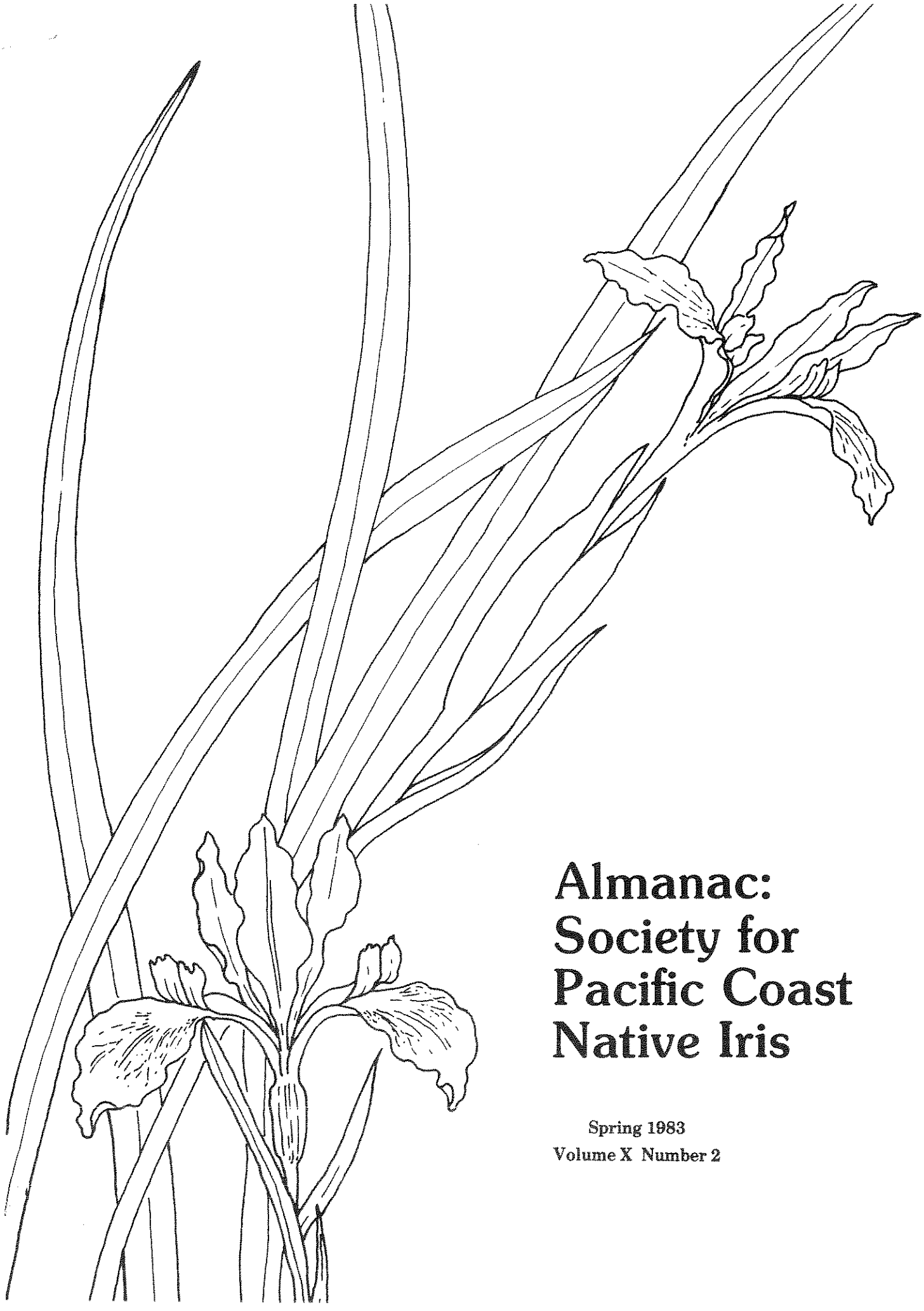
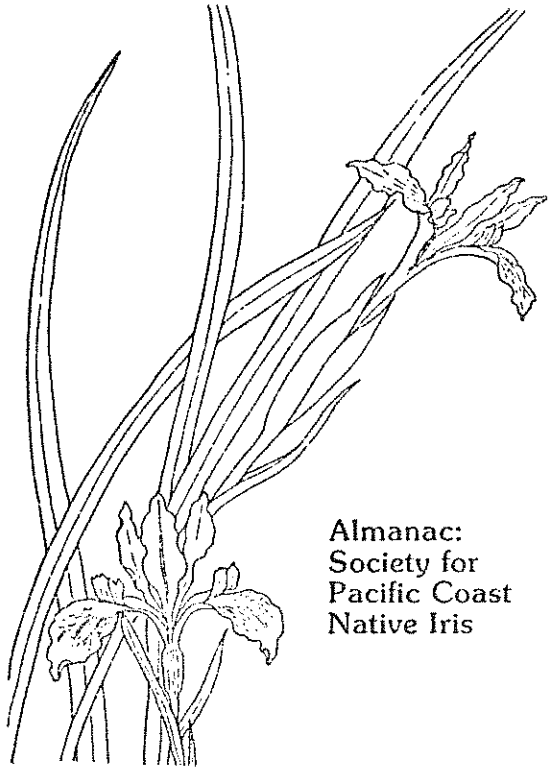


Almanac: Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris

Spring 1983
Volume X Number 2

cover: **Diana Gregory**



Almanac: Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris

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MEMBERSHIP, SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris is a section of the American Iris Society; membership in the latter organization is a prerequisite for *membership* in the SPCNI. If you wish only to receive the *Almanac* (two issues per year), the annual subscription is $4.00.

