

Spuria News

Spring 2018

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



'Line Dancing'

**2017 Spuria Popularity Poll Winner
B.C. Jenkins by Comanche Acres - 2007**

(Andi Rivarola photo)

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(terms expire 2020)

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President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer are elected officers serving 3 year terms and take office at SIS Annual Board Meeting at the AIS Convention or July 1 if no AIS Convention. The current terms expire in 2020.

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

Annual Domestic (includes Canada) . . . \$12
Tri-annual Domestic (includes Canada) . \$30
ALL E-Members* - Annual . . . \$ 6
ALL E-Members* - Tri-annual . \$15
Annual Overseas \$15
Tri-annual Overseas \$40

* 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.**

Membership Renewals

For memberships that are expiring, the renewal due date is located in the upper right hand corner of the address label.

Membership renewals may be made by:

1. Electronically through the Spuria website (www.spuriairissociety.org) using PayPal via the membership page.
2. Electronically through the AIS website (www.irises.org) using either Visa, Master Card or PayPal.
3. By mail sending the appropriate funds (check made out to "Spuria Iris Society") to the Membership Chair, include your name, mailing address and email address if renewing as an E-Member (required).

Article Submission

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

Spring edition: February 28
Fall edition: August 31

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

President's Message

by Andi Rivarola



Dear friends,

As I write to you, most of my spuria iris leaves are already at over two-feet tall. It seems that it's going to be an early bloom this year.

In Southern California, we've had a dry Winter and so I had to water my plants more regularly than other years. In my case, since I only grow what I can in my small "garden in the city," the wonderful news about less or hardly any rain, is that one can control weeds, and watering.

Like you, I'm anxious to see how new spurias in my garden will turn out, especially a couple that I got at our Spuria Mini-Convention auction last year: a 2017 introduction by Jim Hedgecock, 'Catalina Bay;' two 2017 introductions by Anna Cadd, 'Mister David,' and 'The Other Side of Pluto;' plus a Kasperek spuria I've been after for a few years, 'Ode to a Toad;' and yet another Kasperek introduction from 2013, 'As The Tern Turns.' I'm very excited because the registration informations on this one says, "slight fragrance." I'll keep you posted.

Many of us are getting ready for the National Convention of The American Iris Society, this year being held in New Orleans, Louisiana. I'm looking forward to visiting the bayous and local natural habitats of some of the Louisiana iris component species that grow in the area such as *I. giganticaerulea*, *I. fulva*, *I. brevicaulis*, *I. nelsonii*, and *I. hexagona* and get an education about these beauties right on the spot. Nothing like seeing where it all started.

At the New Orleans Convention, the Spuria Iris Society will hold a program by our own VP, Anna Cadd, and if you're attending please see our information table where we will have a spuria iris fundraising sale. Please note that our Spuria Iris Society Board has decided to reduce the price of the beautiful spuria iris checklist. The rates and additional information is listed on another page in his newsletter and/or online at our website: <http://www.spuriairissociety.org/>

www.spuriairissociety.org/ There will be some checklists available for sale in New Orleans.

If you live or are visiting the Southern California area don't forget to visit The Huntington Library and Gardens and Descanso Gardens where our Mini-Convention was held in 2017 and where an important collection of spuria irises still exist.

Always ready to listen to your ideas, recommendations and feedback.

Happy Spring 2018!

