

# Newsletter

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**SPURIA IRIS NEWSLETTER**

Summer 1995 Volume 37

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**Membership Information**

The **SPURIA IRIS SOCIETY** is a Section of the **AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY** and membership in the SIS is contingent on membership in the AIS. All AIS members are encouraged to join whether or not they are spuria growers.

**Single Annual \$5.00 Single Triennial \$12.00 Family Annual \$6.00 Life Membership \$60.00 Family Triennial \$14.00**

**POLICY STATEMENT**

Material contained in the Spuria Iris Society Newsletter may be copied or excerpted by other publications without prior approval provided appropriate recognition is given by stating the name of author and credit to the Spuria Iris Society.

**SPURIA IRIS SOCIETY**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1-1-95 THRU 7-24-95**

**Money Market Account 1-2-95:**  
Transfer from Caliver Bank \$4555.08

**INCOME:**

Dues	795.00
Checklist Donations	150.00
Checklist Sales	265.00
Slide Rentals	10.00
Back Newsletter Sale	2.00
Interest	<u>40.68</u>

**TOTAL INCOME** 1,262.68

**EXPENSE:**

New Bank Checks	11.95
Spring Newsletter:	
Printing	132.04
Postage	117.89
Stickers	<u>1.62</u>
Checklist	1276.74
Mailing Boxes & Envelopes	14.00
Copy Work	2.90
Postage-Dues Notices	<u>25.23</u>

**TOTAL EXPENSES** 1582.37

**ENDING BALANCE:** 4,235.39

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**BankOne Checking Account Balance** 72.63  
**BankOne MM Account Balance\*** 4,162.76  
**TOTAL MONEY** 4,235.39

\* Includes \$195.00 for Eric Neis Medal Fund

**NOTE:** Donations for the checklist totaled \$200.00. Donations came from Waco Iris Society, Fort Worth Iris Society, Tejas Iris Society and Bob Alexander of Texas.

## MEMBERSHIP DUES - EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 1996

Membership dues will be increased effective January 1, 1995. The increase was voted on at the National Meeting of the Spuria Iris Society in York, PA, May 1995.

Dues will be used to increase and improve our Society, but you can beat the increase by renewing your dues now!

The dues rates will be:

Single Annual	\$ 6.00
Family Annual	8.00
Single Triennial	15.00
Family Triennial	18.00
Life	75.00

Send your dues payable to the SPURIA IRIS SOCIETY, % Bobbie Shepard, Treas., 3342 W. Orangewood, Phoenix, AZ 85051-7543

## SPURIA SLIDES FOR RENT

The Society's slide set, consisting of well over 100 slides, is available for a rental charge of \$5.00. Included are a cross-section of the older varieties plus many of the newer introductions.

Send your requests to Patricia Brooks, 102 Jefferson Lane, Ludson, SC 29456, along with a check for \$5.00 made out to the Spuria Iris Society. When you have finished with the slides they should be returned by Priority Mail. Included with the slides is a spuria culture information pamphlet which may be copied if desired to hand out to the viewers. You may wish to contact Patricia Brooks by phone to determine availability for a particular time. Her phone is (803) 871-0239.

We depend on hybridizers to provide slides of their introductions. If you have not done so it is suggested that you send them to Patricia to add to the set.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Bloom season is finally over, whew! From what I've heard, most of us enjoyed a long and successful bloom this spring. Although there weren't many Spurias to see at the AIS convention in Pennsylvania, enthusiasm was high. Dave Niswonger gave an excellent presentation at our sectional meeting.

The highlight for our Society this spring was the presentation of our Distinguished Service Award to Floyd Wickenkamp. Floyd has worked tirelessly on our behalf and his generosity has touched all of us who know him. This award is well-deserved. Floyd was also presented with a life membership in our society.

The new Checklist was on sale at the convention and was a hit. Charlene Siefert is to be commended for the excellent job she did on such an enormous task, and she got it done on time! It is available for \$7.50 from Floyd, who also has back copies of our Newsletter available.

An item decided by the Board this spring was the raising of our dues. As Sections of the American Iris Society go, we are relatively small and lack some of the options larger Sections have to raise funds. The increase in dues, which will go into effect on January 1, 1996, is a modest one, which we hope will not be a hardship for any of our members.

