

Society for Pacific Coast Native Irises

ALMANAC



www.pacificcoastiris.org Volume 40. No.1 Fall 2011



Brian Agron

(bottom photo in a field of wild iris) has enjoyed the iris of Marin County, California - complex hybrids derived from *I. macrosiphon*, *I. fernaldii* and *I. douglasiana* - for more than thirty years.

Read all about his love affair with Marin iris on page 18 of this issue.



Cover photo: *Iris tenax* on Nicolai Mountain, OR. Photo: Kathleen Sayce

Almanac of the Society for Pacific Coast Native Irises

Volume XXXX, Number 1, Fall 2011

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	\$15.00	\$18.00
Triennial, paper	\$40.00	\$48.00
Annual, digital	\$7.00	\$7.00
Triennial, digital	\$19.00	\$19.00

Lengthier memberships are no longer available.

Please send membership fees to the SPCNI Treasurer.

Use Paypal to join SPCNI online at <http://pacificcoastiris.org/JoinOnline.htm>, international currencies accepted

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM THE SECRETARY/TREASURER ABOUT DUES NOTICES

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>.

Tom Gormley - AIS Membership Secretary, P.O. Box 177, DeLeon Springs, FL 32130.

Phone and fax: 386-277-2057 E-mail: aismemsec@irises.org

MEMBERSHIP RATES, AIS

	US	Overseas
Annual, single	\$25.00	\$30.00
Annual, dual	\$30.00	\$35.00
Triennial, single	\$60.00	\$65.00
Triennial, dual	\$75.00	\$80.00
Life, single	\$450.00	NA
Life, dual	\$545.00	NA

PLEASE ADVISE SPCNI & AIS OF ANY CHANGE OF ADDRESS

ALMANAC DEADLINES: March 15 and September 15.

The opinions expressed in articles and letters appearing in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views or beliefs of the SPCNI. Remarks about specific irises, companies, products and services shall not be considered endorsements by the SPCNI.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President, Bob Sussman

12142 Alison Drive, Santa Rosa Valley, CA 93012
(805) 523-8604 e-mail: matilija@gte.net

First Vice President, Michael Monninger

4861 Brookhill Terrace, Riverside, CA 92509
(909) 361-3177 e-mail: regomdm@yahoo.com

Second Vice President, Position open

Immediate Past President, Debby Cole

7417 92nd Place SE, Mercer Island, WA 98040
(206) 232-7745 e-mail: dcthree@juno.com

Secretary-Treasurer, Kathleen Sayce

PO Box 91, Nahcotta, WA 98637
(360) 665-5292 e-mail: ksayce@willapabay.org

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Editor, Gareth Winter

64 Michael Street, Masterton, New Zealand 5810
(00646) 377-5373 e-mail: wintergareth53@gmail.com

Historian/Archivist, Richard Richards

5885 Cowles Mt. Blvd. La Mesa CA 91942
(619) 464-2180 e-mail: mongo2u@cox.net

Recorder, Kenneth Walker

1391 Santa Clara Ave., Concord, CA 94518
(925) 825-2350 e-mail: kenww001@astound.net

Seed Distribution, Emma Elliott

24000 S Schuebel School Rd Beaver Creek, Oregon 97004
(503) 632-2338 e-mail: seedex@pacificcoastiris.org

Trek Chairman, Position open

Web Manager, Steve Ayala

929 Pepperwood Lane, Petaluma CA 94952
(707) 778-6025 e-mail: stevayla@sonic.net

ALMANAC REPRESENTATIVES

Canada, Joyce Prothero

281 Cudmore Heights, Salt Spring Island
British Columbia V8K 2J7 Canada
(250) 537-9215 e-mail: jprothero@saltspring.com

Washington, David A. Pettenski

3408 218th St. SE, Bothell, WA 98021
(425) 486-7705 e-mail: pettenski@hotmail.com

Oregon, Kenneth Hixson

88316 Thienes Lane, Springfield, OR 97478
(503) 747-4506 e-mail: kennethhixson@gmail.com

Northern California, Position open

Southern California, Michael Monninger

(see above contact information)

Central U.S., Louise Carson

5037 NW 24th Place, Oklahoma City, OK 73127
(405) 947-1710 e-mail: nloucar@earthlink.net

Eastern U.S., David Schmieder

566 Old Road to NAC, Concord, MA 01742
(978) 369-3383 e-mail: ornacirises@verizon.net

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

USERS GROUP ON YAHOO:

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.

Welcome to new members

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Kathy Braaten
10288 Kenwood Drive
Grass Valley, CA 95949
530-477-2811
catbrat@cebridge.net

Arnold Chaney
30544 Terrace View Lane
Valley Center, CA 92082-5255
A2chaney@aol.com

David Cohrs
2621 NE Tillamook Street
Portland, OR 97212
503-281-8753
joyacohrs@msn.com

Maxwell Davis
52 Lee Crescent, Edgbaston
Birmingham, West Midlands
B15 2BJ
maxdavis@blueyonder.co.uk

Keith Henrie
14201 SE Wilsonville Road
Wilsonville, OR 97070
503-682-9139

Mark Lazzaro
15 Coastal Court
Almeny NSW 2546
Australia
Rooboy24@gmail.com

Joyce Miller
901 SE 208th Avenue
Gresham, OR 97030
Miller7398@comcast.net

Mary Morrison
1111 NE 37th Avenue
Portland, OR 97232
mary@mariamorrison.org

Robyn Powell
14 Longmynd Drive
Katikati, Bay of Plenty 3129
New Zealand
bobnrob@vodafone.net.nz

Philip W. Remare
PO Box 18154
Salem, OR 97305
503-391-9241
(e-mail address withheld by request)

Mary Rose
5477 Campbell Lake Road
Anacortes, WA 98221
Rosem5477@gmail.com

Raymond Schlag
73 Kiernan Road
Campbell Hall, NY 10916
Bfd1@frontier.net

Doug Wilson
1858 Michigan City Lane NW
Salem, OR 97304
Dwilson-ogconcollection@comcast.net

Welcome to new members	3
From the Editor's desk	3
President's Message	4
The taxonomic relationships of Pacific Coast Iris - Carol Wilson	5
Pacific Coast iris in the AIS Iris Encyclopedia Katheen Sayce	9
Seed Exchange Emma Elliott	10
A reflection on the iris of Marin County, California Brian Agron	18
Taxonomic note on Marin iris Kathleen Sayce	19
PCIs in Victoria Debby Cole Mary Barrell Kathleen Sayce	19 21 22
Special SPCNI trip in April	23
SPCNI on Facebook and Yahoo Kathleen Sayce	23

Editor's note

There's not much room for anything from me this issue! We have a great piece from Carol Wilson about the evolution of PCIs, an inspiring article from Brian Agron about the irises of Marin County, and reports from the AIS conference, held in PCI country this time around. All this and an expanded seed exchange - what more could you ask for?



Friends and Fellow members

Every year lots of changes take place and this year is no different. Debby Cole has stepped down from her role as President after several years and I am taking her place. Fortunately for us (and for me in particular) she is still an active participant on our Board and remains a great resource to our organization.

Kathleen Sayce, our Treasurer has been working with Robert Pries and the American Iris Society (AIS) to add many pictures and lots of information regarding Pacific Coast Irises to their on-line database, the Iris Encyclopedia.

We are also rewriting the SPCNI website. This is no small effort – in fact it's a really big effort that our webmaster Steve Ayala has undertaken. We'll be adding lots of everything including extra pictures, scientific botanical information and more “hot links” to other sources as well as sections where seeds and other Pacific Coast Iris related items can be purchased online.

Emma Elliott, the co-owner of Wild Ginger Farm, is our new Seed Exchange Chairperson. As a result of her work and some help from Kathleen you can now buy seeds from the website, with the payment processed by PayPal. What a plus!

We also have planned a “Mini Trek” for the Sunday following this April's AIS Convention in Ontario, California. The trek will go via bus to the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden to look at the Pacific Coast Iris gardens, then on to Matilija Nursery for an assortment of new hybrids. The registration form is available online at www.region15ais.org/convention , and you can sign up for as much or as little on the form as you want.



If you're at all interested in Pacific Coast Irises and can stay an extra day this is better than Disneyland and you don't want to miss it. Debby Cole is the one to thank for setting this up with additional help from the “locals” Mike Monninger and Richard Richards.

Other stuff, other stuff, other stuff oh, yes we're now on Facebook , just like the kids, so if you are a member of Facebook to keep in touch with your family and friends, link with Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris. It's a great place to comment, question, and add things as well.

With all the administrative changes, Gareth has somehow put out another work of art. It is in no way an easy task, given all the cats he has to herd to get this Almanac put together – or maybe just one.

Best wishes and happy gardening

Bob

The taxonomic relationships of Pacific Coast Iris

Carol A. Wilson, April 2011.

Background

Iris is a genus of almost 300 species found in temperate climates of the Northern Hemisphere. Mathew (1981) used three categories when he produced a classification for the genus: subgenus, section, and series. The group of taxa long considered the Pacific Coast irises were included in the series *Californicae*. The series *Californicae* is in subgenus *Limniris* section *Limniris*. *Iris* species were assigned to section *Limniris* if they had sepals (falls) that lacked beards or crests and rhizomes, which are characters of Pacific Coast irises.

All irises in series *Californicae* have upright narrow leaves that arise as a fan, and slender stems that usually have one to three flowers. An exception is *Iris douglasiana* that produces a branched inflorescence and usually has more than three flowers. The flowering stem can have leaves along its length that resemble the basal leaves or can have small bract-like leaves. Flower color for most species is commonly either violet-purple or pale to medium yellow. *Iris purdyi* has some variation in flower color but typically flowers are rose-colored, while *Iris munzii* flowers are bluish. Flower color can vary within some populations, but most variation is found between populations or species. The flower colors, number of flowers, and leaf characteristics of the Pacific Coast irises are not unique to this group of *Iris*. In spite of the shared similarity with other irises, usually these relatively delicate species can be easily identified as belonging to the Pacific Coast group.

The Pacific Coast irises have been considered a related group of species since Dyke's (1913) synthesis of the genus *Iris*. This is because these

species share several characteristics that are uncommon or unknown among the other irises native to North America. They have a chromosome number of $X = 20$, slender rhizomes, and tough fibrous leaves, produce fertile offspring when crossed, and are restricted to the Pacific Coast region, from Santa Barbara and the San Bernardino Mountains of California north to about Olympia, Washington. The most recent taxonomic revision of *Iris* series *Californicae* (Lenz 1958) recognized eleven species and five subspecies.

All except two of the Pacific Coast irises are found in foothills and mountains. They occur in several north-south oriented mountains including the Coast and western portion of the Cascade Ranges of Oregon and Washington, and the Coast Ranges and Sierras of California. The transverse mountains where they occur include the Klamath Range of southern Oregon and northern California, and the San Gabriel and San Bernardino Mountains of southern California. One species, *Iris douglasiana*, is not found at moderate to high elevations in the region but instead is restricted to a narrow band of coastal headlands from southern Oregon to southern California, and another species, *I. purdyi*, is found in the coastal redwood forests of northern California.

