

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

**SPRING, 2005
Volume XXXIII, Number 2**

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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.

SPCNI WEB SITE

For great articles and photos!

<http://www.pacificcoastiris.org>

Web Manager, Steve Ayala

929 Pepperwood Lane, Petaluma CA 94952

e-mail: stevayla@sonic.net

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

FROM THE SPCNI TREASURER

Prices listed are for SPCNI members

Check List of Named PCI Cultivars

Lists and describes Pacific Coast Iris and named hybrids through 2001. ~70 pages. Hardcopy or CD: \$9.00 for USA, \$9.50 for Canada, and \$16.00 for Europe. For both a CD and a hard copy, the cost would be \$4.50 less for the CD.

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. \$8.00 postpaid, \$10.00 out of US.

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. \$8.00 postage paid, \$10.00 out of US.

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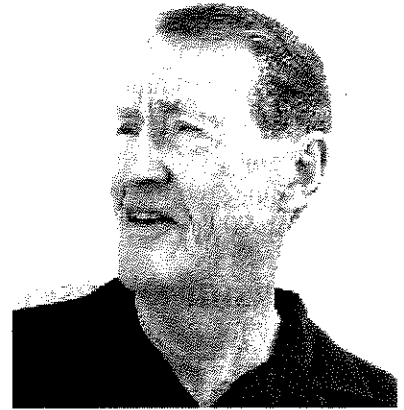
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As the old cliché goes, I have some good news and some bad news. I'll cover the good news first, the bad news second, and end with more good news.

Ken Walker has taken the position of the first Recorder that SPCNI has had. Many sections of the AIS are creating this position to take some of the pressure off the regular AIS Recorder, whose job is becoming Herculean. The main purpose of a Recorder for each Society is to keep a visual record of new introductions.



The potential of the office of Recorder is much greater than AIS has indicated, and Ken will additionally be keeping visual records of older PCI introductions, including garden pictures, as well as images of species and inter-specific hybrids.

Ken has the capability for converting slides and other pictures to digital images. Please see his message elsewhere in the Almanac. His digital images will be of great help to our Webmaster and the Editor of the Almanac, who sometimes are hard pressed to find good images of the latest Mitchell Award winners.

I am delighted to have Ken in this new position, and I suspect he sees more potentiality in it than any of the rest of us can possibly imagine.

The bad news is that no one has assumed the position of Editor of the Almanac, and the Hudsons are still doing way more than anyone has the right to ask in putting out the Almanac until a permanent Editor is found. No one claims the role of Editor is an easy one, but the Directors are willing to help for the first issue or two while a new Editor gets used to the job. The position of Editor is a crucial one for the Society, and for those of you who are hesitating, now is the time to perform a real service, as well as having the satisfaction of creating a publication the way you think it ought to be.

There is more good news. SPCNI is planning a trek at the AIS Convention in Portland, Oregon, in 2006. We are in the planning stages now, and of course the actual destinations visited will depend on what is in bloom in 2006 at the time of the Convention. We are hoping to see some of the stands of *I. tenax* in its various color forms, and hopefully the rare stands of *I. tenuis*. Technically, *I. tenuis* is not a Californicae, but that has not stopped the Society twice in the past several decades from visiting this charming little iris. So why should it stop us now? The only thing that will stop us is its not being in bloom. Otherwise, our plans do include it.

The exact date of the trek has not yet been finalized. We'd love to have each of you be a part of this wonderful experience.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard".

Breaking News.....

Sunset Magazine has a beautiful story on Pacific Coast Iris in their May 2005 edition which has just hit the newstands. If you don't subscribe to this great magazine, it is available at most newstands.

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 in 90 days.

MEMBERSHIP & SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris is a section of the American Iris Society.

Membership	Individual	Family
Annual	\$ 8.00	\$10.00
Triennial	20.00	23.00
10 year	60.00	75.00
20 year	110.00	125.00

Send membership monies to the SPCNI Treasurer. For foreign: annual or triennial please add \$4.00 per membership; 10/20 year membership, please add \$20/\$40 per membership.

AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

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

Send membership renewals or inquiries to the Membership Secretary:

Tom Gormley
PO Box 38
Cedar Hill, MO 63016-0028
636-0028 E-Mail : amimemsec@earthlink.net

Annual, Single:	\$25.00
Dual:	\$30.00
Triennial, Single:	\$60.00
Dual:	\$75.00
Life, Single:	\$450.00
Dual:	\$545.00
Overseas Rates:	
Annual, Single:	\$30.00
Dual:	\$35.00
Triennial, Single:	\$65.00
Dual:	\$80.00

Calendar year memberships. May be paid by check, VISA or Mastercard. Overseas memberships include first class postage, and are payable in U.S. currency.

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NOTICES

The Society will be holding a General Meeting of the members and the public at the American Iris Society National Convention in St. Louis, Missouri on May 11, 2005. For more information contact Terri Hudson.

SPCNI MEMBERSHIP LIST

SPCNI is 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.

NEW MEMBERS LIST:

- Dorothy Aggas
3912 Copeo Road
Hornbrook CA 96044
- Ann & Dwayne Booth
117 150th Place SW
Edmonds WA 98026
- Dave Brastow
2305 Trospen Rd.SW
Tumwater WA 98512
- Robert J. Harder
3210 Telescope Terrace
Nanaimo BC V9T 4A9
- Jordan Jackson
3431 Cascadia Ave. S.
Seattle WA 98144
- Ann Pike
327 Palm Street
Santa Cruz CA 95060
- Ron Emens
1219 Magic Sands Way
Turlock CA 95388

Handwritten notes:
 till
 2:08
 Ann Confield paul.com
 todd@alywa.net
 till 2:18

PLEASE ADVISE SPCNI AND AIS OF A CHANGE OF ADDRESS

WHO ARE OUR EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS?

Mike Monniger - 2nd Vice President

Elaine and I have been growing PCIs for about 15 years. I think we became enthralled with PCI at the first iris show we attended in 1989 or 1990. At a show in 1992 or 1993, Ellie Hubley entered several PCI she and her husband Bob grew. We were taken with them as were the judges and 'Claremont Trailblazer' won 'Best Specimen of Show'. At this time, Bob was in the final stages of Alzheimer's. Ellie invited us to their house and we saw many large clumps of PCI growing in their decomposed granite.



We had a real treat in 1994 when we went on the SPCNI two day trek. The highlight for us was visiting Joe Ghio's garden, the Lawyers' garden with all the clones involving *I. Munzii* hybridizing, and Vern Wood's garden where he hybridized PCI in a small space about 10 foot by 4 foot with the rest of his postage stamp yard dedicated to tall bearded.

'Canyon Snow' is at the top of our favorite list because it does so well in our area and has form that says "Look at me!" Other PCI we have grown and liked are 'Mantra', 'Idylwild', 'Fault Zone', 'Pacific High', 'Umunhum', 'Skylash', 'Ciao', and 'Sea Gal'. I don't remember a cultivar that one of us didn't like, but I'm sure there have been some. Even the narrow specie type from seed are put in an out of the way corner.

We have culture challenges to grow PCI in southern California inland valleys. The high summer heat causes some of the PCI to either bloom low or die. Due to the heat we grow our PCI in moderate to heavy shade and we water them a lot in the summer. Another problem we have is the fruit beetle larvae which eat the roots of our PCI. The grubs get the size of a thumb and are very voracious eaters, devastating our PCI. We are trying Milky Spore as a control to kill the grubs but not injure earthworms. Additionally, our soil is a clay so we grow our PCI in raised beds for drainage, with a light fertilizing once a year.

We have the best success transplanting new plants from a container. The high heat and the Santa Ana winds in October through January desiccate all our plants, especially ones trying to live and make new roots. One trick we have found to improve the survival of new bare root plants is to cover them with a jar or half a two liter plastic bottle to keep the humidity higher for the new plant until it gets new roots.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL From Carol J. Bornstein, Director of Horticulture, Santa Barbara Botanical Gardens

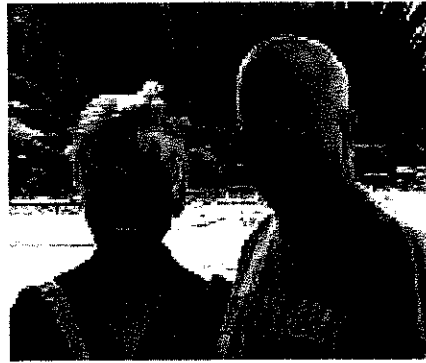
I am writing in response to your call for wild-collected seed in the Spring, 2002 Almanac. Your list of desired species includes three species currently listed as rare by the California Native Plant Society: *Iris tenax* ssp. *klamathensis* is listed as CNPS 4 (Plants of limited distribution - a watch list), and *I. munzii* and *I. hartwegii* ssp. *columbiana* are each listed as CNPS 1B (Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere). These CNPS 1B species are of particular concern.

