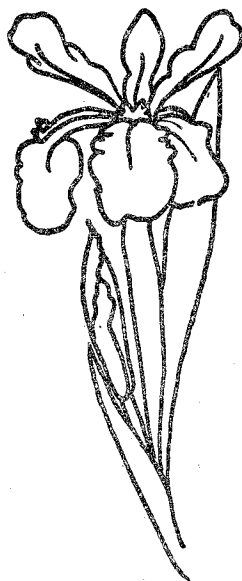


SPURIA IRIS SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 10 [#]9117

1965-1966

SPURIA IRIS SOCIETY

SECTION OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

OCTOBER, 1965 - TABLE OF CONTENTS - Vol. 10, No. 27

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- OFFICERS -

President	Dr. Clarke Cosgrove	8260 Longdon Ave.,	San Gabriel, Calif.
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Past Pres.	Mr. Marion R. Walker	2751 Poli St.	Ventura, California

- CHAIRMAN OF STANDING COMMITTEES -

Membership	Mr. Theodore Harris	3420 Mobile	El Paso, Texas
Ways & Means	Mr. Duncan Cranford	RFD 1	Northport, New York
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Publicity	Mrs. Frank McCown	P. O. Box 176	Holtville, Calif.
Robins	Mrs. Ila Nunn	11122 Claymore Dr.	Houston 24, Texas

- 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: Active \$1.00 - Family \$1.50
 Triennial: Active \$2.50 - Family \$3.50
 Supporting Annual \$3.00

Notices of dues payable are included with A.I.S. dues notices.
Please inform Editor or Secy. of Change of Address immediately.
Also include your zip code.

Newsletter: 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 regard-
 ing the Newsletter to the Editor.

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends:

Although approval of the Board of Directors of the American Iris Society must be given before the award is official, it is not inappropriate to congratulate Marion Walker upon winning the 1965 Eric Nies Award for spurias with his fine variety MORN-INGTIDE. Congratulations are also in order for Tell Muhlestein and Walker Ferguson who had the runners up in FLUTED BUTTERCUP and WAKEROBIN.

There are seven spurias slated for the Honorable Mention Award. These will keep the list of iris eligible for the Eric Nies Award at approximately the same number that has been maintained since the award was activated. Each year one variety receives the award and a few are dropped because of age so the list remains the same length. There has been no particular pattern in the balloting for the Eric Nies Award that exists in other classifications. It is impossible to predict the next winner, but the number of votes garnered by a variety is definitely related to the years it has been in commerce and its distribution. The top spuria award along with those for the miniature dwarf bearded and Louisiana iris is awarded for fewer votes than in the other classifications. This is due undoubtedly to the limited distribution of these three types of iris.

An analysis of the award ballots of the accredited judges of the American Iris Society is not available, but such an analysis would probably reveal that the votes for these three types of iris are concentrated in definable geographical areas. Of the three: spurias, miniature dwarf bearded, and Louisianas, the spurias can be grown successfully under far greater variations of climate and soil than the others. There is the possibility then of expanding the growing of spurias into areas where they are not grown or are relatively unknown. There also needs to be an increase in the number of hybridizers of spurias - not necessarily in the number of spurias introduced but in the number of individuals growing and evaluating seedlings throughout the United States. The development of strains most satisfactory for a particular area can be done only through the selection of varieties hybridized and grown in that area. It can be observed that even in the same garden the same variety will perform better in one location than another and differences in performance become more pronounced between sections of the country.

One of the most natural procedures and yet unfortunate is that when a new type of plant is to be tried, the trial is limited to a single variety which may or may not be successful. In the case of spurias, WADI ZEM ZEM is probably the best known and admired variety and the one so often selected for trial. Yet in many sections of the country this variety will grow well, but turns out to be a reluctant bloomer and all spurias are judged by its performance. It is a good rule that a fair trial would involve not less than three varieties that are not too closely related. If two of the three do well, and this is generally expected, these two varieties could be used in establishing a hybridizing program. Other varieties could be introduced later. The thrill of producing your own varieties by carefully selecting seedlings and carrying the line through several generations can only be exceeded by the selection of one of your seedlings for introduction. This selection, at least in the first years of the hybridizing program, had best be done by someone who is a well qualified judge of spurias rather than by the hybridizer. Many commercial growers will accept a limited number of selected seedlings for trial and will give an unbiased evaluation as to their commercial possibilities. Walker Ferguson, who is many years young, recently commented that he started his hybridizing program with spurias at just the right time, but that the progress he has made is just a beginning in comparison to the unlimited possibilities still untapped.

