

Society for Pacific Coast Native Irises
ALMANAC



www.pacificcoastiris.org

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Pictures from the trek 2010



A nice blue form of *Iris tenax*



An interesting hybrid of *I. tenax*
and *I. innominata*



A clump of 'Valley Banner' type plants



A 'Valley Banner' type with veins



A less common form of *I. innominata*



Iris chrysophylla

FRONT COVER - An interesting variety of *Iris innominata* found on the 2010 Trek.

All Trek photographs courtesy Kathleen Sayce.

Almanac of the Society for Pacific Coast Native Irises

Volume IXXXX, Number 2, Fall 2010

SPCNI MEMBERSHIP

The Society for Pacific Coast Native Irises (SPCNI) is a section of the American Iris Society (AIS). Membership in AIS is recommended but not required for membership in SPCNI.

	US	Overseas
Annual, paper	\$8.00	\$12.00
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Annual, digital	\$5.00	\$5.00
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Members who get paper copies, please keep track of the expiration date of your membership, which is printed on your Almanac address label. We include a letter with your last issue, and may follow this with an email notice, if you have email. Members who get digital copies will get an email message after receiving the last issue.

If you have a question about your membership expiration date, contact the Secretary. Also contact the Secretary if your contact information changes in any way, including phone, e-mail and mailing addresses.

AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

Membership in AIS is not required for SPCNI membership, but it is encouraged and may be of considerable benefit to gardeners new to growing iris. Send membership renewals or inquiries to the AIS Membership Secretary, or enroll on line at: <http://www.irises.org/member.htm>.

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ALMANAC DEADLINES: March 15 and September 15.

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PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM THE SPCNI TREASURER

Prices listed are for SPCNI members in the US. For out of US, please add \$3.00.

PRINT ARTICLES

Check List of named PCI species and cultivars, 2005

Lists species and named cultivars and hybrids to 2005. \$9.00
If ordering both print and CD checklist versions together, \$14.00

A Guide to the Pacific Coast Irises

Victor A. Cohen, 1967

Reprint of British Iris Society 1967 booklet, describing species sub-species and distributions. 40 pages, \$8.00

A Revision of the Pacific Coast Irises Lee W. Lenz, 1958
Reprint of Aliso journal article 5.5x8.5, 72 pages. \$8.00

Hybridization and Speciation in the Pacific Coast Irises

Lee W. Lenz, 1959. Reprint of Aliso article 72 pages, \$8.00
If ordering both of Dr Lenz's reprints, \$14.00

Diseases of the Pacific Coast Iris

Lewis & Adele Lawyer, 1986. Fall 1986 Almanac, 22 pages, \$4.50

Almanac Index, 2005,

includes the following indices: author, subject, species, hybrids, \$4.00, or download PDF on the SPCNI website for free.

COMPACT DISCS

SPCNI Photo CD, 2009.

Compiled by Ken Walker, this CD includes 423 photos of species and hybrids, neatly labeled. \$9.00.

SPCNI Almanac CD, 2009.

All issues of the Almanac through 2007, with Index, also through 2007, and Checklist of species and hybrids, through 2005. PDF formats. \$15.00

Check List of named PCI species and cultivars CD, 2005.

Lists species and registered cultivars and hybrids of PCI through 2005; CD, \$9.00.

Welcome to the Beauty of Pacific Coast Iris CD, 2009.

A 15-minute presentation with a concise overview of PCN species, early hybridizers, Mitchell Award and Medal winners, gardens landscaped with PCIs, and culture tips. Ready to play for individuals or groups, \$9.00

NEW in 2010:

SPCNI has a users group site at

<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/PacificIris/>.

Members are encouraged to join this group, which provides a simple online way to ask questions about finding and growing PCIs among all members. To join this site, you must register with Yahoo, but do not need a Yahoo e-mail account. You may post photos here, check on scheduled activities, and contact other SPCNI members.

The SPCNI Website is still located at

<http://www.pacificcoastiris.org/>.

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Very sad news

As many of you may know but some may not, Terri and Jay Hudson lost their daughter Janna to complications of a brain tumor this June. Janna leaves behind two small children, a husband, and of course our friends Terri and Jay Hudson. For those of you who may not know Terri and Jay, they have held every position within the SPCNI as well as owners of "The Iris Gallery", which is where I began my association with them as one of their customers and one their many, many friends too. We all wish them the very best and our support during this most sad and difficult time.

Bob Sussman

PC or not PC?

A writer asked - PCN? PCI? PCH? Californicae? Aren't they all the same thing?

Will Plotner helped cut through the confusion.

PCN refers to the native species. PCH refers to hybrids of these species. PCI can refer to either.

And Californicae is the name of the species group.

Thanks Will.

Welcome to new members

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AIS awards for Pacifica iris

Here are the winners of the AIS awards for outstanding Pacifica iris for 2010. For the winners in all categories, check

http://irises.org/pdf/2010_AIS_Awards_Rev4.pdf.

Further information is available on the websites of the American Iris Society and the Iris Encyclopedia.

2010 Sidney B. Mitchell Medal. Winner - Wild Survivor (William Plotner). **Runners-up** - Star of Wonder (Joseph Ghio), Blue Plate Special (Joseph Ghio), Santa Rosalita (Joseph Ghio), and Mocha Melody (Alphild Lind).

Awards of Merit. Lines That Rhyme (Joseph Ghio), Hidden Asset (Duane Meek), Ocean Blue (Joseph Ghio). **Runners-up** - Steamer Lane (Lois Belardi), Stainless Steel (Joseph Ghio).

Honorable Mentions. Periwinkle Persian (Deborah Cole), Multiplicity (Joseph Ghio), Pinole Prince (Vernon Wood, by Terri Hudson), Foggy Days (Joseph Ghio), and Mission Soledad (Joseph Ghio).

Runners-up - Around the Bay (Joseph Ghio), Coin of the Realm (Joseph Ghio), Egocentric (Deborah Cole), Fireworks Display (Joseph Ghio), Lewis Lawyer (Adele Lawyer, by Terri Hudson), On The Bubble (Joseph Ghio), Wide Screen (Joseph Ghio).

President's Message

Dear Friends,

The 2010 SPCNI Trek in the Coast Range of SW Oregon has come and gone. Despite the fears caused by midwinter warming on the West Coast, we saw a great array of PCN species and of interspecies hybrids, plus a good variety of other native wildflowers. The expertise shared among the participants really enriched everyone's experience.

Kathleen Sayce, our intrepid secretary/treasurer, has now set up and is moderating an SPCNI talkgroup, PacificIris at Yahoo.com. This is a great place to get a quick and knowledgeable answer to those PC questions you wish you knew whom to ask! Take a look at the information on the Bulletin Board of the home page of SPCNI's website, www.pacificcoastiris.org, and join the group today. Discussion has been interesting, and members have posted some great pictures of seedlings and of things seen on the Trek.

