



Fleur de Lis

Clara B. Rees Iris Society

Feb 2026

Vol. 68 Issue 6

Next Meeting

Feb 6, 2026

Willow Glen Library

1157 Minnesota Ave.

San Jose, CA 95125

Doors open 7:00 PM

Meeting 7:30 PM.

Dues

Sep 1, 2024-

Aug 31, 2025

Adults - \$15.00

Carol Dahout

CBRIS President

Contact Information

caroldahout@yahoo.com

CBRIS

www.cbris.org

Region 14

aisregion14.org

American Iris Society

www.irises.org

February Program

Our guest speaker for February is Patrick Stadille, a science teacher and the author of several books on spiders and other bugs in our neighborhood. He represents the Xerces Society, which is dedicated to protecting pollinators, conserving endangered species, and reducing pesticide use. Patrick will talk to us about our local pollinators, how to attract them to our yards and help with their survival.

AIS

Support the work of The American Iris Society by becoming a member:

Not a member of the American Iris Society? Please see our website for information about becoming one: <http://irises.org/>
Happy Gardening!

- The Annual Print Membership receives the printed version of [*Irises, the Bulletin of The American Iris Society*](#), published four times annually.
- Annual E-membership participants can view the online version of [*Irises, the Bulletin of The American Iris Society*](#). Also, has access to the online iris checklist.
- The Annual Full Membership receives both benefits described above.
- Participate in AIS's Webinar Series featuring AIS experts from around the U.S.
- Get connected with AIS members via our [Facebook Group Iris Lovers](#), and other social media channels.
- Get to know about lesser known irises, such as species, spuria, Japanese, Louisiana, Siberian and other beardless irises.
- Support [AIS's Mission](#) of education, conservation, research, preserving historical archives, and outreach projects.
- Did you know that The American Iris Society is the registration authority for all rhizomatous irises worldwide?
- The [Iris Encyclopedia](#) is available 24-7, 365 days a year, and filled with a wealth of iris knowledge. Stop by for a visit!

Posted on World of Irises – The Blog of the American iris Society
By Andi Rivarola

Dahout Digs February 2026

Happy Valentine's Day! Sweets to the sweet!



For those of you who have overwintered the CBRIS potted iris - Chris, Mikey, Naomi, Andrea, Jane K, Jane J, Preeti, Carolyn Lee, Iris, Steve and Lisa – Please remove dead leaves and debris from pots. Add additional soil as needed, fertilize, and water them so they will be ready to present to the public at our potted iris sale at the Saratoga Farmers Market on Saturday, April 4th.

I went to the grand opening of Preservation San Jose's warehouse sale on Saturday and scored (among other things) a Cooley's Garden catalog from 1947. There were many Sass and Salbach irises listed for sale, but only one Rees, and that was, of course, Snow Flurry. It is listed for \$2.00 each or three for \$5.00. The description reads, "Standards pure icy white, beautifully ruffled. Falls big, broad and pure white. They are waved and crimped at the edges, semi-flaring and abundantly produced on stems reaching four feet. Early and long-lasting."



The least expensive irises are listed for 35 cents or 3 for 90 cents. The most expensive are the new introductions by Dr. R. E. Kleinsorge for \$20 each, with no quantity discount. Bearing in mind that \$1 in 1947 would be \$15 today, they would have been a very expensive iris!

Our meeting this Friday, February 6th will be at the Willow Glen Library on Minnesota Ave in San Jose. I hope to see you all there!

– Carol Dahout, CBRIS President



Clara B Rees Financial Statement January 2026

Beginning balance, January 1, 2026	\$ 22,289.88
Revenue: Dues	15.00
Expenses: Sales tax	568.00
Christmas lunch misc. expense	52.29
Ending balance, January 31, 2026	\$ 21,684.59

February Birthdays



- Andrea Clague
- Jody Sorensen
- Steve Chen
- Riley Probst
- Charmaine Turbow
- Gail Christen
- Carl Boro



Culture

With the good weather we are having, irises will be coming out of their dormant stage. Weed and fertilize! In our area, we try to fertilize by Feb. 14, using an even number fertilizer such as 10x10x10 or 12x12x12; even 16x16x16 works - just use a little less. Sprinkle a handful of granules around the rhizomes and scratch into the soil. Water will take the fertilizer down to the roots.

Weed and pull off any unsightly leaves. Be on the lookout for leaf spot. You may want to pre-spray bearded iris with a general-purpose fungicide. Minimally, pull off any leaves that have leaf spot so it does not spread with the next rains. Remember to toss those diseased leaves into the trash. Do not use them for composting.

