



Almanac of the Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris  
 Newsletter September 1974 Volume II Number 1

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Officers of the Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris

President	August Phillips	567 E. Brett St. Inglewood, CA 90302
First Vice President	Mrs. Sven Tollen	255 Manzanita Dr. Orinda, CA 94563
Second Vice President	Mrs. Jean Witt	16516 25th, NE Seattle, WA 98155
Secretary-Treasurer	Charles Hopson	9081 East Drearte Rd. San Gabriel, CA 91775
Editor	Edward Pasahow	6235 Syracuse Lane San Diego, CA 92122

Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris Information

Membership: A member of the Pacific Coast Native Iris Society residing in the United States must be a member of the American Iris Society.

Dues:	Annual:	Individual	\$4	Family	\$5
	Triennial:	Individual	\$10	Family	\$12
	Supporting Annual:		\$6		
	Life Membership:		\$50	Honoray Life	NO DUES

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our Society is now a yearling. Good progress has been made. Many new members have joined and existing members have renewed their membership. Display gardens have been started and test gardens are in the making. Plans for the 1975 Convention in San Diego are being worked out. Appointments need to be made. I am proud of our Almanac and want to thank everyone who helped Ed with material for publication.

I wish to commend Jean Witt for advising that the Society must collect the seeds for a seed bank, so other parts of the world can try their luck growing the West Coast species and their hybrids. Last year hybrid plants were sent to Oklahoma. It was reported that the plants lived through the winter and were doing fine until a late freeze in April got them. Those that were planted in containers and moved into protection of buildings lived and bloomed.

At the Roanoke Convention the Dwarf people were complaining that there were not enough registrations and introductions to make interesting competition for the awards. We may run into the same trouble with the Californicae. To become eligible for an HM, a Californicae must be registered and introduced one year prior to the voting year. There is no limit to the length of eligibility, but the introductions are listed on the ballot for only four years. It takes ten votes to receive an HM.

The American Iris Society had published an article by Eric Nies on digging, dividing and resetting the Californicae. Now I cannot find it. There is an article by Lee Lenz in Bulletin number 123, October 1951 which covers the same topics. Our Society could use a good bibliography on the Californicae.

The annual spring meeting was held May 26 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Dick Richards. A letter from Mrs. Richard Ramsey, Chairman for Judges and Judges Training, was read. Mrs. Ramsey asked the SPCNI to make classifications and set standards for judging the Californicae. Mr. Richards was appointed Chairman of the Classification Committee and he will choose his own committee members.

August Phillips



CALIFORNICAE THERE AND HERE

by George Stambach



LA BREA (Phillips '70)  
in bloom at Cordon Bleu  
Farms after a spring  
shower.

Many of us who are really interested in the Pacific Coast native iris, especially members of our society, believe that we should spread the knowledge of these choice little wild iris as worthy additions to the flower gardens of the world, wherever they can be grown. One way to spread the knowledge is to be sure to enter flowers in as many shows as are available. One never knows what interest this may create. One year after the large iris show at the Arboretum in Arcadia, California, I was introduced to a businessman from Belgium. He took great interest in the native iris display because he had never seen any before. He asked if they could be grown in his homeland. He told me their climate was very similar

to that of England. I assured him that some varieties did very well across the channel and should do equally well for him. So that fall, I sent him some seeds which should have produced good results. We should never pass up an opportunity to publicize our native iris.

There are two ways of getting the Californicae spread around to those who are willing and able to grow them. One is to ship the plants. The other way is to grow them from seeds which is a much easier and surer way to get these iris to grow in a new location.

We all know that it is somewhat difficult to ship live plants long distances, yet it has been done and can be done again. A number of years ago, Dr. Lee Lenz, Director of the Santa Ana Botanic Garden at Claremont, California, shipped plants of CLAREMONT INDIAN to Mrs. Brummett in England where they grew very well for years. In shipping the plants, there are certain details which should be closely watched to insure the survival of the plants at their destination. One factor is to be sure that the plants will arrive at the time of year when the irises in that area are putting out new growth. This usually is springtime when the climate is neither too cold nor too hot. Otherwise the plants stand little chance of surviving. For inland Southern California, the

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best time to ship plants is winter and early spring when plants are growing healthy, white roots. We also like to receive them at this time. Along the coast, the time may be extended somewhat.

