

# ALMANAC

of the

## SOCIETY FOR PACIFIC COAST NATIVE IRIS

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Newsletter

March 1975

Volume II Number 2

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Embellish'd with Illustrations  
Newly Set into Type & Printed



Almanac of the Society Pacific Coast Native Iris

Newsletter March 1975 Volume II Number 2

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Executive Committee of the Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris

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

Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris Information

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

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

Newsletter: Published biannually in September and March. Deadline for contributions to the next issue is August 30, 1975. Double-spaced copy is preferred. The first copy of all issues is included in membership dues. Additional copies: Members \$1.50 Non-members \$2.50

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

The time of year has come when we begin to watch for new iris blooms. It is the season to evaluate each seedling for future keeping, to begin formulating new plans for location, to replant kept seedlings, and to prepare seed beds for seed planting this fall.

Members of the Board and Committees have been busy. The Classification Committee workers have been doing a lot of corresponding in setting up judging standards for the different types of Californicae.

Our First Vice President, Mrs. Theelen, has secured Le Roy Davidson to provide a judges training session at the American Iris Society Convention in San Diego. I hope to see each of you at that time.

August Phillips

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PROPOSED CHANGE TO BY-LAWS

The present by-laws require that the slate of officers nominated for the next term must be provided to the membership by February 15. Since the Almanac is not published until March, additional expense would be required for a special mailing. The Executive Committee has approved a change to make this date April 15 which would allow the slate to be included in the Almanac.

To conform with Article IX of the SPCNI by-laws (Amendments) the Executive Committee presents the following amendment:

ARTICLE VI: NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 2. (PROPOSED) The Nominations and Election Committee shall present a slate of officers to the membership of the newsletter (Almanac) in each election year. This slate, unless the members desire to make further nominations, shall be the officers for the ensuing term, without balloting. However, should the members make further nominations not later than April 15, there will be a voting ballot mailed to the membership. To make further nominations, one must obtain the signatures of five members in  
(Continued on page 4)

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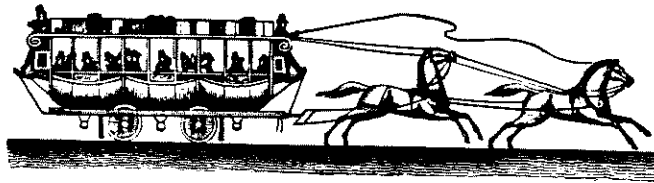
## Almanac of the Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris

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(By-laws continued) good standing as endorsement and mail the nominations to the Chairman of the Nominations and Election Committee, along with a written statement of acceptance by the nominee. The committee shall thereupon arrange immediately for an election by mail ballot. The ballots, to be counted, must be returned to the Nominations and Election Chairman not later than May 15.

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### MOVING?



If you are changing your address or have any questions about your membership status please send this information to the Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. Charles Hopson at:

9081 East Drearte Road  
San Gabriel, California 91775

Your editor does not maintain membership or address records, so sending this information to him just delays the record update.