On public lands, these plants are protected under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and proper permits are required for collection of these plants and their propagules. Collecting on all federal lands requires a permit, regardless of status. On private lands, permits are not required, but certain ethical collecting practices should be followed. For example, seed should only be collected in small quantities (no more than 10% of entire crop), and only if sufficient seed will be left to repopulate natural populations.

When collecting propagules from wild populations, please remind your members to research the current conservation status of the species and obtain the proper collecting permits. Information about laws pertaining to plants is available from your state's natural resources department, and data concerning the conservation status of plants are available from the state Natural Heritage Program, or their equivalents. In California, The CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants is an excellent, regularly updated resource.

FROM THE EDITORS

Preparing our second edition as Editors has been both fun and challenging. Fun, because of the responses we have received in our e-mail request for articles and information, and challenging because a publication is always demanding on the Editor's time. With all the activities we have going on with AIS, SPCNI, our commercial garden and our grandchildren, something is going to have to go. We sincerely hope someone will step forward to be the Editor so that the publication continues.



The article about Ryan Grisso was a pleasure to include, as we visited his garden this spring to see all the seedlings we had heard he was growing. We were totally overwhelmed with both the quantity and quality of his plants. Ryan is welcome new blood to the iris world and we sincerely wish him luck in whatever he achieves. His wife is expecting their first child and we are surely glad his second love of fishing is going to give way to growing iris.

We have recently acquired from Adele Lawyer all the back copies of the Almanac, thus the idea transpired to have pages from the past in every edition. Reading many of the old articles is not only interesting but gives reflections on what we are doing today. The history of early hybridizing was especially interesting as that is where all of our beautiful plants today got started.

In the next issue we plan on featuring hybrids that were registered prior to 1990. The idea behind this is to find out what is still growing and performing. We will need information and pictures from you to help with this project. This hopefully will give information as to not only what is garden successful, but ideas for hybridizers to use in breeding for hardiness.

The iris, 'Amiguita' (Nies 1947) has been around for a long time with some obvious clones being grown that are not the real 'Amiguita'. Through the efforts of many, we have identified the real one and a photo of it is on the "Mug Shot" page. Our special thanks go to Jean Witt for supplying an authentic photo taken by her late husband Joseph. If you have the "real" Amiguita, please let the Secretary/Treasurer know, just for the record!

We have so enjoyed bringing you the article Richard did on Dr. Lenz. Several of us, who did not know him before, met him when he joined us for a Trek to the San Bernadino Mountains a few years back. It always pleases us to see how many people in the iris and gardening world continue to contribute information in their later years.

Most of you are probably not aware that Vernon Wood has had to give up growing and hybridizing and is happily living in a Senior home near his daughter in Chico, California. Some of his seedlings are still being grown by Ryan Grisso and the Iris Gallery and will be selected for introduction in the future. We are sure he would appreciate a note from those who knew him.

Vernon Wood
2801 Cohasset #127
Chico, CA 95973

Reporting on another Botanical garden and Dr. Lee Lenz

by Richard Richards

So where is Dr. Lee W. Lenz? Right where he's been for the past fifty years or so. At the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden.

Dr. Lenz and the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden are nearly synonyms in the mind of most Pacific Coast Iris enthusiasts. From 1960 to 1983 he was the Director of the Garden. He began work there in 1948, while the Garden was still located in Santa Ana Canyon in Orange County. In 1952 the Garden was moved to its present 86 acre site in Claremont, California, about fifty miles east of Los Angeles.

He retired in 1983 from the position of Director and also Professor of Botany at Claremont Graduate University. But almost every day he is still in his office or in the plant areas at the Garden, most recently involved in the study of yuccas.

But it is his work with the series *Californicae* that links him to both the Garden and the California native iris community. He was the first to monograph the series, dividing them into the species and subspecies pretty much in the way they are regarded today in the botanical world. He also excluded *iris tenuis* from the series, recognizing its similarity to the irises of the Great Lakes and one of the Chinese groups. The classification came out of his two-week trips up and down the California coast every spring for a decade or so. He seldom allowed the administrative duties at the Garden to keep him out of the native plant communities around the state, especially at bloom time.



He also attempted to grow and hybridize many of the *Californicae* species at one time or another, and it is his work with *Iris munzii* that makes the names "Lenz" and "*munzii*" also nearly synonymous. For years he grew that species in the garden, learning about its habits and hybridizing with it. His efforts produced a number of beautiful hybrids in various shades of blue and violet, all of which are gone now. Photos of them from the Robert Hubley collection can be viewed on the Society website.

His most famous introduction in terms of parentage was 'Sierra Sapphire', a strong blue iris whose genetic heritage found its way into several different hybridizers' work. (see p. 21.. "Mug Shots") It probably had the widest circulation of all the Lenz *munzii* introductions, and is most likely in the makeup of most, if not all, of the wonderful blue Pacificas that are coming from the hybridizers today. In fact, there is a seedling of 'Sierra Sapphire', called 'Sierra Sapphire II' and very similar to its famous parent, that is growing and flowering quite happily at the Garden today. Dr. Lenz is not planning on registering and introducing it. He says that named cultivars seem to have such a short life span that all an introduction does is add another line to the extensive and complicated records of the AIS Registrar.

He was very generous with his irises, and 'Sierra Sapphire', as well as other Lenz seedlings and introductions, were used by such hybridizers as Thornton Abell, Dara Emery at the Santa Barbara Botanic Gardens, Bob Hubley, and Lewis and Adele Lawyer. He also sent seed of *I. munzii* to New Zealand, where it is still being grown today. He also worked with *I. innominata* and *I. bracteata* to produce garden cultivars. His 'Claremont Indian', a reddish Pacifica derived from *I. innominata*, may still exist in a garden or two

(cont. page 7)

somewhere, and was used extensively by hybridizers in the 1960s and later to produce reddish cultivars.

That's history. A trip through the Garden this spring with Dr. Lenz was a rich aesthetic experience. *I. douglasiana* has naturalized all over the garden, even in areas that get direct sun all day. This is proof of Lenz's contention that *I. douglasiana* is the toughest, most hardy Californicae of all the species. Dr. Lenz says it has become a weed in many respects, but is such a marvelous ground cover that it is a welcome invader.

I. douglasiana got started on the new Claremont site early in its history. Dr. Lenz said that *I. douglasiana* seed was simply scattered throughout the garden, but it sometimes had to be scattered more than once since ants, attracted by something on the seeds, collected them into piles.

Besides the extravagant flower show being put on by the *I. douglasiana*, there were some Joe Ghio introductions and seedlings doing well, some in areas of full sun, which is surprising since many named varieties, involving other species than *I. douglasiana*, do not do well in a location of full sun this far inland, and may just dry up and blow away. Specifically, 'Laureles', 'Lifeline', and 'Earthquake' were seen flowering happily in a fully sunny location, which has to get quite hot during the long summers of Claremont and similar interior climates of Southern California. A number of irises, appearing to be derived from Ghio bloodlines and perhaps some of the seedlings he sent to the garden, were also doing well, occasionally in full sun.

Once Dr. Lenz left the position of Director, subsequent administrations had little interest in Pacificas, and went in other directions. But the native irises remain as a beautiful tribute to the interest and energy of Dr. Lenz. Nor are the irises his only legacy. He has donated two sculptures to the Garden. He believes there is a natural symbiosis between the plant world and human creativity, and the two sculptures provide ample evidence for this; each placed in a plant community that will enhance the sculpture. The sculptures in turn enhance the natural environment in which they have been placed. (One of the sculptures is behind Dr. Lenz in the photo.)

