came across this ugly crocheted sweater cow contestant who didn't mind taking a picture with John.

photos: Barbara Pesek



Check out
the AIS Blog!

<http://theamericanirissociety.blogspot.com/>

Editor's Notes ~ Shirley Trio-Probst



~~~~~ Our tall bearded irises began to bloom very slowly in late February and on June first there are still three in bloom -- what a crazy year.

We got a chance to visit several other gardens and judged some shows. We visited Joe Ghio's seedling patch, and oh my we can't wait for the future.

The spring Regional was a whirlwind. After the bus company cancelled, mini buses replaced the large buses. Everyone talked of what fun they had in the smaller buses. We are an iris group right? So what could be more appropriate than a full show? It was very successful, with over one hundred entries. Thank you Yosemite Iris Society -- a new club in its third year gives the rest of us inspiration.

We also attended the American Iris Society convention in Portland Oregon. As bus captains we met a lot of other fun irisarians. We were pleased that the AIS Board accepted Region 14's offer to host the 2019 National Convention. The gardens were beyond beautiful.

Region 14 did very well in the AIS awards system. Joe Ghio, the late Bob Annand, Rick Tasco, David and Anna Cadd, and Riley Probst came away with major AIS awards. Doug Kanarowski also was first runner up for the Mahan-Zurbrigg Seedling Award and was first and second runner up for the Cook Cup, an out of region award. Congratulations to all, Region 14 is proud of you.

During the banquet AIS President Jim Morris gave us a good message and ended it with "Remember the Golden Rule ~ Do unto others as you would have others do unto you. Let's be nicer and more understanding of others." Even though the words are old the meaning still holds today. Let us all remember that rule and strive to live by it.

Let's make plans for the fall regional in Visalia hosted by the James M. Gibson Iris Society. See you there.



**Region 14 Bulletin!**

*image from Lloyd Austin and his wonderful "Rainbow Offerings" catalog*

**Regional Vice President**

John Pesek jmpesek@sbcglobal.net 510-793-5089

**Assistant Regional Vice President**

Phyllis Wilburn abirder@aol.com 530-642-9942

**Secretary**

Mary Sindicic smiata91@att.net 925-606-0355

**Treasurer**

Helen Franklin raffranklin@cs.com 808-878-6865  
5621 Oakhill St., Santa Maria, CA 93455

**Bulletin Editor**

Shirley Trio-Probst ShirleyJTrio@gmail.com 209-551-6323  
\*\*note new email address Modesto, CA 95355

**Director 2013-2015**

Carolyn Hoover guyhandballo@sti.net 559-760-7632

**Director 2014-2016**

Rudy Ciuca clvineyard@aol.com 707-938-2951

**Director 2015-2017**

Carolyn Craft theladygardens@aol.com 408-266-0945

**Immediate Past Regional Vice President**

Jeanne Clay Plank plankmail@aol.com 415-506-4688

**Standing Committee Chairs**

**Honorary Awards**

Betty Ford irisbetty@aol.com (707) 938-5296

**Fundraising**

Carolyn Craft theladygardens@aol.com 408-266-0945

**Historian Committee**

Jean Richter jeanrichter@berkeley.edu 510-864-7962

**Internet/Electronic Services**

Ann Pike avpike@cruzio.com 426-426-8855

**Membership**

Mary Ann Horton hortonirisgarden@pacbell.net 916-652-4351

**Scholarship**

Terri Hudson irishud@earthlink.net 707-964-3907

**Science**

suspended for further study

**Trophies & Awards**

Bill Fink finkblel@sbcglobal.net 916-941-3772

# Calendar

## Regional Meetings

### 2015 Fall Regional

The James M. Gibson Iris Society will host the Region 14 Fall Meeting on October 16th & 17th, 2015.

The hotel, Holiday Inn of Visalia, is located in Visalia, CA., just off the freeway beside the airport on the south side of town. Region 14 has held functions there before so for all of you that go back a few years it will be familiar. We invite all Region 14 members to attend. In the future look at the Region 14 Bulletin and the regional website for more information.

We hope you all come. We are attempting to put together a reblooming full show. We are also working on getting permission to plant October blooming irises on the hotel grounds.

Chuck Bunnell, winner of the latest Dykes Medal for 'Dividing Line', will be the guest speaker.

~ Riley Probst

## AIS Conventions

### *later* AIS Conventions

#### East We Go in 2016

May 23-28, Newark, New Jersey

Convention Chair: Paul W. Gossett

1502 S. Boulder #12B, Tulsa, OK 74119

phone: (918) 853-6204 e-mail: pwgossett@juno.com

Convention Co-Chair: George Boyce

520 Dairy Road, Palmerton, PA 18071-5923

phone: (610) 824-8198 or (607) 857-8732

e-mail: glenara@aol.com

#### 2017 AIS Convention

May 22-26 Des Moines, Iowa

Convention Chair: Kelly Norris

3149 Kentucky Avenue, Bedford, IA 50833

phone: (515) 777-2356

e-mail: kellydn@frontiernet.net

Convention Co-Chair: Gary White

701 Old Cheney Road, Lincoln, NE 68512

phone: (402) 421-6394 e-mail: in2iris@yahoo.com

~ Steve Schreiner ~

### presenting in Fresno November 3!

The Fresno Iris Society has invited Steve Schreiner to give a lecture on Nov. 3, 2015 at 7 p.m. in Fresno at the Hampton Inn near Herndon and Blackstone Avenues. All members of Region 14 are invited to attend this (free) lecture. Make a fun evening out of it and call Janet Smith at 559-683-0447 or email her at gby456@gmail.com to get an exact address, to let them know you are coming so they can have enough chairs and refreshments. The editor has known Steve for 25 years and can attest to his warm personality and witty humor ~ this promises a fun evening that one will not soon forget. Let's all support the Fresno club and attend this lecture. You might even want to stay the night in the Hampton Inn.

