



Spuria News

The Spuria Iris Society is a section of the American Iris Society

Summer 2012

2012 Eric Nies winner

'Solar Fusion'

Lee Walker - 2005



(Jurn photo)

Award of Merit

'Castor River'



O. D. Niswonger - 2006
(Silverberg photo)

'Saint Patrick's Gold'



A & D Cadd - 2003
(Plotner photo)

Honorable Mention

'Line Dancing'



B. C. Jenkins by Comanche
Acres- 2007
(Hedgecock photo)

'Oregon Cream'



L. Walker - 2008
(Plotner photo)

'Comanche Moon'



B. C. Jenkins by Jim
Hedgecock - 2008
(Hedgecock photo)

'Walk The Line'



J. Hedgecock - 2009
(Hedgecock photo)

'Some Say It's Pink'



L. Walker - 2009
(Plotner photo)

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The Spuria Iris Society is a section of the American Iris Society and holds a Board of Directors meeting each year at the AIS National Convention. Your participation is welcomed and encouraged.

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Membership Rates

Domestic Members - Annual.... \$12
Domestic Members - Tri-annual \$30
ALL E-Members - Annual..... \$ 6
ALL E-Members - Tri-annual.....\$15
Overseas Member - Annual.... \$15
Overseas Member - Tri-annual \$40

NOTE: E-Members receive an electronic copy of the Spuria News and must have a current e-mail address on file with the Spuria Iris Society. Regular members receive a printed hard copy of the Spuria news.

For articles or information to be printed in the Spuria News, please submit to the Editor, Darol Jurn (djurn@prodigy.net). Publication deadlines are:

Winter edition: January 31
Summer edition: July 30

Membership Renewals

For memberships that are expiring, the newsletter address label reflects the renewal date (upper right hand corner).

There are three ways to join or renew memberships:

1. **NEW** - Electronically through the Spuria website (www.spuriairis.com) via the membership page using PayPal.
2. Electronically through the AIS website (www.irises.org) using either Visa, Master Card or PayPal.
3. By US mail sending the appropriate funds (check made out to Spuria Iris Society) to the membership chairperson, include your name and address (required). We ask you also include your phone number and e-mail address.

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The Spuria Iris Society can be found online at:
www.spuriairis.com and www.facebook.com/spuriairissociety

President's Message

by Jim Hedgecock



I guess I need to report on my health issues first and let you all know that I am a little better. My iris activities have been curtailed as far as shipping and outdoor work schedules. Don't worry, I have one of the best wives in the world and Lamoyne and some hired

help are doing just fine with our shipping efforts. I will be doing a couple of iris training sessions this fall in Iowa and New York. I am still able to get around, I just can't do any digging for a while.

I am sorry that I was too ill to attend the California convention, but we had a conference call meeting from the convention and it worked wonderfully. Thanks to those of you that helped in making that possible. As usual, the Energizer Bunny, Andi, was heading up the show in my absence. Thank you Andi and Debbie.

Be sure to read my Missouri Ramblin column if you are concerned about the drought effects on your spurias. I see that there are more spurias being registered every year. This is so wonderful for our niche in the iris world. Every time one of you puts out a new improvement on spurias, you advance our efforts to a new level of excellence. We have such a wide open field to work in. I won't get off of my bandstand in promoting our irises. We just need more hybridizers that are careful in their selections for introduction and the sky is the limit.

We have some exciting news on two fronts. Andi has agreed to put together a new digital program on spuria irises. He will be asking those of you that have good photos to contribute to this effort. The other news is that we will now have the capability to take PayPal for your subscription renewals. We do indeed live in a digital and computerized world and we are trying to keep up with the times.

I hope this newsletter finds you all well and God Bless you and your gardens.

Respectfully,
Jim Hedgecock
President Spuria Iris Society

New Members

The Spuria Iris Society welcomes the following new and returning members:

- Gene Looney, Bessemer City, NC
- Glenn Hoot, M.D., Aberdeen, WA
- Janice Thompson, Sherman, TX
- Peggy Cathey, Covington, TX
- Norma Riccobuono, Concord, CA
- Gordon Carver, Weatherford, TX
- Camille Schoeberl, Princeton, IA
- Loretta Figueroa, Mill Valley, CA

Treasurers Report

Submitted by Debbie Babuisco-James
Report date ending 08/01/2012

Income

Spuria sale:	776.79
Membership dues:	254.00
Checklist sales:	100.00
Eric Nies Chronicles	40.00
Total income:	\$1,170.79

Expenses

Newsletter costs:	228.24
Eric Nies Award	30.00
Total expenses:	\$358.24

Checking

Beginning balance:	5,027.94
Income:	1,170.79
Expenses:	358.24
Ending balance:	\$5,840.49

CD Account

Beginning balance:	1,192.33
Interest:	3.71
Ending balance:	\$1,196.04

Net Assets

CD account:	1,196.04
Checking:	5,840.49
Net:	\$7,036.53

Board of Director Minutes

April 17, 2012

Submitted by Kate Brewitt

IN ATTENDANCE: Jim Hedgecock (by phone), Andi Rivarola, Debbie Babuscio-James, Kate Brewitt, Darol Jurn, Loreli Bouffard, Robert Karr, Dave Niswonger, Will Plotner, Dave Silverberg, Gary White.

