



# Spuria News

Summer 2010

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

## ERIC NIES MEDAL

(Total votes cast = 152)

### Missouri Dreamland

(O. D. Niswonger - 1999)

(40 votes)



Aitken photo

## AWARD OF MERIT (AM)

(total votes cast = 176)

### Solar Fusion

(Lee Walker - 2004)

(42 votes)



Plotner photo

### Sunrise Surprise

(O. D. Niswonger - 2004)

(33 votes)



Niswonger photo

## HONORABLE MENTION (HM)

(Total votes cast = 283)

### Missouri Boon

(O. D. Niswonger by  
M. & J. Wilhoit - 2007)  
(23 votes)



Wilhoit photo

### Castor River

(O. D. Niswonger - 2006)  
(22 votes)



Silverberg photo

### Lemon Chiffon Pie

(Anna & David Cadd - 2006)  
(17 votes)



Jurn photo

### Remembering Vic

(Lee Walker - 2005)  
(17 votes)



Plotner photo

## Board of Directors

### President

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

### 1st Vice 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)

### 2nd Vice President

Keith Smith  
6008 Wonder Drive  
Fort Worth, TX 76133-3623  
Phone: (817) 292-5804  
E-mail: [masfw@flash.net](mailto:masfw@flash.net)

### Secretary

Kate Brewitt  
120 Glass Drive  
Aurora, ON L4G 2E8  
Canada  
Phone: (905) 841-9676  
E-mail: [tlaurin@aci.on.ca](mailto:tlaurin@aci.on.ca)

### Treasurer

Jay Hudson  
33450 Little Valley Road  
Fort Bragg, CA 95437-9544  
Phone: (707) 964-3907  
E-mail: [irishud@earthlink.net](mailto:irishud@earthlink.net)

### Immediate Past President

Keith Smith  
6008 Wonder Drive  
Fort Worth, TX 76133-3623  
Phone: (817) 292-5804  
E-mail: [masfw@flash.net](mailto:masfw@flash.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 Slide show

Riley Probst  
2701 Fine Ave.  
Modesto, CA 95355  
Phone: (209) 551-6323  
E-mail: [rprobst02@earthlink.net](mailto:rprobst02@earthlink.net)

### Spuria News Editor

Darol Jurn  
618 E. Via Maria St.  
Goodyear, AZ 85338-1013  
Phone: (623) 932-3412  
E-mail: [djurn@prodigy.net](mailto:djurn@prodigy.net)

## Spuria Slide Show

There are two (2) new & updated presentations available for rent at \$12 for each set or \$24 for both, make checks payable to SIS. Ordering club will pay for return postage. All carousels must be returned no more than one (1) week after meeting.

Please contact:

Riley Probst  
2701 Fine Ave.  
Modesto, CA 95355  
Phone: (209) 551-6323  
E-mail: [rprobst02@earthlink.net](mailto:rprobst02@earthlink.net)

## Membership Rates

Single annual..... \$9  
Single triennial.....\$20  
Family annual..... \$12  
Family triennial.....\$24  
Overseas annual .....\$12  
Overseas triennial ..... \$30

## Membership Renewals

Membership renewal dates may be found on the address label of the newsletter envelope.

There are two ways to join or renew memberships:

1. Electronically through the AIS website ([www.irises.org](http://www.irises.org)) using either Visa, Master Card or PayPal.
2. By the US mail sending the appropriate funds (check made out to Spuria Iris Society) to the membership chairperson, include your name and address (required). We also ask that you include your phone number and e-mail address.

For articles or information requested to be printed in the Spuria News, please submit the information to the editor, Darol Jurn ([djurn@prodigy.net](mailto:djurn@prodigy.net)) by the publication deadlines:  
Winter edition: January 31  
Summer edition: June 30

## This Edition page

Presidents Message .....	3
New Members.....	3
SIS Board Meeting Minutes.....	3
SIS Treasurers Report .....	4
Other Spuria News .....	4
2009 Spuria Checklist.....	4
Missouri Rambling.....	5
Spuria Hybridizing Notes.....	6
Editors Corner.....	8
Spuria Sepctacle .....	10
A Blast from the Past .....	12
Spuria Sources.....	13

The Spuria website is at:

**[www.spuriairis.com](http://www.spuriairis.com)**

## President's Message

By Nancy Price



It's done and over - except for all of the digging this fall - and there will be lots to dig. The Spuria Mini Convention was a fun time for all who attended. It is agreed by the BOD that repeating a Mini Convention every 3 to 4 years would be an excellent idea. I

would love to hear a bid for the next Convention as soon as possible.

