



**Almanac:
Society for
Pacific Coast
Native Iris**

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PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM THE SPCNI TREASURER

- Check List of Named PCI Cultivars**
Lewis Lawyer, Editor: 59 pages. Lists and describes Pacific Coast iris and named hybrids through 1955. \$6.00 postage paid.
- Diseases of the Pacific Coast Iris**
Lewis & Adele Lawyer: ALMANAC, Fall 1986. 22 pages, 9 photographs. \$3.50 postage paid.
- A Guide to the Pacific Coast Irises**
Victor A. Cohen: The British Iris Society 1967. Booklet, 5.5 x 8.5, 40 pages, 16 line drawings, 8 color and 6 black-and-white photographs. Brief description of species and sub-species including their distribution. \$4.00 postpaid
- A Revision of the Pacific Coast Irises**
Lee W. Lenz: Photocopy of *Aliso* original. Booklet 5.5 x 8.5, 72 pages, 9 line drawings, 14 photographs, and 12 maps. Definitive work on the taxonomic status of the *Californicae*, with a key to the species and sub-species. Detailed maps and accounts of distribution. \$6.00 postage paid.
- Hybridization and Speciation in the Pacific Coast Iris**
Lee W. Lenz: Photocopy of *Aliso* original. Companion booklet to the above, 5.5 x 8.5, 72 pages, 30 figures, graphs, drawings, and photographs. Definitive work on naturally occurring interspecific crosses of PCI, including detailed account of distribution. \$6.00 postage paid. If ordered together, both Lenz booklets may be obtained for \$10.00 postage paid.

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The Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris is a section of the American Iris Society; membership in AIS is a prerequisite for membership in the SPCNI. If you wish only to receive the ALMANAC (two issues per year), the annual subscription rate is \$4.00.

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ALMANAC

DEADLINES: March 1 and September 1. Back issues are available for \$3.50 each, postpaid. Complete chronological index \$2.00, postpaid. Index by subject matter, or by author, \$4.00 each, postpaid. Please address the Editor.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Sacramento Convention was a success, as all of us had opportunities to renew friendships (some very special) and to attend several of the section meetings and learn more about the irises in those sections.

Bonnie Bowers, of Volcano, California, took the Lawyers, my wife, and me on an iris tour of the Placerville region to see *Iris hartwegii*. The Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris was to make this tour after the convention, and we were scouting the interesting places to stop with the help of Bonnie who lives in the area. We saw very little bloom on Wednesday, before the official tour, but there were acres of the iris in the fields. What a sight! There was an opportunity to save a small seedling group from falling into the roadside ditch, and this "saved seedling" is now in the ground in Little Rock.

The SPCNI meeting on Thursday was attended adequately. We exchanged ideas

as to where the Society is headed. The Society also awarded a plaque to the Lawyers in recognition of their outstanding service, as they both faithfully carry most of the business responsibility for the Society.

The only tour I attended was on Friday to the Napa and Santa Rosa region. We enjoyed seeing irises and grape vineyard after grape vineyard on high ground as well as low areas. The gardens on the tour were the best. We were wined and dined at each garden and the writer was overwhelmed with "strawberry fever". There were hundreds of TB's in every garden and the fragrance of them filled the air.

May you all be blessed with much bloom in the coming year!

Bob

FROM THE EDITOR

Publishing a book on the Pacific Coast iris seems a bit more intimidating than issuing an ALMANAC, but we have at last pushed off. David and Evelyne Lennette, with their wealth of experience in the field, are ideal editors, and George Waters' flair for choosing beautiful illustrations for his *Pacific horticulture* magazine more than qualifies him for Photography Editor.

Everyone we have heard from thus far has been enthusiastic, and most have sent welcome suggestions or useful information from their personal experiences. Some of this which we thought would be of immediate interest or value to our readers is included in this issue.

One thing was apparent: many of you are having trouble with seed germination. Two reported zero germination, and one of these was, at least in part, using seed which germinated satisfactorily for me. Some of you seem to be making seed germination too complicated, and I have addressed this problem in an article on page 10.

Last fall, our Nerines and some other fall-blooming *Amaryllidaceae* produced

less than a tenth of the bloom stalks expected. We blamed that on the previous winter (1994-95) when, following incessant early rainfall, almost the entire month of February was sunny and warm, and everything started to grow. Then March, April, and early May had 31 rainy days and few sunny ones. We figured that those dark, rainy 3 months must have been the time the Nerine bloom stalks should have been initiated.

I don't know when the PCI bloom stalks are triggered, but this year only 84 percent of the clones in our garden bloomed compared to a 16-year average of slightly more than 95 percent. Total bloom was about 2/3 normal. If that combination of weather extremes almost eliminated the nerine bloom, could the lack of bloom on the PCI date all the way back to that previous winter when the new fronds were developing?

Jamie

EXPEDITION 1997

Adele Lawyer

Expedition Chairman, Colin Rigby, traveled to Glide, Oregon on the last weekend in April to attend their Wildflower Festival and to locate areas where we can explore next year. He reported the wildflower show to be marvelous, so wonderful that he hoped we could schedule our trip for the last week in April, 1997, since this event occurs each year at that time.

In and around Glide, 18 miles northeast of Roseburg, Colin saw *I. tenax* in bloom in darker colors than we have observed on other trips. However, the hybrid swarms between *tenax* and *chrysophylla* located about 7 miles farther up on the road to Mill Pond Park, were not yet in bloom. This area was described by Bud Cruger in the Spring 1992 *Almanac*.

After serious consideration, therefore, it was decided that, since May 15 has

been an ideal date on the three previous years on which our group has visited southwest Oregon or Northern California, we would have to forgo the flower show. We are presently targeting a compromise date, the weekend of May 10th and 11th in 1997, hoping that the dark *tenax* and the wildflowers near Glide would still be in bloom, and a larger number of blooming *I. chrysophylla* and *I. innominata* would also greet us.

Colin made arrangements for us to stay at a Motel in Roseberg and to have a meeting on Saturday night. We will tour east on one day and west on another, possibly visiting the colonies at Langlois, which Claude and Joanne Derr found still in sensational bloom on May 19th this year.

Details will be published in the fall *Almanac*.

MINI EXPEDITION

1996

Adele Lawyer

For the first time in its 8 year history, an SPCNI Expedition set off in private cars instead of a bus to see native iris in the wild. It worked out very well, although, as usual, advance planning caused some nervousness.

Since the Convention of the American Iris Society, which attracts visitors from all over the United States and foreign countries, as well, was scheduled for Sacramento, CA in 1995, we thought visitors would like to see Pacific Coast iris in the wild when they were here. We scheduled a 1-day Expedition for the day after the Convention for the area closest to Sacramento where they could be found.

In 1995 we found two locations north of Placerville where there were extensive stands of *I. hartwegii*, and were informed by the Forest Service that many other wild flowers would accompany the iris at bloom time. We had only to wait to see if the bloom time would correspond to the day after the Convention.