WELCOME – Jim Hedgecock.
Board members introduced themselves.

2011 MEETING MINUTES – Jim Hedgecock.
Since the 2011 Board meeting did not have a quorum, there was no motion to accept the minutes of the general discussion that took place.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Debbie Babuscio-James:
As of April 19, 2012, total assets are \$5,641.74; \$4,448.70 (savings account); \$1,193.04 (CD account). \$500 stipend for president to attend this year's convention is being returned.

EDITOR'S REPORT – Darol Jurn: A total of 46 SIS Checklists have been printed and mailed since January 16, 2010. Reduced printing costs have reduced publication costs by \$6. Total earnings this year on sales - \$212.00. Cost for mailing each SIS newsletter is \$0.65. As of Winter 2012, 16 newsletters are e-mailed.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT – Kate Brewitt for Nancy Price: Current total number of members is 166 plus 6 complimentary memberships; 36 less than last year. No distinction between 'e' and 'regular mail' memberships. -only sent 'e' if requested.

SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATE (FACEBOOK) – Andi Rivarola: To date SIS has 266 friends. Andi is doing most of posting. He recently posted pictures from Will Plotner of Lee Walker's current introductions.

FUNDRAISER UPDATE – Debbie Babuscio-James: This year's total earnings from SIS fundraiser are \$635.00. An earlier start is attributed to better sales. It was agreed we would continue this type of offer in future. Suggestion made to contact AIS to advertise future fundraisers in 'IRISES' and on the AIS website.

NEW BUSINESS

POPULARITY POLL. Board agreed to the reinstatement of the popularity poll of member's 10 popular Spuria irises. Darol will add as an insert in the Spuria Newsletter. Any Spuria iris can be considered and responses can be mailed or emailed.

MEMBERSHIPS. Revisions to our current renewal practises were discussed. It was agreed that there are a sufficient number of renewal reminders in place. A new membership offer was discussed. a) Any new 1 -year member (US only) will receive one (1) recent Spuria introduction from Jim Hedgecock. b) Any new 3-year member (US

only) will receive one (1) recent (2 -3 years old) Spuria introduction from Jim Hedgecock. Jim Hedgecock would be reimbursed \$4 for each new member who received a Spuria introduction to contribute to his shipping costs.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE NEW MEMBERSHIP SPURIA OFFER WITH SIS REIMBURSING JIM HEDGECKOCK \$4 FOR EACH NEW MEMBER WHO RECEIVES A SPURIA INTRODUCTION TO OFFSET HIS SHIPPING COSTS. EFFECTIVE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

Moved by Andi Rivarola; seconded by Debbie Babuscio. Motion carried.

E- MEMBERSHIPS: Membership fee increases and incentives for members to switch to e-membership upon renewal were discussed. The new membership fees proposed are as follows:

Type of Membership	New Membership Rates	
	1 year	3 year
Regular (receives hard copy newsletter)	\$12	\$30
Overseas (receives hard copy newsletter)	\$15	\$40
E-Member (receives electronic newsletter)	\$10	\$15

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSED MEMBERSHIP RATES AS OUTLINED ABOVE.

Moved by Debbie Babuscio; seconded by Andi Rivarola. Motion carried.

See ADDENDUM at the end of these minutes for additional motions on membership rates.

SLIDE PROGRAM UPDATE: Jim Hedgecock, Will Plotner and Andi Rivarola agreed to donate digital photos in order to create an updated digital program for SIS to offer for sale.

MOTION TO REPLACE THE CURRENT SLIDE PROGRAM WITH A DIGITAL PROGRAM COSTING \$8.

Moved by Andi Rivarola; seconded by Debbie Babuscio. Motion carried.

FUTURE CONVENTIONS. There was a discussion about a future Spuria Mini-Convention which resulted in the following motion,

MOTION TO HOLD A SPURIA MINI CONVENTION IN 2016 IN LOS ANGELES.

Moved by Debbie Babuscio; seconded by Andi Rivarola. Motion carried.