We have had the wettest winter/spring season on record in the northwest pacific area. We all started doing a War Dance for sunshine. It worked. We had wonderful weather for the Spuria Convention. The sun was bright and cheering as were the 40 plus guests that tromped through the iris plantings. I think they even had a great time on the bus with the auction proceedings, with 50% of the profits going to the Spuria Iris Society. Thanks go to the folks in Portland for their hospitality and their hard work.

We have been doing well with the new 2009 Spuria Checklist. If you need a copy, there is a form on the web site - go to Features for the information.

We have a new secretary - Kate Brewitt. Kate lives in Canada and loves Spuria iris. Thank you Kate for your willingness to take on this responsibility.

Our next meetings will be in British Columbia, Canada - May 29th - June 3rd, 2011. For more information [www.bc-iris.org](http://www.bc-iris.org) Don't forget that you will need a passport to be able to return into the United States from Canada. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Nancy Price  
SIS President

## New Members

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

- Betty Lou McMartin - Oklahoma City, OK
- Donald Kurth - Rancho Cucamonga, CA
- Robert Robertson - Grain Valley, MO
- William Kuykendall - Keyser, WV
- R. C. Arant - Helena, AL
- Flower House Garden Center - Mohall, ND
- Susan Quensel - Lawton, OK
- Ardi Kary - Scottsdale, AZ

## Minutes of the Spuria Iris Society Board Meeting

Portland, OR June 13, 2010

With a quorum present, President Nancy Price opened the meeting at 8 am. A motion was made to accept the minutes from 2009 Board Meeting, the motion passed.

The Treasurers Report was reviewed by the board members. It was noted that the SIS net income from January 1 to June 8 2010 is a loss of \$29.05 attributed predominately to printing and filling back orders for the original 2005 Spuria Checklist. A motion was made to accept the Treasurers Report, the motion passed.

The Membership Chairman reported that the SIS membership currently has 202 members with 14 who are international members. It was noted that the SIS membership has been relatively stable the past few years. Jim Hedgecock noted that Spuria Irises are gaining interest with international members.

Other items included a discussion among Board Members regarding future programs with Hybridizers giving the programs. The Spuria popularity poll has disappointing participation by the members and will be discontinued. The Board expressed interest in supporting a Spuria mini-convention every 3-4 years. For sponsoring clubs it is a good way to explore new Spuria introductions. There was a short discussion about placing the Spuria Checklist on CDs available for purchase. The board agreed that Riley Probst will continue supporting the society as the slide chairman.

The Board discussed a Spuria rhizome sale as a SIS fund raiser. Jim Hedgecock agreed to donate 25 future seedlings for 2011 to support the SIS fund raiser. A motion was made and passed by the Board to support the Spuria rhizome fund raiser for \$30 per rhizome plus \$8 for shipping with advertising to be included in the 2011 Spuria Winter News. Darol Jurn agreed to be the point of contact for the Spuria sale.

With no further items on the agenda, a motion was made and passed by the Board to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted by Darol Jurn, Acting Secretary

## Treasurers Report

January 1 through June 8 2010

Income	
Checklist	
Overseas shipping	65.00
Checklist other	<u>759.00</u>
Total Checklist	824.00
Membership Dues	
Family Triennial	72.00
Overseas Triennial	30.00
Single Annual	90.00
Single Triennial	<u>309.00</u>
Total Membership dues	501.00
Slide Rental	<u>42.00</u>
Total Income:	1,367.00
Expense	
Awards	69.05
Checklist Printing	958.00
Newsletter	362.00
Shipping	<u>7.00</u>
Total Expense:	1,396.05
Net Income:	-29.05
Total Assets - Checking/Savings:	4,852.71

## Other Spuria News

The project to recover historic Spuria Newsletters is almost complete. This would not have been possible without the generous assistance of O. David Niswonger, the New England Iris Society of Massachusetts and the AIS Library (Tracy Plotner). Most newsletters since the summer of 1959 have been electronically captured, however there are a few missing editions. If anyone has any of the following Spuria Newsletters below, the Spuria Iris Society would be grateful for your support allowing us to scan them. Please send any missing newsletters to the Spuria News Editor. The missing newsletters are:

Prior to the Summer of 1958 (editions 1-6),  
 Fall 1960,           Spring 1961,           April 1962,  
 July 1966,           July 1973,            October 1973,  
 January 1974,       April 1974,           July 1975,  
 October 1975,      Spring 1976,        Spring 1980,  
 Spring 1988,        Summer 1999

**COMING SOON** - a Spuria fund raiser! As noted in the 2010 Board Minutes, the Spuria Iris Society will hold a rhizome sale commencing with the 2011 winter edition of the Spuria News. This sale will include 25 yet to be determined introductions donated by Comanche Acres Iris Gardens and will be sold for \$30 each plus \$8 for shipping. Sales will be made to the first 25 orders. The Spuria News Editor Darol Jurn will be the point of contact for this sale. Stay tuned for future information in the next newsletter.

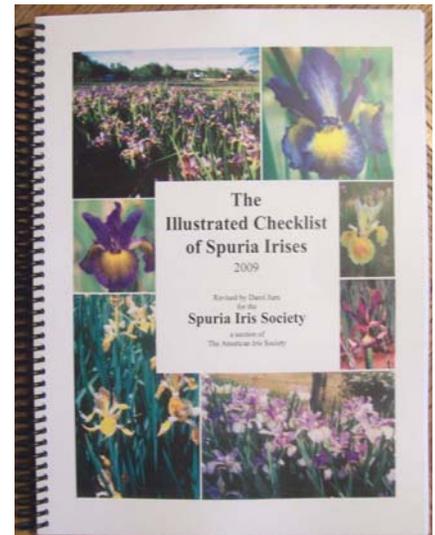
## Spuria Checklist

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

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

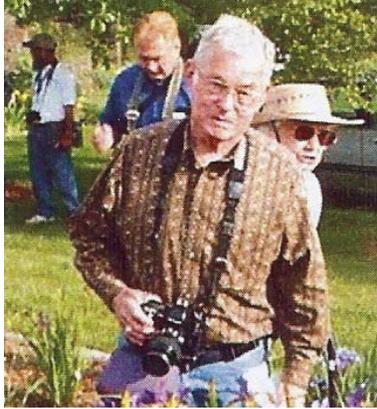
The Spuria website ([www.spuriairis.com](http://www.spuriairis.com)) has the details for ordering. To order your own copy send a check made out to the Spuria Iris Society for the required amount addressed to the Membership Chairperson, Nancy Price.

Include the following information with your order: Name, Address, State, City and postal code (zip). For international orders include country. Although not required, please include an e-mail address and or a phone number so that we may contact you if necessary



**In Memory**

A respected Irisian, hybridizer and life member of the Spuria Iris Society Glenn Corlew has passed away July 17, 2010. Glenn resided in Walnut Creek, California. What follows is reprinted from the Spuria Checklist Hybridizer section: A third generation Californian



receiving his B.S. Degree in Business Administration at Milligan College, Tennessee. He was involved with personnel work for Pacific Gas and Electric Company, prior to retirement in June, 1983. Started hybridizing irises in 1956 with his first TB introduction in 1965. Additional interest includes the raising of colorbred and gloster canaries, exhibition type photography (he is a member of a local camera club). Active in the Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church. His wife also graduated from Milligan College, Tennessee. They have two sons and two grandchildren, a girl and a boy. Also well known as a breeder of fine tall bearded and median irises. Glenn was an active member of the Spuria Iris Society filling many functions including the positions of First and Second Vice President (1999 - 2003), nominating committee and Publicity Liasion to the AIS Bulletin. Glenn hybridized the following Spurias: 'Abbondanza', 'Bellisnado', 'Flint Ridge', 'Infini', 'Offering', 'Response', 'Sentra', 'Sierra Chieftain', 'Snow Hawk' and 'Social Circle'.