Membership rate:	Individual	Family
Annual	$4.00	$5.00
Triennial	10.00	12.00
Supporting Annual	6.00	
Life	50.00	

Please send membership, subscription monies to the SPCNI Treasurer.

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Seed Planting

Almanac, Volume VII, Number 1 (Fall 1980) contains several valuable articles on raising Pacific Coast native irises from seed. Copies are available from the Editor for $2.00 each, postage paid.

Species Distribution, Recognition

A Guide to Pacific Coast Irises: Victor A. Cohen; forward by E.B. Anderson. London: The British Iris Society, 1967.

This 40-page booklet contains both colored and black-and-white photographs of selected species, line drawings and thumbnail descriptions of all species and major subspecies. There is general material on distribution and botanical affinities among the species, plus a map of western states showing distributions of the species in general. Copies are available from the Treasurer for $3.50 each, postage paid.

President's Message: Summary of November Meeting

Twenty-five members and guests were present at the November, 1982, meeting of the Society For Pacific Coast Native Iris in San Francisco, California.

On the question of renewals and membership, it was agreed to use some of our funds--not to exceed one hundred dollars--to advertise the society in publications which would be of the most benefit to us.

It was suggested that the president appoint a committee to begin work with the editor on the third cumulative check list to be launched, hopefully, at the 1984 convention in Seattle, Washington. The committee was also asked to recommend the establishment of a policy to produce subsequent check lists on a regular basis.

It was agreed that we need to establish a slide collection beyond that which Glenn Corlew has collected and shown many places to the great benefit of the society and to PCN irises. This collection, on completion, will be loaned to interested garden groups who will be asked to pay the postage and insurance both ways.

Carolly Hauksdottir of Coarsegold, California, offered to chair the committee and be responsible for collecting the slides and setting up the loan program. Anyone taking slides was urged to send a second exposure to her. It was agreed to allot the slide program twenty-five dollars annually for maintaining a good collection.

The desire of some members to attempt to standardize the common name by which we designate the Californicae class was discussed in detail by the members.

In the original, informal discussion to develop the criteria for the Mitchell Award, the committee was confronted with choosing a name for the award and what common name to apply to the group. As a compromise, the botanical name for the class--Californicae--was chosen.

This name has proven unweildy, hasn't been popular, and we would now like to explore the list from which we can choose one which would, hopefully, be accepted for common usage and favored by the society.

The choices:

Pacific Coast Iris	..... PCI
Pacific Coast Native	..... PCN
Pacific Coast Native Iris	... PCNI
Pacifica	(no abbreviation)

Based on these names and abbreviations we are asking our members to use the enclosed sheet to indicate which they feel strongly about and why.

JEAN ERICKSON

ONE RED FACE...

...your editor's. In the last ALMANAC ran a varietal reprint, "Seven Native Beauties." Authorship was attributed to Richard Sloan. Somehow, in typing it for typesetting, the editorial mind wandered from what the eyes supposedly saw: the author is Richard RICHARDS of Corona, CA. Sincere apologies to Mr. Richards for misattributing credit. Apologies, too, to Mr. Sloan-who might have chosen seven different native beauties.

Up Front

With this issue, the Almanac enters a "New Era": home typesetting. The reason for this is at least two-fold -- economy and, we hope, greater accuracy control. The economy part is obvious. And about point two, your editor found it frustrating (to put it mildly) to submit clean copy to a typesetter and have it returned with errors that needed another go with the typesetter for correction (and then, likely as not, to return with NEW errors introduced).

The home typesetting -- the production of camera-ready copy -- was made possible by the extraordinary Olympia typewriter in possession of our President, Jean Erickson. This machine seems to do everything but think, and at times we've wondered about that, too. It enabled us, in two day-long sessions, to type up the material for this issue just once to be ready for photo-reproduction. We make no claims to freedom from error (we are, after all, just amateur typesetters -- compared to professional ones who make their share), but we can definitely say that we're more comfortable with this approach. And it allows for quick and easy correction of mistakes sighted at any moment before delivery to the printer.

So much for mechanics.... I want to extend very sincere thanks to Bob Ward of Little Rock, Arkansas, who responded to my plea (nag?) in our last issue for material from new blood. A special thanks to Ralph Conrad who willing complied with my request to put his thoughts to paper. And as always, it seems, the Almanac is grateful to the Northwest faithfuls

PHILIP EDINGER

PCN Culture Part II: From seedbed through bloom

Lewis Lawyer

In the last issue of the Almanac, Volume X number 1, I outlined my cultural practices for PCNs from seed to seed bed. This article will continue with my cultural practices and results from the seed bed (lining out) through bloom and selection.