In the meantime, we received a letter from Bonnie Bowers, of Volcano, California, who had seen the notice of this

trip in the AIS Bulletin. She said that *hartwegii* grew everywhere in the area of her home near Sutter Creek, and she could point out locations where they could be visited along with the stands in Placerville. We accepted her offer, and on the first day of the Sacramento Convention, April 24th, following a 7:30 AM SPCNI Board Meeting, Lewis and I, along with Bob and Janice Ward, drove to Sutter Creek and met Bonnie who guided us to the areas she had located. The *hartwegii* were just starting to bloom. Some were in flower, and most were in bud. If sunny weather continued, we would be right on target for our scheduled date, April 29th!

The four of us then went on to the Placerville sites, which are about 2000 feet higher in altitude than the Sutter Creek area, and found that there was no chance that *Iris hartwegii* would be in bloom for the tour at this location. We were fortunate, indeed, that Bonnie had read the AIS Bulletin and offered her help!

I had received advance notice that 20 people would be coming on the tour, but 5 more were able to join us on the morn-

ing of the event so that we had a party of 25. Our group of 7 cars started from Sacramento and went east on Highway 50 to Highway 16. We enjoyed the beautiful green rolling hills studded with graceful oaks on 16, which terminates at Highway 49. We turned left here to Plymouth. Here we regrouped before heading east on the road to Fiddletown. Although it was a 2-lane road, it was little traveled, and we had no trouble parking wherever we chose.

At close to 8 miles up the road we stopped first to see Baby Blue-Eyes, *Nemophila menziesii* growing on a bank by the road. Soon afterward we branched right onto Hale Road where we found some White Globe Lily, *calochortus albus*. I had never seen the white hanging bells before, (sometimes called 'Fairy Lanterns'), although I had often seen the equally lovely yellow species, *Calochortus amabilis*.



Iris hartwegii at the last stop



Flower of *Iris hartwegii*

At our next stop about a mile farther along the road, we saw our first large grouping of *Iris hartwegii*. Here they were accompanied by another calochortus, the ground hugging, *Calochortus monophyllus*, the Yellow Star Tulip. Someone in the group found a natural ramp where we could access the iris, which were inaccessible from the steep hill of loose soil along the road. Although the group was told there were more populous areas of the iris yet to come, the first sighting is always the most intriguing to photographers.

The cars forded a stream soon after we started out again, and a mile later stopped to picture clumps of *Silene californica*. This bright red silene called California Indian Pink, has 5 petals, each of which is divided into 4 lobes, so that it has a frilly appearance, as though someone had snipped the petals to fancy them. They highlighted a shaded, moist, high bank.

Turning right onto Shake Ridge Road we stopped about 5 miles later for the largest group of *hartwegii*. There were hundreds of clumps here, and we had time to search for the perfect camera angle.

Although *Iris hartwegii* is less spectacular in appearance than most others in the *Californicae* series, we found much

variation among the cream-yellow, narrow-petaled flowers. Some were more yellow than others, some had slightly broader petals, and others were distinctly ruffled. You could see that nature, represented here by the ever-present ants, had done a preliminary job in hybridizing them! AIS hybridizers could add slightly more width with *I. innominata* perhaps, and name the result, 'Creamy Stars'. Even the numerous *Calochortus monophyllus* showed variation here, with some of the yellow-haired inner centers exhibiting a touch of red.

Bonnie promised to collect hartwegii seed for the SPCNI Seed Exchange.

This was the last stop on the tour. Shake Ridge Road led back to Highway 49 at Sutter Creek, a quaint gold rush village. From here we went to Jackson, where we had lunch at a great little Chinese restaurant called *Good Friends*. It was a tiny place and because of preliminary arrangements, we had the place to ourselves. The food was excellent and inexpensive, an ideal combination. The waitress was attractive, efficient, and fun.

It is interesting that of the thank-you letters received following the trip, the restaurant was mentioned with enthusiasm equal to that of the 'Main Event'. Joanne Quincy wrote that the day following the tour she went right home and tried to duplicate the cashew chicken she enjoyed at Placerville. It turned out



Iris hartwegii at the first stop

well and will remain a lasting legacy! - A new twist on Expedition benefits!

Participants were from New York, Illinois, Missouri, Washington, and California. These are not listed because I can't remember the names of the Monday morning additions. I should have thought to provide name tags.

WE NEED

Seed Collectors, Explorers, Photographers

SEED

Those of you who live within or close to the habitats of Pacific Coast iris species, are asked to collect and send seed to Colin Rigby (see address on page 1). Please identify the location from which they were collected.

In addition to the species most commonly requested: douglasiana, innominata, tenax, chrysophylla, macrosiphon, and purdyi, we need some of the sub-species. We need *I. hartwegii* subs. *australis*, found in the pine woods of the San Bernardino Mountains of Southern California at 5000 to 7000 feet, including the Lake Arrowhead region, and *I. hartwegii* subs. *pinatorum*, which grows only in Plumas County, California, near Greenville, and

I. hartwegii subs. *columbiana*, found near the former gold-mining town of Columbia, between 5-mile Creek and Italian Bar.

In addition to species, mixed garden hybrids are always welcome as well as open-pollinated or crossed seed from individual named varieties or seedlings.

EXPLORERS

SPCNI has been asked by the British Iris Society to replace their publication by Victor A. Cohen, *A Guide to the Pacific Coast Irises*, which is out of print. There remain copies on hand in England and in our hands, so this need is not immediate. For this update, however, we would like to expand the coverage of sites where the

various species can now be found. This would involve recording guidelines to locating colonies of PCI plants. Lenz' coverage of localities in his *Revision of the Pacific Coast Irises* could act as a pattern. For instance, under *I. macrosiphon*, he states, "California: Lake County: 3 miles west of Lower Lakes on road to Kelseyville" ; Mendocino County: 4.8 miles from Covelo on road to Mina." It would be even better to include other details such as altitude, on north road bank, or in open woods, grassy hills, etc.

We have one explorer so far. Susan Sahl, who has a vacation home in Lake

County, said she would enjoy exploring the area around Clearlake. Let's hear from more of you.

PHOTOGRAPHERS

And while you are out there, take a picture of some iris clumps, close-ups of flower stalks, and habitats. Habitat and clump pictures need not be taken in bloom time. Prints would serve for the *Almanac*, but our Slide Chairman, Roland Kenitzer, needs slides for the programs he assembles for distribution through the AIS. Also, color reproductions for books require slides.

PCI CHECK LIST 1996

The new Pacific Coast Iris Check List came off the press one day before the AIS National Convention. It is updated from the 1995 copy, which is completely sold out.

Updating applies not only to bringing the listing of Registrations and Introductions up to date, but also adding to the supplementary information contained in this publication. It has grown to be a 60-page heavyweight, and instead of \$5 postpaid, we find it necessary to charge \$6 when it is ordered by mail.

We will endeavor to bring copies to AIS occasions which we or other SPCNI representatives attend. On such occasions, they will be for sale at \$5.

For those of you who are not aware of the format of this Check List, Part 1 is a listing and descriptions of the Registrations and Introductions of named Garden Cultivars and Hybrids. Following this is a listing and descriptions of named, registered, and introduced Inter-Series Garden Hybrids.

Part 2 covers the *Californicae* species, their general geographical location, and also parallel information about the natural hybrids between the members of this series. In this species section is a list of the common names and synonyms of the group, and the native habitats of the species listed by State and County.