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### BACK ISSUES



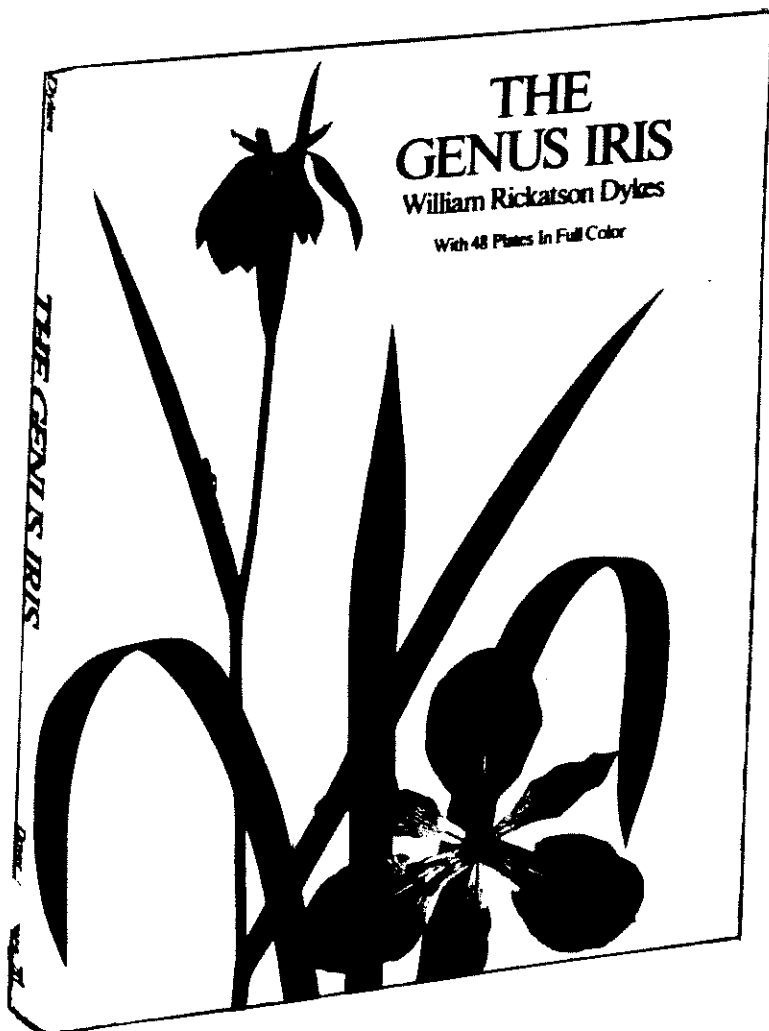
The first copy of the newsletter is included as a benefit of your Society dues. Additional copies are available for all previous issues of the Almanac at a price of \$1.50 for members and \$2.50 for non-members. Considerable savings are offered if more than single issues are purchased. All of Volume I can be had for the paltry sum of

\$4.00 and the complete set of back issues (Volume I and Volume II, Number 1) are available for \$5.00. Relive the excitement of the premiere issue, complete your reference library with the special Volume I issue, the 1974 SPCNI Check-list of cultivars and species of Pacific Coast Native Iris. Send your check today to the editor.

PACIFIC COAST IRIS IN THE DYKES REPRINT

If you're asking, "What Dykes reprint?" chances are that you are not aware of the great service that Dover Books has performed for all iris lovers. After sixty years, The Genus Iris is available in a relatively inexpensive volume. It may even be better than an original copy for the modern gardener; better because of two reasons. First it costs several hundred dollars less than the first edition, so one is not reluctant to use it or lend it to other iris growers. Second it has been reproduced in a cloth volume 20% smaller than the easily damaged original folio edition. Upon glancing at only a few pages, the reader quickly understands why the book has been in such demand. It contains forty-eight full color plates and about thirty line drawings of irises making this a very beautiful book.

The information is amazingly current. All of the recognized Pacific Coast species are included with the exception of Iris munzii, I. fernaldii and I. chrysophylla. Dykes does incorrectly list I. tenuis as a member of the California group, but he hedges his bet by observing its lack of presence in cultivation. The color plates by F. H. Round depict I. douglasiana, I. tenax, I. hartwegii, I. purdyi, and I. macrosiphon.



In his discussion on cultivation, Dykes comments, "As garden plants, these Californian Irises are most valuable owing to their almost evergreen foliage and to the delicacy and extraordinary range of colour found in the flowers. It may be said indeed that no two specimens of any of them are exactly alike in their colouring and they are also valuable in having a flowering period that continues over a longer period than that of most other species of Iris." This review can only touch on the highlights of the book. You will not be disappointed by ordering it from Dover Publications, Inc., 180 Varick Street, New York, N. Y. 10014. The order number is 23037-6, and it costs \$20.25 with postage and handling.

SANTA BARBARA BOTANIC GARDEN

by Dick Richards

We are extremely pleased to have established a working relationship with the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. The interest of the Garden in the preservation and display of California native plants makes it a natural ally, and such a display will be advantageous to both the Garden and the SPCNI.