Andi Rivarola and Debbie Babuscio will put together a "Call for Spuria Rhizomes". Andi Rivarola will check with various locations in the local area for possible guest gardens.

CHECKLIST UPDATE - Darol Jurn: to put together a proposal on costs for updates to the 2005 Checklist including the possibility of putting together an addendum.

CLOSING COMMENTS: Discussed the possibility of sending the Spuria Checklist via email however document size and possible copyright infringements prevent this from being possible. Darol Jurn, Editor, asked that everyone receiving their Spuria News by e-mail to click 'yes' on the read receipt. This helps him ensure that everyone is receiving their newsletters. Dave Niswonger talked about possibly putting a book together on just Spuria irises and donating the book to the SIS to sell with net proceeds going to the SIS.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.

ADDENDUM

The Board passed the following motions after the 2012 AIS National Convention via email discussion,

MOTION: Single and Family memberships to be the same rate - family receives only one copy of the newsletter. This applies to regular and e-membership.

Moved by Andi Rivarola; seconded by Debbie Babuscio. Motion carried. (NOTE: the intent of this motion is to discontinue Family memberships, both regular and e-memberships.)

MOTION: Overseas e-memberships should not exist and that there should be only one e-membership rate, that of a Single. Rates are those approved by the Board at the Ontario Board Meeting.

Moved by Andi Rivarola; seconded by Debbie Babuscio. Motion carried.

Submitted by Kate Brewitt, Secretary for the Spuria Iris Society (SIS)

and Darol Jurn, Acting Secretary for the Spuria Iris Society (SIS)

May 9, 2012

Spuria News

Spuria fund raiser for 2012 - A Spuria fund raiser (US orders only) approved at the 2012 Board of Directors meeting at the Ontario National Convention. This fund-raiser includes *FOUR* recent introductions:

'Ross Island' Nancy Price, Abby Gardens 2012
'Sellwood' Nancy Price, Abby Gardens 2012
'Cheyenne Sun' R-2010, Jim Hedgecock
'Caribbean Blue' R-2010, Jim Hedgecock

Any two for \$35, all four for \$70.

All proceeds (less shipping) will directly support the Spuria Iris Society. These introductions are being provided by the generosity of Comanche Acres and Nancy Price (Abby Gardens). If you are interested in supporting the Spuria Iris Society, now is the time to order by sending a check or money order made out to the Spuria Iris Society and mail it to the Treasurer:

Spuria Iris Society
C/O Debbie Babuscio-James
6634 Gaviota
Lake Balboa, CA 91406

Please include your name and shipping address.

At the 2012 Spuria Board meeting the Spuria Iris Society is once again offering a Spuria introductions from Comanche Acres to any NEW member (domestic members), see advertisement in this edition. The details are:

- For a NEW one-year membership, the new member will receive one recent Spuria introduction.
- For an NEW three-year membership, the new member will receive one very recent Spuria introduction.

At the 2012 Spuria Board meeting the Board revised the membership requirements. Changes are for the "regular" membership fee which is increasing and the creation of a new E-membership category for those who elect to receive the Spuria News electronically. Please note that E-member-

ships are a significant contribution to reducing Spuria Iris Society costs.

Regular Memberships:

- Single one-year memberships: \$12
- Single three-year membership: \$30
- Overseas one-year membership: \$15
- Overseas three-year membership: \$40

E-Memberships:

- Single one-year E-Membership: \$6
- Single three-year E-Membership: \$15

WE NEED YOUR PICTURES

The Spuria Iris Society is putting together a new digital program, which will be available for purchase soon (instead of rental), to benefit the Spuria Iris Society. The cost will be nominal, and the goal is to help spread the word about spuria irises. There will be more details about this new format and its availability soon.

We invite you to submit any of your own good quality digital pictures you may have; newer introductions are preferred (2001 and later). You may send as many as you like as long as they are good quality digital photographs. Please be sure to include the iris name; and if a new introduction, which may not be available in the iris register yet, please include the description -- audiences always like to know.

Please send your pictures to my personal email, and/or to write with any concerns or comments.

Andi Rivarola
Spuria Iris Society VP
andinsky@gmail.com

Coming 2016, a Spuria Mini-convention to Los Angeles. A call for rhizomes and more information will be provided in the 2013 winter edition.

The Spuria Iris Society is conducting a Spuria popularity poll. Details can be found later in this newsletter.

Spuria Checklist

The Spuria Checklist has been revised for 2009 and is currently available. This checklist includes many *new* and *updated* photographs including registrations through 2009 for a total of 258 pages. The purchase price is (includes postage):

- \$50 for domestic orders,
- \$55 for Canada orders (US dollars),
- \$65 for International orders (US dollars)

The Spuria website (www.spuriairis.com) has the details for ordering. To order your copy send a check made out to the Spuria Iris Society to the Treasurer, Debbie Babuscio-James (the address is listed on page two of this newsletter).