Part 3 lists all the hybridizers who have registered or introduced PCI along with the varieties they have introduced alphabetically under the surname of the hybridizer and separately by year of introduction. In this section also the species and hybrids which have been most often used as parents are identified.

A Historical Section follows which traces the recognition of the wild Pacific Coast iris as suitable garden subjects, on through the first written description in 1829, and the development of hybridizing dominated initially by the English.

The final section, Part 4, lists the awards from 1914 to the present.

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A VIEW OF PACIFICA IRIS FROM DOWN UNDER

An Ongoing Experience from Dora Sparrow, Christchurch, New Zealand

Dora Sparrow

Jean Stevens (née Emily Jean Burgess) started crossing TB iris when a young girl in her father's garden using imported iris, and by the time the Australian and New Zealand Iris Society was formed in 1948, some forty of her iris were registered and listed in the best of British and American catalogs. These included 'Italian Joy', 'Moonlight Sonata', 'Inspiration', and an as yet unnamed

seedling, which became 'Pinnacle', just to name a few.

The achievements of Jean Stevens, and her recognition in the world of so many Greats came about through her natural humility, a critical eye for her seedlings, and a refusal to look at them through rose-colored spectacles. In the late 1930s, Jean Stevens was also growing Pacifica iris from seed sent to her by Dr. Riddle. *I. innominata* Aurea bloomed generously for her and clumped into large plants.

I acquired my first PCIs in 1946 from the Manawatu Lily Society in the North Island, the organization to which Jean had entrusted the distribution of her Pacificas. A paper parcel arrived with large soil-less plants of *I. innominata*. Planted in light soil and shade, come bloom time, they flourished on admiration; and one clump remained with me until a few years ago.

On a visit to England in 1972 to attend the British Iris Society's Golden Jubilee, I met personalities whom I knew only through correspondence. Highlights of this trip included attending the wonderful London Iris Show, and seeing the spectacle of Marjorie Brummit's display of *I. Pacifica*, an island table draped in a gold coloured cloth, with tiers of golden-toned Pacifica, - hundreds of them. I had

seen pictures of previous displays, but this was for real! I visited Lenard and Marjorie's garden a few days later and was given a small packet of seeds.

There was more to come, much more, as I was to find when I visited the United States a month later. I had met Olive Rice, was also in England for the Golden Jubilee, and now I was to visit the home of the Pacifica. George Stanbach welcomed

me to the Pacific Coast Native iris (PCI) with one of his packets of seed, and a lovely letter.

Over the past 20 years I have been able to widen my knowledge of Pacifica iris through writings, the distribution of plants and seeds by U.S. friends, and the opportunity to join SPCNI trips to see numerous types of PCI growing in their natural home. In recent years I have visited the Siskiyou Mountains of Oregon, Lake County in California, where we paid homage to a brave little *I. macro-*

siphon on a logging road, *I. purdyi* hybrids in the Coast Range on a high ridge road, and the Clackamas and Estacada areas of Oregon where we saw so many species of PCI; but the thrill of all was seeing *I. tenuis*, and for Professor Zhau-Yu Tang, of China, to be one of our party.

Well, down to the earthy business of growing some of these iris. There have always been some limitations on the size of my seedling plant-out area - 10' by 25' has been just enough, if inferior seedlings are culled out. Initially I was given good seed from Dr. Lee Lenz, Ralph Conrad, Joe Ghio, George Stanbach, and the seed pools; and after two to three years, had a wide selection of form, colour, and design. I have always preferred a full flower with upright standards, a good



Dora Sparrow, right, with Adele Lawyer and Olive Waters. Photo: Gene Loop



IDRIS (Dora Sparrow, R '87) Kodacolor print
from a slide by Dora Sparrow

petal substance, with a soft, velvety texture.

I work with tweezers, and do not emasculate the bloom before working with it. Having once found a bee asleep in the heart of a bloom at 5 in the morning, however, I protect the blooms of a proposed pod and pollen parents the day before they might open with a paper bag cover secured. Sometimes it is necessary to wait two days before the pollen is ready. A further two days later, the bag is removed, the stem labeled, and all detailed in my Record Book. A month later, the bed receives about an inch of mulch to encourage growth, and to give protection from the heat of summer. The only problem seems to be when a minute spider takes over a stem and the pod seems to shrivel. Towards the end of January when the seed pods are about to split, they are picked, and unless the seed is to be sent away, it is often planted in the 'green stage'.

Some ten years ago there was a seedling of velvety substance, basically a

driftwood shade, which had a strong blaze of a grape colour. My daughter-in-law, Mary, came through the gate and said, 'Idris Grape'! It is still in my former garden, and I'm welcome to go back and see it. This spring, IDRIS GRAPE had a seedling with one stem of the most beautiful velvety turquoise flower. Where did it come from? There is *I. munzii* in that plant. I returned about eight weeks afterwards to collect the seed as the pod was splitting, and now, two months later, I have two germinations so far.

What was left of my seedling patch was moved to Mary and Geoff's lovely garden at "Newlands" about twenty miles out of Christchurch - under the shade of an ancient pear tree and in lots of humus, the survivors are doing nicely.

Here at this Villa where I live now, I'm trying to wave a wand over the clay to make it more receptive to some of my plants. A few seedlings have been planted out, - seedlings whose background goes back some twenty years. 'Dark Knight' appeared about five years ago. It

comes from CITY HALL. City Hall is sometimes a rebloomer, as are some of its children; and its seedling is a very dark blue-black and velvety. Other recent seedlings include 'Rupert' named after a family ginger cat, and one from 'Pink Brick' which has a strong grape haft marking and frilly styles. These are all from a Ghio background, and the leaf seems to have a white edge. More seedlings planted out here are 'Lenz Blue' and 'Lenz Cornflower', and from the Conrad strain so generously distributed in 1984, my 'Persian Wine', rose wine and mulberry shades.

My Record Book pages for 1986 indicate that many of these iris were selfed, and seedlings came with frilled and fringed styles, and strong solid-coloured styles. Also about this time, seed from *I. douglasiana* gave longer stemmed Cal-Sibs in lovely colours. Each season there seems to be a new element in the flower design.

Sad to report, IDRIS DOT does not produce pollen! Why? Such a perfect flower, it was open pollinated from SO-

QUEL COVE, the color and pattern suggesting that it could be a self.

In addition to the Pacificas, I now have a small display planting of *Ii. bracteata*, *chrysophylla*, *longipetala*, *tenax*, *setosa nana*, *innominata*, *tectorum* which could yield quite a bizarre mix of seed in late summer this year.

To put us on the globe, maybe we have A parallel with Coos and Klamath in the U.S. In an average winter, a hard frost would register 20 degrees F., we have 24 inches of rain a year, a little snow which lasts maybe four or five days, and in February-March, some days in the 90s. We have a population in Christchurch of 300,000 plus. We are able to grow almost all iris, given the desired soil and position in our gardens.

Growing iris is an ongoing experience with something to be learned every day. It is good to see that we have a younger generation coming along deeply interested in this lovely flower. For me, however, the greatest pleasure of all has been my many 'iris friends'; they are very special people.

PCI SEED GERMINATION

Lewis Lawyer, Oakland CA

Several of you who have written to us since the last issue of the ALMANAC, either in response to the letter requesting information for the PCI book, or just to be friendly, have experienced poor or zero germination of PCI seed. Some of you were from areas where conditions, mostly climatic, could make germination a challenge. But too many of you were from one of the three Pacific states where the native PCI have been successfully managing the problems of germination for centuries without any special equipment or environmental modification.

