



# Pacific Iris

Almanac of the Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris



*Iris tenax*— Edwards' Botanical Register, volume 15, 1829

# Pacific Iris, Almanac of the Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris

Volume XXXXI, Number 2 Spring 2013

## 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>.

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## MEMBERSHIP RATES, AIS

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Triennial, dual	\$75.00	\$80.00
Life, single	\$1000.00	NA
Life, dual	\$1500.00	NA

PLEASE ADVISE SPCNI & AIS OF ANY CHANGE OF ADDRESS

PACIFIC IRIS 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.

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*Garden at Leonine Iris - Bob Seaman*

**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

All three volumes, \$20.00

**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.

## New members

This period has seen an influx of new members, many of overseas and many joining after learning about the society through the on-line Seed Exchange. We welcome you all and look forward to sharing our knowledge with you.

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**MORE NEW MEMBERS ON PAGE 20**

# President's Message

Greetings to you all

Each year has interesting events and this year is no exception. With greater use of social media we in the northern hemisphere are able to enjoy the beautiful irises that are being grown and hybridized in places like Australia and New Zealand as we go through our fall and winter. Now, they will get to see the work we are doing up here with new irises and gardens.

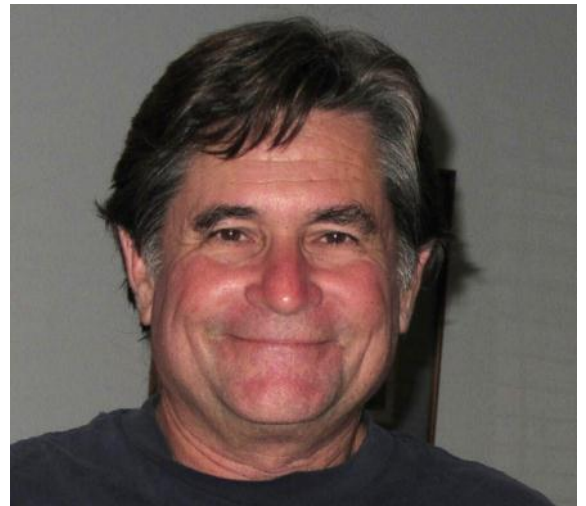
We're continuing to improve our systems and web presence even though sometimes it can seem to be at a snail's pace. We've added lots of new members and the Seed Exchange is more popular than ever thanks to Emma's efforts. In fact, the workload in this area both Seed Exchange and new members is getting a bit intense for our diligent volunteers and we could use some assistance. We particularly need a new seed exchange chair, as Emma has had to resign.

If you have some time and want to learn more about Pacific Coast Irises we could sure use the help. Even if you have only basic computer skills and access to the internet don't be afraid to step forward. If you have questions as to the details you are welcome to email me at [matilija@verizon.net](mailto:matilija@verizon.net). In return you'll make lots of new friends that will be most happy to answer your iris growing questions.

We're all looking forward to another fun spring with lots of new hybrids and gardens that we can now share with our southern hemisphere friends too.

All the best with your spring irises!

Bob Sussman



It is great fun growing relatively rare kinds of plants, and in New Zealand, PCIs are uncommon except among iris aficionados. In fact, even plenty of them have never seen our favourite irises in flower.

I have a large bed of my seedlings in the middle of the lawn in front of my house, clearly visible from the road, and unmissable for visitors. It may not be the best way to show off how well PCIs behave in New Zealand gardens, but it is a good way for me to keep track of the seedlings.

There is a problem though—they are not in flower for most of the year and I have always thought that passers-by must wonder what sort of gardener I am.

It reports that the “tough-threaded Iris” was a new species described by Mr Douglas, and also said the native tribes about the Aguilar River in northern California (now the Columbia River in Washington and Oregon) used the veins of the leaves to make a fine cord which was converted into fishing net

Maori used New Zealand flax for the same purpose, converting its fibres into a similarly fine cord they called “muka”.

Edwards went on to say that *Iris tenax* could make a fibre strong enough to restrain the Great Stag of California, “one of the most powerful members of its tribe”, and that the fibre was also used for bags and similar items.

## from the editor's desk

I have recently had two visitors congratulate me on my adoption of modern gardening trends by planting out such an interesting collection of broad leaved grasses, while another was very impressed with my collection of dwarf native flaxes.

And oddly enough, there is a funny connection between PCIs and New Zealand flaxes.

The New Zealand flax is not a flax at all—true flaxes are members of the *Linum* genus, generally grown for their fibre although they are also grown on the Canadian Prairies for their seed which yields linseed oil, a valuable commodity for the paint and printing industries.

New Zealand flaxes are herbaceous perennial monocots, and have been in and out of various plant families, but are now reckoned to be members of the day-lily family. They are popular garden subjects around many parts of the world, grown for their colourful foliage, but were also the most important fibre crop for the Maori, the indigenous people of New Zealand.

One of the species (there are two) is *Phormium tenax*, a specific name shared with one of our wild species. A local iris-growing friend and assiduous iris historian, forwarded me the photograph inside the cover of this issue of *Pacific Iris*, and the associated text, from *Edwards's Botanical Register* from 1829.

Then he went on to suggest that *Iris tenax* should be brought to the United Kingdom and cultivated “in waste land” as a replacement for hemp, saying it would be more advantageous than “the celebrated New Zealand flax”, the success of which could not be guaranteed in the English climate.

So now, when people ask me what I am growing in my front yard, I shall proudly say I am growing something that is not only beautiful, but is also even more advantageous than a New Zealand flax.

Cheers from the land of New Zealand flax

Gareth

p.s In the Southern Hemisphere, the PCIs are still in flower at Halloween, and in recent years adults have come to the front door a couple of times with their children, and admitted they only came up so they could check the irises out. A pretty good trick on their part, and a pretty good treat for me.

## Report on Society Operations, Winter 2013

Kathleen Sayce, Secretary/Membership  
Chair/CFO

### New Members:

In 2012 we gained more than forty new members, most via the website, and many from outside the US. Ninety percent of our new members live in areas where PCI are or should be able to be grown with good success. The others are in less optimal areas, but where it is possible to think about growing PCI with winter protection from freezes, and/or summer shade/heat protection. We wish all our new members good luck growing PCI!

New members are opting to go digital more than half the time. As most members now join via the website ([www.pacificcoastiris.org](http://www.pacificcoastiris.org)), this is not a surprise. Younger members, and especially digitally active members, are likely to choose digital over paper. This gives them more color and control over font size for issues of *Pacific Iris*. I've also received requests for mobile device formats for our publications (iPad, cell phone), as well as active links to websites in each issue.

### Digital versus Paper:

The good news is that SPCNI is financially healthy right now. The bad news is that costs are rising fast. We will carry on as we are for a couple more years, but soon, we will have to make a decision about the future. Cherish your print copies, everyone!

Thirty-eight percent of SPCNI members receive digital *Pacific Iris*. This percentage has been rising for several years, and is important, because print + mailing costs continue to rise, and far outstrip the portion of dues that covers these costs. For example, we estimated mailing costs for US issues at \$3 per member in 2012, and for international issues, \$7 per member. The postal service has already raised rates for 2013, so we now know that postage costs in 2013 will be around \$15 per international member. We expect postage costs to rise again in 2014.

