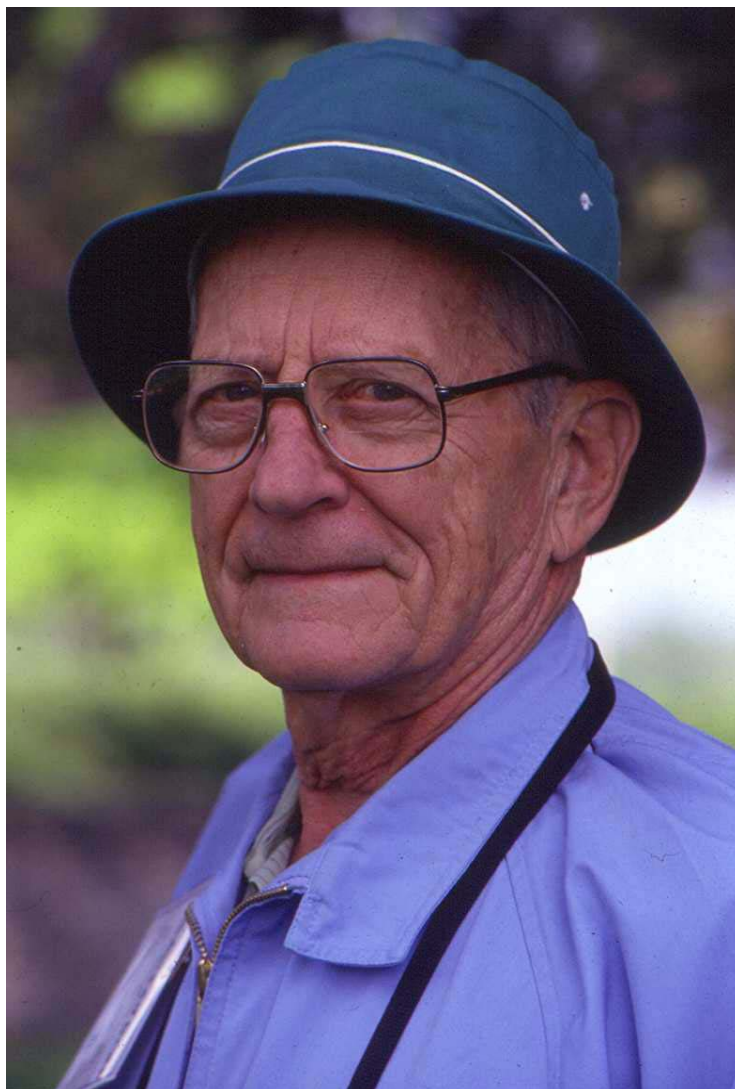




# Spuria News

Winter 2013

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



Floyd Wickenkamp  
1911 - 2012



Wickenkamp - 1983  
Sun of Son - SIS photo



Wickenkamp - 1988  
Sonoran Caballero  
Comanche Acres photo



Wickenkamp - 1992  
Sonoran Skies - Hudson photo



Wickenkamp - 1992  
Sonoran Sunset - SIS photo

## Board of Directors

### President

Jim Hedgecock  
12421 SE State Rt. 116  
Gower, MO 64454-8613  
Phone: (816) 424-6436  
E-mail: [jim@comancheacresiris.com](mailto:jim@comancheacresiris.com)

### Vice President

Andi Rivarola  
5654 Murrietta Ave.  
Valley Glen, CA 91401-4708  
Phone: (818) 802-4188  
E-mail: [andinsky@gmail.com](mailto:andinsky@gmail.com)

### Secretary

Kate Brewitt  
120 Glass Drive  
Aurora, ON, Canada, L4G 2E8  
Phone: (905) 841-9676  
E-mail: [kbrewitt@rogers.com](mailto:kbrewitt@rogers.com)

### Treasurer

Debbie Babuscio-James  
6634 Gaviota St.  
Lake Balboa, CA 91406-5943  
Phone: (818) 922-9153  
E-mail: [dbabski1962@yahoo.com](mailto:dbabski1962@yahoo.com)

### Immediate Past President

Nancy Price  
32009 S. Ona Way  
Molalla, OR 97038-9244  
Phone: (503) 829-2928  
E-mail: [flags@molalla.net](mailto:flags@molalla.net)

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.

