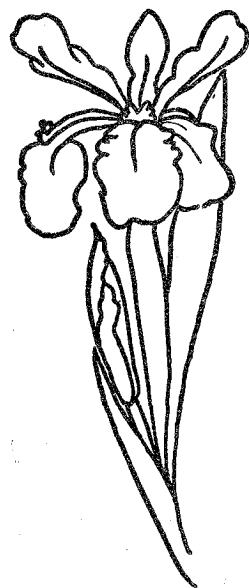


SPURIA IRIS SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

VOL. 9

OCTOBER 1964

NO. 23

SPURIA IRIS SOCIETY

SECTION OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

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- OFFICERS -

President	Dr. Clarke Cosgrove	8260 Longdon Ave.,	San Gabriel, Calif.
1st. Vice Pres.	Mrs. Joseph Crawford	RFD 1, Box 357	Oklahoma City, Okla.
2nd. Vice Pres.	Mrs. Peggy Burke Grey	Rt. 1, Box 72A	Calistoga, Calif.
Secy.-Treas.	Mrs. Mac W. Holloway	673 Acacia Ave., N.	Sacramento 15, Calif.
Editor	Mr. Ralph A. Johnson	4414 E. Flower St.	Phoenix 18, Arizona
Post Mstr.	Mr. Marion R. Walker	5210 E. Telephone Rd.	Ventura, California

- CHAIRMAN OF STANDING COMMITTEES -

Membership -	Mr. Theodore Harris	3420 Mobile	El Paso, Texas
Keys & Heads -	Mr. Duncan Cranford	RFD 1,	Northport, New York
Library -	Mrs. Lura Roach	2931 Tyburn	Los Angeles 39, Cal.
Information -	Dr. Wm. J. Johnson	1420 E. Vermont	Phoenix, Arizona
Publicity	Mrs. Frank McCown	P. O. Box 176	Holtville, Calif.
Display Gardens -			

SPURIA IRIS SOCIETY INFORMATION

Membership: Section of the American Iris Society under Approved By-Laws. American Members of SIS must be members of AIS.

Dues: Annual: Individual - \$1.00, Family - \$1.50, Sustaining - \$5.00. Notices of dues payable are included with January and July issues of your Newsletter. Please inform Editor or Secy. of change of address immediately.

Newsletters: Published Quarterly - July, October, January, and April. Deadline for all articles and news items, 1st of June, September, December, and March. If possible, all material for the Newsletter should be typed and double spaced. Send all communications regarding Newsletter to the Editor.

Mental slides are available for clubs and individuals from Library Chairman, Mrs. Lura Roach.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends:

By the time this issue reaches you I hope to be viewing the start of another iris season, this time in the Southern Hemisphere. If the spuria iris perform in New Zealand as they do generally in the Northern Hemisphere, I, unfortunately, will not be there to see them in full bloom. However, here in Southern California recently the spurias have not been waiting to extend the fall season, but have started blooming with the earlier tall bearded and have continued past the tall bearded peak. Perhaps they will do the same Down Under and I will see a few. At least there will be the opportunity to hear reports first hand on their performances.

Weather and general growing conditions have a great influence on the time of bloom of any plant. October and November is Spring in New Zealand and the iris bloom in the Spring everywhere, but I wonder if the extension of the spuria iris season as has been observed is only a matter of climate and local weather. When the original pattern of blooming was described for the spurias as being between the tall bearded and the Japanese, the number of varieties in general cultivation was small and the varieties were not many generations from the species - often selected forms of species. Also the number of species involved in the hybrids was few. As the varieties in cultivation increase and as different species are introduced into the strains, it is possible that the flowering period has also been extended. We can perhaps look forward to the rebloomer among the spurias.

Reports from all parts of the iris growing world have included glowing descriptions of the performance of spuria iris. South Africa for many years has had the spurias as a commercial crop for the cut-flower market. They refrigerate well and can be held in bud for several weeks at low temperatures. When brought up to room temperature the spurias will open up successive buds in a normal fashion. The use of spurias as a commercial flower has not been extensive in the United States, but occasionally around Memorial Day the wholesale markets will have them in tight bud usually labeled "Batch Iris". With the newer colors and forms now available some enterprising grower should try spurias for the cutflower market. They ship well with a minimum of special preparation.