I have been studying species of Pacific Coast irises since my M.S. thesis in the mid 1980s when I studied several populations in southwestern Oregon and northwestern California that represented the species *I. douglasiana*, *I. innominata*, and *I. thompsonii*. In the early 1990s I returned to graduate school and investigated relationships among all of the Pacific Coast irises for my Ph.D. dissertation. As a faculty member and researcher I have continued my studies on *Iris*, investigating species from across the Northern Hemisphere that represent the diversity present within the entire genus.

Within this broader context I continue to research relationships among the Pacific Coast irises and their relationships to other *Iris* groups. In the study summarized here I present research that focuses on the relationships

among the Pacific Coast irises and their relationships to other groups within the genus, particularly other series recognized in subgenus *Limniris* section *Limniris*.

Methods

The data analyzed and summarized is based on sequences from chloroplast DNA using three regions, the *trnK* intron, the *matK* gene and the *trnL-F* region (a length of DNA that contains a short portion of the *trnL* gene and an adjacent intron). The DNA analyzed was extracted from fresh leaf material of each of the 70 species included in the study. Experiments targeted and amplified each of the three sequence regions for each of the species of *Iris* included in the study. The targeted amplification of the DNA regions resulted in many copies that could then be analyzed for nucleotide content. The resulting data matrix contained 3,945 nucleotide bases of which 29% were variable. The data matrix was analyzed using two methodologies, a maximum-likelihood method that searched for the most likely branching pattern to explain the nucleotide diversity across the species, and a Bayesian analysis that used Monte Carlo methods that repeatedly randomly sampled the patterns of distribution of nucleotides across the species and determined the repeating patterns revealed. These methods summarized the most probable patterns of nucleotide evolution across the species studied and presented the results as a bifurcating network that was rooted by comparison of nucleotides from a distantly related species. The rooted network produced is termed a phylogenetic tree because it is based on the estimated evolutionary history of the species studied. The phylogenetic tree presented is based on a study published in *Systematic Botany* (Wilson 2009).

Results and Conclusions

The figure below summarizes the relationships of the Pacific Coast irises (series *Californicae*) and other groups in *Iris*. The numbers above branches are the statistical support (0.8 -1.0) based on the Bayesian analyses. The * is placed on the tree at the node leading to the Pacific Coast irises. The node leading to each group of irises is assumed to be the ancestor for

that group. The Pacific Coast irises developed from a single branch on the tree indicating that they evolved from a single ancestor. Based on the chloroplast data used the probability that they form a single group is 1.0. This result agrees with the results from my Ph.D. dissertation, which were based on a data matrix of about 700 nucleotides from the nuclear genome.

The Pacific Coast irises have a sister group relationship with species from the series *Sibiricae* meaning that the two series share a common ancestor. This relationship is supported by the shared chromosome number of X = 20 in the group of *Sibiricae* that include *I. bulleyana*, *I. chrysographes*, *I. delavayi*, *I. forrestii*, *I. wilsonii* and *I. clarkei*. These species can also be crossed with the Pacific Coast irises to form fertile seed. The other species in series *Sibiricae*, *I. henryi*, *I. sanguinea*, and *I. typhifolia*, have a chromosome number of X = 14.

Several interesting hypotheses can be drawn from the relationships revealed by this study. One is that this data supports a hypothesis that the diversification of chromosome numbers in *Sibiricae* occurred only once leading to the X = 14 chromosome and X = 20 chromosome groups. Because X=20 chromosomes occur in both the Pacific Coast and series *Sibiricae* irises it is likely that their shared ancestor too had a chromosome number of X = 20 and that the X = 14 chromosome number is derived.

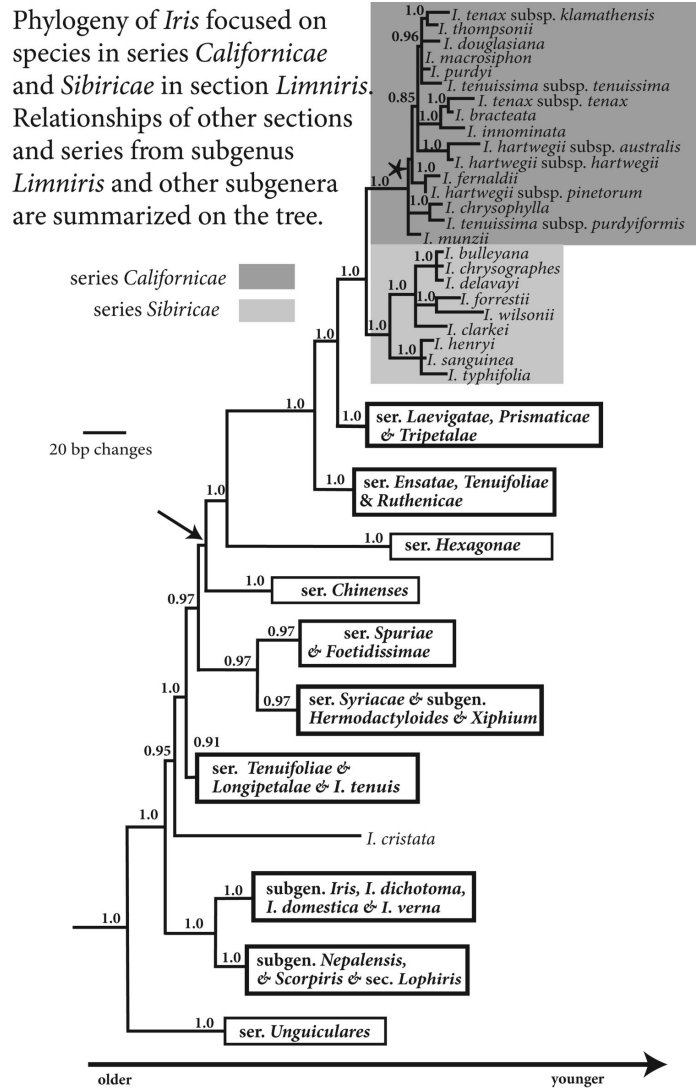
A second interesting hypothesis is that the ancestor to the Pacific Coast irises and the series *Sibiricae* species is likely either to have occurred in North America and eastern Asia or to have lived in Asia. If we follow the family tree back one more step we have an ancestor that gave rise to even more species distributed in both Asia and North America. This would be the ancestor at the node leading to the Pacific Coast irises/*Sibiricae* group and the group that is comprised of species from the series *Laevigatae*, *Prismaticae* and *Tripetalae*. The single species in the series *Prismaticae* is currently restricted to North America while species in series *Laevigatae* are from both North America and Asia. In series *Tripetalae* one species is from North America (*I. tridentata*) while the other is distributed in Asia and North America (*I. setosa*). It is possible that the ancestor to all of these species was initially in North America and dispersed to Asia at least twice, but overall this hypothesis is not as likely because the greatest number of

Iris species living today is on the Eurasian continent.

A final hypothesis that I want to suggest is the age of the Pacific Coast irises in relation to other groups in the genus. Goldblatt et al. (2008) estimated the origin of the genus at about 45 million years ago but we do not have any evidence about rates of evolution within the genus. All that can be stated about the age of the Pacific Coast irises is that they probably arose more recently than 45 million years ago. We can however, talk about the relative ages of the lineages. The arrow going from left to right below the tree can be used to hypothesize relative ages of the ancestors and their decedents. If a line is drawn vertically from the node (at *) leading to the Pacific Coast irises to the bottom of the page it passes through the boxes and triangles representing the other Iris groups to the right of the nodes where we would assign their ancestors. Although rates of evolution are not necessarily even throughout the tree, it is a reasonable hypothesis that the Pacific Coast irises are young relative to the other major groups shown. It is likely that they are younger than the series *Sibiricae*, further supporting the hypothesis that their shared ancestor came from an Asian origin.

The probable relatively young age of the Pacific Coast irises is interesting, and also a reason why relationships among species are not easily determined. My research has made significant progress in sorting out relationships within the group but statistical significance is lacking for many of these relationships. In general nucleotides are assumed to change over time in a random manner and eventually enough change accumulates to indicate with confidence all of the ancestor-descendent relationships. Finding this accumulated change is one of the goals of my continued research.

I have a couple of final notes about the research presented. One is the arrow shown on the phylogenetic tree. This branch does not have statistical support, as its value is less than 0.8. The best fit of the data is the placement shown for the series *Chinenses*, but with the data used I cannot with confidence tell how the series *Chinenses* is related to other groups of *Iris*. Also, the relationships shown are hypotheses and may change with additional data.



Phylogenetic trees are particularly sensitive to the addition of new species, especially species that are quite different from those already included in studies.

Literature Cited

- Dykes, W. R. 1913. *The genus Iris*. New York: Dover Publications, Inc.
- Goldblatt, P., A. Rodriguez, M. P. Powell, T. J. Davies, J. C. Manning, M. van der Bank, and V. Savolainen. 2008. Iridaceae "Out of Australasia"? Phylogeny, biogeography, and divergence time based on plastid DNA sequences. *Systematic Botany* 33: 495--508.
- Lenz, L. W. 1958. A revision of the Pacific Coast irises. *Aliso* 4: 1-72.
- Mathew, B. 1989. *The Iris*. London: Batsford Ltd.
- Wilson, C. A. 2009. Phylogenetic relationships among the recognized series in *Iris* section *Limniris*. *Systematic Botany* 34: 277-284.

Glossary of Genetic Terms and Phrases

Kathleen Sayce
with comments from Debby Cole, Jean Witt and others

Bayesian analysis: a probability method named after Rev. Thomas Bayes (1702-1761) for methods based on the degree of belief interpretation of probability, also called conditional probability. This enables scientists to evaluate the probability of a hypothesis being correct despite being based on uncertain original observations. This was originally developed by Bayes to quantify probable outcomes in gambling, and is now widely used in insurance, business, physics, and many other areas to estimate specific probabilities based on general observations.

Chromosome: Long structural unit (a polymer chain) composed of many genes, all written in a code composed of thousands of nucleotide units (basic DNA structural units), and which is located in a cell's nucleus. Every species has a typical number of chromosomes. Humans have 23 chromosomes in reproductive cells, and double this in all other cells ($n = 23$, $2n = 46$); Pacific irises have 20 chromosomes in reproductive cells, and double that number in all other cells ($n = 20$, $2n = 40$). 'n' is the number of chromosomes that come from each parent, or the haploid number; $2n$ is the full complement of chromosomes in an organism, or the diploid number. These are also called x and $2x$.

Code: Generally has two meanings, as a noun or a verb.

1. As a noun, refers to the specific order of DNA, RNA or amino acids (AA). These may be genes in a chromosome, portions of a gene, one of several forms of RNA, or amino acids in a protein, thus "the code."