To encourage prospective hybridizers to make a few crosses during the next iris season, the Newsletter will try to provide instructions on the mechanics of hybridizing in an early issue.

Yours for wider spuria horizons,
CLARKE COSGROVE

SPURIA IRIS SOCIETY
FINANCIAL STATEMENT - From 8-31-64 to 8-31-65

Balance on Hand 8-31-64	\$265.77
Receipts - Dues and Misc.	220.50
Total Receipts	\$486.27
 Disbursements:	
Printing	
Newsletter covers & envelopes	\$23.41
Newsletter:	
Oct. 64, Jan. 65, April 65, July 65	
Supplies & Editor's Postage	\$154.52
Postage Secy-Treas.	15.00
Total disbursements	\$192.93 -192.93
BALANCE ON HAND	\$293.34

Respectfully submitted,

MRS. MAC W. HOLLOWAY, Sec.-Treas.

EDITOR'S NOTES -

First, may I express my appreciation for your wonderful cooperation and response to the Popularity Poll and By-Laws changes. The results of the Popularity Poll are listed on Page 6. The changes to the By-Laws have been approved by a majority of the ballots returned and are hereby adopted. Please make these changes in your current copy of the 1962 By-Laws.

Hope you all have had an enjoyable summer and that all your gardens are planted with the usual satisfaction of looking forward to next year's bloom season. Also that many of you will follow our President's suggestion to start hybridizing with your spurias next season.

Although Mrs. Ila Nunn of Houston, Texas is the National Chairman of the Spuria Robin Division, we are happy to welcome Ila to our official S.I.S. standing committee group. We trust many of our new members will write her and join a spuria robin. (See page 12).

Our thanks to Peggy Burke Grey for her fine assistance in preparing the 1963 and 1964 Spuria Registrations for Supplement No. 1 to the 1962 Spuria Check List. This supplement has been published separately for inserting in your copy. Additional copies of the 1962 Check List are available from the Editor at 50¢ per copy.

Included in this issue is the current S.I.S. Membership List. However, a number of members listed are delinquent in their dues for 1965 according to the latest report from the Secy-Treas. If an X appears on your October issue mailing label, it means your dues are in arrears and must be paid by December 15, 1965 to continue your membership. Why not make your membership a Triennial and save on dues?

The mail-bag has been a bit light since July but enough items for some interesting news which you will find on pages 4 and 5. So that's 30 until January, 1966 and "ye Ed." will be the first to send Greetings and Best Wishes for a Joyous Holiday Season.

RALPH A. JOHNSON

NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE AND THE MAIL BAG:

From Harry MacKendrick of Ontario, Canada came a fine note with his Popularity Ballot. "Had first year blooms of following: COUNTERPOINT, WAKEROBIN, WADI ZEM ZEM, DUTCH DEFIANCE, THRUSH SONG, SUNNY DAY, GOLDEN LADY, SHELFORD GIANT, LILACIANA, and GOOD NATURE. Live on North shore of Lake Ontario and all spurias (from Melrose) wintered well but lost 25 tall bearded. The following multiplying well but didn't bloom the first season: ESSAY, NEOPHYTE, GRAMINEA, OCHRALENCA, and ELIXIR". (Note: Harry, it will be helpful to know what your winter and bloom season temperatures are.)

* * * * *

Mrs. Ilse Richardson of Houston, Texas, one of our founders of S.I.S. sent some fine black and white prints of scenes from her fine garden, showing well grown clumps of spurias in well kept borders. Identified were GAY LARK, CAMBRIDGE BLUE and FULL MOON, all outstanding. Thank you, Mrs. Richardson.