How spurias grow in New Zealand will be reported in the next issue. Until then, enjoy the autumn changes, the cessation of iris gardening (unless you live in Southern California where gardening is ceaseless), the preparations for the new year, and a wonderful Holiday Season.

DR. CLARKE COSGROVE, President

Editor's Note: "Thank you" to all contributors of such fine articles and news items to make this delayed issue possible. The delay has been a combination of circumstances involving my wife's successful surgery and a sudden family death in Illinois of my step-dad. However, an abundance of material has been submitted with several fine reports by Arthur Clayton of Maine and Robert Henningsen of Oregon being held over for the January issue as with our Annual Membership List we have already exceeded our budgeted space.

Our financial statement indicates the S.I.S. is maintaining a good balance, but costs of all items are increasing. Major cost item is the Newsletter and this can only be balanced by an increased membership. At \$1.00 per year our quarterly newsletter is a bargain. Commercial growers are urged to subscribe to a sustaining membership which includes a courtesy ad for 50¢ per issue.

These are questions we must answer if S.I.S. is to grow and be an outstanding A.I.S. Section. Your comments and suggestions for our Newsletter will be very helpful. As your A.I.S. Bulletin Representative and Editor, it is necessary that all express their wishes as to what is needed not only to maintain the growing interest in spurias, but to increase such interest.

RALPH A. JOHNSON, Editor.

VARIETAL COMMENTS

Mrs. Mac W. Holloway - N. Sacramento, Calif.

Viewed several of the new things in Spurias last spring. ELIXIR (Hager 64). This is an eye catcher in the garden because of the deep orange yellow color. When you get up close it has a true orange in the center of the falls. Flower is medium size with lots of substance and a nice ruffling. Branching is good.

WINDFALL (Ferguson 63). An established clump of WINDFALL is a really magnificent sight. A stalk of four beautifully formed flowers of cream and yellow is a sure prize winner. Growth is very vigorous and has prolific bloom.

SHIFT TO RED (Ferguson). Saw this for the first time and it does have a red cast in the sun. Very interesting color.

Then there are the favorites or those winning a place among the favorites. THRUSH SONG (Eric Nies Award 1964): MORNINGTIDE: FLUTED BUTTERCUP: GOLDEN LADY: BANNERS OF BLUE: COUNTERPOINT: WAKEROBIN: DRIFTWOOD.

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EDITOR'S MAIL BAG: Report from our 1st V.P. Ila Crawford of Okla. City on the Chicago A.I.S. Convention. "One of the best I have attended. We need more S.I.S. activity at A.I.S. conventions, especially for new members. Separate Section meetings are a must to maintain interest and increase membership." (Ed's. note: Let's plan now for S.I.S. in Memphis - new spuria slides are needed - please send to your Editor.)

Ila continues that convention tours were well planned and gardens were lovely with good bloom to admire. Also good food and weather.

"Had a very nice bloom in my garden this year but not all my spurias bloomed. I had one blue seedling of yours to bloom which looked very good. My best blooms and the ones I really liked were Mr.Ferguson's DARK SILK, DRIFTWOOD, GOLDEN LADY, MORNINGTIDE, and old PREMIER was a profusion of bloom. BLUE PINAFORE, which you sent, was just lovely. Made some crosses on DRIFTWOOD and DARK SILK and just brought in the pods today (July 20). Having a very dry, hot season - need lots of rain and it would be most welcome --".

* * * * *

It is indeed a pleasure to congratulate good friend, J. Arthur Nelson, on his first issue of the A.I.S. Bulletin as our new Editor. A long time Irisarian and also the outstanding Chairman of the Exhibition Committee, Art finds it possible to do two jobs in excellent fashion. His work on color classification, exhibition, and judging standards is to be commended. We look forward to a most enjoyable and informational relationship with our new A.I.S. Editor. Art's Questionnaire to the A.I.S. Sections will be discussed fully in our January S.I.S. Newsletter.

* * * * *

Arthur Clayton of Harpswell, Maine, wrote on October 4th that spuria iris shipped from Arizona in late August were received and planted on September 2nd. At the time of his letter, all plants were growing nicely, SUNNY DAY with 4-7 inches of foliage with the others, BRONZE BUTTERFLY and DUTCH DEFIANCE up from 2-3 inches.