The Santa Barbara Botanic Garden was established in 1926 as a part of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. In 1939 it was incorporated as a non-profit educational institution administered by the self-perpetuating Board of Trustees. The costs of maintaining the Garden are met by income from its endowment funds, gifts, and dues of members of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden Association. The Garden now covers some sixty acres in the beautiful hills overlooking Santa Barbara.

The garden is divided into several sections, devoted to a plant community such as desert, chaparral, and woodland to name a few. Some sections are devoted to specific plants, such as the ceanothus section. A walk over the numerous trails will reveal native iris planted in most of the sections gleaming out of the foliage like little jewels in the spring. But the southern section of the meadow encountered upon first entering the Garden is being planted extensively with named varieties and outstanding unnamed hybrids of native iris, and the Garden is acquiring an outstanding collection of new and older named varieties with more of the newer varieties being put into the ground each year.

A walk through the Garden is rewarding any time of the year, but during the spring the air is heavy with the perfume of myriad blooming native plants. The chorus of color is a fit setting for the display of the native iris; the native clones planted throughout the Garden and the named varieties and outstanding hybrids in the meadow. In March the I. innominata clones have started blooming under some pines, and by May, when the season draws to a close, the latest I. douglasiana are still putting out blossoms. For history buffs, the Garden includes Mission Dam, constructed in 1806 as the source of water for Mission Santa Barbara, and a remaining section of the aqueduct, about 200 feet below the dam, which carried the water to the Mission. The dam is in a good state of preservation.

Dr. Ralph N. Philbrick is the man responsible for the administration of this fine Garden. Dr. Philbrick is not only the Director, but he somehow finds time to keep up his work in taxonomy, which first brought him into the employ of the Garden some years ago. He is only the third Director in the more than 25 years since the Garden was incorporated.



One of the Garden's Hybrids  
(Photo by author)

(Richards Continued) The man who works with the native iris, as well as with all the native species, is Dara E. Emery, Horticulturist for the Garden. Dara has been with the Garden nearly 20 years, coming after a brief career as a junior high teacher. Born in Los Angeles, Dara received his education from Cal Poly, both the San Dimas and the San Luis Obispo campuses, where he majored in ornamental horticulture and minored in botany. It is his job to propagate the various native species, and the process he uses for the rather touchy California native plants works extremely well for iris. Because a lot of interest has been expressed in the details of this process, it is not out of order to summarize it briefly here.

Dara uses this process with native iris successfully from September through the following March or April, with few losses. Of course it works best in early fall, when root growth is starting. The rhizomes to be processed are dipped in a captan-malathion solution, mixed at the recommended strength, for a few minutes. They are then potted into three inch or four inch pots in a moistened mixture of two parts Canadian peat moss, two parts #30 crystal white sand (a washed sharp sand), one part perlite or sponge rock to which has been added 18 oz. of fertilizer for each two sacks (100 lbs. each) of sand used. The recipe for the fertilizer is as follows:

- 4 oz. potassium nitrate
- 4 oz. potassium sulfate
- 2½ lb. single super phosphate
- 7½ lb. dolomite
- 2½ lb. calcium carbonate (oyster shell)

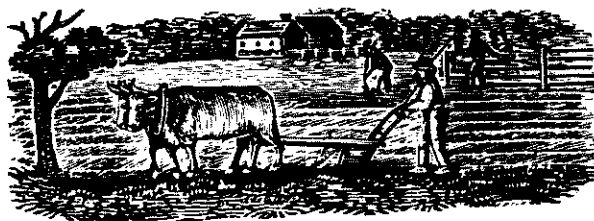
This non-soil potting mix does not need to be sterilized. It is a modification of the U.C. Mix obtained from the University of California Extension Service's Manual 23 entitled "The U.C. System for Producing Healthy Container Grown Plants" edited by Kenneth F. Baker.

The potted divisions are then placed in a lath house over bottom heat (70° F) with intermittent mist for four weeks.