PREPARING THE BEDS

I prepare all PCN beds the same way. My soil is a gravely decomposed rhyolite, the top 12 inches of which has had all the rocks larger than one inch screened out. Drainage is near perfect; in fact, retention of water is more of a problem than poor drainage. To this basic soil I add 4 inches of a well decomposed compost made mostly from garden prunings and clean-up leaves, weeds, pruned twigs and branches, old garden flowers, TB iris plants, and a very small amount of kitchen parings. The compost is mixed into the soil to a depth of about 8 inches and left fallow for a month or more.

Just before planting, 3 inches of peat moss is added and incorporated. The pH of the final mix ranges from 5.5 to just under 7. Where the pH is 7 or above, I add small amounts of soil sulfur.

LINING OUT

There are two counteracting factors in choosing the spacing for lining out PCN seedlings. First, you want to get as many seedlings as possible in the space allowed but, on the other hand, you want them to be far enough apart so they will grow normally, can be cultivated or weeded easily, and so you have access to individual plants when necessary.

I have compromised on rows 12 inches apart, with plants 6 inches apart in the row -- in other words, 2 plants per square foot.

I have had only five years of experience lining out PCNs. Transplanting was done in April the first two

years and in May the last three years. Of the 1019 seedlings which have been lined out, 985 (96.7%) have survived. The highest survival was 99.3% -- May 21, 1980 -- and the lowest was 93% -- April 18, 1979. These figures are not statistically different and I have no information suggesting that an earlier or a later planting date would be preferable.

By May the seedlings have reached an average height of about 6 inches (4 to 8 inches). I have a feeling that seedlings smaller than 4 inches might be difficult to handle, but I have no experience to substantiate this feeling.

I plan and map the line-out bed on quadrille-ruled paper before planting is started. This way I know exactly how many plants will fit in the space and can choose the number of plants to be taken from each plot in the seedling bed based on the number available and the relative importance of each cross.

Stakes are driven into the soil every foot to mark the ends of the rows. I have a planting board with marks every six inches. This board is placed against the stakes and a small hole is dug in the soil at each mark with a narrow garden trowel. Only one row is marked at a time, otherwise the marks would be obliterated when planting.

As each row is marked, the plants are dug from the seed bed, one plot at a time, and placed immediately into a bucket of water for washing. After most of the soil is removed from the roots, they are placed in a second pail with about an inch of water in the bottom so that they never dry out. They are carried to the lining-out bed in this pail

Individual plants are taken from the water and planted with the same long, narrow trowel (2 inches by 6 inches) used to mark the rows. I try to make the planting hole deep enough so the roots can remain straight. The hole is partially filled with soil around the roots and then thoroughly watered to settle the earth around the roots. I try to keep the planting depth so that the plants are at the same depth that they were in the seedling bed.

After each plot is planted I check with the map to see if the plot ends where the map says it should. I also place a stake at the end of each plot, but the map can be invaluable when the stake somehow disappears.

When the planting is completed. the bed is thoroughly watered. Every day for a week to ten days after that it is hand sprinkled. Thereafter, it is watered only when needed, but the bed is never allowed to dry out until after bloom season the following year.

Plants that fail to survive transplanting usually die within the first month. I leave the residual plants in the seed bed until this period is over, and use them to replant in the spaces where plants have died. All such replants are mapped so that genetic information doesn't get skewed.

LIFE IN THE LINE OUT BED

Rate of growth will depend greatly on the cross involved. Since my crosses are almost entirely derived from *I. munzii* material. they probably grow as tall or taller than most PCNs the first year but multiply slower than most. Also I know from experience that first-year bloom is much less common in my plants than it is on plants derived from other species. This is probably a good thing since many of the plants still have only one fan. and bloom would mean certain death.

Plants lined out in May will double in height by the end of August. with individual plants as tall as 19 to 20 inches.

Individual *munzii*-derived crosses vary greatly in the ability of their progeny to multiply, i.e. to produce extra fans during the growing season. For example all, or most all, of the plants of one cross may produce only one new fan per year whereas all the plants of another cross will be multi-fanned. It has been my experience that crosses derived from non-*munzii* species usually fall in the latter category. Also I have

found that first-year bloom, i.e. the ability to bloom the first year from seed, correlates directly with this ability to multiply.

Data obtained from my crosses indicate that the tendency to multiply rapidly or slowly is genetically controlled. Counts made in 1980 and 1981 suggested that only two genes were responsible, but counts made in 1982 indicate that the inheritance is somewhat more involved. HYbridizers interested in *I. munzii* breeding should consider this factor when selecting parents. Certainly the primary reason why more gardeners don't have the beautiful Mitchell Award-winning SIERRA SAPPHIRE growing in their gardens is because of it's slow increase and the resultant unavailability of planting stock. Before I finish this paragraph, however, I want to set things in their proper perspective. Some of my most beautiful hybrids have SIERRA SAPPHIRE as one of the parents and I have no intention to refrain from using it in the future just because of its frugality.