## Chairperson / Committees

### Membership / Webmaster

Nancy Price  
32009 S. Ona Way  
Molalla, OR 97038-9244  
Phone: (503) 829-2928  
E-mail: [flags@molalla.net](mailto:flags@molalla.net)

### Spuria News Editor

Darol Jurn  
100 Sedona Vista Dr.  
Sedona, AZ 86336-6017  
Phone: (928) 282-5173  
E-mail: [djurn@prodigy.net](mailto:djurn@prodigy.net)

## Membership Rates

(US dollars)

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](mailto: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. Electronically through the Spuria website ([www.spuriairis.com](http://www.spuriairis.com)) via the membership page using PayPal.
2. Electronically through the AIS website ([www.irises.org](http://www.irises.org)) using either Visa, Master Card or PayPal.
3. By US Postal Service sending the appropriate funds in US dollars (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.

## This Edition

	page
President's Message.....	3
New Members.....	3
Spuria News.....	3
Spuria Checklist.....	4
In Memory-Floyd Wickenkamp..	4
Spuria Popularity Poll Results....	5
Request for Spuria.....	6
Missouri Rambling.....	7
This That and.....	7
Editor's Corner .....	9
A Blast from the Past .....	9
"A Lawn" .....	10
2013 Spuria Introductions.....	11
Spuria Sources.....	12

**The Spuria Iris Society can be found online at:**  
**[www.spuriairis.com](http://www.spuriairis.com) and [www.facebook.com/spuriairissociety](http://www.facebook.com/spuriairissociety)**

## President's Message

by Jim Hedgecock



I hope this issue of our newsletter finds you all well and getting ready for the new year. I have been so pleased with the internal workings of the society this past year. Our treasury is the highest I have ever seen it and there are still more money raising

efforts to take place this year. Our slate of officers is absolutely fantastic. They have done a wonderful job while I have been sick so much in the past year. I am better and I am looking forward to our meetings in Dallas. In many of the conventions, the spurias don't bloom with the bearded irises. This won't be the case in Dallas. We should see plenty of spurias in bloom. We plan on having a special program at the convention. Several of the hybridizers including myself will be doing a round table discussion on spurias and time to answer your questions on culture, etc.

Hardly a month goes by that someone doesn't contact me about spurias and how to join our society. There is no question that more and more people actually know about our class of irises. Be sure your local societies are aware of spurias and how easy they are to grow. I know that all of our present officers have done programs in their local societies on spurias. This past fall I traveled to the Buffalo, New York Society and put one on for them. I finally got to meet Kate Brewitt in person. I had a wonderful trip.

As always I am interested in new hybridizers of spurias and anything new that you have bred. We try to put new intros each year in our newsletter in color. If you have some, let us know and we will include them.

I would like to think that you all know that I am always available to help you with spuria related questions or problems. You can contact me by e-mail [jim@comancheacresiris.com](mailto:jim@comancheacresiris.com)

God bless you and your gardens and remember: Grow more spurias, you won't be sorry you did.

Respectfully,  
Jim Hedgecock  
President Spuria Iris Society

## New Members

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

- Tohru Mamyia, Japan
- Tim Lawler, South Pasadena, CA
- Vern Hammett, Corinth, TX
- Greg Hoffman, Sussex, NJ
- Jan Jacobsen, Denmark
- Stefano Paolin, Treviso, Italy
- Richard Sloan, Bossier City, LA

## Spuria News

---

### Iris Sale

The Spuria Iris Society will hold a Special Sale at The American Iris Society National Convention in Dallas, TX this year. All proceeds will go directly to the SIS. Quantities and varieties are limited. Details will be available at the Spuria table. We hope to see you there.

---

### AIS National Convention

Dallas, Texas

April 15 - 20, 2013

Convention Hotel - Crown Plaza and Resort

Spuria Board Meeting - April 16, 12 - 1pm

Spuria Program - April 17, 11am - 12pm

---

### 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 e-mail, and/or to write with any concerns or comments.



Andi Rivarola  
Spuria Iris Society VP  
andinsky@gmail.com

---

## Got Seeds?

The New Zealand Iris Society - Bay of Plenty Iris Group is looking for Spuria seeds. Any Spuria lover who has seeds and is willing do contribute Spuria seeds to the group please send them to:

Maggie Asplet  
1286 Matawai Road  
R 1  
Gisborne 4071  
New Zealand

---

## Coming Soon

The 2009 Spuria Checklist is being revised to include updates through 2013. Expect the first issues available later this year.