Editor

### Seeking information and photos of 2004 AIS Convention

We're gathering information and photos about the 2004 (and 1996) AIS Conventions -- here's your chance to dig around in all those photos you keep meaning to sort!

Please send photos to Jean Richter, <jeanrichter@berkeley.edu>, or call her at (510) 864-7962. Thank you!

### con't: Region 14 Executive Board

#### Youth

Lorraine Nicholson iris4u@fire2wire.com 209-578-4184

# *Iris and Compost Tea*

~ by Mary Hess, Bluebird Haven Iris Garden

~ photos: Gesine Lohr

below: Eric with his compost tea aeration vat!



home, and my son began further research to build our own version of the equipment needed. He figured he could do it for less than half the cost of buying commercially made equipment. It took about a month for him to gather the materials and build the stand to hold the vat, get the vat, and get the circulating pumps wired and everything set up. This was finished by the end of March, and April was to be the planting month.

Since I have a three acre iris garden with over four miles of rows of tall bearded irises and Eric was planning to sell vegetables at the local Farmer's Market from about ¼ acre, our compost tea needs would be considerably greater than just a backyard plot would require. For the small garden, the ingredients mixed in a five gallon bucket and aerated with a fish tank aerator for 24 hours works well. We decided on a 75 gallon cone-shaped tank aerated with two pumps. Cost to build it all was about \$600.

Mary Hess opening the vat; the rich liquid being aerated (Riley Probst and Shirley Trio-Probst observing)



In January of 2014 my son Eric and I attended a weekend farming conference as he was interested in expanding our summer vegetable sales in the coming year. One of the seminars we attended was on why using compost tea on everything green was a really good idea, even better than just adding compost to your soil. Another lecture was on how to make and apply said compost tea to the garden. To be effective, compost tea needs to be applied within 24-36 hours of brewing.

Using compost worked into the soil to boost growth, and even using compost tea as an amendment to the soil, is not a new idea, but I had never tried the tea method. After the conference ended we went

*left:* This bed did not get compost tea in 2014

*right:* This bed DID get compost tea in 2014!

*(photos taken May 9, 2015)*



The basic idea is this: mix a combination of materials and aerate to promote the growth of organisms that when applied to your plants will create an environment for optimal growth, disease resistance, drought resistance, and compost -- all at the same time. The basic recipe for 55 gallons of compost tea as suggested by some commercial sellers is four cups of granular compost concentrate, four cups of humus, eight cups of earthworm castings, four cups of organic compost, ½ cup of glacier (granite) dust, and ½ to one cup seaweed extract. You brew these with proper

aeration for 12 to 24 hours then add the last three ingredients just before application. Those last three are 1 cup of insect frass, one cup liquid fish hydrolysate, and one cup mycorrhizal soil inoculant. Luckily, all these ingredients can usually be found at a gardening shop, especially those specializing in compost tea making. We figured that what we bought would come out to about \$0.50 a gallon of compost tea.

Eric applied the first batch of tea by watering bucket to all of our newly planted tomato plants and saturated the rows of seeds that had been planted three days earlier.

We could not believe it when the next day the green bean sprouts started breaking ground, and we were further astounded when they grew an average of three inches on the first full day.

I decided I needed to try the compost tea on the irises as I have not been happy with the growth in certain areas of



the garden, so Eric mixed up another batch. I applied it to the block closest to the vat the next day. There were a few problems with the application. First, I had no way to haul those 75 gallons of now brown water to the iris block except in five gallon buckets at half a bucket at a time. Once over to the block I then transferred the compost tea into the watering bucket and walked up and down the rows sprinkling the plants and soil. It took a really long time, and I was plenty tired by the end. The 75 gallons watered 16 50-foot rows.

2014 turned out to be the worst bloom year ever in the 40 years I have been selling irises.

We had at best ten percent bloom in most of the garden, but the treated bed produced about seventy-five percent of expected bloom. Two years of no winter rain to speak of and hot dry summers really took its toll.

I was especially interested in how the irises most troubled by leaf spot in the test bed would respond. There were about seven varieties that had considerably more damage than the rest of the varieties in that bed. There was no miraculous transformation the next morning in the iris patch, but within a week I noticed that the varieties with the leaf spot were improved, showing stronger growth and no more leaf spot on emerging leaves. By the end of the season there was no difference between the growth of those irises and the rest of them that I could see. I did remove and burn badly infected leaves early in the season.

We are suffering from drought conditions here as is most everyone in California. Since we are totally dependent on well water I cut my usage drastically to conserve ground water. We use drip irrigation on everything, and I normally water each iris block once a

week for three hours. This year I dropped to watering for two hours every two weeks – just enough to keep the irises alive and with the hope the well would hold up, as we were hearing of people whose wells were going dry. One of the claims compost tea proponents make is that treated plants become much more drought resistant or at least require less water to grow than non-treated plants.



Coralie (Ayres 1932), looking happy at Bluebird Haven

By the time digging season arrived, fully two weeks later than usual, I was really concerned about whether or not I would be able to fill my orders. And the orders kept coming in and coming in. I then decided to divide the orders into three separate digs, and then to dig the already stressed irises and process and mail those off as quickly as possible.

Having fewer irises to dig each time made the operation go much quicker. I have twenty four blocks to dig from. The block where I had treated the irises with compost tea had the most bloom stalks that year and the largest number of irises sold for both walk in customers and mail order customers. The difference between the size

of the iris rhizomes in that block and the rest of my garden was amazing. Every single variety that I dug in that block had top quality size rhizomes. I could hardly believe it.