I include the following information with your order: Name, Address, State, City (and country for international orders). Please include an e-mail address or phone number so that we may contact you if necessary.



Missouri Rambling

By Jim Hedgecock

The main topic everywhere you go is the heat over a great deal of the U.S. In our iris world, everyone wants to know what will it do to the spuria irises? I decided I had better put my two cents worth in the pot.

Spurias are one of the hardiest irises I know of. We have them growing in northern Canada and blooming and spurias will grow and thrive in the southern most states with no problems. They amaze me with how good they do in dry, arid type areas like Arizona and California. Just like any other dry ground type irises, they don't like to be standing in wet soil for any period of time.

So here's my assessment of the drought. Most spurias are summer dormant. After they bloom in the spring, they have a short growth period and then the foliage begins to die back. This is a natural part of their growth cycle. Later in the fall, they will put up new foliage. It gets a little confusing here, because there are a few spuria varieties

that do not die back. These are referred to as evergreen spurias. This is a plus to these irises, because they don't need that mid to late summer cleanup to look nice year round. Our hybridizers are working on putting this evergreen gene(s) into more of our spurias. I guess I need to confuse you just a little more. In the northern most states, a lot of the summer dormant spurias do not die back. This simply is a matter of temperatures that do not get cool enough to trigger the die back.

Now, here comes the all time record drought here in Missouri and many other areas. What will this do to our spurias? My opinion is nothing. It is just a hotter than normal period of summer and it will pass. There is undoubtedly going to be period in which the spurias will die all the way back. The evergreen spurias may even die back also. I can't say you won't lose any spuria plants, but I can just about promise you that most will survive the drought.

The real fear I have is if you give over to your urges and start watering your spuria plants. I think this will hurt the plants much more than just leaving them alone. You will be pushing growth at a time when it is natural for the plants to rest. I honestly think this will cause rot in many instances. Just allow the plants to rest until late September or so and then water them a couple of times a month, possibly once a week in real hot climates.

Due to my health problems this spring, I did not make any spuria crosses, but I have several thousand spuria seeds that I will try to get planted this fall. I also got a few spuria seedlings evaluated, but there may not be as many new introductions from me next year. We may introduce several of Larry Johnsen's new seedlings next year. I am looking for some stock of Sonoran Carnival. If anyone has some of it, please contact me.

God Bless all of you and your gardens and please remember our troops that are all over this world protecting our freedom.

Respectfully,
Jim Hedgecock

This That and a Few Other Things

By Brad Kasperek

I am just wrapping up the last of this year's Zebra Gardens spuria bloom and hybridizing season. There were about 350-400 seedlings blooming for

the first time from my "planned" crosses providing an evaluation opportunity of the progress on my initial goals. There were a surprising number of "garbage" seedlings with little resemblance to either parent, but about 30 of them provided some "joy in Mudville" for various reasons. Hopefully a few may make it to introduction.

Since my last article, I'm sure many of you have been on the "edge of your seats" waiting for the next installment in my germination woes. Well for only the second time in the last eight years the winter and spring weather here combined to inspire spuria seeds to germinate! All those garden areas where I'd dumped 100s of pots of un-germinated seeds over the years were suddenly covered with "spuria grass" from unidentifiable crosses. Fortunately, they even germinated where they were supposed to so we had a 1,000 or so to transplant in May.

Now as to the results of my "convoluted" experiment to get May transplantable seedlings within 9 months of seed harvest - they were also convoluted to say the least. As you may recall, I separated the green seed into four large groups: one to freeze; one to chill; and, two to dry. Those froze, chilled, and one set dried were potted up the first week in January and kept in the house for a month before being transferred to my unheated greenhouse and where they were kept warm via heating propagation mats (The electric company was ecstatic!). There was a partial success with the chilled group where about half of the pots produced sufficient transplantable seedlings by May to warrant "dumping" the contents of these pots to harvest the seedlings.

The seeds froze never had a chance since my method of preparing these seeds appears to have destroyed 7,000 innocent embryos. In prior years I had froze green seeds in a mixture of damp sand and most seemed to survive fine, but this time I left the 200 green seeds in their individual nylon bags and wrapped the 35 bags in six layers of wet paper toweling. Only determined "mass murderers" should duplicate this method.

Those dried were split into two groups: one to soak for eight days and plant in January; and, the other to plant in the seed bed in June. None of the pots from dried seed produced enough transplantable seedlings to warrant "dumping" for May planting.

All are being held for either fall transplanting or until next May.