2. As a verb, refers to the action of specifying or defining a sequence of DNA, RNA or AA, thus "to code."

DNA: Deoxyribonucleic acid, whose purpose is long-term storage of genetic information within a nucleus. DNA comes in four forms, and composes double-sided chains that are twisted into spirals, hence the term 'double helix' for the shape. These long polymer chains of thousands of individual DNA molecules make up genes, which link together into even larger units, called chromosomes.



Iris hartwegii subsp. *pinetorum* near Greenville, California
(bract-like leaf at arrow).

Gene: A functional unit of heredity. Each chromosome holds many genes. Each gene is formed of a stretch of DNA nucleotide bases that code (specify or define) proteins or RNA chains.

Hypothesis: A proposed explanation for a phenomenon (an observation), from Greek, to suppose.

Intron: Short for "intragenic region" a functional DNA sequence within a gene that codes (defines or specifies the sequence) RNA or AA to make active proteins and several kinds of RNA. 'Intron' may refer to either the DNA sequence in the chromosome in the nucleus, or the RNA transcripts that are active in the cell. These DNA and RNA sequences specify the exact shape and composition of each protein needed for cells to function.

Monte Carlo methods: a class of computational algorithms that rely on repeated random sampling (think of throwing dice 1000s of times to see what patterns emerge) to compute the probability of certain results. Monte Carlo methods are used to model phenomena (observations) that have significant uncertainty about inputs, such as business risk, and genetics.

Nucleotide base: The smallest structural units of DNA within each gene on each chromosome in the nucleus, and of RNA, composed of a nucleic amino acid, a sugar and phosphate groups. There are five nucleotide bases.

Phylogenetics: The study of evolutionary relatedness among groups of organisms (e.g. species, or populations). Construction of a phylogenetic tree is part of this process, as is in this paper.

RNA: Ribonucleic acid, whose purpose is to carry nucleic information out of the nucleus to active sites in the cell, and to code (specify or define) proteins needed for cellular function. There are several forms of RNA, including transcription, messenger and regulatory RNA. RNA functions as messenger or regulator molecules, and is active between DNA strands in the nucleus and proteins in the cell. RNA is formed of single sided chains, twisted into a simple spiral, or single helix.

‘Targeted and amplified’: describes the process of selecting (cutting out) and then multiplying (making many copies of) specific sections of genes, which can then be used for analysis.

For more on plant genetics and plant cellular functions, read *Botany For Gardeners*, by Brian Capon. This is a good general reference, widely available in paperback

Updates to the SPCNI website

Kathleen Sayce

Change is coming to our website, located at <http://www.pacificcoastiris.org/>. Webmaster Steve Ayala is working on a new edition, which should go live in late winter 2012.

Meanwhile, our new Seed Exchange Chairman Emma Elliott is taking the seed exchange digital, with online ordering and Pay Pal payment capacity. She plans to add small thumbnail photos of pod parents, and with the expansion of PCI information on the Iris Encyclopedia, will pare down descriptions accordingly. This should make ordering seeds quicker, simpler and easier to track.

This change will be followed by the addition of online sales in our own shopping area, and a secure,

members-only area where SPCNI members can download digital Almanacs and other members-only information. In coming seasons, when the digital Almanac issues are ready, digital members will get an email notice of availability, and will be able to download their copies here instead of through their e-mail servers.

So sit tight, and keep checking the SPCNI website. From the user side, one day soon it will have a new look, but the address will stay the same.

While we are in development, now is the time to tell us what you would like to see on the new site. There's still time to put in your two bits, or even a dollar's worth of opinion. Contact Steve Ayala or any of the officers. We promise to consider all ideas.

Pacific Coast Iris in the AIS Iris Encyclopedia

Kathleen Sayce

After the conference, and some detail intensive conversations with Andi Rivarola and Bob Pries, I spent time posting photos to the new Iris Encyclopedia from our photo CD. As I loaded more than 400 photos, I found that while new registered hybrids were listed, older ones were not. This expanded into adding historic registered PCI names and descriptions from our Checklist, and then links to the Mitchell Award and Mitchell Medal winners from the main descriptions. It's now become the place I check names first, because all the photos I can find for each named variety are here, and as we all know, a picture is worth a thousand words.

Find the Iris Encyclopedia through the AIS website (<http://wiki.irises.org/>) or directly at <http://wiki.irises.org/bin/view>. You can also google 'Iris Encyclopedia' and get to it. Pacific Coast Iris are found in two places on the Iris Encyclopedia. Registered hybrids are in the Pacific Coast Natives button, or at <http://wiki.irises.org/bin/view/Pcn/WebHome>. All Iris species are listed by name at Species, or at <http://wiki.irises.org/bin/view/Spec/WebHome>.

The Iris Encyclopedia has photos for many new varieties, but could use photos of older varieties. If you have good photos of older registered hybrids, or species, contact Kathleen Sayce, SPCNI Secretary/CFO, about getting your photos scanned and posted to the Iris Encyclopedia. This encyclopedia now sees about 100,000 visitors per month, and is rapidly becoming the place to check for details on species and hybrids.

Welcome to the 2011-2012 Seed Exchange

There are several changes in how this year's SE works, so please read the following information carefully.

Pricing remains the same:

All seed packets are still the low price of \$1.00
Postage and handling for domestic orders is \$3.00
Postage and handling for international orders is \$5.00
If you buy 20 packets for a domestic order you pay \$23
If it's an international order you pay \$25

Two Easy Ways To Place Your Order:

1. Online - We are pleased to announce that the SPCNI Seed Exchange is scheduled to be online this November! Members will be able to go to our website to view the seed list, photos of pod parents, place an order online and pay with Paypal (international currencies accepted). We hope you will make use of this great new resource. The link is
<http://pacificcoastiris.org/seedex/Welcome2011.html>

2. By Mail - You can still place your order by mail and pay with a check. Be sure to include the following information:

- Item number, name, and number of packets per type. Having both the item number and name reduces confusion in case I can't read one or the other.
- Your shipping address
- A check made out to SPCNI. (Credit card payment is available only through Paypal this year so please don't send me your credit card number)
- Please include an email address. 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, try to give me the email of one of your friends who does.
- Optional: You can also send me a list of substitutions in case I run out of something. This happens a lot. When this happens, I will make substitutions from your list, give you more of other items you've ordered or substitute with something "close".

Order Deadline:

The deadline to submit your order is January 15th. Orders will be filled in the order they are received, so get your order in early. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions about your order or if your order does not arrive by March 1st for domestic orders and March 15th for international orders.

How To Read the Listings:

- The first column is the listing number and it now includes the year it is being offered. For example, 110.11 means listing # 110 from the 2011 seed exchange list.
- In the second column you'll see the letters L or M or S. This refers to the quantity of seeds that we have available. In an effort to share each donation with as many people as possible, the number of seeds in a packet will be based on the quantity available. You'll get the most seeds per packet in an L listing and the fewest seeds in an S listing.
- The third column includes the description and name of the pod parent or the cross that produced the pod parent. Names within parentheses identify the parentage of a single parent. All seeds are open pollinated unless otherwise noted.
- At the end of the third column, you will find the initials of the seed donor along with the year the seeds were submitted, if known.

A BIG thank-you to all who donated seeds! Your help makes the SPCNI Seed Exchange possible.

Kathy Braaten (KB) - Grass Valley, CA
Debby Cole (DC) - Mercer Island, WA
Emma Elliott (EE) - Beavercreek, OR
Jack Finney (JF) - Roseburg, OR
Jay & Terri Hudson (JTH) - Fort Bragg, CA
Garry Knipe (GK) - Cupertino, CA
Adele and Lewis Lawyer (ALL)
Richard Richards (RR) - La Mesa, CA
Tim Ross (TR) - Onalaska, WA
Kathleen Sayce (KS) - Nahcotta, WA
Bob Sussman (BS) - Moorpark, CA
Steve Taniguchi (ST) - Santa Clara, CA
Diane Whitehead (DW) - Victoria, BC
Jean Witt (JW) - Des Moines, WA

I would like to extend a special thank you to Bob Sussman, current SPCNI President and the former Seed Chair, who patiently walked me through the process of putting this year's seed exchange together. I promise not to have so many questions next year!

Happy growing,

Emma Elliot
Seed Exchange Chair

- 110.11 S **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 /KS '11
- 120.11 S **Ami Royale** Same as above /'10
- 130.11 L **Assorted 'Debby's PCIs'** selected from Debby Cole's garden, taken from large collection of mostly named hybrids, OP /DC '11
- 140.11 L **Assorted 'Debby's PCIs'** Same as above /DC '09
- 150.11 S **Baby Blanket** (Joseph Ghio, R. 1998) Sdlg. PC-179#. CA, 16" (41 cm), M Deep pink, F. with large blue signal spot. PE-189M: (PG-177G: (PI-MIX-A, unknown, x Valet sib) x PG-154, SpanishDonsib)XPE-190N:(GreetingCardxPG-185Y:(PI-MIX-Y,unknownxPI-MIX-A, unknown)). Bay View 1998. HM 2001, AM 2004. /KB '11
- 160.11 S **Blue Sage** (Nies, R 1947) 18" (46 cm); M. Moderate purple blue self. Parentage unknown. Lyon, 1947 /RR '11
- 170.11 S **Brand Name** (Ghio, R. 2009). Seedling IP-99-1. CA, 12" (30 cm), Mid-late bloom season. Standards very smooth deep crimson; style arms red brown; falls same as Standards, signal absent, semi-flaring, wavy ruffles. GP-346-I: (EP-170X: (AP-225W: (PB-285S, 'Spreadsheet' sib, x PD-238M3: ('BattleAlert'xPF-155B:(MIX-SxPH-247T:(('Earthquake'xPJ-161B:(('SantaCruzBeach' x PL-285U2: ('Refugio' x PN-281A2: (PP-351: ('Simply Wild' x PR-319M, 'Camp Capitola' sib) x PP-352A:(('BigWheel'x'CaliforniaMystique'))))))))xPD-258bo:(PF-182K:(PH-276B2,'Old Monterey' sib,xPH-310P2:(PJ-182bo:(PL-257M3:(('RunningWild'xPN-292-I,'Moraga' sib) x PL-230J3) x PJ-171R: (PL-230D: ('San Gregorio' x PN-286H: (PP-355L, 'Montara' sib, x PQ-255P, 'Mission Santa Cruz' sib)) x 'Latin Blood')) x PF-177H2: ('Old Monterey' x MIX-S))) x AP-223I: (PB-285Q4, 'Spreadsheet' sib, x PC-189E2, 'Face Value' sib) x BP-193F2: (PA-105J2: (PD-235B2, 'Common Sense' sib, x PC-228U3, 'Umunhum' sib) x PC-189E2)) x DP-257, sibling to 'Inner Faith' pollen parent) X GP-349S: (Ghio red sdlg, unknown, x Ghio DP257-J2, sibling to 'Inner Faith' pollen parent) /DC '11
- 180.11 S **Canyon Orchid** (Dolores Denney, R. 1982) Sdlg. RUF-ORC-80-1. CA, 12" (30 cm), E-M. S. heliotrope (HCC 636/1); F. heliotrope (636/2). veined brownish purple; brownish purple signal speckled chrome yellow on white patch. (Canyon Snow x (*I. douglasiana* sdlg. x Abell *I. munzii* sdlg.)) X Lenz purple *I. munzii* sdlg. Portable Acres 1985. /DC '11
- 190.11 M **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, JCI976, Mitchell Award 1978./DC '11
- 200.11 M **Canyon Snow** Same as above /EE '11
- 210.11 S **Canyon Snow** -Same as above /RR '08
- 220.11 S **Cape Ferrelo** (not R.) GC, *I. douglasiana* selection with bluish-lavender flowers 14-16", good grower with nice clumping habit /KS '10
- 230.11 S **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. / '10
- 240.11 S **Chimes** (J. McCaskill by D. Foster, R. 1972) Sdlg. 66W64. CA, 12" (30cm), E-M. S. pale cream, ruffled; F. pale cream with dark gold veining and blaze, velvety, ruffled. Unknown parentage. McCaskill Gardens, Foster 1972. HM 1973. /RR '11
- 250.11 S **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. /DC '10
- 260.11 S **Cozumel** (Joseph Ghio, R. 1996) Sdlg. PF-188M. CA, 14" (36 cm), EM Bright ochre gold; F. with maroon signal, veins extending outward. Eagle Eyes X PH-266K: (Las Lomas x Aftershock sib).