Keep up a program of snail and slug eradication (bait or hand pick) so they are not overwhelming in March.

Check that the bearded rhizomes are not buried too deeply - this can contribute to rot due to excess moisture.

-Chad Schroter and Mikey Lango



Minutes for the CBRIS Meeting on January 2, 2026



Welcome: President Carol Dahout called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. welcoming all attendees and acknowledging the January birthdays of the following CBRISians: Mary Collins, Wayne Craft, Grace Keng, and Mikey Lango.

No guests or new members were in attendance.

Thanking Nancy Mirabella and Alice Gary for their work in organizing the December 2025 CBRIS Holiday Luncheon at Tomato Thyme, Carol also thanked those who provided table decorations and succulents for this event.

CBRIS Treasury: The current balance, Carol reported, is \$22,289.88.

Name that Show! Choosing a name for CBRIS' annual Iris Show, which will take place on April 18, 2026, was the first order of business.

Carol provided several possible names for the show and solicited attendees to provide names of their own. A total of 11 possible names emerged. Members voted on each of these, and in the end, the name that received the most votes was "Iris Splendor."

Program: Carol Dahout delivered a fascinating and informative overview of the life of iris hybridizer Clara B. Rees, the irisarian whom our club commemorates, and who left an indelible mark on the iris world at large.

Born in 1879, and raised in Vermillion Township in Ohio, Clara lived on a farm and began, at an early age, hybridizing all sorts of plants, including irises. However, when she, her mother and her youngest sister Ruth moved to a new home on Bird Ave. in San Jose, CA, Clara's iris hybridizing took on new meaning.

Clara crossed THAIS, a Cailloux iris from France, with PURISSIMA, a tall white tetraploid, thereby producing SNOW FLURRY, a ruffled white-blue iris that resembled the TBIs we know today, but were not at all known at that time. Carl Salbach introduced SNOW FLURRY at the 1939 meeting of the American Iris Society in Oakland, CA, where it took the iris world by storm. Not only did it receive immediate 'rock star' accolades from virtually all hybridizers of the day, but it also went on to become part of the pedigree of 532 other irises, two of which, BLUE SAPPHIRE and VIOLET HARMONY, became Dykes Medal winners.

As Carol concluded, "the impact of SNOW FLURRY cannot be overstated." Though it never received the Dykes Medal, it did receive three other AIS awards: Honorable Mention in 1939, Award of Merit in 1949, and the American Iris Board of Directors Award in 1974.

Altogether, Clara and her sister Ruth introduced 28 irises, thereby establishing their legacies as iris pioneers. In 1957, they and other San Jose irisarians founded the "Clara B. Rees Iris Club" (i.e., CBRIS). In 1960, Clara herself received a Plaque from Region 14 recognizing the significance of her iris hybridizing.

Clara died at the age of 90 on August 23, 1970, and her sister Ruth died on November 10, 1974.

Beginning in 2026, CBRIS will present an Award Cup for the best white iris at its annual Iris Show in honor of Clara B. Rees.

(Continued)



(Minutes continued)

Refreshment Gratitude: Thanks to all members who provided refreshments for tonight's meeting.

Commemorating Linda Stremel: Mary Collins moved, and Christine Dickinson seconded, that CBRIS contribute \$50.00 to Region 14 in memory of fellow CBRISian Linda Stremel, who recently passed away. Members voted unanimously to do so.



Upcoming Events of Interest to CBRISians:

- The Master Gardeners of Santa Clara County will hold their Native Plant Sale on January 17, 9:00 AM - noon, at Martial Cottle Park, which is located at Chenowith and Snell in San Jose.
- Western Horticulture Society will meet on January 14, at the Garden House. Helen Popper will speak on California Natives.
- The Master Gardeners of Santa Clara County will hold their Succulent Sale on January 31, from 9 am – noon, at Martial Cottle Park in San Jose.
- Master Gardeners of Santa Clara County will offer a lecture on Pruning Fruit Trees on January 31. Go to the Master Gardeners website for further information.
- The Spring Regional Meeting for Region 14 will take place in Reno, Nevada on May 15-17, 2026. See the Region 14 website for further information.
- The 2026 AIS Convention will take place in New Jersey and New York (Regions 2 & 3) on May 18 - 23. Go to the AIS website for more information.
- Sidney B. Mitchell Judges Training will be offered on Zoom on January 24. Carol will send out a link for people to register for this session.