Last time I mentioned that Dave Niswonger plants his spuria seeds in seed beds during late fall and usually gets transplantable seedlings by next May. He doesn't recommend using peat moss in these beds since it reduces the seed-to-soil contact necessary for good germination. Last time I said I would try the same method for myself, but I'm having second thoughts based on this year's germination results.

Last June I planted some of my 2010 dried seed in a seed bed, instead of pots, for the first time. This bed was kept watered and an encouraging number of seedlings emerged in the fall. In September, I planted the rest of this bed with remaining seed from 2009 and both plantings were mulched with fluffed wood excelsior held in place with shade cloth. As noted, the winter & spring weather was favorable for germination, but the germination from the fall planted seed was light and the seedlings too small to transplant safely in May. While the June planted seed produced a bumper crop of nice seedlings to transplant in May. Definitely worth noting was that the seedlings from the seed bed appeared to be stronger transplants than those grown in pots.

Therefore, the next episode in the Zebra Germination Saga will find me further testing the straight to seed bed method here by planting about 20% of this year's green seed into a seed bed around Labor Day; placing another 35% of the green seed in the refrigerator crisper; and, curing the other 45% for planting in the seed beds next June.

One last thing. I, like many others I expect have often wondered how catalogs, magazines and even iris hybridizers get those "to die for" photos. Well I think I know! When the newer digital cameras are set to their macro setting it can be placed within mere inches of the flower and this exaggerates the size of the petals closest to the camera producing a non-existent fullness to the flowers.

Today, when I finally looked at my small, sorry collection of this year's spuria pictures I was surprised to find 5 or 6 of the most gorgeous spurias that never grew in my garden. To my overwhelming gratitude, one of them is of my new introduction 'ODE TO A TOAD' and it should appear in this issue. **WARNING:** The picture makes the flower

appear much more plump and rounded than the real thing!

Cheers! Brad

Which Comes First: The Flower or The Garden Plant?

By Brad Kasperek

Like most chicken and the egg type riddles there is really only one answer more correct than the other. Since propagation/reproduction via eggs with shells predates the current species identified as a chicken by about 300 million years it is highly probable that the egg came first.

In garden plants grown as flowering plants the flower is almost always more important than the rest of the plant. Sure a viable plant is **MANDATORY** to produce these desired flowers, but how often do dead or sick plants produce desirable flowers? This is not a trick question and the obvious answer is almost never. However, if the flower is spectacular enough, many gardeners will continually nurse sickly plants in exchange for an infrequent glimpse of its stunning flower. **FLOWERS COME FIRST** in garden desirability - not plants!

If the American Iris Society and some of its sections don't soon recognize that hybridizing and judging efforts must emphasize distinctiveness especially in flower form and coloration over plant standardization many classes of iris will cease to be considered desired garden plants by the public because of their boring sameness. The Spuria Section epitomizes the extreme damage to overall garden plant desirability caused by emphasizing plants over flowers.

I now have over 150 introduced cultivars in clumps four years or older and many of these have won either the Nies Award or Medal. The older plants were some of the last acquired so they have just reached their mature clumps. This year I was stunned by the fact that at least half of the Nies Award plants from the 1970's were more interesting garden plants than half the Nies Medal winners over the last 10 years! Remember I said **HALF** as there are just as many duds in the 1970's as in the 2000's mixed in with the truly deserving cultivars.

The salient point I conclude from the above is that Spuria flower development has moved at a glacial pace. There are some 40 year old introductions with coloration and form equal to Nies Medal win-

ners in the 2000s! How can we expect to increase the growing of spurias as garden plants when there is little significant change in the flowers since the 1970s!!! Only a few gardeners today want to grow 40 year old pansy or petunia introductions with their limited colors because they want new colors or forms with a tantalizing flare for this year's garden.

Is the boring sameness in Spuria flowers the result of limited potential in existing breeding stock as many "perfect plant" supporters contend? An objective assessment of spuria introductions over the last 25 years shows this argument to be mostly pure unadulterated "natural fertilizer" There's no argument that adding new species to the genetic mix will increase potential possibilities. BUT! what good will this do if the AIS judges continue to dismiss flower coloration and form advancements like they have over the last 20 years?

'Zulu Chief' was both a significant color improvement with less fade than previous "reds" and has a delayed second flower bloom sequence in its double sockets that increases bloom over two weeks. This breakthrough plant didn't even get an AM! How about 'Stella Irene' with its astounding change in flower form and such concentrated anthocyanine saturation that the boringly always present yellow signal finally ceased to be obvious. Where was the recognition these breakthroughs deserved by Spuria judging? - I expect they were foolishly ignored because the plant didn't meet the requirements of the "plant police." Most hybridizers follow the AIS Award patterns and if flower innovation isn't rewarded then most of them will reduce their efforts to pursue it. IF you aren't scandalized yet, I've got one more arrow in my quiver.