If you're thinking of attending the 2011 spring convention of the American Iris Society, hosted by the British Columbia Iris Society, it's not too early to start planning. Headquarters will be the Fairmont Empress Hotel, a magnificent historic place on the inner harbor in Victoria, BC, Canada, at the unheard-of (for the Empress) low price of \$139 per night. The committee has planted several display beds of PCIs, and the registration fee includes a visit to the famed Butchart Gardens. See the BCIS website, www.bc-iris.org, and be sure your passport is in order!

Have you noticed, the Almanac comes out only in seasons of change? And I have a few big changes to report to you.

Life members Glenn Corlew and Carl Boswell have passed away since our last issue. Both were major iris hybridizers, although not of Pacific Coast irises, and lived in California. Glenn's wife predeceased him, but we extend SPCNI's sympathy and condolences to his son Curtis Corlew, as we do to Carl's widow LaRue Boswell.

Secondly, longtime SPCNI members Jay (former president) and Terri (former secretary-treasurer) Hudson lost their daughter Janna to brain cancer despite her determined fight against it. Janna leaves behind a husband and two small children as well as her loving parents and brother and many supportive friends, and we greatly regret their loss.

Any donations made to SPCNI in memory of these departed members will be gladly acknowledged to whatever next of kin are specified by the donor.

Also, your executive board has promoted Bob Sussman to First Vice-President, with Mike Monninger stepping back to Second Vice-President, and Bob has agreed to accept the presidency next spring from yours truly. Bob will do a fine job, and brings new inspiration and a fun orientation to the position. However, the Big Headache will eat enough of his time and energy (in addition to home, family and the nursery business) that he is giving up the Seed Exchange chairmanship after this year's exchange is done.

So there is opportunity for members who would like to become more involved in our society. If you're interested in the Seed Exchange and its operation, please call or email Bob Sussman (see contact information on page 2); this winter is a great time to get close-up experience under the master. If you'd like to have an active voice in the direction of SPCNI as a vice president, just contact any officer (page 2 again) for more information.

I hope the winter (or summer, for our Southern Hemisphere members) is kind to you and your irises. Remember to mulch those newly set out ones for protection from extremes!

Best regards,

Debby

From the Editor's Desk

It is a balmy spring evening as I write – I know that throws some of our Northern Hemisphere readers out a little – and we are at the start of the first real flush of flowering for the PCIs. I am hoping this year is going to be better than 2009, as last year was in many ways a shocker.

We had a warmish early spring, meaning flower set was early, then we had a very cold and wet October and the plants really struggled to find their feet. Each day I was greeted with smashed blooms, waterlogged pollen and very few chances for controlled pollination.

As the season moved on it became apparent many of the crosses I made had not taken and there was abysmal seed set. To compound things, I also had a bad year for germination of both my own seed and from my share of the seed pool as well.

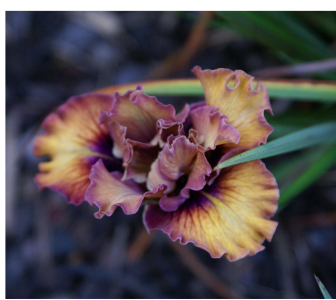
But gardeners are born optimists and this year seems to be a lot better – it has been very mild again through September so things are looking good. It has been a long time since we had a bad frost, and that has meant the flowers and stems are behaving themselves. Some of you will recall I am concentrating on breeding later flowering varieties, as the early ones are very prone to snaking stems here in our climate.

There are about 200 new seedlings to flower over the next few weeks and I am faced with the usual spring difficulty – what do I keep and what do I gently purge. It is more of a dilemma in New Zealand than it is for those in continental USA as we can no longer import iris plants and have to rely on seed-raised varieties for new genetics, hence our reliance on the SPCNI seed pool. There is a very small number of locally raised cultivars available and it is tempting to keep any plant that is different to anything else in the garden – and most are different!

I am also reluctant to throw away plants without consulting other friends, gardeners and non-gardeners alike, as I have noticed they seem to prefer different flowers to me. That raises the perennial question of what kind of irises we should be breeding, and what considerations we should take into account. Some of us prefer a more species look, with perhaps an extended colour range, while others are more interested in more frilly and larger flowers.

It is interesting to think about that debate in a wider iris context. It seems to me the bearded iris classes, the Siberica hybrids and the Louisiana hybrids are all going in the same direction, with increased flower size, wider colours and combination of colours, and in many cases, frills and flounces. As the majority of these are bred commercially one can only assume breeders are producing what the market wants, and that might be a clue to where we should be looking.

As far as I know there is not another large collection of PCIs within 200-300 kilometres of here, so most of my visitors are either irisarians who grow very few PCIs, or those gardeners who grow few of any irises. Interestingly, they mainly seem to go for the floriferous plants in solid colours rather than those with interesting colours and patterns, which may indicate the interesting bi-colours I have been raising are more appealing to those who know more about PCIs.



That is, of course, the wonderful thing about PCIs. In most cases even our hybrids are not that far away from wild plants, and as such there is a wonderful plasticity to their form – as breeders we can quickly aim to grow taller flowering forms, earlier varieties, later hybrids, and we can mix and match colours to a greater degree than those working in other iris classes.

I have a number of dwarf seedlings, none of them taller than 150mm (6 ") high, as well as a range of hybrids that flower at almost a metre, with lovely blue flowers. A Siberian-growing friend was sure I had switched my allegiances when he first saw these tall hybrids in the seedling beds, and needless to say, they are his favourites among my plants! For myself, I am yet to find a kind of PCI I do not like, whether it be a large flowered, tall growing, flounced tri-coloured creation worthy of Joe Ghio, or a lower growing plant with smaller flowers, somewhat reminiscent of a refined SDB.

This year the New Zealand Iris Society is holding its annual conference in my hometown Masterton - the national President is the local Piki Carroll, daughter of Frances Love, breeder of the first New Zealand Dykes medal winner Siberian 'Emma Ripeka' - but the conference will be far too late for the PCIs to make a showing as they will be almost completely finished. I would be interested to hear from any others whose experience with iris shows is similar.

Our seed man Bob Sussman has put together another good list for you so take advantage of the chance to purchase some for your garden. I know I will!

All the best from the southern climes.

Gareth

TREK 2010: IRIS SPECIES OF SOUTHWEST OREGON

Five Pacifica iris species live in southwest Oregon, and this trek was to showcase three of them (*I. chrysophylla*, *I. innominata* and *I. tenax*), and natural interspecies hybrids. A fourth species, *I. douglasiana*, is more common close to the coast, where it also interbreeds with local species. We did see a planted *I. douglasiana* flowering in a park near Powers, Oregon. The fifth, *I. bracteata*, lives farther south, closer to the state border with California.

Earlier this year, Debby and I discussed the potential for spring weather warming too early, resulting in flowering long before the trek occurred. But we need not have worried: cold wet weather stepped up in spring to deliver record rain and snowfall throughout the west, and as a result, we saw iris flowers at peak bloom from 1500 ft elevation to more than 4000 ft on both days. At lower elevations, peak flowering probably occurred from late April to mid May.