If you decide to change to digital, please contact me. I will prorate the remaining membership years in your account to extend your membership out several more years, particularly if you paid for more than one year of print membership in the past year. Digital memberships cost \$7 per year, so that's quite a deal. You could extend your membership 3 to 7 years, if switching to digital right now.

### Only Digital Issues of *Pacific Iris*?:

Not yet. We can hold off for a year or two. But we cannot hold off for very long, unless we come up with a way to link dues annually to rising print + mail costs. Annual seed sales cover the cost of sending almanacs to our life members, but fall short of what is needed to cover international postage costs.

### Members with e-mail addresses:

How many members have email addresses listed in our membership database? The answer is 83%. Only 17% do not have email addresses listed with SPCNI, this is 41 members out of 236. Some probably have email addresses, but haven't sent these to us.

### Seeds for the SPCNI Seed Exchange:

Our Seed Exchange *needs* those PCI seeds in your garden. Seeds from new, brightly colored hybrids are especially popular, particularly when selfed. We run out of these seeds every year. The seed sale is the main way SPCNI keeps pace with rising costs, so collect, clean and send us those seeds!

### Sending PCI Seeds into the US:

SIGNA posts information for members to send seed to the US for their seed exchange. They get international seeds for their seed exchange this way. We would like to do this too. Look for shipping information on the SPCNI website soon, so that international growers can send seeds to the SPCNI Seed Exchange.

### Website Updates:

In late February 2013, SPCNI moved its website to a new server host to gain more server space. This change should have been seamless for members. The address did not change; it's still [www.pacificcoastiris.org](http://www.pacificcoastiris.org). The content did not change during this move.

We plan to revise the website in 2013. Look for more color, more content about growing PCI, links to other iris sites, and a members-only area to download recent issues of *Pacific Iris* and get other member information. Eventually we will post new issues there, and then notify members via email, rather than sending new issues out via email. This change will allow us to post issues with more color and larger file sizes. Our editor Gareth Winter is waiting impatiently to work on layouts with larger file sizes!



The seed exchange will continue to be available online, along with the dues page. We are discussing whether to post the PCI checklist and Almanac Index.

We plan a new online sales area for books, CDs, t-shirts and other materials —our shameless commerce division.

- We will issue two new CDs, one with the first 40 years of Almanacs (1973-2012), and a second with digital scans of our books on PCI, including Cohen's and Lenz's papers.
- Being considered: YouTube clips on various PCI topics.

If you have suggestions, send them our way and we'll add them to the list.

Comment to us about this and other content for the new site, including what you would like to see. Use [orders@pacificcoastiris.org](mailto:orders@pacificcoastiris.org), or my email address, which is in the inside front of this issue in SPCNI Officers' contact information.

#### Keep Current on Your Contact Information:

Expanding the website makes email ever more important. Please keep SPCNI in mind when you update your physical address and/or email address. If we can't find you by email, our fall-back for contact is a phone call or a letter. Please help the Membership Chair, and *keep your contact information current*. Remember, we do not share this information with anyone outside the Society; it's only used within SPCNI.

#### SPCNI positions open

**Seed Chairman:** Receives seeds from donors, compiles available seed list online, takes orders by mail and online, assembles packets and mails orders out to members. The Seed Chair is on the board email list and participates in board discussions about society matters. When we have a new seed chair, we will post contact information on our website.

**Membership Chairman:** Maintains database of members, adds/deletes members as needed, updates information on each member as it becomes available to the Secretary or other board members, sends out a semiannual list of members to board, prints mailing labels for issues of *Pacific Iris*, compiles data on membership, and prepares lists of new members for the editor of *Pacific Iris*.

**Regional Representatives:** Regional representatives contact members in their area for updates on growing, hybridizing and other cultivation information about PCI. This information is combined and sent on to the editor once or twice each year for inclusion in *Pacific Iris*. In the past, it's been a very useful way for our far-flung members to share information about their growing conditions, cultivation methods, problems, and successes.

SPCNI is combining adjacent US and Canadian positions into one, instead of having a separate Canadian representative, and adding two new positions, in the Southern Hemisphere and Europe. We have new members from these areas, and look forward to knowing more about their growing conditions, problems and successes with PCI.

Open Regional Representative positions include:

- Washington/British Columbia Representative
- Central US/Central Canada Representative
- Australia/New Zealand Representative
- European Representative
- Oregon Representative

If you are interested in serving in any of the above positions please contact Bob Sussman, President, or Kathleen Sayce, Secretary/CFO



'Harland Hand' - an older variety and very reliable  
Photograph Bob Sussman



In the first of a series of articles on nurseries that grow and sell, and in some cases breed, Pacific Coast Irises, Kathleen Sayce spoke to Bob Seaman, owner of Leonine Iris.

Nursery Name: Leonine Iris

Owner: Bob Seaman

Location: 7051 S 126<sup>th</sup> St., Seattle, WA 98178-4337

Website: [www.leonineiris.com](http://www.leonineiris.com)

Website features: Catalog, online sales, photo gallery of available hybrids, and more

#### How and when did your nursery start?

Leonine Iris is home-based and open to the public by appointment only. After spending many years growing irises for the simple pleasure of it, Leonine Iris opened for business in 2001. Initially, bearded irises were my main focus, but as time passed and garden conditions changed, beardless irises became the dominating type.

As my interest in beardless irises grew, the lack of detailed information about Pacific Coast hybrids and an apparent lack of concern that so many hybrids had been lost track of, or simply lost, initiated my fascination with PCIs. From there it was an easy decision in 2009 to devote the majority of my time and efforts to collecting PCIs for what I consider to be a living archive, and shift the focus of Leonine Iris to support the concept. I am currently growing 290 named hybrids and am always looking to add to the collection. In 2010 I started my first hybridizing efforts and hope to have new introductions in 2015.

What plants do you most like to grow yourself?

Other than irises, I tend to grow plants for fragrance, daphnes especially. And there are quite a few varieties of hosta, fern, hardy cyclamen and hardy fuchsias in my garden; all are great companions for PCIs.

What are growing conditions for plants like in your area? (soil type, pH, world hardiness zone, general climate, rainfall, etc)

I'm fortunate to have soil that is naturally a neutral to slightly acidic sandy loam. This area is designated as USDA zone 8b. In spite of what seems to be popular opinion, it is not always raining in the Seattle area. We do get a fair amount of rain from late fall through late spring. [Seattle's official average rainfall is 37.4 inches per year, or 95 cm.] For the most part, the climate in my immediate area is moderate; rarely do we get snow or any significant below freezing temperatures, or summer temperatures above 85 °F (29 °C).