Another thing to be careful about is good packaging for long distance shipping. All plants should have the soil completely washed off the roots to avoid chances of carrying disease, fungi spores or nematodes. Then pack the roots in real damp sphagnum moss or peat, place them in a water tight bag and tie tightly at the base of the foliage. This leaves the foliage free to breathe. Then put the bags in a well ventilated box packed loosely with excelsior or shredded paper which will allow the foliage to receive oxygen. Mark the box "Iris Plants" as they may require inspection prior to delivery.

The foolproof way of sharing our native iris is through the distribution of seeds. This can be done safely and cheaply without any of the preparations which are required for plants. The only drawback is that the recipient does not get a named plant or a particular color, but he can be assured of getting something no one else has. Even we old timers grow out many seeds each year. I have gone still further and have sent seeds to several places in the U.S. as well as Belgium and Ontario, Canada, where the hardy ones are grown in the ground under heavy winter mulch and the more tender ones in green houses. I have sent seeds to Mrs. Brummett in England and to Australia, New Zealand and Mexico. Most types of iris do very well in and around Mexico City. In my desire to spread seeds to new places, I thought of the wonderful thermal greenhouses in Iceland where they can and do grow most everything. With the help of my Congressman, I obtained the name and address of the man in charge of that project. I sent him seeds, describing what they were and how to grow them. Sad to say, I never heard how they did. I have also sent seeds to Japan in answer to an ad requesting them.

Some years ago, Bill Wylam, a past president of our local iris society, sent seeds to South Africa where our natives are apparently doing well. Also last year, Thornton Abell was invited to judge at the international iris test garden near Florence, Italy. He took some seeds with him from a very fine I. munzii plant that he received from Lee Lenz and left some at the gardens. He returned here via England where he visited Mrs. Brummett with whom he also left some seeds.

At an executive meeting of our local iris society, Clarke Cosgrove, now a Vice President of the AIS, stated that he thought it would be wise if we developed strains of native iris suitable to the particular soil, water and climate in a given wide area. This coincides somewhat with Jean Witt's suggestion that seeds be grown in as many different locations as possible. This, I believe, has already resulted in the spread of natives in many places in the world. But, there are still many places where they can and should be grown.

IRIS HARTWEGII SUBSPECIES WHAT?!?  
by David Samuelson

"When I use a word," said Humpty Dumpty, in rather a scornful tone, "it means just what I choos it to mean -- neither more nor less." Through the Looking-Glass...Lewis Carroll

Ira Sarian was thoroughly mixing in a carefully formulated compost of coffee grounds, pine needles and other ingredients as the newest member of the Prettyhowtown Iris Society, Charlie Neophyte walked up the garden path toward the iris beds.

"Hi Charlie", Ira called cheerfully.

"Good afternoon," Charlie answered, "I see that you're working on your Pacific Coast Native Iris bed. I've been reading a little about the varieties of the natives, but I'm still confused about the names. The species are especially difficult to understand. To me, it seems that there is no logical reason for them and some make me wonder what they have to do with the Pacific Coast at all. For example, does I. hartwegii subsp. australis come from Australia, and what do the other strange names mean?"

"Wow, Charlie," said Ira as he stood up and stretched, "you sure started out with a difficult example. Let's start at the beginning. I'm sure that you already know that the genus of all the flowers is named for the goddess of the rainbow from Greek mythology. The rest of the name of the species that you mentioned as well as the other species also have meanings that are more easily understood once they are translated into English."

"All right," Charlie agreed, "translate away."