We drove two vehicles from Windmill Inn, Roseburg, Oregon. One was a van with most of the participants; the second vehicle was a rental car for those who found getting up and down from the van too difficult. Non-irisarian Frank Wolfe (my spouse) drove the van, and Bob Sussman drove the car.

Day One we went southwest of Roseburg, Oregon on Hwy 42 to Tenmile, and then up in the hills on Coos Bay Wagon Road to see our first *Iris tenax* (lavender to nearly white flowers), and *I. tenax* x *I. chrysophylla* hybrids, including 'Valley Banner' type flowers with white standards, veined falls and colored styles. A few miles farther on serpentine soils, *I. chrysophylla* (pale yellow to white) grew by itself. We had excellent views of the large bracts and 'fanged' sepal crests that make this species so distinctive. We also saw *Whipplea modesta* in flower from the first stop on day one through to the very last stop on day two, and thickets of flowering *Rhododendron macrophyllum*.

Back on Hwy 42, we entered Powers for the first of several passes through, and went up Johnson Mountain Road to view purple *I. tenax*. Just onto a side road above 2500 ft we saw *I. tenax* x *I. innominata* flowers, a colorful mix of pinkish, rose, golden, lavender and even blue, and a wide range of petal shapes from narrow to wide with fluted edges. At this site there was a terrific bonus---a flood of insectivorous *Darlingtonia californica*, many in bloom, down the damp slope on one side of the road. Back on Johnson Mountain Road and a mere 200 yards further we were into *I. innominata* stands, pale to medium yellow.

At the top of the road, we stopped at a gate and walked in to see masses of yellow *I. innominata* on a ridge top. Driving down, a few turns later, we reached China Flat Campground and USFS Road 33. China Flat has numerous iris plants, but we were there long after the flowering period for the year. We turned north on Rd 33 towards Powers, and again passed through that small town on the way back to Roseburg, more than 70 miles away.

Day two we retraced our path on Hwy 42 through Powers and onto Road 33, and continued south past China Flat. Turning east on Rd 3348 and starting our climb into the hills, we found several extensive areas of *I. innominata*, in colors ranging from bright yellow to white with red veins, and then areas of lavender *I. tenax*. We stopped for lunch at a deserted crossroads amid *tenax*, *Viola adunca* and even a late *Camas leichtlinii*, glad of the warmth of full sun there.

Very shortly on Rd 3348 we stopped at shady Eden Valley Campground (nice lavender *tenax* just coming into bloom), and several miles further we found *I. chrysophylla*. As we wound higher into the hills and further east, we saw *Erythronium oregonum*, *Ribes*, *Dicentra formosa*, *Actaea rubra*, pre-flowering *Lilium* species, and fading *Trillium ovatum*. We worked our way up to a five-way intersection on the ridge top, at Anatuviik Pass, where *I. chrysophylla* grows right by the sign. We took a slight left onto Walker Prairie Road, which took us past a few *I. chrysophylla* x *I. tenax* hybrids (brilliant signal spots and veining on white petals), then more *I. tenax* (white to lavender to purple). And more. And even more, mile after mile. We stopped a few times, but just as Debby promised, flower saturation hit and we stopped less often, and only for masses of flowers or brilliant colors, as we descended towards Cow Creek.

We saw the darkest yellow *I. innominata* of the trip on this leg, along with a similarly dark gold *Oxalis suksdorfii* at the Skull Creek Recreation Area, an early gold-panning site. *I. chrysophylla* appeared again a few miles later, but was already done flowering, having peaked in mid May. Only a few very late flowers were seen at lower elevations. As we drove along Cow Creek, stopping to enjoy overlooks of this narrow canyon, we again had more than an hour's drive back down out of the hills through Glendale, back to I-5, and north to Roseburg.

This was my first trek, so what can I say about it? I came away with a much better visual understanding of petal variation, species, and hybrids. Being a glutton for irises, two days later Frank and I drove to Cave Junction, and took the TJ Howell botanical drive off Hwy 199 to see *I. bracteata*, yellowish flowers, reddish large bracts, on serpentine. We also saw masses of *Darlingtonia*, several native alliums, *Brodiaea hyacinthina*, *Viola howellii*, *Rhododendron occidentale*, and many other flowers. I am now ready to trek in Northern California, learn a few more species, and to track *Iris douglasiana* from the mid California coast north to southern Oregon. This trip gave a great boost to my understanding of species variation. For those of you who have joined the Pacifica Iris yahoo users group, I posted some of my photos, Debby's photos, and Ken Hixson's photos in two folders for everyone to review. A small sampling from the trip is included here.

I really appreciated Jean Witt and Debby Cole giving their time to answer all the questions that came up during trek, and Debby's careful directions, including the handouts, distances and notes on iris populations. Three cheers to the Witt-Cole Team for a grand job of leading this trek!

Kathleen Sayce

SPCNI Yahoo discussion group

The group has had an interesting conversation ranging over a lot of topics that are of interest to all members, so I thought I would summarise the exchange for you all.

It all started when our president Debby Cole posted that she had an interesting maiden bloom in early September. She explained that it was a seedling from 'Sierra Dell' x 'Periwinkle Persian' and that it was not the most exciting flower she had ever seen, but she was excited to see it. She did not think she could classify the event as a reblooming, as it had never flowered before, and she thought it would probably not retain the trait.

Richard Richards responded by saying that it was nonetheless an interesting time to have its first blooming, and that it may have an extended bloom season.

I posted my thoughts about maiden blooming out of season, saying that I often get this phenomenon when new seedlings flower for the first time, but of course, being in the southern hemisphere, it occurs from Christmas to Easter for me. I seldom have a Christmas without one or two flowers, usually two months after the normal bloom season has finished.

Emma Elliot from Wild Ginger Farm, Beaver Creek, Oregon said that she had a couple of seedlings that had tried to have their initial flowering in late summer this year, but did not seem to be able to make flower stems, just displaying a clutch of petals in the base of the foliage. She did say, however, she had one seedling that rebloomed last July, and she was keeping a close eye on it for future breeding.

She then commented on how sandy the soil Debby was growing her PCIs in looked, saying she gardened on heavy clay and was thinking of making some raised beds to grow her plants in.

Ryan Grisso gave details of the method he used. He said he grew them quite successfully in raised beds and always used a soil with lots of sand or other gritty material. The beds were directly over a straight clay soil, so a layered effect was created. The plants seem to grow well and quickly and he got bloom in two years from the crosses he made.

He thought the mix he used contained sand, small scoria (red lava rock), perlite, coconut coir and he added some fir bark and some peat moss.

The soil mix from some of the larger nurseries he saw successfully growing PCIs is very sandy - perhaps 1:1:1 sand/ perlite /fir bark (or other forest product). He thinks for maximum production a good draining soil is key.

I commented that my irises grow in pure *Pinus radiata* bark, spread about four inches thick over a variety of different soils in my garden. My front garden comprises a horrible clay fill, while the rear garden is stony. I find the bark allows perfect drainage, and as we have a summer dry season, I can water knowing it will not pool around the plants. I throw a long term slow release over the plants every autumn, and do not trim the leaves as we usually have frosts and the old foliage helps protect the new season's buds.

