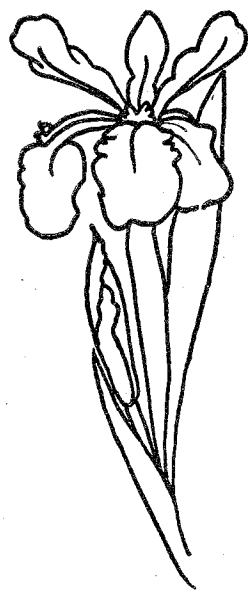


SPURIA IRIS SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

VOL. 7

JULY 1963

NO. 18

SPURIA IRIS SOCIETY

SECTION OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

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President	Mr. Marion R. Walker	5210 E. Telephone Rd., Ventura, Calif.
1st.Vice Pres.	Mr. Clarke Cosgrove	8260-Longden Ave., San Gabriel, Calif.
2nd.Vice Pres.	Mrs. Joseph Crawford	RFD 1, Box 357, Oklahoma City 11, Okla.
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Editor	Mr. Ralph A. Johnson	4414 E. Flower St., Phoenix 18, Arizona
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Information	Dr. Wm. J. Johnson	1420 E. Vermont, Phoenix, Arizona
Publicity	Mrs. Frank McCown	P.O. Box 176, Holtville, California
Display Gardens		

SPURIA IRIS SOCIETY INFORMATION

Section of the American Iris Society under Approved By-Laws
Membership: American members of SIS must be members of AIS
Dues: Annual: Individual - \$1.00, Family - \$1.50, Sustaining - \$3.00
Notice of dues payable are included with January and July issues of your Newsletter. Please inform Editor or Secy. of change of address immediately.
Newsletter: Published Quarterly - July, October, January, April
Deadline for all articles and news items, 1st of June, September, December, and March. If possible, all material for the Newsletter should be typed and double spaced. Send all communications regarding Newsletter to the Editor.
Rental slides are available for clubs and individuals from Library Chairman, Mrs. Lura Roach.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all Spuria enthusiasts and welcome aboard. We start the new year with enthusiastic reports from the Denver meeting and many plans for the expansion of Spuria interest throughout the world.

My first duty is to express our thanks to Mary Redford for the wonderful job she has done as President of the Spuria Society for the past two years. If it had not been for her great interest in the Society far less would have been accomplished. As a result of her leadership we have a growing organization, a good newsletter with an enthusiastic editor, the prospect of a Spuria check list to be published in the immediate future, and an expanding program of display gardens. Mary, we thank you for a job well done.

I wish to thank the loyal folks on the team of officers who have consented to serve with me this coming year. You will be called on for decisions as problems arise. It is my hope that the problems will be few and the progress great.

To those of you among the members that have questions and or suggestions please feel free to make them. This is an organization for the promotion of Spurias and their expanded use in gardens throughout the world. Any suggestion that will assist in accomplishing this purpose is most welcome.

Cordially,

Marion R. Walker, President
Spuria Iris Society

EDITOR'S NOTES

It was wonderful to meet so many SIS members at Denver and also to greet new members. As this issue contains many fine reports of the Denver meeting and other highlights, my comments will be somewhat brief. Dr. Durrance and his fine group are to be congratulated on the fine Spuria Display Garden, and although the plants were just coming into bloom on Saturday, June 1st, the report from Mrs. Heacock will certainly prove that the Spurias will really grow in Denver and other cold climates. The Denver Botanic Garden is a beautiful setting and the Spuria display in another year or two will be outstanding. This is based on the tremendous growth of the first plantings and number of buds resulting this season.

Ballots for the 1963 Spuria Popularity Poll were included with your April SIS Newsletter and we hope that all members will return these ballots as soon as possible so that the complete results can be published in the October issue.

Dues Notices are included in this issue and remittances should be sent directly to the Secretary-Treasurer for individual, family and sustaining memberships. By including the dues notices twice yearly with your Newsletter a considerable saving in postage and clerical work is achieved. Our unofficial membership count as of this date is 210 and our goal for 1963-64 is 300 -- so get a new member now...