---

## Spuria Checklist

The 2009 Spuria Checklist is available. The purchase price is (includes postage):

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

To order send a check made out to the Spuria Iris Society an mail to the Treasurer, Debbie Babuscio-James (the address is listed on page two of this newsletter).

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.



## In Memory of Floyd Wickenkamp

By Darol Jurn

By the time you receive this Spuria News you probably have learned about the passing of another great Spuria Hybridizer. Floyd Wickenkamp passed on November 28, 2012 and is now with 'Betty My Love', his wife.

What follows is a bio from Floyd himself which was published in the Summer 2004 Spuria News:

"I was born in Nebraska in 1911. My Father was a Grain Elevator Manager who moved from one area to another until we homesteaded on a ranch in the Sandhills near Casper, Wyoming. One of our biggest sources of funds was growing sweet corn and selling it to the local grocers. In 1928, I started school at the University of Wyoming, Paying my expenses with selling sweet corn in the summer and clerking at the local Piggly Wiggly Grocery Store. I ended up with two degrees in Electrical Engineering and in 1936, I went to work for the local radio station as announcer and Engineer. I guess I was what they later called a "Disc Jockey." Records and transcriptions were our sole source of entertainment materials. In the fall of 1940, I saw a notice that the Federal Communications Commission was searching for people to man their monitoring stations, so I applied and was hired as a member of their Radio Intelligence Division. My first assignment, believe it or not, was in Tucson, We set up our long range direction finder out near what was then the end of Speedway in the open desert. After a year there I was transferred to the primary monitoring station in Grand Island, Nebraska. In late 1942, I got a direct commission in the U.S. Army Signal Corps and spent the next four years in various areas in the United States, France, and Germany. In September 1946, I was back with the F.C.C. where I stayed for the next 24 years. I retired in 1970 as Chief of the Engineering and Facilities Division of the Field Engineering Bureau. I lived in Virginia a dozen or so miles from Washington and it was there that I first got interested in Spurias. I had seen them growing in a garden in Oregon and from that time on I grew at least a few of them. Going back a few years, in 1963, my boss in the F.C.C. was made International Chairman of a Study Group in the International radio Consulting Committee, and Organization in the United Nations. He needed an assistant so he requested I take the job. I was already busy with my regular job, but he insisted

and won out. So for the next six years I spent a month or two each year at meetings all over the world, including Lisbon, Oslo, Geneva, New Delhi, and our own Boulder, Colorado. One place of special interest was in Monte Carlo and I took my wife, Betty with me. She really enjoyed touring the area while I was in meetings. Our hotel was the same one the Edward the Seventh stayed in during those rare periods when the "Mama" Queen Victoria would let him go!

It wasn't until around 1980 that I started making crosses of spurias and my first introduction was, 'Son of Sun' which proceeded to earn about every award that there was for Spurias. It won the President's Cup and the most popular iris at the 1987 American Iris Society Convention and in 1994, the Nies Medal.

In the meantime, I started making crosses in earnest ending up with a total of 19 introductions in 1995. I was then 84 years old and I decided I wouldn't live much longer so there was no need to make any more crosses.

Then the unexpected happened! I had an old seedling from 1990 that I entered in the Region 15 Spring Trek held in Phoenix, Arizona. There were so many comments on its beauty, that I decided to go ahead and introduce it. I named it, Sonoran Nightfall."

Editor Notes: Floyd Wickenkamp has been an active member of the Spuria Iris Society for many years. Spuria records reflect that Floyd was a member since 1968, he served as Newsletter Editor from 1979 - 1982 and Secretary-Treasurer from 1983 - 1994. During the 1990's Floyd was also instrumental in compiling revisions to the Spuria Checklist. He received the Distinguished Service Award from the Spuria Iris Society in 1995. Like his former colleague Charles Jenkins, Floyd's hybridizing was exclusive to Spurias.



'Son of Sun' - SIS photo

Floyd's AIS awards include:

- 'Son of Sun' (1983), Eric Nies Medal 1994
- 'Sonoran Seniorita' (1988), HM 1991, AM 1994

- 'Kitt Peak' (1986), HM 1989, AM 1994
- 'Oro de Sonora' (1990), AM 1997
- 'Sonoran Caballero' (1988), AM 1995
- 'Sonoran Sunset' (1992), AM 1998
- 'Sonoran Skies' (1992), AM 1999
- 'Sunrise in Sonora' (1993), AM 2000
- 'Wyoming Cowboys' (1993), AM 2002

## Spuria Popularity Poll Results

By Kate Brewitt

In the Summer 2012 edition of the 'Spuria News' our members were asked to vote for their favorite Spuria iris introductions. Thanks to everyone who participated in this popularity poll.