Though we have focused on the Californicae, the Garden is a showplace for hundreds of species and hybrids of California's rich botanical heritage. Dr. Lee Lenz' role in helping preserve that heritage in a dramatically beautiful way will not soon be lost, and must be a tremendous source of satisfaction to the man who has been giving time and talent to the Garden and the botanical world for so many years.

Editor's note:

After completing his Ph.D. at the Missouri Botanical Garden under Dr. Edgar Anderson, Dr. Lee Lenz came to Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in 1948, and in 1960 was named director, a position he held until his retirement in 1983. He was appointed associate professor (later professor) in the Claremont Graduate School in 1952 and chaired the department from ca. 1956 to 1981. His early research centered around cytogenetics and taxonomy, especially in the Liliaceae and Iridaceae. He has also had an interest in the origin of cultivated plants and has carried out horticultural breeding programs at the Garden utilizing native western taxa. In recent years he has devoted much of his time to investigations in the Cape Region of southern Baja California and has published a catalog of the plants of the Cape Region and is completing a manuscript on the natural history of the Cape. He is the author of six books and numerous scientific papers.

SPCNI Recorder

The SPCNI is creating a digital archive of PCN photos. This is an extension to the duties of the newly created position of Recorder, whose job it is to keep photographs of new introductions. We are looking for contributions of pictures of named PCN cultivars and species. Good garden photos of PCNs are also welcome. We'd like to accumulate photos of the same cultivar growing under different conditions, so don't be concerned that we may already have a picture of a specific iris. From hybridizers, we are particularly interested in authenticated photos of your past introductions.

I can accept photos in a variety of formats. These may be captured on film or taken with a digital camera.

I can handle digital images in a variety of file formats, such as JPEG and TIFF. You may e-mail them to me or send them on a CD. If possible, please send me original, full size files, rather than pictures that have been resized for e-mail or web viewing. The larger files are more suitable for publishing. If you are e-mailing pictures, it works better to send one per message. If you have a slow dial-up connection so that e-mailing large files is impractical, we have uses for the smaller files too, so please send them.

For pictures captured on film, I can scan a number of formats: prints, 35 mm slides, 35 mm negatives, medium format negatives, and APS negatives (in cassettes). In the case of prints, I can often get a better scan from the negative if it is in good condition. If the negatives are readily available, I'd appreciate it if you can send them with the prints.

For each picture, please tell me the name of the cultivar or species and the name of the photographer. If possible, also tell me where the picture was taken. I'll tag the image file with this information. If there is other information that you think should be recorded with the picture, send it along.

Flower photographers sometimes have difficulty accurately capturing the color of a flower. This can be due to lighting, or limitations of the film or the digital camera. It may not always be possible to get the color exactly right, but I'm willing to work with the photographer to adjust the color of the digital image when it is needed. This is most important for authenticated pictures from the hybridizer.

By default, I'll return all physical material once I have digital copies of the pictures. However, if you would like the SPCNI to retain any physical media, let me know and I'll forward it to the archives.

Note that you will be giving the SPCNI the right to use and distribute the photos however the board of directors thinks is appropriate. Some pictures will appear on our web site and in publications. Pictures could also possibly be distributed for commercial use, such as in nursery catalogs and books, if the board feels that these uses further the organization's goals. You still retain full rights to use and distribute the pictures as you see fit. If you are not the photographer of a picture, you **MUST** have authority from the photographer (or other copyright holder) to grant the SPCNI use of the picture.

Please send pictures to

Ken Walker
1391 Santa Clara Ave
Concord, CA 94518

kenww001@astound.net

My phone number is 925-825-2350, if you have questions.

Feedback From the Seed Exchange

The economy must be looking up; there were forty-six orders for seeds this year, totaling about a thousand different packets, and donations were several and generous. Moreover, we found a bargain on bubble mailers! So the ultimate outcome is that many people have many new toys, and the Society has enough money to pay for new reprints of the Cohen and Lenz pamphlets. What a win-win situation!

By far the most popular item offered was #4400, Garry Knipe's collection of *I.fernaldii* seed from the Santa Cruz Mountains, although the *I. munzii* seed ran a close second. Demand was also very heavy for seed of 'Air Show', 'Heaven Knows', 'Luminist', 'Sojourner', 'Sea Gal' (sorry, we ran short again) and 'Star of Wonder'. 'Sea Gal' growers, go out and hand-pollinate!

If you received more seed than you now want, or germinate far more seedlings than you can possibly find space for, by all means share with friends and neighbors---- think of them as potential new SPCNI members.

What makes running the Seed Exchange especially rewarding is hearing back from people who have seen the seed they order become plants and bear flowers. We received pictures of several dazzling seedlings from Gareth Winter in New Zealand, who also just e-mailed that his seed order this year arrived unopened by New Zealand Customs (they're very zealous about protecting the country from agricultural invaders) for the first time ever. He also reports (February 8): "Weather has been stinking hot - 32-34 degrees the last few days - Centigrade that is, and believe it or not, there are three PCs in flower. Flower stems seem stunted though, and flower quality poor."

Carol Coleman, who lives in harsh Boise, Idaho, reports that plants she raised from seed of 'Big Smile,' 'Idylwild,' 'Mendocino Blue,' 'Los Californio,' 'Chief Sequoia' and 'Pacific Rim' are still doing okay, although she lost seedlings of 'Air Show' and 'Blacklight' last fall.

James Harrison writes from Asheville, North Carolina that PCI are doing well for him; the area is in a pocket between the Blue Ridge Mountains and the Smoky Mountains, and the climate is a temperate rain forest, much like coastal Washington-Oregon (see separate article).

Liselotte Hirsbrunner reported January 29: "Looking forward to the seeds, we are 'buried' under 2 ft of snow and temperatures too low for PCI's. We have the 4th night of 2 degrees F. BRRR. Just hope the snow will be enough of a blanket for my poor darlings! I am wondering what the climate is like where natives will be exposed to the same conditions? Until now the PCI's did pretty well, but this has been the coldest winter in 16 years!" She has taken photos of everything (I swear) that ever grew for her at her upland Switzerland home, daylilies, hostas and irises, on view at her website, <http://homepage.mac.com/ahirsbrunner> - one could spend several hours there easily!

If you wrote back and I haven't mentioned it, I apologize; my hard drive died last August and I lost a lot of valuable material. Keep those cards and letters coming! and I promise to back up my computer (and relay to the Almanac!) more often.....

Debby Cole, SPCNI Seed Chair

Watch for pods, collect seeds for our Seed Distribution in the Fall

Please send your seed donations (or promise of them) not later than mid-September, 2005.

Debby Cole
Seed Exchange Chair
7417 92nd Place SE
Mercer Island, WA 98040

Population Study of the *Iris hartwegii* Complex

by Erin Riggs

sewr@ecoisp.com

SIGNA, Spring 2003 No. 70, p.3561-3,

Victor Cohen wrote, "Would that one could love it!" while describing the gawky, ungainly little *Iris hartwegii*. This wild cousin of the more eye-catching garden iris has found a place in my heart. It is as sweet as a small ray of sun.

I started my botanical journey into the world of the *Iris* at the suggestion of Dr. Carol Wilson, my major professor at Portland State University. I was a graduate student with no project and she directed me to the *Iris hartwegii* complex. I decided look at the group with both morphological and molecular data, with the hopes of clarifying the taxonomic issues. Along the way, not only did I learn science, I discovered the beauty of the wild *Iris*.

The *Iris hartwegii* complex. The *I. hartwegii* complex, at this time, is comprised of four subspecies: *Iris hartwegii* subsp. *hartwegii* Baker, *Iris hartwegii* subsp. *columbiana* Lenz, *Iris hartwegii* subsp. *pinetorum* (Eastwood) Lenz, and *Iris hartwegii* subsp. *australis* (Parish) Lenz (Figures 1-4). Its members are mainly distributed in California's Sierra Nevada mountain range, with one subspecies, *I. h. australis* in the San Bernardino and San Gabriel mountains of southern California.

The complex is currently placed within the subgenus *Limniris* Tausch (the beardless irises), section *Limniris* Tausch, and series *Californicae* (Diels) Lawrence. This series is also known as the "Pacific Coast Irises".