Andi Rivarola,
President Spuria Iris Society

New Members

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

- Kathleen Arnold, East Peoria, IL
- Wayne Crabbs, San Diego, CA
- Dennis & Sharon Leubkin, Glendale, AZ
- Joni Renshaw, Tekamah, NE
- Madeline West, Seabeck, WA

Treasurers Report

By Debbie James

Report date 09/01/2017 through 02/01/2018

Beginning Balance	\$7,331.40
Income	
Checklist:	<u>55.00</u>
Sub Total:	\$55.00
Membership	
Single annual:	84.00
Single triennial:	210.00
3yr E-Membership:	60.00
Overpayment refund:	<u>12.00</u>
Sub Total:	\$366.00
Total Income:	\$421.00
Expenses	
Checklist printing:	16.00
Newsletter costs:	246.22
Website and Domain Fee:	157.04
Postage stamps:	20.00
PayPal Fees:	<u>6.33</u>
Total Expenses:	\$445.59
Ending Balance:	\$7,306.81
CD Balance:	\$1,209.35
Total Assets:	\$8,516.16

Spuria News

Board Actions

The following motions were made via E-Mail:

- January 9 - 17, 2018 - Motion made by Darol Jurn to reduce the Spuria Checklist by \$10 for domestic purchases only to \$45 based on reduced printing costs. Motion seconded by Debbie James. Following discussion, the motion was voted on as presented.

Motion passed unanimously.

- February 4, 2018 - Motion made by Andi Rivarola to renew the fees for the Spuria domain name registration (\$13 to Namecheap.com) and the Spuria website (\$144 to GoDaddy.com) for a total fee of \$157. Motion seconded by Anna Cadd. Following discussion, the motion was voted on as presented.

Motion passed unanimously.

Digital Program

The Spuria Iris Society is happy to bring you the 2013 Digital Presentation for your iris or garden club.

Please order the digital program via Paypal or send a check made to the Spuria Iris Society to our Treasurer:

Debbie James - Spuria Iris Society Treasurer
6634 Gaviota St.
Lake Balboa, CA 91406-5943

The current price is \$10.00.

Once the payment is received, an E-mail note will be sent to the buyer with information about downloading the program online via Goggle Drive. (If for some reason you do not have access to Google Drive, please let us know.)

Andi Rivarola
andinsky@gmail.com

Spuria Checklist

The Spuria Checklist has been revised for 2017 and is currently available. This checklist includes many *new* and *updated* photographs including registrations through 2017 for a total of 265 pages. The cost has been reduced for domestic orders

from \$55 to \$45. The purchase price including postage is:

- \$45 for domestic orders,
- \$55 for Canada orders (US dollars),
- \$65 for International orders (US dollars)

Purchasing a checklist may be completed using ONE of the following methods:

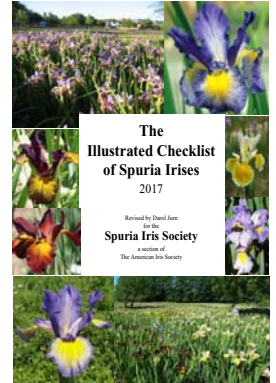
- The Spuria website has the details for ordering at <http://www.spuriairissociety.org/tools.html> using PayPal.
- Or send a check made out to the Spuria Iris Society to the Treasurer, Debbie James (the address is listed on page two of this newsletter).

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.



Visit the Spuria Iris Society "store" where anyone can purchase spuria items such as clothing, coffee mugs, and various other items. Visit <https://www.cafepress.com/spuriairissociety> to view available items.

**The American Iris Society and the
Society for Louisiana Irises 2018 Convention
New Orleans, April 8 - 14**

Hosted by the Greater New Orleans Iris Society

Hilton New Orleans Airport
901 Airline Drive
Kenner, LA

Reservations: 1-800-872-5914, ext 1
Reservations Code: "AIS"

Note: As of early February there are a limited number of available registrations remaining.

Spuria Program at New Orleans

Anna Cadd from Healdsburg, California, and Vice-President of Spuria Iris Society will present the

program "Love for Spuria irises". Anna has been growing Spurias since 1990, introduced 30 spuria varieties with David Cadd, received twice the Eric Nies Medal and generally is very enthusiastic about teaching any person interested in growing irises about spurias in the garden as a very valuable garden perennial. She will tell a little about the history of hybridizing spurias and about people behind spuria history in 100 years of AIS. She will also show the pictures of older and newest spurias in the garden and a little about spurias themselves. She will try to make this program interesting and explain her "Love for Spurias."