At this same time the tomatoes and other crops started to ripen. As we talked to person after person who said their tomatoes just didn't grow that year, their zucchini didn't produce and so on, we had vegetables everywhere. Bumper crops everywhere. We had also reduced the water in the tomatoes, watering only every third day, and they did not seem to suffer at all. The rest of the vegetables did very well too, so I am totally sold on the compost tea idea.



The basic recipe for 55 gallons of compost tea:

- 4 cups of granular compost concentrate
- 4 cups of humus
- 8 cups of earthworm castings
- 4 cups of organic compost
- ½ cup of glacier (granite) dust
- ½ to 1 cup seaweed extract

Brew these six ingredients with proper aeration for 12 to 24 hours, then add the last three ingredients just before application:

- 1 cup of insect frass
- 1 cup liquid fish hydrolysate
- 1 cup mycorrhizal soil inoculant.

Now with the 2015 iris year just around the corner I am working on how to conveniently get the compost tea from the vat out to all the iris rows. We have a 100 gallon tank that I will try to convert to use with compost tea. The drawback will be that there is a certain amount of fine particles in the tea mix that will quickly clog a regular spray nozzle. Once that problem is solved I will be very excited to see how the other beds react to the compost tea as it appears we are going into our third year of drought conditions. In addition, I plan to spread a thick layer of wood chips in the pathways to help retain moisture and reduce weed competition. This will require an application of agricultural lime to the irises to counteract the higher acid content in the wood chips; but with half a ton of lime sitting in my yard, all I need now is time and energy to get the job done.

Happy irising to you all,  
Mary Hess, Bluebird Haven Iris Garden  
[www.bluebirdhavenirisgarden.com](http://www.bluebirdhavenirisgarden.com)

*right:* Riley Probst, Shirley Trio-Probst, Gesine Lohr, Jean Richter (in front), Mary Hess, Loretta Figueroa, at Bluebird Haven Iris Garden. We were all very impressed with the comparison between field-with-no-compost-tea and field-with-compost-tea, in terms of iris bloom, foliage, and vigor in general. (photo: Bonnie Petheram)



Lighthouse (Salbach 1936), also looking happy



# The Three Spring Regional Gardens

*photos by Riley Probst, Mikey Lango, Phyllis Wilburn*

At the Cereghino garden *photo: Mikey Lango*

Dan Cereghino *photo: Mikey Lango*



*right: At the Hoover garden*  
*below: Carolyn Hoover*  
*photos: Mikey Lango*

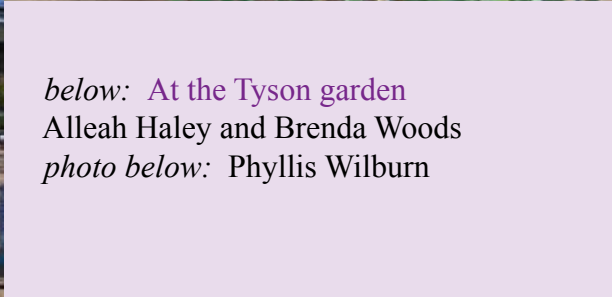


*right: At the Hoover garden*

Carl Boro

*photo right, below, and overlapping:*

Phyllis Wilburn



*below: At the Tyson garden*

Alleah Haley and Brenda Woods

*photo below: Phyllis Wilburn*

*At the Tyson garden*

*photo below: Riley Probst*



## Spring Regional ~ Bill Tyson's Garden ~ photos & text by Jean Richter

The final garden of the Spring Regional tour was Bill Tyson's Hillside Iris Garden. As the name implies, his garden is nestled among rolling hills, with the iris planted in a series of terraces surrounded by open spaces with beautiful native vegetation.

There were a number of guest iris putting on a show for us, including 'Midnight Rain' (Lauer 2013), an unusually-colored navy blue iris with white striations on the falls. Another outstanding dark iris was 'Coal Seams' (Schreiners 2013). Two of John Painter's iris stole the show: 'Jazzberry' (J. Painter 2013), a lovely dark plicata, was the eventual winner of the Gibson Cup; and 'Teasing Tiger' (J. Painter 2012), an orange iris with purple tiger stripes and a bright orange beard, was the eventual winner of the Clara B. Rees Cup.

After the visitors had taken good looks at the guest iris plantings, and Bill's extensive personal iris plantings (and perhaps purchased a potted iris or two), they eventually retreated from the warm sun to the shade of Bill's back patio for refreshments. In the late afternoon we said farewell and boarded the vans for the trip back to the Pines, after an excellent day of garden visits.



Midnight Rain (Lauer 2013)



Coal Seams (Schreiners 2013)



*right:*

**Teasing Tiger** (J. Painter 2012)  
39" M & RE Standards and falls are cantaloupe orange. Falls are distinctly lined with maroon purple except at edge. Coral orange beards. Tall stalks with up to 11 moderately sized blooms. Has some reblooming tendency. HM 2014.

[www.napairis.com/intro.html](http://www.napairis.com/intro.html)

*below:*

**Jazzberry** (J. Painter 2013)

*right below:*

Rock!