Each member of the *I. hartwegii* complex has undergone various taxonomic revisions. In 1958 when Lenz reviewed the complex, he retained *I. h.* subsp. *hartwegii* as such, described *I. h.* subsp. *columbiana* as new, and included *I. pinetorum* (named as a distinct species by Eastwood in 1931) as another subspecies of *I. hartwegii*.

Iris hartwegii subsp. *australis* has had more changes than any other. Parish first described it in 1898 as a variety of *I. hartwegii*. In 1937, Foster described it a variety of *I. tenax*, and in 1958, Lenz listed it as a subspecies in the *I. hartwegii* complex.

Recently there has been a growing interest in the series *Californicae*. Young (1998) wrote that while based on molecules they all form one complex, they could still be considered as morphologically identifiable distinct species. Wilson (2003) was able to resolve several taxonomic relationships, with the exception of the *I. hartwegii* complex. She suggested, from molecular data, the Pacific Coast *Iris* form a polyphyletic group (a taxon that contains descendants of two or more ancestral sources), but from morphological data they may be paraphyletic (a taxon that contains some, but not all, descendants of the most recent common ancestor of that group).

The goal of my research was to clarify taxon boundaries within the *Iris hartwegii* complex, based on morphological and molecular variation among the subspecies populations.

Appearance. I took morphological measurements, in the field, of 14 different characters. The measurements were from 10 populations for a total of 105 individuals. I analyzed this data using SYSTAT, a statistical program that determines similarities.

The resulting phenogram (a taxonomic tree based on calculations of overall similarities) suggests that *I. h.* subsp. *pinetorum* is the least similar to any other member of this group. The subspecies *columbiana*, *australis*, and *hartwegii* were each clustered in distinct subgroups, but were similar enough to remain in one inclusive group.

DNA. Molecular data was collected via RAPDs (randomly amplified polymorphic DNA). This

(cont. on page 11)

technique amplifies random regions of the genome, and results in various sized DNA segments that can be used to characterize individuals. The DNA is separated on a gel and stained so that it glows under UV light. The presence or absence of singular sized DNA segments on the gel can be included in a data set and analyzed. I used SYSTAT to examine the DNA data.

The resulting phenogram generally supports the morphological data. *Iris hartwegii* subsp. *pinetorum* was the most distinct group, and *I. h.* subsp. *hartwegii* and subsp. *columbiana* formed one group (Figure 6, right).

Conclusions. Both molecular and morphological data support *I. h.* subsp. *pinetorum* as a distinct species. It should be returned to species status, *I. pinetorum*, as Eastwood originally named it in 1931. Additionally, both molecular and morphological data support retaining *I. h.* subsp. *australis* and *I. h.* subsp. *hartwegii* within the *I. hartwegii* complex. Finally the molecular and morphological data support a revision of the status of *I. h.* subsp. *columbiana* as a variety in the *I. hartwegii* complex. This results from the grouping of *I. h.* subsp. *columbiana* and subsp. *hartwegii* together using molecular data and the separation of the two subspecies using morphological data. My conclusion is that molecular change and morphological change in *I. h.* subsp. *columbiana* are proceeding at different rates.

Taxonomic research of this nature clarifies relationships among taxa and provides important information for conservation decisions. As *I. h.* subsp. *pinetorum* is known from only one population and *I. h.* subsp. *australis* from only four populations, these two distinct taxa may warrant extra attention.

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From the Past.....Fall 1978 Almanac

Pacific Irises in Gardens A History

B. LEROY DAVIDSON

It is altogether fitting that our own Western American irises should have become so familiar in the British Isles, for it is well said that "All the best plants come from Britain, no matter where they originate." Were they not of quality, they would never have been given any notice there, nor gained favor anywhere. *Ms tenax* was the first of the group to reach those shores. Grown from seed collected and sent back by David Douglas, probably from near Fort Vancouver on the Lower Columbia River, it was illustrated in 1829 in the Botanical Registry, and horticulture was introduced to one of the lovely new plants from North America. Certainly it must have brought a new concept to irises; being so very different from the already well-known "Great Blue Flags" of "Virginia." Soon, some near-related species came to be known and grown in Germany, Holland and France, as well as England. But no great effort was expended, either toward keeping any pure strains nor to development of superior hybrids, so that by the time any serious study of the genus *Iris* was commenced, they had been lost, either physically so, or at least lost in identity, and it was necessary to import new stocks.

It was Dykes and Perry, almost a century later following Leitchlin and Foster, who felt impelled to attempt all possible intercrosses of iris species and to record the results, yet nothing much in the way of superior garden plants resulted. It was only in quite recent times, with the exciting new hybrids grown by Fothergill and Mrs. Brummitt, that superiority of garden hybrids of these irises struck British horticulture, probably due to the strong infusion of an entirely new species having been found and grown in the interim. This was of course *Iris innominata*, which has not only become everyone's favorite but it is the cornerstone species of all the good garden strains.

With its discovery in 1928 and its publication as a species by Henderson in 1930, *Iris innominata* brought a new era to irisdom. Here was the epitome of grace in a small iris, which also proved to be easily grown. It was given the Award of Merit of the Royal Horticulture Society in 1936. When crossed to other species, its best qualities shone through or were even improved, and its one fault of a rather lax stalk was largely eliminated. Put to *I. douglasiana*, the result was an even more vigorous nature, a plant between the two in size, with polished glossy foliage and an array of flower colors unknown to either species.

Dr. Matthew Riddle is acknowledged as the great champion of *Iris innominata*. While on fishing trips in Southwestern Oregon he tucked into his lunch bag the best of those he found and established them in his garden. It occurs in both purple and yellow in pure stands, as well as in mad-riot mixtures where the two color forms merge. When Professor Sydney Mitchell was American Iris Society Chairman for Species, he once received a quart of seed from these plants, which was sent out to enthusiasts in the four corners of the world. Jean Stevens of New Zealand was among the recipients, and she was soon selecting seed strains, yellow, orange, red, violet, blue; and Fred Danks of Australia was shortly growing the Stevens' *innominatas*.

Mrs. English of Seattle, Washington made the first recorded crosses of *Iris innominata* and *douglasiana* (reported in "National Horticulture Magazine," October 1948) and gave the name *Iris X aureonymphaea* to the resulting hybrids. The cross was planned to give a sturdier stem bearing the golden flowers, and was made in 1936. Several plants were selected for perpetuation, the first one being named "Golden Nymph." It is interesting to note that Lenz and others have reported finding this hybrid combination where the two species overlap in the wilds of coastal southwestern Oregon, and that all the good traits and beautiful blended colors of the garden hybrids are represented therein.

At about the same period, the Sydney Mitchell garden was astounding visitors with a decidedly fine new strain of *Iris douglasiana*; this derived in the main from a number of selections made by Fred De Forest who then lived in nearby Marin County. Seed of this was likewise sent out by Mitchell, some of it to Danks, who grew exciting things and crossed many onto his *innominatas*, sending seed back to Mitchell and to others. This was probably the first intentional utilization of this classic cross, possibly predating Mrs. English's recorded work.

Enthusiasts, gathering in the Mitchell garden as they usually did, excited as bees near the hive, were non-plussed one day at the sight of a stupendous bronzy-purple iris flower which had been grown by Mrs. Hansen from seed sent her as wild Oregon irises. Professor Mitchell had found it to have double the usual number of chromosomes; a tetraploid *Iris douglasiana* it was called, but it may have been an example of *I. tenax*. It was sterile.

Meanwhile, several others in California had grown the Riddle *innominata* and DeForest-Mitch-

ell douglasiana strains, and the bees were working at mixing them up. Noteworthy were Mrs. Cates of Berkeley and Bob Nourse of Ukiah. Nourse put certain other blood-lines into his, as the *Iris macrosiphon* of his area and possibly also *I. purdyi*, and seeds as well as plants went to the Mitchell garden.