Spuria Popularity Poll

By Darol Jurn

Can it be, the 2017 Eric Nies winner also wins the 2017 popularity poll? It is now a fact. One third of the participants voted for 'Line Dancing', a Charles Jenkins cultivar introduced by Comanche Acres. Of those that voted for 'Line Dancing' all but one listed 'Line Dancing' as either their first or second choice.

New to the top ten are 'Ibex Ibis' (Kasperek, 2012), and 'Innovator' (Hager, 1991). 'Speeding Star' (my favorite) moved from tenth place in 2015 and 2016 to fourth place and 'Zulu Chief' returned to the top ten from 2015.

Dave Niswonger's 'Adriatic blue' remains a favorite as it placed second this year with previous first place finishes in 2015 and 2016.

Two historic irises that remain on the 2017 list are 'Countess Zeppelin' (Ben Hager, 1987) and 'Kaibab Tail' (Floyd Wickenkamp, 1985).

The 2017 top ten Spuria irises as selected by our members are:

2015	2016	2017	Cultivar
3	4	1	'Line Dancing' (Jenkins by Comanche Acres, 2007)
1	1	2	'Adriatic Blue' (Niswonger, 1996)
--	11 (tie)	3	'Ibex Ibis' (Kasperek, 2012)
10	10	4	'Speeding Star' (Cadd, 2002)
17	11 (tie)	5	'Innovator' (Hager, 1991)

2015	2016	2017	Cultivar
--	8	6	'Lemon Tower' (L Walker, 2008)
6	2	7 (tie)	'Countess Zeppelin' (Hager, 1987)
6 (tie)	--	7 (tie)	'Zulu chief' (Jenkins, 1992)
19	3	9 (tie)	'Castor River' (Niswonger, 2006)
10	5	9 (tie)	'Kaibab Trail' (Wickenkamp, 1985)

2nd place



'Adriatic Blue'
Niswonger - 1996
(Jurn photo)

3rd place



'Ibex Ibis'
Kasperek - 2012
(Kasperek photo)

4th place



'Speeding Star'
A&D Cadd - 2002
(Jurn photo)

5th place



'Innovator'
Hager - 1991
(Aitken photo)

6th place



'Lemon Tower'
Lee Walker - 2008
(Jurn photo)

Tied for 7th place



'Countess Zeppelin'
Hager - 1987
(Jurn photo)



'Zulu Chief'
Jenkins - 1992
(L. Johnsen photo)

Tied for 9th place



'Castor River'
Niswonger - 2006
(Jurn photo)



'Kaibab Trail'
Wickenkamp - 1985
(Jurn photo)

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2017 popularity poll. Submissions came from SIS members living in a wide range of USDA zones; from zone 10a (California) to zone 5a (Ontario, Canada) which demonstrates the versatility of this iris.

Thinking of adding a new spuria to your collection? You might want to consider one of these top ten! Pictures can be found in the Spuria section of the AIS TWIKI: <http://wiki.irises.org/bin/view/Spu/WebHome>. We are always looking for pictures so if you have any you want to upload to the AIS TWIKI you can contact Terry Laurin, Photo Manager. His email address is tlaurin@rogers.com.

Spurias In Oregon

By Kevin Vaughn

2017 was not the best iris year in Oregon. Our rainy season was a VERY rainy season, with over 45" of rain from October-April. Bearded irises that appreciate dry weather were not at all happy and a bed of Pacific Coast Natives were virtually wiped out after being flooded. The spurias were another story. Almost in spite of the rain, the bloom on the spurias was especially good and every plant bloomed almost in excess, making up for their bearded cousins. For example, several years ago I planted 8 cultivars in a bed bordering a huge Douglas fir stump, in an effort to obscure this stump. It worked like a charm (photo above) and I defy you to see the stump now and there were close to 100 stalks in that very small garden.