If a cross is going to produce multiple fans the first year, a few plants in that plot will start branching by the end of July. By the end of August, some plants will have as many as 4 fans. By the end of September, even with my *munzii*-derived material, a few plants may have as many as 5 to 6 fans and a few crosses will have all, or nearly all, plants with two or more fans. At that date, however, most of my plants are still single fans. This year, for example, on October 1, 55.6% of my lined out seedlings had only one fan, 19.4% had 2 fans, 17.5% had 3 fans, 5.6% had 4 fans, 1.5% had 5 fans, and 0.4% had 6 fans.

My three most frugal crosses were made with one of my own hybrids, XP3A, a beautiful powder blue self which bloomed out and died in its first year of flowering, with a single bloom stalk on its single fan. I obtained seed from three crosses with this little beauty. Of the 57 plants in the three crosses, 52 were still singles this year at bloom time. Only 3 plants bloomed: one a single-fanned bloom-out, one a 3-fanned plant, and the other a 5-fanned plant. Many of the plants in these three plots are still single-fanned this second year in November. In case you are curious, the three plants that did bloom were all dogs.

Other frugal crosses include a series made with my selection XP1G, a non-blooming, single-fanned plant its first year, and a two-fanned, two-stalk bloom-out the second. Out of 45 plants having XP1G as a pod parent, only 2 bloomed the first year, one of which was selected and is still retained.

I have used SIERRA SAPPHIRE pollen, courtesy of Duane Meek, in four crosses. The first, a cross with my XP1N which is a very prolific blue violet *munzii* line, was 55% single-fanned the first year. Two of my best selections, both with fairly good increases, have come from this cross. The second was CANYON SNOW X SIERRA SAPPHIRE. Part of the seed from this cross was planted in an alkali spot so I have no reliable data on single-fanned plants. One selection was made, a cold bluish white CANYON SNOW type, which has in turn sired some interesting strong-growing progeny. The third was a cross with a pale blue *munzii*-derived selection of mine. This cross had only 25% single-fanned plants by bloom time the first year, but one plant from this cross, now four years old, is still a single-fanned, non-blooming plant. It has moved a little over a foot southward from where it was planted. And last, a cross between SIERRA SAPPHIRE and SOQUEL COVE. The progeny of this cross were still 93.8% single-fanned at bloom time. A single two-fanned plant bloomed. Contrast this performance to that of another cross made the same year -- FAIRY CHIMES X SOQUEL COVE -- the progeny of which were 96% multi-fanned (ten or more fans per plant) and one plant which had 37 fans and 11 18-inch bloom stalks the first year from seed. Open-pollinated SIERRA SAPPHIRE seed from Duane Meek have yielded progeny

that are 75% single-fanned as this is being written.

I have made a few non-*munzii* crosses. These have averaged 9.3 fans per plant at bloom time the first year from seed. The most prolific was the plant noted in the paragraph above, with 37 fans, but another plant in a different cross had 26 fans and 7 bloom stalks the first year from seed. The non-*munzii* cross with the poorest increase rate still averaged 6.3 fans per plant and bloomed 100% the first year in the line-out bed. Overall, the first-year bloom in all my non-*munzii* plots has averaged 94%. This compares to 34% first-year bloom in my *munzii*-derived stock to date. I would expect this figure to improve gradually in the future as I am able to choose more prolific parents.

MAKING SELECTIONS

Because insufficient mumbers of my *munzii*-derived plants bloom the first year, I must leave the line-out bed in place for two years. To help make room for the two-year-old plants, I dig all undesirable plants as soon as they are graded and discarded. This has advantages other than making room available. First, you don't have to tag the selected plants because eventually all the plants remaining will be selections. And second, you never again have to look at that discarded flower and wonder if you should have selected it. I do mark my map, however, making an "X" where I have discarded a plant and an alphabetical symbol ("A", "B", "C", etc.) wherever I have made a selection. Selections are also recorded in my plot book where full notes are made for each.

Everyone has individual priorities in making selections. Here I list mine, with the knowledge that they will change whenever progress dictates.

1) Color. Since I am primarily interested in the *munzii* blue, all my selections must have some blue color, either in themselves or in their background. I measure the blue of each flower with a Nickerson Color Fan which is small, compact, and easily carried into the garden. It was made by Munsell Color Company and distributed by the American Horticultural Society. The AHS no longer distributes it, however, and recommends the Centroid Color Fan which is available from the National Bureau of Standards, Gaithersburg, MD 20760, Att. Ms. Claudia Collins. The price is $17.00

2) Flower Shape. The *munzii*-derived crosses are liable to have strap-shaped petals which to me are undesirable. This type is usually discarded unless the color pattern is such that it makes the plant indispensable for crossing. Some flowers don't open properly because of the tightness of the leaf bracts surrounding them; these also are discarded unless their color dictates differently.