In the last issue of the ALMANAC all the data available to date were presented, but either they were not understood or were overlooked. Gene Loop's controlled temperature tests showed that PCI seed germinates best at 50° F., almost none at 35°, and none at 70°. He also found that pre-cooling the seed had no beneficial effect if the ideal temperature range was subsequently met. In its natural habitats, the soil stays warm and dry during the

summer months, both conditions which inhibit germination. There is no pre-cooling. As the rains start, temperatures gradually lower until mid winter, then rise as spring and summer approach. Throughout most of the PCI territory, the ideal temperature for germination is reached sometime or other almost every winter day. Although in nature the ideal temperature is reached only as a segment of fluctuating day and night temperatures, Gene found out that fluctuation was not an essential element of the germination process.

His studies also showed that once germination had occurred, warmer temperatures were best for continued rapid growth of the plant, a condition which also fits well with those found in the natural habitats of the PCI.

So it seems that in areas of mild winters, you can't improve much on nature. Just plant your seed in pots of a good planting mix, place the pots out doors in the fall, and leave them alone until spring.

In milder areas where winter temperatures seldom reach 50° some refrigeration may be necessary, but, again referring to the article in the last ALMANAC, be aware that long time refrigeration at temperatures close to freezing can be lethal.

In areas where temperatures are too cold, it should be relatively easy to find a room where the ideal 50° is reached at least some of the time. Just keep in mind that the seed will not germinate at temperatures of 70° or above, the ideal temperature is close to 50°, but that once germination has taken place, warmer temperatures will speed growth. John White, in Maine, where winter temperatures fit all the above conditions, writes that he is conducting some experiments

which may spread more light on this situation.

We still do not know what to recommend in the way of preplant treatment, although the elimination of hard seeds would surely increase germination. A note from Margaret Lundquist (see *Letters*) gives a provocative solution, but sounds difficult. This year, for the first time, I tried soaking the seed in several changes of water for 24 hours before planting. The seeds were planted when still wet and soft. There was no discernable difference in germination of soaked and unsoaked seed. We would like to hear from anyone who has had experience, good or bad, with a preplant treatment and who has numerical data to back up the results.

PCI FROM START TO FINISH

Mrs. Richard W. Lundberg Goleta California

I have grown PCI from seed for many years, first in Santa Clara, where I planted them directly in the ground rather haphazardly, suffering many losses; but some survived, self seeded, and bloomed.

Here, in Goleta, not a one has come up when planted in the ground, either for me or for a gardening friend to whom I gave some seed. Perhaps I planted too shallow. self-sown is certainly too shallow.

What I do here is to plant them between paper towels in a small margarine container in the refrigerator. This is not exactly stratification. I place them in there some time in October. My notes on the lids of last fall's bunch say "Oct. 29, '95".

To start, I fully clean the containers with dish washing mix, then with a bit of Clorox in water, or a paper towel so moistened.

Two paper towels moistened in water which has been boiled, are laid on the counter by the kitchen sink. Two other towels moistened with boiled water are placed in each of the containers to be used. Then, Clorox is added to one of the towels on the sink by holding it to the mouth of the Clorox jug twice and tipping up the jug.

A few seeds are first placed on the Clorox-treated paper. The paper is then

folded over and rubbed over the seeds a few moments. Then the seeds are picked off one by one and transferred to the paper with the plain boiled water where the process is repeated. Then they go into the containers between the doubled layers of moist paper. It should not be real sloppy-wet. I squeeze it out a bit first, (all this because the seed may be somewhat moldy due to the weather at time of ripening).

In placing the seeds on the paper, I try to leave a bit of space between seeds. I then gently press down the top layers of paper, pop on the lid, and label it. The label is only a scrap of paper fastened on by tape.

The containers go into the back of a vegetable crisper drawer in the refrigerator. I don't know the temperature of that location, only that we don't keep our frig as cold as some do.

I don't even start looking at the seeds until January. Some will be well enough along to set out in individual pots along the north side of the house in January. They do best before they are potted if the top sprout and the root are well underway. And the top sprout has the best chance of growing if it is straight, not curled around with the roots. Confused sprouts may never get straightened out, and finally die. They need to be planted with the top above the ground a bit. They

will keep coming along until late February or March. Late ones don't do as well and many fail. Most of the seeds will sprout. Some may sulk and sulk, yet not rot. I'm still experimenting with them. Maybe they need it warmer.

The pots I use are either two-pound cottage cheese cartons or cut-down, half-gallon milk cartons. I carefully knock them out of cottage cheese cartons in October, (a year from when the seed was planted). Some are still too small and need to wait. Milk cartons can simply be peeled off. Either way there is no root disturbance.

I prefer to plant in semi-shade, either under trees or where a hedge gives afternoon, long-reaching shade.

For soil, I dig a rather deep hole in a raised bed with a ditch beside it, or plant in slightly raised ground. I usually add a half bucket, (3-gallon size), of either compost or planter mix. In Santa Clara, when I was planting under trees where

the soil had lots of leaf mold, I didn't add anything. I add a thin mulch of leaves in the fall, when they don't come naturally.

Sometimes I water mature plants in the garden in summer, but not often or for any obvious indication. I water the potted ones rather often, but only in the evening when it is hot.

The soil used for potting is best to be potting soil from a store. Even putting boiling water on compost was not enough to prevent a lot of losses in the group I had last year. I had very few losses where potting soil was used.

Disease has not been a problem here, but unseasonable showers and earwigs have caused some damage to developing seeds. Some pods have shattered and no sprouts came from them. Perhaps if I tie a scrap of cloth over a pod tight enough, no earwigs could get in. Choice pods could need a rain hat, too! This year I plan to tie a cloth tight over the pods, leaving a flap for ventilation.

PCI CULTURE IN OREGON

George Gessert, Eugene, Oregon

I plant seeds a quarter of an inch deep in 2 inch pots, four seeds to a pot. Planting time is mid October to mid November. If I plant earlier, seeds germinate in the fall and may be killed by low winter temperatures. If I plant later I can run into problems with frozen soil.

Usually about a third of my crop germinates the first year. Once the first seeds germinate, typically in February, I protect them from temperatures below 25°F, which in my experience can kill germinating seeds. I used to keep pots for two years, but I no longer have the space or, I must admit, the patience to do this. Second year crops are almost always smaller than first year crops.

To protect seedlings from snails, slugs, and sowbugs, I protect them by keeping flats off the ground, on benches, or even balanced on flower pots.

The main disease problem here is rust. Some plants are very vulnerable, others are not. I remove infected leaves and send heavily infested plants out with the garbage. I try to avoid hybridizing susceptible plants.

The biggest cultural problem here, believe it or not, is the weather! One

would think that in Eugene, Oregon, right in the heart of tenax's range, and in an area where douglasiana will naturalize, plants could handle the weather, but it's not exactly so. When the temperatures dip below 10° F, as they do once every few years, I lose lots of plants. I hybridize with some Californian plants, so that may be part of the problem. And rain is a killer some years. Ordinarily we get about 40 inches a year; but last year we had 66 inches, and this year we've already had 37 and its only April. It's so wet that azola, an aquatic fern, is growing on some raised beds. I lost about half of my plants this winter, almost all due to root problems associated with soggy soil. Poor bloom, too. Root stress?