The "stump clump"

As much as I enjoy growing irises, hybridizing is my raison d'etre. I can't help but look at a plant and not think of a way in which to improve it. Before I left Mississippi, I was crossing a lot with my spuria 'Banned in Boston'. It had lots of qualities I like in a spuria as the blooms are wide and the strong striping of dark purple on the falls is very distinct. The stalk is wonderful as the blooms open nicely with no crowding and all the flowers open well. The last year in Mississippi, I crossed 'Banned in Boston' with 'Destination' and 'Missouri Orange', hoping to get a spuria with the basic color of 'Banned in Boston' but with a large orange signal to contrast with the purple striping. These seedlings bloomed in '13 and '14 and were a fairly motley bunch, mostly sort of dirtied purples and bronzes. Sometimes hybridizers have to hold their noses and make a cross that doesn't look that good to

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the eye, but you know has "wonderful genes." So, I dutifully crossed the best flower from each of the two groups of 'Banned in Boston' X orange crosses in '14 and '15. Most of these seedling bloomed this spring and although I didn't get the planned-for 'Banned in Boston' with orange signal, what came out was a very nice crop of brown spurias with stripes of brown on an orange background. Although most of the seedlings had striping only on the falls, a number of the seedlings also had striping on the standards as well as the falls (photo below). This pattern had occurred in some of the other colors of 'Banned in Boston'



seedlings but it seemed especially striking on these brown over orange combinations. I was most happy that the seedlings had taken after 'Banned in Boston' for having large and wide flowers as seedlings from the oranges can often be small, harking back to small-flowered 'Elixir', which is behind most of the oranges. The best of these flowers were sib-crossed to see what will come next from this most interesting group.

As hybridizers we try for things we don't have already. Dave Niswonger has pursued pink for a while and others have gone after red. When Lee Walker's 'Red War Clouds' first bloomed for me I was impressed at how much further towards red this spuria was than its predecessors. A look at the pedigree showed that it had the red and pink approaches developed by others ('Zulu Chief', 'Countess Zeppelin' and 'Pink Candles') so the genes were there for further improvement.

Although the flower was not large, it was rather nicely formed and the plant grew well (photo at top

of next column). Just down the bed from 'Red War Clouds' was Barry Blyth's 'Mahogany Lord'. 'Mahogany Lord' is an odd shade, purple sort of



flushed red, giving a maroon effect. On paper this looked like a match made in Heaven, as both were approaches to red and hopefully the effect of both would be redder yet. 'Mahogany Lord' was also a bigger, wider flower so improvements in size and form could also result. Almost 200 seedlings resulted from the crosses, done in both directions. Let's just say it was easy to dig out the good ones. It was a very sad lot for both form and color. Most were small flowers with rather muddy brown colors predominating. Only one was saved as a slight improvement in color and had at least acceptable form. It will never be introduced but it might be useful as a parent down the road. I should say that 'Red War Clouds' is not a horrible parent as I had just 4 seedlings from 'Lucky Devil' X 'Red War Clouds' and all were nice, not red, but nice dark purples with good form. Two of these were sib-crossed in an effort to recover the red. I also used Terry Aitken's lovely 'Hot Chili' with these seedlings, so there may be red in my future yet. Several years ago Dave Niswonger commented that he often made crosses that on paper would think you were progressing towards pink and getting nothing close but in a cross not intended for pink they appeared. I suddenly knew exactly how he felt! This year all the selected seedlings from previous years bloomed well and I hope to make final selections of a number of seedlings from

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- Spurias in Oregon continued -

the last 4 bloom seasons. These mostly involve crosses of 'Banned in Boston' and 'Angel's Smile' crossed to other colors, to take advantage of the form and branching habits of these hybrids. Most of these crosses gave siblings of similar quality so final decisions will be made based upon bud counts and vigor as well as beauty of the flowers. Seedlings from intercrossing these selections should bloom this spring to see if any of these plants are also going to be yielding parents.