Emma said she was thinking about using 10-12 inches of coarse sand mixed with crushed bark over the clay. She thought it would be free draining, would make the plants easy to lift and divide, and allow them to tap into the clay if needed.

Richard offered some advice on his experiences.

I grow my PCIs in heavy clay soil. Whenever I rebuild a bed, I use lots of gypsum and peat. The gypsum I use at the rate of about 50 lbs per 10 square feet, or more gypsum on occasion; the peat at about two cubic feet per ten to twenty square feet. I occasionally throw in small alfalfa pellets just because it does a lot of good for the TBs I grow. It often depends on whether I have them on hand. It does not seem to make much of a difference with PCIs, or at least the marked difference it makes with TBs.

Some people prefer sand as an additive. I like the gypsum, though more expensive, because it tends to make the soil a bit acidic and I garden in an area with alkaline soil and alkaline water. I also throw in soil sulfur at about 5 lbs per 20 square feet to bring the soil to neutral or slightly acidic. The alkaline water neutralizes that acidic effect in a couple of years.

Debby joined the conversation again, saying she gardens in the Seattle area on acidic glacial till among well-spaced fir trees, so when she redid her bearded beds she added lots of dolomite to sweeten the soil, alfalfa

pellets and compost to make the irises happy, and some steer manure for general purposes. She did not remember in time that she wanted to include a timed-release fertilizer for next spring, so put some in each planting hole instead. The Seattle acidic rain leaches away all the goodies entirely too fast.....

When she does beardless beds she still adds dolomite (because the soil has gotten very acidic), but less, and adds compost with some sand mixed in for drainage, plus fertilizer. She is not going to build formal raised beds, but will mound up the PCI beds that are in the flat area and see if that makes them happier as the ones on a good slope are fine.

Emma then explained that their nursery grows mainly alpines and rock garden plants so she is obsessed with soil. She said she would try PCIs in a variety of situations and see what works best in her garden as well as the nursery.

That wise old gardener Richard Richards came to the party, admitting he did not like to modify his soil, saying he is a hybridizer, and if he modifies the soil his seedlings grow in he may get a false idea of how they would perform in an ordinary garden where minimal effort is made to get plants to grow.

Secondly, will any PCI he grows give him a false impression of how it will do in an unmodified garden? Is he getting the plant to lie about how good it is, and thus hurting his judgment about what PCIs would make good parents?

Thirdly, if he is especially fastidious about the soil in pots to test seedlings for divisibility and survival during transplanting, does he get a false impression that a PCI is a good divider when in reality it takes intense preparation if it is to survive?

On the other hand, is the PCI such a specialty plant that people will go way out of their way to find out the preparations necessary for the survival of the PCI? Orchid growers and rose growers, for example will go to extremes in care for their plants. Will PCI fans do the same? Is the PCI a specialty plant or a garden subject? Richard wants his PCI seedlings to thrive under a large variety of conditions, so he chooses the hardiest and most gardenable of them to work with.

When he does any soil modification he feels guilty, and compromises by doing some things and refusing to do others. He will not treat transplants with fungicide and mild liquid fertilizers, much less bottom heat and misting (as some professional nurseries do). He may prepare the soil extensively if he can overcome his guilt and stress the beauty of the seedling or he may just mix in a little peat, dump the seedling in a hole in his clay soil, and then tell it to survive or die.

He finished his message by wondering whether anyone else had these pangs of conscience, and what they are doing about them?

Emma's response was very interesting. As the owner of a specialty nursery, and a notoriously difficult specialty, her perspective is quite different from Richard's.

The nursery grows alpines and rock garden plants from every nook and cranny in the world and customers must consider the plants' needs in order to be successful. They educate themselves and then their customers about the special needs a particular plant might have. Some plants have no special needs and will adapt to a wide range of conditions and they happily share that information, too.

The PCI hybrids have been particularly exciting to them and their customers because they are "native", gorgeous, and more adaptable than many of the plants they offer. They want to become expert in their growing needs and then pass on this expertise to others. The best way to do this is to grow them in a variety of situations and learn from experiences.

Emma said:

I have already learned a lot. My first PCI hybrid grew well in the shady side of the rock garden but never flowered. The same plant survives in my dryland garden, a sloping site with heavy, clay soil and rock mulch, without a drop of summer irrigation. It has stayed quite compact, increased slowly and bloomed faithfully every year. The PCIs survive in containers in our unheated hoophouses if winter temperatures are above 10 degrees F but we begin to lose some when temperatures drop down to the low single digits as they did last winter. They do great in extremely well-drained, banded pots when grown in our gritty mix with a little time release fertilizer and struggle if we put them in small pots with poor drainage.

Debby Cole replied, saying she liked Emma's approach to the PCIs. She said she is reluctant to bend over too far for any plant; if it doesn't want to grow in her situation, it is not her plant,

She said PCs were happy in her climate where they rarely get above 100F or below 10F. A mentor told her to mulch PCs three inches deep in fir bark for their first winter then forget it, and that seems to do the job for her. They do not seem to care whether they get watered daily or left in complete drought, but regular watering does seem to bring on the growth of new white roots (which is good for transplant). She estimates that her plants average a half-day of shade, mostly after noon. Most of her PCs come from Joe Ghio, with some from local friends. She finds that plants raised from seed (and surviving damping-off) do best for her although damping off is a problem - she is trying vermiculite in the tops of seed pots to better fight damping-off. Her seeds usually get into dirt about Oct-Nov, and sprouts appear about 1 April in pots out on the back patio all winter.

Emma reported back that their nursery grows most of its stock from seed, are seldom bothered by damping off. Their preferred cover is a layer of grit (#3 Poultry Grit is fine) on top of the seeds. They do not use pumice because it is abrasive and moves around when watered, and do not like vermiculite because it holds water and creates a humid environment around the seedlings. Once the seedlings are up, they are moved to a covered, well ventilated area until they have time to pot them up.

As she said, one of the advantages of having a small specialty nursery is that they can indulge themselves and grow whatever strikes their fancy.

My current indulgence in irises has resulted in over a thousand plants in containers - hence my interest in raised production beds in addition to my efforts to plant more in our gardens. We will also have to start offering more for sale or we will have them coming out our ears. Last spring customers were clamouring to buy the beautiful PCI seedlings located in our "look but do not touch" propagation area. A frequent customer question was "What is that one named?"

She then posed some interesting questions that many of us who are growing from seed grapple with.

What are your criteria for naming a PCI? Beauty, vigour, uniqueness, parentage, customers votes???? How do you decide which are worthy of a name?

Our secretary/treasurer Kathleen Sayce made some interesting comments about the perceived difficulties of growing PCs saying she saw an amazing disconnect on perceived difficulty between PCs and rock garden plants. Learning about the extremes that rock gardeners go to in creating suitable conditions for different species was stunning. Then, to learn that PCs are considered too difficult for most climates was, not to be too repetitive, stunning all over again.