**Spuria AIS 2010 Awards**

The Spuria 2010 AIS runner-up awards are:

Nies Runners up:

- Speeding Star (Anna & David Cadd), 30 votes
- Hickory Leaves (O.D. Niswonger), 29 votes
- Kiss of Caramel (Anna & David Cadd), 22 votes
- Butter Ripples (B. Charles Jenkins), 17 votes
- Laced Sunshine (D.L. Shepard), 14 votes

Award of Merit (AM) Runners up:

- Saint Patrick's Gold (Anna & David Cadd) 24 votes
- Sparkling Cider (Anna & David Cadd), 22 votes
- Golden Ducat (Anna & David Cadd), 19 votes
- Star Rider (Anna & David Cadd), 19 votes
- Eleven Point River (O. D. Niswonger), 17 votes

Honorable Mention (HM) Runners up:

- Abalone Pearl (Anna & David Cadd), 15 votes
- Honey Mocha Lotta (Lee Walker), 15 votes
- Steely Eyes (Lee Walker), 15 votes
- Dandelion Smile (Anna & David Cadd), 14 votes
- Line Dancing (B. Charles Jenkins by Comanche Acres), 12 votes
- Boldy Elegant (Anna & David Cadd), 11 votes
- Cowboy Country (B. Charles Jenkins by Comanche Acres), 11 votes
- Neon Camel (Lee Walker), 10 votes
- My Topaz (B. Charles Jenkins), 9 votes

**Missouri Rambling**

By Jim Hedgecock

I was fortunate enough to be able to attend the mini spuria convention in Portland, Oregon last month and what a pleasure that was. We got to see tons of bloom and I got to visit with old friends and made many more new ones. I guess we brought good weather with us, as it did not rain and the temps were just right.

Dave Niswonger was our guest speaker at the convention and as usual, he was both entertaining and very informative in his presentation. He has probably forgot more than I will ever know about spurias, but I will keep trying. As a hybridizer, I really enjoyed his species part of the presentation. I will be using some of his knowledge in my future training sessions.

I finally got to take some pictures of a number of spurias that I did not have for my files. I also got to see a number of new intros that I had never seen. I would say Terry Aitken and Lee Walker are on their way as spuria hybridizers. I also got to see some seedlings from Nancy Price. I had a nice chat with David and Anna Cadd about their spuria efforts. The folks of Region 13 are to be commended for their efforts in putting together a very nice mini convention.

I marked a number of new seedlings this spring which will be lined out this fall. Is it just me, or do we get a lot of brown based seedlings from our crosses? There so many variations in this color range to evaluate in our crosses. Be sure if you are a hybridizer to watch for unusual color breaks in your seedlings. I have a spuria seedling that at first glance, appears to be a mustard color. The color is very unusual. When you examine it closely, it is gold with an overlay of tiny red brown stria-

tions all over the entire flowers. The form is excellent with good bud count. I am quite close to introducing this one. I just need a little more stock. The next step is to see what it will produce in crosses.

We had an excellent board meeting in Portland and we can say our organization is sound, but we still want to remind you that we have an excellent fund raising tool with our color spuria checklist. Remember these funds go directly to the spuria society fund. You get a superb checklist and it keeps our organization sound.

It is the 7th of July as I write this column and I am off to Billings, Montana tomorrow for an iris training session for those folks. There will be a special session for them on spurias as well as several other sessions. If you are a member of our society, are you doing your part to promote spurias?

Remember if you grow spurias, grow more. If not, what are you waiting on? If you try some, we will have you hooked for life. God bless you, your gardens, and our country.

Respectfully,  
Jim Hedgecock  
Comanche Acres Iris Gardens

## Spuria Hybridizing Notes

By Nancy Price

The little I know about hybridizing any iris I've learned from experience and from information I read. Much to do about hybridizing from articles is still too complex for me to grasp at this time. Below is a conglomerate of notes about hybridizing spuria iris.

First is to define carotenes and anthocyanidin pigments (anthocyanin). Carotene pigments are oil soluble. Carotene is a group of carotenoid pigments that are responsible for yellow, orange and pink (the warm colors). Anthocyanidin pigments are water soluble and are responsible for scarlet, purple to red violet, blue to deep violet and crimson (the cool colors).

Since one type is oil-soluble and the other water soluble, they do not truly mix well. When a blue iris is crossed with a yellow iris, the resultant colors do not mix well together and the iris may look "muddy" or gaudy. Or since oil and water do not mix, some parts of the flower may contain caro-

tene pigments and other may contain anthocyanin pigments. Where the different pigments blend (appear together) the anthocyanin appears as brown or red-brown. However, even though they appear together in the same area of the petal, the anthocyanin pigments remain in the cell sap, and the carotene pigments remain in the plastids. Each occupy a different part of the same area but do not mix together.

