



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

**SPRING, 2000  
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## PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM THE SPCNI TREASURER

Prices listed are for SPCNI members

### Check List of Named PCI Cultivars

*Lewis Lawyer*, Editor: 59 pages. Lists and describes Pacific Coast iris and named hybrids through 1995. \$6.00 postage paid.

### Diseases of the Pacific Coast Iris

*Lewis & Adele Lawyer*: ALMANAC, Fall 1986. 22 pages, 9 photographs. \$3.50 postage paid.

### A Guide to the Pacific Coast Irises

*Victor A. Cohen*: The British Iris Society 1967. Booklet, 5.5 x 8.5, 40 pages, 16 line drawings, 8 color and 6 black-and-white photographs. Brief description of species and sub-species including their distribution. \$4.00 postpaid

### A Revision of the Pacific Coast Irises

*Lee W. Lenz*: Photocopy of *Aliso* original. Booklet 5.5 x 8.5, 72 pages, 9 line drawings, 14 photographs, and 12 maps. Definitive work on the taxonomic status of the *Californicae*, with a key to the species and sub-species. Detailed maps and accounts of distribution. \$6.00 postage paid.

### Hybridization and Speciation in the Pacific Coast Iris

*Lee W. Lenz*: Photocopy of *Aliso* original. Companion booklet to the above, 5.5 x 8.5, 72 pages, 30 figures, graphs, drawings, and photographs. Definitive work on naturally occurring interspecific crosses of PCI, including detailed account of distribution. \$6.00 postage paid. If ordered together, both Lenz booklets may be obtained for \$10.00 postage paid.

## ALMANAC

DEADLINES: March 1 and September 1. Back issues are available for \$3.50 each, postpaid. Please address the Editor.

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## MEMBERSHIP & SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris is a section of the American Iris Society; membership in AIS is a prerequisite for membership in the SPCNI. If you wish only to receive the ALMANAC (two issues per year), the annual subscription rate is \$6.00.

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

Please send membership-subscription monies to the SPCNI Treasurer.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I walk in our garden, this has to be the most pleasurable time to write a message to all of you. Spring is always a beautiful time, but to enjoy it with so many Pacific Coast iris in bloom is a real thrill. This year's bloom has been an exceptional show for us with a beautiful combination of many older varieties planted in combination with the new hybrids. If you had to ask me for my favorite, it would have to be a beautiful large clump of *I. inominata* in full bloom.

Our society continues to flourish with many new members, but the fact is that we have lost many along the way. When a member writes to say they can not continue because of age or illness, it is always a sad time. Our financials are tight as the cost of printing the Almanac has become very expensive for the size of membership we have. We will be discussing this at our meeting at the AIS Convention in Dallas and at the upcoming Trek. One way for all of us to help is to remember the society in our donations and memorials. All donations will go into an Endowment Fund with only the interest available for the General Fund. For memorials, please enclose an address for the secretary to advise the families of those you wish to honor. We are a 501-C non-profit corporation so all donations are tax deductible. You may also wish to consider us in your estate planning. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Our web site has been getting lots of "hits" and we are getting positive feedback. Steve

Ayala continues to update it, so be sure to check it out at <http://www.pacificcoastiris.org>. His work with natives is most impressive.

When I have requested help before, you have been so cooperative in coming forward, so again I am going to make a request. We need a new Northern California representative to replace Norma Barnard, who had to resign because of illness. This position involves a report to the editor of plants growing in their area or garden.

At the time of this writing, we are looking forward to seeing all that will be taking part in this year's Trek. These events provide a lot of enjoyment, but are very difficult to plan for because of the great fluctuation in bloom times. With so many other things to see and enjoy, we are sure all will have a good time.

Being your President is a very enjoyable part of my life. My term will end, but I will continue to be involved by being an assistant to Terri in her responsibilities. For this I am very thankful, as it continues to allow me to follow in the footsteps of two of the most wonderful people anyone could ever know, our dear friends Lewis and Adele Lawyer.



Jay Hudson

## FROM THE EDITOR

After reading the fall issue of the *Almanac*, my sister said that it reminded her of the Mark Twain short story "How I Edited an Agricultural Paper." I'm sure she meant this as a compliment. Anyway, I do appreciate all the kind words people sent after my first issue of the *Almanac*.

I thank all of you who wrote letters and articles for this issue. I want to especially thank Joe Ghio for taking the time to answer all of the interview questions. Joe also sent me some slides of his new introductions to include in the *Almanac*, but unfortunately they were lost in the mail. So I also want to thank Lewis and Adele Lawyer for coming to my rescue by

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.

sending some photos of Joe's PCIs. I want to thank Garry Knipe for creating most of the Joe Ghio interview questions, for researching the parentages and species referenced in the interview, for helping me with the interview wording, and for proofreading most of this issue.

In addition to the Joe Ghio interview, this issue also contains an interesting summary of the Seed Exchange by Debby Cole. Richard Richards' article in the previous *Almanac* generated great interest in *I. hartwegii australis*

as evidenced by the number of people who ordered the seed Richard donated to the Seed Exchange. I ordered some of that seed and now have a couple of *I. hartwegii australis* seedlings. I hope everyone is having success with the seed they received from the Seed Exchange and with all the other plants they are growing.

*Steve*

## READ ME

Terri Hudson, who is in charge of memberships, provides the Editor with the mailing labels for the *Almanac*. Therefore, if you have a change of address it is imperative that you notify Terri Hudson.

## OOPS!

If you find any mistakes in the *Almanac*, please notify the Editor. The following are three errors that were in the last issue:

1. Debby Cole's name was misspelled many times. For the record, Debby spells her name with a "y" and not with an "ie". I can offer no rational explanation for this error and I apologize to Debby.
2. Richard Richards' address was listed incorrectly. His correct address is: Richard Richards, 5885 Cowles Mt. Blvd., La Mesa, CA 91942.
3. *I. purdyi* was misspelled on page 16.

## MIKE MONNINGER

*Mike Monninger, Riverside, CA*

[Editor's note: Last issue we announced that Mike Monninger is our new Southern California SPCNI Almanac Representative. The following is some biographical information about Mike.]

Mike is 51 years young; married to Elaine for 26 years; with two grown children, Lorrelle and Steven. They live near Riverside, California on a half-acre that has hot summers and very windy falls.

Mike is mainly involved with iris including Tall Bearded, Louisiana, Spuria, and PCNs. Elaine prefers roses and alstroemeria.

Mike and Elaine became involved in the Inland Region Iris Society in 1988, and joined

the AIS in 1991. They are members of two other local iris societies and Mike is a member of several section societies. Mike has held positions in two of the local societies including president, vice-president, and show chairperson. He has won three "Best Specimen of Show" awards, all PCNs: MANTRA, PACIFIC HIGH, and SEA GAL.

# ICH HABE EINE BERICHTE ZU GEBEN

Bob Ward, Little Rock, AR

[Editor's note: That's the title Bob supplied for his article.]

The bloom time here in Little Rock in 1999 was full of surprises what with the three main Pacific Coast Irises doing their best after a dozen years in the garden. *Iris douglasiana*, *I. innominata*, and *I. tenax* usually will produce 50-70 stalks as I have many clumps and all are grown from seeds.

The following list of flowers and number of stalks indicates how good 1999 was (there are years that are much lower): AGNES JAMES 15, SHAMAYIN 5, WOLKENTANZ 26, FOOTHILL BANNER 3, *I. bracteata* 6, *I. fernaldii* 5, CANDY BANNER 5, BANBURY GNOME 6, SUSIE KNAPP 4, whereas *I. chrysophylla* left the garden after seven years

and *I. hartwegii* bloomed and disappeared after five years in the garden.