"The hartwegii is derived from the name of a noted German plant collector who lived from 1812 til 1871. His name was Karl Theodor Hartweg and he was sent by the London Horticultural Society to collect plants in Mexico and California. Sorry to disappoint you, but australis means southern rather than referring to the the continebt southeast of Asia, but the names are both from the same Latin source. So putting it all together, the southern-most form of the species is I. hartwegii subsp. australis."

"Well that's clear, now explain the origins of the names I. tenax and innominata."

"No problem. Tenax means holding fast, tight and firm. All characteristics of the tough little I. tenax. The other one is even simpler as innominata means not named. I guess that was an example of botanist's humor just like the modern cultivar, NO NAME, hybridized by Brummitt. Before you ask, I'll cover the tenax subspecies of klamathensis named after the Klamath River on whose banks this form is found. A couple of hartwegii subspecies that we have not talked about are columbiana and pinetorum."

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"This isn't as hard as I thought," said Charlie, "let me try to guess the meanings. As I recall there is an old mining town called Columbia in Tuolumne County, California and the Yellow Pine Forest is located in Plumas County, California. Is that close?"

"A plus, Charlie," exclaimed Mr. Sarian. "It would be a lot tougher to figure out that I. tenuissima's name comes from the weak or thin perianth tube which is one of its identifying features. To continue, Philip Alexander Munz who was a professor of botany at Pomona and later Director of the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden lent his name to I. munzii. In similar manner Merritt Lyndon Fernald, the American botanist was the name sake of I. fernaldii."

"I see, just remove an i or two and it's a botanist. Who was Purdy then?"

"Carlton Elmer Purdy, or Carl to his friends, was quite unusual in the iris world. He was not a botanist, but was a nurseryman in Ukiah, California who specialized in bulbs. His name is also associated with I. tenuissima subsp. purdyiformis which has similar features to I. purdyi."

"Am I right in thinking that the I. douglasiana is named after the same man that the Douglas Fir is named for?" asked Charlie.

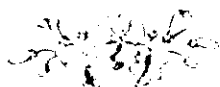
"You certainly are. David Douglas who lived in the early 1800's was a collector for the Royal Horticultural Society along the Columbia River. True to his Scottish blood, the cost of maintaining him during the entire three year expedition was only £ 66. Only two species are left now. I. chrysophylla has leaves that are such a light green that it is known as gold leaves. The last may be the easiest since I. bracteata has its stems covered with short, overlapping bracts."

"You know, when the origins of the words are explained, they are not hard at all. I think that I will try growing some of the species in my garden now that the names are less frightening." said Charlie in regard to his new knowledge. "Thanks a lot Ira, you've been most helpful."

"You're very welcome," Ira said, "now would you do me a favor?"

"Sure, what is it?"

"Please take your feet out of my compost heap!"



MINUTES OF THE 1974 ANNUAL  
MEETING

The May 26 meeting of the SPCNI held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Dick Richards was called to order by President Ray Chesnik at 1:30.

General information was given about the formation of four Display Gardens for Pacific Coast natives. These were:

1. Cordon Bleu Farms of San Marcos, California.
2. Santa Barbara Botanic Gardens in Santa Barbara, California which may have up to fifty acres of land available for use, but not all of this acreage is for irises.
3. Bay View Gardens at Santa Cruz, California where the California natives bloom not only in the spring, but also throughout the year.
4. Lorenea Reid's Garden in Springfield, Oregon where a large number of species grow.

There was a discussion following this concerning Test Gardens. In response to requests for places to grow all kinds of species and hybrids there were several gardens volunteered. Dick Richards said that he would accept seedlings to be grown at Mt. Baldy to see if they could stand severe winters. Mrs. Alex Ruby of El Monte, California will also accept seedlings for testing. Two additional volunteers were the gardens of Dave Ross of Los Angeles and Mrs. Lucille Lewallan of Upland.