## Report of the Awards Committee, 2015 Spring Regional ~ Awards Committee

The gardens of Dan Cereghino, Guy and Carolyn Hoover, and Bill Tyson were the focus of attention to view the guest rhizomes for the 2015 Spring Regional Meeting organized and hosted by the Region's youngest affiliate, the Yosemite Iris Society. Forty-six attendees cast ballots for the annual garden awards. The results of the tabulation of these ballots were:

### 1) Knopf Cup for the best seedling by a region 14 hybridizer

2nd Runner Up **06-06-11** by Bill Tyson, 1st Runner Up **10-1-Q** by Jim Cummins, and Winner **04-16-5** by Bill Tyson;

### 2) Out of Region award for the best iris by a hybridizer not from Region 14

2nd Runner Up was a tie between **Beefy** by Tom Burseen and **Asteroid Shower** by Jim Hedgecock, the Winner was also a tie between **Jim's Gem** by Jim Hedgecock and **1610** by Linda Miller;

### 3) Cotillion Bowl for the best introduction in 2015 by a Region 14 hybridizer

1st Runner Up **Not Broke This Time** by Bill Tyson, and Winner **What a Beauty** by Joe Ghio;

### 4) Clara B. Rees Award for the best introduction by a Region 14 hybridizer in the last five years

2nd Runner Up **In the Loop** by Joe Ghio, 1st Runner Up **Jazzberry** by John Painter, and Winner **Teasing Tiger** by John Painter;

### 5) Jim Gibson Cup for the best plicata by a Region 14 hybridizer seedling or named in the last five years

2nd Runner Up **Planet Hollywood** by Leslie Painter, 1st Runner Up **04-16-5** by Bill Tyson, and Winner **Jazzberry** by John Painter;

### 6) Hager-Dubose Cup for the best bearded iris not Tall in the last five years

2nd Runner up was a tie between **QBDX40PQ** by Riley Probst and **Little Blue Girl** by Larry Lauer, the Winner was also a tie between **1610** by Linda Miller and **Border Skirmish** by Joe Ghio.

There were no beardless guest rhizomes and an insufficient number of votes cast for other beardless seen in the gardens to award the Melrose Cup for the best beardless at the meeting.

For the Awards Committee  
Barbara Hawkins  
Ted Hawkins  
Gary Prevost  
Nola Prevost  
Lucy Janzer Fink  
William Fink, Chair



above: **1610** (Linda Miller)

photo: Mikey Lango

*right: Jim's Gem (Jim Hedgecock}  
photo: Riley Probst*



*below:  
04-16-5  
by Bill Tyson  
photo: Riley Probst*



*above: The trophies  
photo: Mikey Lango*



Terry Toney of Fresno Iris Society



Jean Richter



Phyllis Wilburn

# Spring Regional 2015

photos by Mikey Lango



Lorraine and Gordon Nicholson



Lynn Stuart



Riley Probst



Bill Fink at judges' training



Joe Balch



Shirley Trio-Probst with award



Alleah Haley





Jim Hedgecock, 2 views

Carol Dahout, Sandy Mann, Barbara & Ted Hawkins



Rudy Ciuca and Joe Lawrence



Marilyn & Carl Boro



Jo Balch



Jim Cummins & Gary Collings



Elaine Fischer



Carolyn Craft with kids at iris show

# 2015 Spring Regional Meeting ~ The iris show!



above: The iris show at the regional!  
photo: Riley Probst



Jim Cummins wins Best Of Show with 'Yours Truly' (Ghio 2013)  
photo: Mikey Lango



Jane Jordan with 'Rodeo Blue' spuria (Jenkins 1994) won best of section beardless  
photo: Mikey Lango



Mikey Lango photo: Jim Cummins  
above-middle: photos Mikey Lango

American Iris Society Region 14  
2015 Fall Regional Meeting October 16-17  
Guest Speaker – Chuck Bunnell

~ hybridizer of 'Dividing Line', the first Miniature Tall Bearded Dykes Medal Winner ~

Hosted by James M. Gibson Iris Society

Conference Hotel -- Holiday Inn of Visalia, 900 W. Airport Dr. Visalia, CA 93277

**\*\*Contact the hotel directly for room reservations at (559) 651-5000 \*\***[corrected number]

To receive the group rate, use the name Region 14 of the American Iris Society when making your reservation. The room rate is available until October 1, 2015.

Room rate is \$89.00, plus all applicable taxes, per night. There are pet friendly rooms for an additional \$25.00 per stay, not per day. There are a few rooms with small refrigerators and microwaves, but you must request those rooms at time of booking.

Refunds before October 1 require \$10.00 per person handling fee. No refunds after October 1 or may be decided at the discretion of the registrar.

A continental breakfast will be provided to all region 14 registrants at 8 a.m. on Saturday morning: assorted breakfast breads, bagels with cream cheese, trays of fresh seasonal fruit, assorted juices, freshly brewed regular and decaffeinated coffee, and assorted hot teas. Lunch will be a deli style buffet.

Registrant 1 First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Registrant 2 First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail for confirmation \_\_\_\_\_

Local Iris Society \_\_\_\_\_

Registration fee if paid by October 1, 2015 \$65.00 x person (s) \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If paid after October 1, 2015 \$75.00 x person (s) \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to JMGIS or James M. Gibson Iris Society**

Please send registration to: Linda Hood, Registrar

20924 Avenue 152, Porterville, CA 93257

e-mail linda-hood@sbcglobal.net or phone (559)784-7700

\*\*\*\*\*We will be having a full **Reblooming Iris Show** and will need to set up enough tables.

Will you be bringing bloom stalks? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Maybe \_\_\_ \*\*\*\*\*

Containers and entry tags will be provided by the James M. Gibson Iris Society, and sponsored by the Yosemite Iris Society. Bring your own grooming material.

