



Pacific Iris

Almanac of the Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris

Bay View Gardens' introductions—2016



‘Coast Road’



‘Columbia Street’



‘State Street’

More treasures from master breeder Joe Ghio.

SPCNI MEMBERSHIP

The Society for Pacific Coast Native Irises (SPCNI) is a section of the American Iris Society (AIS).

Membership in AIS is recommended but not required for membership in SPCNI.

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Membership in AIS is not required for SPCNI membership, but it is encouraged and may be of considerable benefit to gardeners new to growing iris.

Send membership renewals or inquiries to the AIS Membership Secretary, or enroll on line at :
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When you send a separate email, include the date that you placed an order, or the date when you updated your membership. Then the Secretary or Seed Chair can quickly find the missing transaction.

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**PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE
FROM THE SPCNI TREASURER**

Prices listed are for SPCNI members in the US.

For out of US, please add \$3.00.

PRINT ARTICLES

Check List of named PCI species and cultivars, 2005
Lists species and named cultivars and hybrids to 2005. \$9.00
If ordering both print and CD checklist versions together,
\$14.00

A Guide to the Pacific Coast Irises

Victor A. Cohen, 1967

Reprint of British Iris Society 1967 booklet, describing
species, sub-species and distributions. 40 pages, \$8.00

A Revision of the Pacific Coast Irises Lee W. Lenz,
1958 Reprint of Aliso journal article 5.5x8.5, 72 pages. \$8.00

Hybridization and Speciation in the Pacific Coast Irises
Lee W. Lenz, 1959. Reprint of Aliso article 72 pages, \$8.00

If ordering both of Dr Lenz's reprints, \$14.00

All three volumes, \$20.00

Diseases of the Pacific Coast Iris

Lewis & Adele Lawyer, 1986. Fall 1986 Almanac, 22 pages,
\$4.50

Almanac Index, 2005,

includes the following indices: author, subject, species,
hybrids, \$4.00, or download free PDF from the SPCNI
website.

COMPACT DISCS

SPCNI Photo CD, 2009.

Compiled by Ken Walker, this CD includes 423 photos of
species and hybrids, neatly labeled. \$9.00.

SPCNI Almanac CD, 2009.

All issues of the Almanac through 2007, with Index, also
through 2007, and Checklist of species and hybrids, through
2005. PDF formats. \$15.00

Check List of named PCI species and cultivars CD, 2005.

Lists species and registered cultivars and hybrids of PCI
through 2005; CD, \$9.00.

Welcome to the Beauty of Pacific Coast Iris CD, 2009.

A 15-minute presentation with a concise overview of PCN
species, early hybridizers, Mitchell Award and Medal win-
ners, gardens landscaped with PCIs, and culture tips.

Ready to play for individuals or groups, \$9.00

USERS GROUP ON YAHOO:

SPCNI has a users group site at

<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/PacificIris/>

Members are encouraged to join this group, which provides
a simple online way to ask questions about finding and
growing PCIs among all members. To join this site, you
must register with Yahoo, but do not need a Yahoo e-mail
account. You may post photos here, check on scheduled
activities, and contact other SPCNI members.

Looking for someone cool!

One of the problems that PCI breeders in warm
areas face is finding a way to test their progeny's
growth in cooler growing conditions. If you live in
southern California, you are obviously going to be,
often subconsciously, selecting for the ability to
survive heat and sustained periods without water.
There is a way, of course, and that is to get northern
growers to house some of the plants and check for
hardiness. The doyen of southern growers Richard
Richards has plants he would like to test, and
would welcome contact from growers in cool zones.
His e-mail is mongo2u@cox.net



Garry Knipe, who breeds wonderful turquoise blue
varieties, has a slightly different request. He would
like to find someone who is keen to grow on some
of his seeds for a cycle, then harvest the seeds and
return them back to him. He would then take the
plants through a cycle, and so on.



If you are interested please contact Garry at
knipe@att.net

*Photographs from Clara B. Rees Iris Society's
Facebook page.*

President's Message

Bob Sussman

Growing Pacific Coast Irises –

It is supposed to be easy and sometimes it is, but

Thinking of growing Pacific Coast Irises? That shouldn't be too much of a problem should it? In fact, it's supposed to be easy. I mean after all, they grow all over the hills and valleys from California to Washington state, all unattended and left alone..

Unfortunately, not all of our gardens are like the hills and valleys where these irises are native. So what do we do now? Well, with a little bit of observation and adjustment you can extend their growing range greatly. Using well-drained soil, planting in shade in warmer inland areas, plus planting and dividing at the right time can go a long way. In fact, if you follow these rules you should have pretty good success.



Sussman's hybrid 'Harry's Rootbeer'

At least, this is where we came into the picture about 10 years ago.



Our plant nursery is based in Moorpark, California where we grow a wide range of California native plants for public and private gardens, commercial landscapers and restoration projects. Native irises are among the things we grow. It took a while to get to the point where we were growing even the Douglas irises, *Iris douglasiana*, efficiently but after lots of tutoring from people like Richard Richards, Debby Cole, and Hudsons, off we went.



Happily growing in Bob Sussman's Matilija Nursery

Things began to multiply just fine.

We had a few disasters - you can limit the irrigation but when you get rain for several days in a row you find out that your potting mix just holds too much water and PCIs are not water irises after all.

Often times in horticulture you find out you're in trouble just at the point where you can't do anything about it.

One way to cope with this kind of problem is to stretch out an activity over a period. In this case, we began dividing the PCIs in October, but then started getting lots of rain - then more rain and then even more rain.