Ground rules for the Test Gardens were discussed. Iris should be left at the Test Gardens for at least two years, and the hybridizer has the right to say what will be done with the pollen and seeds from his plants. He shall also have the right to extend the time in the garden to at least two years after introduction. A policy of honesty must prevail and the Test Garden owner shall send the hybridizer an annual report on his plant's performance. A motion that these ground rules be adopted was made, seconded and carried.

Ray Chesnik read a letter from Mrs. Richard Ramsey, the person in charge of AIS judges and judges training, requesting that the SPCNI make classifications and set standards for Californicae. Although Dick Richards pointed out that it would be a difficult task to set standards for each and every location, he agreed to head a committee to see what could be done. He will select his own committee members.



(Minutes continued) August Phillips reported on a presentation that he made at the Convention for the Section. At that meeting he was asked why the SPCNI was formed when there was already a species group. He told the group that our members were more interested in the culture and growth of hybrids than in the species. This was the reason for the new organization. Barbara Serdynski also attended the meeting and reported a large attendance at the first Section meeting at a convention.



The Board of Directors of the AIS suggested that all section members pay their dues along with their AIS dues. They also suggested that each section conduct a one hour judges training program at the National Convention in 1975.

Ed Pasahow, Editor of the Almanac commented on the desire to continue with two issues a year. He also spoke about the 25% rise in printing and mailing costs. Ed said that the members had been very helpful in sending in articles and notes.

A discussion of the finances of the Section followed. The life and Triennial membership dues go into a savings account, so the Society can use either principal or interest as needed. It was suggested that we hold plant sales at Regional meetings to help the treasury.

The slate of new officers was presented and unanimously elected to office:

President	August Phillips
First Vice President	Mrs. Sevin I. Toolen
Second Vice President	Mrs. Jean Witt
Secretary/Treasurer	Charles Hopson
Editor	Edward Pasahow

A big hand was given to all of the out-going officers and the appreciation of the Section expressed by the new President, August Phillips.

After thanking Mr. and Mrs. Richards for their hospitality, the meeting was adjourned.

Charles R. Hopson  
Secretary





PACIFIC COAST IRISES IN BRITAIN, SPRING 1974

by Roy Davidson



GREENBRIAR CONTRAST  
(Nourse, 1958)

Most of the public gardens in Scotland and England alike grow quantities of our Western American irises, though they oftentimes seemed something other than what the labels read. This was due, of course, to the fact that they will intercross so readily. At Cambridge and at Wisley, some pure *I. innominata* were growing well, as they were also in the peat beds at Savill Gardens of Windsor Great Park. Likewise the *I. douglasiana* or "douglasiana hybrids" grew in many places, and at Edinburgh Botanical Garden, some very good *I. hartwegii* were seen. However, the species take a back seat to the garden hybrids, purposely or not, in public gardens and private yards as well.

Pacific Coast irises have gained considerable following in Britain since Mr. Fothergill's three little gems opened gardeners eyes to their charms a few short years ago. Mrs. Brummitt's many delightful little ones, in the interval since their debut, have kept up the interest and inspired many other gardeners. A strain exhibited at the Chelsea Flower Show, 21-24 May, bore the name of the Broadleigh Nursery, although they were grown by Lady Drewe. BROADLEIGH SYBIL was selected for trial at Wisley Gardens, as were two others, Mrs. Brummitt's #214/1 and one named BENENDEN, which I believe to be from the Kent Garden of the late Captain Ingram. Mrs. Brummitt's #191 at the show was an attractive small red-brown bitone or most impressive qualities.

Seen at Portsmouth Field, the Wisley Trial Garden, were two nice blooms from Miss Scopes which impressed me quite favorably: PHILLIDA, tall classic yellow, and ISIRIS, smooth cream with patterned violer eye zone. SUGAR CANDY, taffy colored and POACHED EGG, both of Mrs. Brummitt's fostering, were looking very well also; the latter was a cute dwarf with a very descriptive name. BROADLEIGH PEACOCK had been given the society's coveted Award of Merit, though it was not in flower on the date of my visit. A good many vases of mixed Pacific Coast Irises were gracing the various stands both at Chelsea and at the BIS Show on 11 June, though they were scarcer at the latter. The catalog of V. M. Humphrey, iris specialist listed a number of Mrs. Brummitt's  
(continued on page 14.)

