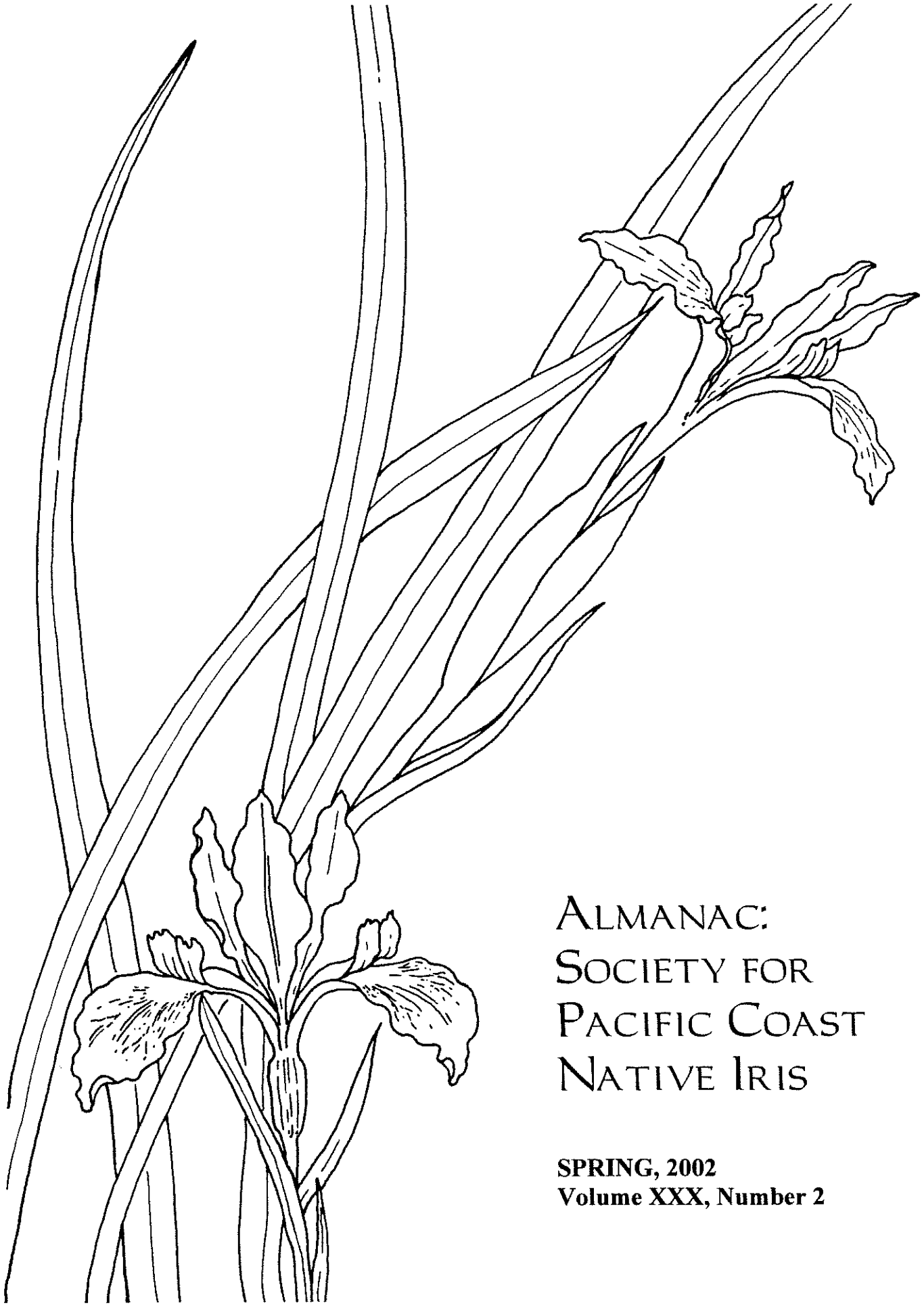

ALMANAC: SOCIETY FOR PACIFIC COAST NATIVE IRIS

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PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM THE SPCNI TREASURER

Prices listed are for SPCNI members

Check List of Named PCI Cultivars
Currently being revised.

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.

MEMBERSHIP & SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris is a section of the American Iris Society. Membership in AIS is **not** a requirement for membership in the SPCNI, but is suggested and may be of considerable benefit.

Membership	Individual	Family
Annual	$ 6.00	$ 8.00
Triennial	15.00	18.00
Life	75.00	100.00

Please send membership monies to the SPCNI Treasurer. Foreign postage: please add $1.00 for annual, $3.00 for triennial, and $10.00 for life membership.

ALMANAC

DEADLINES: March 1 and September 1.
Back issues are available for $3.50 each, postpaid. Please address the person listed under **Almanac Back Issues**.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Robert P. "Bob" Hubley was a PCI enthusiast, hybridizer, and owner of a commercial PCI garden in southern California for many years. I first met Bob at George Stambach's commercial garden in Pasadena in the late 1960s or early 1970s. Bob had his commercial garden, Longview Gardens, in Riverside and eventually in Yucaipa, both of which have hot interior climates in southern California, and the latter of which is well on the way to Palm Springs, which is truly desert. Bob's hybrids are heat-tolerant, to say the least, and one of his introductions, ORCHID RESPRITE, has rebloomed in the coastal climate of La Mirada, where Bob and his wife Ellie once lived. Ellie reports that it rebloomed in Yucaipa also.

ORCHID RESPRITE was named partly for one of its parents, ORCHID SPRITE, and the "Re" was added because of the tendency to rebloom.

Bob died in 1992, and I lost track of Ellie. A recent letter from Ellie put me back in touch with her. She was extremely kind to donate Bob's slide collection to the Society. Bob introduced Dr. Lee Lenz' *I. munzii* hybrids for about a decade, and the set contained numerous slides of these beauties as well as of Bob's own introductions, plus some other early PCI introductions from other hybridizers.

Ellie also offered to share some rhizomes of Bob's ORCHID RESPRITE, which is quite happily growing in her side yard in Banning, California. Banning is even closer to Palm Springs than Yucaipa.

I was delighted to take her up on her offer, and in December, during one of the rare southern California rains, I visited her in Banning and received the slide collection. I also dug about forty rhizomes of ORCHID RESPRITE from her yard. Those rhizomes have mostly been potted up, and are being distributed around southern California so that this vigorous iris can be enjoyed by many and perhaps used by a few people for hybridizing hardy and hopefully reblooming PCI clones.

The point of this column is to publicly thank Ellie Hubley Allen for her generosity, and to point out that the Society will gratefully receive slide collections or other material connected with PCIs. Slides of older and often now non-existent irises help us preserve some of the history of PCIs and of the Society. Rhizomes of older PCIs provide stock for those trying to grow PCIs which are likely to survive in difficult climates. The reward is double for those looking for reblooming clones, such as ORCHID RESPRITE.