Another guideline is that "likes beget likes," meaning that if you cross a blue iris with a blue iris, you will probably get a blue iris. This is not always true in the Spuria family of iris at this time, according to Dave Niswonger. I assume it is because of the genotype that might be present.

A couple of genetic terms are genotype and phenotype. Genotype refers to the whole genetic makeup of the individual (or iris plant). Phenotype refers to what is able to be seen with the naked eye when looking at the individual (or iris plant). For example, a person who has brown eyes could phenotype as brown eyed, but genotype as a blue eyed also because of hidden genes. This is due to two genes responsible for the color of eyes, not just one gene.

Brown is dominant in eyes, blue is recessive. If you pair up Br + Br for two genes for brown, you will always get brown eyes (dominantly). If you pair up Br + Bl for one gene for brown plus one gene for blue, you will always get brown eyes phenotypically. If you pair up Bl + Bl, you will get blue eyes (recessively). If you go further, and cross a Br + Bl plus a Br + Bl, you have a 25 percent chance of getting blue eyes (genotypically and phenotypically).

There are many other things that could be considered such as genetic modifier, dosage effects, inhibitors of pigments, the dilution and concentration of pigments, and the blending of different types of pigments that make up the vast majority of different colors and patterns expressed in today's iris. I especially get lost when reading about "blocking genes." I studied genes in reference to human cells, and I have no idea how to correlate "blocking genes" into my brain.

One other important consideration is the number of chromosomes. In the MTB class of iris, there are tetraploids and diploids and more often than not the hybridizer will cross the tetraploids with another tetraploid and the diploid with the diploid. It is almost like mating dogs with dogs and cats

with cats only, with exceptions. Each species of iris has a set number of chromosomes. When hybridizing, you need to match up the chromosomes evenly to make the next progeny. An uneven mating of chromosomes may never happen or if it does happen, a "mule" or sterility will probably be the end product. There is also the use of colchicine, trifluran, and surflan treatments to double the number of chromosomes. If we can zap a cell just as the nucleus is splitting but before two cells are formed with these compounds, we can cause the cell to regroup, and the chromosomes are doubled. This is the way to bring new genes into the gene pool and is used quite often by daylily breeders. These are dangerous carcinogenic chemicals and should be used only by experienced and knowledgeable persons.

In the world of spuria iris, there are about 12 primary different species. Of these species, *I. orientalis* was the species most used in the beginning. *I. orientalis* has 40 chromosomes. It used to be called *I. ochroleuca*.

Next in line of usage is *I. halophila* with 44 chromosomes which gives earliness to the spuria family of iris. Next is *I. carthalinae* with 44 chromosomes which gives rise to the summer green foliage. Then comes *I. Notha* with 38 chromosomes which tends to not be very fertile, but with patience may turn into a good line of parentages for the future.

Things have moved along rapidly in the tall bearded iris world, but the spuria world has lagged behind. The tall bearded folks are into the 25th plus crosses from the original species in its class; whereas, the spuria are only 2 to 3 crosses from the original species. Things can move slowly in the spuria world. Years ago, according to the new Spuria Checklist, there were about 90 or more hybridizers working on spuria alone or with other iris also. Today there is only a small handful of hybridizers.

Just like anything else in life, there is more than one way to do things when it comes to spuria hybridizing. Following are a few tips to make crossing spuria more successful. First, there is the bee who loves to land on the spuria fall. Then it climbs from the fall onto the claw of the spuria. From there, it finds it's way into the sweet sugary sap of the spuria iris. During this process, the hairy back of the bee will brush against the stamen, the pollen and the edges of the stigmatic lip of the

flower. The pollen will adhere to the hairs. Then the bee will fly from one flower to the next. At the next flower, the pollen on the hairs will brush up against the stigmatic lip and be left hybridizing this second flower. Then the process continues to the next flower and the next. One solution to give the human hybridizer a chance at pollination of the flower is to remove the bee's landing strip. Yep, get right in there and remove the falls from potential flowers that you want to breed. Do this on day One.