Bay View 1996. HM 1999, AM 2002, Mitch 2006. /DC '10

- 270.11 M **Crandall's White** (not R.) White self, yellow signal patch and veins, broad mid-green leaves, 3-4 buds per stem, *I douglasiana* type. Originally from the garden of Fred Crandall in Seattle over 20 yrs ago, Parentage unknown /DC '11
- 280.11 M **Deepening Shadows** - (Joseph Ghio, R. 1984) Sdlg. PO-210-E3. CA, 14" (36 cm), EM. S. dark purple; F. purple, black sheen. Go Wild X Wild Party. Bay View Gardens 1985. HM 1987. /DC '11
- 290.11 S **Distant Nebula** (Vernon Wood, R. 1995) Sdlg. 90-39. CA, 15" (38 cm), M. Raspberry orchid, F. with cherry red black signal; lightly ruffled. 88-47: (Rincon x Different Drummer) X 88-44: (Roaring Camp x 87-9, unknown parentage sdlg. from Ghio seed). Stockton 1995. HM 2000. /KB '11
- 300.11 L *I douglasiana* GC, Columbia Pacific Heritage Museum, vigorous parents /KS '10
- 310.11 S *I douglasiana* GC, pale lavender flowers, vigorous tall plants, from garden on SW WA coast /KS '11
- 320.11 L *I douglasiana* GC, Pale lavender-blue, 2-4 buds per terminal, 2 on branch, plants from Sandy, OR, possibly from Hwy Dept seeding /DC '11
- 330.11 S *I douglasiana* same as above /DC '09
- 340.11 M *I douglasiana* same as above /DC '08
- 350.11 L *I douglasiana* GC, U.C. Berkeley /Old but still probably quite good!
- 360.11 L *I douglasiana* GC, Roseburg, Oregon /JF '09
- 370.11 L *I douglasiana* GC, Cupertino, California /GK '05
- 380.11 S *I douglasiana* GC, white with purple styles /RR '07
- 390.11 M *I douglasiana* GC, yellow-flowered, 2-3 buds per terminal, 2 on branch, plants from south of Agness, Curry Co., Oregon /DC '11
- 400.11 S *I douglasiana* type from Jean Witt, GC, light blue flowers, plants originally from SW Oregon Coast /KS '11
- 410.11 M *I douglasiana v alba* GC, white with small yellow patch, plant from Portland Iris Society /EE '11
- 420.11 M *I douglasiana* WC, Leggett Rd x Hwy 1 /JTH '06
- 430.11 L *I douglasiana* WC, Pt. Arena Light House /GK '09
- 440.11 S *I douglasiana x innominata* type from Jean Witt, GC, very pale lavender flowers, plants originally from SW Oregon Coast /KS '11
- 450.11 S *I douglasiana x innominata* WC, Gold Beach, Oregon, natural hybrid, blue parents shorter irises 12-14" tall /JW '10
- 460.11 S *I douglasiana x innominata* WC, Gold Beach, Oregon, natural hybrid, parents salmon-colored, 18" tall, 5 to 7 buds /JW '10
- 470.11 S **Dracularity** (Deborah Cole, R. 1998) Sdlg. 95-PG-7. CA, 25" (63 cm), ML. S. red, hairline pinkish white rim; style arms light gold, light red crests, pinkish white wire edge; F. dark red with darker veining, near-black signal, irregular 1/8" pinkish white rim; heavily ruffled. Parentage unknown; seed from Joe Ghio. /DC '11
- 480.11 S **Drive You Wild** (Joseph Ghio, R. 1985) Sdlg. PO-229Z. CA, 10" (25 cm), ML. Red violet, gold ray signal. Las Olas X Linda Vista. Bay View Gardens 1986. HM 1988, Mitch Award 1991, Mitchl Medal 1994. /KB '11
- 490.11 S **Earthquake** (Joseph Ghio, R. 1990) Sdlg. PJ-181C2. CA, 15" (38 cm), ML. S. russet; style arms gold; F. red, light gold rim. PL-226A2: (Peanut Gallery x ((PV-163I: (Pacific Moon x California Native) x San Vicente sib) x Mission Santa Cruz)) X PL-257C3: (Running Wild x (Simply Wild x Camp Capitola sib)). Bay View 1991. HM 1995, AM 1997. /KB '11
- 500.11 S **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. Iris Gallery 2007. /DC '10

- 510.II M **Escalona** (Joseph Ghio, R. 1993) Sdlg. PG-133F2. CA, 12" (30 cm), EM. S. light crimson; F. crimson, gold wire edge, black signal with fingers over F. Bottom Dollar sib X It's Wild. Bay View 1994. HM 1998. /DC '11
- 520.II M **Escalona** Same as above /KB '11
- 530.II M **Eye Contact** (Joseph Ghio, R. 1997) Sdlg. PD-243F3. CA, 14" (36 cm), ML. Rosy lavender, F. with black purple signal. Local Girl X PF-174H2: ((Las Lomas x Shaker sib) x Villa Montalvo). Bay View 1997. /DC '11
- 540.II S **Foggy Days** (Joseph Ghio, R. 2007) Sdlg. FP-265E2. CA, 10" (25 cm), ML. S. white tinted blue; F. white lined blue-violet overall to distal edge, dark blue-violet signal. Bar Code X Lash. Bay View 2007. /DC '11
- 550.II L **Gold Dusted** (B. Charles Jenkins, R. 1990) Sdlg. B11-4D. CA, 14" (36 cm), M. Purple ground speckled gold. San Gregorio sib X Californian. Shepard Iris 1990 /BS '11
- 560.II L **Gold Dusted** Same as above /DC '11
- 570.II S **Gravitas** (Joseph Ghio, R. 2002) Sdlg. CP-108F. CA, 15" (38 cm), EML. S. light lilac; F. lilac, maroon halo around small yellow signal, maroon veining overall. Sib to Clincher. Bay View 2003. /DC '11
- 580.II M (**Gravitas x I hartwegii australis**) OP seed collected by Richard Richards from his cross. /RR '11
- 590.II L **Harland Hand** (David Lennette, R. 1989) CA, 11" (28 cm), VE-VL. S. purple blue; F. same, small white patch veined purple with yellow streak down center; reddish base on foliage. Unknown parentage. Selected from plants grown in H. Hand's garden since about 1960. Portable Acres 1990. /RR '11
- 600.II S **Harland Hand** Same as above / BS '11
- 610.II L **Harland Hand** Same as above / GK '11
- 620.II S **Harry's Rootbeer** (R. Sussman, not R.) Red-orange, with standards washed lighter and falls veined darker around signal. Sunol Grade x Mission Santa Cruz. /BS '11
- 630.II S **Heaven Knows** (Joseph Ghio, R. 1991) Sdlg. PI-MIX-R2. CA, 14" (36 cm), EML. Solid crimson self, black signal. Parentage unknown. Bay View 1992. /DC '11
- 640.II S **Heaven Knows** Same as above /DC '10
- 650.II M **Ignacio** (Joseph Ghio, R. 1987) Sdlg. PM-231-G3. CA, 12" (30 cm), ML. Rusty red, edged gold. (PQ-218-0: (Banbury Candy x Gone Native) x Foreign Exchange) X PO-207R, Elberta Peach sib. Bay View Gardens 1988. /DC '11
- 660.II S *Innominata* GC, yellow with brownish/reddish veins /KS '11
- 670.II S **Jean Erickson** (Colin Rigby, R. 1993) Sdlg. PCN 56. CA, 12-14" (30-36 cm), M. S. light blue violet, red violet midrib; F. light blue violet, dark red violet signal and few veins, light blue wash below signal area. Canyon Snow X PCN 12: (Meek 269 x Sierra Sapphire Third). Portable Acres 1993. HM 1996, AM 1998, Mitch 2001. /DC '11
- 680.II L **Laureles** (Joseph Ghio, R. 2001) Sdlg. AP-282K. CA, 14" (36 cm), ML. Medium yellow, hairline white rim on all petals, F. with large white signal. PC-173-C2: (PE-189K: ((PI-MIX-A, unknown, x Valet sib) x Spanish Don sib) x PE-203-E2: ((PI-MIX-Y, unknown, x PI-MIX-A) x (((Roaring Camp x Wildman) x (Refugio x (Elberta Peach sib x San Tomas sib)))) x PI-MIX-A3, unknown))) X PB-273D: (Jacks Are Wild x Trancas). Bay View 2001 /GK '11
- 690.II S **Lawyer-selected PCI** - blue violet falls with blue signal /ALL '04
- 700.II S **Lifeline** (Joseph Ghio, R. 2000) Sdlg. PA-51D3. CA, 15" (38 cm), EM. Glowing copper orange, mahogany edge with thin violet outer rim, F. with mahogany signal. PC-177B4: (PE-189U2: ((PI-MIX-A, unknown, x Valet sib) x Spanish Don sib) x Point Santa Cruz) X PC-214L:

- (Point Santa Cruz x PE-189H3). Bay View 2000. /KB '11
- 710.11 S **Line Drawing** (Joseph Ghio, R. 2009) Seedling IP-159S2. CA, 14" (36 cm), Mid bloom season. Standards white ground lined dark blue; style arms deep blue; falls white ground, dark blue lines overall, intense blue stitched edge, green-gold dotted signal. Like Clockwork X FP-265U, Foggy Days sibling. Bay View 2009 /DC '11
- 720.11 M **Lines That Rhyme** (Joseph Ghio, R. 2002) Sdlg. CP-110H. CA, 13" (33 cm), ML. S. gold with brown veining; F. gold, brown lines and dots radiating to wide brown rim, signal violet tan. Rancho Corralitos X PB-207L: (Jacks Are Wild x (Charter Member sib x Rainbow Connection)). Bay View 2003. HM 2008. /DC '11
- 730.11 S **Little Survivor** (Elena Laborde, R. 2003) Sdlg. BBxGC1. CA, 14" (36 cm), ML. S. and style arms black purple; F. velvety dark purple, large black purple center; heavily ruffled, S. upright; slight fragrance. Bat Boy X Greeting Card. Iris Gallery 2004. /KB '11
- 740.11 M **Mascara Brush** (J. Marchant, R. 1990). Sdlg. 3187. 10" (25 cm), M. Creamy white ground completely overlaid royal purple (HCC 834) leaving 1/16" white edge, F. lightly ruffled. Sdlg. X Sdlg. /DC '10
- 750.11 S **Mayor** (Joseph Ghio, 1976) Sdlg. PY-169, 14" (36 cm), E. Light blue self with deep blue spots on falls. Western Queen X P4-169: (Pasatiempo x collected blue *I. munzii*). Bay View Gardens 1977. HC 1976, MH 1978 /RR '11
- 760.11 S **Mendocino Blue** (Robert & Janet Canning, R. 1999) Sdlg. 93-02D-PCN. CA, 11" (28 cm), M. S. hyacinth blue (RHS 91B) with darker (91A) veining; F. slightly darker wistaria blue (92B) with darker (92A) halo and veining, turquoise midrib wash. Parentage unknown; sdlg. purchased at Mendocino Coast Botanic Garden, California. Iris Gallery 2000. HM 2003, AM 2005, Mitchell Award 2009. /DC '11
- 770.11 L **Mendocino Blush** (Jay Hudson, R. 2000) CA, 12" (31 cm), E. S. pale pinkish lavender, thin darker lavender, turquoise and gold lines on midrib; style arms pallid pinkish lavender; F. pale pinkish lavender washed darker lavender and turquoise through lower midrib, gold signal lined darker lavender. Parentage unknown, inv. *I. douglasiana*. /KB '11
- 780.11 S **Mission Santa Cruz** (Joseph Ghio, R. 1982) Sdlg. PQ-255D. CA, 12" (30 cm), M. Glowing rosy red-magenta. Gone Native X Emigrant. Bay View Gardens 1983. HM 1985. /DC '11
- 790.11 L **Native Jewel** (L. Weaver, R. 1971) Sdlg. 67-Z. CA, 20" (51 cm), EM Rose-purple (RHS 750) with white area on F. veined purple, ruffled; yellow signal. Ojai X Orchid Sprite. Pilley Gardens 1972. HM 1973 /EE '11
- 800.11 M **Native Warrior** (A. Phillips, R. 1970) CA, 12" (30 cm), E. Light red, yellow signal. Amiguita X Claremont Indian. Cordon Bleu 1971. HM 1972, Mitchell Award 1975. /KB '11
- 810.11 M **Native Warrior** Same as above. /EE '11
- 820.11 M **Native Warrior** Same as above. /RR '11
- 830.11 S **Night Editor** (Joseph Ghio, R. 1986) Sdlg. PN-277WW. CA, 10" (25 cm), ML. S. purple; F. same with black sheen. PP-337J: (Go Wild x Oval Office sib) X PP-375: (Oval Office sib x Carbonero). Bay View Gardens 1987. HM 1992, AM 1995, Mitch 1997. /KB '11
- 840.11 S **Ocean Blue** (Joseph Ghio, R. 2002) Sdlg. CP-56N2. CA, 13" (33 cm), EM. White ground, heavily washed and lined overall with medium blue, F. with yellow dot signal. AP-193ltbl: (PB-247G5: (High Winds x ((Wilder Than Ever sib x Sierra Dell) x unknown)) x Marine Magic) X Pacific Miss. Bay View 2003. HM 2007. /DC '11

- 850.11 S **On The Bubble** (Joseph Ghio, R. 2004) Sdlg. DP-203M3. CA, 12" (30 cm), L. S. and F. apricot, double rim of mauve wood, outer rim lighter; half-moon maroon signal. Star of Wonder X AP-241H4: (PB-272M3: (Jacks Are Wild x PD-202Y3: (Candid x ((Black Eye sib, x Herald sib) x School Boy sib))) x (Cross Purpose sib, x Adept sib)). Bay View 2005. /DC'11
- 860.11 L **Orchid Resprite** (Hubley, R. 1971). Sdlg 67-53-C, 12" (30 cm), M-L. S light purple (Munsell 5P 6/7); F same darkening to strong purple halo (5P 4/9) surrounding yellow white signal patch. Orchid Sprite X unknown. Foster 1971. HM 1975 /GK '11
- 870.11 S (Orchid Resprite x *hartwegii australis*) OP seed collected by Richard Richards of his cross, /RR '11
- 880.11 M ((Orchid Resprite x *I hartwegii australis* (lavender) x Weiler blue seedling) x *I hartwegii australis* (lavender) HP seed of cross made by Richard Richards /RR '11
- 890.11 L (Orchid Resprite x *I hartwegii australis*) - Late blooming, OP seed collected by Richard Richards of his cross /RR '08
- 900.11 M **Oxymoron** (Joseph Ghio, R. 2001) Sdlg. AP-292-O. CA, 17" (43 cm), EM. S. deep henna; style arms yellow; F. deep henna, neon violet signal; precise fine ruffling. PC-178H4: (((PI-MIX-A, unknown, x Valet sib) x Spanish Don sib) x Point Santa Cruz) X PB-297: ((Xewe x (PI-MIX-S, unknown, x (Hot Blooded sib x ((San Gregorio x (Montara sib x Mission Santa Cruz sib)) x Latin Blood)))) x (Eye My Eye sib x (PI-MIX-B2, unknown, x ((Bubbly x (Solid Citizen x (Lighthouse Point x Mission Santa Cruz)))) x National Anthem))). Bay View 2001. HM 2005 /GK '11
- 910.11 S (Oxymoron x Clarice Richards) OP seed collected by Richard Richards of his cross, Clarice Richards (R. Richards, R. 1983) Sdlg. 17001. CA, 12" (30 cm), M-L S. pale yellow; F. pale yellow with red violet veining and haze, overlaid with turquoise veining down center. Stambach red sdlg. X McCaskill 72-60. Longview Iris 1983. /RR '11
- 920.11 M **Pacific Frost** (J. T. Aitken, R. 1990) Sdlg. 82PC7. CA, 20" (51 cm), ML. S. white, black line down midrib; F. white, bright blue flash. Parentage unknown. Aitken's Salmon Creek 1990. /DC '11
- 930.11 L **Pacific Rim** (Bennett Jones, R. 1990) Sdlg. 86PCN5. CA, 15" (38 cm), M. S. blue, washed white at edge; F. white, veined gold, blending to 1/4" band of deep blue plicata pattern. Inv. long line of sdlgs. hybridized by Lenz, Abell, Cosgrove and Ghio. Aitken's Salmon Creek, Bennett Jones 1991. HM 1994, AM 1996, Mitch 1998. /EE '11
- 940.11 S **Pacific Rim x Garden Delight** Hand pollinated cross from Bob Sussman, Garden Delight (G. Stambach, R. 1971) Sdlg. 106-64. CA, Height 13" (33 cm), Late bloom season. Light yellow self with large medium brown blaze on falls 52-60 white: (white-veined seedling x 'Ojai') X 'Claremont Indian'. Foster Iris 1975. Honorable Mention 1975 /BS '11
- 950.11 S **Peacock Gap** (Rigby, R. 1985). Sdlg. 183 12" (31cm) M. S. ruffled pale mauve, darker midrib; F. lightly ruffled /DC '09
- 960.11 S **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. Iris Gallery 2006. /DC'10
- 970.11 L **Periwinkle Persian** Same as above /JTH '10
- 980.11 S **Poppy** (P. Edinger/G. Patterson, R. 1980) Sdlg. 32-76A. CA, 15" (38 cm), EM. Tawny yellow self; gold signal. Canyon Snow X Ripple Rock. Western Hills Nursery 1983. /KB '11
- 990.11 M **Pretty Boy** (Joseph Ghio, R. 2001) Sdlg. AP-299-L3. CA, 12" (31 cm), ML. Heavily ruffled peach self, F. with small maroon signal. Baby Blanket X PB-259-D3: (((It's Wild sib x Herald sib) x School Boy sib) x ((Las Lomas x Shaker) x Villa Montalvo)) x (Charter Member sib x Greeting Card)). Bay View 2001. HM 2006. /DC '11
- 1000.11 S **Public Eye** (Joseph Ghio, R. 2006) Sdlg. FP-249B3. CA, 13" (33 cm), ML. S. white, blue line down midrib; style arms deep blue; F. white, blue lines overall to precise blue plicata edge, deep blue