The results of the voting of the AIS judges are in and we are happy to learn that **Cinnamon Stick** received the Nies Medal. I felt it difficult to vote for the Spurias this year, there were a number of very deserving Spurias up for the Nies Medal, the

## A.I.S. SPURIA AWARDS FOR 1995

Thanks to the promptness of Melody Wilhoit and her Awards Committee we are able to report the 1995 awards in this issue of the newsletter rather than waiting for the Winter issue. Here they are, together with the number of votes received:

### ERIC NIES MEDAL

60 CINNAMON STICK (O. D. NISWONGER)

#### RUNNERS UP

32 DRESS CIRCLE (B. HAGER)  
29 CHOCOLATE FUDGE (O.D. NISWONGER)  
29 HIGHLINE CORAL (E. McCOWN)

### AWARD OF MERIT

36 CANDLE LACE (B. C. JENKINS)  
33 SULTAN'S SASH (O. D. NISWONGER)  
31 SONORAN CABALLERO (F. WICKENKAMP)

#### RUNNERS UP

28 SNOW HAWK (G. CORLEW)  
27 BELISSINADO (G. CORLEW)  
24 LACED COFFEE (H. ROWLAN)

### HONORABLE MENTION

40 ALPHASPU (B. C. JENKINS)  
31 ILA REMEMBERED (B. HAGER)  
29 BRONZE ART (B. C. JENKINS)

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What is the difference between a  
swamp cooler and air conditioning  
in August?

Life and death.

If you go hiking in July, what  
should you take with you?

A grave marker.

Have a great summer and remember  
to write that short article (or a long one.)

Carole

Awards of Merit and the Honorable Mentions. The competition was tough and an excellent iris won - congratulations to Dave Niswonger

Pat Brooks still needs good slides of Spurias and Carole Spiess still needs articles for the Newsletter. I'm disappointed that these pleas are necessary. The slide set and Newsletter are two extremely important ways that we get the word out. These are not enormous requests - send Pat a few slides, organize your garden notes into a short article for Carole - you'll help us all.

In the spring of 1996 the AIS travels to Sacramento CA for its annual convention, right in the heart of Spuria country. I'm sure we'll see Spurias, both guests and otherwise, everywhere we visit. I hope to see you there!

Tom Abrego  
President

Notes from the Editor:

Well ! Here it is summer again, and time for our newsletter. As I write this I can hear the weather report on the T.V. and it's 118 degrees outside. Obviously we have to get up about 5:00 am to do any weeding here. So it's a good time for me to work on the newsletter. As usual I'm scrounging for articles. I always worry that we will not have any articles to print but a lot of the time at the last minute someone always comes through. I can only beg and plead so much, even I get tired of asking and I'm sure you get tired of me asking.

Speaking of summer one of the questions I always get asked is "How do you all survive the heat in Phoenix in the summer?" Here's some of the answers we usually give.

**"Heat Myths About the Valley of the Sun"**

**Can you really fry an egg on the sidewalk in downtown Phoenix?**

No, not without a Class D food license.

**Do many people suffer from heat stroke in the Valley?**

No, very few suffer. They usually go into shock immediately and die very comfortably.

**If you have vinyl seats in your car and no carport, what should you do?**  
Visit any one of the Valley's well-staffed burn centers.

**How did people survive in Phoenix before air conditioning?**

They survived very rarely, or medium well.

## NEW EDITION OF SPURIA CHECKLIST NOW AVAILABLE

The 1995 updating of the SPURIA CHECKLIST, titled SPURIA INTRODUCTIONS AND REGISTRATIONS, has been completed! Among other additions as compared to the 1985 to the 1985 edition are descriptions and ancestry of more than 200 new cultivars, bringing the total number listed to more than 600. Brief descriptions, section by section, are:

1. A list of all the known species which comprise the spuria group, including native habitat, color, chromosome count and name source where known.
2. A list of all spuria cultivars which have been registered with the American Iris Society, including hybridizer, year of registration, seedling number, normal height, bloom season, description, ancestry, A.I.S. awards, introducer and year of introduction.
3. Spuria hybridizers and their introductions. This listing is not complete as regards the biographical sketches as, in spite of repeated correspondence, a few of the current workers in this field failed to provide the needed information so we had to improvise with what we had, even so, we believe the biographical sketches may prove of interest.
4. Spuria irises as parents. This list includes for each introduced cultivar the defendants through the third generation (great grandparent where pertinent), plus awards granted to the offspring.
5. A.I.S. spuria awards. The current awards system for spurias is described, followed by a list of cultivars achieving at least a NIES award, indicating the hybridizer and the years awards were granted.

6. Sources of spuria irises. This was an attempt to provide the names and addresses of all known commercial sources of spurias. Additions and deletions will be appreciated so they can be in the supplement for the checklist which is planned for 1997.