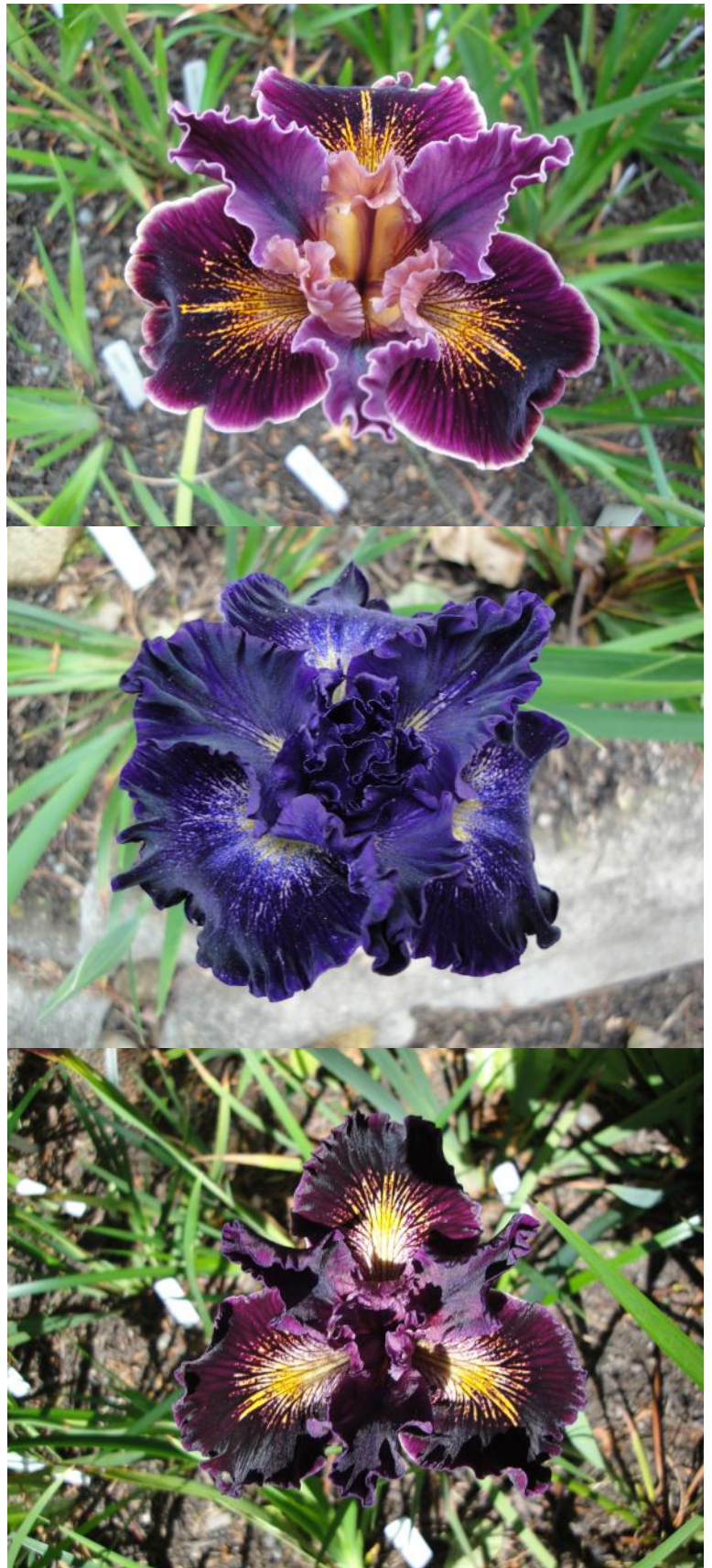
One aspect of PCI growing conditions I'm currently researching is the effect of temperatures on planting divisions. One of the challenges we all seem to have is getting divisions to survive their first season. The majority of new hybrids are currently grown in California, and shipped when rainfall begins in mid-October or early November. By then, the soil and air temperatures here in the Seattle area have dropped about 15 degrees lower than in California. Newly planted divisions do not have time for any significant root development before our winter temperatures settle in and growth slows for the winter. I've shifted my PCI division planting to late August to mid-September with great success.

What PCI do you prefer to grow, and recommend to gardeners to try?

I try not to make specific recommendations for what gardeners should try growing, because every garden and gardener is different, however I do warn that divisions can be a challenge to establish.

I'm all for trying to grow any PCI that catch your fancy! 'Fallen Plums', 'Broadleigh Sybil' and 'Monterey Snow' are great for beginners.

I highly recommend using Vitamin B<sub>1</sub> or Superthrive™ as a root dip to stimulate strong root growth when planting any PCI divisions.



*Some of the unregistered seedlings undergoing appraisal for introduction from Leonine Iris.*  
*Photographs Bob Seaman*

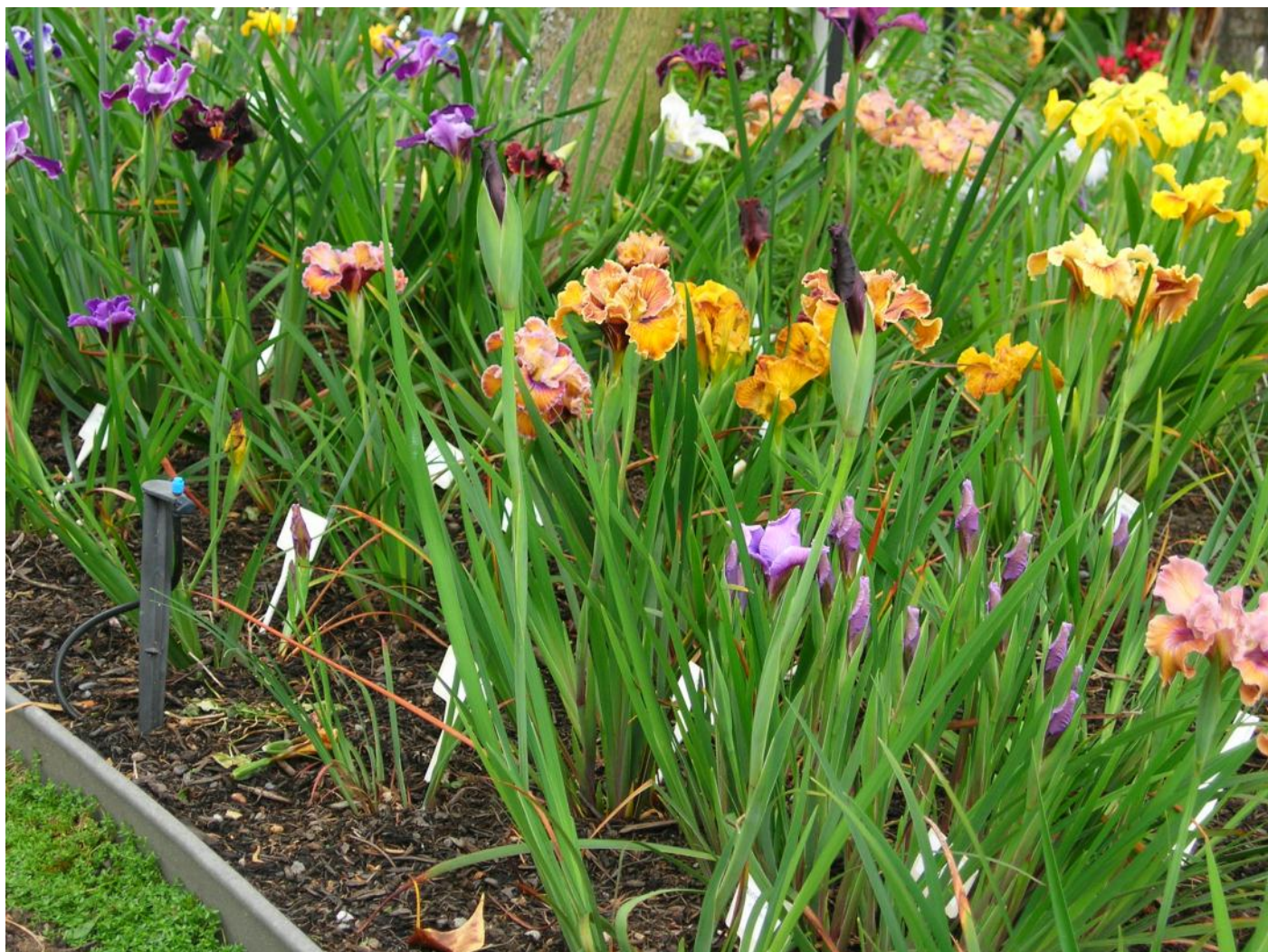
What do you recommend to gardeners for PCI care?