Southern California irisarians had not been idle as their native irises became known at home. Eric Nies was growing some douglasiana of his own selection to which he later added the DeForest-Mitchell strain. His introductions show no taint of other species. Helen and Dick Lührson were attracting considerable attention with their colorful hybrids derived from the Gates strain, which by now showed considerable douglasiana influence and a similar-appearing line was being grown by Mildred and David Lyons. Marion Walker came to possess the Nies stocks, to which he soon commenced adding innominata blood from the Danks and/or Nourse strains. Dr. Johnson was working at selecting a line of *douglasiana*, from plants of his own collecting. He was attracted by the adaptability of this species to Southern California's climate, especially tolerance of summer watering. George Stambach began developing his own strain, involving Lührson and Lyons hybrids and Nies douglasiana; notable was his later use of "Claremont Indian." An attempt was made to explore the benefits *I. hartwegii australis* might bring, but it was soon obvious nothing was to be gained, at least for Southern California conditions-nothing not already inherent in the two basics, douglasiana and innominata.

During this time, Dr. Lenz was hard at his field work, observing and collecting the material to be established in the grounds of Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden. As this work first was to constitute a cytological study, it was necessary to obtain materials which conformed strictly to the original published species descriptions; thus, entirely new stocks were assembled. Along with the laboratory work and field work went the breeding work, the selection of which was to give us some of the most individual plants to date. To this time, the majority of the garden strains had been based on essentially identical lines. From this time, the Lenz lines were blended into most of the work to follow. The Lenz work experimented with perceiving what desirable traits might be inherited from each of the species and forms of these irises. The major emphasis came to be in the use of innominata and douglasiana, as in prior work, but bracteata and munzii were found to contribute traits upon which two "new" strains came to rely heavily; bracteata gave size, a good stalk and golden yellow color; munzii gave great vigor and blue color. Lenz once described his ideal hybrid as a thrifty plant, 12 - 18" high, with strongly erect stalks carrying tull-petaled flowers well above tidy, evergreen, narrow foliage.

Jean Stevens had reported obtaining the bluest of irises among her *munzii* and was probably the first to use it in breeding when she crossed it to her *innominata*.

Back in England, Fothergill was making careful observations of progenies from Danks innominata and various douglasiana lines. His best things, though unbranched, inevitably resulted from innominata podded to douglasiana pollen. The reciprocal consistently proved to give no quality, and therefore branching stems went for naught. "This particular line of inter-specific breeding is perhaps the most promising that has appeared in the genus since the introduction oftetraploid tall bearded species," so enthused Mr. Herrick in the 1950 BIS Yearbook, on seeing Fothergill's results. Mrs. Brummitt was soon growing a similar line, which likewise was to win great praise and many awards. An infusion of Lenz-blooded strains was later added, and some lesser known species also figured in their lines (i.e., *femaldii*, presumably for its stiffly erect stalk). She feels that Lenz's "Pacific Splendor" gave her things great individuality. Gardeners from all over the British Isles were now clamoring for these delightful new irises, which, they were told, grew so readily they'd soon have lawns of them!

Meanwhile the Mitchell garden in Berkeley produced an annual crop of seedlings that was shared with Bay Region gardeners, the poorer ones rogued so the bees would have only the best to work with. As a student working in the garden following Professor Mitchell's death. Jack Craig was given permission to rescue whatever he wished, and soon he was intercrossing Mitchell's bee seedlings, some of which had falls exceeding two inches in breadth! Jack moved to Japan; before doing so, the better seedlings passed into other hands, Joe Ghio and Roy Davidson being among the recipients. Craig had also entered into a joint breeding venture with Elwood Molseed, a young native of Mendocino County, who had collected and interbred some of the best iris from his area, including purdyi and macrosiphon and some extraordinary douglasiana (pansy-black, for example). Also utilized had been both blue and white forms of the exceedingly robust (4 - 5 foot) form of *douglasiana*, once known as "Watsoniana," this from the Bowman garden in Fort Bragg where he had been employed. They also used pollens from Walker's strain (of the "Ojai"-period) and from Lenz' strains, particularly those based on munzii and bracteata. Thus the Mitch-

ell-Craig strain evolved into the Craig-Molseed strain. It should have produced spectacular things, particularly as the selections were exploited; but tragedies struck. The plants were moved with many losses; Molseed died; Craig, having returned, rescued survivors, few labels intact. Some went to Davidson who sees them as an exceptionally vigorous strain, even in a cool, wet climate. Some went to Japan where they thrive in a wet-summer climate. Joe Ghio has developed from them a unique, award-worthy strain through combination with his selections of the native Santa Cruz irises; apparently a group of douglasiana-microsiphon or douglasiana-femaldii natural hybrids found in nearby areas.

There were other people growing these same kinds of iris and raising seedlings but little of their work ever reached the iris registry. In the Northwest some enthusiasts have concentrated on a different approach, though still through using innominata. California-bred strains utilizing douglasiana produce too much unwanted foliage in proportion to floral rewards when grown in that cooler, wetter climate. The indigenous tenax would seem capable of contributing every good quality given by douglasiana to Southern strains, but tidier, smaller plant habit.

It was once speculated that branched douglasiana would contribute greater floriferousness through its ability to give ten or more buds per stem. In reality, this has not proved to be the case; most of these irises are unbranched, producing multiple stems as if the branching were translocated to the rhizome as a function. The resulting effect is far more pleasing in garden hybrids as in wild plants. Many have but a single bud, making ideal cutting material both for house decoration and show arrangements; certainly an attractive attribute.

This Northwest strain, if it can be so-called, is then largely the result of tenax-innominata combination and segregation. It is yet in the developmental stage (1972) and quite unproved elsewhere. It should give more cold-resistance, and possibly will prove advantageous in other cool, wet areas. Certainly it has no future where either of these two species proves unsuited, as in Southern California, for instance. An extensive collection of species representatives in many forms, a good number of collected natural hybrids (some with color and pattern unknown in any species), and as many registered or named cultivars as can be found, had been established by a group effort at Bellevue, Washington, for study and comparison. It is easily seen from observation there that *douglasiana* is the most malleable of the group. Certain others, indigenous to California, do not adapt easily, either as transplants or seed-grown. *Iris hartwegii* in all its variety has been disappointing, and *I. macrosiphon* seems entirely unsuited. Possibly these insist on long-day summer baking in a heavier soil; perhaps they might contribute something to a garden strain suited to south-west conditions.

As would be entirely logical, species found growing in the Northwest in nature are perfectly suited to Northwest garden conditions, including *I. chrysophylla* as well as the two already mentioned. This latter species seems to contribute brilliance of color and precocious flowering habit to a small and tidy hybrid plant. A large colony that appears similar in all respects except color is the early orchid-flowering one found near Eugene, Oregon, by Delora Thompson Smith, and known by the tentative name of "Notiensis." Registrations of Zelne Quigley and Ruth Hardy are notable since they represent garden-proved collected plants of pure species derivation. The Hubbard cultivars are similar in being non-hybrid, but arose as garden seedlings from selected wild plants.

There is much to be said for the future of these irises, and although Mr. Herrick may have been over-praising, it is certain that there is a lot of excitement in their garden possibilities. It is likewise an assurance that their individualities will not be soon subdued in one great development with cast-iron constitution and huge blossoms. There is material here for many kinds and many garden uses, from bold and durable landscape plants to diminutive rock garden subjects. And as a good part of the most promising recent hybrid work is still but a very few generations away from wild-flower status, all, or most, of what is here chronicled having taken place within the past forty years, it should illustrate the value of maintaining the wildflower look to this inherently graceful group of irises.

Did you know?.....

California Indians used the Pacific Coast iris in many ways. Leaves of *I. Macrosiphon* were gathered in large bundles. A single silky fiber was taken from each margin of the leaf; the rest of the fibers were not used. The Indian women cleaned these fibers, and the Indian men twisted the thread on their thighs. The fiber made a beautiful strong and pliable cord or rope used for fishing nets and snares for catching deer, birds and other game.

Reprinted from Spring 1977 Almanac.

Editor's note: *I. Douglasiana* was used in much the same way by the Pomo on the N. Coast of CA.

Hybridizer's Corner

Ryan Grisso, El Sobrante, California

In the Beginning: I have to credit Vern Wood with being a very generous mentor to me in this adventure and really getting me hooked on hybridizing the Pacific Coast Iris. His encouraging "try anything" attitude, is very contagious.