Many thanks for the many fine contributions of material; just keep it coming and as our good President has mentioned in his message above. Your suggestions, questions and ideas are always welcome. I hope that all of you will send in your varietal comments for the October issue. These are important, as only through the dissemination of this type of information can we progress and keep all Irisarians informed on Spuria Iris... Best regards.....

Ralph A. Johnson, Editor

HIGHLIGHTS ON THE DENVER IRIS CONVENTION
Mary Redford - Yuma, Arizona

The entire Spuria Society slate of new officers, with the exception of incoming President Marion R. Walker, was in Denver for the 1963 Convention. 1st Vice-President Clarke Cosgrove presided a joint meeting of all four of the special sections. Editor Ralph Johnson, with Mary Anne Heacock's help, set up a S.I.S. registration booth where he registered old members, solicited new ones, and gave out complimentary copies of Arizona Highways Magazine. Secretary-Treasurer Marilyn Holloway flew in from Sacramento with the Region 14 contingent and a long list of new members. 2nd Vice-President Ila Crawford arrived from Oklahoma City with six new memberships she had recruited. On the evening of the joint meeting, our S.I.S. membership had risen to a high of 206. This is an excellent growth from our small number four years ago when the Houston founders decided to nationalize the Spuria Iris Society. The membership growth, the publication of the first phase of the Lenz scientific report on Spurias, the imminent publication of the long awaited Spuria check list, the giant strides in Spuria hybridizing the past three or four seasons, the volume of regularly published Spuria data in Newsletters and Bulletins added up to a reassuring total. My one regret as outgoing president was that Marion Walker could not attend the Spuria family reunion.

Clarke Cosgrove, Ralph Johnson, Tell Muhlestein and Marilyn Holloway reported briefly on the 1963 seedlings and introductions of Marion Walker, Walker Ferguson, Tell Muhlestein, Ben Hager and Sid Dabose and Alice White. Our joint meeting with the other sections kept the programs short and pithy, but it was a valuable experience to sit in with the other special sections, listen to the Medianites, the Siberians and the Japanese talk about their specialties--and to tell them about ours.

Special thanks go to Dr. Jack Durrance and Mrs. Heacock of the Denver group for getting the Sections listed on the printed programs and for readying meeting rooms with screens and projectors.

The Denver group's efficiency was evident also in the Spuria Display Garden planting at the Botanic Gardens. It was not yet in bloom, of course, but the clumps were loaded with buds and the increase had been rapid and promising. There is much space yet to be filled in that area, and the gardens are thronged with visitors from Denver and out of the city so that hybridizers may be sure of their new things being seen there by many people. Iris judges who find it convenient to return after the T.B. season to view the Spurias each season in the various Spuria Display Gardens in the U. S. are urged to do so, and to cast their votes.

In 1962 I sent Bob Savage of Syracuse, N. Y., about a dozen Walker Ferguson Spuria seeds from the previous year's crop. Bob reported in Denver that he embryo cultured these at the same time as some tall bearded iris seeds. The latter germinated almost at once. The Spurias took three months to germinate, then started almost in unison and germinated 100% with continued good growth. New York's winter climate, Bee Warburton tells me, (and Duncan Cranford on Long Island has confirmed this), inhibits Spuria bloom. It will be interesting to follow through on Bob Savage's results with the Ferguson strain of seedlings in that climate, particularly since Mr. Ferguson has used Blue Acres, a Washington Spuria with cold adaptability, in several of his crosses.

RVP Mary Hamill of Pennsylvania is another cold climate grower who can experiment and report to us on Spurias in sub-zero winter areas. Jim Aultz, West Virginia, is in his first year of working with Spurias, and his publicizing of them probably has helped gain the interest evidenced by his active RVP Earl Browder, whose range covers Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, and the District of Columbia. If Earl will just carry the Spuria word with him on his appointed rounds, a lot of iris growers will be adding the beautiful, season-stretching Spuria to their plantings.