The method I use to keep the irises growing is to place the seeds at the base of the mother clumps, this will guarantee that they continue to grow with little trouble. Many of the seedlings don't look like the mother clump. This is the case of AGNES JAMES which has produced icy blue-white to many blues.

All of the irises are grown on the east side of the residence and are all downhill which is good in this district because of much rain during April to May when most will bloom. Also, they are grown under large Japanese Maples.

You all have a good bloom season.

## EAST COAST REPORT

John White, Minot, ME

I am reporting on the seed I planted for this year.

1. *I. tenax* X NIGHT EDITOR, I have 30 seedlings growing well.
2. (IDYLWILD x *I. tenax*) X EAGLE EYES, I have 10 seedlings growing well.
3. *I. tenax* X MANTRA, I have 104 seedlings growing well.

I think this is almost 100% germination. The others were probably 60%, although I did not count seeds.

4. (IDYLWILD x *I. tenax*) X CANYON SNOW, 0 so far, probably hard seed. I will hold over for another year by planting the peat flat in the garden this spring. All four of the above received the cold room treatment for 30 days, average temperature about 52 degrees.
5. *I. hartwegii australis*, 15 seedlings.
6. *I. innominata* X *I. tenax*, 1 seedling so far.

Numbers 5 and 6 received cold room treatment for the whole month of February at about 54 degrees.

7. *I. hartwegii*, the blue lavender variety, now in the cold room for one more week, then I will bring it into the warm room. Numbers 6 & 7 haven't been out of the cold room long enough to know how many will germinate.

I have given eight of the *I. tenax* X MANTRA and two of the *I. tenax* X NIGHT EDITOR seedlings to people in Massachusetts, and I will give more of the *I. tenax* X MANTRA seedlings to anyone in the area who wants some.

By the way, I learned the cold room method from Gene Loop and I did some cold room trials for him for two years. I had good germination results, averaging around 60-70%.

Our snow is going fast now. We had a good snow cover from mid-January on. I have seen very little evidence of frost heaving as yet. If there is any, and just as soon as the ground is soft enough, I push the plants back down and most of them survive.

It will be early May before I will know how all my seedlings survived the winter. Hopefully I will have enough bloom to make some crosses this year. I do have a few *I. tenax* and other hybrids that should bloom this year.

[Editor's note: John has expressed an interest in receiving seeds from a cross between *I. hartwegii australis* and CANYON SNOW. If anyone is interested in making this cross, please contact John.]

## 1999-2000 SEED EXCHANGE

Debby Cole, Seed Distribution Chairman

Ever wonder how the seed exchange went? This year you're going to find out. Last fall we received seed from 11 different donors, which we listed in the previous edition for your possible purchase. By January 15 we had received orders from 35 of you, totaling \$315 for an average of \$9 (17 packets) each, plus also three memberships. We deeply regret having to return an order received after all timely ones were filled and dispatched, January 19. Four orders were from Canada, 5 from other foreign locations, and 26 were domestic; of the domestic orders, 5 were from Washington, 2 from Maine, one from each of CT, OH, TX, AR and OR, and the rest from California.

Biggest sellers were seed of *I. hartwegii australis* (6000'), 13 packets---what a surprise, after that outstanding article in the same issue!; MARINE MAGIC, 13 packets (gorgeous blue, and hard to get because it grows poorly for many); XP224A, 12 packets (vigorous, branched, long-blooming, *munzii*-derived); and *I. innominata* (gold), garden grown, 12 packets.

Who ordered the *I. hartwegii australis*? Was it indeed people interested in its potential for breeding for cold-hardy PCI hybrids? We can't tell. Of the 13 packets ordered, 1 went to England, 1 to France, 1 to Canada, 1 to New Zealand, 1 to Maine, 1 to Washington, 2 to Oregon, and 5 to California. Detailed confessions are welcome.

Which named hybrids' seed was the most popular? In addition to MARINE MAGIC's 13 requested packets, there were orders for 10 packets of ESCALONA (red, not previously offered) and 9 each of AIR SHOW,

DEEPENING SHADOWS, NATIVE WARRIOR, and SOLID CITIZEN.

Of the Lawyer's numbered *munzii* seedlings, there were 12 seed packets ordered of XP224A (blue-violet, vigorous, branched, long-blooming and mentioned in previous articles); 10 packets each of XP317A (VALLEY BANNER-type with intense dark styles), XP317B (large ruffled delicate VALLEY BANNER-type), and XP325M (late, branched, 4 blooms/socket); and 9 packets of XP228B, a good deep blue.

The sample of deliberate crosses was not extensive enough to be statistically significant, but was still quite suggestive. People requested 11 packets of MANTRA X IDYLWILD, and 10 each of (IDYLWILD x 93089 *I. tenax*) X NIGHT EDITOR and (IDYLWILD x 93089 *I. tenax*) X RARE REWARD. The fact that far fewer packets of NIGHT EDITOR X *I. tenax* were ordered than the above would seem to indicate that yes, incorporating tough *I. tenax* sounds like a good idea---but the showier combinations were preferred.

*I. hartwegii australis* (13 packets) and the gold *I. innominata* (12 packets) were the most popular species seed offered, followed by *I. purdyi* (9 packets).

The general conclusion from these data is that we spend for things that are special and different--showy things, things in short supply, things not previously available. This means EVERYTHING for someone just getting into PCI, but is somewhat narrower for the "old hands".

Yes, of course there's a wish list for next fall's seed exchange!

1. Our supplies still include lots of *douglasiana*, *tenax* and *innominata* seed. If you visit other species or hybrid swarms growing in the wild (or raised from seed in a garden), please mark the area and come back to collect seed about 2 months later.
2. Please send at least 50 and not more than 500 seed of anything you gather, whether named, seedling, cross, or species. A single pod with 10 or 20 seeds is just frustrating.
3. If you're growing a named PCI hybrid we didn't offer this year, please save a couple of pods of its seed for the next exchange, especially if you consider it interesting or exciting for some reason---and tell us about it!
4. If you're making interesting crosses especially for the exchange, please try to get at least two pods of each. Tell us about these, too.
5. If you grow PCI in a non-Westcoast location, please donate this year, and describe your location. Species native to tough places may not be the only keys to developing hardier PCI hybrids. Consider donating deliberate crosses among your plants, especially if you yourself are not interested in hybridizing.

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

As a last note, \$67.68 (more than 20% of the money we took in) went to pay for packing and postage. Are you willing to contribute a little more to SPCNI if your order is larger or travels further than others' orders?

Let us hear from you. Send your seed for the next exchange (posted not later than September 15, 2000) and/or your comments (Did your order arrive okay? Did the seed germinate and under what conditions? What do you especially wish someone would supply?) to:

Debby Cole, SPCNI Seed Chairman  
7417 92nd Place SE  
Mercer Island, WA  
USA 98040-5807

Thanks for supporting SPCNI!

## LOOKING FOR FRAGRANCE AND REBLOOM

Garry Knipe, Cupertino, CA

In the past few years, I've become totally captured by the beauty of the Pacific Coast Iris. Yet I find myself wishing for a nice fragrance and a longer bloom season. So, this year I started a "little" backyard hybridizing project with these two goals in mind.

Scented PCI are rare. Out of more than 800 registered PCI, only a few mention fragrance in their description: SANTIAM SNOW (Zimmerly '92), GOLD NIMBUS (Zimmerly '93), JEANNIFER MARY (Collins '94), and LADY OF SKYE (Barnard '97). Unfortunately, I have not yet located any of these cultivars

(any help in finding them would be greatly appreciated).

In the wild, *I. macrosiphon* sometimes exhibits a scent. So, my first set of crosses for fragrance have been made with pollen collected from *I. macrosiphon* having a scent that was mildly sweet with a faint hint of lemon.