The Pacific Northwest is a complex mosaic of land forms, microclimates, and ecosystems. Wild PCIs favor areas with rainfall from 15 to 50 inches a year. In the rain forests, where rainfalls average 80" or more, I've never seen a PCI. I used to think that shade and competition excluded them from the rainforests, which are extremely lush, but I now suspect that rain alone would exclude all but the hardiest strains.

EXTENDING THE PCI BLOOM SEASON

Lewis Lawyer

In the Spring, 1995, issue of the ALMANAC we printed a list of 50 PCI cultivars with average bloom dates in our Oakland garden ranging from February 23 to April 15, the majority of which bloomed between March 21 and April 10. This would provide a total bloom season of 2 to 2 1/2 months.

This year we are growing 221 clones, several in two or more locations. Peak bloom in the 103 clones of named varieties was between April 1 and April 5. Peak bloom on our 100 clones of munzii-derived selections was 10 to 12 days later. This spread is typical.

Extending bloom season is one of the items generally found toward the bottom of a hybridizer's wish list, but in 1987 when we discovered that we had a selection, XP50B, which in its 4 years of life had never bloomed earlier than April 18, we decided to start a breeding program for "Late". This article will bring the results of that breeding project up to date. And I do mean "up to date" - today - because the story is still unfolding. I will try to keep you current by dating the most recent observations.

There are difficulties in extending the season either direction. In the early season, February and March, you run into cold weather and rains which are hazardous to the flowers. In the late season you run into hotter days which tend to hurry the blooms and defeat your purpose. We soon found out that XP50B with its 2 flowers per stalk, was finished blooming almost as soon as it started. We also found out that it was a reluctant parent, both pollen and pod. This, coupled with the fact that few other PCI flowers are still available for crossing when it starts to bloom, resulted in complete failures the first two years.

By 1992 we had developed 3 lines with improved flower shape, but despite the fact that we had crossed with multi-flowered material, every late-blooming plant remained 2-flowered.

In 1991, during the June 13 - 15 Japanese Iris Convention in the Portland area, Duane Meek showed us a plant of *Iris douglasiana* in his garden which,

despite the late date, was still in bloom. He had obtained the clone from a roadside site near Sandy which, since douglas iris is not native to that area, is thought to have originated from the Walter Marx garden, formerly located in that vicinity. Because of my interest, Duane sent me a plant which first bloomed here in 1994.

"Late Doug" has grown well here. It is a relatively large plant with branched stalks and fairly decent pale blue, lined flowers. We made crosses with 2 of our XP50B-derived clones, XP251A and XP252A. We also crossed it to the best available flower type still blooming at the time: XP215A. These crosses are blooming as I write this article.

The flower shape has been disappointing, not much improvement over the species, but there are some variations in color and petal width, and, more importantly, at least half of the dozen new clones which have bloomed thus far are multiflowered. The main revelation has been that this year, for the first time, we have enough plants to get a perception of the impact this single factor could make in a garden. By the time this section started blooming there was not a single named cultivar still in bloom, and today, May 15, 20 days later, there are 47 open flowers on the 12 clumps of "Lates". In contrast to this, there are only three open flowers on all the other 321 clumps in the garden, these three, each munzii-derived, would otherwise be marking the conclusion of our regular PCI season.

One last addenda to the above paragraph as we go to press. It is now May 21, 26 days after the last named Pacifica bloomed. Today it is raining hard, but yesterday I went out and counted. For your information, there were still 43 open flowers in the "Late" planting.

We have an *Iris purdyi* clone which, for the two years it has bloomed, has been as late as our "Late" lines. Because the petal width is so narrow and the flower stalks are at best 2-flowered, we have been hesitant to introduce it into our gene pool. On May 16, I decided to make a cross or two to see if it might have a different genetic component for late

blooming which, when combined with ours, could extend the season still farther. I went out into the garden with all these intriguing genetic ideas filling my mind. But what a shocker! Not a single flower remained open on that 1 1/4 foot diameter clump! All the bloom-stalks with their single and double flowers were finished! What a stunning example of the significance of branching and multi-blossoms on the length of bloom time of a specific clone.



"LATE DOUG" flower

We have offered seed of the late-blooming *Iris douglasiana* in previous SPCNI seed lists. Last year it was item 95110. In 1994 it was item 94105. I called Duane Meek yesterday and he says that despite a devastating winter this season, it still remains alive. If any of you are interested, you could order a plant from him at his D & J Gardens, 7872 Howell Prairie Road., NE, Silverton, Oregon, 97381. I suggested a price of \$6.00 for a single order, Also, anyone who lives close enough to me could pick

up a plant here probably in late October. I don't have a permit for shipping.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Jennifer Niemi, Nova Scotia, Canada

You are probably wondering why I am writing to you. Well, when I first joined the SPCNI, you asked me how PCIs grew for me in Nova Scotia. Up until now, I didn't really have anything to tell you. I had a few species, but none had bloomed. This year I finally had a plant bloom so I thought I'd let you know.

The plant that bloomed was from seed of an open-pollinated TURQUOISE TOUCH, (Witt'92). The seed was planted in January of 1994, (indoors of course), planted outdoors that May, and bloomed mid-June of 1995.

There were two flowers on one stalk, opening a couple of days apart. That was one plant. The other plant growing by its side, with the same parentage, did not bloom. Both plants, however, look very healthy, and I'm hoping for bigger and better things in 1996.

I have enclosed pictures of the iris. I admit that at first I was disappointed. I

was hoping for a true blue flower, - or white, or yellow, or pink, or anything but what appeared. It seemed so dull and



Jennifer's seedling

ordinary. I guess I was just so excited about the blooming of my first PCI that I was asking far too much of that poor little plant. But next year more will bloom and perhaps one of those will be a more exciting color.

The plant that bloomed is growing with a southern exposure and seems to be happy there. For winter protection, I gave it a few pine boughs, that was all.

I'm still waiting for my species iris to bloom. I have two *Iris tenax* that look healthy but are really small, and have done nothing. I have several *I. douglasiana* which are fairly large, but look spindly to me. The *Iris innominata* and *bracteata* don't seem to grow at all! They have never developed new fans. My one *Iris munzii* is extremely healthy. I've brought it indoors, as I was worried about the hardiness of this particular species. It seems to like the pot, and has been producing new leaves constantly since potting.

I should tell you that our winters are cold, (-20° C lows) and many times, wet. We often have no snow cover. It always snows, - sometimes a lot, -but the snow melts or is washed away by rain. This process repeats itself several times each winter. We get a lot of freezing and thawing. Summers can be very hot and are often dry. Fall and spring are always wet.

Nova Scotia may not be the ideal place to grow PCIs; however, I do intend to keep trying. There will be more PCI seed in the ground soon. [Ed. Letter received November 1995]

Liselotte Hirsbrunne, Chesieres, Switzerland.

Liselotte wrote to Seed Chairman, Colin Riby noting, "I am just delighted to be able to grow PCI in our climate. They bloom in June!"