Miss Ruth Rees is another new member who, along with her sister Miss Clara of Snow Flurry fame, has grown Spurias for many years. She is interested in a really good new deep blue, and it is hoped the Misses Rees, like Tell Muhlestein and Hubert Fischer, will turn their hybridizing skill toward Spurias. (CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

Another Spuria Society member whose influence is widespread is Lois Joris of San Bernadino, president of the Inland Iris Society. She and her husband Clarence, former president of the San Bernadino Garden Clubs, grow an extensive Spuria collection and maintain a garden show-place where well grown, well labelled irises are to be seen each spring.

The new Spuria members, and the old ones too, are urged to contact Mrs. Stayton Nunn, 11122 Claymore Drive, Houston 24, Texas, our Spuria Robin Director. Membership in a Spuria robin doubles the usefulness and pleasure of belonging, and Ila has some new flights ready and waiting for new members. If you are interested in hybridizing in any of its phases, from beginner's to the most advanced, tell her about it. The Spuria hybridizing field is practically wide open and this could be one of the most interesting types of robin, and the most immediately helpful.

The Denver meeting was characterized by a spirit of helpful cooperation with the Sections from the hosts, the A.I.S. Board, the Bulletin Editor, and the members old and new. Thanks to all of them on behalf of S.I.S.

* * * * *

NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE -- EDITOR'S MAIL BAG

List of Sustaining Members has grown to 10, with the addition of Marion R. Walker, one of our leading Spuria hybridizers and current SIS Pres. His new Spuria introductions will be handled by Schreiner's Gardens in 1964. Bob Schreiner wrote that this delay was due to getting the plants shipped and getting them well established in order to send out good performing plants from 2-year stock. Bob also requests a few nice representative color photographs to illustrate and help focus attention on these interesting and pleasant Spuria iris. Close up slides as well as garden plants or any rather interesting feature or aspect of the Spurias for the AIS slide collection.....

We are very sorry to hear of Peg Grey's illness but she writes that she is fully recovered and working on the Spuria Check List. Also an interesting note that Ochroleuca is grown almost wild in that area and used as a cut flower for Memorial Day...The use of Spurias as cut flowers is being stressed more and more and they certainly can be easily transported long distances for shows...Eleanor McCown's fine article in Popular Gardening also mentions this as did Mrs. Pike of South Africa...

In the April Newsletter, a cryptogram on Spuria Iris was submitted for your enjoyment by Roberta McMullin of Parkersburg, W. Va. Your Editor offered a choice Spuria rhizome for the first correct solution of the puzzle (a choice rhizome will also be sent Mrs. McMullin for her fine effort)....The Winner is Mrs. Mary Redford, our genial Past President of Yuma, Arizona (1 mistake). Here are the correct answers.

- | <u>ACROSS</u> | | <u>DOWN</u> | |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1. species | 3. slender | 2. connoisseur | 3. second |
| 6. color | 7. clumps | 4. vegetative | 5. acid |
| 10. eric nies | 12. swordlike | 8. upright | 9. germination |
| 13. true | 14. milk | 11. below | 15. spuria |
| 16. pollination | 19. apogon | 17. named | 18. foster |
| 20. monspur | 21. walker | 13. tall | |
| 22 pod | | | |

Our charming and efficient Secy-Treas. Marilyn Holloway made the photo page in the Sacramento paper with results of the successful Sacramento Iris Show. Marilyn is the current President and also a fine judge.

Dr. Bill Johnson of Phoenix, Information Committee Chairman, made a trip to the So. Calif. Iris Show in late April. A well-known Spuria grower, Dr. Bill reports of his visit to Walker Ferguson's garden listing a number of fine seedlings which are definitely new color breaks in the dark blues, reds and bi-colors. One which he last year called an Odd Ball has challenged "Fergy" to go further with some crosses one of which, 63-4, blue standards and almost white falls captured the eye of the Reg. 14 group who visited Ferguson's garden on April 20th...Also 63-5, a self darker blue, not too large but with good substance. Also some fine browns.