In my opinion, next to Walker Ferguson, Charles Jenkins was the most productive, creative Spuria hybridizer in the 20th century; however, where is his impressive list of AIS awards recognizing this creativity. Sadly, it doesn't exist. Instead, both the Spuria judging standards and the subsequent judges' training became heavily biased towards perfecting the plant rather than the real garden value of a FLOWERING plant which is based more on the flower than the plant! This bias is glaringly displayed by the following final paragraph of the Spuria section in the AIS Judges Handbook:

"There are times when the judge will discover an exceptional flower, yet the foliage reclines, the stalks are crooked, or there is evidence of disease. While this cultivar may be WIDELY GROWN and the GARDENING PUBLIC APPRECIATES that it was made commercially available, it *must never receive an award.*" [all emphasis added by writer]

Misguided hogwash! Why is it that the Spuria society should refuse to respect the opinion of the gardening public? Our primary mission IS or should be to promote the growing of spurias by the gardening public! If a Spuria with "an exceptional flower is "widely grown" by an appreciative gardening public it should at least be recognized as an award worthy addition by the Spuria society!

Please! none of the usual, spurious "oh, but we should only endorse the very the best plant foliage to the public" argument nonsense. If a Spuria is widely grown by an appreciative gardening public, IT MUST HAVE AN ACCEPTABLE PLANT or else how or why would the public grow it! The most important attribute of Spurias is the clump affect on the viewer when IN BLOOM. Top a perfect clump of foliage and stalks with a boring flower all you have is future compost - not a Nies Medal worthy winner!

The result of our current path is that today we have boring, generationally redundant flower color and form on above average plants. Leaving us with a healthy garden plant few gardeners want to bother with since it offers little change in flowers over the last forty years and lacks that desired flare or hint of novelty required of new gardening plant acquisitions. Duh! Do we real need to keep asking ourselves why Spurias are such a hard sell as a garden plant?

Sleep tight and don't let the "plant police" get you.

Editor's Corner

By Darol Jurn

I somehow managed to do it again. I neglected to include 2012 introductions from Aitken's Salmon Creek Gardens in the winter edition of the 2012 Spuria News. Terry Aitken introduces one of his 'Steely Don', and a Spuria by Kevin Vaughn, 'Banned in Boston'. I deeply apologize for my oversight and have included the information in this newsletter. Also in this edition are two late introductions by Brad Kasperek.

I have recently retired. My spouse and I have moved from the hot Phoenix area to a northern Arizona community where the summer temperatures much more tolerable. With this move comes a host of different critters. I relocated all of my TBs, ABs and my Spurias. Many of the replantings were planted in an "unprotected" area outside of my home fenced area. Knowing that Javelina have the capacity to devastate an Iris patch I installed an electric fence thinking this will solve my possible critter problems. The fence seems to be working for the Javelina but a host of Cotton Tail rabbits have figured out how to defeat the fence and are making a meal of my Iris garden. I have tried several commercial deterrents with limited success. To date the current score is Rabbits - 17, Darol - 0. The rabbits have managed to feast on several clumps of TBs, a couple of Spuria and ABs devouring the foliage all the way to the rhizome. In one case during the spring bloom, they devoured an AB bloom stalk and foliage to the rhizome. Currently it appears that about half of the TBs are showing new growth from the rhizomes.

I have modified the electric fence to stop the rabbits from traveling under and between the wires. If these modifications do not stop the rabbits I will probably resort to something more restrictive. For the time being, it appears that the rabbit attack has subsided, but I believe that may be due to the presence of a pack of coyotes that live nearby (the rabbit population is drastically smaller). So I believe mother nature has solved my pest problem for now. Anyhow my apparent superior intellect is being challenged by the rabbits. So with that being said I will be more than happy to entertain suggestions from anyone who has had success with their own rabbit war. This of course does not include drastic measures that would get the attention of neighbors and or the local law enforcement.

My relocation to a new home has opened my eyes to something I gave very little attention. Specifically the impact that water can have on a lawn and garden. By this I mean the undesirable chemicals that water brings to garden soils (mainly salts). In the Phoenix metro area many of the water sources are ground water which can be very hard. Several years of groundwater use in a garden can result in a large buildup of salts affecting your plants health. The last few years my iris garden (TBs) did not produce well despite providing them ample

amounts of water and fertilizer (probably because of the high salt content and pH in the soil). An interesting observation is that my Spurias did very well despite the high concentration of salts in the soil. Two years ago I began adding soil sulfur. This spring and early summer I was especially generous with sulfur applications on my lawn and was surprised with the response. In retrospect I wish I had been more proactive with soil sulfur in my garden. With that lesson learned I will be more attentive to what water brings to my garden soil and the use of soil acidifiers.