THE JOE GHIO DISPLAY GARDEN

by Dick Richards

The garden of Joe Ghio in Santa Cruz is our first display garden in the Bay area. Located less than a hundred miles south of San Francisco, Joe's garden has the most up to date collection of recent, named varieties available anywhere. If you want to see the very latest products of the hybridizers, there is simply no other garden that can match Bay View. Not only will Joe's latest seedlings be on display in the spring, but the latest introductions of all the other hybridizers show up in Joe's garden first. Occasionally a species or two is found in one of the beds, but this is a commercial garden, and the emphasis is upon the latest introductions.



Joe Ghio  
(Photo by Author)

The man behind the Bay View Gardens is Joe Ghio, already known in the bearded iris circles as a breeder of quality iris. Joe has lived in Santa Cruz most of his life, except for time out to attend San Jose State College, where he majored in business. It was during his college years that Joe started growing bearded iris. Returning to his home town of Santa Cruz, Joe started teaching business, typing, and history at Harbor High in Santa Cruz, and maintaining his garden as a one-man commercial venture in his spare time. It has filled his spare time to the limit, and he thinks his garden is about as big as it will get. Perhaps it will even have to shrink a bit to give him more time.

Joe has been growing the Californicae for fifteen years or so, getting his start from seed given to him by Jack Craig. Craig's seed was derived from plants obtained from Professor Sidney Mitchell in the Bay area, and also infused with genetic material derived for the line of Fred Danks of Australia, which include some of the original Riddle I. innominata. So Joe's strain of native iris have a long pedigree, and are primarily a very vigorous I. douglasiana-innominata cross. Joe has mixed some of the native iris of the area into this genetic compound; his PASATIEMPO and EMPIRE GRADE are examples of this. He started hy-

(continued on page 14.)



DEAR ED,



I found a few mistakes in the 1974 Checklist, which I'll pass along. First SIERRA SAPPHIRE is a collected species and not a hybrid. Second Ruth Hardy always claimed to me and to others that VALLEY BANNER is a pure

I. tenax species, not I. tenax x I. chrysophylla or natural hybrid. She claimed that she selfed it and it comes true which to her, is definitive. She also said there were no I. chrysophylla in the area in which she collected VALLEY BANNER, so it appears to me that the evidence is that it is a pure I. tenax species. Third, on the ancestry of ARIOSO is listed ORCHID SPRITE x AGNES JAMES. It is also claimed on the Checklist that the ancestry of ORCHID SPRITE is ARIOSO x AGNES JAMES. If so, ORCHID SPRITE is its own grandpa, which may come as a surprise to those addicted to the science of genetics. The same would be true of ARIOSO also, I believe, which makes it frequent enough occurrence to suggest a Natural Law. Seriously, the Checklist is a great service to everyone, and is amazingly free of errors for the number of sources, large number of clones involved and the fragmentary information which comes from many sources.

Dick Richards

In regard to the parentage of VALLEY BANNER, refer to page 202 of the AIS Iris Check List for 1959. It is listed there as a hybrid, so perhaps the AIS registration is incorrect. An alternate theory to the "own granpa syndrome", perhaps the ORCHID SPRITE cross was made, then ARIOSO became extinct, then by only the most fortunate circumstances against almost infinite odds the ARIOSO cross was made again with the identical genetic makeup. Seriously, it is my guess that the ORCHID SPRITE ancestry is incorrect, but I have no further information on it.

Ed.

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I am delighted with the Checklist, but a few questions and corrections: First, shouldn't there be some reference to the collected natural Cal-Sibe BY-A-BEE? Possibly Roy Davidson hasn't registered it, but as a large clump of this dark violet Cal-Sibe is just coming into bloom in my garden it reminds me that it is not a plant to be overlooked. Second, could we have a listing of where some, at least, of all these plants can be obtained? It is frustrating to read of them and not know where to get them.