The survival of these older irises is partly the result of hardiness, partly the result of good garden practices, and partly the result of luck. Their distribution now is often dependent on the thoughtfulness of those still growing these clones. So please let the Society know if you have slides or other materials about PCIs or the Society, or if you have some older varieties you want to share.

Richard

FROM THE EDITOR

There's good news and there's bad news. The bad news is that although I requested members to send in photos of their seedlings and some information about the seedlings, I did not receive a single photo. I was ready to publish the Almanac without a color page. Northern California Representative Garry Knipe, however, managed to talk me out of it and he arranged for the two of us to visit Lois and Jack Belardi's garden where I was able to take some photographs. So the good news is that we have a color page thanks to Garry, Lois, and Jack.

There's more good news/bad news. The good news is that the SPCNI Check List revision will probably be completed this summer. The bad news is that I don't have time to do both the Almanac and the Check List. Since I would like to continue editing the Almanac I am hoping someone will volunteer to assume responsibility of the Check List.

Finally, the bad news is that almost everything bloomed later than usual this year. The good news is that because of this, two of the iris shows I attended had tables and tables of PCI!

READ ME

Membership in the American Iris Society is not required for SPCNI membership. However, AIS membership is suggested and may be of considerable benefit.

Please send membership renewals or inquiries to the Membership Secretary. Do not send them to the President or Editor. Also, if you have a change of address, please remember to send the information to the Membership Secretary. Thank you.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM THE SECRETARY/TREASURER

Dues Notices

First dues renewal notices will no longer be sent. Please note the expiration date of your membership on the address label. This date indicates the month and year that your SPCNI dues are due. We will continue to send a final reminder notice if we have not heard from you.

SPCNI Membership List

The SPCNI will be offering its membership list to individuals for a slight fee to cover the cost of mailing and printing (approximately $3.00 for the US, $4.00 for overseas). This list can be used only for contact purposes and cannot be used or sold as a business mailing list. If anybody wants to be excluded from the list, please contact Terri Hudson. If members have e-mail and would like to be on an e-mail list, please contact Terri (irishud@mcn.org).

SPCNI SLIDE SET AVAILABLE

Three slide sets are available through SPCNI. Our Slide Chairman, Damon Hill, has produced it and it can be obtained by requesting it from him at 4613 Maddock Road, Sebastopol, CA 95472.

The charge is $7.50 for any of the three sets. One set deals with species, the second is concerned with hybrids, and the third combines the subject matter of both of these. The slides in each set will be contained in a Kodak carousel. The carousel will be convenient to use and less likely to be damaged in shipment. Payment (payable to SPCNI) should be sent to Terri Hudson, SPCNI Secretary-Treasurer. See the address on page 2. The person requesting the slides is financially responsible for return of the slides.

DONATION THANK YOUS

The SPCNI thanks the following individuals for their recent donations to the society:
Christine Blaxland (in memory of Lewis Lawyer)
Frederick Held
Mary Hoffman
Margaret Lundquist
Kenneth Walker

WANTED

Samuel DeFazio is doing research on "non-pesticide management of pests and diseases of the genus Iris" and is in need of seed of iris that can survive in Michigan, zone 5. If you are interested or are willing to donate seed, contact:

Samuel DeFazio
2723 116th Ave.
Allegan, MI 49010
phone: 616-673-2793
e-mail: praxis@allegan.net

I. HARTWEGII AUSTRALIS MINI-TREK

Richard Richards, La Mesa, CA
[Reprinted from the Fall 2001 Almanac]

The Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris is sponsoring a mini-trek to visit native stands of Iris hartwegii australis on Sunday, June 16, 2002. This is the first time the Society has visited the native range of this Californicae subspecies.

The average tourist rarely sees this part of Southern California which features stands of ponderosa pine, white fir and incense cedar. The irises grow in sun-dappled meadows, disappearing under a blanket of snow in the winter. The peak bloom time is June, and seeds are ripe and scattered by late August or early September.

The irises range in colors of lavender, violet, mauve, and occasional slate gray and blue, some with intricate veining. The stands at Barton Flats show the widest range of colors.

The host hotel is the Holiday Inn at 3400 Shelby Street, Ontario, California 91764 which is just minutes away from Ontario International Airport. The hotel's phone number is (800) 624-2617.

Special rates for participants are: Standard rooms $89, Jacuzzi rooms $99 and Suites $109. These rates include breakfast and airport shuttle service, but do not include taxes. Reserve rooms directly with the hotel and mention code 2-PCI.

Registration for the mini-trek is $40 for members of SPCNI and $46 for non-members. For registration received after May 1, add $5. Membership in SPCNI is $6 per year.

The tour bus will leave the Holiday Inn at 8:00 AM and travel to several sites at Barton Flats in the San Bernardino Mountains, reaching elevations of approximately 7,000. Return to the hotel by 4:00 PM will allow for later flights out of Ontario Airport.

For more information, contact Richard or Marty Richards.
5885 Cowles Mt. Blvd. La Mesa, CA 91942
phone: (619) 461-2345.
email: {mongo2u@home.com}.

POLLINATING & GERMINATING PACIFIC COAST NATIVE IRISES

Joe Ghio

Joe lives in Santa Cruz, California, USDA Zone 9. The temperature rarely drops below 32 degrees F in winter and rarely rises above 80 degrees F in summer. Occasional light frosts may occur from mid-December through mid-February but are not damaging. Average rainfall is 28 inches. He has been germinating Pacifica Iris seeds for 30+ years.

Pollination

Pollination is undertaken the end of March/early April. Individual flowers are open 3 days or so. The stigma is receptive from opening. No protection is undertaken to protect the stigma or anther from contamination. In theory, it is only necessary to pollinate one of the three stigmatic lips, but I pollinate all three, just to be sure.

Tools used when pollinating include tweezers for handling the anthers. The ease of selfing by wind may affect pollination.

Labeling

Cardboard sales tags are used to label the pollinated flower. Information to record on label includes both the pod and pollen parents.

Seed Ripening

The seed capsules of Pacificas are not affected by anything. The seeds usually mature in June and July, approximately 60+ days between pollination and seed collection.

When ready for harvest, the seed capsule begins splitting. To harvest, pick the capsules and allow them to dry, then shell the seeds into milk carton bottoms. The average number of seeds to expect from a single capsule may be a lot to only one. Once collected, they should be dried in the sun.

Storing Seeds

For storing seeds I use milk carton bottoms.

Growing Plants from Seeds

I've used the following method for germinating Pacifica seeds for 30+ years. Percentage of germination with this method for some crosses is 100%, others 0%. I do not know how long the seeds remain viable. The seeds are normally planted in the ground in October, about 1" deep and sown thickly. Seeds do not require a cold stratification to germinate well. It is not necessary to soak the seeds before planting.

The seeds are planted right into the garden. After planting, they are watered by winter rains. They will begin to sprout in 2-3 months. The seedlings are transplanted by April 15 directly into beds. The garden soil they are transplanted into is a sandy, clay soil in full sun. Heavy rains in late March and early April can cause rot problems in young seedlings. Once planted into the garden/nursery beds I get nearly 100% bloom the following spring.