For extending the bloom season, the choices are much wider and can be approached from a number of angles.

For mid-winter bloom, many consistently early PCI are available: CITY HALL, COUNCILMAN, SAN ANDREAS, and

PASATIEMPO, to name just a few. I've started using some of these as well as more recently introduced varieties such as ALTAR BOY and COPY BOY, which are registered as being very early bloomers.

For late-spring bloom, the Lawyer's excellent work on high bud count and branching is well documented in past Almanacs. Seed from these late *I. douglasiana* X *I. munzii* lines can be obtained from the annual SPCNI Seed Exchange.

For fall rebloom, the choices are more limited. In the mildly climated Fremont, California gardens of Gigi Hall, and Darrell and Diane Eigenman, SAN ANDREAS and PASATIEMPO often start blooming in November or December. Also, Norma Barnard's LADY AUTUMN has bloomed for her as early as October. In a recent phone conversation, however, Norma mentioned that her clump did not survive the move to Paradise, California and she was not sure whether LADY AUTUMN could still be found. (Do any of our readers have this one?) Finally, it is rumored that fall rebloom is sometimes observed in wild *I. fernaldii*.

So, after making assorted crosses, I sit back and wonder, "what will appear in 2 years?" And I ask if any of our readers might have comments or suggestions on chasing these goals of fragrance and extended bloom.

If anyone has found wild or garden PCI having good fragrance or autumn rebloom, I'd love to hear from you! Any pollen from these would be greatly appreciated. Just pick a few anthers from a mature flower, place them on a sheet of plain white paper to dry for a day or two, fold the paper a few times to form a little packet, and send them to me with a few notes on where the plant grew, its flower color, and any interesting characteristics. If necessary, I can freeze the pollen for later use.

Wish me luck.

Readers can contact Garry at the following address:

Garry Knipe  
7598 Kirwin Lane  
Cupertino, CA. 95014  
(408) 253-6148  
knipe@worldnet.att.net

## A FEW NOTES ON THE PAST AND PRESENT OF THE PACIFIC COAST IRIS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

*Arthur Jervis*, Staffordshire, England

I offer a few personal thoughts and observations on the Iris family in the United Kingdom using my own very limited experience of growing Pacific Coast Iris.

The widespread interest of the iris family as a garden plant in the United Kingdom seems very low at the present time. The climate in the UK is much different than in California and tends to result in the foliage of the plants becoming unpleasant to look at in the autumn and winter. That then creates some work in removing the damaged and unhealthy leaves, especially with the Bearded and Sibiricas groups, to keep the clumps looking reasonable. As this is seen as being too large a price to pay for the short flower period of the plants, the

average gardener is unwilling to grow more than the odd plant or two. The other thing to consider in the lack of interest is the fact that the average UK gardens are nowadays only of a small size so plants tend to be chosen to give the longest period of interest. The Pacific Coast group is in this respect less demanding in time as their foliage tends to remain healthier so it is fair to say this would be one of their attributes. But they are not well known to the general public so remain as plants only the more adventurous or dedicated gardeners would have.

The species *Iris innominata*, and *I. hartwegii*, have been known in the gardens since the turn of the nineteenth century. W. R. Dykes, the famous English irisarian, wrote in

1913 that the Californian species remained little grown as they did not lend themselves to the British climate and were difficult to transplant. But he did mention that they set seed readily and that seedlings would transplant well. As their culture was not well understood, I believe up to the 1950's only a few enthusiasts paid much attention to the species. In the 1960's and throughout the 1970's, Mrs. Marjorie Brummitt undertook hybridizing and showing her hybrids. Mrs. Brummitt was practically the only person doing such work. She was raising a series of hybrids, some thirty in number over some 20 years. Her crosses were from *I. douglasiana* x *I. innominata* though in later years other material may have been incorporated. She was the winner of the British Iris Society's Dykes medal in 1976 for her NO NAME, described as a primrose yellow, carrying two buds per stem. Some of the Banbury series are still available from selected commercial lists.

The late 1970's saw little further breeding with the exception being by Miss Nora Scopes. At this time I myself became aware of the plants. I had received a nursery catalogue from the renowned firm Blooms of Bressingham Gardens in Norfolk which listed pot grown plants of *I. innominata*, and I purchased a few plants. At about the same time, Thompson and Morgan of Ipswich Suffolk were offering mixed seeds of hybrids listed as Orchid Iris. I received a packet in the early part of the spring but met with little success with them. I believe now that was as the seeds were not too fresh. But the few plants I had received from Blooms of Bressingham Gardens flowered for me in later years. I then went on to become more interested in the TBI and it was not until later in my life that I again became interested in the Pacific Coast group.

Mr. Ivor Knowles, a notable member and one time president of the British Iris Society, wrote a short article in the British Iris Society yearbook proposing standards to which breeders might aim in order to make the plants more accessible to the gardening public. They should be fully hardy, with upright flower stems each carrying 4 buds or more per stem,

heads held above foliage, medium to large flowers, with wide falls and significant standards. Problems with the reestablishment of small divisions seem to keep the commercial nurseries from propagating and distributing them to a wider public market. I myself found that, provided the divisions made were of a substantial size and as much soil as possible was taken with the divisions, they would reestablish as well as any hardy plant. Late October or March seemed to be the best time to achieve the best results with the plants. Mr. Knowles' BLUE BALLERINA is still available. He received an AM and the Hugh Miller Trophy for this hybrid of non-bearded species.

Mrs. B. Corneille raised a notable hybrid named ARNOLD SUNRISE and was given a First Class Certificate in 1981 by the JIC and it was distributed by WA Humphreys of Nottingham UK. We met Mr. Humphreys in the late 1970s. At that time he was showing a wide selection of bulbous iris as well as some of the Banbury hybrids at the Royal Horticultural Society halls in London. I decided to visit him at his nursery in Arnold in Nottingham and took delivery of a few plants of the Banbury series, plants of ARNOLD SUNRISE plus a few unnamed seedlings, I believe, of Mr. Humphreys own raising. As I recall he believed the best time to divide and transplant was late October. Most of the small divisions I received that year did reestablish themselves and went on to flower in later years.

Mr. R. A. Wise was one of the finest exhibitors of TB iris for over 40 years, winning most of the available cups and trophies. In the 1980's he crossed some Ghio introductions with the Brummitt Banbury series to produce his Pinewood series. Mr. Wise's PINWOOD AMETHYST received an AGM.

There is no doubt that seeds and plants arriving from the United States of America have had their part to play. In 1993, Lady Skelmersdale of Broadleigh Bulbs registered some twenty names of her hybrids and still lists and shows many of them today. I ordered a few in the middle 1980's as some of her plants were being offered prior to 1993. I was pleased

with their performance and they are winter hardy in my north Staffordshire garden.

At a recent meeting in Kent in the UK, iris enthusiasts considered the prospects for the Pacific Coast Iris. In view of the continuing problems regarding the vegetative propagation and the lack of commercial interest, the plants would remain in the hands of a few interested gardeners only. We have yet to resolve the questions regarding hardiness and the most appropriate time to divide plants.

In 1992, I received as a gift from a friend a quantity of seeds directly from Mr. Joe Ghio. As it was fresh seed it germinated very well and I planted in nursery rows some 150 small plants. I recall some were lost in the first winter as a result of frost lifting them out of the soil as at that age they did not have a large root system and they were not well anchored into the soil. Nevertheless, I managed to grow most of them to a flowering size although there were a few further failures in the second winter.

In the spring of the third season I had a diverse selection of plants ranging from eight inches to eighteen inches, some with good flower stems held above the foliage and others not so good. I have always thought the matter of color is in the eye of the beholder so my selection of seedlings may not have been everyone's choice. Since space is limited in my

home garden, I selected only eight of them. I hope the few I kept are an improvement on the older hybrids I have seen in the UK although that is very limited. I understand my friend's plants raised from the rest of the seeds from Joe Ghio produced a higher percentage of non-hardy seedlings. As a result, he has strong reservations as to the hardiness of the Pacific Coast Iris in the UK.