On day two, the pollen is at its best for pollination. It will be light and fluffy. You can remove the anther from the pollen parent and very gently wipe it across the stigmatic lip of the pod parent. This is not quite as easy as it sounds. The stigmatic lip is very small and lies very tight against the style arm of the flower. For practice at dabbing pollen onto a stigmatic lip, try crossing tall bearded iris first. Then, if you have the opportunity, try dabbing pollen onto the lips of the miniature tall bearded iris. You will notice how much different these flowers are. The Spuria flower is even a little more challenging than the MTB. The stamen breaks easier than the bearded iris. Keep at your attempts and you will become an expert. Another idea is to try using a camel hair brush to transfer the pollen from the stamen to the lip of the flower. Make sure to clean the brush between each cross. Blowing firmly onto the brush may be sufficient at times.

Don't forget to label your cross. The pod parent is listed first, and the pollen parent second when writing your cross into your stud book. For example 'Remembering Vic' X 'Ross Island': the iris 'Remembering Vic' provided the stigmatic lip and 'Ross Island' provided the pollen.

After the cross attempts, comes a long wait before you know you were successful and a pod begins to grow. In about 6 to 8 weeks, the pod will begin to brown. Then, it will begin to crack open at the top of the shell. This is the time you will need to take the next indicated step. You can either plant the seeds "green" or store them at this step. Carefully open the seed pod, and remove the seeds. To plant the seeds "green", place the seeds into potting soil right away. You can plant the pot into the ground. Keep the soil moist until winter comes. You might get growth sprouts before winter. You can add a mulch to the pot if you want. The next Spring, you might have additional germination. But

wait again until next Spring and you might have 20 plus sprouts depending on the original seed count.

If you did not plant your seeds green, open the seed pod and collect the seeds into something similar to an empty coffee filter. Let the seeds dry and go dormant. Transfer the seeds to a coin envelop and carefully label it. In the later part of the fall months and before winter sets in, rehydrate your seeds in something similar to medicine vials. Change the water daily using a strainer to catch the seeds and return them to the vial. Repeat this for about five days. Then place the hydrated seeds into potting soil similar to the steps in the paragraph above. It is important to leave the pot for the second season since all the seeds will not germinate at the same time.

Dave Niswonger says the small sprouts can be lined out when the Tall Bearded iris are in bloom. We have lined out the sprouts in the fall also. I've not had enough experience to know which works best - a spring or fall line out. Then comes another long wait. It may take three years for the first bloom, but it is well worth the wait. During your wait time, you will be making other crosses, potting up other seeds, lining out other seedlings, and enjoying the anticipation. It is probably a good idea to have purchased a judge's training manual by now for information about the qualities of a good spuria.

## Editor's Corner

By Darol Jurn

Last year at this time I was apologizing to at least two Spuria growers/hybridizers for failing to include their 2009 introductions in the winter 2009 Spuria News. At that time I made a promise to myself not overlook any growers/hybridizers with introductions. Somehow I managed to do it again, however this time I received all of the grower introductions but somehow misplaced information for one of them. So with my head hanging low again.....I have included in this newsletter the 2010 introduction 'Cast of Green' by Terry Aitken (Aitken's Salmon Creek Gardens).

'Cast of Green' - (Terry Aitken, R. 2010) Sdlg. 00-SPU-2. SPU, 48" (122cm) ML. Standards are semi flared, done in a deep gunmetal purple. Style arms are a similar gunmetal with a pale yellow wash at the midribs. Missouri Iron Ore X unknown. Available at Aitken's Salmon Creek Gardens.



I attended the Spuria Convention in Portland, as noted by other contributors to this newsletter the convention was great with magnificent weather, the spurias were in full bloom, the hospitality was unmatched and a good time was had by all. The bus ride between guest gardens included an auction of future rhizomes from the guest gardens. The speaker for the convention, Lee Walker, very interesting to say the least. Not only did he share his experiences with hybridizing spuria, but he also discussed some of his hybridizing secrets using 'low tech' genetic engineering. The Best Named Spuria - 'Red War Clouds' (Walker, 2010), the Best Spuria Seedling - 95-28-6 (Walker). Here are a few photos from the convention.