After thinking it over she thought it might be because TBs are so easy that PCs are considered difficult, saying it is true that compared to roses, PCs are difficult, but compared to alpine plants that require perfect drainage, precise soil pH and grit size, rain covers in some seasons and daily watering in others, and winter wraps for cold protection - they are easy.

Richard rejoined the conversation with some interesting comments, saying he could only speak from a Southern Californian perspective, saying PCs are fairly difficult there and have a bad reputation in iris and other gardening groups. He agreed they are difficult compared with TBs, saying the main problem is survival. Plant nurseries will only stock them in the spring, when they are in bloom or about to bloom. They tell the prospective buyer to just plant them. The plants put into the ground in bloom die at an alarming rate, and the gardener comes to believe that PCs are fussy. They are, in SoCal, if you try to plant them when they are in bloom. He said it was possible people right on the SoCal coast can get away with planting them in the spring when they are in bloom.

He said SoCal gardeners also love their lawns. They water them - and their flower beds - often. When the temperatures are high, their sprinkler systems, which are computer controlled, apply water even more often. As PCs don't take kindly to high temperatures and overwatering he overwaters his PCs in high temperatures as he wants his seedlings to survive typical garden treatment.

He posed another interesting question: *Can the PCI be a regular garden subject, or will it forever be a fussy specialty plant?*

He pointed out there is a sizeable group of wild flower enthusiasts who love the “species look,” and find the fat form of modern PCI hybrids offensive, but most of the hybridizers he knows are going for the fat form. He wonders whether we should be attempting to cultivate aesthetic values for PCIs which include everything from the wildflower look to the petunia look?

Kathleen responded by saying she prefers the species more, and is aiming to breed vigorous plants, sturdy and floriferous, with less exuberant petal and flower forms. When the time comes for her to register new varieties, she hopes to have plants that look like species, but dialed up; sturdy in the garden, strong growers, with flowers very like wild plants, only, perhaps more of them, in unusual colors, or stronger solid colors - good blues, yellows, etc. Then thinks that if people were aiming for species-like plants like this in a range of climates along the coast, we might well end up with plants that do better in gardens than do PCIs right now. Richard’s reply was, as always, thought provoking, pointing out that the trend in TBs has been for width of petals, and ruffling, and wondered if the trend for width and ruffling in PCIs just a reflection of this at best, and a copy-cattening of it at worst? He said it is not surprising to see the criteria of the TBs automatically applied to another class as most iris judges are mostly concerned with TBs, and the TB trend toward width and ruffles is not unexpected in PCI judging. He said there is a solid aesthetic principle involved in TB judging as bigger surfaces show more color, but there are other aesthetic principles besides this one. He said he loves both wildflowers and petunias and would hate to be without either.

He thought that what Kathleen was aiming to do would endear her to the wildflower crowd but perhaps not to the award crowd. His perception is that most awards to PCIs are determined by a very small group of very knowledgeable and enthusiastic voters in the San Francisco Bay area.

This group, though small, votes as a block, mostly for Joe Ghio irises, which happen to grow very well in the Bay area but not too well elsewhere. Awards often determine purchase patterns. Award winners sell. This group may indeed be convinced that bigness is greatness, but the unfortunate result of this is that their aesthetic standards are the dominant ones.

The Yahoo group discussion is off to a flying start. Make sure you join in and contribute to the wide flowing, sometimes controversial, but always interesting discussion.



Emma Elliot from Wild Ginger Farm, Beaver Creek, Oregon shared her photographs of her potted PCI seedlings, and an attractive near-species hybrid from 'Roving Eye'.

A Pacifica Iris Discussion Group

SPCNI members and all Pacifica iris enthusiasts are invited to join the new online discussion group. Users post messages and photos, comment on gardening experiences, and ask or answer Pacifica iris-related questions. Interested? Check it out, at: <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/PacificIris/>

Hardy older cultivars

The hardiness of some PCI cultivars has to be seen to be believed. I have seen it and I believe it. There is a story here, one I think needs telling not only for the information on the irises, but also for the dedication of one lover of the PCIs.

The story takes place in Yucaipa, a small town nearly 100 miles east of Los Angeles and about 25 miles or so west of Palm Springs, a well-known Southern California desert resort. Yucaipa has a desert-like climate, but water has turned the area into a citrus growing region. It has hot summers and winters that rarely drop to freezing.

The story involves Bob Hubley, a PCI hybridizer whose last commercial garden, Longview Gardens, was in Yucaipa. Hubley was a master grower and hybridizer of PCIs. Lee Lenz entrusted Hubley to introduce several of Lenz' I. munzii hybrids. In 1991 Hubley died, but the story was just beginning.

Chick and Hedi Taylor were living next door to the Hubleys. Hedi especially has a love of plants, and she became familiar with the PCIs at that time. When Bob Hubley died, Ellie Hubley, Bob's widow, invited Hedi to dig any of the PCIs she wanted, since Ellie was not going to maintain Bob's commercial garden.

Hedi says the Hubley garden had been neglected for some time due to Bob's failing health, and in the early spring she dug as many rhizomes from the neglected and hardened soil as she could. She took them home, dug out an area around one of her citrus trees, mixed in soil that Bob had built according to his own formula, and watered the rhizomes in. She kept them moist all spring.

That they grew is an understatement. In conversations with Ellie Hubley twelve or thirteen years later, I learned that Hedi Taylor might still have some of those irises. Hoping to find some of the Lenz creations still alive, I contacted Mrs. Taylor, who invited me to come out to see what she had during the next spring.

I came, I saw, I was amazed.

There, under the citrus tree, the irises were still thriving. They had not been disturbed at any time in the last thirteen or so years, and were getting whatever the citrus trees were getting, which was a deep watering every week or so, plenty of fertilizer (Miraclegro sprayings and occasional granulated citrus fertilizer), and much admiration from Mrs. Taylor. Deep watering consisted of leaving a hose on to trickle water around the base of the citrus tree overnight. The Taylor stand grows in the shade of the citrus tree, but Mrs. Taylor says they get two or three hours of afternoon sun.

I thought I recognized the clones, and when Mrs. Taylor offered to let me dig some the following fall, I eagerly accepted the invitation, went out to Yucaipa the following December, dug some rhizomes from all sides of the bed, and brought them to my garden.

In the spring, by direct comparison, I established that the clones were 'Orchid Resprite' and 'Susie Knapp'. I verified this by getting rhizomes from Ellie Hubley, who was still growing 'Orchid Resprite' under quite sunny conditions in Banning, which is even closer to Palm Springs.

Wanting to know if other clones could also thrive under those conditions, I offered to bring some other cultivars to plant under another citrus tree in the yard. Mrs. Taylor agreed, and two winters ago I brought out rhizomes of 'Canyon Snow' and 'Clarice Richards', two hardy clones in my garden that have a good reputation in Southern California. Last spring I did not get a chance to see the new transplants,

which Mrs. Taylor assured me were thriving. This year I did, and all the clumps were surprisingly large and doing quite well. The photos I took were early for peak bloom, but there were flowers and plenty of buds.