Growing Spuria Iris in the Southeast

By Jim McCall

As I read the latest Spuria Iris Newsletter, I can't help but note the high percentage of members that live west of the Mississippi River. In fact, there is as little as one member in several southeastern states. There are many reasons for this disparity. The soil in the southeast has a lot of red clay. High humidity can contribute to disease. Many spuria want to go dormant in July and August but then we have rain for a week after they go dormant and problems with rot occur. Lastly, many people in the southeast have never heard of spuria iris including members of my East Tennessee Iris Society.

There are ways to mitigate these difficulties. A raised bed with rich soil helps quite a bit. Remember not to water your spuria iris in July/August if they go dormant. (Note: A small number of spuria like Belize do not go dormant but be careful not to over water them just the same). Spuria are heavy feeders and well rotted manure seems to work very well. Basic 10-10-10 also works well for me. I fertilize about a month before bloom with the 10-10-10 and I like to add the well rotted manure in the early spring and mid fall time period. Also, I would recommend not using any type of mulch. Some folks use mulch on newly planted spuria to keep them from heaving during winter freezes but that can keep the rhizomes too moist sometimes. One last thing, make sure they get full sun but a little dappled shade in the late afternoon keeps the blooms more vibrant.

When I first started growing spuria iris, I had trouble keeping them alive and blooming. But I have learned from my many mistakes. Spuria Iris that grow and bloom well in the Southeast for me are

Hager's 'Innovator', 'Zamboanga' and 'Countess Zeppelin', Walker's 'Lemon Tower' and Niswonger's 'Missouri Autumn' (Note: One of my stalks of 'Lemon Tower' had ten blooms this past year). Others that I really like but don't do quite as well are 'Solar Fusion', 'Adriatic Blue', 'Violet Fusion', 'Speeding Star' and 'Stella Irene'. There are others that do not grow or bloom well for me or are too new to my garden to properly evaluate. I don't like to form an opinion of a spuria iris until I have grown it for about four years.

In summary, I would recommend folks in the southeast grow a few spuria iris. They are nice cut flowers, don't need to be divided like other iris and they add a nice architecture to the garden. While they can be a challenge, they have become my favorite type of iris.

Missouri Rambling

By Jim Hedgecock

I hope the new issue of the Society newsletter finds all of you well and staying away from this terrible flu season. We have had some very low temps so far. We have had a number of days not even close to freezing and several days from zero to ten for a high.

I want discuss culture a little bit on spurias. We introduced a number of Charlie Jenkins plants before he passed. Charlie believed that the older the seeds from crosses were, the better they germinate. I have planted a number of older seeds and while I did not check to see exactly how old they were, they did pretty good at germination. I will say that very seldom is my germination rate better than 50 percent.

Another thing that Charlie believed was that when a new hybridizer started breeding spurias, he does not know the chromosome count on the various varieties. The breeder will try different crosses and find that some take and sometimes seeds don't germinate. Sometimes counts blend and the seeds are good. The breeder certainly does not know all of the counts. Here's the situation. When the lines are formed by the new breeder, he is establishing varieties that can be crossed with no germination problems. Now the problems sometimes start. The new breeder wants to cross other hybridizer's varieties with his. As each spuria

- Missouri Rambling continued on page 10 -

- Missouri Rambling continued -

hybridizer forms his own lines, they may work fine for him, but not do so well with other varieties. Many times the crosses will work, but sometimes the seeds will not be formed in the pod, or they make, but won't sprout. I mention this here so that anyone that does not know these concerns will not give up. There are stories all over the iris world of only one seed being formed in a pod and a new color was discovered.