[This article originally appeared in SIGNA #53, Fall 1994, and is reprinted with permission from the Author and SIGNA. SPCNI members interested in the *Californicae* species may find a membership in SIGNA beneficial]

BEFORE YOU APPLY FERTILIZERS

Lewis Lawyer, Deceased

[The following is an article the late Lewis Lawyer wrote for the Fall 1993 issue of the *Almanac*. It's an excellent source of information.]

By and large, plants will survive in our gardens without any additional fertilization. Even in the Pygmy Forest of Mendocino County, California, which is so near sterile that it commands national attention, plants do survive.

Mere survival, however, is only one of the aspirations we have for our plants. Fertilizers are universally applied to food crops to increase production, a necessity in these times of ever increasing population. In the same spirit we apply fertilizers to our garden flowers to make them, heaven forbid, larger and more lush than even our wildest hybridizers visualized. Pacificas probably require less attention than most of our

flowers, but still we feel obligated to toss an occasional handful of fertilizer toward them. We repeatedly get questions about this problem, and a few years ago, I wrote an article for the Region 14, AIS, Bulletin, not to answer specific questions, but to present some facts about fertilizers which would make it easier for each of us to decide for ourselves, when, how, and how much.

To begin with, we should understand something about the soils to which we add these fertilizers, and, unfortunately, soil is one of the most complicated things on earth! Physically, soils can vary in particle size from chunks of rock and sand down to microscopically small platelets of clay. These particles, along with bits and pieces of organic matter, can be juxtaposed and intermixed in such an array of combinations ranging from scree to almost pure clay, adobe, or gumbo that the chances of getting any two shovelfuls alike are infinitely less than lining up the correct 6 of the 49 numbers available in the California Lottery. Chemically soil is so complex that even after centuries of study, no one has yet claimed to completely understand it. Biologically, soils are infested with an abundance of organisms, all interrelated and interdependent and yet at the same time intercompetitive in such a teeming mass that it makes our most complicated factories and assembly lines pale by comparison.

In these stews, the roots of our plants forage for food, and on the whole they do very well, but since we all have the urge to try to make them do even better, here are a few facts which may help.

It wasn't until the early nineteenth century that de Saussure proposed quite to everyone's surprise, that green plants don't really derive much of their solid matter from the nutrients in soil, but that most of it comes from carbon dioxide in the air. This fact was not easily assimilated, even by scientists, because of the universal belief in the so-called "humus theory of plant nutrition". This theory, which postulated that the food of plants is entirely derived from the brown organic humus in soils, had the weight of centuries of unquestioning acceptance behind it. You can imagine the marching, singing, protesting, and placard-waving of the dedicated organic gardeners of the day when this upstart tried to tell them that no plant on earth could ingest a molecule as large as even the smallest organic molecule in their humus! But the facts are that the dry matter of plants is roughly 45 percent each of carbon and oxygen, and 5 percent hydrogen derived from the air. The nitrogen content varies from less than one percent in woody tissues to as high as 10 percent in some soft tissues. The remaining elements involved, including phosphorus and potassium, which are left behind in the wood ash when plants are burned, represent only 1 to 5 percent of the total.

Why, then, are we so preoccupied with fertilizer applications if they are responsible for only 3 to, at most, 15 percent of the weight of the plants? The answer, of course, is that without the essential elements derived from the soil, there would be no plants at all.

More than 40 elements have been detected in plant tissues. Of these, eleven are considered essential to all plants, and three more are known to be essential to some plants. Of the elements supplied through the soil, nitrogen, sulfur, phosphorus, chlorine, potassium, calcium, magnesium, and iron are, in the order listed, the most abundant in plant tissue.

In a discussion of fertilizer practices, there are four important items which we should consider. The first has to do with the physical properties of the soil. In the wild the PCI tend to grow in loose or gravely soils, not always, but usually. We are stuck with the soil type in our garden, but we can usually amend it to more closely fit the requirements of some particular plant we want to grow there. Gravely screes and sandy soils are much more pervious than clays or other heavy soils. Water penetrates easier, but disappears rapidly, Soluble fertilizers are more readily available to plant roots, and over doses tend to burn the plants more than in heavy soils. At the same time, soluble fertilizers tend to leach out of the lighter soils much more rapidly. As a consequence, you should apply fertilizers to these soils more frequently than you do to heavier soils, but in reduced amounts.

The second item for consideration in the application of nutrients to the soil is the type of root involved. Most annuals are shallow rooted and most perennials tend to be deep rooted. There are many exceptions to this: tap-root annuals tend to feed deeply, and many perennials, even some shrubs and trees like the azalea, can be shallow rooted. The PCI have some very deep anchoring roots, but I would guess that most of their feeding is done through the white roots which occupy the top 6 to 8 inches of soil.

The third item has to do with the complex of living organisms which inhabit soils. They are complex enough even without the intrusion of plant roots, but the complexity increases remarkably when a plant root starts to grow among them. Most plant roots or their root hairs exude materials which attract or stimulate the growth of certain minute organisms in the microscopically small area around the root known as the rhizosphere. This colony of organisms

help the root hairs, or may even be essential to their absorption of nutrients in the surrounding soil. Although there is little we can do about this phenomenon, it is important that we know about it because it can become crucial following soil fumigation and the resultant change in the balance of the soil organisms.

The fourth factor for consideration has to do with the chemical composition of your soil. Most soils can and do support plant life without any human intrusion. This is humiliating, but it is a fact which you should consider when you are mulling over exactly what you want to accomplish when you apply your manures. Only you can be the judge of this as it applies to your particular soil.

NITROGEN

Nitrogen tops the list of elements supplied to plants through the soil. It can be applied to the soil in any of three forms: nitrate, ammoniacal, or organic. In large commercial operations the primary consideration is cost, and you often see large tractor-drawn equipment injecting pure gaseous ammonia into the soil. In large orchards it will often be supplied in the form of ammonium sulfate. Plants don't care what form of nitrogen you feed them, and a good farmer soon learns that he can save a lot of money by applying the cheapest form available at the time. Until you can show by experimentation that one form of fertilizer or another works best for you, cost per unit of nitrogen is a good starting point on which to base your choice.

The nitrate form of nitrogen can be obtained in several formulations including ammonium nitrate and calcium nitrate. Applied in this form, it can be washed into the root zone with water and is available immediately to the plant root.

Ammoniacal nitrogen is available in many forms including ammonia gas, ammonium sulfate, and urea. Some plant species are known to be able to ingest the large ammonium molecule directly through their roots, but how prevalent this ability is is controversial. Controversy aside, however, we know that all forms of ammoniacal nitrogen are converted to ammonium ion almost immediately after contact with the soil, and that in the ammonium form they bind tightly to the soil and can not be leached to the root zone. It is only after the soil organisms convert the ammonium to nitrate that it moves freely through the soil and become usable to the root.