This year I have received more seeds from this group and I hope to see more good seedlings in the coming years.

I must thank my good friend John Trinder for his support in the subject matter of this article.

Abbreviations and Definitions supplied by John Trinder:

**AGM:** Award of Garden Merit awarded by the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS). Plants are judged after trials, mainly at the Society's gardens at Wisley. The AGM replaces an older award of AM (Award of Merit)

**JIC:** Joint Iris Committee. A group with members from the British Iris Society and Royal Horticultural Society that judges and makes awards to irises mainly trialed at Wisley.

**Hugh Miller Trophy:** Awarded by the British Iris Society to the best non-bearded iris hybrid of the year.

## JOE GHIO INTERVIEW

*Garry Knipe, Cupertino, CA, and Steve Taniguchi, Santa Clara, CA*

Joe Ghio is the most prolific hybridizer of Pacific Coast Iris (PCI) with over 200 registered cultivars. Joe's wonderful PCI, which he calls "Pacificas", have won numerous Mitchell Awards and Mitchell Medals, and encompass a variety of colors, patterns, and forms.

**Q:** When did you first start growing PCIs and why did you start hybridizing them? What were PCIs like then? What's changed since then?

**A:** I started some time in the 60's, I'm not sure of the exact date. It was the Mitchell seed acquired from Jack Craig. Which was derived from Dank's seed from Australia, which was Mitchell seed from Rittler in Oregon. The color range and intensity, flower size, substance, and ruffling are far improved from those days. Also, today we have multibranches and very upright heavy "tetraploid" foliage.

Q: What are the most significant PCIs that you've developed? How are they significant?

A: CALIFORNIA NATIVE was the first to give its heavy substance, form, and ruffling to its offspring and not dominate the coloring. Another was a seedling of PACIFIC MOON X CALIFORNIA NATIVE, that was never introduced because I couldn't build up stock, but it acted like CALIFORNIA NATIVE and gave even better form. BUBBLY was the first truly bubble ruffled Pacifica which lead to NATIONAL ANTHEM with its height, great form and heavy ruffling. MANTRA is a continuation of this line but with unique coloring and rosy rim. IDYLWILD was a great breakthrough in the blue with size, form, and substance, but most important for the *munzii* derivatives, it was an easy grower. It is the basis of Lois Belardi's wonderful blues. BABY BLANKET, a pink with the blue signal and TIKI, a henna with electric blue signal and petal edges. PRIMO, the first real plicata. [Parentages are listed at the end of the interview.]

Q: Of your PCI introductions, which 10 are your favorites?

A: Only 10! Among the earlier items: COUNCILMAN, RESTLESS NATIVE, and CITY HALL. Later: IDYLWILD, MANTRA, and MASCOT. Of the newer items: FACE VALUE, GORDOLA, WILDER THAN EVER, and RANCHO CORRALITOS.

Q: You've won quite a few Mitchell Awards/Medals. How would you rate your Mitchell winners? Were there other PCI of yours that you liked more than the ones the judges selected? Do you still have each of the plants that have won the award? If not, why?

A: Of course a lot of factors besides quality, such as publicity and distribution, go into winning awards. I always felt SAN ANDREAS, MISSION SANTA CRUZ, PEANUT GALLERY, SOLID CITIZEN, and LIGHTHOUSE POINT were overlooked. Heavens no, I have none of the winners now. IDYLWILD left last year when it was all sold. Mainly because I sell out of them, and I tire of them and move on to other things.

Q: Can you explain your PCI seedling numbering scheme?

A: PQ-123A for example...P = Pacifica; Q = year of the cross [1979]; 123 = the number of the cross for that year. A = the selection, first A, then B, C, etc., until Z, then the next time through the alphabet is A2, B2, etc. Then if a third time is necessary A3, B3, etc. For the year of the cross, in 1970 I started with Z and over the years worked to A [1995]. Now that I've been through the alphabet I'm now using AP, then BP, etc., the year coming first starting with A this time. I know I will never make it to Z this time! This year, 2000, will be EP; however, selections made this year will come from the 1998 seed crop, hence the selections will be CP.  
[PZ=1970, PY=1971, . . . ,PB=1994, PA=1995, AP=1996, BP=1997, CP=1998, etc.]

Q: Let me use an example from your 2000 catalog for my next question. DRIP DROP is seedling PB-394R2. So, "PB" means Pacifica seed from 1994. The "394" refers to the cross: (FOOTHILL BANNER x WISHING) X SKYLASH, and also means you made at least 394 crosses that year! And the "R2" indicates DRIP DROP was the 44th seedling of (FOOTHILL BANNER x WISHING) X SKYLASH. [44 = 18 + 26; R=18th letter of the alphabet + 1 pass through the alphabet] Did I get this correct?

A: Yes, except the numbers of the crosses start with the TB and continue on to the Pacificas. That is the total of all the crosses that actually took that year regardless of type. Actually 190 Pacifica crosses are recorded for that year, 1994. Far more crosses were made than actually took, of course.

Q: There are a lot of "sibs" in the parentage of your PCIs. Why do you use a sib instead of the named variety?

A: If a cross is good, it usually is very good, and only the best is introduced, but the sibs have the right genetic makeup and qualities I want. Plus most crosses are made amongst the first year seedlings, and there are only so many blooms available, so I use material with the same genetic pool. When using seedlings, you aren't at the point of knowing exactly which one will eventually make it to the market; hence the sib...

Q: How many different lines of PCI are you currently working on and what are some of your current hybridizing goals?

A: I have lots of stuff going on. My emphasis is on "neon" signals and edges (eyes & edges), different plicatas, pinks, reds, and tricolors--3 distinctive colors in one bloom

Q: How have your goals changed over time?

A: I followed what breaks came along, whether in form, color, or patterns. I do little work on blue, white or purple now compared to earlier. Now my emphasis is on the above.

Q: Every year you release many beautiful PCI. You make it look so easy, but I'm sure it's a lot of work. How many PCI crosses do you make a year? How many seedlings do you evaluate? What percentage makes it through their second and third years?

A: It depends, but averages about 100 crosses a year that take. A lot more are made, of course. Last year we got through R3 [=70], some years we can get well into the 4's. First year selections are planted out with a maximum of 6 rhizomes, and are left in for two years. Final evaluations and introduction selections are made from these two-year plantings.

Q: What general selection criteria do you have for PCI?

A: Number one is distinctiveness. Then growth, color/form advancement.

Q: The wild PCI species grow in a wide range of heights. Do you select for a specific height range, and if so, what is that height range and why do you select that height?

A: My only criterion is that they bloom above the foliage.

Q: Are all of your crosses planned well ahead of time to achieve your goals or do you sometimes make spur of the moment crosses when you see two PCI that might combine nicely?

A: No specific crosses are planned in advance. It is a process that is hard to explain. Based on experience, knowledge of lines and what they produce, and based on what you see occurring based on the former. Nothing is random but "planned" as my eye and mind see it.

Q: What hybridization goals have you found to be the most difficult to obtain?

A: Pink and orange have been tough.

Q: Are there any hybridization goals that you are not working on but that you wish you or others had time to work?

A: Something I can't do, is extend their range of easy growth.