3) Rate of Increase. This factor has been fully discussed previously.

4) Number of Flowers per Stalk. Most Pacific Coast iris species produce from one to two flowers per stalk. *Iris munzii* can produce up to four. *Iris douglasiana* can produce branched stalks with many blossoms. SOQUEL COVE is 2-flowered, and most of my crosses where SOQUEL COVE was used as one of the parents are also 2-flowered. One selection from SOQUEL COVE X a pale blue *munzii*-derived hybrid, however, has produced stalks with 4 to 6 branches and 8 to 11 flowers of a beautiful powdery blue color. Two other crosses have produced branched stalks with 8 to 9 flowers having fairly good blue colored flowers.

5) Disease Resistance. Some *munzii*-derived selections are quite susceptible to rust. Some of my CANYON SNOW derivatives are immune or highly resistant, and their blue color is improving with each generation.

That's about it. I've made a couple of selections for pattern on the falls, but primarily I am working toward purer blue. As I write this, the rains are still falling, but by the time you read it you will know if spring finally arrived and we all got out in our gardens again.

Mid-America Methods

Robert Ward

I ve been growing the Californicae since 1978 when I purchased several potted plants of *I. douglasiana* at the time of the AIS convention in San Jose. Also at that time I was given several packets of hybrid seeds which gave me seedlings that bloomed in the 1981 and 1982 seasons. Divisions sent to me in fall from people on the west coast have had little success here; spring divisions do better. In 1980, Jean Witt sent some *I. innominata* and some hybrids. and these are doing well.

The only problem for us in mid-America is the fluctuating temperature during January and February. One day it may be 60 degrees, and the following day may be down to 20 degrees. These irises cannot adjust too well to such changes.

In my garden, each bed of PCNs receives a mixture of sand, peat moss. and pine needles. During January through March I place approximately eight inches of pine needles over the bed so that the cold snaps mentioned above will not nip the foliage too much. A summer mulch of dawn redwood and bald cypress leaves are put on the beds at the end of March; within a few months this mulch disappears.

I germinate seeds in styrofoam cups and position these in the beds at the end of March. They seem to like the cold spells.

By this time I have established clumps of *I. douglasiana* and hybrids, *I. innominata* and hybrids. *I. tenax*, and many seedlings of mixed parentage. I do not water during the summer months. If these irises can survive the dry summer conditions in California. then I figure they can do it here in Little Rock.