(Richards Continued) Because of the relatively high content of total soluble salts in the Santa Barbara water, de-ionized water is used in the mist unit. After four weeks of misting and bottom heat the plants are hardened off in a lath house hot bed for two weeks. During the first week of the hardening off period the top of the unit is kept nearly closed and additional shade is applied. The second week the supplementary shading is removed and the top fully opened. Next the plants are moved to a lath bench and watered once with calcium nitrate. By now in most cases the three or four inch pots are fairly well filled with roots and new growth is showing on top. In three or four weeks, or as required the plants can be planted out or shifted into larger pots.

The Garden has recently registered one of its finest white native iris as CANYON SNOW. Purchased for introduction by McCaskill's Nursery, this iris is one of the finest whites yet produced; it was seen in some local gardens under the seedling number SB 67-88. The McCaskills have promised to have this one on the market as soon as they have enough stock of it, but in the meantime it can be seen at their nursery. This is the first native iris hybrid released into the trade by the Garden, but in the past the Garden has released both new hybrid ceanothus and manzanita, and it is hoping to release soon a new race of perennial lupine for a Mediterranean and dry summer climate.

Getting to the Garden, located at 1212 Mission Canyon Road, is no problem, and it is a pleasant drive through some beautiful country. Entering Santa Barbara on highway 101, take the Mission Street off-ramp and follow Mission Street north-east to the old Santa Barbara Mission. If in doubt, ask any native Santa Barbaran where the Mission is. Passing the Mission, take the left fork which is Mission Canyon Road and note the first of several directional signs leading to the botanic garden which is about two miles from the Mission in the foothills above the city. The garden is open from 8 AM until sunset, except on rainy days.





Almanac of the Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris

CHECKLIST UPDATE

by Bob Brooks

The list of introductions below was compiled by Bob Brooks of Cordon Bleu Farms to bring the checklist up to 1973. The 1974 introductions will be listed in the next issue of the Almanac. See also "Dear Ed".

ALMA ABELL (Lenz, R. 1973), CA, 18", LVB/LVB8Y, S. bluish lavender; F. bluish lavender with turquoise and yellow spot on F, parentage unknown.

BANBURY MELODY (M. Brummitt, R. 1973), sdlg. 146, CA, 10", M, RV/RV, magnolia purple self, I. innominata x I. douglasiana.

BANBURY PIXIE (M. Brummitt, R. 1973), sdlg. 168/1, CA, 12", M, PR/R, S. pink-fawn; F. red, BANBURY VELVET x sdlg., S. T. Wisley 1973.

BROADLEIGH ANN (Bootle-Wilbraham, R. 1973), CA, 12", DO/DO8FY, S. chestnut; F. chestnut with gold eye markings, open hybrid.

BROADLEIGH PEACOCK (Bootle-Wilbraham, R. 1973), CA, 18", PY/PY8DRO, pale primrose yellow with maroon-brown eye on F., open hybrid.

CALIFORNIA NATIVE (Ghio, R. 1972), CA, introduced Bay View 1973.

COCOA INDIAN (F. Day, R. 1972), CA, introduced Foster Iris 1973.

FISCUS (R. Johnson by L. Roach, R. 1973), CA, 13", L, LV/FV, S. S. heliotrope (636/2) ruffled; F. mineral violet (635/1) ruffled, unknown parentage (foliage indicates considerable I. douglasiana blood), Cordon Bleu 1973. Note: listed in 1973 registration as FISCUS, but it will be corrected in 1974.

GOLD CHIPS (F. Day, R. 1973), sdlg. FD#3-72, CA, 13", Apr., DY/DY8DDY, S. deep lemon yellow; F. same, darker in center, unknown parentage.

INDIAN SUNSHINE (G. Stambach, R. 1973), sdlg. 72-70, CA, 16", L, Y/Y, yellow self, Stambach sdlg. x CLAREMONT INDIAN.

KITTEE (T. Abell, R. 1972), CA, introduced Cordon Bleu 1973.

LAVENDER LILT (F. Knowles, R. 1973), sdlg. DI 71/2, CA, 14", M, 5LBV/5PBV8Y, S. pale lavender fading to light gray; F. pale lavender, darker at throat, yellow flash on median line, I. douglasiana x I. innominata.