- signal. DP-248Z, sib to Inside Joke pollen parent, X Bar Code. Bay View 2006 /'10
- 1010.11 S **Rancho Corallitos** (Joseph Ghio, R. 2000) Sdlg. PB-392-Q2. CA, 13" (33 cm), ML. S. solid red brown; F. gold with wide deep brown band and dotting, small gold signal. Sib to Extra Credit. Bay View 2000. HM 2003, AM 2005. /DC '11
- 1020.11 S **Raspberry Dazzler** (Vernon Wood, R. 1995) Sdlg. 93-83. CA, 15-16" (38-41 cm), ML. S. raspberry, lined darker, center lighter; style arms raspberry, short; F. raspberry, veined and centered darker; ruffled. Distant Nebula X 89-7: (Roaring Camp x 87-9, from sdlg. of unknown parentage). Stockton 1996. HM 1999, AM 2001, Mitch 2004. /KB '11
- 1030.11 M **Rincon** (Joseph Ghio, R. 1984) Sdlg. PO-222G. CA, 12" (30 cm), EM S. apricot tan; F. maroon, black center. PQ-214M: (Joey x PS-203, Simply Wild sib) X PQ-255K: (Gone Native x Emigrant). Bay View Gardens 1985. /EE '11
- 1040.11 S **Ripple Rock** (Lenz, R. 1963) Sdlg. 11-25-2. PCH, 11" (28 cm), E. S brilliant yellow; F same, heavily veined brown, speckled signals. From two sdlg. (7-019-8 X 9-016-1). McCaskill Gardens 1966. HM 1967. /DC '11
- 1050.11 S **Rodeo Gulch** (Joseph Ghio, R. 2003) Sdlg. DP-255V3. CA, 14" (36 cm), M. Mango orange self, neon violet F. signal. Oxymoron X BP-206-02: (PA-118bo: (Adept sib x Playbook) x PA-119L: (With This Ring x PC-173C2: (((MIX-A x Valet sib) x Spanish Don sib) x ((MIX-Y x MIX-A) x ((Black Eye sib x Herald sib) x PI-MIX-A3))))). Bay View 2004. HM 2009. /KB '11
- 1060.11 M **Roving Eye** (Stambach, R. 1978). Sdlg. #4 12" (30cm) EM. S. light lavender-blue; F. lavender-blue with white ray pattern in center. 68-2438: *I. munzii* breeding X unknown. Bay View Gardens 1978. HM 1980 /KB '11
- 1070.11 M **Roving Eye** Same as above/ RR '09
- 1080.11 S **Roving Eye** Same as above/ RR '08
- 1090.11 S **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. /DC '11
- 1100.11 S **Santa Rosalita** (Joseph Ghio, R. 1996) Sdlg. PD-264K2. CA, 13" (33 cm), EM. Apricot ground, washed and lined rose overall, rose halo on all petals, rose F. signal. PF-188-O: (Eagle Eyes x (Las Lomas x Aftershock sib)) X PG-172A, Charter Member sib. Bay View 1997. HM 2002, AM 2006. /KB '11
- 1110.11 M **Shimmer** (not R., Xera Plants 2011) 16", April - May. Listed as an *I. douglasiana* x *I tenax* hybrid collected in OR. Bright blue-purple flowers, well marked with intricate venation. /KS '11
- 1120.11 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. /BS '11
- 1130.11 S **Sierra Landscaper** (Lewis & Adele Lawyer, R. 2001) Sdlg. XP224A. CA, 17" (43 cm), EM. Light violet (Munsell 10.PB), F. with slightly darker lines extending to thin, slightly darker border. Sierra Dell X Laguna Creek. Iris Gallery 2001. /KB '11
- 1140.11 M **Silver Circle** (B. Charles Jenkins, R. 1992) Sdlg. B30-5K. CA, 16" (41cm), M. S. ivory, midrib veined purple; F. purple, yellow blaze, edged ivory. Santa Rita X Campaigner. Portable Acres 1992. /DC '11
- 1150.11 S **Simply Wild** (Joseph Ghio, R. 1980) Sdlg. PS-203H. CA, 8" (20 cm), EM. S. metallic fawn; F. rose pink, near black signal. ((Grubstake x (Ojai x Empire Grade)) x Sundance Eight) X Casa Pacifica. Bay View Gardens 1981. HM 1983, Mitch 1994 /KB '11
- 1160.11 L **Soquel Cove** (Joseph Ghio, registered 1976) Seedling PW-182C. CA, 14" (36 cm), Early. White self with turquoise wash on falls. PY-169: (Pasatiempo x collected blue *I. munzii*) X PZ-145Z: (Ojai x Aptos). Bay View Gardens 1977. HM 1978, Mitch 1980 /GK '11

- 1170.11 S **Star of Wonder** (Joseph Ghio, R. 2002) Sdlg. BP-163-03. CA, 14" (36 cm), VE-EM. Bronze apricot, F. with mahogany shading on shoulders and edge. Lifeline X PA-99E2, Breed Apart sib. Bay View 2002. HM 2005, AM 2007. /DC '11
- 1180.11 S **Stroke of Midnight** (Joseph Ghio, R. 1988) Sdlg. PL-269-J2. CA, 16" (41 cm), E-L. S. dark red black; F. black. Cupertino X Deepening Shadows. Bay View Gardens 1989. /KB '11
- 1190.11 M **Sunburn** (Colin Rigby, R. 1999) Sdlg. 9104. CA, 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. /DC '11
- 1200.11 L **Susie Knapp** (Phillips, R. 1970). 12" (30cm) M. Blue gray self. Amiguita X Claremont Indian. Cordon Bleu, 1971. /EE '11
- 1210.11 L **Susie Knapp** Same as above /RR '07
- 1220.11 S *I tenax* GC, grown from Ron Ratko seed (NNS-00-451), plant purchased from Far Reaches Farm /KS '11
- 1230.11 S *I tenax* GC, grown in Grays River, WA by Thea Pyle, lavender-purple, plants from near Vader, WA /KS '11
- 1240.11 L *I tenax ssp tenax* (syn *ssp gormanii*) GC, yellow flowers, Hagg Lake, OR /EE '11
- 1250.11 M *I tenax ssp tenax* (syn *ssp gormanii*), GC, pure yellow, Hagg Lake, OR /DC '11
- 1260.11 M *I tenax ssp tenax* (syn *ssp gormanii*), GC, yellow with faint lavender wash (looks peachy) , Hagg Lake, OR /DC '11
- 1270.11 S *I tenax* WC, Boring, OR, lavender-pink /DC '09
- 1280.11 M *I tenax* WC, lavender flower /unk
- 1290.11 L *I tenax* WC, Cathlamet, WA /KS '08
- 1300.11 M *I tenax* WC, Clackamas County at 800 ft, deep pink to lavender /EE '11
- 1310.11 L *I tenax* WC, Lewis County, WA , bluish-lavender /TR '07
- 1320.11 S *I tenax* WC, Mt Hebo, 3,000 ft, Tillamook and Yamhill counties, OR; by Mike Patterson, lavender-pink /KS '11
- 1330.11 L *I tenax* WC, Nicolai Mtn, 3,000 ft, Clatsop Cty, OR. Pinkish-lavender flowers /KS '11
- 1340.11 S *I tenax* x **Multiplicity** crossed and supplied by Steve Taniguchi Multiplicity (Ghio, R. 2004) Sdlg. EP-222P. CA, 17" (43 cm), M. S. and F. red brown, lighter at petal edges; neon violet signal. CP-116K: (AP-316K2: (PC-214L: (Point Santa Cruz x PE-189A3: (PG-177G: (MIX-A x PI-214-O2, Valet sib) x PG-154, Spanish Don sib))) x (PB-297: (PD-239L4: (Xewe x PF-156br: (MIX-S x PH-277C2: (PK-280L: (San Gregorio x PM-221J: (PO-222-II, Rincon sib, x ReflectingPool))xPJ-171R:(PL-230D:(SanGregorioxPN-286H:(PP-355L, Montarasib, x PQ-255P, Mission Santa Cruz sib)) x Latin Blood)))) x PD-250M4: (PF-173T, Wildest Imaginings sib, x PF-159S: (MIX-B2 x PH-231bo: (PJ-165: (Bubbly x PL-282P2: (Solid Citizen x PN-269JJ: (PP-309A: (PV-163-I: (Pacific Moon x California Native) x PT-306A: (PV-186H: (PX-161B: (California Native x Verdugo) x PX-153A: (Grubstake x California Native)) x PV-153C: (Sundance Eight x California Native)))) x Mission Santa Cruz))) x National Anthem)))))) x Oxymoron) X CP-131Q: (AP-292N2, Oxymoron sib, x AP-282b, Laureles sib). Bay View 2005 /ST '10
- 1350.11 S **Umunhum** (Joseph Ghio, R. 1998) Sdlg. PC-228X. CA, 16" (41 cm), VE. Bright sienna, underside deeper, F. with precise violet signal. Ultimate Suntan X PF-188H, sib. Bay View 1998. HM 2001, AM 2004. /DC '11

- 1360.11 S **Untitled** (George Gessert, R. 2004) Sdlg. 002-C. CA, 12.5" (32 cm), M S. cream flushed pale purple, slight purple venation; style arms dark purple; F. pale gold veined purple, dense around edge; hairline cream rim, signal gold dusted purple. Gold Dusted X Olaf Stapledon. Iris Gallery 2006 /BS '11
- 1370.11 S **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. /DC '11
- 1380.11 L **Valley Banner** Same as above /DC '09
- 1390.11 S **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. /DW '04
- 1400.11 S **Wild Survivor** (Will Plotner, R. 2003) 24" (61 cm), M S. blended amethyst violet (RHS 84C) and mineral violet (84D), veined darker (84A), light ethyl blue (112D) edge; style arms ethyl blue; F. blended amethyst violet and mineral violet, veined darker, edge lighter, signal yellow. PC 93D: (*I. tenax* var. *gormanii* x *I. douglasiana* pale blue) X PC 93G, sib. Wildwood Gardens 2003. HM 2006, AM 2008. /DC '11
- 1410.11 S **With This Ring** (Joseph Ghio, registered 1997). Seedling PD-264K5. CA, 15" (38 cm), mid to late season. Standards apricot with orchid wash; falls apricot with orchid halo, black maroon signal. PF-188-O, Osocales sib X PG-a72A, Charter Member sib. Bay View Gardens 1997. / KB '11

A reflection on the iris of Marin County, California

Brian Agron

In Marin County where I and the iris live, our domestic water supply comes from rainfall and runoff from the surrounding hills; this water is stored in five lakes. Many tens of thousands of acres of land are under the control of the local water district and these lands have fire roads and many trails that are open to the public. Thus hiking is a popular pastime and with a little pleasurable effort one can enjoy the 'biological diversity' that these lands provide.

Marin's climate is Mediterranean, that is, we (the iris and I) enjoy a cool and damp winter and spring with temperatures rarely below freezing for half of the year, and dry warm summer and autumn with virtually no rain at all. Thus, half the year it is damp and green and the other half it is dry and brown. The iris flourish and flower when the climate starts its annual transition from the wet to the dry season.

The land is hilly for the most part. Oaks of various species, madrone, laurel and redwoods are the trees

that predominantly populate the hills and mountainsides. Some of the land is open grassy meadows with an occasional oak to provide shade. It was into this environment that I was taken on my first hike thirty years ago (by some long forgotten girlfriend...) and part of our route took us on a downhill trail, along a gentle ridge, and through an open madrone forest. All I really remember is how abundant the iris was, resembling clumps of snow scattered about the meadows. When I returned the next spring on my own, the iris were very sparse, and I realized that I must have seen them at peak bloom the prior year. If I was to see them again in such lush glory, I would have to find out just when peak bloom occurred.

They had a secret to tell me if I made the effort to learn it. There must be some time in the early spring when the first iris flowers, some point when bloom is at a peak, and some point toward the summer when the last iris produces the last blossom of the year. It took many years of observing and photographing them as their habits slowly revealed themselves to me.

There are two populations of Marin iris that are dominant in this area. The first flowers in mid-winter, and is mostly the long-tube iris (*I. macrosiphon*). I usually spot the first blossom in the third week of February (around President's Day), often on one particular hillside that seems to have a population of long-tube iris that likes to bloom earlier than others.

These iris are to be found in sunny places, often in open fields and hillsides hidden amongst the many species of grasses that flourish here. Typically they are a deep blue to purple, although I have seen them in light sky blue, deep red and even virtually white which is really rare. If the grass is thick and tall, the long-tube iris can be hard to see unless you are almost standing on top of them. They stand just a few inches above the ground.