My methods differ somewhat from the generally accepted practices. Since I like to add some annual flower color to my iris beds, especially those with first year divisions, our irises get water about once a week along with the rest of the yard. While PCIs are considered to be drought tolerant, I've found that regular watering does not adversely affect them, and in fact continues to provide fertilizer from the slow-release formula that I use. I've also found that maintaining a regular watering schedule initiates new root growth earlier in the late summer, allowing for earlier division and replanting, which leads to more time for divisions to develop good root structure before the soil cools in fall.

I apply a slow-release fertilizer, designed for cool weather, in late August when new roots are beginning to develop.

The only time I trim foliage is to remove damaged leaves or leaf tips, or on divisions. I've also had great results in moving clumps or partial clumps without trimming the foliage. Since PCIs are evergreen it seems practical to keep that foliage intact to provide higher rates of photosynthesis and add a little extra winter protection to the rhizomes.

In our well-known Seattle area microclimates PCIs will grow well in full sun to part shade. Well drained soil with lots of loose organic matter is essential, although whether they need to be grown on banks or not seems to depend much on the particular hybrids or environmental conditions. If they are happy where they are growing, they thrive!



*One of the borders at Leonine Iris*

*Photograph Bob Seaman*

## 2012-13 Seed Exchange Wrap-Up

I've been asked to write a summary of the 2012-13 SPCNI seed exchange and plans going forward. With seed donations from 14 members and a nice balance of complex hybrids and wild collected species seeds available, the 8-week online ordering period got off to a fast start with a flurry of early orders. Experienced members know that seeds are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis and get their orders in early. With online ordering, international members had an equal opportunity to place early orders and they ordered enthusiastically.

This year we distributed over 900 seed packets to 10 countries and international sales accounted for just under half of all orders. Seeds were ordered by members with a wide range of interests, from average gardeners wanting to try PCI in their gardens to seasoned hybridizers looking for new traits to introduce into their hybridizing programs. We all look forward to reports about the results of everyone's efforts in the coming years.

The seed exchange has an important role in SPCNI. It is the major fundraiser for the organization and helps support general operations as well as the publication and distribution of *Pacific Iris*. And because only members can order seeds, the seed exchange is also a recruitment tool for new members. The addition of online ordering with the ability to purchase a membership when placing an order resulted in an over 10% gain in membership in 2012. More members mean a more dynamic and vibrant organization.

The coming year will bring changes to the SPCNI seed exchange. It has been my honor to act as SPCNI Seed Chair during the past two seasons. It has been especially fun to "meet" and interact with people from all over the world who share my interest in growing Pacific Coast irises. Unfortunately, I will not be able to continue in this role in future seasons. My replacement has not yet been determined and I encourage anyone who has considered volunteering in any capacity to step forward to help with some aspect of the SPCNI organization. There are several possible roles to be filled throughout the organization to meet current needs.

And, finally, let's not forget that seed donations are the cornerstone of any seed exchange! Please collect and send your PCI seeds to the SPCNI seed exchange. Fancy hybrids with a pretty photo are particularly popular. Before you mail your seeds, be sure to check the SPCNI website for the new seed intake address which will be posted by early fall 2013.

Happy growing!

Emma Elliott

## Royal Californian

Richard Richards

This iris is an unregistered cross between *I. douglasiana* and *I. siberica*, most likely 'Caesar's Brother', reported by Lee W. Lenz in *Aliso* in 1956. A similar unnamed cross between *I. munzii* and 'Caesar's Brother' is mentioned by Lenz in the same issue of *Aliso* (Vol 3, No. 3, pp. 329-343, June 1, 1956.)

Lenz comments on the relative ease with which crosses between native California iris species and 40 chromosome Siberian irises can be made due to chromosomal similarity ( $2n=40$ ), and the difficulty involved in making crosses between native California iris species and the 28 chromosome Siberian irises, in this case 'Caesar's Brother'. He stated that many of the latter crosses must be made to obtain one viable seed.

It should be noted that neither of the Siberian groups, the 40 or the 28 chromosome group, survive well and bloom in Southern California, where Lenz was attempting to make these crosses, with 'Caesar's Brother' the possible exception. Lenz commented on the sterility of the seedlings from these crosses, and the scarcity of bloom on the wide crosses of California native irises and 'Caesar's Brother'.



'Royal Californian' grew for several years at the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Gardens in Claremont, California, where Dr. Lee Lenz was the Director at the time. This picture was taken of one of its rare flowers.

# Looking ahead—

## hybridizer's interview with Garry Knipe

interviewed by Kathleen Sayce, March 1, 2013

Garry lives in the south Bay Area, CA, and has been a member of SPCNI for 15 years. He has been hybridizing for much of this time, focusing particularly on blues from *I. munzii*, using seeds and plants from Lewis and Adele Lawyer's garden. He also grew hundreds of seedlings at Joe Ghio's ranch for several years, which allowed him to evaluate large numbers of hybrid seedlings. Rita Butler, Debby Cole and Kathleen Sayce toured Garry's garden in spring 2012 on the way north from the AIS 2012 Convention in Ontario, CA.

**Q1: What does your vision of an ideal /most interesting PCI flower look like?**

**A1:** For gardening purposes, I don't think I have a single color, pattern, or shape that I like best. I suppose I want to see clean bright colors: yellow, blue, turquoise, red, pink, violet, and purple, with maybe a contrasting white border, darker veins, or a complementary signal.

I like some simple narrow petal flowers as well as some very wide ruffled spectacles.

However, for breeding purposes, one must focus on a more limited set of objectives, especially when some of those objectives are hard to obtain. Currently, my highest-priority breeding objective is to get some good blue and turquoise flowers, and most of my seedling beds are dedicated to that objective.

I'd be really happy this spring if I were to find a true blue flower with bright turquoise standards, styles, signal, and a stripe down the middle of the falls accented with a clean white rim. Heck, I'd be happy with any two of those attributes, as long as the flower can open properly and sits atop a tall enough stem.

**Q2: What characteristics do you like to see in ideal PCI foliage and plants?**

**A2:** In the garden, the ideal PCI depends on the garden situation. Some spots might call for a tiny plant like 'Ami Royale' which forms a slow growing dense little clump. Where more space is available, something much taller or one with long arching leaves might fill the space nicely.

In general, I prefer PCI with glossy medium-dark green foliage. However, some of the *munzii-douglasiana* based hybrids have a light grayish-blue haze over the green foliage which I find interesting.



Seedling 0512\_E8—stiff stems with decent turquoise



Seedling 0534\_E11 – great on the show bench



Three images of seedling 1015\_3-1, showing its burgundy red flower ovary and spathes; red coloring on the new fans and bloom stalk, and on the spathe valves.