If you want to pay a little more and get a little less, you can use any of several organic fertilizers. One possible advantage of organic fertilizers is that, because of their more complex structure, it takes a longer time for the soil organisms to break them down to a usable form; thus they may be more slowly available and longer lasting in the soil. In the organic form, however, they are completely useless to plants. Feed lot manures when used in large quantities are useful as a mulch, or a soil ammendment, but are a poor source of nutrients, having about one percent each of N, P, and K. The greatest danger is that feed lot manure can have a high salt content and can be the source of serious weed pests such as nut grass and bindweed.

SULFUR

Sulfur is the second most abundant soil-derived nutrient found in plants. It is seldom deficient in garden soils and under normal conditions we can rely on the sulfates in most garden fertilizers as an adequate source. Sulfur is sometimes used to lower the pH of garden soils to accommodate acid-loving plants such as the PCI. This use should be carefully monitored, but in any case it is not strictly a nutritional consideration.

PHOSPHATES

There are two important characteristics in the behavior of phosphorous fertilizers that will help us plan strategies for its application in our gardens. In the soil, phosphorous is taken up by the plant in the form of phosphate. Phosphate is very active chemically, and readily forms compounds with any available chemical. Because of this, phosphates quickly bond to the soil and do not move from the point of application. The other quality is that only a minute amount of the phosphate dissolves in the soil water at any one time. The good part of this is that the part that does not dissolve cannot be washed from the soil, and a single application can last for months or years.

Since phosphates do not wash through the soil, the roots must grow to where the phosphate is, and even there they find only a very dilute solution of the nutrient. This requires two things: an extensive root system and a strategic placement of phosphorous. The best way to accomplish the latter is to apply phosphate fertilizer before planting and spade or till it into the anticipated root zone. This doesn't mean that the phosphate-containing fertilizers that you broadcast on the soil around your living plants are entirely wasted. There are minute amounts that slowly leach downward, but on the whole, the phosphate simply waits where you have applied it until it is time to replant the bed and it gets tilled into the root zone for the next planting.

Phosphorous fertilizer is commonly available in one of three forms. Rock phosphate, as mined, is almost insoluble, and only slightly available to plants. Superphosphate is rock phosphate which

has been treated with acid to make it soluble. It can be purchased in two forms: single superphosphate, and treble superphosphate. The former can be used almost without any restrictions, but treble superphosphate must be carefully measured to avoid burning the plants. The third form, bone meal, is the organic form of phosphate made from ground bones. Chemically it is almost like rock phosphate and is almost insoluble.

For the record, just before planting PCI, I broadcast a visible amount of single superphosphate over the entire bed and spade it in. For some plantings of PCI and for plantings of individual plants such as tall bearded iris or chrysanthemums, I trowel in about two heaping tablespoons of single superphosphate fertilizer at each plant site.

CHLORINE

The fourth element on our list of plant nutrients, chlorine, is so abundant in soils in the form of chloride, that we worry more about its excess than we do about its deficiency. There is no need to run around your garden with a salt shaker.

POTASSIUM

Potassium (K) is the fifth most abundant soil-derived element found in plants, and third on the list of elements, N, P, and K, contained in complete fertilizers. Potassium is soluble in water, but because it bonds to clay particles and humus in the soil, it is about midway between nitrogen and phosphorous in its availability and persistence. Most western soils have adequate potassium, and a plant response to its application is rarely spectacular if even measurable. There are exceptions to this, however, and heavily-cropped vegetable farms are often deficient. You will have to be the judge of its importance in your particular circumstances.

All potassium fertilizers are mined from the ground, either as potassium sulfate or potassium chloride. They can be bought in these forms, but are usually purchased as part of a complete fertilizer.

MINOR ELEMENTS

All the rest of the soil-derived elements found in plants are usually lumped together under the term minor or trace elements. By and large we need not be concerned with any of them unless a "deficiency symptom" shows up on our plants. There are many books and articles describing these symptoms, but the best solution is to take a representative part of the plant to someone knowledgeable for diagnosis. Someone who can answer your questions is usually available in the County Agricultural Office, the University, or one of the better nurseries.

The most commonly deficient minor element is iron which, despite its possible presence in large amounts, gets tied up in an insoluble form, primarily in alkaline or poorly-drained soils. Zinc deficiency is fairly common in some orchard, especially citrus, plantings. The symptoms of minor element deficiencies usually show as chlorosis or a yellowing of the leaves and can be corrected by the addition of specialty fertilizers including chelates, or by foliar sprays especially formulated for this purpose.

There are also a few areas where excess minor element symptoms can be observed. Examples of this are the excess of boron in the Hollister and Woodland areas of California, and of cadmium in the foothills near Salinas.

DISCUSSION

In most areas where they can be grown, the Pacific Coast iris can be grown without the addition of any fertilizer. If you desire some spectacular blue ribbon show stalks, however, you will probably benefit by feeding your plants. Also, since we all like to see our plants performing to the best of their ability, the addition of a good nutrient supply will certainly be beneficial. The only disadvantage of fertilizing the PCI which I can think of is that the plants will increase faster, require more space, and thus need transplanting more often. Since the PCI are not the easiest plants to transplant, starving them a little bit will alleviate this problem.

Everyone's garden soil and everyone's goals for their garden are different, and what applies to one person's needs may not apply to another. I hope that this article has given you enough basic information to help you decide what is best for you. There is ample literature on the subject to fill you in on what I have omitted.

SOME THOUGHTS ON FERTILIZER

Jean Witt, Shoreline, WA

I've never used a lot of fertilizer on my PCNs - certainly not every year. I use alfalfa pellets (rabbit pellets) and 5-10-10, the latter applied in the fall or early spring.

When I make beds over - infrequently, 5 to 10 years in some cases, I work in 2-3 inches of our local commercial yard-waste compost, along with 5-10-10 and either alfalfa pellets or steer manure. I used to use my own compost, but it never got hot enough to kill the weed seeds, and so I became concerned it would spread disease. Plants seem to grow better after the remake job, so this seems to be a suitable combination. Ordinarily, I do over the beds in the fall.

I also sometimes top-dress my PCN beds in the spring with about an inch of the same commercial compost, sieved, mostly to keep weeds down. My soil is sandy/gravelly glacial till, former Douglas Fir forest. Originally it was gray and so compacted that I had to dig the beds with a pick, but after forty years of cultivation it is brown and friable, and about neutral in pH. In my part of Seattle (Shoreline, north end) we get about 40 inches of rain, mostly in November and December, and we have drought from July to September.

Most of my PCN beds now receive only afternoon sun because the woods in the rear have grown so tall. They get some summer water, but not a lot, as we often have watering restrictions.

I think the longer the interval between disturbances for PCNs in the garden, the better. The commercial bearded iris practice of resetting every year is a fallacy for PCNs. It works better to carve off starts from only about half a clump in any one year, rather than lifting and dividing the whole thing each fall.