- Q: Have you ever found fragrance in PCI, and if so, was it a pleasant fragrance? Have you done any breeding for fragrance? Are any of your PCI fragrant?
- A: I am not a smeller!!
- Q: Are there any differences between hybridizing PCI and the other iris types (TB, Louisiana, Spurias, etc.)? Are PCI easier or harder to work with?
- A: The same general principles for hybridizing apply to all species and genera for that matter.
- Q: From what species are most of your PCI lines derived? How many different species have you incorporated into your lines? Are there any species you have used to obtain particular traits?
- A: The Mitchell-Danks material was *douglasiana* x *innominata*. I introduced *munzii* via blooms Dick Richards gave me from Coffee Creek, and I introduced the Santa Cruz Mountain complex material [*I. douglasiana*, *I. fernaldii*, and *I. macrosiphon*] into the line. GRUBSTAKE gave another genetic pool. I have also included some stuff via FOOTHILL BANNER [*I. douglasiana*, *I. munzii*, and *I. tenax-chrysophylla*].
- Q: Do you have any advice for beginning hybridizers?
- A: Study what others have and are doing. Use the best material available to you. Don't expect world-beaters immediately; this is a long time process. Learn pedigrees; hybridizing is genetics. You must know the background of what you are using and how it behaves in breeding to be consistently successful.
- Q: How do you come up with names for your PCI? Do you have any interesting stories behind your cultivar names such as EYE MY EYE, REFEREE, and NATIONAL ANTHEM?
- A: Of course, local or near local place names have been used on most of my children. Most of the good ones have been used, hence we have gone to things like RANCHO CORRALITOS, VILLA BRANCIFORTE, and SANTA CRUZ BEACH. "Eye" names are naturals for the "spot" patterns, and I have a list of those as apropos. I had some natural plicata names like ENCIRCLE and ALL AROUND that I used on Pacificas because at the time I saw no plicatas among the TB's. Some that I consider my very best get my "top" names that are usually reserved for TB such as NATIONAL ANTHEM, FACE VALUE, and MANTRA. A few the Registrar won't allow on TB's so I use them on Pacificas. For example, MASCOT and PHILOSOPHY--since there are TB's with similar names (MASCOTTE and PHILOSOPHER).
- Q: Occasionally plants will be lost to a phenomenon called bloomout. Do you know what causes bloomout or how to prevent it?
- A: Bloomout is usually genetic. Some bloomouts will produce increase but if they do, usually the heavy bloom trait is there and will continue ("bo" after the # in our pedigrees means the parent was a bloomout seedling). I don't worry about it - just grow enough seedlings and you select the ones that are good and grow.
- Q: Do you perform any special pre-treatment (such as refrigeration or soaking) before planting seeds? Do you plant your PCI seeds directly in the ground or into seed flats? How often do you transplant your seedlings?
- A: I plant directly into the open ground with nothing done to the seed. I have a rule to transplant seedlings by April 15. Hardly any loss is experienced if done by then before the heat comes along and nearly 100% bloom will occur the following year.

Q: In your catalog you mention the use of Subdue when transplanting; do you routinely use Subdue (or anything else) for transplanting in your nursery?

A: I dip in Subdue for about 5 minutes before planting. It seems to help. I can no longer fumigate with methyl bromide, so nothing else is done prior to planting now.

Q: Do you have any "unusual" methods for growing PCI (For example, some TB enthusiasts claim that Epsom salts are useful)?

A: Nope!

Q: Based upon your PCI sales, has interest in PCIs increased, decreased, or remained constant?

A: It goes in waves. The Pacific NW was big, but after a freeze of a few years ago, it decreased from there. Oversea sales have been somewhat consistent, mainly to Britain and Japan.

Q: Do certain colors or forms sell better than others? Do landscape contractors and iris collectors have different tastes in the types of PCI they purchase?

A: Sure, blue is hot and whatever is new is hot, like pink. Landscapers will take anything I give them. They clean out my reselections and whatever else I will sell them. The fancier naturally wants named specific cultivars.

We thank Joe for allowing us to bombard him with all of these questions. We also want to thank him for all of the beautiful PCI he has developed over the years. We hope the word "retirement" isn't in Joe's vocabulary. [Joe's latest and greatest PCI are available from Bay View Gardens. Some of Joe's earlier varieties can be purchased from a variety of sources.]

#### **Parentage Information:**

CALIFORNIA NATIVE (Ghio, R. 1972). Lompico X Violet Elf.

BUBBLY (Ghio, R. 1986). (Go Wild x Oval Office sib) X (Oval Office sib x Carbonero).

NATIONAL ANTHEM (Ghio, R. 1989). Bubbly X Western World.

MANTRA (Ghio, R. 1992). National Anthem X (Rare Reward x Western World).

IDYLVILD (Ghio, R. 1987). ((Simply Wild x Camp Capitola sib) x (Big Wheel x (Pacific Moon x California Native))) X Miramar.

BABY BLANKET (Ghio, R. 1998). PE-189M: (PG177G: (PI-MIX-A, unknown, x Valet sib) x PG-154, Spanish Don sib) X PE-190N: (Greeting Card x PG185Y: (PI-MIX-Y, unknown x PI-MIX-A, unknown)).

TIKI (Ghio, R. 1998). PE-188H: (PG-173M: (San Felipe sib x Hot Blooded sib) x PG-142I: (On the Wild Side sib x Temblor)) X PE-189I: (PG-177G: (PI-MIX-A, unknown, x Valet sib) x PG-154, Spanish Don sib).

PRIMO (Ghio, R. 1980). Santa Rita sib X Canyon Snow.

## PACIFICAS AND GENETIC POLLUTION

George Gessert, Eugene, OR

[Editor's note: Introgression is the "incorporation of genes of one species into the gene pool of another species." Definition from *Ecology*, by Robert E. Ricklefs, Chiron Press, Inc.]

In the fall, 1999 issue of the *Almanac*, editor Steve Taniguchi asks an important question: can cultivated Pacificas genetically affect wild populations? As most gardeners know, some cultivated plants exchange genetic information with their wild kin, and this can have major consequences. The wild progenitors of corn, for example, may be approaching extinction today because over the centuries air-borne pollen from cultivated plants made many of the offspring of wild corn maladapted to old habitats.

Wind-pollinated wild plants are especially vulnerable to contamination by cultivated ones. Pacificas are insect-pollinated, but exactly what insects do the work we do not know. It makes a difference whether bumblebees, beetles, or ants are the pollinators, and whether all Pacifica species have the same or different pollinators throughout their ranges, because different kinds of insects carry pollen different distances.

Still, I think that we can be reasonably confident that, at the present, genetic flow from garden plants to wild ones is relatively small. Pacificas, unlike corn, are uncommon in cultivation, which makes contact between cultivated and wild plants uncommon. Furthermore, it appears that hybrids between garden plants and wild ones are almost always poorly adapted to life outside of gardens. In the nineteen bloom seasons that I have roamed the Pacific Northwest looking for wild irises, I have encountered only two groups of plants that appeared to be descended from garden plants. Neither group seems to be spreading.

In addition to these two groups, I am responsible for a few individual "wild" plants that are derived from the irises in my own garden. For years I have scattered surplus iris seed outside of my garden, mostly in disturbed sites such as roadsides, clearcuts, and power line cuts. To the best of my knowledge, fewer than half a dozen plants have grown to bloom size from the thousands of seeds that I have

scattered. In gardens Pacificas often reseed and may even become pests, but I do not know of a single instance where garden-derived Pacificas have spread outside of cultivation. If anyone knows of a case, I would appreciate hearing about it.

Of course, given enough time, genetic roulette will probably produce a garden-derived hybrid with advantages over local wild plants. Beneficial genes tend to spread, but as long as a species has plentiful populations distributed over a large range, a little local introgression is not going to threaten it, and may even strengthen it by increasing variability. I think that in the case of Pacificas we can still trust nature to take care of itself, with one very important exception. Irises with extremely limited ranges are much more vulnerable to destruction by introgression than irises with large ranges. Because of this, anyone who gardens within the native ranges of such endemics as *Iris munzii* or the Cave Junction *I. bracteata*, should grow only those Pacificas. I live just ten miles from a unique population, *I. notiensis*, but fortunately for me only ordinary *I. tenax* grows wild in the immediate vicinity of my home.