One more subject I want to dig into is when and how do you plant seeds and seedlings. I give my thoughts here, but I can assure you that there so many more than what I will discuss. I tried planting in cans and it did not work. They will germinate, but they freeze if left in the cans over winter. I know you can bury the cans to the rim. This will help, but I don't want to take the time to plant the cans and then dig them up. I don't want to plant seedling until they are good size. So I plant in open ground. The longest time that spuria seeds were tested, they sprouted all the way to 17 years. So the argument will be that you will contaminate the soil with seedlings coming up for years. The other problem is that I seldom get germination the first year. So what do you do with the beds if they don't germinate the first year? If there is no germination you can use Roundup for that first year on the soil. Now the last question is when do you transplant seedlings? I just can't plant new seedlings and have any luck. I leave them together until they bloom. They will run together some, but I don't have losses trying to set out little seedlings. Here a story. I planted a section with spuria crosses, 15 years ago. They have finally slowed down on new different seedlings appearing in the last two years. I will have my hired help start digging that section out this year. I just don't know where I will find someone with a license to use dynamite.

One other thing, I send out an e-mail newsletter several times a month on iris culture during the growing months. You can sign up on our home page of our website, www.comancheacresiris.com. It is free. This newsletter is strictly culture and we will not flood you e-mail box with junk sale entries.

God Bless all of you and your families and gardens. Please remember our troops all over the world.

Respectfully,
Jim & Lamoyne Hedgecock

Editor's Corner

By Darol Jurn

When I lived in the Phoenix area (USDA hardiness zone 9b) until 2012 my spuria routinely went dormant in the summer and emerged from the summer dormancy in late September or early October.

They were religious about this emergence every year staying green until entering dormancy the following summer. I now live at an elevation of 4300 feet in USDA hardiness zone 8b. At this location a few of my spuria will emerge from a very short summer dormancy by *late* August. This past August approximately a dozen of my spuria emerged from dormancy in *early* August which I found odd. In retrospect, every year since I have been here, a few of my spuria that emerged early from the short summer dormancy always had light browning of the new leaves by September or October. This past fall several of my spuria emerged from dormancy in early August only to display significant browning of the new growth by late September.

This was most apparent in 'Blue Spiderweb' and 'Doris Irene'. All of these cultivars are now showing 'new growth' (see photo below of 'Doris Irene', the



brown leaves were new growth in early August, turned only to brown in late September/October and the clump is showing new growth again in January/February). This behavior is contrary to what my spuria displayed in the Phoenix area (USDA zone 9b), once the spuria emerged from the hot summer dormancy the new growth stayed green until the following summer. Could it really be that some of my spuria here in USDA zone 8b that are emerging from summer dormancy are re-entering a second short dormancy in the late fall? I will entertain opinions from any of our members who may have spuria that are exhibiting the same behavior.

The Search Continues

(Editor' note: In the 2017 Fall Spuria News, the Prescott Area Iris Society (PAIS) requested many spuria cultivars from Arizona hybridizers. After successfully locating many cultivars from that request, there are several cultivars yet to find)

The Prescott Area Iris Society is creating memorial plantings for four Arizona hybridizers (Charlie Jenkins, Larry Johnsen, Don Shepard, and Floyd Wickenkamp) and is looking for some elusive older cultivars for each. If you grow any of the irises listed below and are willing to donate a start for their project please contact Dennis Luebkin, the project coordinator for PAIS, at dluebkin@q.com.

Charles Jenkins:

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| • Amanda's Eyes | Beesea |
| • Billowing Clouds | Bronze Art |
| • Candle Lace | Color Socery |
| • Dandilite | Edith's Color |
| • Final Day | Finally Free |
| • Ice Glow | Irene Benton |
| • Indescent Bronze | Lemon Table |
| • Little Frills | Lively One |
| • Look Again | Minitrend |
| • My Gold | My Impulse |
| • My Sprite | New Vista |
| • Painters Choice | Popped Corn |
| • Purple Reign | Sun Halo |
| • Sunset Colors | Tiffany Mae |
| • Tiny Lou | Touch of Lace |
| • Twice Best | |