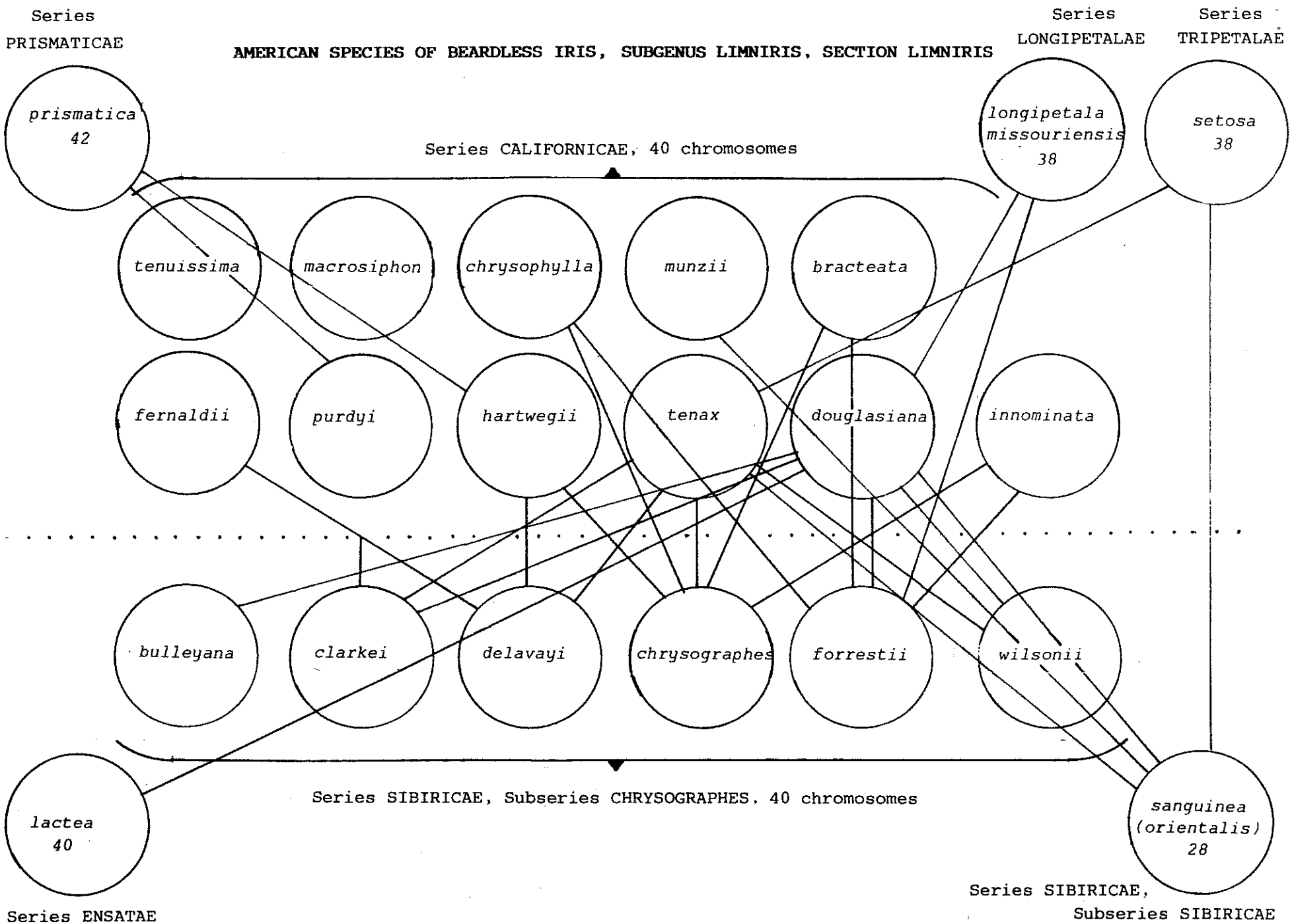
The Pacific Connection

Jean Witt

The accompanying diagram attempts to summarize the various types of inter-series crosses which constitute what might be called "The Pacific Connection." that curious circumstance that allows various beardless iris species separated by half a world of ocean to be combined into hybrids. The records were taken from the 1939 AIS Check List; Garden Irises. Appendix C; Second Cumulative Check List of Pacific Coast Native Iris and Their Hybrids; and the ALMANAC VII #2 p. 12, registrations for 1979; ALMANAC IX #1 p. 13, registrations for 1980; and ALMANAC IX #2 p. 8 article by T. Tamberg.

Many of the early examples were not registered. and most are long gone. Some combinations have not been repeated among the modern named varieties. Not all species in Series Californicae have entered into Cal-Sibe crosses. but presumably this is merely lack of attempted crosses. It is also of interest that within-series hybrids such as 'Chrysofor' and Pacific Coast irises of mixed parentages produce hybrids as easily as the species themselves.

Oddly enough, Tomas Tamberg's Ensatae-Californicae crosses are apparently not the first of their type. 'Hamadryad' (Berry 1931) from *I. douglasiana* (as *watsoniana*) X *I. lactea* (as *ensata*) is listed in the 1939 AIS Check List. Nor do we at the present time have any examples of Prismaticae-Californicae hybrids -- so here is yet another area for the experimentally minded!


Series PRISMATICAE
AMERICAN SPECIES OF BEARDLESS IRIS, SUBGENUS LIMNIRIS, SECTION LIMNIRIS
Series LONGIPETALAE
Series TRIPETALAE
prismatica 42
longipetala missouriensis 38
setosa 38
Series CALIFORNICAE, 40 chromosomes
tenuissima
macrosiphon
chrysophylla
munzii
bracteata
fernaldii
purdyi
hartwegii
tenax
douglasiana
innominata
bulleyana
clarkei
delavayi
chrysographes
forrestii
wilsonii
Series SIBIRICAE, Subseries CHRYSOGRAPHES, 40 chromosomes
lactea 40
sanguinea (orientalis) 28
Series ENSATAE
Series SIBIRICAE, Subseries SIBIRICAE

Rattling the Cage

Ralph Conrad

It's good news to learn that SPCNI is currently experiencing a membership growth period, indicating widening interest. From this welcomed news, can it be presumed that the organization has reached a higher plateau where opposing ideas and additional door openings can be accommodated and, praise be, encouraged? With high hopes, let's test the water.

Conclusions exposed here are (please believe me) not triggered from a desire to hoot from the back row in a negative fashion. Rather, they are drawn from four decades of continuing interest, observation and love for PCIs, growing them (or trying to) and finally learning a minimum that while the plants are near impossible to relocate any distance, their seeds are plentiful and easy to nurture into healthy plants, and quickly to bloom-time.

In all candor, the motivation here is to "shake up the troops" into open controversy (sharing opinions and experiences), enliven the party (the ALMANAC) and, if all else fails, to encourage and support a plan that well might be called an underground movement of sorts.

The premise includes the following: The number of AIS judges voting for the Mitchell Award skyrockets when the national convention is held in Pacific Coast states, indicating that the flowers are seen growing only rarely. The past two years' number of votes has dwindled to near the back door, and the two years prior show a loss of some seventy-five percent in judge interest after the San Jose meeting. We'll not get into the area of the limited number of successful competitors involved. That's too hot for the moment, and needs to simmer awhile. Yet, something is amiss in the judging picture, for sure.