* * * * *

Word from Past Pres. Mary Redford of Yuma, that they are still involved in disposing of their rancho and a possible move to Phoenix, where they will be most welcome. Mary continues to spread the word about spurias and has added another New Zealand member along with some fine news items.

* * * * *

Some very welcome news and items received from Peg Grey dated August 4th, but at last report the terrific fire in N. Calif - Calistoga - did considerable damage to Peg's gardens, etc. We all hope that not all is lost. It would be most fitting for everyone to send Peg a card of encouragement.

* * * * *

JUST ONE OF THOSE SEASONS
Mrs. Peggy Grey - Calistoga, Calif.

This was the year in which I thought surely that Spuria bloom would be spectacular so Editor Johnny could have a good report. Increase of all varieties, good healthy foliage growth and general fine appearance of the plants gave cause for optimism. But then along came bloom season and almost nothing happened. GOLDEN LADY, almost always the first to flower here, performed as it always does - an AOK Eric Nies Award winner. Two huge clumps sent up stalk after stalk of bright golden yellow flowers, providing a good three weeks of bloom. GOOD NATURE is another of my favorites which usually turns in a fine performance. It is nearly identical to GOLDEN LADY in color, but with quite pronounced ruffling; the overall plant is several inches shorter than GOLDEN LADY, and a bit later to start flowering. WAKEROBIN was especially pleasing, with clean white flaring flowers and considerably more personality than most of the similarly colored varieties. It, too, provides a bit shorter, more compact clump than others of its color class. BIG CLOUD is quite a bit taller than WAKEROBIN here, with huge rounded falls which are of a type I think of as resembling a silver dollar in size and appearance. Big and bold, it is a fine back-of-the-border plant, or accent clump. WHITE HERON didn't impress me too much; this perhaps is an unfair remark since it didn't receive as much cultural care as the other varieties, but its falls seemed to tuck too much, and it didn't seem too much of a change from I. ochroleuca, which is so plentiful around here that I dislike it the same way I dislike those old "blue and purple flags" like KOCHII and/or GRIMSON KING.

This was the first time I'd ever seen PREMIER. The deep purple buds kept me absolutely fascinated. The color was hardly showing from the spathes, however, when each bud was nearly obscured by ants. At first I just gave them the full force of the hose, and then tried to keep them at bay by using an aerosol canned ant spray. When the flowers opened, all but two had the falls nearly completely chewed off. The deep purple color and interesting veined pattern give this variety quite a bit of charm, though I wish it had wider parts.

I had written THRUSH SONG off as lost to some strange chlorosis which turned the entire plant pale yellow last year. The condition interested me because Dr. Lee Lenz had reported a tremendous loss from undetermined cause where the plants just turned yellow and expired. I was too busy to dig and destroy the plant, which was lucky, for this spring it sent up numerous new increases, completely green and healthy, but it didn't bloom.

One little charmer which I particularly enjoy is GRACE PERRY NIES. Although it is very similar in color pattern and overall appearance to things like FAIRY LANTERN, DUTCH DEFIANCE and others, there is a definite mauve or smoky tone to the violet and it does not grow as tall. It's a variety which can fit beautifully into a regular perennial border.

Since I have not grown large numbers of Spurias in the past, I am more or less exploring their individual growth habits to determine where in the garden each can be most effectively used.

- 30 -

From the Secretary - Treasurer:

The dues notices have gone out for the year 1964. These are for last January and July. Since the American Iris Society will be collecting in the future, have only sent out notices once this year. Please return dues shortly to the Sec.-Treas. or we will miss you as a member, and we also can use the money.

We would like to maintain the present membership, and we should all strive to add a few new members.

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OKLAHOMA CITY'S WILL ROGERS PARK DISPLAY GARDEN
Mrs. Joseph P. Crawford - Oklahoma City, Okla.

Last September 20th new spurias and seedlings were planted in our display garden. These plants were the welcome contribution of Mr. Walker Ferguson and Mr. Ben Hager. Our previous planting consisted mostly of older varieties so we had an opportunity to compare the old with the new. The bloom season starts here about May 15th and continues past June 1st. PREMIER was our first bloom - and although an old variety, it made a show in a large clump. We feel there is much to be desired in bloom, form, branching and bud placement - in this and many of the older varieties - but makes for good comparison with the newer varieties - like GOLDEN LADY, DRIFTWOOD, DARK SILK, WADI ZEM ZEM and WHITE HERON. We can see broader falls, shorter hafts, better bud placement and some color breaks - in the late varieties just mentioned and in the late seedlings. There is much to be desired in the spurias but we think we can see an exciting future for these lovely irises.