Larry Johnsen:

- Seriously

Don Shepard:

- Easter Design
- Laced Sunshine

Floyd Wickenkamp:

- Betty My Love
 - Colbalt Mesa
 - Sonoran Carnival
 - Sonoran Skies
- Chica De Sonora
Oro De Sonora
Sonoran Cutie

A Blast from the Past

By Darol Jurn

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

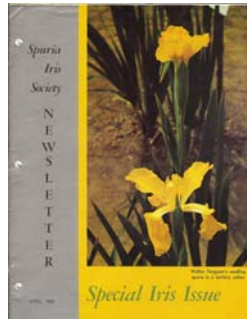
Fifty years ago (1968): In the January edition, there is an interesting article by Bill Gunther titled "Disreputable Parents." The article noted with bearded irises, as with automobiles, most new introductions of each year are announced as being definite advancements over all previous models. Commercial publicity assures customers that each latest model is the final triumphant culmination of many generations of selective line breeding, and that every successive generation of these "lines" represented something progressively better than the original species from which every line very necessarily originated. In contrast, publicity about a typical new spuria rarely claims that the introduction is the result of any sustained line breeding. In fact, the immediate parentage of many recent spuria introductions provides direct verification that these introductions are the product of no line breeding whatsoever.

On the related subject of "Disreputable Parents" article above, a letter to the Editor from Lois Hale of Australia notes she has been taking extensive effort to construct the pedigrees of her spuria seedlings and other irises in Australia. Her effort included researching the British Iris society year-books and AIS publications for the pedigrees where the pedigrees were not available in check-lists.

A letter to the Editor from Walker Ferguson of Escondido noted that Escondido received a good 2 inches of snow, at least ½ inch of rain with another storm on the way as of December 1967. *Editors note: I could be wrong, but I believe snow in Escondido is clearly a rare occurrence.*

In the January newsletter there was a short article from Ila Crawford noting the spuria additions to the Will Rogers display garden in Oklahoma City. *Editors note: As a result of the Spuria Convention last year hosted by the Spuria Iris Society and the San Fernando Valley Iris Society, the public can now find two spuria gardens in California, one at "The Huntington" in San Marino and the other at the "Descanso Gardens" in La Canada-Flintridge.*

The April newsletter proudly noted that this was the very first edition (and very possibly the last) with a color photo in full natural color (see insert at right). This cover was made possible with the support of California Garden Magazine. *Editors note: the color cover page returned in the 1971 April edition, and every newsletter since the 2002 winter edition have included color photos.*



Fourty years ago (1978): The spring newsletter is a treasure trove of articles from Dave Niswonger and Ben Hager on the subject of Breeding with species spurias.

The President's Message noted that abundant snow over many areas (in California) follows a historic draught which is expected to support a magnificent spring bloom.

Ben Hager contributed an article titled "The Species Spuria." He notes: considering the widening range of color appearing in our modern garden spurias it is surprising that only three or four of the fifteen or more spuria species have played a role in the development of these iris. His article is quite extensive regarding breeding with species, he concludes: "As a final note, if crosses are planned between the 40 chromosome group and any of the species, it is a good idea to use as the 40 chromosome parent a variety that is known to be virus resistant and one that has proven it can transmit this characteristic to its children. Perhaps that is why the *I. Carthaliniae* hybrids show more resistance than other hybrids. Both 'Golden Lady' and 'Morning Tide' are prime breeders for virus resistance."