**Q3:** When we toured your garden in 2012, you showed us red-stemmed PCI, which you mentioned was another trait you are interested in. What can you tell us about where you started with red stems, and where you are now?

**A3:** The first red stemmed PCI that I noticed was seedling XPO99MX\_17, from a 1999 SPCNI mixture of seed donated by Lewis & Adele Lawyer. New fans emerge a bright reddish-pink that gradually fades to green over time. It has very tall stems with reddish green coloring at the base of the foliage, near the stem joints, and on the lower part of the spathes. So, I crossed it with a few of Joe Ghio's PCI that have various red markings. The best results came from crosses with 'Referee' (which has a reddish perianth tube just below the flower). I've crossed those with 'Night Gown' and more recently a seedling of Joe's from his ruby throated line of blacks. Last spring a few bloomed with the most red I've seen yet. However, most of these seedlings won't bloom until this spring or next.

Unfortunately, the red color seems to be weather dependent. The best red coloration appears on new growth after the weather has been cloudy or rainy for long periods. Bright sunny weather dulls the red and causes it to fade more rapidly.

**Q4:** PCI plants look good year round, and foliage colors might be worth working on. Has anyone developed very dark green or reddish PCI foliage? This could be an attractive feature for PCI with more stature, such as some of the larger *I. douglasiana* plants.

**A4:** Other than my low priority experiments with red, I am not aware of any PCI breeding programs where foliage color was a primary objective. There is some variability in foliage color in the existing PCI and I think it would be great to get a line of PCI with excellent foliage.

**Q5:** What plants would you suggest as starting points for someone who is interested in developing PCI with darker green foliage or reddish/brown foliage?

**A5:** I haven't taken any notes on leaf color for named PCI hybrids, so I don't have a list. For the few crosses I made for red foliage, I used whatever reddish plants I had on hand. The best thing to do would be to visit as many PCI gardens as you can and be ready to beg for some pollen from plants that interest you.

One year, I noticed that most children of the cross [XPO228B\_5 X Drip Drop] had nice glossy deep green leaves, so you might give 'Drip Drop' a try. If you want to use species PCI, I suggest taking a look at publications from Lenz and Cohen and the info on species PCI found on the SPCNI website. I recall reading a fair bit about red coloration in some of the species.

**Q6: How about lime green or yellow foliage?**

A6: The only yellowish foliage that I recall seeing looked rather sickly and probably preceded the demise of the plant. So I have no suggestion other than to use healthy plants that are closest to the desired color.

**QX: What progress have you made in your hunt for blue and turquoise?**

AX: Progress has been pretty slow. Initially, the interesting plants grown from Lawyer seed were susceptible to rust on the leaves. After crossing with some rust free Belardi and Ghio introductions and breeding with only those seedlings that were rust free, that problem has mostly gone away. Then I spent many years making lots of crosses to see if any would give good blues and turquoise. Many interesting things popped out, but blues and turquoise were few and far between. The best blues were typically very light blues on a white background with some lavender nearby. Patches of turquoise were seen on the center line of the falls and standards or down below the signal, but limited in area and intensity. Invariably, the best of these exhibited major problems like the stems were too short or the spathe valves were closed and too long which interfered with the flower opening properly. Another problem is that some of the colors seem to be weather dependent with turquoise appearing better in cooler weather and light blues better in warmer weather.

Last year a few particular crosses gave a high percentage of flowers with at least some turquoise and that is a definite step in the right direction. Plus, one flower had the most turquoise I have seen yet. Of course, that one flower didn't open fully, so there is still a lot of work to be done.

I now have about 500 seedlings growing in my yard that should give first bloom this or next spring, so my hopes are high. We'll see.

**Q7: Last September I [Kathleen] planted a pot of your first introduction, 'Premonition of Spring'. I was quite surprised to see it start blooming on New Year's Day in my Washington state garden, at 46°N latitude. What time of year does Premonition of Spring bloom in your garden?**

A7: I've been growing it for about ten years here in the San Francisco Bay Area and it usually starts blooming



*The frustrations of being a plant breeder!*

*This is seedling 0713\_1 as it appeared in the first two weeks that it bloomed. Garry gave it the nursery name of 'Jaw Dropper' in honor of its bright blue vibrancy.*

*Unfortunately, for the past few years its has been looking more like this ...*



*It is still a pretty little iris, with a prominent blue blaze, but its frustratingly unstable coloring, possibly weather related, is enough to have a breeder pulling his hair out!*





*The very early flowering 'Premonition of Spring', Garry's 2012 introduction.*

for me in December or January. However, I have seen a few flowers appear in October and November. For the first few months it blooms sporadically, often after a week or two of sunny weather. It then hits a flowering peak towards the end of March, with a few last flowers showing towards the end of April. Bob Sussman has been growing it for four years near Los Angeles and has seen it bloom from as early as November to as late as July.

**Q8: This midwinter flowering characteristic is a breakout new trait, so where did this come from? Who were its ancestors?**

A8: Actually, it is not a new trait at all. Long ago, Joe Ghio found some December blooming wild PCI in the hills above Santa Cruz. Before a housing development went in and those PCI were lost, he used them in breeding and produced a number of very early blooming hybrids. Some of his resulting introductions include: 'Pasatiempo' (70), 'Councilman' (76), 'City Hall' (78), 'Pescadero' (80), 'San Andreas' (91), 'Altar Boy' (98), and 'Copy Boy' (99).

The smoky dark purple 'San Andreas' is the earliest to flower for me, and usually starts blooming in late January or February. In an effort to get more very early bloomers, I made some crosses with 'San Andreas' and a few of the others. One fine November day, while

pulling weeds and raking autumn leaves, I was startled by the unexpected first bloom of seedling ABSA\_3 : [Altar Boy x San Andreas].

After watching it for many years, sharing it with a few friends, some arm twisting by Bob Sussman, and a great name thought up by Richard Richards, it was registered in 2012 as 'Premonition of Spring', and introduced through Bob's Matilija Nursery.

**Q9: Do you plan on developing more winter blooming PCI?**

A9: Yes, however it is a low priority background task for me. I try to plant out one or two such crosses every few years. This past December I had some first bloom in a small patch of early bloomers and I'll be saving a few of them for further evaluation. Eventually, I'd love to see a brilliant yellow, very early blooming PCI. It would be great to have the PCI equivalent of a 'King Alfred' daffodil to really grab your eyes in the winter garden.

**Q10: What other concepts of form, color or foliage are you working on, or thinking about in your breeding?**

A10: One of my medium priority objectives is to extend the PCI bloom season to include early, late, and long

blooming plants. A few plants grown from Lawyer seed hit peak bloom almost a month after the other PCI. I have used those to start a line of plants that show similar bloom times.

Also, plants with branching and multiple flowers per spathe typically have flowers that open in succession, thereby extending their period of bloom. So, I have done some selecting for these traits and have started mixing them in with my blue breeding lines.

Unfortunately, I am very limited in garden space so progress is slow on these fronts.

**Q n: What other characteristics would you like to see worked on?**

Many gardeners complain about losing PCI within a few years of planting them. Many of the species PCI are very finicky about their preferred growing conditions and are hard to grow in typical garden settings. I suppose that some of this finickyness[?] has remained in the modern hybrids. Crossing some of the better modern hybrids with a few of the old reliable PCI would surely improve survival rates within one or two generations of breeding.