One never knows what to expect when a popularity poll is held. One could expect the recency effect to dominate, where current introductions are selected over older ones. But, if that were the case, then one would have to assume that everyone stayed up to date with their Spuria iris acquisitions. As much as I dream of this possibility, it is just not feasible for everyone. Besides, I like my older introductions and apparently a lot of other members do too.

Members cast 112 votes for 77 different Spuria iris introductions. The introductions selected covered a period of over 100 years of Spuria hybridizing, from 1899 to 2012. The oldest Spuria iris selected was 'Premier' (Barr 1899) and the newest were 'Sellwood' and 'Ross Island' both 2012 introductions from Nancy Price. Also selected was Jim Hedgecock's 2011 introduction 'Twenty First Century'



'Premier' (Barr 1899)  
Plotner photo



'Ross Island' (Price 2012)  
N. Price photo

The hybridizer whose irises were selected the most was Eleanor McCown who hybridized Spuria irises between 1962 and 1994. During her hybridizing years she was awarded nine Eric Nies Awards and one Eric Nies Medal. Twelve of her Spuria irises were selected in this poll includ-

ing five of her Eric Nies Award winners, 'Highline Lavender', 'Imperial Bronze', 'Imperial Ruby', 'Adobe Sunset', and 'Janice Chesnik'.

Nine cultivars tied for the top most popular Spuria iris position. The hybridizer, or in this case hybridizers, who had the most Spuria irises appearing in the top nine were Anna and David Cadd. Included was their 2011 Eric Nies Award winner, 'Speeding Star'. Two other Eric Nies Award winners in the top nine were 'Cinnamon Stick' (Niswonger '83) and 'Countess Zeppelin' (Hager '87).



'Sellwood' (Price 2012)  
Price photo

Spuria Cultivar	Hybridizer
Top nine Cultivars (in alphabetical order)	
'Cinnamon Stick'	Niswonger '83
'Countess Zeppelin'	Hager '87
'Kiss of Carmel'	Cadd '02
'Mythical Nights'	Hedgecock '09
'Out Of Dreams'	Cadd '04
'Ruffled Canary'	McCown '70
'Saint Patrick's Gold'	Cadd '03
'Speeding Star'	Cadd '02
'Walk The Line'	Hedgecock '09
The next 18 Spuria cultivars selected were (in alphabetical order)	
'Color Focus'	Jenkins '90
'Custom Design'	Hager '81
'Destination'	Hager '84
'Doris Irene'	Jenkins '03
'Galaxy Lord'	Jenkins by Hedgecock '07
'Golden Ducat'	Cadd '04
'Highline Amethyst'	McCown '76
'Ila Remembered'	Hager '92
'Lilting Lavender'	Aitken '09
'Line Dancing'	Jenkins by Hedgecock '07

Spuria Cultivar	Hybridizer
'Megatrend'	Hager '86
'Midnight Rival'	Johnsen '93
'Offering'	Corlew '92
'Red War Clouds'	L. Walker '05
'Remembering Vic'	L. Walker '05
'Violet Fusion'	L. Walker '06
'White Heron'	Milliken '48

As the 2013 growing season approaches watch for the Spuria irises in your garden, make some notes on your favorites and plan to participate in the 2013 Spuria Iris Popularity Poll.

## Request for Guest Spuria Irises

2016 Spuria Iris Convention - Region 15 Spring Meeting  
Los Angeles, California

The San Fernando Valley Iris Society will be host for a Spuria Iris Convention in late April / early May 2016 (exact dates will be announced later). Hybridizers are invited to send rhizomes of recent Spuria introductions and seedlings under consideration for introduction.

