



Top from left to right: 'Care to Dance,' 'Cheetah Cheese,' and 'Vizier' arrive this August. Images courtesy Schreiner's Iris Gardens. Below, in circles: just a few of the lovely photos shared by NHG patrons on Facebook in April.

## Sneak Peek!

### Our 2016 Bearded Iris Collection arrives this August

For the third year in a row, we're expanding our collection of bearded iris varieties. We love these tough, hardy, evergreen perennials that thrive in our area and offer stunningly luxurious blooms each spring. An investment in a single rhizome (the fleshy, root-like terrestrial stem from which the plants grow) will bring reliable beauty to your garden for years to come. Here are four highlights from the more than 40 great varieties due to arrive in early August: **'Care to Dance'** (top left) appears to be lit from within. A tall variety that can reach 36" in bloom, its pristine white standards and wide raspberry

falls extend an invitation to admire its blazing orange beards and ruffled lavender edges. In spite of its funny name, **'Cheetah Cheese'** (top center) is a tall bearded broken-color variety that flashes burnt orange and apricot ruffled petals. Flaring falls overlaid with a deep garnet netting pattern show off creamy streaks, and bright tangerine beards lend an exuberant spirit. The elegant **'Vizier'** (top right) demonstrates an unusual color option with rich, cranberry-red self that offers great vigor and well-branched stems. Its glowing tangerine beards

and ruffled, serrated flower form make it a jewel for any garden. Our updated and expanded 2016 collection includes varieties in every color of the rainbow, with tall, intermediate and dwarf varieties as well as some that are fragrant and re-bloom. Thanks to all who participated in our April/May photo contest on our Facebook page featuring the beauty of bearded irises in your home gardens. The images above (in circles) are by Lianna Gasser, Karen Laughlin, Carol Seastrunk, and Tammy Wardell. We hope their images inspire you to plant some of your own!





# From Hell's Kitchen to the Heart of The Garden

## Meet Chef Roe DiLeo, the creative force behind The Café at NHG

By Cody Hoya, TCNP, General Manager

Over the winter, the café was going through a formative period necessary for every fledgling dining spot: menu tweaks, tastings, and adjustments in sourcing the usual. By the end of January, though, it snapped into focus. The flavors were spot on, the textures and plating consistent and inspired, and the experience fresh and comfortably satisfying. What changed? Chef Roe Dileo took the helm. If you haven't yet dined in our café, here's a peek into the person behind the newest experience at your favorite local gardening destination.

**“No matter how good your food is, if you are not a gracious host and a welcoming entertainer, it doesn't work.”**

Chef Rosanne 'Roe' DiLeo credits her Sicilian heritage for her early introduction to food culture: “in my family, if you didn't help cook you didn't eat! We all pitched in for large Sunday family dinners and I remember these as my first experiences in the kitchen.”

Roe has had a diverse and colorful set of professional experiences across Dallas, including a gig at The Libertine Bar as well as the chef and general manager of Henry's Majestic. She was also a contestant on Fox's Hell's Kitchen with Chef Gordon Ramsay in 2014, where she won a prominent steak challenge sponsored by Omaha Steaks, and made it into the final five contestants.

When asked how these have influenced her, she responds “my career has been defined by some very simple principles that I follow when I'm preparing food: best ingredients, consistent quality and a welcoming atmosphere... consistency—or rather, lack of it—is my number one restaurant pet peeve. No matter how good your food is, if you are not a gracious host and a welcoming entertainer, it doesn't work.”

So how did this experienced and successful young chef come to lead the café at NHG? “I met Jon and Aaron [Pinkus, NHG's second- and third-generation owners] through a mutual friend...after many long and some jaded years in the restaurant industry it was refreshing to meet two people who hadn't ventured into this kind of commerce before and were full of ideas and hopes. Their excitement was contagious.” We recently described the art gallery and café, both relatively new additions to North Haven, as new opportunities for ‘connecting the dots’ between gardening and lifestyle. When asked how she sees her role in that mission, Roe replies “to be somewhat of a teacher, as in expanding the palettes of our café guests, opening them up to some new food trends or revisions on classics. Also showing our garden community how what we offer in the café is produced cleanly, and that some bad food habits we all have can be changed, and a part of that is locally sourcing and growing as much as we can.”

Her fresh approach definitely shows in the food. So what's the chef's favorite item on the current menu?

“Everything!” She says with a laugh. “It's hard when people ask me my favorites—it's like choosing your favorite friend, you like them all! Right now I will say I am very into the Applewood BLT, mostly because I love bacon, sprouts and garlic!”

We invite you to stop in for a bite the next time you visit; whether you're just browsing the beauty or stocking up on gardening necessities. Perhaps you can meet chef Roe in person and see for yourself how her fresh approach to simple, but delicious food has transformed the heart of NHG.



Visit [NHG.com](http://NHG.com) for class and event details  
**July-August 2016**



# The Café

at North Haven Gardens

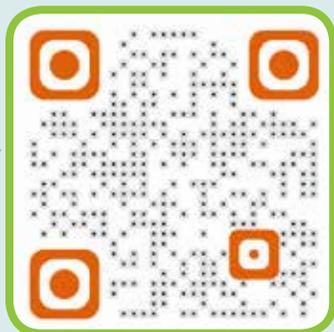


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## Native grasses as a lawn? Absolutely!

By Sandi Schwedler, TCNP, Senior Buyer

A lot of time and money is spent mowing, watering, fertilizing and spraying non-native lawns, and with our tough summer dry spells and increasing watering restrictions, homeowners are having trouble keeping up. According to a recent study, up to 60% of outside water usage—approximately 7 billion gallons—was used to water residential lawns. Three million tons of fertilizer was put on those lawns as well as tons of pesticides. Interested in an alternative? Short, native bunch grasses (Buffalograss, Blue Grama and Curly Mesquite) can be combined to create a lawn that, once established, will thrive on as little as 5"-12" of rain per year. One of our favorite Texas seed suppliers, Native American Seed, has developed such a mixture that they call **'Thunder Turf.'** Thunder Turf creates a low-growing mat of grasses that you'll only need to mow in early spring—just once per year. It will naturally go dormant in the summer and green up again when fall rains come. It requires no fertilization whatsoever, and actually thrives on neglect. NHG carries this seed mix in several sizes to suit a variety of turf conversion projects. Pictured left is the landscape of the George W Bush Presidential library, where this grass mixture was used right here in Dallas—and as you can see, it's thriving! If you're interested in transforming your lawn, come in and speak to a garden advisor to get started.