One that died during the drought

At this point about ½ of the dividing process was finished - but so were my divisions. They simply "rotted out" and nothing modern chemistry could do helped.

With half the crop doomed, we divided the rest of it and potted up the new divisions in a newly formulated mix. one that was 80% perlite and 20% peat. Perlite is a soil additive like sand that allows quick drainage and diseases weren't able to take hold.

The second half of the divisions rooted just fine and we moved the new plants to larger 1-gallon pots for sale. This particular problem was solved and we thought we had mastered growing PCIs.

Things went along just fine for several years. We even began to grow some of our own hybrids. One of our sons, Dave, started working at the nursery and he learned how to hybridize Pacific Coast Irises as part of his school's Work/Study program.



One of the new seedlings, now thriving with the altered watering regime.

A couple of years later some of his irises flowered for the first time. He was excited and we were too - many were "exceptional".

All was good in the world of PCI growing.

Then it all sort of slowly went over a cliff.

California - especially southern California - began to experience a drought. The rates of losses of PCIs that were potted up for sale slowly increased, but the small pots that held the divisions - the ones that used 80% perlite - were just fine. We didn't think much of this at first. After all, Pacific Coast Irises are difficult to grow in southern California, if I've been told correctly.

I was wondering whether maybe I gave them too much water over summer. By the third year of this problem, we knew we had a real problem. The losses got to be serious. We lost a lot of the PCIs that I was hoarding for stock material for the next year's crop. But yet again, the ones in the high perlite mix were growing along just fine.

We began trying all sorts of things to stop the "iris death". We tried watering more. Then we tried watering less. We experimented by adding all sorts of different miracle chemicals. Yet like Sherman's march to the sea, the iris patch was, with a few exceptions, a scene of desolation.

What to do, what to do?

It was depressing thinking of all the effort and money that had been wasted. Still, what more could we do?

I knew a few things. First, the water quality from our well had gotten increasingly poorer. The chloride levels had always been elevated but they were now at much higher levels.



A new seedling with an attractive pattern

When I thought about it, it made sense since the less rain we got, the more the farmers in the region were using their wells (and me too).



One of the new varieties making good growth.

It followed that the more well water we used without new ground water replenishment, the higher the concentrations of chloride and other bad things became too.

And the less it rained, the less often the chloride would be leached out of the nursery pots, meaning it would just build up to toxic levels for many of the irises and other nursery plants too.

Still we were faced with the problem - what to do, what to do?

Well, the El Nino was coming according to the meteorologists, and we are supposed to have record rain in the region during an El Nino. This might just solve the problem.

It turns out that aspect of modern science failed. This year, instead of bringing heavy rainfall, has been even drier than the last. Yet, the iris divisions in the high perlite mix were doing just fine and it was time to plant the divisions into their nursery pots to grow out (whatever survived) for sale.

At this point I also got a call from the plant buyer at a very large landscape company who asked if I had a few hundred Pacific Coast Irises. I told him my tale and he started going on about the ionic charge of chloride is something, and maybe I should add some sulfur to my soil mix because it has an opposite charge, and the two cancel out and that will blah blah and on and on.

I didn't understand what he was talking about. So I asked, "How do you know all this?" He told me that he was a chemist by trade but he liked plants and this was his idea of a good job.



PCI 'Idylwild' coping well under the conditions.

So, off I went to the agricultural store to buy sulfur. We upped the amount of perlite in the nursery pots that we grew the irises in to sell (the 1 gallon and 5 gallon pots) to 50%. Went to a couple of websites to read how much sulfur to mix into the potting mix (I almost never read directions) and off we went. Note that whenever you use two treatments to solve a problem you never know how those two treatments mix together or which one helped or if they both helped. By this time, I really didn't give a rats ass, I just did it.



PCI 'Wilder then Ever' - growing better than ever

It seems some aspects of modern science are still imprecise – especially long range weather forecasting, as predicting the weather is still unpredictable. The El Nino still hasn't brought much in the way of rain, but, thankfully the irises are growing better than ever.



PCI 'Spinning Sarah' - born and bred at Matilija

The few hybrid crosses that we had kept in their small perlite mix pots, we planted out and they are growing and flowering. The mortality rate on our Pacific Coast Irises is now very low, lower than most of our other nursery plants that we grow.

What to take away from all of this?

Pacific Coast Irises are actually pretty easy to grow if you follow the usual instructions. They will readily grow in sun or part shade providing your climate is like the San Francisco area. There are lots of areas like this throughout the world from Europe to Australia. When you're growing them outside these sorts of areas, you might try planting them in somewhat varied locations in the garden but always remember - they do need well drained soils, as they are susceptible to all sorts of rotting. Constantly wet soils can be a major problem especially in summer.

Be a good observer. The factors to work with are watering (both frequency and quality), location in the garden (sun or shade), and soil. If things go wrong or even begin to go wrong, then start making adjustments. After all, if things go wrong and you do the same thing again and again you'll get the same bad result again and again.

To expect otherwise – well, you might be as crazy as I am.

Status of an Illustrated PCI Checklist

by Ken Walker

I have initiated a project to produce an Illustrated Checklist of PCIs derived from the original SPCNI checklist. This project is many years behind schedule. While the main checklist was updated with photos in the master Word document long ago and continues to be maintained, some other sections are problematic and I've been hesitant to release the checklist without updating all sections.