SPURIAS IN OKLAHOMA

The Spurias in Oklahoma were sure lacking in bloom this season. Perhaps they felt the long cold winter and the very dry spring as did the T.B. Just about one-third of the plants bloomed both in our home gardens and in the display garden. It was very disappointing as we were staging our show this year - we stage a show every other year, that is the Apogon Show - and alternate years we work with the Oklahoma Iris Society Shows.

White Heron, Premier, and Michigan State were the best blooms in the Display Garden out of the sixteen plants there. (Sure in need of some newer varieties from some of the hybridizers. We have an ideal place in raised tile beds and they do get the best of care from our Horticulturist, Henry Walters).

White Heron is always a dependable bloomer and it looked fine in our show. Many of us had the beautiful Sunny Day and Mrs. H. A. Raboin won in the collection class of five. Black Point did not look as pretty as usual- it never does well for me - neither does Zephrosa. Russet Flame and Fifth Symphony were nice. Mrs. William H. Wallace, Jr. won the "Crawford Traveling Trophy" for the best Spuria with Driftwood. It is magnificent in form and color. Those who like brown should not be without this cultivar. We only had 32 specimens in our show this year and should have had four or five times more. Just hope we have a better season for our next show as we have all pledged to buy newer and better varieties. Sincerely, Ila Crawford, Route 1, Box 357, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

* * * * *

NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE - - EDITOR'S MAIL BAG

Spuria irises held the limelight at the Region 14 Spring Meeting banquet. Top varieties from the garden of Frances and Larry Gaulter, Castro Valley, California, were used for the centerpieces, beautifully arranged by Glenn Corlew. Drawing many admirers were the outstanding deep CHEROKEE CHIEF, and the cool yellow tones of WADI ZEM ZEM and the blending of DUTCH DEFIANCE. Bob Schreiner was the guest speaker for the meeting which drew attendance well over 100 persons from all over Northern California.

Mrs. Peggy Burke Grey, Calistoga, California

* * * * *

The mail bag has included 4 letters from Walker Ferguson during period from April 20th when the Reg. 15 group of some 40 visited the garden and reports on bloom, weather, etc., through June 6th. This is an extended Spuria season for that area. Other visitors were Tom Craig, Ben Hager, Sid DuBose and Keith Keppel. All reported highly on Windfall and 5 others which Fergy has sent in for registration. Therefore his commercial listing will be a bit delayed...63-8 from a red line received fine comment as did Banners of Blue. Cool and cloudy on May 28th with more seedlings to open and on June 6th a stalk of Ruffled Moth open...Editor's Note.... Mr. Ferguson fails to mention some of his newer varieties-----Dark Silk, Plastic, Charm and Counterpoint, all of which grew well for first year plants in my garden. He reports that crosses from rather small Blue Acres produce very lusty growers. Also he will have good seed to spare, especially for foreign members.....

The fine report from Mrs. Heacock on the Denver Display Garden brings up an important point of exercising the most accurate care possible in the shipment and receipt of Spuria plants as mis-labeling can be most frustrating. This is indicated in the report and several such mistakes were easily corrected but proper identification may be difficult in our display gardens even during the bloom season.....This also emphasises the need for good spacing of plantings to avoid plants growing together and causing mis-labeling.....The Spuria check-list will help considerably in this area as well as a possible review of color classifications.....

DENVER SPURIA DISPLAY GARDEN

Mrs. Mary Ann Heacock
1235 South Patton Court
Denver 19, Colorado
June 15, 1963

It was a pleasure meeting you during the iris meeting here in Denver. I am glad you looked over our Spuria display in the Botanical Gardens, as by locating the mis-labeled plants, we are now on the look-out for others.

I will start by giving you a brief history of the Spuria beds. Also enclosed is a report on the number of plants we have in the beds and their performance this season. Our peak bloom was this week. The Spurias really did look pretty good, considering the lack of water during the early Spring. (I believe you are aware that the earthquakes here in Denver damaged the water system and broke many of the underground pipes in the Botanic gardens last winter).

As nearly as I can tell from the records in the Spuria file, the Spuria bed was started in 1959 with a collection of 10 varieties contributed by O. T. Baker on Sept. 14, 1959. Apparently Lark Song is the only variety which did not live. It has since been replaced.