I'd also like to see work done on extending the growing range of the PCI. At a national iris convention I was amazed at the number of people who came up to me and (in hushed voices) told me, "I think the PCI are the most beautiful irises, but they just don't grow where I live." Well, that sure sounds like a challenge to me. Cold winters and wet summers are probably the biggest issues. So, I would bet that good progress could be made by crossing some of the deciduous high elevation *I. tenax* from Washington and Oregon with more water tolerant *I. douglasiana* or some of the old reliable growers like 'Harland Hand' and 'Orchid Resprite'.

Seed from these crosses could be made available through the SPCNI seed exchange and grown by members in tougher locales. Eventually, seed should be sent back from the colder climate growers and grown in both warm and cold locations for further breeding work.

Another less important characteristic, that nonetheless bugs me, is that some PCI require more grooming than others. For example, some plants with stiff wide vertical leaves look rather messy when the leaves die but remain in view. Other plants with arching long narrow leaves are self-grooming with old leaves that fall to the ground and get hidden by the new growth. Every few years when I go to clean dead leaves from older clumps, I also notice that some clumps have leaves that pull off very easily while other leaves cling tenaciously to their rhizomes and must be carefully cut away to avoid injuring the new growth. I sometimes contemplate breeding for easy grooming, but those thoughts usually occur only while grooming rather than when I'm walking around with pollen. Maybe someday.

**2012 Income/Expense Statement**

Net Income	\$ 1,808
Operating Income	\$ 4,661
Membership	\$ 1,062
Donations	36
Dues	1,026
Other Income	\$ 3,599
Publications	159
Seed Sales	1,463
Convention	1,972
Interest	5
Operating Expenses	\$ 2,853
Almanac	\$ 1,324
Printing	749
Postage	575
Publications	\$ 0
Office/Website	\$ 179
Insurance/Fees	\$ 20
Membership	\$ 1,252
Convention	1,040
Mitchell Medal	43
Seed Exchange	170
Miscellaneous	\$ 78
Memorial Scholarship Fund	\$ 3,559
Savings Account	\$ 3,815
Checking Account	\$ 2,867
PayPal Account	\$ 2,029
Total, all accounts	\$ 12,270

# Growing reports

## Comments on PCI in Boise, Idaho

Carol L. Coleman

August 8, 2012

It was 106 F here yesterday, so I am closely watching the Pacific Coast Iris I have growing in my garden. Our summer weather, with very dry heat and low humidity, is a problem for them. Some PCI plants bloomed this year. My area gets 12 inches of rain, and has desert type conditions, hot and dry, as well as cold dry winters. The PCI that survive here are *tough*. Starting with either plants or seeds, the results are always about 50 per cent survival. Seed-started plants may have adjusted just a bit more to our conditions, which in the long run could be a plus.



Parts of this valley are considered hardiness zone 5; some areas are zone 6. We amend potting soil we get from Cloverdale Nursery, with bagged soil for Azaleas added to lower the soil pH. Since this was a new bed we also used alfalfa pellets as a layer closer to the lower third of the box. The pH is reading 5.5 to 6 currently in the east facing bed. I also mulch with pine needles for the winter and do not remove that very early in the spring as we always have late frosts. Our normal pH for soil is neutral to 7, so this is corrected to a slightly acidic pH.

I shifted to a different way of watering this year. I watch the NW news every day at noon and if Seattle has rain, then mine get water - not a lot, just some. This different method of watering has improved the growth of my PCN plants a lot.

A new East-facing raised bed is working well. I had blooms on a new PCN from J. Ghio from last year, PCI 'Open Eyes.' This plant was in a West-facing bed with afternoon shade. Of the four PCI that I put in that area, two have survived.

On new seedlings: SPCNI 10-792 (*I. tenax* x 'Multiplicity') I have two plants doing well, which I must admit rather surprised me. I put the potted seedlings all together in a hole rather than separate them. I figured they might have a better chance in this climate growing with buddies than as separate plants. I will have to separate them later either by thinning or removal, but that is OK if they will grow here at all.

I have two other survivors that were also a surprise for me: SPCNI *I. douglasiana* Columbia Pacific Heritage Museum, and 10-455, *I. macrosiphon* x 'Modern Blues'. Both were grown in the same way as 10-792, and both are surviving. They also have afternoon shade protection from a flowering cherry tree. This may be what will keep them alive in our intense summer sun. So while they are not blooming yet I keep good thoughts that they will.

The next hurdle for these plants will be winter. We often get no snow and prolonged freeze/thaw cycles. I let the leaf fall stay on these plants through the winter, or cover with pine needles, to give some winter protection.

## Report from Northern California: Kathy Braaten

We experienced a very dry winter in 2012 and seem to be having the same issue this winter. Our weather pattern started off in November and December this year with some fantastic storms even some flooding in areas.

The weather then turned very cold in January and early February with not much precipitation to speak of. Here we are today mid March and I have Night Editor in bloom with 72 degrees at 2200 foot elevation in Grass Valley CA.

There were not many seed pods that set for me in the spring of 2012. I am thinking I may have the same issue with the PCIs setting seed again this year because of the duplication of weather. I did however share the few seeds I collected with the seed exchange.

Phyllis Wilburn, Region 14's Judges Training Chair scheduled Debby Cole, Immediate Past President of SPCNI, on March 3, 2013 for a 2-hour judges training in Sacramento CA. Approximately 30 Region 14 members showed up for the training and enjoyed all that Debby had to share with us.

Brenda Wood from the Monterey Bay Iris Society reported to me in the spring 2012. She and a friend visited the Palace of Fine Arts in San Francisco, where there were hundreds and hundreds of newer plantings of PCIs and all were in bloom. She also visited the California native section in the botanical garden at Golden Gate Park. She states they were greeted with naturalized drifts of PCIs and they were spectacular. She highly recommends both places, so hopefully this spring will be as promising as last spring.

## Report from colder climes!

David Schmieler, Concord, MA

My last report was in March, 2011, concerning the PCI season of 2010. Looking back now, a pattern of early heat in March of that year followed by lingering cold and rain at the wrong time kept happening through the following years. However, the summers were cooler than usual, with less drought but humid heat waves with highs around 100F. I think that helped spare many of my PCI seedlings that then seemed ready to go for another year. But early March of 2012 brought 2 consecutive days with highs over 72, and then starting on the 18th, 6 consecutive days between 75 and 82, followed by 4 of the next 7 days with lows of freezing or below. The weather then remained colder than usual throughout most of the spring, with hardly any showers in Mar/Apr to bring May/June flowers, just rain to beat them down if they bloomed. Things never did quite get straightened out after that, and early fall cold with open early winter followed by much snow in Feb/Mar of 2013 leave me wondering what to expect this spring. Of course I know we are better off than many places in the country with odd weather over the last few years.