Please observe the following guidelines for submission of guest iris:

1. There will be two large and beautiful public gardens for display:  
The Huntington Library & Gardens and Descanso Gardens.  
You may send up to four rhizomes of any one variety. They will be divided among the two gardens.
2. Plants will be accepted from September 1st to October 15th, 2013.
3. Let us know as soon as possible, if you're contributing plants and how many. Please write to the Guest Iris Chair and the Convention Chair.
4. Ship Plants to:  
Jill Bonino, Guest Iris Chair  
3110 Kirkham Drive,  
Glendale, CA 91206  
Email: jillbon@earthlink.net
5. The name of the variety or the seedling number should be clearly marked on each plant



6. In addition please send the following information on a separate packing list accompanying the plants:
  - a. Hybridizer's name, street address, phone #, and email address
  - b. Plant name or seedling number of each variety
  - c. Height and color

If a guest seedling is later named, it is the responsibility of the Hybridizer to notify the Guest iris Chair no later than January 2016.

Before the convention, hybridizers will be asked for instructions for disposition of plants and for any donations for auction to help raise money for the society. Failure to reply in a timely manner will be interpreted as permission to destroy all seedlings and to distribute or put into auction with other named varieties. Required returns will be at hybridizer's expense.

Note: Because these are very popular public gardens, there's a possibility that these two locations will become permanent Spuria Iris Display Gardens, which means that they may want to keep your rhizomes for the public to see even after the Convention.

The convention Committee will follow the code of ethics as printed in the AIS Convention Handbook (last revision 2007).

For information write to Spuria Convention Chair:  
Andi Rivarola andinsky@gmail.com

## Missouri Rambling

By Jim Hedgecock

Dear Iris Friends,

I have noticed a lot of interest is forming on spuria irises in other countries. I have had a number of interested parties asking about shipments to Australia and New Zealand and in particular the Soviet countries. That's a wonderful thing, but the real truth is most are not possible. I guess many of you know it is impossible to ship plants to Australia and New Zealand. Their customs boards won't allow it. The European block countries adopted new shipping regulations and just about every country it seems like interprets the laws differently. To top all of this off, phytosanitary certificates are now \$35.00 and I have been told that is probably not going to be the final price. When you add shipping

to this, it gets very expensive to ship plants over there.

If you are hybridizing spurias, please watch for unusual color breaks in your seedlings. I saved a thousand or more seeds of Floyd Wickenkamp's Mystic Mesa that were open pollinated. The registration on this iris says that it has varying degrees of violet in the standards and falls. I have not bred it, but maybe that variation will produce something. I will plant these this year.

As long as I am on the subject, Charlie Jenkins thought that spuria seeds germinated better if they were at least two years old. I have not tested this as such, but I have got a number of seeds that are several years old. I hope to plant these this fall and we will see how they germinate.

We are introducing the first of some seedlings from a cross that Larry Johnsen made of Tiffany May X Midnight Rival. I am so impressed with the form of these seedlings. Tiffany May has round ruffled florets and Midnight Rival gave the seedlings good size. Substance on all is superb. We are also introducing the last seedling of Joe Ghio's. This red black with burnt gold signals is a wonderful addition to the now emerging dark spurias in commerce.

I hope you all have a good spring and remember to make a spuria cross or two when you are in the garden. God Bless you and your gardens.

Respectfully,  
Jim Hedgecock

## This That and a Few Other Things

By Brad Kasperek

Here it is the middle of February and I'm still in full hibernation! Last year winter temperatures were 10-15 degrees above average and I was raring to get ready for spring. This year it is 10- 15 degrees below average, the snow just doesn't melt, and the significant air pollution has caused repeated headaches and eye irritation. Writing this article is my first effort to try and rejoin the "human" race this year.

As most of you know last year was way above average in temperatures and it was also hot and dry here. Once again I cross-pollinated 700 to 800 blossoms, but many didn't "take" because I believe the stigmatic lips were drying up too fast in our hot, dry air. We harvested a little over 12,000

seeds in September and divided them into three planting groups: 2000 were planted "green" in September 2012; 6,000 to chill until planting in February of 2013; and, 4,000 to cure and plant in June 2013. I had planned on potting up the chilled seed during the first part to this month, but am still waiting to shovel a path to the greenhouse and dig out the door.

In 2011 the seeds I planted in June in my seed bed had good germination in the fall and all seedlings were well-sized for spring transplanting in 2012. However, in 2012 the seed planted in the seed bed in June didn't even start to sparsely germinate until the middle of October. I'm wondering how this and the cold start to 2013 will impact the number of spring seedling transplants this year. In addition to the ones in the seed bed there will be those potted last January. These are the residual pots whose seedlings weren't large or numerous enough to plant either last spring or fall. We did transplant a few over 300 seedlings from pots last fall.