Mrs. Taylor has one more citrus tree with no irises under it. I am tempted to see if she wants some more PCIs. Maybe some of the newer cultivars should be tried under the same circumstances?

There are some conclusions we can draw from this story.

All the irises are older clones, which immediately display some hardiness in that they have survived for decades. More importantly, they are all *I. douglasiana* or mostly *douglasiana* clones. *I. douglasiana* seems to be the most hardy of the species when it comes to geographical range. It seems to take heat pretty well, and some clones of it stay in moist conditions all year around in its native range. While heat combined with moisture seem to be killers of most of the Californicae species and hybrids, *I. douglasiana* has been reported to thrive in irrigated pastures in Northern California, where it is considered a weed.

This species will survive temperatures down to at least 15 degrees F., though the foliage may suffer some cold damage. *I. douglasiana* also has a very long bloom season. In its native range it may bloom in November, though I have no experience with this, and only some information. I have seen it blooming near the coast of Northern California in July. Clones of largely *douglasiana* background have shown some bloom on occasion in July in my own garden in Corona, mostly when May and June have been particularly mild. The real heat in Corona usually starts in late June.

Some cultivars of mostly *douglasiana* background have bloomed in commercial and home gardens in November. Some of Joe Ghio's introductions in past years had November bloom in their home garden in Santa Cruz, near the ocean. Garry Knipe's seedling, ABSA_3, derived from Ghio lines, will bloom in November in San Jose in the San Francisco Bay area if it gets sufficient water from early rains or from irrigation.

We can also learn from Mrs. Taylor's experience that heavy fertilization, enough to keep citrus trees happy, seems to keep the PCIs growing vigorously in the Taylor garden. Reports of fertilizer use in other gardens suggest that most PCIs will benefit from it.

Apparently Mrs. Taylor was only able to rescue 'Orchid Resprite' and 'Susie Knapp' from the Hubley garden. Whether newer cultivars in the Hubley garden, or the exotic Lenz hybrids, would have thrived under these conditions in the Taylor garden, is speculation at best. Perhaps she did get a rhizome or two of other cultivars from the Hubley garden, but they could not cope with the more vigorous mostly *I. douglasiana* cultivars she did get, or the watering and fertilizing schedule to which Mrs. Taylor subjects them.

We'll never know. But we do know more now about the hardiness of at least some *I. douglasiana* derived cultivars. Someone hybridizing for irises that will grow in marginal conditions would do well to consider using this sort of genetic material for a breeding program. Careful tracing of pedigrees of later introductions can often reveal which those are, as well as familiarity with *I. douglasiana* characteristics that may be obvious from visual inspection.

PCIs have the genetic heritage to thrive in a wider range of climates than had hitherto been generally believed. Mrs. Hedi Taylor is only one of the gardeners who is proving that.

Richard C. Richards

2010-11 SPCNI Seed Exchange

Welcome to the 2010-11 Seed Exchange. We haven't made any changes in how this year's SE works so, just by way of review:

All seed packets are still the low price of \$1.00

Postage and handling for domestic orders is \$1.00

Postage and handling for international orders is \$3.00

If you buy 20 packets and it's a domestic order you pay \$21. If it's an International order you pay \$23.

What I need from you so I can complete your order:

1. Item#, name, and number of packets per variety. Having both the item# number and name reduces confusion in case I can't read one or the other.
2. Shipping address
3. A check made out to the SPCNI. You can also charge to your MC or VISA card but I'll need your card number, expiration, and the 3 digit security code on the back. If I were you I wouldn't put this in the mail but send it in pieces in two emails. NO Amex cards or Paypal.
4. Send me an email address; it's in your best interest. If I can't read something or have a question this helps me resolve things quickly and correctly. If you don't have an email, like one of my most favorite and talented friends in Canada, just give me the email of one of your friends that does.
5. Instructions on what to do regarding substitution in case I run out of something. This happens a lot. When this happens unless you tell me what to do I either give you more of what you've ordered or something "close".

I need the orders by January 15th. In the past I've tried to get them out as they've come in but that hasn't worked due to a high and ingenious talent for procrastination. Given all that, they do get filled in the order they come in and start getting sent out mid to late February. The domestic orders usually get mailed out first then the international orders. The international orders require more "paper work" so I usually require a week or so of extra time to shall we say "prepare".

A couple of other notes:

1. What if you haven't gotten your order back in the mail or you just want to know "what's up with my order"? Just email me. I usually respond quickly to emails and sometimes I need a bit of a push too. Don't worry, I won't go into your seed packets and take out half the seeds.
2. There are pictures! Now that we can and have gone electronic we can add pictures at no additional cost. This is something we'll be expanding on in the future too.
3. The catalog page has some irises and their descriptions in "bold." These are new seeds for 2010.
4. Finally, in the second column you'll see the letters L or M or S. These refer to the quantity of seeds that we have available. L=enough to fill 12 or more orders. M=enough to fill between 5 to 12 orders. S=5 orders or less.

As always I'd like to thank those who sent in seeds to the SE so that they could be distributed out. Thanks to Debby Cole, the Hudsons, Richard Richards, Kathleen Sayce, Steve Tanaguchi, and me too. And Gareth too, who takes my non-sense and puts it in a form that makes sense and is useful so that the Seed Exchange can be understood.

This looks like the last year that I will be doing the Seed Exchange. Meeting so many interesting and nice people through this process has been really enjoyable for me, but we are looking for a new Seed Exchange Chairperson. The work requirement in total is about 35 hours +/- . This is divided into roughly 8 hours for fall and 26 to 28 hours in late winter, when the orders are filled and sent out.

Everything is set up in both Word and Excel, so changes can be made easily. So if you have a basic knowledge of Word, Excel, and PCIs and you want to meet some real interesting people just drop me an email and I'd be happy to discuss the specifics with you. Oh, sarcastic wit is a real plus!

As for me, when volunteers were called for I didn't step far enough back so I'll still be around.