* * * * *

Word from Mary Redford of Yuma, Arizona that they had moved into their new mobile home at 500 - W. 28th St., Space #10, and confusion still reigns, so much that Mary typed her missive on 4x5 note pad paper as stationery still is unpacked. Mary is busy transplanting and am sure that their mobile home will be one of the most colorful landscapes in the court, come next spring. Good Luck! (Your Ed. and wife visited with the Redfords in late August during a quickie trip to the coast which included several stops with a number of good Iris friends which it is hoped will be of interest to you.)

First stop was at Losey's Iris Garden in Yucaipa to pick up T.B. plants along with some iris talk. Next a visit with Lois Joris, more iris talk and a quick tour of the compact garden with most of her planting completed. Then on to Waco for a visit with Lillian and Collie Terrell and more plants. Spurias sent several years ago doing fine in front garden so will send some more. A short stop to see Neva Sexton, still on Cloud Nine with her Dykes Award for PACIFIC PANORAMA. Neva just getting up and around after a fall in June with a broken leg, bruises, but no damage to her fine spirit and hospitality, even in her wheelchair. She was just starting to get around with crutches, so hope and wish for a speedy recovery.

Then the highlight of our trip to see Walker Ferguson at Escondido. The young man of 78 underwent major surgery in July and here on August 24th was as chipper as ever. The chief reason for this visit was to present Walker his Eric Nies Award of 1964 for his THRUSH SONG which he humbly accepted. Took some colored slides which will be sent for possible use in A.I.S. Bulletin, and a visit to the local newspaper resulted in a later photo-story for this outstanding spuria hybridizer. Fergy is an organic gardener and the results were evident in the fine bed of spuria seedlings as well as delicious peaches, grapes, and tomatoes. A new bed is being prepared with 10 yards of steer compost to be rototilled in for later plantings. Spuria foliage is allowed to dry and plants are not watered during the summer except for normal rainfall. A happy visit and am sure Ferguson introductions will continue to receive well-deserved acceptance and recognition.

* * * * *

From Francis Brenner, Dakota, Illinois, a long newsy letter going back to his moving in the fall of 1963. "After moving spurias late in the fall of 1963, only SUNNY DAY (the spuria you can really count on) came through and was in bloom when I returned from Chicago A.I.S. Convention in 1964. So I put on a 2 inch layer of my barnyard compost, also mulched with 2 inches of alfalfa hay for winter mulch. This spring, 1965, the following clumps bloomed: SUNNY DAY, FIFTH SYMPHONY, RUSSET FLAME, HAZY HILLS and LORD WOOLSEY. Clump of WADI ZEM ZEM is steadily growing larger but has never bloomed. Am very much interested in the beardless family of iris and will add 30 more spurias this year, most of which are older varieties. Have added two more inches of compost and will mulch with hay again. Last winter had 3 weeks with 1 1/2 inches of ice following a sleet storm which killed a large number of plants, rotting the TB's but all the spurias and siberians came through o.k."

* * * * *
* A limited number of back issues of the S.I.S. Newsletter are available at 20¢ *
* each. Also copies of the Spuria Check List, 50¢ per copy. Write the Editor *
* if interested. *
* * * * *

A fine report from Mr. Allen Harper, R.V.P., Region 18, Kansas City, Missouri.

"Enclosed is my 1965 Popularity Poll Ballot. You will note that the first two spaces are not filled. This is because I have not seen a great number of varieties, particularly of the newer introductions, and I feel that it would do the poll an injustice to give top rating to varieties which may have been superseded by better later varieties.

"At the Chicago meeting, I did promise Dr. Cosgrove that I would contribute some comment for the Bulletin whenever I thought my experience would add any worthwhile information. Apparently one of the chief questions is the climatic areas in which Spurias will thrive, either as a class, or as to the performance of individual varieties.

"My experience has been limited to fourteen varieties, five of which I have grown for several years, and the rest of which were planted in the Fall of 1963.