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(Dear Ed continued) Third, Hattie Hubbard's collected white i. tenax is SKOOKUMCHUCK FAIRY not SNOOKUMCHUCK. It is the indian name for a river near where it was collected. Fourth the correct abbreviation for the Californicae-Siberian inter-series is Cal-Sibe, not Cal-Sib. I checked with Jean Witt several years ago and straightened out the Society for Siberian Irises on this matter. It insures correct pronunciation.

Marjorie Barnes

The omission of many clones is possible in our Checklist because an attempt was made to exclude non-registered cultivars that had only been distributed to a few friends of the hybridizer and not introduced. It is possible that BY-A-BEE falls in that category. It is equally possible that an oversight by your editor could be the cause. The pages of the Almanac are open to any information on the commercial sources of plants. A special invitation is extended to all to provide this information for the next Almanac. The name for SNOOKUMCHUCK FAIRY agrees with that listed on page 182 of the AIS Iris Check List for 1959. Possibly this is another incorrect AIS registration.

Ed.

Attention is directed to the inclusion of two ineligible clones of iris appearing in the 1974 ballot for AIS awards. It is regrettable that this matter was not circumvented as an attempt to do so was made with the 1972 Species Committee report to the Board of Directors. At the time, the two Cal-Sibe hybrids, EL TIGRE and SWIRLING MIST, were on the ballot as "Natives", interpreted as Pacific Coast Natives or Californicae, and as a consequence, the two now appear incorrectly as eligible for the Mitchell Award. The qualifications for the award clearly state that derivations must be purely of Californicae lineage, whereas these two are half Siberian and must therefor be disqualified.

B. LeRoy Davidson

After hurriedly checking the Checklist and seeing that these cultivars were correctly cataloged, I could breathe a sigh of relief. Hopefully the list will help prevent similar problems in the future. The SPCNI will periodically update the list.

Ed.

Changes and additions to Handbook for Judges and Show Officials, 1969 Edition:

Page 1, line 11 - change "California" to "californicae"

Page 4, following line 20 insert:

THE MITCHELL AWARD, The Mitchell Award is restricted to californicae irises that have received the HM. The judge may vote for one variety only. The award is given to the variety receiving the greatest number of votes, providing it received at least ten votes. Mitchell Award winners receive the Riddle Cup. This award, which was activated in 1973, is equivalent to an Award of Merit.

Carol Ramsey, Chairman AIS Judges

(Davidson continued) things, as did Sidney Linnegar, who also included AMIGUITA and RIO TULARE; the latter one of Lee Lenz's blue I. munzii derivatives that was not accorded distribution here.

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(Richards continued) bridizing with the Californicae about eight years ago, and his list of eleven HM's awarded to his iris as of the fall of 1974 indicates that his iris have both vigor and appeal. His CALIFORNIA NATIVE, as a seedling, took the best seedling award at one show against tall bearded seedlings, which shows not only the appeal of Joe's seedlings, but also the sophistication of the judges in Region 14.

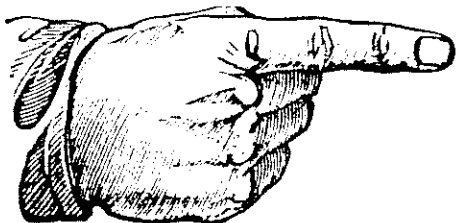
Recently Joe has been working on the project of incorporating some I. munzii genes into his strain, and he reports some success, with a possible introduction not too far into the future. He also has been working in the area of the elusive red iris, and reports one nice seedling in this color range which is being considered for future introduction.

Joe's garden is ideally located in the native region of I. douglasiana and the rather complex natural hybrids which occur on Empire Grade, above Santa Cruz (for which his hybrid EMPIRE GRADE is named because it includes these iris in its parentage). So ideal is this location, several of his hybrids bloom a good percentage of the year. It is not unusual to visit Joe in November and see bloom on his native hybrids. Of course from early spring his garden is a symphony of native iris bloom peaking in April. For some reason, I. tenax has refused to become established in his garden, so even the most ideal garden situations for one kind of iris do not seem to necessarily suit another.