**COST AND MAIL ORDER SOURCE:**

U.S. & Canada - \$7.50    Surface mail anywhere \$7.50  
Airmail to Europe & South America - \$11.00  
Airmail to Africa, Asia, Australia & New Zealand \$12.00

Send your orders with check or money order made out to the SPURIA IRIS SOCIETY to:

Floyd W. Wickenkamp, Librarian, 10521 Bellarose Drive,  
Sun City, AZ 85351-2241.

For those of you who would like to install the checklist in a three ring binder, merely remove the plastic binder strip by sliding it off and then remove each sheet individually, to free it from the soft binding adhesive. The sheets free easily and there is no remnant of the adhesive when the sheet is removed. If you wish to retain the binder you may add sheets to the bound copy by merely removing the plastic binder, install the sheet and replace the binder.

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*A friend is someone who knows all about you,  
but likes you anyway.*

***LOST! LOST! LOST!***

**SPURIA ROBIN** - Assistance requested in locating interested parties to correspond by mail 2-5x annually.

**REWARDS!**    - Include gaining a wealth of knowledge and developing spuria-sharing friendships world-wide.

**RESPONDENTS MUST BE:**

- 1) Willing to spread iritis to fellow AIS members by direct postal contact.
- 2) **PROMPT!** Up to 2 weeks allowed to mail the robin on to the next member.

Additionally, Director-Notification postcards, self-addressed and stamped, will be included for your convenience.

For further information, please contact:  
Laurie Cross, 5118 Orchard Dr., McHenry IL 60050

*If at first you do succeed-try to hide your  
astonishment!*

*Wouldn't it be nice if when the sun went down  
it took the days troubles with it?*

attention. **Belissinado** (Corlew '89), **Small Package** (Hager '86) and **Diminuendo** (Hager '86) are three excellent blue-violets that can fit in a smaller spot in the garden. **Baby Chick** (Jenkins '92), **Gold Mania** (Blyth '89) and **Pieces of Eight** (McCown '87) are three good small to moderately sized yellows. **Highline Snowflake** (McCown '91) leaves us breathless with its heavily ruffled delicately colored white and yellow flowers.

The cool wet weather of our bloom season also gave us the opportunity to note which varieties were susceptible to the virus that can plague Spurias during such weather. It was sad to walk through rows of gnarly mis-shapen flowers with blotchy coloration. The positive side to this is that not all Spurias are susceptible to this, and none of the varieties mentioned in this report showed any signs of this problem.

Overall, it was a long and enjoyable bloom season. A busload of Pacific Coast Native Iris lovers stopped by in the middle of our Spuria bloom, thus exposing them to the charms of our favorite Iris. Can't wait until next spring!

*Did you know? In spite of the cost of living,  
it's still popular.*

*Why couldn't lifes little problems come when  
we were 20 and knew everything?*

## **DUES INFORMATION FOR THE SPURIA IRIS SOCIETY**

Please pay attention to the membership expiration date on your mailing label. There are many of you whose dues has expired as of June 30, 1995. **WE DON'T WANT TO LOOSE YOU!** Renew for one more year or three years. Dues will be increased as of January 1, 1996.

Please read the Free Iris Offer included in this issue. It gives you a free spuria iris rhizome and also the freedom to know that your dues is paid for 3 whole years!

Even if your dues is not due, you may send a triennial renewal and receive the free iris. How about getting the friends in your society or club or neighbor to join the **SPURIA IRIS SOCIETY!**

We need each and every one of you so that we might expand the **Spuria Iris Society**. We have just published a wonderful new Spuria Check List, listing all the Spurias ever registered or hybridized. We owe our appreciation to Charlene Seifert for her wonderful effort on the Society's behalf.

Besides the check list, we publish the newsletter twice a year. We need imput from each of you to improve the newsletter. Send Carole your experience with growing spuria in your locality. The most asked question is how can I grow iris in my locality? Lets write in with your experience, wheather it be good or bad, small or large!

*We do not inherit this earth from our ancestors.  
We borrow it from our children.*

Bloom Season '95  
Tom Abrego

A mild winter, record-setting wet early spring weather followed by a hot dry month of May provided our Spuria iris with an ideal growth period. After enjoying a long and near-perfect bloom with the bearded and Siberian iris, we were anticipating the same with our Spurias (finally!). Unfortunately, this did not come to pass, as our weather turned cold and blustery, with the first good bloom on the Spurias smashed to smithereens by a hail storm. Our bloom season weather alternated between this and hot 80 degree days. It was long and quite interesting.