As if my difficulties in germination aren't enough, I must also confess to high losses in my transplanted seedlings. Loss rates are running around 25 to 60% depending on the cross. I must be killing them with "love" because the May transplants are under shade cloth and watered deeply each week during hot weather. Those that show some new growth by the end of June will be fine, but those that don't will turn brown by the end of July. All the rows of seedlings receive the same care and by mid-September around 10% of the brown seedlings will show new growth but most stay "dead".

The seedlings we plant around Labor Day seem to have similar survival rates although most losses appear to be from winter heaving. In the fall of 2011 we mulched 1 of 3 rows of fall transplants with a hand of sand and that row appeared to have higher survival rates. Last fall we mulched with sand on all three rows of fall transplants and are hoping for better survival rates. However, this winter's weather is the complete opposite of last winter's thus it will be hard to determine the affect of the sand.

Seed harvesting time here in September is a great opportunity to compare the fertility of different spurias. A plant that sets most of the flowers that are hand-pollinated appears to be a great pod parent, but the best measure is the quantity of seeds

found inside the pods. Some spuria varieties will produce wall-to-wall seeds in a pod, 50 to 90 of them, while other equally full appearing pods have only 20 or so seeds. There are many possible causes of low seed count ranging from the fertility of the flower or pollen when crossed to incompatible chromosomes between parents, but if the seed production per pod is consistent regardless of pollen parent then I blame it on the pod parent. While the pollen parent takes the "rap" if pods are few or nonexistent on several different pod parents. Now if you're hoping I'm leading up to a significant conclusion - I will disappoint.

To me it seems that pod parents are very consistent on seed production (often little or none) regardless of the pollen used while most cultivars have fertile pollen. This has led me to seek out good pod and seed producing parents and to cross them with the pollen from many different cultivars. This often makes successful reciprocal crosses difficult to produce even though I prefer to make them.

A second major hybridizing problem is that the breeding lines of different hybridizers often have fertility problems when intercrossed. I expect this is because the development of spurias is still in its early stages and many of the earlier hybridizers worked to incorporate different spuria species into their breeding lines. However, since there are differences in chromosome counts among the species each hybridizer's line is somewhat genetically unique leading to major fertility problems among introductions. This genetic uniqueness and the subsequent fertility problems will make it very difficult to concentrate and refine the underlying genetic potential of the incorporated spuria species. Tall bearded irises have gone through similar development, but the real potential in colors and patterns incorporated from bearded species had to wait until almost all breeding lines were uniformly 48 chromosomes.

Thus in spuria hybridizing it is just as important to develop a uniform breeding chromosome number as it is to incorporate additional spuria species into breeding lines. Today many of the most prized colors and patterns in tall bearded iris flowers are from recessive characteristics that took decades to concentrate and refine. This won't develop in spuria hybridizing until a uniform chromosome count becomes the norm.



Cheers! Brad

## Editor's Corner

By Darol Jurn

The past few months at our new home as been a real learning experience, specifically as it applies to the local wildlife. One recent October morning around 4:30 am my significant other took our female dog out to do her morning duty in the yard only to have her dart to the patio (opposite direction from the yard). Something had caught her attention in the area of my Iris garden and she was checking it out. Since it was still dark, Dee Dee could only hear noises emitting from the garden area which sounded like "munching." She did not hang around to see what it was but scurried back into the house with our furry companion. When sufficient morning light appeared I surveyed my Iris garden only to find that a prickly pear cactus located inside my garden fenced area had been ravaged by none other than a Javelina. Additional survey of the garden revealed at least one Javelina had bedded down inside the garden area. Further review discovered many more Javelina were feasting on items outside the garden fenced area as well. They had a party and we were not invited! Javelina tracks were EVERYWHERE. Now I just have to figure out how they got into the garden. I may be tasked with upgrading my fence charger with more "juice" or put up more fence! So needless to say we had a "close encounter" with Javelina leaving my prized Iris garden intact.....at least for now.....

Rabbits are proving to be a respected advisory. During mid year 2012 the rabbits decimated many of my iris clumps proving to be a costly food source. I put up more electric wire around the garden which appeared to solved the problem. My irises recovered from that rabbit attack.....until recently. I am now convinced during the rabbits attended basic survival school during the hiatus because they have returned this past fall and made successful attacks on my prized iris clumps, not to mention several were new plantings from the 2012 National Convention. Not wanting to replace the fence with chicken wire for aesthetic reasons I resorted to a suggestion from two of my iris peers. So with that thought I placed rabbit feed outside the iris garden to distract the rabbits. It appears to be working..... until the Javelina made a recent tour through my neighborhood and located the rabbit pellets. So much for that idea. Who would have thought Javelina would dine on rabbit pellets?