Doug Murray, Hope, British Columbia, Canada.

The Fall 1995 *Almanac* stirred memories of how I was introduced to Pacific Coast native iris through the last book written by Sydney B. Mitchell. It was in 1962 that my first PCI, *I. tenax*, was collected on a trip to Oregon. The trip included a visit to Walter Marx Gardens, which started us importing from Walter Marx, and from Lloyd Austin in California. Our first named PCIs came from Aitken's Garden. Four years later, after

three moves, I finally talked Ghio's DRIVE YOU WILD into blooming, and blooming well.

I find that seedlings do better than plants in our rainforest, (Zone 7, 60 to 90 inches of rain, short rest period). Could it be possible that they adapt while growing?

Our seedlings seem to be producing good whites more than anything else, almost all from Lawyer seed. A seedling from Robert Corbett, from Bradner, BC, is one of our favorites. It builds a tidy clump, is a great bloomer, and has good stems.

I have had some trouble germinating species. I think that the *Almanac* has answered that problem. Too warm.

I plant them in a soil mix mixed with fine, river sand, covered with glass and put in a household refrigerator for about 30 days. They are window-silled in early March. Most bloom the second year, rarely longer. [Ed. note: The comments above were addressed to Seed Chairman, Colin Rigby.]

Margaret Lundquist, Bothell, Washington [Ed. Note: In the Spring 1991 *Almanac*, Duncan Eader reported that seed damaged by Post Office procedures enough to stain the envelopes in which they were contained, germinated very well. Margaret Lundquist follows up on this information.]

I would like to relate some seed preparation and planting methods I have tried. Two years ago I tried putting a group of seeds in a white envelope so that I could see how much color was oozing out of them, and also so that they wouldn't fly all over the place. Then I whacked them with a glass pint bottle (Lipton's Tea). You have to practice. The first two whacks were too hard and 2 of the seeds were smashed. You have to hit it hard enough so that the brown-red juice stains the envelope. I had good germination. Hitting the seeds firmly simulates the Post Office handling.

The next year I soaked the seeds for 1 or 2 days and rolled them on newspaper to remove coating. I can't tell if that worked. They didn't grow all year until November when a few are sprouting. Hurrah! It was too warm, I guess. This year I'll do some of each, Whack and Soak!

The real problem is keeping them growing.

Barbara Null, Tyler, Texas

I live in Texas, possibly the worst conditions imaginable for growing PCI. I do live in "east" Texas, which is more comfortable for Louisianas, with acid soil, tall pines, and sandy soil. On my property, however, the soil is iron ore and clay! Nevertheless I have grown a few seedlings to bloom, and they were very lovely and exciting. I gave some to two different gardening buddies and one grew a gorgeous plant that has bloomed two years in a row and has lots of bloom. I transplanted 3 sections of this plant to my garden and they have all died. My friend hadn't read anything about PCI and had dug the plants and called me to come get them, but she didn't keep the

roots wet.

Also, several years ago, Bob Ward, in Little Rock, Arkansas, gave me a start which thrived for awhile but never bloomed and later died.

I have a lusty crop of 1994 seedlings that I hope will bloom this year. I may try some pot culture with the 1995 seeds.

Anyway, I'm going to keep trying as they are so very lovely.

Marion Wood, Wembury, Devon, England
I am having great difficulty here this year in warm, wet Devon, through vine weevils eating off the roots of native clumps of PCIs in the garden. This winter we have had 4 nights of -3° C so that nuisance should be less next season.

EMILY NELSON VISITS WILD CALIFORNIA IRISES

Emily Nelson (Mrs. John), Deceased

This chronicle, of the travels of Emily Nelson, of Saratoga, California and her husband, John, was written and circulated as a robin in July 1970. It is part of a collection of memorabilia we received from Roy Davidson. Since John and Iris Nelson, who have been active irisarians, live in Saratoga also, we telephoned them to see if they were related. Iris replied that they were not related, although they lived quite near each other and both families were Mr. and Mrs. John Nelson. Emily, according to Iris, belonged to the Clara B. Rees Iris Society, and was not interested in tall bearded iris, but rather in the beardless types. Although her husband was not a flower enthusiast, he was always willing to drive with Emily wherever she wished to go. Both Emily and her husband are no longer living; but the following edited account of their travels brings back the spirit of their joy in the search for species, habitats, and seed, and also suggests areas which we may well enjoy today.

SAN MATEO, SANTA CLARA,
SANTA CRUZ COUNTIES

In 1970, during February, John and I started our iris trekking - for the *longipetalae* growing in the San Bruno Mountains (Brisbane near San Francisco). These were in bloom, and will continue blooming off and on until late June.

From a distance the *longipetalae* appear to be blue, but on close inspection they are white, heavily veined in violet. At the center of the falls there is a peppering of violet and yellow on either side of a white 1/16 inch ridge that extends from the narrow parts of the fall to half way down it. On some stems we counted as many as 10 buds, one of which was opened. The plant and stems are about the size of *douglasiana*, and shorter (by about half) than the MacDonald or (Mountain House), Mendocino County *longipetalae*.

The two swarms of *longi* at Mt. Hamilton, Santa Clara County (Smith River Ranger Station and Kincaid Road Ranch) are like the San Bruno type, - the latter perhaps more lavender than white base color, - the peppering at the ridge more pronounced. The Kincaid Road Ranch planting, (a watering tank leakage provides the ideal spot for the *longi*) is about half the size of the Smith River swarm. Eventually it will become more dominant, as it is within a posted area, whereas the Smith River swarm is in danger of extinction because motorcycle bums use this area.

At the Kincaid Road location (5 miles up the road from Smith Creek), about 1 mile beyond, we found a beautiful swarm of stemmed *macrosiphon*! These were mostly in violets, a few purples, and very, very few blues. This area is also posted, so

it is safe. These were in bloom the last week in May.

The specimen of the Mt. Hamilton macrosiphon I thought I had collected this winter, turned out to be a purple *Sisy-rinchium*! We did get a macrosiphon from the Kincaid Road early in May, however, and it is still alive.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

The highlight of our trip was the two days spent at the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, and even so, we didn't get to see all of it - a very large collection of our native plants. I was disappointed in that I expected to see all the various PC species and subspecies. Did see *I. thompsonii* and *I. macrosiphon* growing, but not blooming. A lot of douglasiana in many colors, munzii hybrids galore, a few innominata hybrids in bloom in full sunlight.

The famous Lenz "blues" PCI hybrids are grown in full sunlight in a very large fenced-in area under lock and key. The *Blues* are in bloom at the very center of the enclosure, about 25 feet from the fence, growing in rows about 100 feet long. They have to be seen! - My, what beauties!

Outside the fenced area were other hybrids in every imaginable color. Only one was numbered, Lenz 1362-7, a munzii type, deep blue violet, small yellow streak on the falls. This clump didn't compare with the blues within the fenced area, however.

What surprised us was to see the PCIs growing and blooming well in the bright sunlight. Ferguson told me that the temperature reaches 116 degrees in the summer. He may have been kidding, but I can verify that it was very hot when we were in Southern California.

At Rancho Santa Ana, Dr. Munz showed us around. We met Dr. Lenz in his office. Both are charming and hospitable and take great pride in the Botanic Garden.