All the best in the new growing season,

Bob Sussman
(soon to be ex-Seed Exchange Chairperson)

Item#	Quant.	Description
100	S	ADMIRAL'S PRIDE (Vernon Wood, R. 2003). Sdlg. 20-10. CA, 12" (31 cm), EM. Lightly ruffled violet self, faint lighter rim; rounded form. Parentage unknown. Iris Gallery 2004.
110	S	Assorted 'Debby's PCIs' selected from Debby Cole's garden, taken from large collection of named hybrids, OP. I'M GETTING THESE AND YOU SHOULD TOO!
120	L	AMI ROYALE (Luhrsen, not R.). Sdlg. 1956-5 8" (20cm) S. lavender (Vatican purple) with ice blue margin; F. plum purple, edged lavender, large gold signal, ruffled, velvety and flaring. Amiguita X Santa Paula. Combsie's Gardens 1957.
130	M	AROUND THE BAY (Joseph Ghio, R. 2004). Sdlg. EP-182Y. CA, 13" (33 cm), EM. S. and F. white ground, deep blue shading and veining overall; white signal. Blue Plate Special X Lash. Bay View 2005.
140	M	BLUE MOMENT (Duane Meek, R. 1992). Sdlg. P24-1-7. 15" (38 cm), M-L. Mid to dark blue with hint of violet. T. Abell blue sdlg. X ((I. tenax x I. innominata) x Native Warrior). D & J Gardens 1992. HM 1997.
150	S	Buff Beauty-innominata type-supplied by K. Sayce see picture
160	M	Cape Ferrelo-douglasiana selection
170	S	CAPE SEBASTIAN (Siskiyou, not R.). 12" (30cm) Lilac self with dark eye blaze on fall. I. douglasiana. Listed in Siskiyou Rare Plant Nursery.
180	L	CARMEL GEM (B. Charles Jenkins, R. 1992). 14" M. S. light purple; light purple style arms; F. purple, elongated yellow center surrounded by ivory border with deep purple radial lines. Californian x Spring Daze. Portable Acres 1992
190	L	CANYON SNOW (Emery, selector, R. 1974). Sdlg. SB67-88 17" (43cm) E-M. White self, yellow signal. I. douglasiana X unknown. McCaskill 1975. HM 1976, JCI1976, Mitchell Award 1978.
200	S	chrysophylla x douglasiana - 2004
210	L	COPY BOY (Joseph Ghio, R. 1999). Sdlg. PB-314B. 10" (25 cm), VE-M. Creamy apricot, F. with violet haft blush and edges. PD-243-I, Cross Purpose sib, X PD-264-G3, Santa Rosalita sib. Bay View 1999.
220	L	I. douglasiana hybrid--long broad foliage, 18" tall, 5-7 buds, blue. From seed of salmon-flowered douglasiana (x innominata) hybrid, collected near Gold Beach, OR (Witt)
230	L	I. douglasiana hybrid--wide foliage, 12-14" tall, 3-4 buds, blue (daintier than 220). From seed of salmon-flowered douglasiana (x innominata) hybrid, collected near Gold Beach, OR (Witt)
240	S	I. douglasiana-collected by Kathleen Sayce-open pollinated-garden
250	L	I. douglasiana-planted at the Columbia Pacific Heritage Museum-vigorous parents-collected by Sayce see pics.

- 270 M I.douglasiana-Boring, Oregon-pale lavender-veining D. Cole '09
- 280 L I. douglasiana-wild-Sandy Oregon- light blue
- 290 L I.douglasiana-wild-Leggett Rd x Hwy 1-Hudson06
- 300 L I.douglasiana-Roseburg, Oregon-Jack Finney '09
- 310 L I.douglasiana-Pt. Arena-Light House-G. Knipe-09
- 320 L I. douglasiana-garden-U.C. Berkeley
- 330 L I.douglasiana x purdyi- Hwy. 1 by Leggett Rd.-Hudsons.2006
- 340 L I. douglasiana-garden- Knipe
- 350 S I. douglasiana-garden-Richards -White with purple styles, '07
- 360 L EGOCENTRIC (Deborah Cole, R. 2005). Sdlg. 95-PG-3. CA, 10-12" (25-30 cm), ML. S. rose; style arms and crests yellow cream; F. rose, small yellow-cream signal with red halo; sometimes branched. Parentage unknown, seed from J. Ghio.
- 370 L EGOCENTRIC (Deborah Cole, R. 2005). Same as above, prior collection
- 380 M EXTRA CREDIT (Joseph Ghio, R. 2000). Sdlg. PB-392-1. 13" (33 cm), ML. S. brown, F. bright gold, wide brown plicata edging.
- 390 M FAULT ZONE (J. Ghio, R. 1990). Sdlg. PJ-155L2. 18" (46cm), L-VL. S. light blue; F. blue violet, edged light blue. Pacific High X Idylwild. Bayview Gardens 1991. HM 1994.
- 400 M GOLD DUSTED (C, Jenkins, R. 1990). Sdlg. BII-4D 14" (36cm), M. Purple ground speckled gold. San Gregorio. sib x Californian. Shepard Iris Garden 1990
- 410 M HARLAND HAND (H. Hand by D. Lennette, Selector, R. 1989). 11" VE-VL. S. purple blue; F. same, small flowers, dark perianths, branched.
- 430 S JOEY (Gatty, R. 1978). Sdlg. CA-1 10" (25cm) M. S. apricot buff (M&P 10-G-6) with very faint garnet venation at midribs; F. deeper buff (11-H-7) with garnet (7-J-6) blotch and veining beyond deep chrome-yellow (9-L-7) signal. Unknown parentage. Bay View Gardens 1978. HM 1980.
- 440 L Lawyer-selected PCI-blue violet falls with blue signal-04
- 450 M LETTER PERFECT (Lois Belardi, R. 2003). Sdlg. SK-1. CA, 13" (33 cm), M. S. white, midrib flushed purple; style arms purple; F. white, veined and washed purple overall, deepening at base, white wire edge, purple signal; ruffled. (Deep Magic x Foothill Banner) X Skylash. Bay View 2004.
- 455 L I. macrosiphon x Modern Blues- possibly scented - from G. Knipe seed. D. Cole 2009
- 460 L MASCARA BRUSH (J. Marchant, R. 1990). Sdlg. 3187. 10" (25cm), M. Creamy white ground completely overlaid royal purple (HCC 834) leaving 1/16" white edge, F. lightly ruffled. Sdlg. X Sdlg.
- 470 S MENDOCINO BLUE (Robert & Janet Canning, R. 1999). Sdlg. 93-01C-PCN. 11" (28 cm), M. S. hyacinth blue (RHS 91B) with darker (91A) veining; F. slightly darker wisteria blue (92B) with darker (92A) halo and veining, turquoise midrib wash. Parentage unknown; sdlg. purchased at Mendocino Coast Botanic Garden. Iris Gallery 2000.
- 480 S MISSION SANTA CRUZ (Ghio, R. 1982). Sdlg PQ-255D 12" (30cm) M. Glowing rosy-red-magenta self. Gone Native X Emigrant. Bay View Gardens 1983. EC 1982, HM 1985.
- 490 L I.munzii- B. Sussman, O.P. in nursery, and J. Finney; iris from Adele Lawyer.
- 500 S NOW SHOWING (Ghio, 2006) 14", ML. All petals black crimson with gold hairline edge; style arms gold suffused red. Bay View 2006.
- 510 L Orchid Resprite x hartwegii australis. - late blooming RR '08
- 580 S PEACOCK GAP (Rigby, R. 1985). Sdlg. 183 12" (31cm) M. S. ruffled pale