Review of ingredients finds that the pellets contain molasses. Apparently molasses must be considered a Javelina delicacy, so needless to say rabbit pellets are off the menu as it attracts unwanted guests. Next on my shopping list will be liquid fence. I am usually skeptical of commercial products that advertise results because they usually do not deliver, but in this case I will give it a try.

In an attempt to determine how the rabbits have been crossing the electric fence I recently purchased a "game camera." For those of you who are not avid hunters a game camera is a motion activated camera that takes superb photos/videos day or night. The night photos/videos use infrared technology hence no light is required. I have been placing the camera in a strategic location to capture a video of any pesky rabbit that may have visions of crossing the electric fence with the intent of dining on my Iris.

To date I have not had a rabbit cross the electric fence into the iris garden. Usually the only thing captured on the camera memory are photos/videos of rabbits. However Christmas Eve proved to be a night like none other. Not only were rabbits captured on video but also a Bobcat, an army of Javelina and two different occurrences of Coyotes. The rabbit's timing was impeccable. Had the rabbit's timing been earlier or later the rabbit would have been on the Coyote's or Bobcat's menu. With a little luck eventually the rabbit will meet one of the 'other' local visitors and resolve the attacks on my Iris beds.

Until next time, I hope your iris gardens do well.

## 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 (1963):*

The January 1963 Spuria News noted annual dues for an individual member were \$1.00.

In an article titled "News From Here and There" one paragraph honored the first president of the Spuria Iris Society Mrs. J. Willis Slaughter. Of interest in this paragraph it was noted that the Spuria Iris Society came to existence on May 27, 1952 at the AIS National Convention in Houston.

## Forty years ago (1973):

The January 1973 Spuria News noted annual dues for an individual member are still at \$1.00 and that the new lifetime membership is \$20.

The January News edition noted struggles with the Spuria Symposium (i.e., popularity vote). In an effort to revive the symposium it was established that the ballot include: 1) the name of the voter, 2) list no more than 10 cultivars to be voted, 3) cultivars be listed in order of preference, and 4) ballot must be signed.

From the "Round Robin Topics", Allen Harper from "Top O' The Ridge Gardens" of Kansas City made note of a rather severe attack of iris borers.

"They moved into the spuria patch from the TB beds where I have been keeping them under good control. I had assumed that spurias were relatively immune to the borers and had offered them no protection. After supplying the spuria patch with the same protection I always use on the TBs, it appears that there was no borer problem this year. Let this be a warning to those who do not treat their spuria areas to prevent borers. Don't learn the hard way!"

As most of you probably know, Walker Ferguson was a very active hybridizer, there were nine registrations listed in the 1973 January Spuria News of which Walker Ferguson was responsible for six of them.

## Twenty years ago (1993):

It was noted in the Presidents Message that new for 1993 for the first time spurias will be eligible for an Award of Merit. The final changes were approved by the Board at the fall meeting. Smaller sections, like the spuria section will all have Awards of Merit and their previous awards similar to the Nies Award will be advanced to Medal Status.

## Ten years ago (2003):

The winter edition notes that there were 25 commercial Spuria sources listed two of which were international gardens (Tempo Two in Victoria, Australia and Chuck Chapman Iris in Ontario, Canada) This year the Spuria News listed 13 Spuria introductions. Most were introduced by Charles Jenkins and Dave Niswonger a couple others introduced by Georgi Rodionenko (Russia) 'Frigiya' and Barry Blyth (Australia) 'Twilight Dragon'.

## "A Lawn"

By Walker Ferguson

Editors note: While reviewing historic newsletters for my "Blast from the Past" column, I came across this poem by Walker Ferguson which appeared in the 1973 January edition of the Spuria News. I found it worthy of reprinting.

A lawn to me is just a pain  
Here in this land of little rain.  
The work you do is so in vain  
You grow it and you mow it.

You buy and plant expensive seed,  
You try to keep out every weed  
And fertilize;? Oh, yes indeed  
To grow it and to mow it.

All year, you have to irrigate;  
The blame thing will not hibernate.  
So there's no time to hesitate  
With growing and the mowing.