PCNs do not seem to dwindle the way bearded do, from growing in the same soil year after year.

Debby Cole, Mercer Island, WA

Once I've got a PCN growing happily, it's not too likely to get moved, so the soil's not vacant to be amended.

But I do broadcast Azalea/Rhododendron fertilizer over the PCI in early spring, when I'm pacifying the rhodies and azaleas. And sometimes if I'm applying Miracle-Gro on other things, I'll give the PCI some too, although I tell myself they'd prefer Miracid. All my soil is pretty much an acid sandy loam.

Scientific? No. Functional? Nothing's died yet, and bloom and growth have been good.

Joe Ghio, Santa Cruz, CA

Just gave the Pacificas at the ranch a light application of 10-10-10 [06 February] and will do the same thing here at home tomorrow. This is the only fertilizer I give them.

Lois Belardi, Santa Cruz, CA

In the first part of February I use triple 15 or 12. I think it's a little early this year - I will wait until the weather settles down and they start to show some new growth.

When I plant them in the fall I use Glaums chicken fertilizer, bonemeal and Gardner & Bloome compost, which Jack rototills into the ground. We have a sandy loam which is different from Joe's [Ghio] soil - he has a clay soil at his place on Bay Street.

I used to put the bonemeal in the hole when planting the iris but this is much easier. This is not the same as what Joe does. Until you mentioned in one of your articles about using the acid formula of Gardner & Bloome compost, I didn't know it came that way. Now I will use that next time. If you are planting in pots I don't know what you would use now. I always plant my seeds in pots but use planting soil then.

George Gessert, Eugene, OR

Ordinarily I don't use fertilizers with Pacificas. However, in the early spring, when temperatures are still quite cool here, some plants occasionally turn yellow. I fertilize these with a high nitrogen fertilizer - usually organic fish emulsion - and that almost always restores normal green color after a week or so.

Jay Hudson, Fort Bragg, CA

After trying various feeding programs over the years I have settled on an early fall application of Osmocote 15-15-15 slow release followed by another application in February. I periodically supplement this with liquid applications of Grow More 20-20-20. Applications of Miracle Grow will also work. The important thing is to keep them watered all year when it is not raining. In our garden the best plants are fed by this program and mulched with mini bark. They increase rapidly and remain green all year.

Mike Monninger, Riverside, CA

I grow my PCI in raised beds with sandy soil. My native soil is clay. I fertilize about once a year (early spring) when I am broadcasting ferilizer to other plants. The high heat means fertilizing must take place in the winter or late fall. The Santa Ana Botanical Garden, Lee Lentz worked there, don't fertilize and a lot of the PCI are in full sun. They don't water the PCI in the summer. The PCI are planted on a hill of decomposed granite and are heavily mulched. I have used commercial fertilizers but I think organic would be a better way to go, low amount over a long period.

George Waters, Berkeley, CA

Our PCN irises are on poor, freely draining sand. It is what remains of made-up material brought in about fifteen years ago by a landscaper for terracing. Originally the mix included EBMUD compost (wood chips and sewage), finely divided lava rock, and sand, but all organic material has long since vanished from it.

To flower freely in this impoverished remnant, PCN iris hybrids need lots of water and fertilizer, but in reality receive them only haphazardly. Ozmocote (18-6-12) time-release fertilizer is scattered around in early spring most years, and if that is forgotten then occasional doses of fish emulsion are splashed about.

Some of the fussy hybrids can't stand this treatment, but a few others, such as CANYON SNOW, CUP OF TEA, and SIERRA DELL, have survived so far, although flowering poorly some years. When, in the Almanac several issues back, I learned of native irises benefiting from regular fertilizers and frequent irrigation - spillover from an adjacent lawn - I realized what a poor custodian of irises I am, and knew then the full extent of my neglect.

John White, Minot, ME

I use 5-10-10 fertilizer on all my plants, 1-3 handfulls to a plant, depending on size. This is applied once a season unless the plant is a repeat, long, or continuous bloomer. So far I have only fertilized once a year on the PCIs.

Elyse Hill, Sebastopol, CA

We usually test the soil pH and if it is not too acid, we use an acid fertilizer any time they are looking a little poorly. If it's fairly acid, we have been using 15-15-15 as our average 40" of rain really leaches all the nutrients out of our soil.

Where my seedlings and introductions are planted, we incorporated mushroom compost (which we can't obtain anymore) as there was only about 6 inches of topsoil with yellow clay below that. In other parts of the yard it is a fine silt. In the 25 years we've gardened here we've added an enormous amount of amendments which seem to be devoured yearly.

Paige Woodward, Pacific Rim Native Plant Nursery in Chilliwack, British Columbia

In the garden we don't fertilize in the strict sense. We do dump compost, rotted horse manure, and dead leaves on many garden beds as mulch, and this naturally adds nutrients to the soil. But some PCIs, in the rock garden and elsewhere, are growing in unamended mineral soil. They're doing fine.

In the nursery, we usually start our seeds in a mix of peat and perlite; the seedlings are liquid-fertilized once a week with dilute 20-20-20 plus minors.

Our raised iris beds were built up in layers: sandy compost on the bottom, peat and perlite in the middle, rotted fir bark on top, as a mulch. Every spring we lavishly feed with prilled acid fertilizer and alfalfa pellets, and then top with more rotted fir bark. I haven't wanted to test what happens if I don't replenish the beds this way; the iris rows are cheek by jowl. These beds

drain well in fall, winter and spring, when we receive more rain than PCIs are used to. They also retain moisture during the fairly dry summer, when we don't have enough water to irrigate regularly.

Iris in gallon pots are grown in rotted fir bark topped up in spring with prilled fertilizer and alfalfa pellets. They stand in sawdust, which helps to keep them cool, and to retain moisture.

Doug Murray, Hope, BC

Doug says his PCIs don't need nearly as much fertilizer as his other beardless iris. He gives them a light application of 6-8-6 fertilizer two or three times in the spring. The heavy winter rains in coastal BC can wash nutrients like phosphorus from the soil, so he generally applies fertilizers whose middle number is high.

Pacific iris don't seem to need a lot of fertilizer. They're not heavy feeders like my Japanese and Louisiana iris, which receive generous amounts of 15-15-15 fertilizer.

Most of Doug's garden is on a slope and the soil drains well in winter. Typically he will add leaf compost to a newly dug bed, but not much else.

Joy Flint, Victoria, BC

Joy follows the schedule below for fertilizing her many beardless iris (including her PCIs). She applies no bone meal, lime or mushroom compost (manure), which often contains lime.

February - Apply alfalfa pellets early to take advantage of rain, which will break them down.

April - Side dress with pelletized 14-14-14.

2 weeks later - Apply Miracid spray for 2-3 weeks until buds appear. Stop for bloom period and discontinue at end of July.

Harry Hill, Roberts Creek, BC

Harry uses mostly organic fertilizers with his PCIs and other beardless iris.