- mauve with turquoise flash, darker midrib; F. lightly ruffled
- 590 L PEACOCK GAP (Rigby, R. 1985). Same as above, prior collection.
- 600 S PCI hybrid - unknown name - orchid color flower -collected by Sayce
- 610 M PERIWINKLE PERSIAN (Deborah Cole, R. 2005). Sdlg. 98-PS-3. CA, 4-8" (10-20 cm), ML. Lavender blue self, signal white, yellow center stripe, blue flash appears on F. as flower ages. Parentage unknown, seed from SPCNI
- 620 M Pacific Rim x garden crossed by B. Sussman- see picture
- 630 M PUBLIC EYE (Ghio) 12" white wash with navy blue veining see attached picture.
- 640 S RIPPLE ROCK (Lenz, R. 1963). Sdlg. 11-25-2 11" (28cm) E. S. brilliant yellow; F. same, heavily veined brown, speckled signals.
- 650 S RODEO GULCH (Joseph Ghio, R. 2003). Sdlg. DP-255V3. CA, 14" (36 cm), M. Mango orange self, neon violet F. signal.
- 660 L ROVING EYE (Stambach, R. 1978). Sdlg. #4 12" (30cm) EM. S. light lavender blue; F. lavender blue with white ray pattern in center. Bay View 1978, HM 1980
- 670 L ROVING EYE (Stambach, R. 1978). Same as above, prior collection
- 680 M SAN ARDO (Joseph Ghio, R. 2002). Sdlg. BP-248-12. CA, 20" (51 cm), EM. Purple, white hairline edge. Raspberry Dazzler X PA-54-R: (PC-179C4, Baby Blanket sib, x PC-185A4, Bedroom Eyes sib). Bay View 2002.
- 690 S SANTA ROSALITA (Joseph Ghio, R. 1996). 13" EM. Apricot ground, washed and lined rose overall, rose halo on all petals, rose signal.
- 700 S SHORT ORDER (Ghio, R. 1982). Sdlg. PR-295D 6" (15cm) E-M. S. ochre yellow; F. yellow with brown overlay. Banbury Tapestry X San Vicente. Bay View Gardens 1983.
- 710 M STAR OF EVENING (Joseph Ghio, R. 2002). 15" ML. White with overall purple veining, slight gold F. signal; style arms solid purple.
- 720 M SUNBURN (Colin Rigby, R. 1999). Sdlg. 9104. 12" (31 cm), M. Cherry red blushed gold, thin cream edge, F. with gold signal with fine darker gold veining; style arms cherry red blushed gold. Red Bluff x Gold Dusted. Iris Gallery 2000.
- 725 L SUSIE KNAPP (Phillips, R. 1970). 12" (30cm) M. Blue gray self. Amiguita X Claremont Indian. Cordon Bleu, 1971.
- 730 M I. tenax- wild-Boring, Or. D. Cole '09
- 740 L I. tenax-wild, near Cathlamet, WA, pink, Sayce '09.
- 750 L I. tenax-wild-Silver Star Mt, WA, mauve, Witt & Cole, 2003
- 760 L I. tenax-wild, Lewis Co., WA, bluish lavender, Tim Ross 2009
- 770 L I. tenax- wild- lavender
- 780 L I. tenax-wild, Johnson Mtn Rd, Powers, OR, med. purple, Finney '09
- 790 M I. tenax-wild, Tarbell Summit of Silver Star Mtn, Clark Co., WA, mauve, Witt & Cole, 2003.
- 792 L I. tenax x Multiplicity-crossed and supplied by Steve Taniguchi
- 795 L VALLEY BANNER (Hardy, R. 1958). 15" (38cm) M. S. white with narrow purple midrib; F. white veined purple, styles red purple. I. tenax-chrysophylla hybrid collected. Siskiyou 1968. HM 1970, JC 1970, JC 1971.
- 800 M VIOLET BLUSH (J. Marchant, R. 1990). Sdlg. 4587. 12" (30cm), ML. S. violet purple (HCC 733/3); F. red violet purple, deeper red violet and blue signal, halo, and veining.
- 810 S WESTERN QUEEN (Stambach, R. 1967). Sdlg. 52-60 15-16" (38-41cm) M. White self with a few dark veins at the haft. Dark veined sdlg. X Ojai. Foster 1972. HC 1967, HM 1973, Mitchell Award 1976.
- 820 M WESTERN QUEEN (Stambach, R. 1967). Same as above, prior collection
- 830 S WILD TIME (J. Ghio, R. 1986). Sdlg. PM-192R. 10" (25 cm), E. Maize gold self, maroon signal. Roaring Camp X PP-251L: (Simply Wild x PR-319M, Camp Capitola sib). Bay View Gardens 1987.
- 840 S WINO (Joseph Ghio, R. 2008) 10" (25 cm), M S. wine; F. gold ground, wine edge and lines over petal. See pic.

Hardy older cultivars



Hedi Taylor and her incredibly hardy Pacific Coast irises, flourishing in desert-like conditions in Yucaipa, in Southern



Pacifica Iris Wins Best Specimen in Show

SPCNI member Margaret Spence took out the prize for the best specimen in show at the King County Iris Society show (AIS sanctioned) on May 29, 2010 Bellevue, WA.

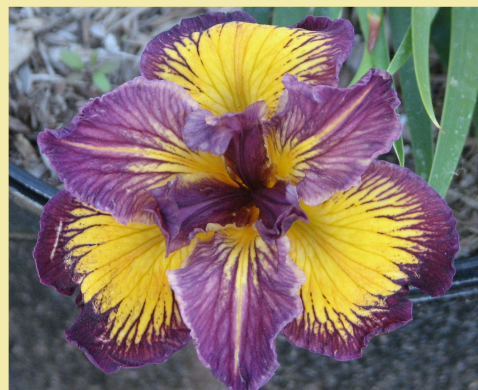
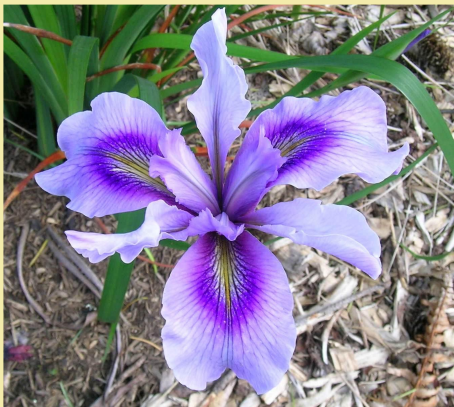
Congratulations Margaret!

New Seed Exchange Chair needed

Bob Sussman is moving out of the seed exchange chair and the SPCNI is looking for another bright and energetic person to administer this essential function for the Society.

If you can help e-mail Bob at matilija@verizon.net.

Varieties from the seed pool



From top, left to right: 130, Around the Bay; 150, Buff Beauty; 170, Cape Sebastian;
250, *I. douglasiana*, collected by Columbia Pacific Heritage Museum;
600, PCI hybrid, unknown name; 620, Pacific Rim x Garden Delight;
630, Public Eye; 840, Wino.

Discussion group favourites



And to finish with, a few photographs of varieties the Yahoo discussion group members have liked well enough to contribute images of.

From top, left to right: 'Cashing In'; 'Fireflow'; 'Rodeo Gulch'; 'Burnt Sugar'; 'Blue Plate Special' and 'Mandalay Bay'.