Garlic Anyone? Grace Keng brought garlic cloves for planting and welcomed CBRISians to take some home.

Door Prize Irises were awarded via the Wheel of Fortune app. Thanks to Steve Chen for managing the Iris Wheel of Fortune at this and other meetings.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Lomperis, CBRIS Secretary



Dates to Remember

CBRIS Meeting	Feb 6, 2026	Patrick Stadille; Meet at West Valley Library
CBRIS Spring Show	Apr 19, 2026	Joan Pisani Community Center, Saratoga, CA 95070
2026 Spring Regional	May 15-16, 2026	Reno, Nevada; hosted by High Desert Iris Society
2026 AIS National Convention	May 18-23, 2026	New Jersey and New York; 4 gardens: Brooklyn Botanical Gardens, Presby Memorial Iris Gardens, Rutgers Gardens, and Gary Slagle's Garden – Phanaticville
2026 Fall Regional	TBA	Hosted by Shasta and Leo T. Clark Iris Societies
2027 Spring 14 Regional	May 7-9, 2027	Hosted by MBIS, Santa Cruz area gardens - Diane Sampson in Watsonville and Jo Chisholm in Los Gatos, Santa Cruz mountain area

Flower Shows & Plant Sales

Feb 26 - Mar 1	Pacific Orchid Exposition "Orchid Obscura" San Francisco, CA
Apr 11	Master Gardeners Spring Garden Fair Martial Cottle Park San Jose, CA 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Apr 25	<u>51st Wildflower Show</u> West Valley College 9:30 AM - 4 PM
May 3	Peninsula Rose Society Annual Rose Show 1400 Roosevelt Avenue Redwood City, CA 94061 (In Cooperation with Santa Clara County Rose Society & San Mateo County Rose Society)
May 3	Plant Sale and Craft Fair San Mateo Garden Center 605 Parkside Way San Mateo, CA 94403 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Refreshments

Winnie

The only person to sign up for refreshments this month!

Please bring something to share.

Reminder to bring your own mugs and utensils.

Knock, knock.

Who's there?

Dewey

Dewey who?

Dewey really have to wait six more weeks for spring?



Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow on February 2nd, predicting six more weeks of winter.



Iris Garden Maintenance

In Feb. 2017, Philpa Alvis and Mary Collins led an interactive session on what to do in your iris garden every month of the year. The following is then Secretary Lynn Stuart's write-up.

January

- Pull weeds – **every month of the year** – keep after those weeds.
- Pull off dead leaves.
- Don't compact wet soil by walking on it; use stepping stones or lay down a board.

February

- Fertilize iris (especially just before a rain so it will be watered in for you). Fertilize with 10-10-10 around the rhizome, not on it, and scratch it into the soil.
- Manage gophers.

March

- Monitor for *aphids and release ladybugs, wipe the aphids off with (gloved) fingers, or spray off with a strong stream of water.
- Leaf spot: Just ignore it, pull off the affected bits and discard (do not compost), and avoid overhead watering.
- *If you want a pristine garden, use fungicide.

April

- Stake bloomstalks and insert spreaders where needed to separate the buds for show.
- Enjoy your blooms!
- Enter the iris show.
- Visit gardens.
- Check the blooms against the tags and make sure they're correct.
- Deadhead spent flowers, then spent stalks.

May

- Turn your focus to beardless iris care.
- Fertilize rebloomers after bloom.
- Order new iris!

June

- Fertilize and water rebloomers.

July

- CBRIS Auction!
- Dig your iris (don't water the TBs for two weeks prior to dig).
- Amend your soil for replanting. Fertilize. Compost + (may add Gypsum, if clay soil). Plant.

August

- Finish digging and dividing.
- Water new plants.
- Replant MDBs and SDBs quickly -- don't let them dry out.
- Bleach any rhizomes to be planted (or replanted) in 9:1 water to bleach solution for 10 minutes; rinse off well; let dry and then plant immediately.



September

- Continue watering new plantings.
- The first week of the month is the last chance to plant rhizomes.

October

- Plant beardless iris.
- Dig and divide beardless iris and keep roots moist until planted.
- Enjoy rebloomer blooms.

November

- Plant PCIs -- make sure they have good white roots before planting -- keep roots moist.
- Plant bulbous iris.

December

- Tool maintenance.