"Of the first five, PASTORAL, RUSSET FLAME and TWO OPALS, have continually bloomed, with quite satisfactory increase, and with no apparent disease or growing difficulty. WHITE HERON has been reasonably satisfactory, although not quite so floriferous. Frankly, I do not see this as such a great improvement over OCHROLEUCA as to entitle it to any top award. WADI ZEM ZEM has been erratic. Some years it has been outstanding. In other years, bloom has been quite sparse, in 1964 showing only four stalks from perhaps 25 or 30 rhizomes. It is a good clear yellow, but seems to lack the substance expected of top quality Spurias.

"The latter planted group performed as follows:

ROYAL TOGA	3 planted, all survived, 2 bloom stalks 1965
VIOLET VEIL	3 planted; two survived; no bloom
CHEROKEE CHIEF	3 planted; one survived, no bloom
LARK SONG	3 planted; two survived; 1 bloom stalk 1965
MORNINGTIDE	3 planted; all survived; no bloom
HAZY HILLS	3 planted, all survived, 2 bloom stalks 1965
KATRINA NIES	3 planted, all survived, no bloom
FLUTED BUTTERCUP	1 plant; died first season
GOLDEN LADY	1 plant, died second season, no bloom

"I did particularly like the sturdiness of HAZY HILLS, and the color of both LARK SONG and ROYAL TOGA. This year I have added so far SUNNY HILLS and SAUGATUCK. Intend to get several more if I can wrap up my Tall Bearded work soon, and do some necessary Peony digging. I think perhaps the secret of survival here for Spurias is early planting, to establish a root system which will hold against the inevitable thawing and freezing we experience here between January and mid-April. The past year we had 70 days of such weather, which did havoc to all newly planted Tall Bearded, and no doubt affected bloom on the Spurias.

"Would like to check experiences with others in this area, so will probably use the late Fall and Winter to contact local Spuria Society members.

"Enjoy the Bulletin material. Hope in time that an increase in membership will encourage more articles for the edification of all."

NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE -

Happy to welcome Uncle Tell back to our Sustaining group and listing in the Directory of Growers. Hope to have an article from Tell in the near future on the results of his spuria hybridizing...

- 1965 ERIC NIES AWARD -

Congratulations to Mr. Marion Walker for the 1965 Eric Nies Award to his fine MORNINGTIDE. This is Mr. Walker's second Nies Award, DRIFTWOOD having received the honor in 1959. A pioneer among spuria hybridizers, Marion has this year introduced a number of beautiful and colorful spuria iris through Schreiner's Gardens. With the continuing new color breaks, the spurias are arriving as a top iris genus. Continued success to all our fine hybridizers of spuria iris.

- List of Eric Nies Award Winners -

1965 MORNINGTIDE	Mr. Marion Walker	1960 LARK SONG	Mr. Eric Nies
1964 THRUSH SONG	Mr. Walker Ferguson	1959 DRIFTWOOD	Mr. Marion Walker
1963 GOLDEN LADY	Mrs. Frances Combs	1958 WHITE HERON	Mr. C. Milliken
1962 CHEROKEE CHIEF	Mr. Eric Nies	1957 SUNNY DAY	Mr. H. P. Sass
1961 DUTCH DEFIANCE	Mr. Eric Nies	1956 WADI ZEM ZEM	Mr. C. Milliken

1965 SPURIA POPULARITY POLL

The increased interest and distribution in spurias is evidenced this year by the number of ballots that were received as well as the wide range of the voting. Fifty-six (56) varieties received at least one vote, and 14 of these received 1st place selections. Also nine (9) of the ten (10) Eric Nies Award Winners since 1956 are included in the top 20 and the first 5, rated on a point score, are all previous award winners. The point score used in rating the spuria varieties is based on 10 pts. for 1st place vote, 9 pts. for 2nd, 8 pts. for 3rd., graded through 10th place for 1 pt. This rates any variety on it's popularity from 1st to 10th place and is scored accordingly. We feel this is quite fair and most representative, as this same system is used in rating, each week during the season, the top 20 football teams in the country to select the National Winner...So here are the S.I.S. 1965 Poll Results:

1. GOLDEN LADY	** 136 points	19 votes	11. GOOD NATURE	40 points	8 votes
2. DRIFTWOOD	** 113 "	14 "	12. ELIXIR	37 "	7 "
3. WHITE HERON	** 89 "	13 "	13. LARK SONG	** 24 "	4 "
4. THRUSH SONG	** 85 "	12 "	14. CHEROKEE CHIEF**	19 "	4 "
5. DUTCH DEFIANCE	** 74 "	10 "	15. CHUMASCH CHIEF	19 "	2 "
6. WAKE ROBIN	70 "	12 "	16. MOON BY DAY	19 "	3 "
7. WADI ZEM ZEM	** 69 "	14 "	17. BLUE NIGHTSHADE	18 "	3 "
8. MORNINGTIDE	** 64 "	11 "	18. KATRINA NIES	15 "	3 "
9. WINDFALL	63 "	8 "	19. NEOPHYTE	15 "	3 "
10. PREMIER	42 "	10 "	20. RUTH NIES CABEEN	15 "	4 "

(** ERIC NIES AWARD WINNER)

Following the above 20 varieties in the voting and listed in their point score standing are from left to right:

BLUE PINAFORE	COUNTERPOINT	CAMBRIDGE BLUE	TWO OPALS	LACED BUTTERFLY
ESSAY	INVESTMENT	RUSSET FLAME	GAY LARK	CONTRADICTION
SPRING PLUM	BLUE ZEPHYR	HAZY HILLS	DARK SILK	COLOR GUARD
BANNERS OF BLUE	ROYAL TOGA	SUNNYSIDE	MT. PALOMAR	SHIFT TO RED
DR. ANNIE BESANT	GOLDSTONE	SWEET BUTTER	MONNIERI	YELLOW SWALLOWTAIL
PASTORAL	SUNNY DAY	WHITE COIN	WHITE CRANE	LILACIANA
FAIRY LANTERN	GRACE PERRY NIES	BRONZE BUTTERFLY	ZEPHROSO	MICH. STATE
SHELFORD GIANT				

EDITOR'S NOTE: It is most interesting that this poll indicates that the selection of the above varieties was based on rather general popularity rather than by judges only and include some well-known and grown older spurias. All but one of the Eric Nies Award winners were included in the top 20 and 5 of these among the first 10. We hope that these results can be continued with another poll in 1966 and that there will be many more ballots returned by SIS members...

SPURIA IRIS SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP LIST

JULY 1965

* Honorary

** Family

*** Sustaining

Membership data intentionally redacted

Membership data intentionally redacted

Membership data intentionally redacted

Membership data intentionally redacted

Membership data intentionally redacted

Membership data intentionally redacted

NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE: Several items of interest from Peg Grey, Calestoga, Calif.

"There is one note I would like to make. It is noted that numbered seedlings are given in some parentages. The ones particularly noted appeared thusly: Nies 51S25 as pollen parent of Marion Walker's magnificent CHUMASCH CHIEF, which appeared big and bold in glorious living color on the AIS Bulletin cover for July 1965. If the parentage of such seedlings could be included in the parentage information at the time of registration, it would be of great help and interest to breeders of spurias to know which lines are involved.

"In the parentage of COAL DUST, Fergy has shown in Sdlg. 58-11 as involved in the pod parentage, and another sdlg. 61-7 as the pollen parent.

"Another note of great interest was the registration of a new spuria by Dr. Marc Simonet of Versailles, France, especially so because of the interspecific cross which produced it. If I recall correctly, it has been some time since Dr. Simonet has registered an iris, and spuria enthusiasts surely will be happy to have this illustrious irisarian working for improvements in our field by crossing the species to introduce new lines.