There is a tremendous amount that we do not know about Pacificas. Invisible races may abound, races that look just like common types, but which have exceptional chemistries, say, or capacity to survive summer damp. If such a race is ever discovered adjacent to my garden, conscience may require that I give up breeding Pacificas there. In the meantime, I will grow many kinds. I think that it is important never to minimize the role that gardening plays in genetic pollution, or in other kinds of environmental degradation. However, gardening can also contribute positively to awareness of life and wildness. That contribution justifies taking some risks.

## LETTERS

[The first three letters are responses to my article in the Fall 1999 issue of the Almanac. The first two are from brothers Jeffrey and Garry Knipe.]

*Jeffrey Knipe, Hayward, CA*

As an amateur beekeeper, I did a fair bit of reading on honeybees. Foraging distance from the hive for a typical honeybee is a mile or two(!), or even up to four or five miles in some situations. This surprised the early researchers who discovered this. The high end gets into diminishing returns for energy expended by the bee vs. what's delivered to the hive. There are a lot of factors that can go into the choice of foraging areas, mainly being concentration of nectar and pollen, and ease of collection (how long it takes to tank up). One book I recall dealing with the quantification of this was called *Bumblebee Economics*. Lots of papers have been published looking into this and all aspects of bee behavior. I wouldn't assume similar distances for various pollinators. Also, some plants have specific or preferred pollinators.

*Garry Knipe, Cupertino, CA*

What limited experience I have with PCI's would lead me to believe that many are not an extremely valuable source of nectar or pollen. Over the past 6 years, I have read about and planted many butterfly attracting plants, and, in my garden, the butterflies and especially bees and wasps often swarm around many of my other plants but I don't recall seeing any insects, other than earwigs and ants, being attracted to my *Iris douglasiana*. However, while out in the hills deeply sniffing *Iris macrosiphon* for fragrance with cupped hands on a windy day, I clearly recall startling a bumblebee hidden deep within a blossom. So, as you observed with your *I. tenax*, it appears that bees may find some Iris species or cultivars more valuable than others.

I would be surprised if other bees or wasps had foraging distances that were much greater than a honeybee. However, if something like a

Monarch or a Painted Lady butterfly were to take interest in PCI, then pollen might be carried hundreds or even thousands of miles, since these species are known to migrate great distances. But I've never seen a butterfly even look at a PCI. I suspect the flower shape is designed for pollination by bees and not butterflies.

In Lee Lenz's *Hybridization and Speciation in the Pacific Coast Irises*, page 240, he mentions that birds have never been seen to feed on PCI seed and that there is no evidence to imply birds as being responsible for their dispersal. Interestingly, he then went on to describe how ants would remove PCI seeds from sown areas and pile them around their nests. A transport mechanism of this sort would take a long time to get very far out of your garden. Heavy rains and floodwaters would be a much better transport mechanism for PCI seed.

Personally, I wouldn't worry too much about our urban gardens polluting the Iris gene pool around the South Bay Area. Besides the distance to the hills, Lenz and Cohen both discuss how heavily hybridized much of the PCI are in the Santa Cruz Mountains. But it might be an issue to consider for a garden very close to a native stand of rare PCI species or subspecies.

*Frederick Held, Scio, OR*

In response to your concerns, of course bees collect pollen to feed their brood. Collecting pollen from one pacific hybrid to another will not necessarily pollute wild stands. Mother Nature has a longtime history; you are talking short term. In general, the gene pools of native populations are established enough to put up with a few plant freaks. The chromosomes, if affected, are cleansed in time and all remains the same. It is unlikely that a few hybrids in a garden will affect wild stands. I observed *Iris tenax* on the road to my former mailbox for 20+ years, and despite my gardening and the installation of water lines, the *I. tenax* seem to

be indestructible. They bounced back within two years and have always been purplish-violet.

About growing species, I realized to avoid cross-pollination one has to net the flowers, or just stick with one kind - the true native species. When restoring a site, use only native species of your closest area.

To collect seed, one shall do so away from populated areas, if it can be helped. Never take all of the seed (never more than 2/3 is the rule with mushroom hunting). I leave 2/3 of the seed to ensure animals get their share. We are talking here about vast terrain; chances are most stays unharmed.

*Claude Derr, Estacada, OR*

[Claude was President of SPCNI in the early 1990's]

I probably have 300 or so hybrid plants from Joe Ghio seeds. I just weed out around the plants and try not to disturb the plants. I have found that leaves and fir needles in the forest fall and act as ground cover for plants. On hillsides in open fields grass continues to come up and die down around the plants and the leaves of the plants also act as a cover. I have been down to 12 degrees with a 30 below wind chill factor that burned the leaves. I have lost no plants except moles digging under the plants. In the wild most plants are on hillsides or sloping ground where there is good drainage. Where I found plants on flat land, I dug around the plants to find a lot of small rocks or a crushed gravel type soil with good drainage. I think in any place where there is a hard freeze, the plants need some type of mulch and not planted where there is standing water.

*Doug Murray, Canada*

[From a letter to the Seed Chairman]

Adele Lawyer's directions have worked very well for me. Germination is almost double my former 40-50% when chilled and held at 65°-70°. I have almost one hundred '98 and '99 seedlings that should bloom in 2000. I have so many seedlings that I've had to lend some to other gardeners for testing. Steve Taniguchi's

seed has germinated almost 100% overall, and the Lawyer's seed about 80%. My only failures have been species, only *I. douglasiana* seems to do well in our zone 7, 60" - 100" of rain. The rest gradually drown.

*Lech Komarnicki, Poland*

[Editor's note: This is an excerpt from two letters Lech sent to the Lawyers]

January 4, 2000

I should like to inform you that after some years I had a small success - the first PCI to bloom in Poland. This event is significant because during the winter we had hard frost lasting about six weeks dropping to about -13° F.

Plants were started in 1997. Small irises with three or four leaves were planted in a cold frame left open until the end of October. In 1998, after a relatively mild winter, most were still alive. Although some clumps had four or five fans, none bloomed in 1998. As in the previous year they were heavily mulched with poplar leaves and pine needles. On top of the mulch I placed the material I had sent you some time ago. [See the fall 1995 *Almanac*]

Again, nearly all the plants survived. Plants marked as *I. tenax* did not lose their leaves during the winter. One clump from Late Doug. OP seeds bloomed. It had 15 fans, and two unbranched stems. One stem had three terminal flowers, the other had two. Blooms were basically white marked with a very nice blue. One of the flowers was selfed and set some seeds. Crosses with *sibiricae* and *sino-sibs* were unsuccessful.

The most important information is that the plants spent the winter in **dry** soil. Very significant is the fact that five other plants in pots and left in a cold room where the frost was less severe survived the bad period but died very quickly when I watered following warmer temperatures. I examined the remains in the pots and found rot had destroyed the rhizomes. Leaves survived for some time but they were evidently dying.

Some time later I found an article in a Russian Bulletin about a Louisiana grower who

came to the same conclusions about LA irises surviving the harsh Russian climate if they are kept in a **dry** place. So this year another crop of seedlings is in pots and kept in the cold room without watering. Time will show if this technique works.

February 21, 2000

This winter is rather mild but in December there were some days with low temperatures down to about 2° F. I inspected the plants in the pots today and they look good. Although the pots were not watered from November some new leaves are showing in the center of the fans. So it seems the theory works. By the way, *I. tenax* plants are not deciduous despite the information contained in books! The plants came from seed from different sources so I tend to believe they are true *I. tenax*.