As to observations, here's one of my sad tales. In planning for the 1975 AIS annual convention in San Diego, Clarke Cosgrove made a rather extensive planting of PCIs on this blessed piece of real estate. He carefully chose the best planting spot, moved the clumps of some of the "oldies" from San Gabriel and purchased many if not most of the newest offerings to bring the planting up to current position for viewing on the trek. Well, the oldie clumps survived, but the new ones not only didn't bloom but has disappeared or looked "sick unto death" within a year afterwards. In anguish he turned to raising seedlings from seed he managed to scrounge.

Among these new cultivars was one he had labeled "best yellow" and it was good enough to have been a seedling winner at two San Diego shows. Upon his sudden, totally unexpected passing in early 1978, we labeled it C 100 and considered it for registration. The name for it was to be "Eureka!" (if available) for introduction. The name seemed suitable, for the seedling was more on the golden side, and Clarke had made a speaking reputation by referring to his iris breeding program as resulting in a series of dishwater whites and dogs of hopeless description.

Upon thinking it through, however, we put the subject in the back of our minds because of a concern that the plant itself might not survive for long, let alone divisions that might be marketed. This fear was well founded, for the plant withered out in two years, but not before we could gather a good supply of seeds from it. The bees had done a good job, for this second generation showed remarkable likeness to the pod parent, some improved in several ways. At this writing, the next generation, having been pollinated by the bees again, will soon tell us whether we are still going uphill in value.

Whatever develops, we will shortly need to consider some directions in outbreeding to establish lines.

Another observation. At the SPCNI section meeting at Huntsville, the business of striking the medal for the Mitchell Award was approved. One of the early, and perhaps the first, contributions to help cover its cost was made with the stipulation that it was to be in precious memory of George Stambach, a California native iris enthusisat if ever there was one. It must be added that George should be remembered not for his named seedlings but rather for his spreading the PCI gospel through years of handing out packets of seed to everyone he met, even to the point of heavy participation in making them part of the "goody" stuff in annual meeting registration bags.

At this same Huntsville meeting, a suggestion was made by a noted authority here and abroad that the group should study and follow the Brummitt approach, which, if I understood his explanation, was to never sell the original by division but to market its seeds, calling them the --- strain. A fair guess is that the Brummitts were the primary source in the speedy development of the great interest in PCIs in England.

A year ago last fall, LaVerne and I were privileged to make a long-planned trip to New Zealand, timing it to include the annual meeting of the New Zealand Iris Society. In an effort to follow the lead of George Stambach, we took a supply of C 100 seed with us. On landing at Auckland, our disembarking was delayed while the entire passenger compartments were sprayed with a disinfectant. The seeds received special debugging as we worked our way through customs. We were to learn that New Zealanders are quite thorough in these matters leading us to question the value of even considering sending live plant material.

The seeds were put into packets and given out at the Hastings show. We would hope to someday see the results of this, if any.

New Zealanders with iris leanings are quite enthusiastic about growing PCIs, and a splendid display of them took up a goodly percentage of the entire show benches. Some of the seedlings were up to the best of what we on the home grounds would see in shows, while quite a few were definitely not. A member from Christchurch stood to point out the old and the new and openly volunteer to supply a modern replacement to those present who would agree to rid their beds of the older ones -- and at no cost. A few days after the convention we visited several of the members' gardens in Christchurch to see the winning specimen and others in bloom. No named varieties were included in the plantings, nor did there seem to be any interest in that. Seeds, we were told, had been sent some years ago from at least one California hybridizer of note. From these came the selection resulting in the up-to-date cultivars.

To my knowledge, whatever seed programs our organization has attempted have not sustained. While no sudden solution is suggested here, it occurs that SPCNI could easily be bypassed by a genuine one-on-one approach, and if such a program were not somehow worked within the organization structure, well -- this is where the "underground" potential comes in. I'll have to illustrate what I have in mind this way:

In the current AIS BULLETIN, Robin Section, Pacific Coast Iris Division, appears the following... "Carol Lankow, Kirkland WA: 'An eyepopper' was George Shoop's pacific coast native, a real orange ground with purple stripes -- gorgeous." This sounded like something calling for involvement, so (in my fancy) I fashioned a letter that went something like this:

"Dear George, long-time friend and iris buddy -- with whom I have walked the seedling rows lo, these many years, and whose TB seedlings I have eagerly nourished in two annual meeting home gardens on trek -- I long to have this beauty to plant alongside my favorite selected seedlings so the bees can do their act as they flitter about. But, alas, I have no way

of knowing if it will ever be introduced let along survive the trip if I were prone to purchase a division. So, how about you and I doing something good for the "cause" and exchange some seed. Here is seed from my gorgeous one and you will note that I have enclosed a self-addressed stamped envelope to make it easy for you to complete your part of the bargain."

Snapping out of this fancy, I am quick to recognize the folly of such thinking. Would I, merely to test a point, chance the destruction of a valued friendship? Of course not! Why should anyone be asked to share his seed at the very time he needs it to improve lines he is developing?