A typical organic mix would be 4 parts seed meal, 1 part rock phosphate, _ part kelp meal. Seed meals, such as flax or canola, are naturally acidic, so this mix suits acid-loving iris. Each iris will receive a handful of this, thoroughly worked into the amended soil at the time of planting. It must be dug into the soil to have contact with plant roots to be really effective.

My soil tends to be fairly heavy, so I amend it with lots of sand, well-rotted compost and peat before planting PCIs. I also mix alfalfa pellets into the soil before planting. Alfalfa contains some nitrogen and many trace elements, in addition to a plant growth 'regulator' called triacontanol. It seems to make a difference.

To improve drainage for my PCIs, I dig a fairly deep hole and toss in some gravel before backfilling with the amended soil.

In our maritime climate, PCIs continue growing through the summer, rather than go dormant as they do in California. I water them at least once a week all summer and give them a weak application of Miracid in July, if I remember.

PACIFIC COAST IRIS SOURCES

Aitken's Salmon Creek Garden, 608 NW 119th St., Vancouver, WA 98685. Catalog is $3.00. Phone: (360) 573-4472, fax: (360) 576-7012, website: www.flowerfantasy.net, e-mail: aitken@flowerfantasy.net.

Bay View Gardens, 1201 Bay Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060. Catalog is $2.00. Phone: (831) 423-3656, fax: (831) 423-7610, e-mail: ghiobayview@surfnetUSA.com. Joe Ghio's latest introductions, many other named cultivars, reselect seedlings, and seed of random varieties.

The Iris Gallery, 33450 Little Valley Road, Fort Bragg, CA 95437. Catalog is $3.00. Phone: (707) 964-3907 or 1-800-757-IRIS, fax: (707) 964-3907, website: www.allthingsiris.com, e-mail: irishud@mcn.org.

Beautiful View Iris Garden, their website: www.beautiful-view-iris.com has photos of PCI that you can order online.

Pacific Rim Native Plant Nursery, Paige and Pat Woodward, 44305 Old Orchard Road, Chilliwack, BC V2R 1A9, Canada. Phone: (604) 792-9279, fax: (604) 792-1891, website www.hillkeep.ca, email: plants@hillkeep.ca.. PCIs and other iris species, bearded, beardless and bulbous. Mail order worldwide. No printed catalog. Garden and nursery visits by appointment.

Westonbirt Plants, 9 Westonbirt Close, Worcester, WR5 3RX, England. Phone/Fax: 00 44 (0)1905 350429. Pacific Coast Iris and many other plants. Contact the proprietor, Tony Dickerson, for information regarding shipments to addresses outside the EU. Catalog requests should be accompanied by 2 US ($) Dollar bills.

THE 2001-2 SEED EXCHANGE IN REVIEW: A SEEDY STORY

Debby Cole, Mercer Island, WA

There were forty-seven orders (12 foreign, 35 domestic) for 657 packets of seed, at a total of $483.50. That's the main story, but there are some lesser threads, too. That total includes $15 for a triennial SPCNI membership and about 10 donations of one to fifteen dollars. At least four brand new SPCNI members ordered seed. Seed came from a (recent) record number of nineteen seed donors—thank you, you wonderful people! The customers were almost entirely correct in their mathematics; thank you all, too. And history was made with the receipt of an order from South Africa—doubly so with its payment by credit card.

The other side of the story is that we paid $37.90 for the postage on those foreign orders, and $27.74 for postage on the 35 domestic orders. Granted, the four biggest orders (30-35 packets each) this year were all from foreign members. But I have to apologize to the society; I came to the conclusion that the use of different mailing packets (for about the same price) would have saved us at least $6 in foreign postage, and another $1-2 in domestic postage.

We followed our non-profit organization mandate of helping educate the public, in that we supplied seed to two New Zealand agricultural groups and one U.S. botanical garden.

The most popular items ordered this year were the wild-collected seed of iris species: the *I. fernaldii* (26 packets requested), the "pink paddles" *tenax*, the *purdyii*, the *hartwegii australis*, the deep gold *innominata*, and the *macrosiphon*. The hybrid cultivars whose seed was most requested were PACIFIC RIM (16 packets), CANYON SNOW, SEA GAL, SIMPLY WILD, WILDER THAN EVER, and IDYLWILD. And as in previous years, we had more requests for seed of planned crosses than we could fill.

In the past year we had received comment from several members that they would rather have only two or three seeds of a very popular item than none at all, so we filled your orders accordingly this time. Was this acceptable? Please let us hear from you. We would like to be sure that we act as the majority wish.

To those who ordered item # 1311, nursery grown pale *tenax* seed, we apologize for some misinformation: its collection point (Napavine) is in the southwestern part of Washington state, not California. To those who ordered #1061, seed of SEA GAL, we say please try again, as this year's supply was unusable. And to all who ordered seed, we sincerely regret the delay of nearly a month in getting it in the mail. We overcommitted our time this winter.

Next year? More wild-collected seed, more planned crosses, and more recent cultivars (especially SEA GAL). And please include a good description of bloom color, not just "light" or "dark," and an adequate but not minute definition of the collection point. If you send seed of seedlings, a seedling number and its species background (if known) would be helpful.

See you on the Trek in June?

ATTENTION, HUNTERS & GATHERERS:

Debby Cole, Seed Distribution Chairman
[Reprinted from Spring 2001 issue of the *Almanac*]

SPCNI's Seed Bank has no seed of *I. fernaldii, I. chrysophylla, I. macrosiphon, I. munzii, I purdyi, or I. tenuissima.* We could also wish for some *I. hartwegii* ssp. *columbiana* and ssp. *pinetorum*, some *I. tenax* ssp. *klamathensis*, and some *I. tenuissima* ssp. *purdyformis*. The known locations of these species and subspecies are listed by counties near the back of SPCNI's "Check List of Pacific Coast Iris," readily available from SPCNI. Please consult your references and go forth, see them blooming, mark their location, and come back in two months and collect seed for us all. Do check the plant characteristics and be sure what you're collecting! And take good pictures for the *Almanac*. As to quantity, PCI growing in the wild are far less accessible than those in your back yard; please gather at least a dozen pods. And for those who will be collecting and/or submitting seed from wild iris populations, here's a suggestion from Tim Ross, a recently returned former member: "For each seed lot, it would be helpful to have the state, county, physiographic unit (such as "Gervis Hills" or "Polecat Creek Canyon") and a directional location from the nearest town in the general area (such as "3.2 miles WSW of Hannibal along Willitts Road"). As a (former) field and herbarium botanist, I would consider such information to be the *bare* minimum acceptable for a field collection. Additional info like flower color is a plus." Many of our members are species enthusiasts and will appreciate your care.

From your gardens, we'd especially like to offer seed of named varieties not previously included in our listings. So if you're growing something not on last year's list, save several pods for the Seed Bank.