One problem is the section called "ANCESTORS AND THEIR DESCENDANTS". The list contains some PCIs used in breeding along with their number of descendants. The list distinguishes between whether the hybridizer or someone else used the cultivar as a parent. The list currently looks like this:

Cultivar Name	Progeny			
	Self	Oth		
PACIFIC MOON (Hager R'73)	1	27	SAN GREGORIO (Ghio R'84)	8 1
CALIFORNIA NATIVE (Ghio R'72)	23	0	ALMA ABELL (Lenz R'73)	8 0
AMIGUITA (Nies R'47)	0	20	FOREIGN EXCHANGE (Ghio R'81)	8 0
GONE NATIVE (Ghio R'81)	18	0	AGNES JAMES (Starker R'39)	0 6
CLAREMONT INDIAN (Lenz R'55)	0	16	BANBURY VELVET (Brummitt R'69)	0 6
OJAI (Walker R'59)	0	14	WESTERN QUEEN (Stambach R'67)	1 5
SIMPLY WILD (Ghio R'80)	12	1	GARDEN DELIGHT (Stambach R'71)	0 5
BIG WHEEL (Ghio R'81)	11	1	GRUBSTAKE (Lenz R'63)	0 5
BANBURY CANDY (Brummitt R'76)	0	11	RIPPLE ROCK (Lenz R'63)	0 5
SIERRA SAPPHIRE (Lenz R'72)	0	11	PEANUT GALLERY (Ghio R'85)	6 0
CASA PACIFICA (Ghio R'77)	10	0		
MISSION SANTA CRUZ (R'82)	9	1		
CALIFORNIAN (Ghio R'78)	6	3		
CANYON SNOW (Emery R'74)	0	9		

The table was obviously made sometime after 1985, but I'm not sure when. It's not clear how the particular cultivars were chosen. I might want to produce a slightly different progeny/descendants table, but any update requires analyzing all the pedigrees in the checklist. For me, it is much more fun to write a computer program for the task than to attempt an analysis by hand. However, until I retired near the end of 2014, my software engineering "energies" were devoted mostly to work.

In 2015, I started on the task. Computer analysis is very hard unless data is all presented in a simple uniform way. Many, but not all, pedigrees are simple and uniform. One really simple pattern is represented by the pedigree for 'Admiral's Pride': "Parentage unknown". This is sometimes written the other way, "Unknown parentage". Another simple pedigree is given for a cultivar that is a pure species, such as "*I. tenax*" or "*I. douglasiana*". Actual crosses are denoted by an X between the names of pod and pollen parents. For example, the pedigree for 'Almost Wild' is "Wild Survivor X Bar Code". Parentheses are used denote nested crosses, as in the pedigree for 'Carrot Top': "*(I. tenax x I. innotinata)* X Fairy Chimes".

There are some other commonly used notations. If an unnamed seedling is used in a cross and that seedling has a named sibling with the same parents, the pedigree can just reference the sibling,; for example the seedling can be referred to as “Villa Branciforte sib”. In iris shows and in magazine articles, seedlings are sometime displayed with seedling number as identification. These numbers can be included in a pedigree; for example, the pedigree of ‘California Mystique’ is “PU-232E: (Banbury Velvet x California Native) X PV-163I: (Pacific Moon x California Native)”. There are a few other notations that my computer program recognizes that I won’t elaborate here.

The next question is: what to do with pedigrees that my program can’t parse. I’ve chosen to change the pedigrees by putting quotes around the parts the program doesn’t understand. Some examples :

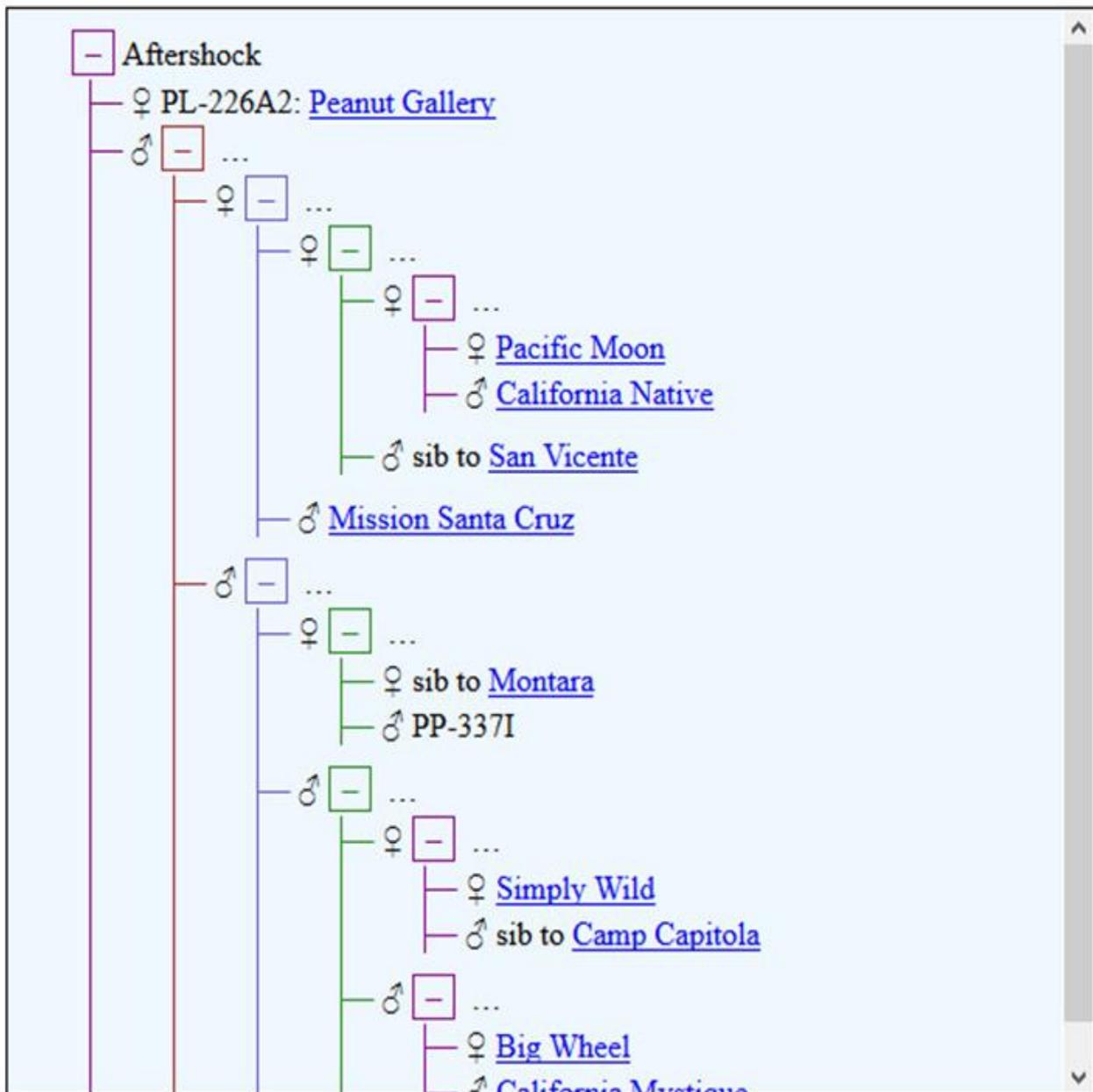
Cultivar name	Pedigree with selective quotes added
Agnes James	"White" <i>I. douglasiana</i> "collected in SW Oregon"
All Mine	Parentage unknown, "seed from Stanley Lott"
Alsea Blue	<i>I. tenax</i> "from two collected plants in western Oregon Alsea Mountain area"
Arlington Royal	<i>I. munzii</i> "from collected seeds" X Claremont Royal Purple