I'm afraid Dr. Lenz is too busy being the head of the Botanic Garden to have much time to devote to the PCI hybridizing, although he still does some breeding in the special breeding houses. These are kept locked. He said that from June through September the PCIs are kept absolutely dry. Late in September they are flooded and kept watered. About the middle of December, (for them, this is when the white roots are showing), the entire

clumps are dug, all soil completely washed off, fans separated, one fan planted per pot, brought into the greenhouse until May, are then planted out in the garden and kept watered until June.

We saw Thornton Abell's blue seedlings, too. He seems to be making great strides, had a hundred seedlings planted out, all in full sunlight.

We also visited George Stambach and Jack McCaskill, both of whom hybridize the PCIs. Stambach has recovered from his recent illness but is still pretty weak. He has developed an interest in growing calochortus. He has 6 cans of kennedyi (the red one), also macrocarpus (purple one), and several others whose names I can't recall. From George I was able to get his PACIFIC SPLENDOR and WESTERN QUEEN, both are white with some minor veining in the throat. I also got a seedling (197-65, which has a lot of Claremont Indian in it's background. Stambach has CLAREMONT INDIAN, the real McCoy from Dr. Lenz, but won't part with a piece of it! Can't say that I blame him since it is a breeder for reds. He had ordered some Claremont Indian plants from Lorena Reid, but they still hadn't bloomed and he couldn't be sure that they were identical to his plant. If they are, I will get one. If they are not I'm not too hopeful that any-one will be able to carry it on. I have a hunch that 197-65 will be as close as I will get to Claremont Indian!

From McCaskill I got a *Dietes vegeta*, (white with a yellow spot). Jack McCaskill and Thornton Abell have some of the Lenz blue seedlings. From Jack's I also got a nice specimen of *Iris ensata*, a small pale blue iris, growing in full sunlight and just covered with blooms, - stems about 8 inches tall. And I got a tiny, white innominata hybrid and a very pretty white douglasiana hybrid with a small gold spot at the throat of the falls, more tailored and smaller than the Stambach whites, and unbranched; but who cares! These were lovely. I was also able to get Lenz's GRUBSTAKE and RIPPLE ROCK, since he had a large supply.

Both Stambach and McCaskill had many lovely seedlings. They seemed to go for bigness, - very, very wide falls, a lot of red bicolors, heavily ruffled. Jack had about 100 cans of seedlings in bloom, but still to be evaluated. One of these was a bright yellow, (almost an orange), but very tiny. It was set aside for further

testing at the urging of Leslie Luevano and myself. But here again, because it was tiny, Jack wasn't too interested in it.

SANTA CRUZ AREA

In the Santa Cruz Mountains on Ice Cream Grade, and also along the Empire Grade, many natural hybrids are in bloom. Pink hybrids dominate at the intersection of these two highways. There were very few in these mountains that were violet.

There was good bloom of *Iris fernaldii* at Eagle Rock, very lush this year (in April). Will return for seed in July.

Toward Scranton, on the Coast of Santa Cruz County we found a very large area of white douglasiana with a very small yellow signal, no veining. At another spot in the Santa Cruz mountains I found a yellow fernaldii hybrid with gold veining, - absolutely no other color. The yellow was deeper than the fernaldii type seen at Eagle Rock or along the Empire Grade. These were definitely hybrids. Some were branched, others not. Some of the unbranched ones had 3 blooms per stem. All these had the fernaldii plant growth characteristics. The other type was white with a thin line of yellow down the center of the falls. These were growing at the lower elevation of the canyon and had douglasiana characteristics.

We hope to return to collect seed next month. Have been keeping close tab on these two swarms.

LAKE and MENDOCINO COUNTIES

I finally located Helen Rickabough and Mona Stipp, both iris lovers and lovely ladies. Mona moved from her Ukiah ranch to a house in Santa Rosa 5 years ago. Her ranch house and garden is rented out to a young couple (organic gardeners), who have neglected it. We visited there and found that the hillside pasture where the blue macrosiphon grows, has horses roaming over it. The 5-acre garden is covered with weeds. Still, hundreds and hundreds of lilac bushes were in bloom, - what a beautiful site. Mona told us that she didn't bother trans-planting any of the blue macrosiphon from the pasture, but in between the rows and rows of lilacs were planted the many varieties of Pacific Coast irises. She had all the different species at one time. In the pasture, a

whole row of munzii were in bloom! The PC iris plot, about 200 feet long by about 100 feet wide, needs weed-ing badly. It was a thrill to see the blue macs at close range without the fear of being run over by highway traffic, or being arrested for getting some plants, really a marvelous feeling.

The blue macrosiphon are really blue with a tiny white spot on the falls, - tiny and graceful, lovely proportions. To our annoyance, they prefer gravelly or rocky soil, and do not like their roots disturbed, an impossibility to dig without disturbing the roots a lot. All the plants we dug from the Stipp pasture died, but the PC plants from the cultivated garden all survived, even the munzii!

Along Highway 253 [between Ukiah and Boonville] *I. macrosiphon* grows alongside the road. A lot were in bloom at the time we visited the Stipp Ranch. We were disappointed when we returned for seed pods. Along this highway, not more than a handful of seed from the strictly blue location were gathered. Further along, about 10 miles from the intersection of Highways 253 and 128, blues, violets, and others were collected.

The Lake County macrosiphon is just as Helen Richabough wrote in SIGMA. Unfortunately, however, we missed the peak bloom of the yellows; but did see a few pale yellow and deeper yellow at the Perrini Road location, the Highway 29 location (light yellow), and also at the Scott Valley Road (near where Helen lives).

We returned to the Dry Creek Cutoff Road in Lake County and again collected macrosiphon seed from plants in the blue, purple, and violet color range, as we did last year. Seed production, however, was terrible this year.

Further along, on Highway 253 (toward Boonville), we managed to get a good supply of seed. Got a few blues at the Stipp Ranch, but where the best blues are along this highway we didn't collect a single pod, although the bloom was terrific this year!

Highway 253, (Faulkner Road), from Boonville to the coast at Manchester, Highway 1, takes about 3 hours. There are no service stations or accommodations of any kind; but it is worth the trip to see the *Iris purdyi*, and especially the hybrids between purdyi, douglasiana, and macrosiphon. They are truly lovely with colors that are bright, clear, and varied.

I suggest skipping Highway 20 from Willets to the coast at Noyo near Fort Bragg. It takes 2 and a half hours, and the irises to be seen are too few. There is no place to park off the highway, and the banks are too high and too steep to climb to reach the irises.

It is sad to watch some of the colonies of native iris disappear from the areas where we have seen them flourishing in the past. The Branscomb *I. purdyi* is practically gone now. The Highway Division is widening the road in this area. We walked back for about 500 feet, but no *purdyi*, except for that growing alongside the road. The *purdyi* here blooms much later than the Faulkner Road population and the stems are shorter. Hope to return and beat the Highway people to the seed pods.

Also, the swarm of *purdyi* at the back of Bull Run State Park is gone! In this case, the river went over it's bank at this location and even some of the road was washed out.