Seedling Growing Schedule: As I am writing this article, I am watching my second year of seedlings bloom from the crosses I made in 2003. The seedlings grew well, substantially increased, with most or all blooming or going to bloom this Spring. Bloom from 1.5 year old plants, was one of my initial goals (getting them to bloom in the shortest amount of time as possible). This time frame allows me to rotate my seedlings out after this first bloom season, enabling an every other year rotation of seedlings beds (saving me square footage in the garden). To meet this timing goal, I start the seed in early October and plant the seedlings in the garden beds in late March to early April. These seedlings should then bloom the following spring. I try to plant out large numbers of seedlings from a lot of different crosses to get a good look at a lot of different combinations. I will then have to become very selective with what moves on to the next year (You can't keep them all).



Ken Walker (left) and Ryan

Wine Barrel Growing: For those wanting to hybridize without a lot of garden space, a half wine barrel is an excellent growing container to plant around 10-20 seedlings. The first year I planted seedlings out, I didn't have my larger beds built yet, so I planted them in wine barrels, which I obtained from a winery near my work. The small seedlings were planted in the barrels in Spring 2003, and most of them bloomed in Spring 2004. I then removed them in November 2004 to prevent them from becoming over crowded. For those people with back problems, growing seedlings in wine barrels also eliminates the need for bending over to garden (one could even do work by sitting in a chair). For those not living near wine country with easy access to half wine barrels, large growing containers are usually available at most garden centers.

Hybridizing Goals: My overall goal at this point is to try to create a new and unusual flower color or pattern, while maintaining vigorous growth and adaptability to the extended reaches of the Pacific Coast Iris geographical growing climates. Combining these two goals will be my future challenge and driving force. After obtaining a huge collection of new introductions, new seedlings from other hybridizers, and working with my own seedlings, I think I have a good foundation for achieving my goals. I am still fairly new to this and have a long journey ahead.

If anyone is interested in hybridizing or has any questions, please feel free to e-mail me at ryangrisso@msn.com. Next time I will try to write something about some of my transplanting and soil preparation techniques for Pacific Coast Iris.



In the Garden

From James Harrison, Asheville, NC:

I was given rhizomes of some of the best iris of the time in the 1940's by older cousins when I was a teen, living in Piedmont, North Carolina (just west of Charlotte). When I went away to college and my family moved, the iris were distributed among relatives; I have even recovered some of them.

For the next 40 years I lived in various places, mostly NY, NY but 11 years ago returned to NC due to my mom's needs. Instead of returning to the Piedmont, I chose the far west of NC because of the better climate, and the only town of consequence, Asheville, which is in the valley between the Blue Ridge on the east and the Smokies to the west. Not big mountains by many standards, they nevertheless result in a climate more like coastal Oregon and Washington than anywhere else in the country -- essentially a temperate rain forest.

I decided that I would not engage in the TB race, but would see how many different species I could grow. We have one native here, a small crested iris (*I. verna?*) and *I. virginica* is indigenous to the East coast, yet thrives for me here as well, even though I have no boggy area. Louisianas also thrive for me. I only have 6/10 of an acre, with many trees, dominated by huge oaks, and too much shade. My neighborhood is a low density development from the 50s. Fronting the highway is a 4 acre park commonly owned, offering a sound buffer (though I am 3 crooked blocks in and get no noise at all). Best of all, the park has a small stream running through it and I have, to the delight of the neighborhood, established water loving iris along that stream.

This is more than you want to know; so to the PCIs. To my complete delight and surprise, two 2003 SIGNA seedlings produced flowers. I deduced that they had to be PCIs, with different but glorious blooms. The seedlings from Spring 2004 have thrived through the summer in partial shade of a dogwood whose leaves are now gone, so they are in full winter sun. I am mildly terrified of moving them since my success so far may be blind luck. I solicit advice, prayer and magic spells about when, where and how to transplant them. With lack of experience with PCIs and poor labeling, I don't really know what I have, but if I have good bloom this spring I will post on the net, and ask you to come to my rescue.

When does our rain come? Frequently, but we do not have the torrential rains of southern California in the winter. Rather, we will have steady rain for two or three days at a time in winter, but most comes in afternoon showers with sun before and after. If we have a dry period, it is likely to be in August, though this past year (2004) Spring was unusually dry and Summer was wet.

In very late fall we had the first killing frost, and all my iris are loving the cool weather. We have a large diurnal variation; in winter down to the 20s at night and up to the 60s and 70s in the afternoon; in summer 50 to a rare 90. Sometimes in January & February, we will have several days when the temperature does not get above freezing.

My soil is alumina/ferrous red clay, amended with much compost from my oak leaves and pine needles, hence acid. I generate far more iris seedlings than I can possibly use, so I distribute these among neighbors. I welcome all the surplus old seed you can send, and when I get more PCI seedlings than I can manage, I will give them to fellow members of our WNC Iris Society -- people who will know what they are dealing with.

Woodland Companions: Heathers and Pacific Coast Iris Joyce Prothero, Saltspring Island, British Columbia

Fifteen years ago I acquired my first heathers because a nursery recommended them as being deer-proof and easy-care. At that time we week-ended on Saltspring Island in British Columbia, having just built the first stage of our retirement home on the wooded slopes of Mt. Belcher.

About eight years ago, I acquired my first Pacific Coast Iris seedlings, grown by a SPCNI member living on Saltspring Island who, like me, was a member of the local garden club. After moving these seedlings through various sites in our rocky lightly-shaded growing area, they finally thrived and began blooming. I was enthralled, joined SPCNI, subscribed to the 2002 seed exchange, and am now expecting that (some of) the seedlings from the 2002 seeds will bloom this coming spring.

My present project - every winter is "shuffle season" in my garden - is to mingle my two favorite groups of plants, the heaths and heathers and the Pacific Coast Iris. I anticipate that the iris will bloom in May and June, a "down" period between the blooming cycles of the winter-blooming heaths and the summer-blooming *Erica* hybrids and *Calluna* cultivars. These two deer-resistant plant families should co-exist happily in the acidic soil below our towering conifers.

It will be several years before I have more than a mental vision of mature heather-iris plantings. Hopefully, the attached photo will convey the projected promise of the yearlong interest which can be created by interplanting Pacific Coast iris with a range of heaths and heathers.

Seen among the heather in a newly-cleared planting area are two-year-old seedlings (on left) from the deliberate cross of 'Pacific Miss' x 'Eyes Have It' (seed packet #2201), and an open-pollinated seedling from 'Cross Purpose' (packet #2007). Surrounding the PCIs are (clockwise, from top): *Erica carnea* 'Vivellii' which has magenta-colored blossoms from January to May; *Calluna vulgaris* 'Elsie Purnell' which bears a profusion of long double-flowered lavender spikes in September and October; *E. cinerea* 'Golden Drop', valued for its bright foliage throughout the year; and *C. v.* 'Jimmy Dyce', a double-flowerer blooming from July to October. The photo was taken in mid-March.



In the Garden.....Port Angeles, WA



I obtained the plants from Colin Rigby as a "yellow Doug" a couple of years ago. They are vigorous, and excellent. However, we also obtained *I. innominata* which pictures look like this one.

We are on the Olympic Peninsula in Port Angeles and are working with PCI's to ensure satisfactory plants that can be used for sales. So far the Phytothphora crown rot has been a bit of a problem. Last fall we dug them all, divided and dipped in Subdue + Rotone to see if we can obtain satisfactory results.

We grow lots of iris as Grandpa's Iris Garden, small scale. TBs, Medians, PCI's, Sibbs, Spurias, a few Japanese, perhaps 300 varieties in all.

Ed and Linda Schreiner (not related to the big guys in Oregon).



Iris douglasiana with Stachys byzantina from my garden in Seattle. Jordan Jackson



Here is the first of many Cape Sebastian, which has been blooming for about 2 weeks now with more in process. Bob Sussman, Camarillo, CA

.....Sebastopol, CA



Sierra Azul



Mantra

From the beautiful garden of Elysc Hill



Pacific Coast and Pansies

In the Garden..... Louise Carson....Oklahoma City, OK

Here are the pictures of three PCI's that I have had bloom for more than one year. After about three years, the plants just give up regardless of how healthy the plant appeared.

I lost the seedling after two years of bloom because we had to move the whole clump at the wrong time of the year. We had a gas line problem going into my greenhouse and the clump was in the way. The clump was about five years old when we moved it. I mourned the loss.