In 1959-1960 a total of 16 more varieties were added. Of these Ruffled Gold, Michigan State and I. Spuria Lillaciana did not survive.

In 1960-1961 approximately 15 more varieties were added. Of these Good Nature was the only one which did not survive.

In 1962-1963 four varieties were sent to us from Marion Walker. These have lived and look healthy altho they are small plants. The four varieties were: Autumn Glow, El Camino, Sweet Butter, and Violet Veil. (Total in garden now 38 varieties).

On August 28, 1962, we gave the planting an application of Dap using one cupful for each plant and after scratching the DAP into the soil, we watered the plants well.

The planting looks healthy and free from disease. They are very short this year due to the lack of water during their early spring growth. This week they were at their best and drew garden visitors' attention. The bloom was very good considering the lack of water. While the bloomstalks were short, on some varieties more than others, the flower stalks held the normal number of flower buds.

I feel the Denver Botanic Gardens is a good place for people to see and evaluate the Spurias. I believe that we have as good climatic conditions for good Spuria growth and bloom as other parts of the nation, and I know many people are becoming acquainted with the Spurias. One comment I heard, which I had not considered, was when one woman remarked that she believed she would like to grow the Spurias rather than the tall bearded as they could be left and did not require division so often. Sort of a lazy gardener's flower!

We will give the Spuria Display planting another application of DAP this August, and again next spring before new growth becomes too advanced we will feed again. I hope that next spring we will have more water and the plants should grow much taller. They were much shorter this year than they were last year.

I hope that I have given you all the information you need regarding the performance of the Spuria Display Garden here in Denver. If further information is needed, just write me and I will try to answer as quickly as possible.

We are still far from filling the Spuria bed. I do not know if they have been set too close together or not, but if we continue as we have started, we can set another 30 or 40 plants in the area provided without any crowding. Mrs. Redford has written that she has made some requests for Spurias for our display bed. They should be sent to: The Denver Botanic Gardens, 909 York Street, Denver, Colorado.

Hope this report covers everything. Good luck with your Newsletter and I am anxious to see how other display beds have performed. Maybe we can get some ideas as to how to handle ours!

1963 SEASON

List of Spuria Iris in the Denver Display Garden and Amount of Bloom

1. Autumn Glow	no bloom -- a new plant	-----
2. Azure Dawn	10 bloom stalks	large clump
3. Black Point	7 bloom stalks	med. "
4. Blue Display	21 bloom stalks grew to medium height-	large "
5. Blue Zephyr	7 " "	large "
6. Bronze Butterfly	21 " "	large "
7. Cambridge Blue	7 " "	med. "
8. Canary Islands	8 " "	med. small
9. Cherokee Chief	19 " " grew very, very short	large clump
10. Driftwood	2 " "	small "
11. Dutch Defiance	14 " "	large "
12. El Camino	no bloom -- a new plant	-----
13. Fairy Lantern	5 bloom stalks	small clump
14. Fairy Light	26 " "	extra large
15. Fifth Symphony	16 " "	extra large
16. Gold Nugget	15 " " grew very short	large clump
17. Golden Agate	9 " "	large "
18. Golden Lady	3 " "	med. "
19. I. Ochra	1 " " grew very short	small "
20. I. Spuria Notha	3 " " grew very short	med. "
21. Katrina Nyes	8 " "	large "
22. Lark Song	23 " "	med. "
23. Lumiere	4 " "	med. "
24. Morning Tide	5 " "	med. large
25. Mt. Wilson	12 " " grew very short	large clump
26. Pastoral	7 " " grew very, very short	med. "
27. Premier	15 " "	large "
28. Russet Flame	1 " " grew very short	large "
29. Ruth Nies Cabeen	5 " "	med. "
30. Sunlit Sea	6 " "	med. "
31. Sunny Day	15 " "	large "
32. Sweet Butter	no bloom -- a new plant	-----
33. Thrush Song	1 bloom stalk	very small
34. Two Opals	no bloom grew very, very short	med. large
35. Violet Veil	no bloom -- a new plant	-----
36. Wadi Zem Zem	8 bloom stalks	extra large
37. Wake Robin	no bloom	med. clump
38. White Heron	18 bloom stalks	large clump