Mr. Ferguson's SHIFT TO RED is a color break. It was quite a surprise to see a spuria that was almost red - a true red. DARK SILK is well named - a deep purple that looks like taffeta. WAKEROBIN is a new variation in color - blue-white with a small signal patch of yellow - has nice wide flower form and foliage stays green all winter. I cannot make a detailed report on all varieties that bloomed as I was out-of-town much of the time our garden was in bloom. I agree with Mr. Hobson that GOLDEN LADY would lead the list in form and color. I would not be without DRIFTWOOD, DARK SILK, or WHITE HERON.

We do regret to report that many of our new plants did not make it through the dry cold winter. We are at a loss to understand why we lost fifteen of our 20 new varieties. Mr. Walters, Will Rogers Park Horticulturist, just gave us a list of those lost which includes most of our late named varieties. We shall continue to establish a worthwhile planting in our tiled beds and trust for better luck with the weather next time.

SPURIA IRIS SOCIETY
FINANCIAL STATEMENT - From 8-31-63 to 8-31-64

Balance on Hand 8-31-63	\$349.50
Receipts - Dues and Misc.	<u>155.53</u>
Total Receipts	505.03

Disbursements:

Printing	
Spuria Check list	\$31.00
Dues Notices	10.09

Newsletter	
Oct. 63, Jan. 64,	
April 64, July 64	
Supplies and Editor's	
postage	178.67

Postage Sec-Treas.	15.00
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Misc. - refund	<u>4.50</u>
Total disbursements	\$239.26

Balance on Hand	<u>\$265.77</u>
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Respectfully submitted,
MRS. MAC W. HOLLOWAY, Sec.-Treas.

SFURIA IRIS SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP LIST JULY 1964
* Honorary ** Family *** Sustaining

Membership data intentionally redacted

Membership data intentionally redacted

Membership data intentionally redacted

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Membership data intentionally redacted

Spurias made a terrific hit at the San Diego A.I.S. show this spring. A fine commercial display by Walker Ferguson and entries by Eleanor McCown created a great amount of interest, especially among the artistic arrangers. So much so that Mr. Ferguson and Mrs. McCown were invited to present a program on Spurias at the San Diego meeting on September 27th. Both these fine spuria growers donated plants for the Auction Sale along with a slide showing. Eleanor, our Publicity Chairman, expects a number of new S.I.S. members from this group.

Frances Combs, Aril Society Editor, follows up report in March with this interesting report dated May 20th:

"Following up the 'info' I gave in that March letter....GOLDEN LADY opened her top buds on May 1st this year. Fabulous in size and height (full five feet), and had five full blooms down a single stem within a week....then we had SNOW!! The top bloom drooped a little with the cold and weight (tho the snow melted almost immediately but the rest of the bloom went on putting on a real show.... We have been having 70+ weather this past week and the blooms are just beginning to curl up on that first stalk. But the others!! About six full stalks all in a clump...positively put the sun to shame!! (You don't think I'd BOAST about my own chee-ild, do you?

Heartiest Congratulations to Mr. Walker Ferguson of Escondido, California, winner of the 1964 Eric Nies Medal Award for his Thrush Song. A fine honor for a wonderful hybridizer who is developing many new color strains in Spurias.

ERIC NIES MEDAL AWARD WINNERS

1964	THRUSH SONG	Mr. Walker Ferguson	1960	LARK SONG	Mr. Eric Nies
1963	GOLDEN LADY	Mrs. Frances Combs	1959	DRIFTWOOD	Mr. Marion Walker
1962	CHEROKEE CHIEF	Mr. Eric Nies	1958	WHITE HERON	Mr. C. Milliken
1961	DUTCH DEFIANCE	Mr. Eric Nies	1957	SUNNY DAY	Mr. H. P. Sass
		1956	WADI ZEM ZEM	Mr. C. Milliken	

DIRECTORY OF SPURIA GROWERS

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

SPURIA IRIS
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"BIGGER BULBS"
MYRON D. BIGGER
1117 Oakland Avenue
TOPEKA, KANSAS

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