The second population of Marin iris usually makes its first appearance in the second to third week in March (St. Patrick's Day). These flowers are much larger than the early flowering group, and flower spikes can reach a foot or more above ground. This group prefers shady places, and is often seen growing under oaks and madrone trees that provides shade and dappled sunlight. White and its subtle variations are the most common colors, with a purplish red being more common early in the season.

In my favorite iris patch in a madrone forest, the later flowering group seems to reach peak bloom in the first two weeks of April, depending on rainfall and warmth of the preceding days. I make it a point to take a week's vacation at this time and do a lot of hiking and wandering out in the hills to take in as much 'iritime' as I can. The long-tube iris is still plentiful in April but fades away by the start of May.

I have also noticed that Marin iris are more plentiful at higher elevations in mid-May (1,500 feet) than the peak bloom in my favorite patch, which is at 700 feet elevation. It is a subtle shift in blossom density but quite real. The last of the iris is usually seen in the first week of June, when the rains have stopped until autumn and the days are hot. Some years have seen sparse blossoms while others have been 'bumper crop' years. I cannot confirm a correlation between flower density and rainfall. I have noticed that both flowers and buds are rather fragile and heavy rain showers will bruise the flowers, or snap them off their stems. Ill-timed rain showers may not reduce bloom everywhere, but sparse flowering years appear to be county-wide, wherever I look.

A few years ago the appearance of Marin iris blossoms was delayed by several weeks. I have only seen this once in my thirty years of iris observing, and the delay was

also county-wide. There was nothing out of the ordinary in rainfall or temperature to explain this phenomenon. Obviously, there are more secrets to these iris that remain undiscovered, so further observation will be happily undertaken.

Taxonomic note on Marin iris:

Kathleen Sayce

Three species of Pacific Coast iris live naturally in the Marin area, including *I. douglasiana*, *I. macrosiphon* and *I. fernaldii*. The first is a strictly coastal species; the latter two species are found in meadows, woodlands and forests. Hybrids between all species are common, mixing plant size, flower shape and color into new combinations, which can make species determinations very difficult. The coastal *I. douglasiana* populations are purple-flowered. Flower color is extremely variable in *I. macrosiphon*, from purple to white and yellow; this species prefers sunny slopes. *I. fernaldii* is taller, and always has creamy yellow flowers. It prefers deeper shade than *I. macrosiphon*. Hybrids will show a mix of traits, and as Brian Agron describes, it is simpler to recognize these as part of a larger species complex than it is to identify each species.

For more information on this complex, refer to Dr. Lee Lenz's booklet, *Hybridization and Speciation in the Pacific Coast Irises*, available as a reprint from SPCNI.

PCIs in Victoria our correspondents at the AIS conference

Debby Cole

Victoria has a cool Mediterranean climate with considerable coastal influence, a very welcome situation for many Pacific Coast irises (PCI). I fully expected to see some while we were there for the AIS convention. What was a surprise, however, was to walk into the "AIS Alley" in the Fairmont Empress Hotel and find dozens of beautiful PCI blooms on the Society for Pacific Coast Native Irises (SPCNI) display table! These were the welcome gifts of Diane Whitehead, who was also the convention registrar. They had all been raised from seed, primarily at her allotment garden, and there were many oohs and aahs over their exciting colors and patterns.

The next Pacific Coast iris surprise came at the welcome program Tuesday evening. The convention's honorary patron, the Honorable Iona Campagnolo, was introduced and welcomed us as visitors and fellow gardeners. She was followed by convention chair Ted Baker, who's also president of British Columbia Iris Society (BCIS), and then Joyce Prothero, the BCIS hybridizer of 'Banner for Iona' (R. 2010) who presented a large pot of that elegant blue-lavender Pacifica to the equally elegant woman for whom it was named.

The spring of 2011 brought the Northwest the longest, coldest, wettest spring in many decades, and bloom of most irises was much later than expected. When garden tours began Wednesday it became obvious that the TBs would be magnificent in another week or ten days. I congratulate the convention planners for their foresight in selecting large, varied public gardens to host the convention's iris display beds, for there was always much to see despite a slight shortage of iris bloom.

My bus went first to Hatley Park, site of the convention's master planting and now home to Royal Roads University. There were no Pacific Coast guest irises planted there, but after viewing the guest irises I happened to notice several pleasant PCI clumps in the raised central bed outside the nearby greenhouse. I was wandering back through the other fascinating flora toward the buses when Jody Nolin kindly steered me toward some PCI clumps she had noticed in an out-of-the-way spot. They'd obviously been doing well under their short, wide shady tree for several years, and I thought a couple of them were quite attractive.

After lunch we continued to Finnerty Gardens, which is also home to the University of Victoria's renowned Simpson collection of rhododendrons. There I had my first close look at 'Banner for Iona'. The other three PCI guest irises were also supposed to be planted there, but I didn't see them blooming. In roaming through the rhododendron collection, however, I particularly liked the magenta 'Mrs. Jamie Fraser'. There was plenty to enjoy in this garden in the absence of irises!

For the Simulated Iris Show that evening, it was PCIs to the rescue. The source that had promised bearded irises for the occasion didn't have anything in bloom yet! Diane Whitehead generously brought in many more of her Pacific Coast seedlings for exhibition and discussion, and then moved them afterwards to the SPCNI display table where the parade continued.

Thursday the bus tours to gardens continued, and my bus went first to Glendale Gardens, "the gardeners'

garden." This is a lovely demonstration garden for many selections of plants suitable to the area, combined with a horticultural education center. The entrance opens into a round pavilion center looking out over the hardy plant borders toward the lake; the main display gardens slope down the hill to the right, and the guest iris beds were at the foot of the gardens on the open flat lakeside. None of the PCI guest irises were planted here, but there were several large established clumps in the Lily Garden and many smaller and newer plantings near there and in the hardy perennial border. Of the latter, I liked best a nice clump of a white *I. douglasiana*, an enthusiastic pinkish clump with darker signals, and a flashy seedling clump labeled "FB6 D.Whitehead."

Thursday afternoon we came at last to the gardens at Government House, designed (after the original Government House burned in 1957) by landscape architect Robert Savery. Almost immediately inside the entrance to the formal gardens on the north side of the building we encountered a bed of assorted Pacific Coast and other beardless irises around a large rhododendron planting—some guest irises, some otherwise labeled, some unlabeled. This was the largest PCI collection conventioners encountered, and included all four convention guests: Terry Aitken's 'Pacific Glaze' (2010) and Joyce Prothero's 'Saltspring Sunburst' (R. 2010) 'Banner for Iona,' and seedling SS-0403. Besides the remaining convention irises, which were planted in a long bed behind the residence, I also enjoyed the wall of lewisias just down the drive, en route to the museum of historic clothing, to the point that I didn't even get into the Garry oak woodlands south of the building.

I stayed on after convention for the added tour to Salt Spring Island to enjoy some private gardens. We boarded the buses unconscionably early to get in line for the ferry to the island, so having breakfast delivered to us while we were waiting there (another great idea from the convention planners) was really appreciated. The lovely ferry ride made a great recovery period too.

Pat Spiers' garden was spacious and peaceful. She and her husband Ray, who died in 2009 (he was one of two deceased members in whose memory the convention was dedicated), created a lovely space around their home overlooking the straits. We entered the property through a bright blue sliding gate of wrought iron scrollwork and were confronted with a large wandering mounded rock garden between the drive and the front lawn with many small plants in bright flower. The broad lawn, framed with a border of rhododendrons, azaleas and perennials, was enhanced with an imposing abstract sculpture. In the backyard we found many charming plantings and rocky pools, falls and a fountain between the house and

the strait view. At the far side of the backyard, Pat and Ray had built raised beds where they were growing a wonderful assortment of Pacific Coast irises from seed, ranging from very simple and species-looking to fairly complex and modern. I had such a good time looking through them that I almost missed seeing a handsome clump of 'Saltspring Swirl' (R. 2010), another (non-guest) PCI from Joyce Prothero, below the water feature before we boarded the buses to continue to Ted Baker's garden. Ted grows and sells irises commercially, evident from his stock fields on the way up the drive to the house, which is nestled into a lush and intimate garden with many different kinds of irises displayed between other interesting things. An unlabeled PCI growing innocently at drive-side hinted at others to come, which I found on the far side of the house beyond the water features. The area includes perhaps a dozen each of modern PCIs and seedlings. I wish I had gotten better pictures of the PCIs in the Bakers' garden, especially the lovely clump of 'Agnes James' (Starker, 1935), a classic white *I. douglasiana* tucked into a corner by the gate to an adjacent area.

Many thanks to all of the BCIS folks who worked so hard and so well to make this convention a success. The planning and organization were superb, the plants were lovely and obviously well cared for, the venues were excellent, and the people were great.

A Kiwi Perspective

Mary Barrell

Clive and I travelled from New Zealand to Victoria, allowing ourselves a free day before the convention to recover, which we spent finding our way around and greeting friends from earlier conventions followed by the welcome dinner. Then it was into three days of bus trips. The gardens were all public gardens and on a grand scale - one actually included a castle. Unfortunately for the true Tall Bearded Iris fanatics, the season was three to four weeks late so it was a 'bud convention' for them. For myself, I really enjoyed the Siberian irises ('Ginger Twist' was a standout in several gardens) and the earlier flowering species and species-cross irises.

The extra day was a trip to Salt Spring Island, the coaches coming with us on the ferry and then taking us around for the day. Time was of the essence to ensure we didn't miss the last ferry. The island was reminiscent of New Zealand but with extra fauna such as bears. The garden of convention organiser Ted Baker, an iris fanatic of the best order, was a delight with medians in full bloom and Siberians and PCIs in good number.

A clump of 'Agnes James' was so big and tall I didn't realise for a minute that it was a PCI. A cute little *Iris cristata*, with quite different markings to any I have seen in New Zealand took my eye. We also visited several other gardens but unfortunately we didn't get to Joyce Prothero's garden. Joyce had clumps of 'Banner for Iona' flowering beautifully in several convention gardens. The iris is named in honour of The Honourable Iona V. Campagnolo, the honorary patron of the convention and a past Lieutenant-Governor of the State.

Following convention Debby Cole kindly looked after us for a week. Debby was supposed to host the program for SPCNI at convention but was almost voiceless so Richard Richards stepped up and kept us informed and entertained for the time slot. Debby's garden was a riot of colour with medians, MTBs, and most importantly PCIs in full bloom. As I had only seen pictures of many of the named hybrids it was wonderful to see them blooming.

Not only that but Debby also let me try my hand at pollinating and I have now received the seed in the post. Yay!!

Further treats were in store with a day trip south to view *Itenax* in the wild. We picked up Jean Witt, loaded up with Subway sandwiches, and tootled lots and lots of miles south. But what a treat! First a few tiny clumps of *I. tenax*, followed by roadsides and banks full of them with various heights and shades of pinks and lilacs. Wonderful.