Here is some data I produced while experimenting with different analyses:

Cultivar	Named Children			Named Descendants
	Total	By Hybridizer	By Other	
AMIGUITA	17	3	14	544
IDYLWILD	16	8	8	145
CLAREMONT INDIAN	15	0	15	456
CANYON SNOW	12	0	12	262
BIG MONEY	9	0	9	10
OJAI	8	0	8	485
PACIFIC MOON	8	1	7	334
CALIFORNIAN	8	4	4	272
ALMA ABELL	8	0	8	15

If this analysis is correct, then 45% of the entries in the checklist have ‘Amiguita’ in their background - curious. What data would be most interesting is still open to debate, so there’s lots of room to experiment.

Another advantage of parsing the pedigrees is that a program can automatically format complex pedigrees to make them more readable. As a proof of concept, I put pedigrees in “tree format” on a web page. Overleaf is what the pedigree for ‘Aftershock’ looks like in one possible format.



Of course the interesting question is: what do we plan to do for SPCNI members? Last year we hoped to put the checklist up on the “Members Only” section of the website in some form. December 31 passed without accomplishing that, but our web master, Bob Seaman, and I had some productive discussions in the later part of the year. Bob would like the cultivar checklist itself displayed as database-driven web pages. I agree that it is a great idea and I am making good progress on setting up a database that gives us lots of flexibility in displaying cultivar information along with photos, when possible. Bob will do the web design itself when the database is ready. Once this is done, we can work on reproducing other sections of the checklist on-line as we have time. I could even imagine some interaction options, so stay tuned...

News from a New Zealand breeder

Mary Barrell

It has been a disappointing and disrupted season this year. Taking time off to go to an iris event we call 'Safari' featuring median bearded iris and species iris took me away from the garden at peak bloom time as did several days at our New Zealand national convention plus a few days holiday in the South Island added onto the end of convention. I feel I have been chasing my tail ever since.

From a growth perspective we have had plenty of rain and well-timed rain at that. This has continued on into summer. Normally I water daily or every second day to keep the Pacific Iris plants growing, particularly the seedlings.

My seedlings germinated early. For you northern hemisphere people, I plant my seeds in autumn (April) once the rains can be guaranteed. Last year I planted the seedlings into the garden in October. I watered them when necessary and they were fine until the heat reached a daily temperature in the high 20s Celsius. They struggled in the heat and in mid December (the start of summer) we had a good dose of rain so I experimented with a pea straw mulch. Previously I have had no luck mulching with compost or with bark however I can report going into autumn the seedlings are growing beautifully. They are still green and have clumped up well and there have been no losses from the dreaded fungal rot.

The earlier mentioned 'disappointing season' pertains to hybridising. I feel it was my worst season to date. There were very few moments to go "Wow" about something colourful or different. I guess that is how it goes sometimes.

A few years ago Debby Cole was kind enough to let me do a cross or two in her garden. She harvested the seed when ripe and forwarded it to me. These have now flowered for a couple of seasons. I like one from 'Lines That Rhyme' x 'Sunburn'. (above right)

Another cross was 'Now Showing' x 'Urban Legend' (below right) which produced some nice deep cherry blooms with gold signals but poor plants and I worked with these ones, both to improve the plants and to see what colours I could get.



Most flowered this year. Most of the plants have decent foliage and reasonable growth. However the crosses must have been a bit wide as some of the blooms were interesting but some I couldn't believe could be so bad.

I was delighted to host Lorena Reid in December and she saw the last of the crop but we could only find one we really liked. I was pleased that my clump of her 'Dotted Line' was flowering as were seedlings from her JI 'Summer Splash'. She was kind enough to critique my JI seedling patch and growled when I liked ones because of the colour but with poor branching. (A beginner's mistake - I should and do know better). At 91 she came to New Zealand on her own, attended our convention and had a look around our country by being hosted by Iris Society members. A lovely lady and a pleasure to host.