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(Brooks Continued)

LAVENDER PINK LADY (F. Day, R. 1973), sdlg. FD6-72, CA, 14-15", EM, LRV/5yRV7V, S. mauve-rose; F. same decorated with buff and yellow fan in precise design, violet veining, fuffed, unknown parentage, Foster Iris 1973.

LOS GATOS (J. Ghio, R. 1973), sdlg. PZ-1440, CA, 10", E, DV/DV8y, slate violet self, slight yellow thumbprint on F., LOMPICO x VIOLET ELF.

NATIVE JEWEL (L. Weaver, R. 1971), introduced Pilley 1972.

PACIFIC MOON (B. Hager, R. 1973), CA, 15", E, PPY7PV/PPY7PV, S. cream, pale lavender veining; F. cream, light lavender veining, OJAI x BRUBSTAKE.

SEVRES (N. Scopes, R. 1973), sdlg. 1PC, CA, 12", M-L, W/rvW, China white with faint penciling of mauve on F., from collected seed from BIS seed exchange, SC BIS, S. T. Wisley 1973.

WESTERN HERB (J. Ghio, R. 1973), sdlg. PZ-138S, CA, 12", E, yw/yw8py, S. creamy white; F. warm white, pale yellow thumbprint, CALIFIA x OJAI, EC 1973, Bay View 1973.

DEAR ED



From the 1949 check list ORCHID SPRITE was introduced in 1943, received EM in 1946 and AM in 1948. The HM award originally listed as a spuria but later corrected to Cal. No parentage listed.



ARIOSO was registered and introduced in 1948 with parentage of ORCHID SPRITE x AGNES JAMES.

Sometimes an error occurs in the 10 year AIS check lists that does not occur in the annual check list, so I checked the 1958 annual list for the spelling of SNOOKUMCHUCK FAIRY vs. SKOOKUMCHUCK. It is listed as SNOOKUMCHUCK in the alphabetical list as well as in the listing of varieties by hybridizer. I then checked the annuals through 1968 to see if it had been corrected. The name will have to remain SNOOKUMCHUCK as registered until such time as it is corrected. Incidentally, Louella Noyd registered a tall bearded iris as SNOOKUM in 1963, but it was corrected to SKOOKUM in 1964.

Beb Brooks, San Marcos, Ca.

(Dear Ed Continued)

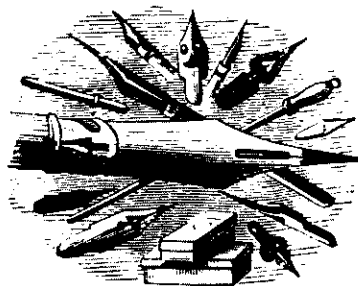
Did you read Jim Keithley's article on Pacific Coast Natives in the October Seener State Newsletter? Jim gets excellent results by planting PCN's in pots that he moves into his garage when our severest weather hits.

Dorothy Howard, Tulsa Oklahoma

Sydney B. Mitchell Iris Society is having a training session conducted by Joe Ghie at 8:00 P.M. on March 28, 1975 at the Lakeside Garden Center, Oakland. All SPCNI members are invited to attend.



The annual SPCNI membership meeting will be held in San Diego. Time and place will be announced at the close of SPCNI-AIS Section meeting, Wednesday, April 23.



Almanac of the Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris

ED'S PAGE



Dara Emery of the  
Santa Barbara  
Botanic Garden  
(Photo by Dick  
Richards)

It was bound to happen! You may have already noticed that this issue consists of the smallest number of pages yet. The culprit, for a change, was not inflation and it was not an increase in postal rates. No friends, it was us. We have grown comfortable and smug as the SPCNI has come of age. We are content to let a few members do the work for us. We are not sending in articles, photos or letters for the editor to edit, so the Almanac has shrunk. It does not have to be this way, and the editor is also getting lazy.

Let's make the next issue the biggest yet. Everyone send a letter or article to the editor. Let's keep him busy.

Come to the AIS Convention in San Diego and see the Southern California crop of PCNI's. Be sure to attend the section meeting.

Ed

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

THIRD CLASS

ADDRESS CORRECTION  
REQUESTED