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# Judges' Training Report - May 1, 2015

~ Phyllis Wilburn, ARVP /Judges Training Chair

---

It has been a very busy Spring for all the judges, students and apprentices in the region. We had a very successful Spring Regional in the Coarsegold, CA area, hosted by the Yosemite Iris Society. Attendance was lower than usual, but the folks who attended had a great time. The Show turned out to be much larger than expected, which added a lot to the meeting. The training by Jim Hedgecock, the speaker and trainer for the event, was very useful and interesting. Folks were put into groups of five, and told to judge an iris. Of course, we all picked out the best looking ones to judge. Then he asked us to judge the worst one we could find. He circulated to each group to add comments and clarify the judging -- all very informative.

I announced at the Spring Regional Meeting that I would be handing out or mailing the annual Activity Report. This is a form that is filled out annually by Garden/Exhibition (G/E) and Master Judges and Apprentices. The form is to be filled out and a copy returned to the RVP and the Judges Training Chair by June 1, 2015. Failure to do so can result in disqualification as a judge. The form is also sent to Students, for their information, but is not required to be returned. It is good for them to see what the questions are so they can ponder their responsibilities if they become a judge. The form is also available on the Region 14 Web Site, under events, Judges Training ([aisregion14.org](http://aisregion14.org))

As a Judge or Apprentice, you should read through the questions on the Activity Report and think about the responsibilities of a judge and how you might make more effort. For instance, I had a call to judge at Leo T. Clark in Chico. They wanted five judges to judge their show, because so few judges visit their show that they did not get the desired Exhibition Certificates (EC) for their Seedlings. As you probably know, the seedling that wins Best Seedling of the show, is automatically awarded an Exhibition Certificate from AIS. However, the other Seedlings might have merit also, but need to have votes from five judges in order to be awarded an EC. The EC is not a recommendation for introduction, but it is an encouragement to the hybridizer to keep working on this line.

We need to support our hybridizers in the Region, and one way to do this is by visiting shows and filling out one of those blue forms EC forms for the seedlings that you think have merit.

I appreciate that everyone has been diligent about getting approvals for JT sessions and 1-on-1 training. I especially commend the judges who have taken their time and expertise to give trainings and tutor apprentices and students. We had lots of shows on the same weekend, and most judges were judging. There were also many one-on-one trainings scheduled at these shows, and I appreciate the judges who were willing to help these students and apprentices fulfill their requirements. The Apprentices have been especially diligent this Spring in fulfilling their requirements, and I look forward to having more G/E judges in 2016.

At the Fall meeting in Reno, I should have presented the Star Award to a Judge who fulfilled the duties of judge in the most exemplary way during the 2013-14 year. I had too many things on my plate at the time to do the analysis required. So this Spring I went back to the Activity Reports from the previous year, and indeed it was a close call as we have lots of diligent judges out there who are judging shows, visiting gardens, growing iris, giving trainings, visiting shows and tutoring students and apprentices. However, for the 2013-14 year the award was presented to Shirley Trio-Probst.

If you have any ideas for trainings that you feel would be useful to Region 14 judges, please let me know. Watch the Region 14 Web Site ([aisregion14.org](http://aisregion14.org)) for future trainings. All forms including the Activity Report and the List of Judges are available on the Web Site, as well as the list of trainings.

**And Judges, don't forget to vote your ballot! The deadline is August 1, 2015!** Try to vote on line by going to <http://www.voteirises.org>. Try it and you will probably never go back to that paper ballot. I use my paper ballot in the garden to make notes, then go on-line to vote. Failure to vote the official ballot in a timely manner for two consecutive years results in automatic disqualification as a judge.

Currently we have:

- 28 Active Students (1 poised to move to Appren-tice)
- 11 Apprentices (5 poised to move to G/E Judge)
- 22 Garden/Exhibition Judges
- 13 Master Judges
- 4 Emeritus Judges
- 11 Retired Judges



*above:* Jane Jordan, Barbara Pesek, Carol Dahout, judges' training at Hoover garden

*below:* Carol Dahout receiving judges' training from Lorraine Nicholson, at Horton's  
*photos this page:* Mikey Lango



*below:* Jim Hedgecock and Jean Richter at judges' training  
*below, bottom:* Phyllis Wilburn, Jim and Irene Cummins, with Jim Hedgecock at judges' training



*below:* John Jones, instructor on garden spuria, at Horton's





Not Broke This Time  
(Bill Tyson 2015 TB) \$40

Fleur de Lis Garden  
2701 Fine Avenue  
Modesto, CA 95355

Shirley Trio-Probst      Riley Probst

We specialize in rebloomers



above:  
Superstition Iris  
Gardens

right: Dragon's Eye  
(Tasco 2015)  
photos: Mikey Lango



## Region 14 Commercial Gardens

**Bay View Iris Garden**, Joe Ghio, 1201 Bay St., Santa Cruz, CA 95060; 831-423-3656; email: ghiobayview@surfnetUSA.com .

**Bluebird Haven Iris Garden**, Mary Hess, 6940 Fairplay Rd., Somerset, CA 95684; 530-620-5017; <http://bluebirdhavenirisgarden.com> .

**Cadd's Beehive Iris Garden**, Anna and David Cadd, 329 North St., Healdsburg, CA 95448; 707-433-8633; email caddsisiris@comcast.net.

**Fleur de Lis Garden**, Riley and Shirley Trio Probst, 2701 Fine Ave., Modesto, CA 95355; 209-551-6323 (call first – we might be out visiting gardens ourselves); email: rprobst02@earthlink.net, shirleyjtrio@gmail.com

**Frannie's Iris Garden**, Fran and Russ Shields, 8884 Saddlehorn Ct., Elk Grove, CA 95624; 916-688-5262; email: franniesirisgarden@frontier.com .

**Hillside Iris Gardens**, William Tyson, 43315 Ranger Circle, Coarsegold, CA 93614; 559-658-7987; email billtyson@sti.net .

**Horton Iris Garden**, Mary Ann Horton, 7440 King Rd. (mailing PO Box 1054), Loomis, CA 95650; 916-652-4351; [www.hortonirisgarden.com](http://www.hortonirisgarden.com); email: maryann@hortonirisgarden.com.