When are you all coming on down?



Beardless Irises- A plant for every garden situation

A review by Gareth Winter

All lovers of irises other than Tall Bearded know the feeling. There is news of a new book on irises, and you await its arrival with great anticipation. Maybe this time the irises that I love most of all will be featured. Maybe there will be a generous section on Pacific Coast Irises, and maybe it will be written by someone who has had some experience in growing them.

And you are usually disappointed.

Those flamboyant show ponies of the iris world, the exquisitely coloured and shaped Tall Bearded seem to hog all available space. I am not for one second suggesting that bearded irises, especially TBs do not deserve their wide popularity – they are among my favourite irises too. But I still yearn for a publication that casts its net a little wider, and comes up with proper chapters on some of the beardless sections: the swamp-dwelling Louisianas; those water-loving Japanese Irises, flattened out by generations of intense breeding; the stately Spurias; and those oriental charmers, the Siberians.

But more than that even, I want to see someone do justice to the West Coast wonders, the Pacific Coast Irises.

Someone writing knowledgeably about all these different garden irises would probably have had to move about a bit, as there are few places in the world where one can successfully grow all the above – fortunately, New Zealand is one of those places.

Equally fortunately Kevin Vaughn, author of the recent *Beardless Irises- A plant for every garden situation*, has moved around the United States. Growing up in Massachusetts, he first encountered Siberian irises, his parents hosting a trial garden, along with Louisiana, Spuria and Japanese irises. They also grew bearded irises, and Kevin started iris hybridising with them.

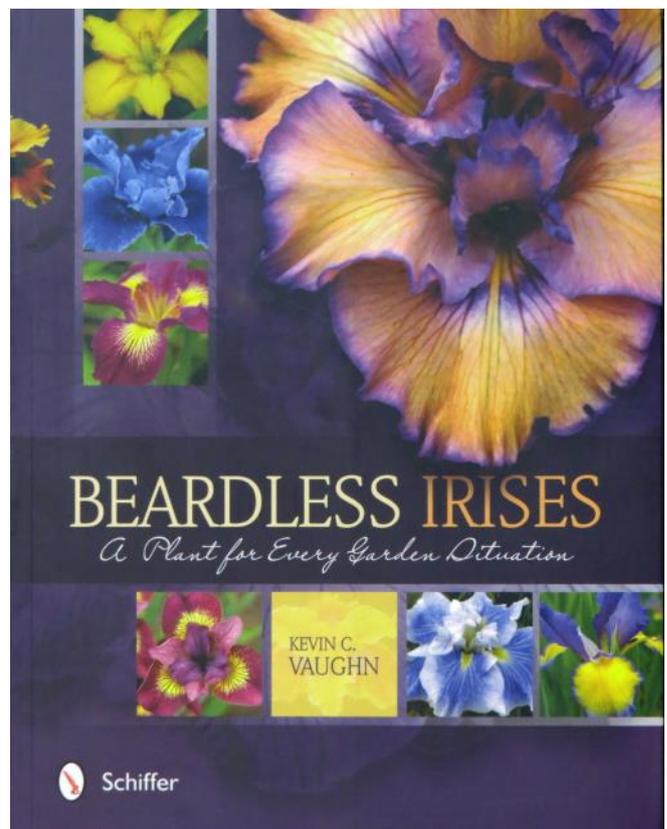
He later moved to Mississippi, where he was unable to grow the Siberians so well, but the other water lovers thrived and he started hybridising Louisianas.

Kevin has a Ph.D. in botany and has worked as a plant physiologist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. His interest in hybridizing started at an early age, and

he has placed more than 200 varieties of plants in the market. His “Red Velvet Elvis” won the top award for Louisiana irises, the DeBaillon medal in 2005.

A shift to Oregon in 2010 brought a cornucopia of iris habitats, from dry shade, wet shade, a meadow and a dry alkaline bed – there was even a water feature. And of course, it also brought the chance to grow Pacific Coast Irises.

And having discovered them, he came to the conclusion that there is “no more charming group of irises”. The result is 20 pages dedicated to PCIs in his book, with good advice on how to grow them, and tips on how to best divide them in the autumn.



Those whose interest is in the wild forms of PCIs will perhaps be a little disappointed in the amount of space dedicated to their favourites. Although there is good data on the various species, and the difference between them, there is a slight emphasis on the part that species have played in the development of modern hybrids, rather than on the merits of the species.

This is a recurring theme through the book, and will very much appeal to those who are interested in the development of the garden hybrids in the most popular beardless classes.



One of John Taylor's seedlings, photographs of which are featured in the PCI chapter of the book.

Vaughn's chapter on PCIs covers the ongoing breeding of the many hybrids, and emphasises the roles that many of the first breeders played, noting that the first to start hybridizing were the English. He then moves on to the appearance of Californian hybrids, and the part their genes have played.