*Dave Pettenski, Bothell, WA*

[Dave is the Region 13 Treasurer, and VP of King County Iris Society]

My current interest is with Pacific Coast Native iris and I am attempting to build a decent collection of hybrids and species. If I am successful at growing PCN's I might try some hybridizing. I also have Japanese, Siberian, a few bearded (mostly SDB, MDB and MTB) and some species iris. My wife claims I have an incurable disease and that I need to be put on a 12-step plan. She just does not understand why anyone would abrade old PCN seed with coarse sandpaper on the kitchen table, meticulously soak the seed in old yogurt cups filled with water (which is changed daily) and then plant the tender seeds in special potting mix, most likely in the middle of the night when no one is around to question your sanity.

*Elyse Hill, Sebastopol, CA*

[I asked Elyse for a photo of one of her recently registered PCI. She sent a photo of TOWN BELLE and the following information.]

Fortunately I found a photo of my named seedling TOWN BELLE without going through numerous albums of irises. TOWN BELLE is a ruffled pinkish-violet, veined deep rose with a

very deep rose signal and a light cream rim. The flower is of cartwheel form, about 8 to 10 inches tall. The pod parent was BUBBLY and was open pollinated.

My main reason for collecting and planting the seeds was to see if I could come up with some PCIs that would be hardier. At the time I had a collection of PCIs from different hybridizers, mainly older varieties which seemed to be doing well. I originally planted out around 300 seedlings and have weeded it down to about 130 now.

Naturally, I have learned more about how to care for them as I went along and found that they need more fertilizer than would be expected. However, our soil loses most of its nutrients each year from our heavy winter rains since it is a fine silt, slightly acid and eats up mulch. Also, we usually have quite warm weather through October and most of November so I have found that they do much better when transplanted very late in November or December. I did have an infestation of PCI borers a few years ago [See the fall 1997 issue for Elyse's article about PCI borer]. I think they came from some wild species that someone had given to my son, but we have since eliminated them and are starting other species from seed.

This year most all of the seedlings and named varieties are looking quite healthy and I am anticipating a very colorful bloom season.

*Steve Taniguchi, Santa Clara, CA*

I went to the West Bay Iris Society show in mid-April to check out the PCI. The three PCI that caught my eye were DEEP MAGIC, FAULT ZONE, and GORDOLA.

On the seedling table I saw three interesting seedlings from Darrell Eigenman. The best was 9802B which had a nicely formed flower and **branches!** I later found out that 9802B was from a cross Darrell made between EYE CONTACT and GORDOLA.

At the winners table, highest honors went to a beautiful specimen of LOS CALIFORNIO grown by John Stremel.

**MAIL ORDER PCI SOURCES 2000**

Address	Aitken's Salmon Creek Gardens 608 NW 119th St Vancouver, WA 98685	Bay View Gardens 1201 Bay Street Santa Cruz, CA 95060	The Iris Gallery 33450 Little Valley Road Fort Bragg, CA 95437
e-mail	aitken@e-z.net	bayview@mail.U.S.A.com	irishud@mcn.org
web site	www.e-z.net/~aitken	http://surfnctusa.com/ghiobayview/iris/ (if down, e-mail for updated URL)	No web site
Phone	(360) 573-4472	(831) 423-3656	(707) 964-3907
Fax	(360) 576-7012	(831) 423-7610	Same as above
Catalog or Price List	Catalog, \$2.00	Catalog, \$2.00	Catalog, \$2.00
Minimum Order	\$20.00	None	\$15.00
Ship Outside of USA	Yes	Yes	Yes, catalog explains fees
Garden Open to Public?	Yes, April - October	No	Yes, May through June 10 or by appointment (PCIs - April)
PCI Species?	No	No	Yes, very few.
Named PCI Varieties?	Not offering PCI this year. Rebuilding PCI stock for next year.	Yes, 10 new introductions this year. Nine from Joe Ghio, one from Lois Belardi.	Yes, 6 new introductions this year from Robert Canning (1), Elyse Hill (3), and Colin Rigby (2).
Gift Certificates	Yes	Yes	Yes, \$15.00 minimum. Certificate sent with a catalog.
Notes:		Offers reselect seedlings in groups of three, or lots of 50. Also offers seed of random varieties.	

## MAIL ORDER PCI SOURCES 2000

Address	Nature's Garden 40611 Highway 226 Scio, OR 97374	Siskiyou Rare Plant Nursery 2825 Cummings Road Medford, OR 97501
e-mail	None	srpn@wave.net
web site		www.wave.net/upg/srpn
Phone	(503) 394-3217	(541) 772-6846
Fax	(no phone orders)	(541) 772-4917
Catalog or Price List	Catalog, \$1.00 or a SASE with a \$0.55 stamp on it.	112 page catalog, \$3.00
Minimum Order	\$15.00 per shipment	None
Ship Outside of USA	Yes, contact proprietor for terms	Canada & US only
Garden Open to Public?	No	Yes, the first and last Saturday, 9 am to 2 pm, March through November, except the first Saturday in July.
PCI Species?	Yes	Yes, <i>Iris douglasiana</i> and <i>I. innominata</i> .
Named PCI Varieties?	Unnamed hybrids are available.	Yes. No new introductions this year.
Gift Certificates	Yes	Yes
Notes:		

**MAIL ORDER PCI SOURCES 2000**

Address	Broadleigh Gardens Bishops Hull Taunton Somerset TA4 1AE England	LEWISIA: J. L. Latil Le Maupas 05300 Lazer France	Otepopo Garden Nursery Rural Delivery 12 O Oamaru, North Otago New Zealand
e-mail	No e-mail address	lewisia.latil.gamet@wanadoo.fr	None
web site	www.broadleighbulbs.co.uk	No web site	
Phone	01823 286231	04 92 65 18 42 or 33 4 92 65 18 42	NZ (03) 439 5514
Fax	01823 323646	No fax number	No fax number
Catalog or Price List	Yes. EC only.	Descriptive catalog. 1US\$ for Europe, 2US\$ elsewhere	Catalog is \$2 (N.Z.)
Minimum Order	None	25 US\$	None
Ship Outside of Country?	EC sales only.	Will ship outside of France	New Zealand sales only
Garden Open to Public?	Yes, Mon - Fri, 9 am - 4 pm	Yes, by appointment. Best period for iris March to June.	Yes, Wed - Sun, 10 am - 5 pm
PCI Species?	No	Sometimes	Some
Named PCI Varieties?	Yes. No new introductions this year.	TROPEZIENNE, maybe one other this year.	No
Gift Certificates	No	No	No
Other		Mr. Latil plans on publishing an English version of his catalog this spring.	

# SPCNI TREASURER'S REPORT

1/1/99 Through 12/31/99  
Income Statement

Income	
Dues	994.00
Books	202.50
Back Almanac Issues	4.00
Donations	18.50
Interest Earned	228.84
Misc. Income	23.03
Seed Exchange Sales	595.13
T-Shirt Sale	106.95
	<hr/>
Total Income	\$2168.95
Expense	
Almanac	2301.62
Bank Charges	15.00
Misc. Expense	12.00
00 Trek Bus Deposit	365.00
Reprint of Cohen Book	691.50
Sec/Treas. Expense	
Office Supplies	78.28
Postage	204.52
Slide Program	102.02
Web Page	433.78
	<hr/>
Total Expense	\$4213.72
<b>Total Inc/Exp</b>	<b>-\$2,044.77</b>

## Balance Sheet

<b>Assets</b>	
Cash and Bank Accounts	
CD Account	4147.10
Washington Mutual MM Checking	1552.09
	<hr/>
Total CD and MM Accounts	<b>\$5699.19</b>
<b>Liabilities &amp; Equity</b>	
Liabilities	0.00
Equity	5699.19
	<hr/>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity</b>	<b>\$5699.19</b>

## REGISTRATIONS AND INTRODUCTIONS 1999

**BROWNIE POINTS** (Joseph Ghio, R. 1999). Sdlg. PB-254K3. 18" (46 cm), ML. Mocha, F. with deeper edge, maroon brown signal. Parentage unknown. Bay View 1999.