**Mariposa Iris**, Douglas Kanarowski, 6147 Smither Rd., Mariposa, CA 95338; 209-966-3496 <http://mariposairis.com> .

**Napa Country Iris Garden**, John and Lesley Painter, 9087 Steele Canyon Rd., Napa, CA 94558; 707-255-7880; [www.napairis.com](http://www.napairis.com) .

**Nola's Iris Garden**, Nola Prevost, 4195 Sierra Rd., San Jose, CA 95132; 408-929-6307; [www.walking-p-bar.com](http://www.walking-p-bar.com); email: orders@walking-p-bar.com or gprevost@sbcglobal.net.

**Pleasants Valley Iris Farm**, Kendall Richard, 7317 Pleasants Valley Rd., Vacaville, CA 95688, 707-451-3367; [www.irisfarmer.com](http://www.irisfarmer.com); email irisfarmer2006@yahoo.com .

**Rainbow Acres**, Fred Kerr, Box 2191, North Highlands, CA 95660; 916-331-3732.

**Superstition Iris Gardens**, Rick Tasco and Roger Duncan, 2536 Old Highway, Cathey's Valley, CA. 95306; 209-966-6277; email: randrev@sierratel.com .

# Affiliate Presidents

## Clara B. Rees Iris Society

Barbara Pesek 510-793-5089 bpesek@sbcglobal.net

## Fresno Iris Society

Janet Smith 559-683-0447 gby456@gmail.com

## High Desert Iris Society

Patricia Eisenberg 775-762-9165 patriciaeisenberg@yahoo.com

## James Gibson Iris Society

Riley Probst 209-551-6323 rprobst02@earthlink.net

## Las Vegas Iris Society

Dorlene Waite 725-876-1525 dwaite0364@aol.com

## Leo T. Clark Iris Society

Carol Cullen and Kathy Hutchinson  
805-441-4433 carolcullen805@gmail.com  
530-894-6916 iris4you@aol.com

## Monterey Bay Iris Society

Barbara Hanson 831-335-4949 behanson@pacbell.net

## Mt. Diablo Iris Society

Stanley Morgan 925-687-6459 stanmorgan@toast.net

## Sacramento Iris Society

Phyllis Wilburn 530-624-9942 abirder@aol.com

## San Joaquin Iris Society

Bernie Hendrix and Ted Hawkins  
209-402-2351 victoriousblue@yahoo.com  
209-968-0852 tdhawk@att.net

## Santa Rosa Iris Society

Alleah Haley 707-799-1422 alleah.haley@gmail.com

## Shasta Iris Society

Timie Maneely 530-949-6994 tmaneely@yahoo.com

## Sierra Foothills Iris Society

Yarda Hansen 916-652-7555 ylhansen@gmail.com

## Sydney B. Mitchell Iris Society

Jean Richter 510-864-7962 jeanrichter@berkeley.edu

## Westbay Iris Society

Carol Skarda 650-941-0977 trekkerocrs@yahoo.com

## Yosemite Iris Society

Carolyn Hoover 559-658-7632 guyhandballo@sti.net

*right:*  
Milo says,  
please send in  
your articles  
and photos  
early!

(well, to be  
fair, he's  
really just  
yawning)



## 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 **Shirley Trio, Editor** [shirleytrio@gmail.com](mailto:shirleytrio@gmail.com) by the quarterly due dates listed on page 2 of this bulletin.

This is YOUR bulletin!

## AIS Membership Campaign

You have an opportunity to win prizes and help the AIS grow. You or your group can win the new member contest this coming year. The contest period is from the convention to the month before the next convention. Submit the list of names of your new members to the Public Relations and Marketing Committee <[AISpublicrelationsmktg@irises.org](mailto:AISpublicrelationsmktg@irises.org)> by April 15, 2015.

It is easier than ever to get those new members. You can point out the \$25 voucher they will receive when joining. Many clubs throw in extra irises for new members at their sales. Sales and shows are great opportunities to find new members. Sign them up then and there. You can find out all about this new marketing program on the AIS website [www.irises.org](http://www.irises.org) in the "News" section.

# Affiliate Happenings

## Clara B. Rees Iris Society

### Fresno Iris Society

The Home and Garden Show is always fun, with lots of questions and as always “Do You Have Any Purple Iris”? Fresno Iris Society had their Spring Iris Show April 11th and though small everyone had a great time.

FIS will have a meeting on May 4 at our usual place, the Fresno Hampton Inn at 7 pm. Don Fennell will hand out the awards then following will be a Q and A on “I have an Iris What Do I Do Now!!”

Our members are looking forward to participating in the Annual Water-Wise Plant Exchange Event at Fresno State where we will educate the public on planting and maintaining irises; also we will have for sale a wide variety of potted irises. Pat Caffrey will be giving tours of the lovely John Weiler Memorial Garden. Come join us and see.

Don't miss this! FIS has a special guest speaker coming to the meeting on November 3, 2015. **Steve Schreiner of the Schreiner Family Iris Garden** will be with us. We are letting affiliates know early so you can plan ahead: Please join us! RSVP to President Janet Smith if you can attend. We need to make sure we have plenty of seating.