In 2011 I enjoyed some emails with Garry Knipe, who has proposed an interesting hybridizing project. He hopes to breed cold hardiness into some of his own seedlings, and sent me seed resulting from crosses between some of his most vigorous plants, some spe-

His idea was for me to germinate that seed, and from the best of those seedlings collect any pods that I or the insects can produce. He will plant some of that seed in his garden, cross those plants with his advanced hybrids, and send seed back to me. He hopes that in this way we eventually will arrive at cold hardy PCI that also have some more modern flower characteristics. He hopes that others interested in cold hardiness might get involved as well, so he may have an article describing his ideas for *Pacific Iris* at some point. I certainly hope that others will get involved, particularly after my poor results with all the PCI seed I planted from 2011. One particularly rainy spell in May, 2012 kept me out of the garden for several days, and when I got back out to look at my seed pots, many tiny slugs had devoured all my sprouting PCI! Only 5 single seedlings recovered enough for me to set them out, and later it appeared that only 2 of those had survived. In spite of many such failures in 2012, there were enough plants that bloomed well to keep us interested. In the PCI area, seedling 06PA-3-5 happened to be open on the right day, so we entered it (as 06PA-6) in the May 28 ISM Iris Show where it won best seedling <http://www.massirises.org/pages/ismphotos.html> To confirm that it really was 06PA-3-5 I compared a picture taken in natural light the next day in our garden with the one taken in 2009 that appeared in the Spring 2010 *Almanac*. Later, a nice clump of Jean Witt's 'Crimson Accent' (pollen parent a yellow *I. inominata*) bloomed again as it has done for several consecutive years. I was also pleased that Jan Sacks gave a judges training on *I. cristata* in our garden, while *I. tectorum* was also performing nicely for the session! There were enough seedlings and recent introductions of others blooming in other classes to enjoy as well.

Actually, I don't expect in my lifetime to achieve such fancy flowers as we often see in *Pacific Iris*. They are outrageously beautiful in many cases, but I love the ones they also show in *Pacific Iris* from nature just as much, and I am mainly interested in arriving at a range of colors, patterns and forms on PCIs with good plant habits, and that persist from year to year in our variable conditions. The picture of 'Saltspring Swirl' taken by Debby Cole in Pat Spiers' garden during the 2011 AIS convention, and shown in the Fall 2011 issue of *Pacific Iris* represents the kind of clump I have not been able even to approach getting. I always wonder how much it is the climate and how much it is my gardening practices that cause problems. I had almost lost our *I. gracilipes*, but when I moved it to where I now grow the PCI and several other species, it loved it and after a couple of years formed a gorgeous clump shortly before I divided it in 2010. I love the sweet and simple little white with a hint of blue 05SP-PA2-1 that seems to want to start forming a nice floriferous clump.

My records say that over the years it came from 1986 and 1995 SIGNA *tenax* seed plus an unknown pollen parent. Trouble is, my records say the same thing for 05SP-PA3-1, with no parent unknown, and I'm not sure I believe that! It will be very interesting to see how those and all the PCIs, which show nothing at all at present, look in a couple of months. I will hope for 2nd year germination in my PCI seed pots, and a better fate for my 2012 PCI seeds. At least this March I just cleared (I hope our last) foot of snow off the driveway and don't expect a high of 82F anytime soon.



05SP-PA2-1 - sweet and simple

Susan Lambiris, Raleigh, NC:

The last two years have been rather boring for my PCIs- I had a heavy and very exciting bloom in 2010 and the iris seem to have taken some time off to recoup their strength. Or so I hope! 2011's weather was not bad for the PCIs here, the summer being only slightly warmer than normal (unlike the weather to my north!) and we actually had rather more moisture than usual from about mid-January on. The 2011-2012 winter was very mild - in fact, too mild in terms of killing off noxious insects. 2012 and early 2013 have been a virtual carbon copy of the previous year's weather, except that the winter was just enough cooler in general that instead of leafing out early, everything is just slightly late -much better from my point of view, anyway, and perhaps the fact that we spent much more time around freezing will keep down the ticks and suchlike this summer. I'm about to begin my annual "spring clean" in the Pacific iris bed, which I usually only weed thoroughly in early spring because the winter ephemeral weeds provide, IMO, some useful protection for the iris. We can't mulch heavily down here because of the temperature swings, but a "green mulch" like a nice layer of chickweed never overheats in warm spells but does provide shelter in a freeze. (I am probably the only gardener on earth who actually thinks there can be "a nice layer of chickweed!")

Two summers ago, to my dismay, the birds apparently introduced both honeysuckle and poison ivy to the bed - never had either one in it before - and a bunch of thuggish tickseeds also showed up. Fortunately the iris seemed quite unworried by their new neighbors, and more careful attention to my spot-weeding last summer seems to have reversed the tide!

What's more, the expansion bug hit me last spring, so I browsed all the catalogs (and on-line sites for buying iris!), weighing up the merits of going with the very newest hybrids or choosing some of the older, somewhat less exaggerated ones. In the end I went with a mix of both styles, and more than doubled the size of the space where my Pacificas are planted--and whether because of the evenly cool but not frigid winter temperatures or my liberal use of Superthrive as I planted the newcomers, it looks like I'll have at least a 50% survival rate! Whoopee!! I edged the iris area with heucheras and also used them to fill in some spaces where PCIs have previously died from rot; evidently once contaminated an area stays inhospitable to PCIs permanently, barring the sort of treatment I'm unable to use on a bed growing handsome and well-established crape myrtles. On the other hand, heuchera don't have rot problems, play nicely with the iris, and make a nice year-round foliage effect. If it all works out I may have some pictures later on to share - provided the deer find something else to munch on ...well, better they eat heuchera than Pacificas!

Bob Pries, Roxboro, NC:

Now that I have moved to North Carolina, I am still in the process of creating a garden. I have been learning the climate and soil and how plants react to it. I wish I could say I have had great success with PCIs, but my trials have been as yet very limited. Yes I have had some bloom but only to have them deteriorate later. Do I think PCIs can be grown here? The answer is yes, but! The sun can be very intense here in the late spring and the PCIs seem to suffer greatly unless they are in shade at that time. We have had a series of droughts that have devastated plants that were not well established. But each failure teaches me something. I have three plants that I received, potted, in January and I think they will bloom this spring. There are many crosses I would like to try. Because PCIs are 40 chromosomes, I would love to attempt crosses with *Iris foetidissima* and Spuria which are also 40 chromosomes. Certainly if there was success I would expect an easier plant to grow. I realize that Spuria and *I. foetidissima* are very far from PCIs on the generic tree, but who knows! I would also like to try *Iris unguicularis* and PCI crosses. Unfortunately everything I have in these categories is still gaining size and I do not have lots of blooms to work with. So timing and opportunities are limited. Dreams are half the fun of gardening.'

## SPCNI 2013 List of Retail Nurseries

For seeds of most PCI species, go to [www.cnplx.info](http://www.cnplx.info), and search for 'Iris'—this will produce a list of suppliers of native iris seeds or plants in the western US. The list is long; many sources offer *Iris douglasiana*, or PCI seedlings, usually seeds are unnamed open pollinated seeds from named or unnamed hybrids. With a little hunting, you will find seeds for most PCI species on this site.

This list is the retail nurseries or seed suppliers that offer PCI plants. To be on this list, in the US, the business offers more than three species, or ten registered hybrids, and sells to the public either on location, via mail order, or through a website. Not listed are many nurseries that sell only *Iris douglasiana*, or plants labeled as such, or fewer than five varieties or species. Outside the western US, nurseries that sell any PCI plants are listed.

If you know nurseries that should be added, please contact the SPCNI Secretary.