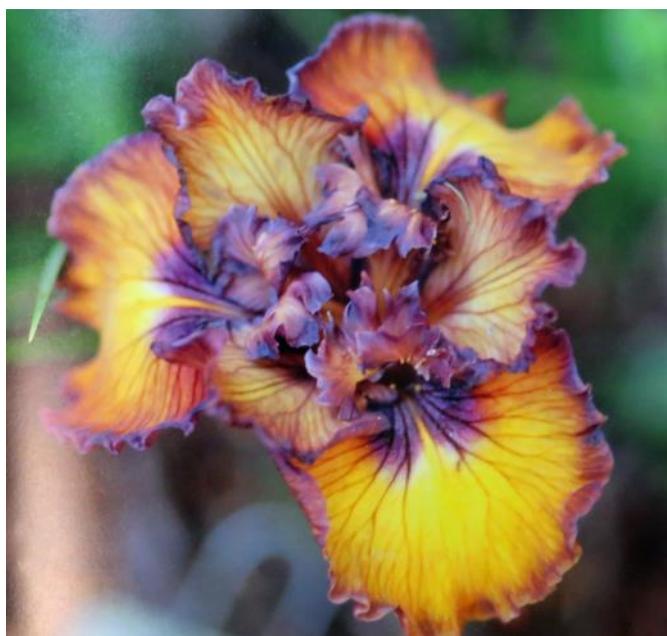
The importance of *I. munzii's* blue genes, and the role that *I. bracteata* played in introducing the wide form and ruffling that is so prevalent among modern hybrids is also explained, along with the work of English breeder Marjorie Brummitt. As you would expect, iris breeder extraordinaire Joe Ghio gets a lot of attention, with details of his work in developing new colours and patterns in PCIs. Many of Ghio's best introductions are described, and reproduced.

Further mention is made of the Calsibes, in Vaughn's section on species and species hybrid irises. He suggests that the crosses involving fertile tetraploids hold out much promise for the future.

Another chapter discusses hybridizing of beardless Irises and is an invaluable guide for the beginner. It has a few good tips for all but the most experienced breeders, including the physical processes undertaken to cross plants, as well as some advice on the genetics involved in flower colourations. Vaughn's experience in breeding many different classes of beardless irises shines through. Vaughn is also an award-winning breeder of Sempervivums and uses examples from his programme among these precious alpinists to indicate some processes which should be used by all plant breeders.

The photography is another of the strengths of this book. All the sections are generously illustrated with full colour, and the wide range of varieties shows that the iris truly is the personification of the rainbow.

This book is highly commended to all lovers of beardless irises.



One of Kevin Vaughn's PCI seedlings, showing the influence of Taylor and Ghio genes.

To trim leaves on PCIs or not?

By Kathleen Sayce

The question of the treatment of PCI plants over winter is a vexatious one. Is it better to leave the leaves on right through the winter, or should the leaves be taken off? It seems that different plants need different treatment. Our secretary explained her experiences in a recent post to the AIS blog.

A couple of winters ago, I wrote about having used a dry sunny break in the weather to clip back iris leaves and clean up the garden. Several people reprimanded me for doing so, saying I was taking away these plants' capacity to photosynthesize in coming weeks until the new shoots came into full growth. With PCIs, sometimes that is true, and sometimes it is not.



'Clarice Richards' stays green all winter. Brown leaves are removed late winter or early spring

A storm called an Atmospheric River blew through this week; regionally these are called Pineapple Express storms, which bring warm air, high winds and heavy rain. About 11 inches fell in three days, ending with more than 5 inches of rain yesterday, a day so wet that salmon could just about swim in the air instead of the streams. Today the sun came out for the first time in nearly a week.

I took photos in the garden of the "photosynthesis-deprived plants" that I trimmed back that fall. My focus in past years for clipping was plants that had brown leaves. Many PCIs have mixed genetic heritages from most of the species in this group, and the degree of browning, if any, varies with those genes.



Iris innominata has almost completely browned off by mid January. With snow, it will go completely dormant.



A typical PCI clump in the winter garden, 'Finger Pointing', has a few green shoots and weeds, and a lot of brown.

Which groups stay the greenest, and can be left alone throughout the winter? *Iris douglasiana*-derived hybrids.



Iris douglasiana selections and hybrids with considerable "Doug-blood" stay green all winter long. A few brown leaves are tugged off in late winter or early spring.

Which groups go completely dormant and lose leaves? *Iris tenax* and *I. hartwegii*. These species' leaves vanish by midwinter.



Iris tenax vanishes underground by midwinter. Old leaves and winter cress plants will come out when I clean up the oak leaves and spruce cones in a few weeks.

Spring is coming! Among all the brown leaves and debris, I saw several new shoots on most of my plants. A few have died; one that I thought died last fall came back with several new shoots, and the rest have those small green fans we love to see in early spring.



Now, if the weather stays dry for a few days, I can take my annual soil sample, and start pruning and tidying the garden beds

Reds and Yellows for the gaudy corner of the PCI garden

Kathleen Sayce

First posted on the AIS blog March 14, 2016.

Reds and yellows combine to make particularly richly colored flower displays. Here's a sampling of a few PCI hybrids in this group. The typical pattern is red to dark red falls and yellow to orange standards and style arms. In some hybrids, this combination shows up on all flower parts.

Then darken the falls, and standards and style arms with intensely colored flowers, and you'll end up with the following:



PCI 'Wildest Imagining'

Start with a dark yellow to orange base color with darker veins, in PCI 'Wildest Imagining', then add more color to the petals, on the edges.



PCI 'Rancho Coralitos'



PCI 'Eye Catching'



PCI 'San Justo'

Then intensify the colors:



PCI 'Wino' has particularly intense yellows

Let's end with a hybrid that is particularly attractive, with red petals and golden veining on the falls. Not shown in this photo is the attractive velvety surface of 'Sunburn', which makes it glow in sunlight.



PCI 'Sunburn'

The future of PCIs

Gareth Winter

Over the years there has been a lot of debate in this journal about the way PCI flowers have been changing shape, becoming broader and more substantial, as well as exhibiting a greater colour range, with new patterns appearing at the hands of innovative breeders.

I am interested in doing a major article on this aspect of PCI culture for the next issue of *Pacific Iris*, and I am keen to get as wide a spread of views as possible.