Joe's garden is easy to reach. From Highway 1, go south on Bay Street one block to 1201. If you make a mistake and go north, the Santa Cruz campus of the University of California is a tipoff. He is home most weekends (except when there is an iris show in the area), and often after school you can find him out in his garden. If you give him a little advance notice, you can count on being treated to a tour of the garden as well as to the quick smile of Joe Ghio.

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ARE YOU STILL A MEMBER OF SPCNI?



If you had an annual membership in 1973-4, your membership must be renewed. Send your check to Treasurer Charles Hopson, 9081 East Drearte Road, San Gabriel, CA 91775 today!

DON'T MISS ANY OF THE UPCOMING  
SPCNI EXTRAVAGANZAS!!!!!!!!!!!!

HOW DO THEY GROW?

Again response was light to the appeal for performance data, so this will be the last appearance of the column, unless all growers provide information. The ratings and comments that follow are divided by geographic regions indicated as:

Northwest NW    Northern California NC    Southern California SC

Because of the limited response, these remarks should be considered as tentative.

MENDOCINO MORN

NW-Only Cal injured by a January cold snap. Burned foliage results. Usually makes a come back.

NC-A strong doug-type with very tall erect foliage. The stems are just about the tallest we grow and an appearance like a candelabra results from the branching. The flower is about average, but the branched stalk is a big plus.

APTOS

SC-Grows fairly well for me in partial shade. Stems, like most douglasiana hybrids tend to grow too long in the shade. Even its hybridizer, Joe Ghio, admits it has a tendency to "relaxed stems". Nice flower, wide and colorful.

NATIVE MUSIC

NC-Has beautiful compact growth. Produces a fine bloom supply with lovely rounded form, but the color is relatively dull.

SC-Very attractive wide, veined flower. Stems get too long in partial shade. Plant is a good grower for me. Foliage looks good most of the year. Flowers are a bit on the small side.

RIPPLE ROCK

NC-Just may have the best form of any. We love this thing, but unfortunately it fades badly, it is difficult to transplant, and produces messy clumps. In spite of these faults, we like it very much because of its form and it is one of the few with ruffling.

SC-Probably the most beautiful flower of any Cal. The color and form are without peer. Unfortunately it seems to die off within a couple of years. Some have reported success in keeping it going by separating and replanting every year.

WESTERN QUEEN

NC-One of the two best pacificas available today. It and SAN LORENZO are the two which are closest to what I think a native should be; they are the standard against which all others must be judged. The stalk is unbranched and produces just two flowers--not enough floriferousness.

Almanac of the Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris

ED'S PAGE



President Ray Chesnik chats with the newly elected president August Phillips and George Stambach at the Annual Meeting

(Photo by Rosemarie Pasahow)

new introductions. The AIS awards system can only work if we continue to bring out more and better plants than we have today.

While perhaps not as fine a season for our irises as spring, the fall does have its charms... collecting seeds from our crosses, planting them in the seedling plot or in containers and preparing to transplant the mature plants when the growth of strong, new roots begins in a few months. The members who have not yet tried their hand at hybridizing miss much of the excitement of the bloom of your own cross for the first time. A plant that you create can only come about if the crosses are made in the bloom season. It does not take much room if only a few crosses are made and the seeds planted in containers. Why not give it a try if you haven't so far? For you experienced hybridizers, the best wishes for many wonderful

As Emily Dickenson wrote in a much grander way,

Beside the Autumn poets sing  
A few prosaic days  
A little this side of snow  
And that side of the Haze.

Almanac of the Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris  
Edward J. Pasahow, Editor  
6235 Syracuse Lane  
San Diego, California 92122



THIRD CLASS

ADDRESS CORRECTION  
REQUESTED

REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!