It must be watered once a week  
To keep it growing at its peak,  
And tho' the joints begin to creak  
You have to keep on mowing.

There's nothing you can sell or eat  
It doesn't smell so very sweet,  
And still you strive to keep it neat.  
You grow it and you mow it.

It doesn't have a fragrant smell,  
There's nothing you can eat or sell.  
So what is there that does impel  
The growing and the mowing?

If those two verses may seem trite,  
I think they really are as bright  
As keeping up the steady fight  
Of growing and of mowing.

The better you can make it grow  
The oftener you have to mow  
You must admit this all is so  
But - go on with the mowing.

The remedy would seem to be  
A nice big houseboat on the sea.  
But ocean life is not for me,  
And so, I'll grow and mow it.

2013 Spuria Introductions

'Admiral's Braid' (Aitken - 2013) M, 48", 4 or 5 buds. Sdlg. # 05SPU-1A. Seed from unidentified Barry Blyth hybrid. Available at Aitken's Flower Fantasy.



'Blue Starlight' (Lee Walker - 2013) Spuria 40" Mid Season, standards have a yellow center with veining running into broken yellow colors, blue violet and dark blue edge Style arms are blue violet in center and on tip

and edged cream falls have dark yellow center turning to medium yellow with blue violet veining and blue violet edge, ruffled with slight Fragrance. Available at Wildwood Gardens.

'Cast of Walnut' (Aitken - 2013) ML, 48", 5 or 6 buds w/2 or 3 branches. Sdlg. #00SPU-2B (Missouri Iron Ore x unknown), Sibling to 'Cast of Green'. Available from Aitken's Flower Fantasy.



'Cosmic Sunshine' (Lee Walker - 2013) Spuria 41" Mid to late season; Standards are medium gold with slight grey cast and deep gold veining; style arms are bright gold turning to medium gold edge; Falls are medium gold

with deep gold veining slight Fragrance. Available at Wildwood Gardens.

'Farewell Address' (Joe Ghio - 2013) Sdlg. 99-265-A-Spuria Iris, 39", M. The florets are ruffled red black with burnt gold splayed signals that cover most of the fall surfaces. Available at Comanche Acres



'Mahogany Embers' (Larry Johnsen - 2013) Sdlg. Spu TM13-Spuria, 37", ML. Ruffled standards are deep mahogany with violet shades at the mid-ribs. The ruffled falls are yellow with dense mahogany veining from the signal

areas to the edges. The color deepens at the edges. Small yellow signals are spotted light brown. 'Tiffany May' X 'Midnight Rival'. Available at Comanche Acres

'Wapiti Citi' (B Kasperek '13) SPU 42" EM. Lightly ruffled, S. rich red-purple with red-purple style arm, F. bright yellow signal, red-purple veining matching a wide, rich red-purple rim. SLDG. 5SP-11A: 'Art And Soul' X 'Rivulets of Pink'. Available at Zebra Iris Gardens.



## Spuria Sources

### Abbey Gardens

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

### Borglum's Iris Gardens

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

### Cadd's Beehive Iris Garden

329 North St.  
Healdsburg, CA 95448-4209  
Phone: (707) 433-8633  
E-mail: [caddsisiris@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto:jim@comancheacresiris.com)  
Website: [www.comancheacresiris.com](http://www.comancheacresiris.com)



### Iris Howse and Gardens

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

### Kary Iris Garden

6201 East Calle Rosa  
Scottsdale, AZ 85251-4224  
Phone: (480) 949-0253  
E-mail: [ardikary@aol.com](mailto:ardikary@aol.com)  
Website: [www.karyiris.com](http://www.karyiris.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](mailto: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](mailto:scottsisiris@sbcglobal.net)  
Website: [www.scottsisirisgardens.com](http://www.scottsisirisgardens.com)

### Snowpeak Iris and Daylilies, LLC

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



### Wildwood Gardens

P.O. Box 250  
Molalla, OR 97038-0250  
E-mail: [gardens@molalla.net](mailto:gardens@molalla.net)  
Website: [www.wildwoodgardens.net](http://www.wildwoodgardens.net)



### Zebra Iris Gardens

9130 North 5200 West  
Elwood, UT 84773-8640  
E-mail: [zebrairis@gmail.net](mailto:zebrairis@gmail.net)  
Website: [www.zebrairis.com](http://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](mailto:djurn@prodigy.net) or (928) 282-5173.