There may be other discrepancies in the labels on these plants than the one you noted between Wake Robin and Premier. Mt. Wilson bloomed a rich golden yellow. Gold Nugget was a coppery bronze. Golden Agate was a lt. bronze yellow and Bronze Butterfly had greyed mauve standards, the falls yellow bronze veined same as standards with very narrow edging of golden yellow bronze and greyed mauve center to falls. I note the description for this reads that it is a brown, but to my idea of what brown should be, this falls way short.

(Editor's Note) On checking the above discrepancies it appears that as described: Mt. Wilson which is a Blue blend similar to Pastoral is actually Golden Nugget which is a Yel. self. Golden Agate is a Yel. bi-tone and Bronze Butterfly is a Bronze and Yel. bi-tone so the descriptions seem to appear correct but the plants mis-labeled. Any further information should be sent to Mrs. Heacock.

REMINDERS

Current dues notices are enclosed with the July Newsletter. Please remit dues to the Secy. promptly.....Also be sure to send in your 1963 Ballot for the Spuria Popularity Poll before Sept. 1st so results may be printed in the October Newsletter.

DIRECTORY OF SPURIA GROWERS

SPURIA IRIS

Write for Listing
WALKER FERGUSON
1160-N. Broadway
ESCONDIDO, CALIFORNIA

TELL'S IRIS GARDENS

691-E. 8th North
PROVO, UTAH

BEST IN THE WEST

SPURIA IRIS

GROWER PEONIES - - - - -DAFFODILS
"BIGGER BULBS"
MYRON D. BIGGER
1147 Bakland Avenue
TOPEKA, KANSAS

MARION WALKER SPURIA IRIS

New Introductions in 1964
by

SCHREINER'S GARDENS

Rt. 2 Box 279 K-Salem, Oregon

- WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS -

Membership data intentionally redacted

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Membership data intentionally redacted

Newsletter deadline had been extended to July 5th for possible late news items and the mail bag was most generous with some fine items of interest to all....

First, a nice "thank you" note from Mrs. Adda Ayres of Redkey, Indiana, for the information sent earlier for a special Iris program of the Northern Indiana Iris Society. Mrs. Ayres is an AIS Judge and also member and judge of the Dwarf Iris Society. She and her daughter, Mrs. Zuercher, have just recently joined SIS and are eagerly looking forward to the current newsletter....

Earl Roberts of Indianapolis, who supervises a Median Iris Test Garden at his place, also reports on his Spuria experience with a most severe winter kill, far above normal. Your Editor had sent Earl some Spuria plants and seed last Sept. He writes as follows: Of the Spurias, I lost White Heron and Blue Pinafore that you sent. Sunlit Sea bloomed and was really a beauty...Also one bright yellow seedling that was quite nice..Nothing else bloomed except the old time clumps I had..., Mich. State, Sunny Day, Russet Flame, and Ochroleuca....So I have really no varietal comments as apparently no one grows them in this area. I know I have never seen any around, even the older ones. What amazes me is that I had NO germination of all the seed you sent and also that from Marion Walker. All seeds planted outdoors in November, tall, dwarfs, medians, hems, germinated fine in the same bed, but no spurias...Odd? Earl is asking for the best place to buy newer Spuria varieties...List of growers is included in this issue and previous issue listed others.....