~ Janet Smith, President

*below:* FIS at Home & Garden Show, Ramona Krajicek and Marilyn O'Neill *photo:* Janet Smith  
*above right:* FIS show *photo:* Rick Tasco



### High Desert Iris Society

#### James M. Gibson Iris Society

The James M. Gibson iris society had two big events this spring. The first event was an iris show held on Friday April 17th at Bass Lake Resort in conjunction with Yosemite Iris Society and the Region 14 Spring Convention. It was a large show with over 100 entries with exhibitors from all over the region. Jim Cummins, of Scott's Valley, CA swept the show. He won Best In Show with Yours Truly, Joe Ghio 2013 TB. He won Best Seedling with his own seedling 13 10 D, a tall bearded SA. He also won the Silver Medal for most Blue Ribbons. Our own Bruce Rybnikar won the Bronze Medal. Bruce also won Best Louisiana with Bayou Mystique, Mary Dunn 1989. Other winners included John Pesek for Best IB with Cosmic Delight, Terry Aitken 2013; Jane Jordan for Best Spuria with Rodeo Blue, Charles Jenkins 1994; Carolyn Hoover for Best Space Age with Roman Soldier, Ed Metheny 1996 TB; Mary Sindicic for Best Historic with Sierra Blue, Edward Essig 1932 TB; and Amberlee P. for Best Youth with Alabaster Unicorn, George Sutton 1996 TB.

The club's other big event of the spring was our iris sale at the 17th Annual Porterville Iris Festival in Porterville, CA on Saturday April 25th. This was the club's second annual sale there. We did not do as well this year as last due to the cool weather and rain. We will be back again next year, and hopefully it will be sunny and warmer.





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# Affiliate Happenings

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Summer events planned are a club iris auction and a farmer's market iris sale.

Also, please don't forget the James M. Gibson iris Society will be hosting the Region 14 Fall Meeting on October 16th and 17th. It is scheduled for the Holiday Inn in Visalia, less than ¼ mile off Highway 99. We hope you all come. Don't forget to bring your reblooming irises to enter in our Reblooming Iris Show.

~ Riley Probst, President

## Las Vegas Iris Society

### Leo T. Clark Iris Society

The club members of LTCIS have been very busy for the past month with the logistics of putting on our annual Spring Iris Show. The show was held on April 25th and 26th at the Chico Mall. The theme of the show was Kaleidoscope of Iris, and there were a total of 139 entries. The Best Specimen of Show went to "Thornbird", a previous Dykes Medal winner hybridized by Monty Byers and exhibited by Rob Marshall. Rob was also the Silver Medal winner. The Bronze Medal winner was Claudia Owen. We had a considerable amount of foot traffic in the exhibits and had many people request information on any upcoming rhizome sales. A big Thank You to all LTCIS members who each filled more than one role in making this show run smoothly successfully.

Mary Old-Kooi started a Youth Group in 2015. There was good representation in both the Youth Artistic and the Youth Horticulture divisions this year. Our thanks to Mary for all of her efforts to encourage youth membership in the Leo T. Clark Iris Society and also in the AIS.

We will be holding our Annual Potted Rhizome Sale at the end of June, to be held at the home of one of our members. Last year this sale was the most profitable fundraiser that was held by the Club. We hope to expand this year by offering more than the TB and SDB iris we had available last year.

July will be "dark" for Leo T. Clark Iris Society with no planned activities. However, the end of August will bring us the annual Member Only Sale. We will be in Fort Bragg over Labor Day in September to sell more iris rhizomes and then will partici-

pate in the Durham Rotary Harvest Festival later that month.

We wish everyone a pleasant summer.

~ Carol Cullen and Kathy Hutchinson, Co-Presidents

## Monterey Bay Iris Society

## Mount Diablo Iris Society

## Sacramento Iris Society

## San Joaquin Iris Society

Waking to the choirs of birds announcing the explosion of spring, I remember. Today is my first 'in garden training'. Filled instantly with excitement of a new experience mixed with a little trepidation (only from my newness and ignorance to the world of iris), I'm ready. Shoes for walking in the dirt, sack lunch, sun block, training manual, out the door I go to Turlock, CA to meet at San Joaquin Iris Society member gardens. Retired school teacher and Iris Judge, Sandy Mann was ready to lead the group of nearly 30 eager people on a great learning excursion. Relocating to the lovely gardens of Ron & Lori De la Motte, who graciously opened their 'Biblical Garden' for viewing, (landscape & hardscape depict subjects mentioned in the Bible), we moved to Ron's seedling garden.

Instructor Sandy Mann presented the exercise with everyone evaluating a bloom stalk, followed by presentation to the group of our individual evaluation. The entire group then offered discussion as to the merits and application of the criteria for garden judging. So much was learned from the discussion with the AIS manual as a guide making the garden training truly beneficial.

Back at Sandy Mann's backyard for the written test and lunch is when the fun really began. SJIS has added 2 of our group to the members who either are judges or are training to be AIS judges, and since we have a large percentage of such members, we are happy to be doing our share of show judging, and training for newer members who wish to become judges. Fun is when new acquaintances and friendships are made with like-minded people. Like-minded in the love of irises!

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# Affiliate Happenings

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Opening your garden to the public is the very best way to express your zeal for irises. The Annual Garden Tour of the San Joaquin Iris Society offered 4 gardens for viewing. We advertised in the local papers as well as on the radio and got many calls and emails from people interested in our tour, so there seems to be an interest in growing iris in our area, plus we made a few new friends. Questions were answered and information shared to pique the interest of those who already had a fondness for irises. We had potted irises for sale to benefit the SJIS general fund. Almost everyone who attended our garden tour expressed interest in becoming a new member of the San Joaquin Iris Society.

~ Berni Hendrix Co-President

This spring has been good; no rain is causing my blooms to be later and smaller than normal. The SJIS as a group again this year helped Doug Kanarowski with his annual iris sale. A fun time was had by all. I enjoyed going to the Spring Regional at Bass Lake this year; it was a great treat to be able to listen, as well as talk to, Jim Hedgecock, and the gardens we went to were very well presented. I thought that Yosemite Iris Society did a good job of putting on the regional. I am sorry that Bill Tyson had medical problems and could not be at his garden during the tour but his daughter performed well as garden hostess. I did get to talk to Bill for a while at the judges' training on Sunday and I enjoyed our talk. We are looking forward to our first AIS National to be held in Portland Oregon. I don't know what to expect, but I am excited to find out.