I know there are many members whose interest lies in the botanical side of PCIs—they are keen to grow as many species as they can, and if they are interested in hybridizing at all, they are only looking to expand the colour range of the species, while retaining a more natural looking form.

Others are more interested in reshaping the flower, and refashioning the almost spider-like tripartite form of some of the species into a traditionally rounded form, now seen in other groups such as Louisianans and Siberians. They have also been responsible for enhancing the ruffling seen in some species.

Other growers have had aims more related to the entire plant. Some have been working on producing plants that will survive better in marginal PCI-growing areas, while others have concentrated on developing larger (or smaller) plants.

In areas where late frosts can be a problem, some have worked towards shifting the bloom season, while still others have been concentrating on combining the 40-chromosome Siberian genes into the gene pool by use of tetraploidy to make crosses fertile.

I would be very interested in contributions from members towards this debate.

Please send any comments to me at wintergareth53@gmail.com.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Pacific Coast Iris registrations 2015

ESMERELDA (Emma Elliott, R. 2015). Sdlg. AJ309. CA, 12-14" (30-35 cm), M-L. S. wide mid-lavender, red-purple veins; F. mid lavender, dark blue-purple veins, small yellow and white signal, prominent dark blue-purple halo, wavy edge. Deepening Shadows X unknown.



BLUE A FUSE (Joseph Ghio, R. 2015). Sdlg. MP-163-2. CA, 10" (25 cm), EML. S. white, blue dripping to distal edge; style arms light blue; F. same as standards, small blue dotted signal. KP-155L: (Da Vinci Code x -156S3: (Foggy Days x GP-404K3: (Bar Code x EP-153C2: (Ocean Blue x Star of Evening)))) X KP-154, Costanoa sib. Bay View 2015.



IP

FOLLOW THE MONEY (Joseph Ghio, R. 2015). Sdlg. MP-168J3. CA, 13" (33 cm), EM. S. rusty copper-melon, more copper than falls; style arms rusty melon; F. rusty copper-melon, gold neon flash signal down center. Sib to Garrapata. Bay View 2015.



GARRAPATA (Joseph Ghio, R. 2015). Sdlg. MP-168Y. CA, 12" (30.5 cm), E. S. more violet than falls; style arms violet-copper; F. metallic violet-copper, neon signal. KP-166Q3, Point Lobos sib, X KP-135Y3: (IP-116T3: (GP-368U: (Now Showing x EP-226T, New Blood sib) x GP-390H2: (Epicure x unknown)) x Red Flag Warning). Bay View 2015.

MASKED MAN (Joseph Ghio, R. 2015). Sdlg. MP-163S. CA, 12" (30.5 cm), EM. S. white; style arms deep blue; F. white, thin deep blue plicata edge, bandit signal across haft to center of petal. Sib to Blue a Fuse. Bay View 2015.



RED LIGHT DISTRICT (Joseph Ghio, R. 2015). Sdlg. MP-153Q2. CA, 8" (20 cm), ML. S. velvety red-black; style arms gold washed black; F. velvety red-black, ruby signal. Executive Decision X Wandering Eye. Bay View 2015.



ROUGH SEAS (Joseph Ghio, R. 2015). Sdlg. TS-OP-98Y. CA, 15" (38 cm), ML. S. deep blue-violet to white base, white halo around petals; style arms blue-violet; F. creamy white, blue-violet veining to near solid wide blue-violet band around edges, hazy blue signal. MP-163H3, Corralitos Creek sib, X LP-145T, Caught in the Wind sib. Bay View 2015.



RICH PEACH (Emma Elliott, R. 2015). CA, 10-12" (25-30 cm), E-M. S. peach; F. same, dark peach signal. Parentage unknown.



CAP A L'OUEST (J. C. Jacob, R. 2015). CA, 19" (48 cm), M. S. peach-pink, purple veins along midribs and edge; style arms cream, light pink veining on crest; F. peach-pink, lighter towards edge, long cream-yellow signal from throat to mid petal, veined green-yellow, bordered by pink halo with dark pink veining to edge of petal. Seed from SPCNI, lot 710/12. Short Order X unknown.



The view from Down Under—the editor speaks!

If there is one thing that gardeners can be relied upon to say, each season without fail, it is : “What an odd season we have had this year”.

It was either hotter, colder, drier, wetter, windier, calmer, or just gnarlier than usual. The start to this year was no different, with the threat of an El Nino worrying all those who garden around the edge of the Pacific Ocean. For North America it was predicted to bring increased rainy storms, while for those on the other edge of the great sea, it was supposed to mean extended drought in some areas, increased wind and storms in others.

It didn't turn out that way, with a more-or-less normal growing season in the Antipodes, and a slightly warmer season for the US, if the Iris Lovers page on Facebook is anything to go by.

However, there seems little doubt that climate change is a certainty, with slightly increasing temperatures experienced over many of the regions that PCI are endemic, and it raises the possibility that the range of PCI species may change over time.

Down in southern California, President Bob Sussman has been having all sorts of problems in the extreme drought his region has been suffering. His problems with the lack of water have been exacerbated by issues with chemical imbalances from different watering regimes. His article on his experiences of the past few years make sobering reading for all nursery owners, but also sings with the hope for better seasons ahead.

Our Recorder Ken Walker has written about his work towards a web-based, illustrated checklist of PCI cultivars, with details of their ancestry. His work is intriguing, if slightly puzzling to someone whose work is in horticulture rather than computer coding. Having had the pleasure of a visit to Ken's garden last year, I know he has a great mix of both and I look forward to further reports on his progress,

Mary Barrell's experiences growing at the other end of the world –or in New Zealand actually, are always interesting to read, and her new hybrids are welcome in a country where import of live irises is all but impossible.