*Weed Impede was suggested as an herbicide for weed control. Spray on bare soil to keep weed seeds from germinating. Clean sprayer immediately or it will destroy your sprayer.

Editor's note: Might choose to use Preen instead

Past CBRIS Show Names

1994 Rainbows Edge	2011 Iris Fever
1995 The Mystery of Iris	2012 Iris Gone Wild
1996 ?	2013 Luck of the Iris
1997 ?	2014 Iris on Parade
1998 Celebration of Color	2015 Simply Irisistible Spring Show
1999 ?	2016 The Colors of Spring
2000 ?	2017 A Symphony of Color
2001 Rhythms of Spring	2018 Irises on Parade
2002 Iris Inspirations	2019 AIS National Convention held in San Ramon
2003 ?	2020 COVID
2004 The Romance of Iris	2021 COVID
2005 The World of Color	2022 COVID
2006 Iris Fantasy	2023 Showers of Flowers
2007 Nifty-Fifty	2024 A Rainbow of Iris
2008 Unnamed show – not judged	2025 A Symphony of Iris
2009 Show exhibition at Yamagami's – not judged	2026 Iris Splendor
2010 Spring Show	

– List compiled by Carol Dahout



Blooming in CBRIS' Gardens...



Sierra Mist



Deep Burgundy IB



Double Shot



I Repeat



Replicator SDB



Fond Remembrance IB



Iris Unguicularis



Premonition Of Spring PCI



Sdling 17-4-1 Cereghino



Boundless



Happy New Year



Tango In The Night



Autumn Explosion

- Photos by Jane, Mikey, Riley and Winnie



CBRIS Door Prizes Iris February 2026

Bestie (Thomas Johnson '25) **SDB** 13" E-M S. light yellow; F. very light yellow ground, near clear patch below beard, dark purple hafts that narrow approaching distill end, gold edge; B. orange.

Box Of Sunshine (Paul Black '25) TB 35" L-VL bloom S. pale tan-gold, blending to wide mid tan-gold band; F. white, light grey texture veins, mid tan-gold hafts brushed amber, narrow blended tan-gold band; B. mid-gold.

Celebrity Dream (Thomas Johnson '24) TB 36" M-L S. white ground, washed pink with a deeper pink stitched band; F. white, with wide raspberry-to-purple dotted band across hafts and edge; B. burnt-tipped purple and then white.

Cosmic Sensation (Richard Tasco '25) **AB (OGB+)** 26" S. lavender, veined darker; F. lavender, red wash from beard, diffused black signal; B. dark lavender.

Edging Ahead (Thomas Johnson '24) TB 36" EM S. light lavender to white, with slightly darker lavender stitching and dotting; F. white, with violet dotted edge, narrow violet stripe below beard; B. white base, purple and orange tips.

Eternal Dawn (Thomas Johnson '25) TB 39" EM S. rich pink, with wide cream band; F. light cream, with deep pink to orange hafts, slightly lighter blended band; B. orange throat to light lavender white end.

Freefall (A. Mego '25) TB 36" L S. brilliant green-yellow; F. brilliant green-yellow w/deep ruby red veining to the light yellow rim at the edge; B. orange-yellow.

Gypsy Prince (Melba Hamblen **1973**) TB 38" E-L S. greyed yellow with violet infusion deeper at base; F. near violet lighter toward edge, bordered medium brown with hafts same; B. orange beard tipped violet. **HM'75**

High On Life (Paul Black '25) TB 33" M-L S. dark lilac, blending to wide light silvery lilac margin; F. white ground, washed light pink, paler in center, mid pink texture veins; B. coral.

Horned Flamingo (Lloyd Austin **1963**) TB 40" **horned** VE S. arbutus pink; F. true salmon pink; B. tangerine beards that end in salmon-bearded horn.

Just Breathe (Mike Sutton '25) TB 36" M S. white; F. white; B. white base w/palest yellow tips.

Light Of My Life (R. Probst 25) **IB** S. red violet w/yellow band; style arms are medium yellow with a red violet splotch; F. Red violet with white veining running throughout and yellow band. B. orange, fading to white tip.

Maid Of Gold (Paul Black '25) **MTB** 23" E-M S. mid yellow; F. mid yellow; B. mid yellow.

Middle Child (Mike Sutton '25) **IB** 26" E-M S. deep purple; F. deep purple, red-violet shoulders, near black area around beard; B. white base, yellow tips.

Never Ending Story (Thomas Johnson '25) TB 37" EM S. very light yellow, slightly darker in center; F. deep magenta, with yellow flash around beard, yellow band; B. yellow.