We felt challenged to find something positive in seeing our first Spuria bloom destroyed by hailstones. Which varieties survived this type of inclement weather the best? We feel many of those varieties with larger flowers tend to be "floppy" to begin with. Our difficult weather exasperated these tendencies and, as a general rule, those varieties put on an awkward and deformed bloom. Just the same, several varieties with large flowers did stand out. One of the real stars in our garden this year was **Handsome Is** (Hager '94), a rich reddish grape with heavily veined golden falls. **Fixed Star** (Hager '90) has large white flowers - the "cleanest" white we've grown. **Moon Shrine** (Hager '94) possesses the hugest flowers we've seen on a Spuria. It bloomed between storms and its humongous pale sulfur flowers held their form pretty well, considering their size.

We enjoyed a pair of good new reds this spring: **Zamboanga** (Hager '92) and **Zulu Chief** (Jenkins '92). **Sage** (Ghio '90) reminds us of **Eleanor Hill** (Hager '80) with its smoky violet

standards and heavily veined yellow falls. **Imperial Veil** (McCown '94), a large pale rose with yellow represents an improvement in its color class. A clump of **Lookingglass Eyes** (Niswonger '79) was a magnet for garden visitors this spring with its unique smoky lavender color.

Old favorites **Destination** (Hager '84), a bright almost orange yellow and **Jubilant Spirit** (Hager '83), a subdued lemon yellow joined with **Oro de Sonora** (Wickenkamp '91), a ruffled golden yellow to form an unbeatable trio of yellows. Whoever called an iris a "poor man's orchid" must have been looking at **Ila Crawford** (Hager '76), a white with tantalizing yellow markings. **Ila Remembered** (Hager '92) is a larger and more ruffled version of the original.

Joe Ghio's darks always grow and bloom well in our garden, and are personal favorites. This year **Evening Dress** ('84) and **Capital Idea** ('87) were the stars. **Midnight Rival** (Johnson '93) a ruffled and round rich reddish purple and **Purple Concerto** (Jenkins '93) are two new darks that held our attention. **Mary's Beau Brummel** (McCown '86) and **Satinwood** (Niswonger '83) are two very beautiful rich browns. The blue-violet color class is the most common, but **Blue Bunting** (Niswonger '84), **Blue Lassie** (Niswonger '78) and **Color Focus** (Jenkins '90) withstood the difficult weather and really stood out. The clear bright blue of **Lenkoran** (Rodionenko '84) drew visitors from across the garden.

The real stars of our Spuria garden this spring were the smaller or moderately sized plants and flowers. I feel the value of these Spurias has been overlooked and their performance in our difficult weather demonstrated why they deserve more



# FREE IRIS OFFER FROM THE SPURIA IRIS SOCIETY

May 1995

Join the Spuria Iris Society for a three year term and receive a free spuria rhizome! Renewals or new members are eligible for this offer. The following are a list of rhizomes available:

**ALPHASPU** - Ruffled rich bright yellow.  
**ARIZONA CONVENTION** - Brilliant yellow self.  
**BELLISIANADO** - Compact, petite, violet and yellow mixture.  
**CHOCOLATE FUDGE** - Deep brown with large golden signal.  
**CLARE ELLEN** - Light shades of purple, large yellow signal.  
**FINALLY FREE** - Clear yellow self, flaring falls.  
**MISSOURI RIVERS** - Ruffled blue, sharp yellow signal.  
**RODEO BLUE** - Sky blue blending to white.  
**SONORAN SUNSET** - Ruffled red-brown self; yellow signal.  
**SULTANS SASH** - Deep red, yellow infusion on falls.  
**SUNRISE IN SONORA** - Dark maroon-violet; large golden signal.  
**WHITE SHIMMER** - Lacy white self.  
**WYOMING COWBOYS** - Striped brown and gold; wide oval falls.

Please make three choices as varities available are limited. Make your check payable to the SPURIA IRIS SOCIETY please. This offer expires as of August 31, 1995. Fill out the form below and mail to Bobbie Shepard, Treasurer; 3342 W. Orangewood, Phoenix, AZ 85051-7543.

## SPURIA IRIS SOCIETY Membership Application

Single Annual	\$ 5.00	Family Annual	\$ 6.00
Single Triennial	12.00	Family Triennial	14.00
Life Membership		\$60.00	

NAME:	
ADDRESS:	
CITY:	
STATE & ZIP:	

TYPE MEMBERSHIP:		1st
AMOUNT ENCLOSED:		2nd
		3rd