Francis Brenner, who formerly lived at Pecatonica, Illinois, moved to Dakota, Illinois and had a terrific job in moving his Iris and his comments are most interesting, as most of the Midwest Irisarians have reported a severe winter kill. Brenner writes as follows: "Now to the Spurias...I now believe they love real cold winters, as you heard we had the record breaking winter of more than 35 days of below zero temperatures, one day at 32 degrees below zero. The Spurias had a light covering of oat straw. These clumps have been in their location for 4 years. I don't see why people go so crazy over the TB's when they can't hold a candle to a fine clump of Spurias. Then there are no pests or diseases and the Spurias can be left for years without transplanting, just breathtaking beauty. This spring the Spurias are roughing it as I have not even watered or used a hoe on them. Weeds are almost as tall as the Spurias. Those I have to move this year will be dug with as much soil as possible. The seed you sent are up with about 75% germination, as well as the seed of Ferguson from 1961 crop. Since we have such a short growing season, the Spurias seems to take longer to get established, but even with the cold winters and lack of care, the Spurias can really take it....The following plants bloomed this season: Mrs. Tait, Premier, Hazy Hills, White Heron, Russet Flame, Sunny Day, Saugatuck, Bronspur, Azure Dawn, Shelford Giant, Alice Eastwood, and Lord Woolsey. The clump of Lord Woolsey made an outstanding display. Failing to bloom were Wadi Zem Zem, Fifth Symphony, Ochroleuca, and Monneri.....Francis also grows a fine collection of Siberian Iris and reports this year's bloom the best ever with some plants having 50 bloom stalks...White Swirl certainly deserved the Morgan Award---it was just stunning and different".

Marilyn Holloway, SIS, Secy-Treas., sends another list of inquiries sent her as the result of SIS member Eleanor McCown's fine spuria article, "Spurias---that mimic butterflies", which appeared in the May-June issue of Popular Gardening. The magazine by-lines her article: "Eleanor McCown has gardened in California's Imperial Valley for nearly thirty years. She describes it as an area of hot summers, strong winds, alkaline soil and water, and poor drainage. Mrs. McCown is chairman of publicity for the Spuria Iris Society and writes a weekly column called 'Desert Gardener' for the Holtville Tribune and Calexico Chronicle." Orchids to Eleanor for this fine publicity....Courtesy copies of the SIS Newsletters have been sent to persons who have requested more complete information on Spurias....Ed.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Bro. Charles.S.V.D. Mission Gardens, Techny, Illinois

"The Spurias you sent all wintered nicely under a light covering of marsh hay and all bloomed except Blue Pinafore. Sunlit Sea is pretty, especially when viewed outdoors where there is plenty of light to see the detail in color pattern. We think Morningtide is exceptionally fine and I believe the florists will accept it gladly as a cut flower."

Lois Hale--Regional Newsletter--New South Wales Region- Australian Iris Society

"Over the last few years I have started growing species and find a few of them do well in our heavy soil; the louisianas and spurias seem to revel in it. For spurias I use compost and they are in full sun. Our climate here at Blacktown is varied. We are 30 miles from the sea, at an altitude of 184 ft., with temperature range from below freezing to well over the century. Our average rainfall is 29 inches. We have many fogs, heavy dews, severe frosts and plenty of humidity, and winds in every direction."

Jake Scharff--Ketchum Memorial Iris Gardens--Spuria Display Garden--Memphis, Tenn.

"Only a few spurias were sent to this newest display garden last fall due to the lateness of season. However, this season all planting will be made at the fine display garden which should be at its peak for the AIS meeting in 1965. The Spurias will be planted in the center of this fine garden. It will be most interesting to learn how well the Spurias will survive as we do have rather cold weather in January and February, usually down to about 15 degrees above zero but in some years down to zero. The plantings of Spurias have been mulched with pine needles and well watered. We have 20 members of the garden committee, who personally take care of the Iris beds. The Memphis Park Commission, which furnished the lane in one of our newer parks, does the original digging of our beds, cuts the grass, and fertilizes the shrubs and keep them pruned. They also keep our beds edged. They would do our cultivation and fertilizing of the Iris, but we prefer to do this ourselves. We have 26 beds of the Tall Bearded including our Regional Test Garden. In the lower section of the garden we have our Louisiana bed containing some of the best in this group. And this year we have added two Median beds and the Spuria Circle."

NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

Excerpts from Spuria Robin No. 3

Edith Cleaves, Los Gatos, California, and Peg Grey

Ida May Ezell, El Paso, Texas...."In transplanting, the beds should be nice and deep with plenty of fertilizer well below the roots, kept a little on the damp side until settled; then they are on their own... My Spurias are planted along with other plants, get practically the same treatment except for probably more food and they seem to like it.

"How long for spuria seed germination? With mine, those dropped when ripe are now (Oct.1962) up several inches high. I think after seeds are fully dried out the time of germination is much longer."(Ed's note....Any other comments or experiences on spuria seed germination? This will be most helpful.)

"The idea of branching seems somewhat of a dud to me so far, those I have seen are so crowded they spoil the beauty of the bloom, merely a ball with no individuality. A new field this and more work may correct this trouble."

Clarke Cosgrove, San Gabriel, Calif.

"I agree that fresh seed seems to germinate most readily. Even a short period of drying out seems to slow down germination. It has been proven that the seed contains a substance in the endosperm that inhibits germination. Perhaps this substance increases in quantity or strength as the seed dries out. Nature must provide for the continuation of the species and, therefore, some seeds do not germinate this season but wait another season or so. Mr. Clarence White found that with oncocylus seeds he had germinated over an eight year period."

"Here in a Maine garden Spurias were planted in late October, the area was well dug, and had bone-meal and humus incorporated. Plants were set a half-inch below ground level, the soil firmed and well watered. There was little sign of growth before the final freeze of the season when a spruce bough was placed over each planting. The plants had been set in groups of three about a foot apart. The first heavy snowfall came about the last week in January, approximately 8" to 10" and snow gradually accumulated to about 2 ft. and remained throughout the winter. This gradually melted away through March and by the first week in April the ground was almost cleared of snow except certain shaded areas where it remains later.

The garden is situated only a short distance from an inlet of the sea and is sheltered on the northwest and west by a spruce woods. It slopes gently to the east and southeast. Here in this garden tall bearded iris are in bloom about the 10th of June.

Among the Spurias planted that were named varieties are: Ochroleuca, Saugatuck and Golden Nugget. They started slowly in the spring and really only made any significant growth about the middle of May, but from then on grew slowly but well.

As this is being written, two of the plants have bloomed, the first being White Heron on the 2nd of July and the second being Saugatuck on July 3. On single fan plants both of these Spurias put up creditable stalks, that on White Heron being 36" tall, that on Saugatuck being 33" tall. Tallest foliage was 38" tall. All plants look thrifty and are growing well as they were small divisions rather than clumps.

A mulch of peat moss litter and horse manure was applied about the 15th of May and has been left on, this being placed quite close to the foliage. Other than that and the original feeding of bone meal incorporated in the soil at planting time no fertilizer has been applied.

The test will come next spring when it will be known whether the plants receive sufficient sun to ripen properly and whether flower buds for next year will be formed. The results this year are quite encouraging and I hope to have a report for you next spring."

EDITOR'S NOTE: (This report was received just as N.L. went to press. The following plants were shipped to Mr. Clayton early in Sept. '62 and were planted on or about Oct. 7th, '62: Bronzpur, Golden Nugget, Ochroleuca, Saugatuck, White Heron, Also some unnamed seedlings from Walker strain. We will ship additional plants to both Howard Brooks and Arthur Clayton about August 15th to permit earlier planting.)

Notice has been received from Mrs. Zerah M. Brummelt of the El Paso Iris Society that Mrs. Theodore G. Harris (Francine), 3420 Mobile St., El Paso, Texas has replaced Mrs. S. P. Nieman as Secretary.

NUGGETS OF THOUGHT

If you want a thing well done, don't do it yourself--unless you really know how.

- Bert Parkman-

It is the little bits of things that fret and worry us: we can dodge an elephant, but not a fly.

- Josh Billings

A good listener is not only popular everywhere, but after a while he knows something.

- Wilson Mizner

The calmer thought is not always the right thought, just as the distant view is not always the truest view.

- Nathaniel Hawthorne

Keep smiling! It makes everyone wonder what you've been up to!

One nice thing about money is that the color never clashes with any outfit you're wearing.