Twenty years ago (1998): The spring edition lists 19 Spuria introductions by hybridizers including Pauline Evans, Charles Jenkins, Dave Niswonger, Sdenke Seidl, Shirley Sylvia, and Floyd Wickenkamp. A related article discussed hybridizer info and stated: "A review of the Registrations and Introductions of spurias the past few years shows a considerable reduction below the level of three years ago when there were a total of 33 listed. In fact, if it had not been for the hybridizers in Australia the number of registrations would have been the lowest in several years. Of the eleven new reg-

istrations for 1997 one was from the Czech Republic, two from the U.S. and the remaining eight were from Australia. So it seems that Australia has taken over from the U.S. as the prime source of new spurias. While the fact that spuria activity is growing in Australia is gratifying, what has happened to the U.S. hybridizers?"

An article by Bobbie Shepard was included regarding the 1998 Spuria Mini-Convention in Phoenix, which by the way was the first Spuria mini-convention being held in conjunction with the Region 15 Spring Trek.

Dave Niswonger contributed an article titled "Seed Color." In summary Dave noted that Spuria iris seeds vary in color from black to near white with shades of brown and pink in between. He wondered if the color of the seed could predict in any way what shade of flower would grow from that seed. *Editor's note: a followup question to Dave Niswonger revealed: "As I recall the results were not conclusive I didn't have very many seedlings to compare. I never got around to growing more seedlings..." I wonder if any other hybridizers have taken note to Dave's thought about seed color and the bloom color, it would be interesting to share any experiences that other hybridizers may have noticed regarding seed color vs. bloom color.*

Ten years ago (2008): The Spring edition makes note of the coming 2010 Spuria Mini-Convention to be held in Portland to include 4 guest gardens. The spring edition lists 12 introductions by Anna & David Cadd, Joe Ghio, Charles Jenkins (introduced through Comanche Acres), and Lee Walker.

2018 Introductions

'Black Stetson'
(Jim Hedgecock, 2018) Sdlg.
#CJM-50-H-Spuria Iris,
38 inches,
medium-late
bloom season.
Superb, new,
modern formed
black spuria Iris.
Standards dark
purple black. Wide falls are black with large



medium yellow signal covering the upper $\frac{1}{2}$ of the petals. Available at Comanche Acres.



'Lines Form Here' (Jim Hedgecock, 2018) Sdlg. #CJM-30-A-Spuria Iris, 32 inches, medium bloom season. Excellent form and stalks. Midwest bud count of 4. Standards are lightly ruffled, medium

purple with slight green rays at the midribs. Heavily ruffled falls are wine red with medium yellow lines radiating over most of the petals. Wine red $\frac{1}{4}$ inch borders. Available at Comanche Acres.

'Mohican Sun' (Jim Hedgecock, 2018) Sdlg. 99-7-G-Spuria Iris, 38 inches, medium bloom season. Ruffled brilliant gold self. Show stalks and a Midwest bud count of 4-5. Available at Comanche Acres.



'Pepe Le Blue' (Jim Hedgecock, 2018) Sdlg. CJL-4-G-Spuria Iris, 30 inches, early-medium bloom season. Ruffled standards are medium lavender blue with yellow infusions at the base of the mid-

ribs. Available at Comanche Acres.

'Reaper' (Jim Hedgecock, 2018) Sdlg. #T-45-A-Spuria Iris, 34 inches, Early-medium bloom season. Ruffled standards are red black. Ruffled falls are lighter red black with diffused dark yellow signals and $\frac{1}{4}$ inch darker red rims. Available at Comanche Acres.



'Silver Sonata' (Larry Johnsen, 2011) Sdlg. #TM-27-Spuria Iris, 35 inches, medium-late bloom season. Ruffled standards are light silver-grey violet. Falls, wide, ruffled bright yellow centers, blending to taupe and

then light purple borders. Wide modern form with superb stalks and foliage. Available at Comanche Acres.

This space is available for advertising, member correspondence, hybridizers, or growers. Letters are appreciated and always welcome.

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If you have a commercial garden that sells Spuria and would like it listed in the Spuria News, please contact the Spuria News Editor, Darol Jurn at djurn@prodigy.net.

For advertising in the Spuria News, rates for two editions of the Spuria News are as follows:

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