Pistols At Dawn (Lynda Miller '25) TB 30" **horned** L S. golden yellow; F. red-black, gold veined shoulders; B. gold, red-black based horn, gold hairs appendages; slight purple based foliage.

Rooted In Tradition (Mike Sutton '25) TB 45" M. S. light yellow-pink; F. yellow-white, darker at edges; ruffled and serrated; B. light yellow-pink base w/tangerine pink tips.

Sails At Sunset (James Cummins '23) TB **horned** 42" EM S. pink; F. pale blue; B. orange throat, pale blue middle, pale blue end, pale blue flounce.

Sodalicious (Thomas Johnson '25) **IB** 26" E-M S. mustard yellow; F. deep maroon to black, with lighter band; B. orange.

Sunken Treasure (Anton Mego '25) TB 37" M S. vivid yellow; F. strong orange yellow blended strong red purple from beard to 3/4 down petal; B. orange.

Uncle Tell (Eva Smith **1962**) TB 38" M Violet-purple self w/blue- violet beard.

Worlds Apart (Mike Sutton '24) TB 36 M-L S. palest lavender sanded purple-grey w/1/2" green-yellow band at edge, faint rust wire rim; F. white ground, dark strong violet plicata markings in throat and at near solid edge; B. orange-yellow.



Bestie
SDB



Box of Sunshine



Celebrity Dream



Cosmic Sensation
AB



Edging Ahead



Eternal Dawn



Free Fall



Gypsy Prince



High On Life



Horned Flamingo



Just Breathe



Light Of My Life
IB



Maid Of Gold
MTB



Middle Child
IB



Never Ending Story



Pistols at Dawn



Rooted In Tradition



Sails At Sunset



Sodalicious IB



Sunken Treasure



Uncle Tell



World's Apart





May 15-17, 2026 at the Silver Legacy Hotel and Casino, Reno NV

This venue is entirely smoke-free except in the casino. Amenities include a complimentary self-parking garage, free airport shuttle, valet parking, gym, pool, spa, and five restaurants. Indoor walkways to the El Dorado and Circus Circus provide additional dining options.

Friday Events

- Iris Show: Entries are accepted from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. in the Silver Baron Rooms.
- Attendees are invited to enjoy dinner on their own.
- The General Business Meeting will be held in the Silver Baron Ballroom at 7:00PM.

Saturday Events

- Two guest garden tours, including a box lunch for participants.
- Judges Training session.
- Buffet banquet in the Silver Baron Ballroom, featuring dinner speaker Lori Rhodes, iris hybridizer, Crafton Hills Iris Farm.
- Silent auction and live iris auction.

Sunday Events

- Judges Training
- Optional garden tours

USE THIS LINK TO REGISTER YOUR SPECIALLY PRICED ACCOMMODATIONS ONLINE

BEFORE APRIL 15, 2026: <https://book.passkey.com/go/SRAIS6>

2026 SPRING REGIONAL MEETING

AIS REGION 14

REGISTRATION FORM

May 15-17, 2026 at the Silver Legacy Hotel and Casino, Reno NV

DEDICATED LINK FOR ONLINE ROOM RESERVATIONS FOR THIS EVENT

<https://book.passkey.com/go/SRAIS6>

(Cutoff date for special pricing on room reservations and reduced resort fee is April 15, 2026.)

Registration includes Friday Iris Show, entries accepted 3:30 pm-5:00 pm, and the general business meeting.

Saturday includes a judges training, a box lunch, self-guided tour of two guest gardens, buffet banquet dinner followed by our guest speaker Hybridizer Lori Rhodes, silent auction, and live auction.

Sunday: judges training, optional garden tours, and sightseeing

Registrant 1 First name _____ Last name _____

Registrant 2 First name _____ Last name _____

Address _____ City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email (for confirmation) _____ Local Iris Society _____

Will you attend Judges Training? ____ Box Lunch: _____ Vegetarian choice _____ GF choice _____

Registration fee if postmarked before April 15, 2026: \$125 Number of person/s _____ Total \$ _____

Registration fee if postmarked after April 15, 2026: \$140 Number of person/s _____ Total \$ _____

Registration postmarked after May 1, 2026, will be accepted at the discretion of the Registrar.

Please make check payable to High Isis Society (HDIS). Mail the check and your registration form

To: HBIS c/o Michele Swarts, 300 Shady Valley Road, Sparks NV 89441