"Another thing which interested me was the use of MORNINGTIDE by Marion as a pod parent of several of his exciting new introductions. This year I made no spuria crosses at all, even with the I. spuria seedlings from seed sent by Karl Ajdovic. But I was delighted to find several fat, husky pods on MORNINGTIDE, which have to be selfs because the clone on which they were set is located far away from any other spuria cultivar or species. Down in another bed, the ants or bees or whoever does the pollinating job in spurias, favored me with some nice pods on DUTCH DEFIANCE. Although controlled crosses and careful records of pollen parents should be observed, I am perfectly delighted that I do have some spuria seeds to plant this year and from such fine breeding varieties."

Note from Jo Gatty of New Jersey: "It is our region's turn next year to host the American Iris Society's meeting and if all goes well we may have some spurias in bloom for the attending membership to see. We have for the past year, been experimenting via refrigeration and greenhouse culture to see if we cannot make our meeting an all iris one. Well, the spurias brought into the greenhouse did bloom one week ago: (May 14, 1965), thus, if we are fortunate in '66, we will time our bringing indoors of this stock a bit better." The best of luck on this project!

A belated report from Vermont sent to Ben Hager by John R. Johnson, Deer Valley Farm, Townshend: "You may be interested to know that in this cold area, GOLDEN LADY and DUTCH DEFIANCE have done very well. I think you could designate them as good for cold areas. I have not had as good luck with WADI ZEM ZEM and poor results with WHITE HERON. (But I had only 1 rhizome of each - so that is not much of a test. (I hope that WAKEROBIN on my present order will do better)."

DIRECTORY OF SPURIA GROWERS

 * SPURIA IRIS *
 * Write for Listing *
 * WALKER FERGUSON *
 * 1160 N. Broadway *
 * ESCONDIDO, CALIFORNIA *
 *
 * MELROSE GARDENS *
 * Rt. 1 Box 466 Dept. S *
 * STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA 95205 *
 * 1964 - Introductions *
 * Neophyte - Eassy - Elixir *
 *
 * RAINBOW GARDENS *
 * Iris for every location *
 * Spuria, Siberian, Dwarfs, *
 * Tall Bearded, Species *
 * Write for free catalog. *
 * CLARKSVILLE, OHIO *

 * SPURIA IRIS *
 * GROWER PEONIES - DAFFODILS *
 * "BIGGER BULBS" *
 * MYRON D. BIGGER *
 * 201 N. RICE ROAD *
 * TOPEKA, KANSAS 66616 *
 *
 * MARION WALKER SPURIA IRIS *
 * New Introductions in 1965 *
 * by *
 * SCHREINER'S GARDENS *
 * Rt. 2 Box 279-K, Salem, Oregon *
 *
 * VAN DUSEN IRIS GARDENS *
 * Star Route, Descanso, Calif. 92016 *
 * Introducing Spuria *
 * IMPERIAL SONG *
 * (Eleanor McCown 1965) *

* TELL'S IRIS GARDENS *
 * 691 E. 8th North *
 * PROVO, UTAH *
 *
 * "BEST IN THE WEST" *
 *

"JOIN A SPURIA ROBIN and benefit from the experiences of eight or nine new friends growing spurias like you for the love of them. It is fun to chat with members of a group about their luck in growing and hybridizing, their preferences, etc., and sometimes other more personal interests to boot. You will wind up "knowing" your group in a way that mere membership in the Society can't give you.

When the robin flies in when you are too busy to write, it can be sped on its way with just a word or two. But more than likely it will be so full of things you want to talk about, you will want to write your letter, busy or not. I feel that robins are an unique type of "lagniappe" everyone should be receiving.

If you would like to become a robin member, how about sending word to me soon. A new robin is being organized with Flight Lines Peg Grey as Director. Don't miss this one. Let me hear from you."

FROM: Mrs. Stayton Munn, Chairman, Spuria Robin Div.
 11122 Claymore Dr., Houston 24, Texas.

LATE EDITOR'S NOTE:

There has been a delay in the list of new members who may not be listed in the current membership roll, but these will receive copies of the July and October Newsletters as soon as the names are received.

A new membership brochure is now at the printers and will be available from the Secy-Treas. or Editor. Sign up a new member now.