A Blast from the Past

By Darol Jurn

This column is only possible with the support of the members and clubs who have provided their historic newsletters to the Spuria Iris Society for electronic capture. With this being said here is the continuation of "*A Blast from the Past*."

Fifty years ago (1962): The July 1962 Spuria News notes that individual membership dues are \$1.

It was noted that the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in Claremont California had assembled a world class collection of Spuria Iris with the support of Director Dr. Lee Lenz. It was also noted that in order to obtain authentic material of many of the species, Dr. Lenz traveled extensively in Europe and the USSR in 1960, covering the area between Portugal in southwestern Europe, and Leningrad, Moscow, and Kiev in the east. The author of this article, H. N. Metcalf (Professor at Montana State College) included comments of many of the cultivars contained in that garden.

Editors note: It would be interesting to know if the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in Claremont California still exists. Had I known of this historical fact I would have made a detour to the garden during the AIS convention in Ontario this past spring.

From the October 1962 edition, Eleanor McCowen notes something we already know: "I do think that we are missing a bet in acquainting the florists with the possibilities of Spurias as cut flowers. They are equal to the Dutch in their ability to stand cutting and refrigeration." (*Editors note: and in my opinion SUPERIOR to Dutch Iris*).

The October 1962 edition noted that the Spuria Iris Society had 149 members.

Forty years ago (1972): Individual membership dues of interest, annual individual dues remain at \$1, Then president Eleanor McCowen's "Presidents Message" notes that the temperature in the California Imperial Valley is projected to be 115°F.

The July 1972 Spuria News contained an article highlighting hybridizer Walker Ferguson. It noted that Walker was selling his garden because he was unable to continue hybridizing activities (he was 85 years of age). The San Diego Imperial Counties Iris Society held a goodbye party for "Fergy" at the Society's annual Spuria meeting.

A note of importance in the July 1972 is that Cape Iris Gardens (Dave Niswonger) includes sale of Spuria Iris. (*Editors Note:* In my opinion this is a significant accomplishment on Dave Niswonger's part. The 1972 July newsletter noted 17 commercial sources for Spurias of which Cape Iris Gardens continues as a source today).

More 2012 Spuria Introductions



'Banned in Boston' (Vaughn '12) SPU, 40", EM. Ruffled dark blue purple standards. Ruffled and flaring falls are cream based veined dark violet with a one half inch band of

deep blue purple and a dagger orange signal. Parentage - (Offering X Lucky Devil). Available at Aitken's Salmon Creek Gardens (Aitken's Flower Fantasy).

'Ibex Ibix'. (Kasperek '12) SPU 45" M. Light medium lavender standards, style arms and rim around fall with a bright yellow fall center darkening to gold at the style arm crest, 5 to 6 buds. Available at Zebra Iris Gardens.



'Ode To A Toad' (Kasperek '12) SPU 38" M. Rich, red-brown maroon standards and mottled purple & brown style arms. Rich, orange-gold falls rimmed and modestly veined in smoky maroon, 4 to 5 buds. Available at Zebra Iris Gardens.

'Steely Don' (Aitken '12) SPU, 54", M. Silver blue standards washed pale lemon yellow. Falls are pale lemon yellow with faint blue-grey stitching near the petal edges. Parentage (Missouri Clouds x unknown). Available at Aitken's Salmon Creek Gardens (Aitken's Flower Fantasy).



Spuria Popularity Poll

It is time to vote for your favorite Spuria. You're participation in this poll is appreciated. Please vote for your favorite Spuria and return to Kate Brewitt **NO LATER THAN October 1, 2012:**

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

E-mail your votes to: kbrewitt@rogers.com
or

Mail to:

Kate Brewitt
120 Glass Drive
Aurora, ON, Canada, L4G 2E8

Here's a personal invitation from all of us: become a member of the Spuria Iris Society, and as a token of our appreciation a new introduced spuria iris by Hybridizer Jim Hedgecock will be mailed to you FREE (U.S. only).

<http://www.spuriairis.com>



Jim Hedgecock
President



Andi Rivarola
VP



Debbie Babuscio
Treasurer



Kate Brewitt
Secretary

2012

Spuria Iris Society



Spuria iris 'Eleanor Hill' by Ben Hager (1980)

Spuria Iris Society

JANUARY 2012

[HTTP://WWW.SPURIAIRIS.COM](http://www.spuriairis.com)

ANNUAL FUNDRAISER



2012 Spuria Iris Sale

We are happy to offer
four recent
introductions:

'ROSS ISLAND'

By Nancy Price, (R. 2010) Sdlg. 04-001-D. 44-46" (112-117 cm), medium bloom. Standards are hortensia blending to yellow in throat; Falls same, burnished gold blaze near throat, thin grey rim. 'Media Luz' X 'Northern Muse.'