I amend my soil with composted pine needles and mulch with pine needles and oak leaves. I remove the oak leaves if they exist into the spring. I feed with azalea type fertilizer twice each year. The bed is in dappled shade in spring and summer. I water the plants through the whole of our hot dry summers as well as when needed in the winter.

Yes, I do baby these iris, but I also baby my Siberians, Japanese and Louisianas. The fun is in the challenge to grow the difficult.

The first year that a PCI bloomed at show time I entered it in the show. The judges said that they had seen PCI's growing taller and larger, so they downgraded the specimen. Since that experience, I still take blooms to the shows, but they are for display only. The public gets to see PCI's and our members get to talk about them to visitors.



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Please advise the Secretary if your e-mail address has changed or is incorrect.

If we have not included your e-mail address and you would be willing to have it added to this list, let us know with a simple e-mail note.

Mug shots.....



Alan Grossman Gessert 2004



Bar Code Ghio 2004



Battle Line Ghio 2004



Bluc Plate Special Ghio 2004



Web Ghio 2004



Jolon Ghio 2004



Sierra Sapphire 11 Lenz 1972



Amiguita Nies 1947



Erica Denise Wood 2005



Jay Hudson Seedling



Ryan Grisso Seedling



Ryan Grisso Seedling



Bob Canning Seedling

Your photos could be here.

**Please send to the editor
either a photo by mail or
e-mail at a minimum of 300
DPI.
We will crop and prepare it
for publication.**



Bob Canning Seedling

PACIFIC COAST IRIS SOURCES

- Aitken's Salmon Creek Garden**, 608 NW 119th St., Vancouver, WA 98685.. Phone: (360) 573-4472, fax: (360) 576-7012, websitewww.flowerfantasy.net, e-mail: aitken@flowerfantasy.net. Catalog is \$3.00
- Bay View Gardens**, 1201 Bay Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060. Phone: (831) 423-3656 (call after dark Pacific Time), fax: (831) 423-7610, e-mail: ghiobayview@surfnetusa.com Catalog is \$3.00.
- The Iris Gallery**, 33450 Little Valley Road, Fort Bragg, CA 95437. Phone: (707) 964-7971 or 1-800-757-IRIS, fax: (707) 964-4890, website: www.allthingsiris.com, e-mail: theirisgallery@earthlink.net. Catalog is \$3.00 (has color pictures of PCI).
- Wildwood Gardens**, 33326 S. Dickey Prairie Rd., P.O. Box 250, Molalla, OR 97038-0250. Phone: (503) 829-3102, e-mail: gardens@molalla.net. Catalog is \$3.00 (has color pictures of PCI).

The following have offered PCI in the past. You will need to contact the proprietors for more information.

- Beautiful View Iris Garden**, 2048 Hickok Road, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762. Phone: (916) 933-2218, e-mail: harold@directcon.net, website: www.beautiful-view-iris.com.
- Broadleigh Gardens**, Bishops Hull, Taunton, Somerset TA4 1AE, England. Website: www.broadleighbu lbs.co.uk. (EC sales only)
- D. and J. Gardens**, 7872 Howell Prarie Road, N. E., Silverton, OR 97381.
- Nature's Garden**, 40611 Hwy 226, Scio, Oregon 97374.
- Maritima Mail Order Nursery** 2 Worcester Street, Hampden, North Otago (NZ sales only) maritima@hyper.net.nz
- 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. PCI species. Mail order worldwide. No printed catalog. Garden and nursery visits by appointment.
- Siskiyou Rare Plant Nursery**, 2825 Cummings Road, Medford, OR 97501, website: www.srpn.net.
- Westonbirt Plants**, 9 Westonbirt Close, Worcester, WR5 3RX, England. Phone/Fax: 00 44 (0)1905 350429.

TREASURER'S REPORT

1/1/04 through 12/31/04

Income/Expenses

Income

'04 TREK Income.....	1,025.00
BACK ALMANACS	3.50
BOOK AND CHECKLIST	133.00
DONATIONS.....	12.00
DUES	1,567.00
INTEREST EARNED	34.64
O4 NATIONL CONV SALES	1,369.00
SEED EXCHANGE.....	461.50
SLIDE RENTALS	15.00
Total Income	4,771.64
Expenses	
'04 TREK Expense:	
REFUND	300.00
'04 TREK Expense - Other.....	948.22
Total '04 TREK Expense	1,248.22
ALMANAC	1,201.78
BANK CHARGES	5.34

CHECKLIST.....	18.50
MISC EXPENSE	29.04
O4 CONVENTION EXPENSES.....	107.00
SEC-TREASURE: OFFICE SUPPLIES ...	122.91
SEED EXCH EXP	33.87
SLIDE PROGRAM	24.65
WEB PAGE.....	180.00
Total Expenses	2,934.31
Net Income.....	1,837.33

Assets

CD ACCOUNT.....	4,626.64
CHECKING	4,026.07
Total Cash and Bank Accounts	8,652.71

2004 Registrations and *Introductions

*ADMIRAL'S PRIDE (Vernon Wood, CA, R. 2003). Iris Gallery 2004.

ALLEN GROSSMAN (George Gessert, R. 2004). Sdlg. 002-G. CA, 17.5" (44 cm), M. S. cream overlaid light purple; style arms blackish purple; F. cream, rimmed with dense purple veins, scant purple veining on remainder of F., pale gold signal. Gold Dusted X Olaf Stapledon.

AROUND THE BAY (Joseph Ghio, R. 2004). Sdlg. EP-182Y. CA, 13" (33 cm), EM. S. and F. white ground, deep blue shading and veining overall; white signal. Blue Plate Special X Lash.

*BAR CODE (Joseph Ghio, CA, R. 2003). Bay View 2004.

*BATTLE LINE (Joseph Ghio, CA, R. 2003). Bay View 2004.

BOLD BEACON (Vernon Wood, R. 2004). Sdlg. 98-1. CA, 14" (36 cm), EM. S. golden yellow; style arms golden yellow, faint maroon lines in deep center; F. golden yellow, large maroon spot and maroon rays on edges, 3/8" bright gold center stripe; ruffled round form. Eagle Eyes X unknown. Iris Gallery 2004.

BOWL OF FLUFF (Joseph Ghio, R. 2004). Sdlg. EP-263T4. CA, 14" (36 cm), ML. S. and F. apricot pink shaded heliotrope at edges; neon signal. Pretty Boy X CP-81-I2: (Different Strokes x Magic Carpet Ride).

BUBBLE WRAP (Joseph Ghio, R. 2004). Sdlg. EP-239Y. CA, 16" (41 cm), EM. Root beer self; mahogany signal. Star of Wonder X Weather Eye.

CHALK HILL ROAD (L. W. Beeman, deceased, by Anna & David Cadd, R. 2004). CA, 18" (46 cm), M. Light smoky lavender self; darker lavender signal with dark, short lines. I. douglasiana clone collected near Chalk Hill Rd., Healdsburg, CA by L. W. (Fay) Beeman. Cadd's Beehive 2004.

*COSMIC SYMPHONY (O. D. Niswonger, SPEC-X (calsibe, tet.), R. 2003). Cape Iris 2004.

CURLIQUE (Joseph Ghio, R. 2004). Sdlg. EP-217H. CA, 14" (36 cm), EM. S. white, lined violet; style arms violet; F. cream ground, lined dotted violet becoming near solid violet band; yellow signal. CP-110J, Lines That Rhyme sib, X CP-108C, Clincher, Gravitas sib.

*DEVIL'S CAULDRON (Vernon Wood, CA, R. 2003). Iris Gallery 2004.

EASTER BREAK (Joseph Ghio, R. 2004). Sdlg. EP-176R. CA, 10" (25 cm), EM. S. and F. smooth orchid-pink; signal mauve. CP-84V2: (AP-240F3: (PB-306K5: (PD-243F3, Adept sib, x PD-202Y: (Candid x PF-152K3: (PI-217Q3: (PK-279H3, It's Wild sib, x PK-309pk, Herald sib) x PH-268spot, School Boy sib))) x PB-265S2: (PD-202Y2 x PE-187Y, Easter Egg Hunt sib)) x AP-277B: (PB-322: (PD-243P3, Eye Contact sib, x PD-288T3: (PG-172A, Charter Member sib, x PF-165D2, Eye Patch sib)) x PB-226-U2: (Easter Egg Hunt x PP-229E: (PH-247spot: (PJ-181C2, Earthquake sib, x PF-161B: (PH-232P: (PJ-169Q: (PL-233G, Bottom Dollar sib, x Something Wild) x PJ-170H) x PJ-170H: (PL-233G, Bottom Dollar sib, x PM-192, Wild Time sib))) x Candid))) X CP-54A: (AP-185R3: (PB-241J3, Living Trust sib, x Raspberry Dazzler) x AP-219W2, Stainless Steel sib).