The Pigeon Point *I. douglasiana* is no more. The owner of the property where it grew got tired of tourists parking on his land, so he just bulldozed the area and made very high ridges to keep out the cars. I had fortunately collected a lot of Pigeon Point seed before this incident and planted it two years ago. It bloomed this year. Most of the seedlings are a pale lavender. The deeper colors in the purple range have yet to bloom. I was surprized to see a dirty yellow with a blue wash on the falls among the seedlings, since I had never seen a yellow in this population. It has all the typical *douglasiana* characteristics however.

PLUMAS AND SIERRA COUNTIES

We were able to collect a fair amount of *Iris tenuissima* subsp. *purdyiformis* along Highway 70 about 13 miles from Belden along the Feather River Canyon. One group had no maroon veining on the falls, but rather had yellow veining. There was no seed available on the yellow-veined types. Then, about 23 miles out of Belden we found some lovely *I. hartwegii*, from which we were able to collect seed.

We finally located Butterfly Valley! Have been looking for this place and couldn't find it on any map. It is on

Highway 89, about 1 mile beyond Keddie and about 3 or 4 miles from the intersection of Highways 89 and 70 en route to Quincy. Here we found the cutest, tiniest *hartwegii*. The center was almost orange, veined in orange, ruffled, and very, very dainty. It is smaller than the usual *hartwegii*, and it wasn't *pinetorum*. We plan to return to the Lake Almador area to collect *I. tenuissima* subs. *pinetorum* seed, and some of the Butterfly Valley seed.

HUMBOLT COUNTY

We went to Orleans and saw the *Iris tenax* subs. *klamethensis*. We found two swarms. One was a deeper yellow than the other. Their stems were longer than we had anticipated.

NOTE TAKING

We are improving our note taking, since it is necessary to adopt a system of some sort because we couldn't possibly remember the places to revisit for the seed pods. An example follows:

June 9, 1970, 4:30PM, overcast.
632.9 miles Intersection 128 & Anchor Bay (8 miles from Boonville)
636.65 Maillard State Park
641.6 *purdyi* near stump, left ridge, large blooms [return for pods]
652.1 *purdyi* in bloom, lighter than Branscomb's on Faulkner Rd.
653.1 *purdyi* Landsdelena type in bloom, right side, white with maroon wash and veins, large, very fine leaf, 2-flowered
653.8 pale yellow *purdyi*, left side of road
658. Both sides of rd., unbr., small flowered, violets mostly, more macrosiphon than doug, 14" stems, swampy area, high up on mountain
658.2 More of same type, but exceptional colors, also growing in swampy depression
661.7 Fish Rock Road. Intersection Hwy 1

We had to do something, we couldn't possibly remember the places to revisit to get seed pods. Our notetaking still needs improving - - usually toward the end of the day, John and I are a bit tired. It shows up in the meager information in the notes

NEW MEMBERS and ADDRESS CHANGES

<p>Birch-Stephens, Ruth M. 18253 Avenue 26 Chowchilla, CA 93610</p>	<p>Held, Frederick W. 40611 Highway 226, Scio, OR 97374</p>	<p>Ponce, Nancy I. 5924 SW Vermont, Portland, OR 97219</p>	<p>Xerogeanes, James 4404 First Avenue Ukiah, CA 95482</p>
<p>Danning, Bob and Janet 45 Simpson Drive, Walnut Creek, CA 94596</p>	<p>Hinman, Judith A. 171 Solaris Lane, Bayside, CA 95524</p>	<p>Porter, Louise 1669 North Nye Toledo, OR 97391</p>	
<p>Draig, James 16325 SW 113th Avenue, Tigard, OR 97224</p>	<p>Horinaka, Akira Oide-Cho 9-31 Nishinomiyama 662 Japan</p>	<p>Prue, George E. 2606 Norbert Way Sacramento, CA 95833</p>	<p>NEW ADDRESSES</p>
<p>Javis, Doug 3159 Maine, Long Beach, CA 90806</p>	<p>Jerrell, Robert E. 162 Crest View Drive, Orinda, CA 94563</p>	<p>Riley, Ellen 2809 Oakes Avenue Anacortes, CA 98221</p>	<p>Bare, Garland 3710 Cooper Place Lincoln, NE 68506</p>
<p>Foster-Hoyum, Carolyn C. P.O. Box 380 Palo Cedro, CA 96073</p>	<p>Kephart, Paul 35371 E. Carmel Valley Rd. Carmel Valley, CA 93924</p>	<p>Roberson, Jessie M. 2285 Jessica Way Redding, CA 96002</p>	<p>Freund, Richard 1864 Carter Road Dubuque, IA 52001</p>
<p>Freshwater Farms, Inc. 58851 Myrtle Avenue Eureka, CA 95503</p>	<p>Lacey, Louise P.O. Box 489 Berkeley, CA 94701</p>	<p>San Fernando Valley Iris Soc., 27724 Crookshank Drive, Saugus, CA 91350</p>	<p>Joy Creek Nursery, S. Christy, 20300 N.W. Watson Rd., Scappoose, OR 97056</p>
<p>Greer, Dennis W. 5800 Stacey Street, Bakersfield, CA 93313</p>	<p>Lawton, Barbara 1430 Timberbrook Drive, Kirkwood, MO 63122</p>	<p>Sanborn, Margery 18070 Center Street. Castro Valley, CA 94546</p>	<p>Kenitzer Jr., Roland D. 341 Hidden Valley Road, Port Angeles, WA 98362</p>
<p>Harding, Linda 3600 Coeur D'Alene, Shasta Lake, CA 96019</p>	<p>Mohr, Kathryn 111 Washington Road, Scotia, NY 12302</p>	<p>Shasta Natural Science Assc., P.O. Box 990185 Redding, CA 96099</p>	<p>Kirk, Anthony & Mela 4513-165th Avenue SE, Issaquah, WA 98027</p>
<p>Harris, Gwenda Otepopo Nursery, Private Bag Herbert, North New Zealand</p>	<p>Olsen, Sandra 20990 Dodson Lane Anderson, CA 96007</p>	<p>Woodward, Paige 44305 Old Orchard Road, Sardis, BC V2R Canada</p>	<p>Lichti, William F. 65 Ashgrove Cres., Nepean, Ontario Canada</p>

SPCNI TREASURER'S REPORT, 1995

	<u>BALANCE Jan 1, 1995</u>	<u>\$4663.47</u>
RECEIPTS		
	Dues	1164.50
	Dues Through AIS	326.00
	Sales of Cohen Booklets	166.65
	Sales of Lenz Booklets	62.72
	Sales - Back Issues Almanac	138.00
	Sales- Check List	113.63
	Seed Sales	383.50
	Deposits for SPCNI Expedition 1995	2915.00
	Interest on Checking Account	59.78
	Donations	20.00
	PCI Book Fund	407.00
	Total Annual Receipts	<u>\$5756.78</u>
DEBITS		
	ALMANAC Spring, 1995	680.67
	ALMANAC Fall, 1995	908.81
	Secretary - Treasurer	101.17
	SPCNI Expedition '93	3172.07
	Supplies	0.00
	Publication Reprints	21.50
	CNPS Advertisement	48.75
	Mitchell Medal	25.70
	Cohens	120.00
	Check List	65.24
	State Corporation Tax	5.00
	Total Annual Debits	<u>\$5148.71</u>
	<u>BALANCE Dec. 31, 1995</u>	<u>\$5271.54</u>