Also, in support of the quest to breed hardier PCI, we'd like to receive PCI seed (of named varieties, planned crosses, hardy seedlings, or garden-grown species) from growers outside the areas to which PCI are native—i.e., non-west-coast USA, **especially** foreign.

If you're making a deliberate cross to contribute, cover your intended pod parent with a panty-hose "bag" while still in bud to prevent unwanted premature pollination. After it opens and you remove the bag and make the cross, remove the falls of the now-pregnant flower to prevent late contamination, and shake out the "bag" before moving it to the next candidate bud.

Send your contribution to the next Seed Distribution (posted not later than September 15, 2001) to:
Debby Cole, SPCNI Seed Chairman
7417 92nd Place SE
Mercer Island, WA
USA 98040-5807

If your pods aren't ripe by then, please send word of your intentions to the above address, or e-mail to dcthree@juno.com so we can at least include them in the listing. Good hunting!!!

NEW MEMBER LIST (SPRING 99 - PRESENT)

THIS LIST IS FOR MEMBER USE ONLY - NOT FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES.
We apologize in advance if your name was omitted by error.

Name	Address		e-mail
Ablin, Kip	P.O. Box 4084	Sonora, CA 95370	
Agron, Brian	24 Chester Avenue	Fairfax, CA 94936	bsa45acp@saber.net
Allen, Martha	2412 Scott Street	Little Rock, AR 72206	
Armstrong, Patricia	18 Avon Road	Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107	
Austin, Mrs. J.B.	P.O. Box 1097	La Pine, OR 97739	
Bade, Eleanor Jane	2699 Shasta Road	Berkeley, CA 94708	
Barnett, Nancy	1550 Ridge Road	Templeton, CA 93465	gangway@The Grio.net
Barrell, Mary	26 Lindale Street	Morrinsville, N. Island, N. Zeal.	marynclive@actrix.co.nz
Batz, Leslie	2512 Russell Street	Berkeley, CA 94705	lesbatz@mindspring.com
Bennett, Randy	901 Harvey Drive	Brea, CA 92821	Randell.Bennett@boe.ca.gov
Billington, Kathy	1707 Mill Avenue	Bellingham, WA 98225	kathji@aol.com
Brady, Jane	P.O. Box 483	Big Sur, CA 93920	
Brandt, Helen	2482 Autumnwood Ct.	Bellingham, WA 98226	
Brittain, Rozann S.	3018 Hidden Lake	Waldport, OR 97394	rozannb@casco.net

Name	Address		e-mail
Brokaw, Charles & Darlene	940 Oriole Drive	Laguna Beach, CA 92651	dsbrokaw@home.com
Butterfield, Sheila & Art	P.O. Box 427	Willits, CA 95490	
Carter, Brad	706 Downs Avenue	Tampa, FL 33617	bradcarter@aol.com
Conrad, Ralph & La Verne	32377 Leprechaun Lane	Bonsall, CA 92003-3204	
Cook, Darlene	20 Tane Street	New Lynn, Auckland 1007, N. Zealand	
De La Chapelle, Pat	5018 Jones Road	Oak Harbor, WA 98277	
Dickerson, Tony		9 Westonbirt Close St. Peter The Great, Worcester WR5 3RX, England	
Don Boos Design	P.O. Box 1589	Murphys, CA 95247	
Dye, Christine	P.O. Box 35	Boulder Creek, CA 95006	
Faith, M.D. & June M.	210 West Pleasure Ave.	Searcy, AR 72143-5316	mdfaith@bscn.com
Fitton, Dee	131 Beachside Drive	Salt Spring Island, BC, Canada V8K 2L2	
Gist, Tonya	810 N. Stewart Street	Azle, TX 76020	humanbeing32@aol.com
Gray, Peggy	P.O. Box 625	Yachats, OR 97498	
Greenberg, Richard	1106 Pike Street # 301	Seattle, WA 98101	
Grisso, Ryan	609 El Centro Road	El Sobrante, CA 94803	ryangrisso@msn.com
Hefta, Gunder	P.O. Box 640	St. Helena, CA 94574	
Henderson, Don	8 Countryside Cove	Little Rock, AR 72223	
Hill, Elgar	4020 Ridge Circle	Willits, CA 95490	
Hill, Harry	RR22, 1533 Park Ave.	Roberts Creek, BC VON 2W2 Canada	harryh@dccnet.com
Hublau, Willy		Steenweg op Borgloon 37 A 3830 Wellen, Belgium	
Huntley, Mrs. Andre	Dragon Mount Iris Nursery, P.O. Box 258	Underberg, Natal, S. Africa	banavie@africa.com
Jacques, Patricia N.	967 Spindle Hill Rd.	Wolcott, CT 06716-1237	
Jeffers, Dan		Lisboa 27, Apdo. Postal 6-641 06600 Mexico DF, Mexico	
Jones, John & Joanne Prass-	35572 Linda Drive	Fremont, CA 94536-1523	jijones@usjoneses.com
Jones, Rev. Fr. Philip	49 Sutton Road	Erdington, Birmingham B23 6QJ England	
Kadarauch, Anne	12 Dolores Way	Orinda, CA 94563	
Kellar, Marvin	75630 Meserve Road	Rainier, OR 97048	
Knipe, Jeff	22566 Center Street	Hayward, CA 94541	
Lantz, Darlene	2116 N. Castle Way	Brier, WA 98036	
Locke, Ron	1001 Fifth Ave. SW	Olympia, WA 98502	rlocke@hotmail.com
Louchios, Pia R.	1119 Masterpiece Dr.	Oceanside, CA 92057-6804	
Mandeville, Sue	743 Crest Lane	Springfield, OR 97477	sueman@darkwing.uoregon.edu
McGrew, Joanne	318 Crestview Drive	Ukiah, CA 95482-8050	
Mossman, Jim	11067 Arness Road	Kingston, WA 98346	boonebrier@earthlink.net
Neese, Elizabeth	2180 La Mirada Drive	Richmond, CA 94803	
Nies, Nancy & Gipe, Paul	606 Hillcrest Drive	Bakersfield, CA 93305	pgipe@igc.org
O'Brien, Bart	466 N. Campus Ave.	Upland, CA 91786	
Oppenheimer, Edw. & Valerie	10345 Strathmore Dr.	Los Angeles, CA 90024	Eaopp@UCLA.edu
Parks, Joen	48521 282nd Ave. SE	Enumclaw, WA 98002	
Peek, Loice	7419 Terry Lynn Dr.	Benton, AR 72015	
Prothero, Joyce	281 Cudmore Road	Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 2J7, Canada	jprothero@saltspring.com
Raitz, Marian	8830 Points Drive	Bellevue,WA 98004	mcraitz@onemain.com
Ross, Tim & Annette	294 Gish Road	Onalaska, WA 98570-9510	
Sayce, Kathleen	P.O. Box 91	Nahcotta, WA 98637	kas@sbpac.com
Schilling, Jessie	P.O. Box 620673	Woodside, CA 94062	grew@pacbell.net
Schowalter, Elly	608 Plateau Drive	Kensington, CA 94708	
Sundquist Nursery, Nils Sundquist	P.O. Box 2451	Poulsbo, WA 98370	sq@sqnursery.com
Sylva, Marlene L.	2740 Laurel Street	Napa, CA 94558-5772	
Thorns, James E.	500 W. 36th Street	Hays, KS 67601-1508	
Thrun, Nina	901 South Coit Rd # 218	Richardson, TX 75080	
Totoonchie, Debora	13128 Owl Creek Road	Nevada City, CA 95959	totoo@jps.net
Walker, Kenneth	1391 Santa Clara Ave.	Concord, CA 94518	kenww@pacbell.net
Walkup, Ken	257 Iradell Road	Ithaca, NY 14850	