Would such a movement tend to upset the commercial and pride factor that drives valuable breeders to greater heights of glory? Indeed it could. On the other hand, are there some among us who could rise above the present and consider a higher calling? Some remarkable improvements have developed in PCI hybridizing programs, and sharing through seed exchange some of the latest achievements would surely speed interest and wide development, bring more enthusiasm on a wider scale, and even, possibly, a Heavenly Award. Surely, Johnny Appleseed has his on display somewhere.

Well, that's my story. Is it a common one, unique, or in need of being sent into outer space? Will the ALMANAC become a meeting place of provocative opinions?

If there is a deafening silence to all this, the answer is "no."

Letter . . . TOMAS TAMBERG (Germany) to FRANCESCA THOOLEN (California, USA)

I am again rather late with my answer to your letters, but this gives me an occasion to report about the results of the pollen you have sent so generously last spring. The three letters arrived here safely and were stored in a refrigerator at 1-degree C until the end of May. The pollen was then transferred to airtight black film boxes and was kept in the refrigerator until our irises were in flower. Before pollination we allowed the boxes to warm up to room temperature overnight. We pollinated about 500 flowers with the pollen you sent and ten flowers with pollen of some low quality PCNs we have. From the 500 pollinations we got 8 capsules.... This sounds sonewhat disappointing in relation to the work you and we had, but 187 seeds of high potential are a good starting point for our work.

As a reason for the low number of capsule, I can only see the long storage time under desiccating conditions (paper can be very desiccating at low temperatures). The reason is not an incompatibility of the parents I used, since all my crosses with fresh, but low quality, pollen I did yielded full capsules. So I would recommend to use welded polyethylene bags or other non-desiccating containers for the pollen next time. The pollen should, of course, then be dry to prevent mold.

This year I have done an enormous number of "wide" crosses. The most interesting result for the PCN part of the iris world is perhaps the fact that crosses between PCNs and *I. setosa* are easy and produce a good crop of healthy seed. The first groups of seedlings will be treated with colchicine in a few weeks....

Our first second-generation tetraploid Calsibe (STARTLING CALSIBE) is offered for the first time this fall. The price of DM 100,-- includes a piece of a similar seedling which has set seed with STARTLING CALSIBE. This year I had a crop of altogether 66 seeds of third-generation Calsibe crosses. It seems to me that much more space and time would be needed to evaluate all the seeds I have collected this fall....

Seedlings Can Be Dangerous to Your Veracity

Lewis Lawyer

Those of us who have grown tall bearded irises most of our lives are apt to forget that, unlike our TB's, some irises such as the Pacific Coast Natives are likely to set seed in abundance without any help from us. I always cringe a little whenever I hear PCN growers talk of the exciting new seedlings which have sprouted and bloomed in their iris beds, or when I read the derivation of so many registered varieties as "parentage unknown".

To those of you who have collections of named varieties and who want to keep them true to name, remember that you must remove those developing among your established plants. If, on the other hand, you are only interested in a mass planting of beautiful natives, you can let the seeds fall where they may; but don't give a friend a plant from your clump of what used to be CITY HALL with any assurance that it will come true to name. Perhaps the best compromise would be to pick the pods when they have ripened sufficiently, and do your own scatter-pods before they split open and drop their seeds ing in another area where you can enjoy the surprises just as much as you could if they were appearing among you named varieties.

Treasurer's Report

April 15, 1983

CASH ON HAND AUG. 15, 1982		$ 777.86
DUES AND RECEIPTS:		
Dues collected	$458.00	
Dues collected--AIS	63.00	
Sale of Almanacs	66.00	
Sale of Cohens	21.00	
Sale of seeds	17.00	
Auction & Raffle (Fall Meeting)	117.50	742.50
		$1.520.36
DISBURSEMENTS:		
Postage	$ 52.20	
Slide collection	25.00	
Iris for Nov. meeting	25.00	
Rent for Nov. Meeting	25.00	
Food for Nov. Meeting	20.00	
Fall 1982 Almanac Clover Graphics	307.35	
Postage	85.85	540.40
BALANCE ON HAND 4/15/83		$979.96

DOROTHY E. FOSTER
Treasurer

New Members and Subscribers

Judith Cross
Hornby Island
British Columbia,
CANADA VOR 120

Mrs. John S. Gaines
P. O. Box 883
Rome, GA 30161

Mr. Joseph B. Grant II
1479 Hopkins
Berkeley, CA 94702

Mary A. LaBach
3006 Ash Grove Pike
Nicholasville, KY 40356

Dr. Fred M. Schlegel
Casilla 135
Valdivia. Chile

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INDIANAPOLIS 1985
REQUEST FOR GUEST IRISES

After covering both coasts the previous two years, we'll come back to the Midwest and Region 6 for the American Iris Society convention in 1985, headquartered in Indianapolis, Indiana. The Guest Iris Committee invites hybridizers to submit guest rhizomes of recent introductions and seedlings under consideration for introduction. All types of iris will be welcomed since the climate of the range of our gardens is varied enough to cover the bloom time of many of the different sections of irises. Contact:

Shirley Bruno
P. O. Box 500
Medaryville, IN 47957