Kevin Vaughn's new book on beardless irises has been exciting news among the wider iris world as well as the PCI community. A book that deals with beardless irises, including PCI, in the manner they deserve is long overdue, and is well worth seeking out if you have not already obtained a copy.

As always, our hard working secretary Kathleen Sayce has contributed a couple of essays, originally posted on the AIS blog. In one she talks about her experiences with winter trimming of PCIs, and the way different species need to be treated, while in the other she talks about these bright red and yellow varieties that give such brightness to the garden—gaudiness she calls it.

What is missing from this issue is a contribution from the wider SPCNI membership. It would be great to hear from those of you who are growing PCI at the margins, in terms of hot and dry, or cool and wet. It would also be very interesting for us away from “PCI Heaven” — the moderate climate of the Pacific Coast—to hear how things have gone over your growing season.

We'd especially like to hear from members who are growing PCI away from places normally thought of as being suitable - South Africa, Asia, continental Europe would all make for interesting reading.

And if you live in places where PCI species grow wild, we would love to get photographs and stories about your native irises. Do you bring wild plants from your area into the garden? Have you used wild species in breeding programmes? Do your local botanic gardens feature PCIs? If not, can you help provide them with plants or seed?

Do not forget to harvest seed for the Seed Exchange as this is the main way we reach new members. As always, those away from the US are especially interested in seed from newer varieties, as the plants are often unobtainable outside Northern America.

I hope the northern growing season has gone well for you all. My first seedlings from October's flowering have just appeared in my glasshouse, so I'm off out to drool over them, and imagine what wonders they may hold for the future.

Gareth

2015 Financial Report SPCNI

Balance Between Income/Expense	\$ 1,301.35
Operating Income	\$ 2,902.61
Membership	
General Donations	\$ 292.30
Dues: Renewals and new memberships	\$ 1,256.28
Other Income	
Publications (All)	\$ 12.00
Seed Exchange Sales	\$ 1,319.12
Trek Income	\$ -
Convention Income	\$ -
Other (pre-pay postage, misc)	\$ 17.71
Interest Income (all accounts)	\$ 5.20
Operating Expenses	\$ 1,601.26
Almanac *	
Printing	\$ 464.28
Postage	\$ 291.23
Publications	
Reprints of books	\$ -
Compact Discs, copies	\$ -
Photocopy Expense, back almanacs	\$ -
Misc publication expenses	\$ 4.09
Office/Website Support	
Website Server etc	\$ 507.16
Paypal Fees	\$ 137.01
Insurance and License	
State of California	\$ 20.00
Membership Programs & Activities	
Trek Programs	\$ -
AIS Programs	\$ -
Other Programs, meetings	\$ -
Mitchell Medal Award	\$ 36.25
Seed Exchange Program	\$ 145.13
Miscellaneous	
Reimbursement	\$ (3.89)

*No expenses were submitted for spring 2015 issue of Pacific Iris
\$755.51 was total for fall 2015, so spring 2015 is similar

Funds at Year End	\$ 15,668.09
Memorial Fund	\$ 3,564.08
Savings Account	\$ 6,823.68
Checking Account	\$ 3,462.36
PayPal Account	\$ 1,817.97

New members, 2015-16

Patty Alford, Emory, Texas

Sarah Bade, Berkeley, California

Leigh Blake, Trail, Oregon

Richard Cypher, Duncan, British Columbia, Canada

Sue Davies, Palmerston, New Zealand

Andra Forsyth, Summerland, British Columbia, Canada

Catherine Gibbons, Edmonds, Washington

Tom Hobbs, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Deborah James, Lake Balboa, California

Kathryn Keller, San Francisco, California

Karen Landers, Salem, Oregon

Khrischna Moore, Oakland, California

John Petrotta, Port Angeles, Washington

Amanda Potter, Seattle, Washington

Sandra Schroeder, Gig Harbor, Washington

Peter Sexton, San Francisco, California

Mong Hua Truong, San Jose, California

Linda Vacchiery, Seattle, Washington

Stephanie Willis, Portland, Oregon

Cho Yen Lai, New Taipei City, Taiwan

Michael Anderson, Paris Vasco, Spain

Patricia Berkeley, Vida, Oregon

Della Cooper, Cygnet, Tasmania, Australia

Olen Daugherty, Claremont, California

Mary Deaton, Olive Branch, Missouri

Doug Frazer, Forest Knoll, California

Zhang Guo Wei, Shanghai, China

Stan Hansen, Concord, California

Jane Jordan, San Jose, California

Michel Kuwahara, Seatac, Washington

Janet Miller, Spilsby, United Kingdom

Jens Weise Olesen, Humlebaek, Denmark

Peter Podaras, Davis, California

Erin Riggs, Portland, Oregon

Katherine Schubel, Burlington, New Jersey

Linda Sinkovic, Santa Clara, California

Paul Turner, Walnut Creek, California

Phyllis Wilburn, Rescue, California

Paul Wilson, Portland, Oregon

Eva Zalto, Neunagelberg, Austria

LATE INCLUSIONS

Phyllis Borden, Sequim, Washington

Phyllis Kirtley, Benton, Arizona

Paul Skarin-Willey, Eugene, Oregon

David Helmich, Ashland, Oregon

Ann Munson, West Linn, Oregon

Katie Ziegler, Murrieta, California



Some blues, and some other hues. Seedlings from John Taylor's 2015 season Down Under.



Just some of the pretty yellow-shaded PCIs that flowered in 2015 for John Taylor in his Australian garden.