~ Ted Hawkins Co-President

## **Santa Rosa Iris Society**

Technical problems with report, will be in next issue

## **Shasta Iris Society**

## **Sierra Foothills Iris Society**

Sierra Foothills is preparing for their show May 2nd and May 3rd as I write this. It will be held at the Rose Room at the Auburn Civic Center in Auburn. Following the judging of our show, John Jones is instructing a judges' training session at Horton's

Iris Garden in Loomis on *Spuria iris*. This is a great opportunity to get that much needed garden training. We are quite early on our bloom this year, so I am predicting our show will be small. I think a few of the societies experienced that this year also, much smaller shows than normal.

Cindy Eastman is at the helm for our 2 day sale that is held at Easley's Nursery, 380 Nevada Street, Auburn. The dates for our sale this year will be July 25th and July 26th. This event is the biggest of our fund raising activities for the year. She is planning some creative raffles at the sale to hopefully generate new memberships.

~ Submitted by Kathy Braaten

## **Sydney B. Mitchell Iris Society**

The Sydney B. Mitchell Iris Society has had a busy last few weeks, between our annual show in late April and recently selling potted iris at the Celebration of Old Roses in El Cerrito.

We are looking forward to our next meeting on June 26, which will feature a talk by Ken Walker on growing beardless iris. We will have our annual bearded rhizome auction and sale on July 24, and will be selling bearded iris rhizomes at the Jack London Square farmers' market on July 26.

~ Jean Richter, President

## **Westbay Iris Society**

## **Yosemite Iris Society**

Yosemite Iris Society is planning to have our annual Show Awards Potluck and General Monthly Meeting at Carolyn and Guy Hoover's home in Coarsegold on June 6, 2015 at 12 noon. Our iris show was held on April 17th, "A Walk in the Pines" at the Pine's Resort in Bass Lake, California during the 2015 Spring Regional. There were winners from all over the Region, including John Pesek, for best of section, IB division. Also, for beardless was Bruce Rybnikar, from Tulare in our Southern Region 14. All winners will be notified in hopes that they would like to attend.

July - We will be digging and sorting up the three guest gardens that were part of the 2015 Spring

# Affiliate Happenings



above: Sydney B. Mitchell Iris Society made a trip to [Bluebird Haven Iris Garden](#) ~ Bonnie Petheram, Mary Hess (proprietor of Bluebird Haven), Phyllis Wilburn, Loretta Figueroa, Jean Richter (photo by Gesine Lohr)



## Sydney B. Mitchell Iris Society

below right: The winner of the Sydney B. Mitchell Iris Society show, Eileen Roark. She won both Best Bearded Other Than Tall and Best Specimen with the intermediate bearded iris [Backlit Beauty](#) (by Rick Tasco), as well as winning Best Tall Bearded with [Sweet Kisses](#) (by Barry Blyth).

below left: The winner of our artistic section, Marilyn Kaplan.

~ Jean Richter, President



# Affiliate Happenings



above: Riley Probst, head clerk at YIS show  
photo: Mikey Lango

Regional. We will be having a BBQ luncheon on that day at one of the guest gardens, probably at the Hoover's garden because of all the shade trees. Time and date to be announced.

August - A potting planting party is scheduled for Saturday, August 8, 2015 at Hoover's garden. We will be planning a summer potluck luncheon after we finish potting the rhizomes. We planted over 600 irises last year in one gallon pots for our fundraisers during the spring. Our club members donate their rhizomes from their gardens and bring them labeled and washed to the Yosemite "Pot Party."

Our society does not have a regular general meeting scheduled during the month of August and will be meeting again the first Friday, September, 2015 at 7 p.m. Carolyn Hoover, the leader for the 50 AIS Youth in Coarsegold area will also be selecting rhizomes for each AIS Youth member and will be distributing them when school commences at end of August, 2015.  
~ Carolyn Hoover, President

## How to make your Designer Happy!

Please submit text with **NO FORMATTING!** People mean well, and want to "fancy up" their pieces -- but that means, when I am trying to put those pieces into the graphics program InDesign, to produce the bulletin, I have to take out that formatting -- and sometimes that takes longer than you might guess!

It's better to attach a text document to an email, rather than putting the text into the email, which can make really weird things happen.

Please type your text using a "common, regular" font [Times Roman is very readable and is the font I use the most], *rather than a font that is wacky.*

Photos -- please submit in jpeg, tiff, or png format. Please when sending photos, also write out the names of people in the photo, where/what the photo is of, and who took the photo; many folks try to get all that into the name they give the photo, but that isn't clear to us -- we're not familiar with your club/project, and how you like to label your photos.

Please send photos separately -- when you embed them into text or other documents, they're hard to dig out, and tend to be way, way too small.

On capitalizing things -- in general, capitalize less than you might think -- iris, not Iris, garden, not Garden, meeting, not Meeting, etc.

Thanks! ~ Gesine



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

Submit text advertisement copy or display advertisement artwork to the editor, Shirley Trio [shirleyjtrio@gmail.com](mailto:shirleyjtrio@gmail.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

| Category & Dimensions                    | One Issue | Four Issues |
|------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Text-only Advertisements (black & white) |           |             |
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*note:* Revised rates will be given in our next issue.

For technical questions, including full-page ad copy specifications, contact bulletin designer Gesine Lohr at [gesine.lohr@gmail.com](mailto:gesine.lohr@gmail.com)

**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:

**Iris Register Database**, 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 (except for bulbous iris).

**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.