'SELLWOOD'

By Nancy Price, (R. 2010) Sdlg. 04-001-E. SPU, 51" (130 cm), medium bloom season. Standards are blue; falls yellow rimmed blue. 'Media Luz' X 'Northern Muse.'

'CHEYENNE SUN'

By Jim Hedgecock (R. 2011) - Sdlg-L-5-A - 36-inches tall - Medium bloom season - The ruffled standards are medium yellow. The ruffled and flaring falls are just slightly darker medium yellow. It often sports a midwest bud count of 5. Stalks are always perfect with excellent spacing of the buds. Also a strong grower with plenty of increases. 'Ruffled Canary' X Unknown.

'CARIBBEAN BLUE'

By Jim Hedgecock (R. 2011) - Sdlg-CM-3Y - Spuria Iris-40 Inches Tall-Early Medium bloom season. The basic color is a soft

Caribbean Blue with the falls having a pattern of near white lines that radiate out over most of the falls. There is also a very

Choose any **two** Spuria
irises **for \$35**, or we
hope you will select all
four for \$70 (shipping
included; U.S. only)

small yellow signal pattern at the top of the falls. Often produces 6 to 7 buds. The real kicker is it is quite fragrant. 'Bordertown' X 90M124A (From Crocea Seeds).



To order, please
send your check to:

Spuria Iris Society
C/O Debbie Babuscio
6634 Gaviota, Lake Balboa, CA 91406

Spuria Sources

Abbey Gardens

32009 S. Ona Way
Molalla, OR 97038-9244
Phone: (503) 829-2928
E-mail: flags@molalla.net
sil1812@molalla.net
Website: www.abbeygardens.name

Aitken's Salmon Creek Gardens

608 NW 119th Street
Vancouver, WA 98685-3802
Phone: (360) 573-4472
Fax: (360) 576-7012
E-mail: aitken@flowerfantasy.net
Website: www.flowerfantasy.net

Borglum's Iris Gardens

2202 Austin Road
Geneva, NY 14456-9118
Phone/Fax: (585) 526-6729
E-Mail: sylborg@aol.com
Website: www.borglumiris.com

Cadd's Beehive Iris Garden

329 North St.
Healdsburg, CA 95448-4209
Phone: (707) 433-8633
E-mail: caddsisiris@comcast.net

Comanche Acres Iris Gardens

12421 S.E. State Rt. 116
Gower, MO 64454-8613
Phone: (816) 424-6436
Fax: (816) 424-3836
Toll free: (800) 382-4747 (orders only)
E-mail: jim@comancheacresiris.com
Website: www.comancheacresiris.com

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3915 Vista San Miguel
Bonita, CA 91902
Phone: (619) 479-3887
E-mail: irishowseandgardens@cox.net
Website: www.irishowseandgardens.com

Kary Iris Garden

6201 East Calle Rosa
Scottsdale, AZ 85251-4224
Phone: (480) 949-0253
E-mail: ardikary@aol.com

Quail Hill Gardens

2460 Compton Bridge Road
Inman, SC 29349-8489
Phone: (864) 472-3339

Redbud Lane Iris Garden

2282 N. 350th St.
Kansas, IL 61933-6087
Phone: (217) 948-5478
E-mail: redbud@cell1net.net

Scott's Iris Gardens

14605 Chispa Rd.
Atascadero, CA 93422-6517
Phone: (805) 461-3270
Fax: (805) 461-5670
E-mail: scottsisiris@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.scottsisirigardens.com

Snowpeak Iris and Daylilies, LLC

38956 Lacombe Dr.
Lebanon, OR 97355
Phone: (541) 259-2343
Website: www.snowpeakiris.com



Wildwood Gardens

P.O. Box 250
Molalla, OR 97038-0250
E-mail: gardens@molalla.net
Website: www.wildwoodgardens.net



Zebra Iris Gardens

9130 North 5200 West
Elwood, UT 84773-8640
E-mail: zebrairis@gmail.net
Website: www.zebrairis.com

If you have a commercial garden that sells Spuria and would like it listed here, please contact the Spuria News Editor, Darol Jurn at djurn@prodigy.net or (928) 282-5173.

For articles or information to be printed in the Spuria News, please submit to the Editor, Darol Jurn (djurn@prodigy.net), the publication deadlines are:

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