As if that wasn't enough, a trip was organised to the garden of Bob Seaman. The assortment of PCI hybrids was enormous, including some of Joe Ghio's latest releases. I liked 'Patchy Fog' (white with delicate lilac markings), 'Fireworks Display' (red/mauve with yellow) and 'Air Waves' (a good frilly white with a little gold centre). Then it was a visit to Carla and George Lankow's garden, with a group of cal-sibs coming into bloom, numerous little species, some sibs, numerous *I. versicolor* and of course PCIs, plus historic Tall Bearded Iris. This is quite a steep garden with treasures to be seen everywhere.

Another trip was to the home and garden of Patrick & Margaret Spence. We were treated to a row of Carla's red cal-sibs in flower and once again many iris treasures. Debby spoke sweetly to our hosts and we were also shown Patrick's stunning stained glass work. One amazing piece was a glass etching using several of Jean Witt's drawings as the base.

After an Alaskan cruise for a week, it was down to Portland, Oregon, for the Japanese Iris weekend. There too bloom was a couple of weeks late, but Will and Tracy Plotner had a large bed of spurias to admire along with a bed of Lorena Reid's sino-sibs, and a good number of 'Eye Shadow' iris. Chad Harris had some early Japanese iris out, together with some TBs and species seedlings he is working with.

Even after all this wonderful bloom they were saving the best for last. A visit to Terry and Barbara Aitken's property was iris overload. No matter what your iris passion was, you could indulge it there. With that, two tired and happy New Zealanders went home.

Our sincere thanks go to the many kind and generous American Iris folk who hosted us, ferried us around and let us admire your wonderful gardens. We sincerely hope you all can come to New Zealand and we can host you and repay the generosity.

A first timer reports

Kathleen Sayce

This was my first AIS convention, and it was a fascinating experience. First, it was good to be among hundreds of people interested, even obsessed with things Iris. Second, the sustained and long-term effort that culminates in test gardens in full flowering was incredible to experience. Among the several test gardens we saw first hand what happens when weeds, people or climate go their own ways—those test irises suffer and struggle, and some of them thrive. Third, as this convention was held in Victoria, BC, outside the US, we had a number of cultural and governmental issues to deal with; the latter issues meant that SPCNI did not take society materials into Canada to sell, as we would have for conventions in the US, but rather took orders for them. Finally, the chance to put faces to names was good, as was meeting up with people I'd first met on the SPCNI Expedition in 2010.

Thanks to BCIS registrar Diane Whitehead and her husband Don, Debby Cole was able to get PCI seeds through customs and into Victoria for Canadian irisarians to grow, despite losing her voice. This was an excellent opportunity to share seeds with Canadian gardeners, especially in British Columbia. We hope in coming years to see new PCI photos from Canadian irisarians on our internet, Yahoo, and now Facebook sites, and to see PCIs more widely grown in BC.

SPCNI member Carla Lankow gave a great talk for sibling organization Species Iris Group of North America, and included several wide crosses between PCIs and other Apogon (beardless) species in her visual examples. We came away wanting even more.

The annual SPCNI meeting was held on the last day of the convention. Intrepid outgoing president Debby Cole, voiceless due to a cold, spent the week using hoarse whispers, notes and sign language to communicate. Past president Richard Richards stepped up in her place for the meeting to give an overview of Pacific Coast Iris, species, breeding, growing, and SPCNI activities. Incoming president Bob Sussman put together digital slides for the meeting. There were more than fifty people in attendance, including more than twenty SPCNI members. The audience and the level of interest in PCIs were both very good.

We had hoped to show a wonderful set of slides on Marin Iris, which were first shown on YouTube. Technical issues kept this from being successful, but you can watch it at home on your own computer. Remember to turn the sound up to hear the soundtrack by Vivaldi. Please take the chance to see it at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YDCZ6Yop0hM>.

Member Diane Whitehead lives on Vancouver Island and generously donated fresh cut flowers to the booth during the conference. Between her gorgeous PCIs, all grown and/or hybridized from seeds from our seed exchange, and our brochures, booklets, Almanacs, photographs, t-shirts and seeds, we had a showy and interesting booth throughout the convention.

The post convention trip to Salt Spring Island showcased Pacific Coast Iris in Pat Spiers' and Ted Baker's gardens. More than a dozen hybrids and seedlings were in flower in each garden, a rare feat for an AIS convention, Debby Cole told me!



'Pacific Glaze'

Blooming at the AIS conference
Photo: Debby Cole

Special SPCNI trip in April

If you're going to be at leisure in the Los Angeles area April 22 (the day following the American Iris Society convention there), plan to join your fellow Pacific Coast Iris lovers for a special day trip. We'll board a bus from the Ontario Doubletree Hotel for the Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden, where we'll be given a 2-hour expert guided walking tour of their Pacific Coast irises, scattered throughout settings of native plants, the RSABG's specialty. In the afternoon we travel to Bob Sussman's Matilija Nursery in Moorpark, also specializing in native plants, where we expect to see additional thousands of Pacific Coast irises of more recent origin. Bring your credit card!

Registration for this trip is included on the AIS Convention's registration form, making the combination of events extra-easy. It is, however, perfectly acceptable to register for only the SPCNI trip on that form. The day's trip is priced at \$65, including the special tour at RSABG and lunch, as well as the bus. Please address any questions or concerns to the Registrar, Debby Cole, at dcthree@juno.com or 206-232-7745.

SPCNI on Facebook® & Yahoo®

Immediately after the AIS convention in early June, Andi Rivarola set up a Facebook site for SPCNI, following a discussion across the table during the awards dinner. Andi runs the AIS Facebook site, and helps other iris sections and societies set up Facebook sites. Think of Facebook as a community gossip center, most useful for quick postings of comments and photos. It does not replace our Yahoo site, which continues to have in depth discussions on a variety of topics.

Please check out our Facebook site, which you will find at: <https://www.facebook.com/SPCNI>; this is affiliated with the AIS Facebook site, which is at <https://www.facebook.com/theamericanirissociety>. Other sections and societies on Facebook can also be accessed through links on the left hand side. In the few months that this site has been active, it has attracted 40 'friends.' We have not yet gotten any new Society members from this site, but we are picking up followers, and getting questions about where to successfully grow PCIs from several other parts of North America. SPCNI President Bob Sussman posts PCI photos here almost every week, and Past President Debby Cole posts occasionally.

A reminder: our Yahoo groups site is at <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/PacificIris/>. With 29 members, it's the place to go to ask technical questions and get serious answers.



'Banner for Iona'

One of the stars of the convention, named for Iona V. Campagnolo, keen gardener, member of the BCIS and former Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia

Photo: Debby Cole



'Vain'

Joe Ghio's variety flowering well at Victoria
Photo: Mary Barrell



'Patchy Fog'

A Joe Ghio creation that flourished in Victoria.
Photo: Mary Barrell



'Saltspring Swirl'

A handsome clump of this Joyce Prothero introduction flowering in Pat Spiers garden during the AIS convention.

Photo: Debby Cole
Fall 2011 Volume XXXX Number 1



2012 AIS National Convention



APRIL 16TH – 21ST, 2012

SPONSORED BY AIS REGION 15, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AND ARIZONA
1000 GUEST IRIS; TALL BEARDED, MEDIAN, LOUISIANA, AND SPURIA IN 4
FABULOUS GARDENS INCLUDING THE HUNTINGTON LIBRARY &
BOTANICAL GARDENS

CONVENTION HEADQUARTERS: DOUBLETREE HOTEL, Ontario Airport
222 N. Vineyard Ave., Ontario, CA 91764 Phone: (909) 937-0900 or,
<http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/O/ONTO-DT-AIS-20120414/index.jhtml?WT.mc id=POG>

Reservations (800) 222-TREE

Room Rate: \$125 plus taxes (4 people max per room)
Ask for "AIS 2012" Room Rate, reserve by March 15, 2012

DIRECTIONS AND TRANSPORTATION

Ontario Airport (ONT) – 1.5 Miles S

FREE AIRPORT SHUTTLE

From Ontario International Airport (ONT)
For Pick-Up: Use Courtesy Phone in Baggage
Claim or Call (909) 937-0900

Registrant #1

Name _____ Region _____

Address _____ Phone (____) _____

City, State, Zip _____ Email _____

Registrant #2

Name _____ Region _____

Address _____ Phone (____) _____

City, State, Zip _____ Email _____

Youth Registrants _____

Email _____

Emergency Contact Person _____ Phone (____) _____

NAME TAGS WILL BE MADE AS PRINTED ABOVE.

If this is your FIRST AIS Convention, check this box:

(over)

Registration Received **By 2/1** **By 3/1** **By 4/1**
Full Registration: #_____ X \$299 \$349 \$399 Total \$ _____
(Includes Welcome and Awards Banquets and Garden tours)

Youth (18 & under): #_____ X \$150 \$200 \$250 Total \$ _____

Garden Tours Only: #_____ X \$200 \$225 \$250 Total \$ _____
(Includes bus, lunch & convention book)

Banquets Only: Welcome #_____ @ \$50 Awards # _____ @ \$60 Total \$ _____
(No convention book or bus)

Special Excursion: Tour of 3 personal iris gardens Tuesday, April 17, 2012 in the San Fernando Valley (Includes bus and lunch) #_____ @ \$.50 Total \$ _____

SPCNI Trek: Tour going to Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden (with expert guided tour to irises) and Matilija Nursery in Moorpark (native plants, esp. Pacific Coast irises), April 22, 2012 (Includes lunch). #_____ @ \$65 Total \$ _____

Note: The RSABG tour involves lots of walking. People can choose to see less and still be satisfied.

Total Enclosed \$ _____

MEALS

Please select from the following choices:

Welcome Banquet, April 18

Registrant #1 Beef Ravioli Vegetable Ravioli
Registrant #2 Beef Ravioli Vegetable Ravioli

Awards Banquet, April 21

Registrant #1 Oven Roasted Chicken Beef Tri-Tip Vegetarian
Registrant #2 Oven Roasted Chicken Beef Tri-Tip Vegetarian

SPECIAL NEEDS: If you need special accommodations for persons with disabilities or if you have special diet requirements, please describe them here:

JUDGES TRAINING:

How many in your party will participate in Judges Training in the garden? _____

REGISTRATION IS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT: www.region15ais.org/convention

Payment may be made by VISA, MasterCard, or PayPal

OR, SEND THIS FORM AND YOUR CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO:

AIS CONVENTION 2012 TO:

John Huffman, Registrar

3105 Avenida Del Sol

Atascadero, CA 93422

If you have registration questions or need to make changes,
call (805) 464-2002 or email jhuffy@charter.net

GEEK DINNER – Reservations are to be made through: John & Joanne Jones,
(510) 795-9723, aiselectronicsvcs@irises.org

Registrations received after April 1, 2012, will be accepted at the discretion of the Convention Committee.

Refunds for cancellations requested on or after March 1, 2012, will be made at the discretion of the Convention Committee.