**CIAO** (Joseph Ghio, R. 1999). Sdlg. PB-266X4. 15" (38 cm), ML. Pure yellow self. PD-204-I2, Big Smile sib, X PD-235 gold, Common Sense sib. Bay View 1999.

**COPY BOY** (Joseph Ghio, R. 1999). Sdlg. PB-314B. 10" (25 cm), VE-M. Creamy apricot, F. with violet haft blush and edges. PD-243-I, Cross Purpose sib, X PD-264-G3, Santa Rosalita sib. Bay View 1999.

**DEAD RINGER** (Joseph Ghio, R. 1998). Bay View 1998.

**EDUARDO KAC** (George Gessert, R. 1999). Sdlg. 90-36D. 13" (33 cm), M. S. pale lavender, center darker purple; style arms pale lavender, purple rib; F. with white signal brushed yellow and veined dark purple, surrounded by blackish blaze fading to rich purple, veins extending to near thin border of lavender. Rainer von Schulenberg X 86-47C: (All Around x collected "Valley Banner type").

**GORING SUNRISE** (Peter Maynard, R. 1999). Sdlg. GBS 5/97. 18" (45 cm), M. S. light amber yellow (RHS 18A/B); style arms amber yellow (18B); F. orange, veined, light amber yellow edge and signal. Colchicine treated sdlg. Goring Ace X self.

**LAKE QUINALT** (Colin Rigby, R. 1999). Sdlg. 75. 18" (46 cm), M. Ruffled medium blue with slight lavender flush, F. with white signal veined gold; style arms medium blue flushed white, yellow markings. (Meek 281 x purple sdlg. from Ghio line) X Meek 369, inv. *I. munzii*.

**LA NINA** (Joseph Ghio, R. 1999). Sdlg. PB-321X. 10" (25 cm), ML. Soft lavender, yellow veined signal. PD-243Q3, Cross Purpose sib, X PD-201D2: (Candid x Local Girl). Bay View 1999.

**MADONNA RIDGE** (Joseph Ghio, R. 1999). Sdlg. PB-243L4. 12" (31 cm), ML. Soft shell pink self. PE-202C2: (PG-185Y: (PI-MIX-Y, unknown, x PI-MIX-A, unknown) x Charter Member sib) x PD-201D2: (Candid x Local Girl). Bay View 1999.

**MAGIC SEA** (Lois Belardi, R. 1999). Sdlg. BT-97. 14" (36 cm), ML. Ruffled delphinium blue with crystalline edge, F. with 3/4" turquoise signal with darker blue halo. NOR-4: (Sea Gal x (Miramar x Sierra Dell)) X (Age of Chivalry x Marine Magic).

**MENDOCINO BLUE** (Robert Canning, R. 1999). Sdlg. 93-01C-PCN. 11" (28 cm), M. S. hyacinth blue (RHS 91B) with darker (91A) veining; F. slightly darker wisteria blue (92B) with darker (92A) halo and veining, turquoise midrib wash. Parentage unknown; sdlg. purchased at Mendocino Coast Botanic Garden.

**MENDOCINO GOLD** (Robert Canning, R. 1999). Sdlg. 93-02D-PCN. 7" (18 cm), M. S. indian yellow (RHS 17D), darker veining; F. darker indian yellow (17C), darker veining, haft area greyed orange (171A) with darker veining, orange white (159A) center ribbing. Parentage unknown; sdlg. purchased at Mendocino Coast Botanic Garden.

**PACIFIC MISS** (Lois Belardi, R. 1998). Bay View 1999.

**PACIFIC SNOWBALL** (J. T. Aitken, R. 1998). Aitken's Salmon Creek Garden 1999.

**POINT ARENA** (Joseph Ghio, R. 1999). Sdlg. PB-255N3. 13" (33 cm), ML. Caramel gold, maroon signal. Parentage unknown. Bay View 1999.

**RAFFLES** (Colin Rigby, R. 1999). Sdlg. 88-12-97. 16" (41 cm), M. Deep bright golden yellow, F. signal with lighter edge, deeper heavy gold veining. Poppy X Meek 167.

# REGISTRATIONS AND INTRODUCTIONS 1999

**RUTH KAC** (George Gessert, R. 1999). Sdlg. 91-39B. 13" (33 cm), L. S. white, few purple veins broken into dots and dashes; style arms white, brushed lavender and purple; F. white, signal yellow with gold center, surrounded by fringe of purple veins broken into dots and dashes. 86-47C: (All Around x collected "Valley Banner type") X 86-54A: (Western Queen x C84-18, collected *tenax-chrysophylla* hybrid).

**SMOOTHIE** (Joseph Ghio, R. 1999). Sdlg. PB-276F3. 15" (38 cm), ML. Lavender self, yellow line signal. PD-229-Z2: (PF-167-Z2: ((Earthquake x (Santa Cruz Beach x (Refugio x ((Simply Wild x Camp Capitola sib) x (Big Wheel x California Mystique)))))) x (Las Lomas x ((Running Wild x Moraga sib) x (Roaring Camp sib x (Montara sib x Mission Santa Cruz sib)))))) x PF-153W3, Bat Boy sib) X PE-187Y, Easter Egg Hunt sib. Bay View 1999.

**SPREADSHEET** (Joseph Ghio, R. 1999). Sdlg. PB-285-O3. 15" (38 cm), EM. Dark blackish crimson. Common Sense X PD-265Z: (Cozumel x PF-159E: (PI-MIX-B2, unknown, x ((Bubbly x (Solid Citizen x (Lighthouse Point x Mission Santa Cruz))) x National Anthem))). Bay View 1999.

**SUNBURN** (Colin Rigby, R. 1999). Sdlg. 9104. 12" (31 cm), M. Cherry red blushed gold, thin cream edge, F. with gold signal with fine darker gold veining; style arms cherry red blushed gold. Red Bluff X Gold Dusted.

## CAL SIBES

**CHAPTER TWO** (Colin Rigby, R. 1999). Sdlg. 9516-CS. SPEC-X (cal-sib), 14-16" (36-41 cm), M. S. red violet, veined darker; style arms red violet, edge slightly lighter; F. red violet, heavily veined darker, near-black thumbprint with few white and gold signal veins at base. L. Reid blue sino-sib sdlg. X Herald.

**LOUISE WHITE** (Joy White, R. 1999). SPEC-X (cal-sib), 24" (60 cm), M. S. amethyst violet (RHS 84B aging 84C); style arms buff yellow (161C) overlaid and aging amethyst violet (RHS 84B); F. magenta rose (186D), edges paling to background of buff yellow (161C) at edge, hafts deeper buff yellow (161B), plum (79B) patch in center below gold haft signal. Parentage unknown; seed from Tomas Tamberg. Otepopo 1999/2000.

### Color Page

Upper Arthur Jervis UK seedling  
Left: photo: Jervis

Upper TOWN BELLE  
Right: (Elyse Hill, R. 1998)  
photo: Hill

Middle CALIFORNIA NATIVE  
Left: (Joseph Ghio, R. 1972)  
photo: Lawyers

Middle HARBOR HIGH  
Right: (Joseph Ghio, R. 1997)  
photo: Knipe

Bottom FACE VALUE  
Left: (Joseph Ghio, R. 1998)  
photo: Taniguchi

Bottom POINT ARENA  
Right: (Joseph Ghio, R. 1999)  
photo: Lawyers