Name	Address		e-mail
Weeth, Lois W.	P.O. Box 217	Bodega Bay, CA 94923	lois@weeth.com
Wickham, John	1358 Eagle Vista Dr.	Los Angeles, Ca 90041	
Williams, Anne W.	1801 Crestmont Court	Glendale, CA 91208-2619	
Winte, Gareth	64 Michael Street	Mastelton, New Zealand	
Wisniewski	6361 Hannegan Road	Lynden, WA 98264	
Wright, Mrs. T.E.	P.O. Box 68	Cookville, TX 75558	sumhill@1starnet.com
Zagory, Ellen	759 North Campus Way	Davis, CA 95616	emzagory@ucdavis.edu

SPCNI TREASURER'S REPORT

1/1/01 Through 12/31/01

INCOME	
Back Almanacs	40
Book Sales	34
Donations and Memorials	339
Dues	1,217
Interest Earned	171
Seed Exchange	513
Slide Rentals	7.50
T-shirt Sales	18
TOTAL INCOME	$2,340
EXPENSES	
Almanac	1,736
Bank Charges	42
Misc. Expense	55
Mitchell Medal	19
Secretary/Treasurer	48
Seed Exchange	63
Slide Program	5
Taxes	20
Web Page	190
TOTAL EXPENSES	$1,981
TOTAL INCOME/EXPENSES	$359
BALANCE SHEET	
Assets	
Cash and Bank Accounts	
CD Account	4,487
Checking	1,275
TOTAL CASH & BANK ACCOUNTS	$5,762

MONTEREY BAY IRIS SOCIETY'S SPRING SHOW

Garry Knipe, Cupertino, CA

April is the month for Iris shows in Northern California and for Pacific Coast Iris lovers in the area, the Monterey Bay Iris Society's Spring Show is the event of the year.

Due to the whims of weather, this year's Tall Bearded bloom was running late and had barely started up in time for the show on April 20th. Fortunately, the Pacificas were out in full glory and stole the show.

Joe Ghio, Lois Belardi, and other members brought in buckets full of their little beauties. At show time the linen covered tables dedicated to Pacificas held 77 named varieties, 40 seedlings, 6 collections, and one species.

The long tables full of named Pacificas were gorgeous showing a wide spectrum of colors, shapes, and sizes. It was fun to slowly walk around each table, recognizing many old and new varieties that I grow and taking photos of those I would like to find. From the many entries, the Judges picked Joe's velvety blue-black DEEP BLUE SEA as the "Best Pacific Coast Iris" as well as the "Best Specimen of Show".

The collections table was particularly stunning. The bold and bright colors of SEA GAL (blue/violet) and STAR OF EVENING (purple/white) were complemented perfectly by the softer quieter colors of ENGLISH ROSE (muted rose/pink), DIFFERENT STROKES (apricot), and others. Elena Laborde's arrangement of three perfect SEA GAL stalks won top honors at this table.

Most exciting of all was a glimpse into the future at the seedling tables. Hybridizers Lois Belardi, Elena Laborde, Steve Taniguchi, and Garry Knipe all gave a sampling of their beautiful work. But it was Joe Ghio who really teased us with a bewildering array of new colors and patterns. Would that dark blue striped beauty be available in his catalog next year? Or maybe that intricately patterned brown and gold one? But best of all was the appearance of a color I had never seen before in Pacificas. RED! Not brick red or purplish red, but there, on a big velvety almost black flower, surrounding a small pinkish white signal, sat a glowing red band! Not quite fire engine red, a little darker and richer. Ruby maybe, but brighter and clearer. Looking almost as if someone had taken bright red lipstick and drawn a 1/3 inch band around the signal. WOW! Impressive! Joe has opened the door to red and I just can't wait to see what develops out of this line under the guiding hand of the master.

LETTERS

John White, Minot, ME

My PCIs did very well last summer despite our drought - in fact, I think they liked it. We have had a warm winter so far with about 18" snow cover right now [mid-February].

I have just started five flats of PCI seed in the cold room 55° +/- 5° on the 12th and 13th. They will get a 30 day cold treatment and then I will move them into a warm room.

I expect a lot of bloom on the PCIs this summer. They bloom right along with the TBs here.

Steve Taniguchi, Santa Clara, CA

Some of the newer PCIs that bloomed well for me this year are BIG SMILE with its perfectly formed yellow flowers, DEEP MAGIC which has deep velvety purple flowers, EYES HAVE IT a lavender with a purple signal and veins, the nicely formed FACE VALUE which is smoky pink with a glowing purple signal, and the beautiful blue PACIFIC MISS. PACIFIC RIM, SEA ADMIRAL, and SIERRA TAPESTRY were first year plants for me and they produced very nice flowers.

I went to three iris shows this year, and my favorites (that weren't mentioned previously) were (in no particular order) RASPBERRY DAZZLER, ENGLISH ROSE, STAR OF EVENING, STAR OF WONDER, DEEP BLUE SEA, DRIP DROP, MANTRA, and OXYMORON. Of the PCI seedlings, I liked Lois Belardi's deep dark velvety purple DMM-11, Garry Knipe's pale bluish XPO228B-5, and Joe Ghio's blue-violet CP-60.

THE LAST WORD

From the Editor

1) (I messed this up in the last issue, here's my second attempt.) The third character in your editor's e-mail address (ST1732@aol.com) is a one, not an "L". When you send e-mail to me for the first time, please include SPCNI in the subject line.

2) Dr. Lee Lenz will be a special guest at the *I. hartwegii australis* mini-trek. Don't miss this opportunity to meet Dr. Lenz and to see *I. hartwegii australis.*

3) The Registrations and Introductions for 2000 are attached at the end of the *Almanac*. The 2001 Registrations and Introductions will be in the Fall issue space permitting.

COLOR PAGE

Top Left:	Garry Knipe seedling XPO228B-5	**Top Right:**	Lois Belardi seedling
Middle Left:	Lois Belardi seedling	**Middle Right:**	BUBBLE GUM (Joseph Ghio, R. 2001)
Bottom Left:	DOT THE EYES (Joseph Ghio, R. 2002)	**Bottom Right:**	STAR OF WONDER (Joseph Ghio, R. 2002)

All photos by S. Taniguchi