EYE CATCHING (Joseph Ghio, R. 2004). Sdlg. EP-211V4. CA, 15" (38 cm), ML. S. and F. yellow ground, lined and dotted red brown to hairline gold edge on all petals; large yellow signal. CP-109G: (Rancho Corralitos x Wilder Than Ever) X BP-175Q3: (PA-824Z: (PC-227V: (Cozumel x PE-203E2: (PG-185Y, pollen parent of Trancas x PG-158: (PI-212rose: (PK-279H3, Black Eye sib, x PK-309PK, Herald sib) x PG-156K2, pollen parent of Pet Name))) x Referee) x PF-189P3: (PH-301E2: (Los California x PJ-166ORPL, All Shook Up sib) x PL-196-O3: (PM-215K: ((Spring Daze sib, x Ano Nuevo) x (Enclosed x Ano Nuevo)) x PL-312N3, Mists of Time sib))).

FAR FROM HOME (Lech Komarnicki, R. 2004). Sdlg. 01 P-2A. CA, 16" (41 cm), M. S. white veined light violet, ruffled; style arms white, light violet on base and rib; F. white lined and sprayed deeper rose-violet, yellow blaze. 97 P-6B: (SPCNI seed exchange: Lawyer XP60 x unknown) X 97P-5E, SPCNI seed exchange, unknown.

JABBERBOX (Joseph Ghio, R. 2004). Sdlg. EP-246-I2. CA, 13" (33 cm), M. S. and F. bright gold ground lined overall with brown lines; small dotted brown signal. BP-175R, sib to pollen parent of Eye Catching X CP-107A: (PB-392good, Rancho Corralitos sib, x PF-189P3: (PH-301E2: (Los Californio x PJ-166ORPL, All Shook Up sib) x PL-196-03: (PM-215K: ((Spring Daze sib, x Ano Nuevo) x (Enclosed x Ano Nuevo)) x PL-312N3, Mists of Time sib))).

JACK A DANDY (Nora Scopes, R. 2004). Sdlg. 112E. CA, 12-13" (30-33 cm), M. S. ochre yellow flushed plum at base; style arms yellow flushed plum; F. yellow flushed plum, clean yellow edge, yellow signal. Goring Sunrise X Tulum.

JOHN WITTE (George Gessert, R. 2004). Sdlg. 97-15H. CA, 13" (33 cm), EM. S. and style arms deep blue purple; F. white ground, netted with fine, evenly spaced blue purple veins, edged with a deep blue purple band, pale green V-shaped signal surrounded by fine blue purple dots. 93-29C: (90-6G : (86-5C x Robert Smithson)) x Olaf Stapledon X C97-1, collected tenax-douglasiana hybrid.

*JOLON (Joseph Ghio, CA, R. 2003). Bay View 2004.

*JUST MY TYPE (Lois Belardi, CA, R. 2003). Bay View 2004.

KATE ROGERS GESSERT (George Gessert, R. 2004). Sdlg. 98-18V. CA, 12" (30 cm), M. S. pale purple at base, darker toward tips; style arms dark purple; F. white, veined and bordered dark purple, gold signal with strong brown blaze. 95-11D: (86-63A: (Canyon Snow x C85-17, collected innominata) x 91-44D: (85-21A x All Around)) X 94-34C: (88-8D: (Robert Smithson x Rincon) x 91-43A: (88-63A x Olaf Stapledon)).

*LETTER PERFECT (Lois Belardi, CA, R. 2003). Bay View 2004.

LEXI (Alphild Lind, R. 2004). Sdlg. AL-91-20-P. CA, 16" (41 cm), EM. S. and style arms cream; F. deep pink, lighter toward edges, cream rim, signal cream, yellow in throat. Simply Wild X Mocha Melody.

*LITTLE SURVIVOR (Elena Laborde, CA, R. 2003). Iris Gallery 2004.

*LOYAL TRUST (Joseph Ghio, CA, R. 2003). Bay View 2004.

*MAJESTIC PEARL VIOLET (O. D. Niswonger, SPEC-X (calsibe, tet.), R. 2003). Cape Iris 2004.

MISSION SOLEDAD (Joseph Ghio, R. 2004). Sdlg. EP-239Z. CA, 14" (36 cm), EM. S. and F. apricot base, lined with heliotrope to solid edge; neon blaze. Star of Wonder X Weather Eye.

MIXED BAG (Joseph Ghio, R. 2004). Sdlg. EP-246E2. CA, 14" (36 cm), EML. S. creamy white; F. rose pink, deeper at edges; diffused yellow signal. Sib to Jabberbox.

MULTIPLICITY (Joseph 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 Reflecting Pool)) 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 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).

NEW BLOOD (Joseph Ghio, R. 2004). Sdlg. EP-226R. CA, 16" (41 cm), EM. S. black red; style arms buff ruby; F. deep black-red; ruby signal. CP-125P: (Spreadsheet x AP-225U: (PB-285S, Spreadsheet sib, x PB-294G3: (PD-238M3: (Battle Alert x PF-155B: (PI-MIX-S x PH-247T: (Earthquake x PJ-161B: (Santa Cruz Beach x PL-285W: (PN-314GG: (PQ-235ZZ, Linda Vista sib, x PP-355B, Montara sib) x PN-281A3: ((Simply Wild x Camp Capitola) x ((Big Wheel x California Mystique))))))))) x PD-258bo: (PF-182K: (PH-276B2, Old Monterey sib, x PH-310P2: (PJ-182bo: (PL-257M3: (Running Wild x Moraga sib) x PL-230J3: (San Gregorio x PN-286H: (Montara x Mission Santa Cruz sib))) x PJ-171R: (PL-230D x Latin Blood))) x PF-177H2: (Old Monterey x PI-MIX-S)))))) X Epicure.

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)).

*PEEPS (Joseph Ghio, CA, R. 2003). Bay View 2004.

*RODEO GULCH (Joseph Ghio, CA, R. 2003). Bay View 2004.

*ROSE IN PROSE (Vernon Wood, CA, R. 2003). Iris Gallery 2004.

*SEEING EYE (Joseph Ghio, CA, R. 2003). Bay View 2004.

SILVER SYLPH (Nora Scopes, R. 2004). Sdlg. 116B. CA, 10" (25 cm), M. S. palest blue almost white, lined blue; style arms blue white; F. pale blue ground, deep blue line down center, yellow signal; lax spreading habit. Moon Pearl X Comet Trails.

SNOWY DONKEY (George Gessert, R. 2004). Sdlg. 97-14V. CA, 18" (46 cm), EM. S. light purple tips fading to white at base; style arms white; F. white irregularly covered with dots and dashes of light purple, densest at tips, narrow band of white along margins, gold signal. 92-14V: (Canyon Snow x 87-23A: (C84-1, collected "Valley Banner type" x C85-5, collected innominata)) X Ruth Kac.

SPENDING SPREE (Joseph Ghio, R. 2004). Sdlg. EP-263X3. CA, 15" (38 cm), ML. S. and F. rosy pink-apricot self; pinpoint neon signal. Pretty Boy X CP-81-12: (Different Strokes x Magic Carpet Ride).

*SUNOL GRADE (Joseph Ghio, CA, R. 2003). Bay View 2004.

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, denser around edge; hairline cream rim, signal gold dusted purple. Gold Dusted X Olaf Stapledon.

*VIOLET VIXEN (Vernon Wood, CA, R. 2003). Iris Gallery 2004.

WIDE SCREEN (Joseph Ghio, R. 2004). Sdlg. EP-214E. CA, 14" (36 cm), L. S. white, light lavender veining; F. cream ground, deeper lavender veining; yellow dime signal. Lines That Rhyme X CP-108L, Clincher sib.

*WILD PITCH (Joseph Ghio, CA, R. 2003). Bay View 2004.