### California

**Bay View Gardens**, 1201 Bay St, Santa Cruz CA 95060, phone 831-423-3656; catalog \$3.00; PCI hybrids, and other irises. This is Joe Ghio's nursery,

**Elkhorn Native Plant Nursery**, 19578 Hwy, Moss Landing, CA 95039, phone 831-763-1207; [www.elkhornnursery.com](http://www.elkhornnursery.com); several PCI species

**Grow Native Nursery** at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, 1500 N College Ave, Claremont, CA 91711; phone 909-625-8767 x 404; [gnnclaremont@rsabg.org](mailto:gnnclaremont@rsabg.org); <http://www.rsabg.org/grow-native-nursery>.

There is a second facility, **Grow Native Nursery** in the Veterans Garden, VA Greater Los Angeles Health Care System, 100 Davis Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90049; phone 424-234-0481; [gnnwestla@rsabg.org](mailto:gnnwestla@rsabg.org). Both offer native Californian plants for home gardens, including PCI.

**Las Pilitas Nursery**, two locations: 3232 Las Pilitas Rd, Santa Margarita, CA 93453, phone 805-438-5992; 8331 Nelson Way, Escondido CA 92026, phone 760-749-5930; [www.laspilitas.com](http://www.laspilitas.com); online catalog, wholesale and retail; several PCI species and hybrids

**Matilija Nursery**, 8225 Waters Rd, Moorpark CA 93021, phone 805-523-8604; [www.matilijanursery.com](http://www.matilijanursery.com); several PCI species and hybrids, including new, not-yet-registered hybrids; direct sales at nursery; go to [www.bonniesirises.com](http://www.bonniesirises.com) for online sales

**Mendocino Coast Botanic Gardens**, 18220 N Hwy One, Fort Bragg, CA 95437; phone 707-964-4352; [info@gardenbythesea.org](mailto:info@gardenbythesea.org); [www.gardenbythesea.org](http://www.gardenbythesea.org); retail nursery has PCI species and hybrids along with other native plants

**Santa Barbara Botanic Garden**, 1212 Mission Canyon Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93105; phone 805-682-4726 x 127; [www.sbbg.org](http://www.sbbg.org); I. 'Canyon Snow' is among CA natives available at the retail nursery

**Tree of Life Nursery**, 33201 Ortega Hwy; or PO Box 635, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675; phone 949-728-0685; [www.californianativeplants.com](http://www.californianativeplants.com); several PCI

**Yerba Buena Nursery**, 12511 San Mateo Rd. (Hwy 92), Half Moon Bay CA 94019; phone 650-851-1668; [www.yerbabuenanursery.com](http://www.yerbabuenanursery.com); more than 10 PCI species and hybrids

### Oregon

**Portland Nursery**, 2 locations, 5050 SE Stark, Portland, OR 97215; phone 503-231-5050; and 9000 SE Division, Portland, OR 97266; phone 503-788-9000; no online sales

**Wild Ginger Farm**, 24000 S Schuebel School Rd, Beavercreek OR 97004; phone 503-632-2338; [www.wildgingerfarm.com](http://www.wildgingerfarm.com); online catalog, retail sales at nursery, several PCI species and hybrids

**Wildwood Gardens**, 33326 S Dickey Prairie Rd, Molalla OR 97038; phone 503-829-3102; [www.wildwoodgardens.net](http://www.wildwoodgardens.net); online catalog, or mail order, PO Box 250, Molalla, OR 97038-0250, catalog \$5.00; PCIs and Cal-Sibs

## Washington

Aitken's Salmon Creek Gardens, 608 NW 119<sup>th</sup> St, Vancouver WA 98685, phone 360-573-4472; [www.flowerfantasy.net](http://www.flowerfantasy.net); online catalog, PCI hybrids, and other irises

Bare Root Plant Sales at Fourth Corner Nurseries, 5652 Sand Rd, Bellingham, WA 98226; phone 360-592-2250; [barerootsales@fourthcornernurseries.com](mailto:barerootsales@fourthcornernurseries.com); website: [fourthcornernurseries.com](http://fourthcornernurseries.com); open by appointment only for retail sales, species from wild gathered seed; email or call

Cascadia Iris Garden, PO Box 2520, Woodinville, WA 98072-2520, phone 425-770-5984; [www.cascadiairisgardens.com](http://www.cascadiairisgardens.com); online catalog, PCIs, other irises; closed due to move to new location in 2013, selling PCI in 2014

Far Reaches Farm, 1818 Hastings Rd, Port Townsend, WA 98368, phone 360-385-5114; [www.farreachesfarm.net](http://www.farreachesfarm.net); online catalog, retail nursery

Leonine Iris, 7051 S 126<sup>th</sup> St, Seattle WA 98178-4337; phone 206-772-2780; [www.leonineiris.com](http://www.leonineiris.com); online catalog, PCIs, other irises

Sequim Rare Plants, Sequim, WA; phone 360-775-1737; [www.sequimrareplants.com](http://www.sequimrareplants.com); several PCI hybrids, phone or online orders

Sundquist Nursery, PO Box 2451, Poulsbo, WA 98370; visit at 3809 NE Sawdust Hill Rd on Open Garden Days; the annual list of open days is posted on the website, also a contact form for email inquiries; [www.sqnursery.com](http://www.sqnursery.com); several PCI hybrids

## British Columbia, Canada

Fraser's Thimble Farms, 175 Arbutus Rd, Salt Spring Island, V8K 1A3, British Columbia, Canada, phone 250-537-5788; [www.thimblefarms.com](http://www.thimblefarms.com); online catalog, and retail sales at nursery

Pacific Rim Native Plant Nursery, 43356 Hillkeep Place, Chilliwack, BC V2R 4A4, Canada; phone 604-792-9279; [www.hillkeep.ca](http://www.hillkeep.ca); online catalog; visits by appointment only

## Outside North America:

### Australia

Hillview Rare Plants, 400 Huon Rd South Hobart TAS 7004, Australia; phone 03 6224 0770; [www.hillviewrareplants.com](http://www.hillviewrareplants.com); Iris douglasiana seedlings

Rainbow Ridge Nursery, 1260 Burnt Yards Rd, Burnt Yards NSW 2792, Australia; phone 61 2 6366 7210; [rainbowridge@ozemail.com.au](mailto:rainbowridge@ozemail.com.au); sells hybrid seedlings, including John Taylor's hybrids

**United Kingdom:** A cold winter a couple years back killed PCI in several nurseries. Right now, only two were located that sell PCI. The others say they may carry PCI again in a few years as they build their own stock back up.

Broadleigh Gardens, Barr House, Bishops Hull, Taunton, TA4 1AE0, United Kingdom; phone 01 823 286231, fax 323646; <http://www.broadleighbulbs.co.uk>; source for Broadleigh PCI hybrids

Iris of Sissinghurst, Roughlands Farm, Goudhurst Rd. Marden, Kent, TN12 9NH, United Kingdom; phone 01 622 831511; [www.irisofsissinghurst.com](http://www.irisofsissinghurst.com); PCI hybrids

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*Two illustrations from the Leonine Iris website—'Area Code' and 'Bubble Wrap' - both photographs Bob Seaman*



More from Leonine Iris website—top row 'Low Down' and 'Band of Showers'. 2nd row 'Magic Sea' and 'Rich Uncle'. 3rd row 'Urban Legend' and 'Eyes Have It". Bottom row 'Mission Soledad' and 'War Zone'. Photographs Bob Seaman