Tom & Ellen Abrego's guest garden

Lee Walker's 'Red War Clouds'





Lee Walker's seedling 93-10-10



Lee Walker's seedling 98-6-3 (a non-guest spuria)

Nancy Price & Dave Silverberg guest garden



Tracy & Will Plotner guest garden



Anna & David Cadd's 'Under the Rainbow'



B.C. Jenkins 'Doris Irene'

O.D. Niswonger's 'Missouri Morning'



B.C. Jenkins by Jim Hedgecock 'Line Dancing'



**"Spuria Spectacle" and AIS Region 13 Spring Meeting, June 11-13, 2010, Portland, Oregon**

By Dr. Anna Cadd,  
Cadd's Beehive Iris Garden, Healdsburg, California

Spring 2010 was busy. With almost twice the normal rainfall and our fertilizing program, the weeds "were growing like weeds"; and there was no end of cleaning the garden. Then all kinds of irises started to bloom at once, and we went to Modesto for the Region 14 Spring Meeting, and then there was the Santa Rosa Iris Society Show. There was no time (and also no money) to go to the AIS National Convention in Madison, Wisconsin, as we had already committed to go to Portland for a Spuria Convention. We arrived at the Airport Hotel Friday evening, June 11, after a short stop at Schreiners Garden, which, unfortunately, was almost finished blooming. We registered, greeted some friends, and then attended the AIS Region 13 Board meeting. It was scheduled only for one hour and from the proceedings it appeared that Region 13 has no problems whatsoever. Or perhaps they just kept the meeting brief and cordial for the benefit of folks from other Regions?

The garden tours began by loading the bus at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday. Everyone received a sack breakfast; and with relief we put away our raincoats and umbrellas, as it was the first sunny and warm day in Portland in 40 days! The Greater Portland Iris Society had worked hard to make this a wonderful event. Eight hybridizers sent guest irises: Terry Aitken, Anna and David Cadd, Jim Hedgecock, Charles Jenkins, Brad Kasperek, Dave Niswonger and Lee Walker. Bus captains Lee Walker and Chad Harris entertained us and conducted an iris auction as we drove to the Chehalem Gardens of Tom and Ellen Abrego.

The view from their garden was so spectacular, that for a moment I forgot the spurias. Tom and Ellen welcomed everyone and showed us several semicircular beds of Spuria irises. They have an impressive collection from the oldest to the newest spurias plus 39 named guest irises and 10 seedlings, mostly Lee Walker's and one by Brad Kasperek. Everyone was so impressed with Lee Walker's 2010 introduction 'Red War Clouds', that this spuria was voted the Best Introduced Variety. It is a deep maroon red with midsize diffused yellow signal. I really liked Lee's seedling '94-38-35' with unusual deep mulberry color and heart shaped



Aitken's guest garden



Aitken's 'Lilting Lavender'



Aitken's seedling O5SPU-1A (a non-guest spuria)

B.C. Jenkins by Jim Hedgecock 'Galaxy Lord'



gold signal. 'Lemon Tower' (Walker, 2008) was pure lemon and taller than me; and 'Steely Eyes' (Walker, 2006) was an unusual cool steely blue with overlaying yellow signal. 'Some Say It's Pink' (Walker, 2009) tells everything about itself. I tried to take as many pictures as possible of different, never before seen spurias, that I missed the home-grown strawberries; and only had time to thank Tom and Ellen for a wonderful experience.

With anticipation we jumped out of the bus in Dave Silverberg's and Nancy Price's Garden. Dave ran toward us as we left the bus, shouting "David, your spurias are beautiful, you should be proud of yourself!" And we were! Between guest irises, seedlings and their own collection they had almost 100 different spurias, grown beautifully in graceful clumps. For the first time I saw Barry Blyth's spurias: 'Poet's Love' (Blyth, 1993), white with huge yellow signal; 'Mahogany Lord' (Blyth, 1993) with deep burgundy velvety flowers and 'Wild At Heart' (Blyth, 1999) with deep mulberry standards and yellow with mulberry rim falls. Barry doesn't work with spurias anymore, as there was nobody to purchase them. What a loss!

Dave Niswonger's spurias from his "River" series were also spectacular: 'Whitewater River' (Niswonger, 2001), deep blue with diffused yellow signal; and 'Castor River' (Niswonger, 2006) - a blend of blue and brown with huge yellow signal. Dave was there with his handsome son - what a treat to see them both!

Several introductions of Charles Jenkins got my attention (in every garden): 'Line Dancing' (Jenkins, 2007), deep blue lavender with distinctive lines on the falls. The standards on this spuria are like rabbit's ears! It was also nice to see several Lee Walker introductions and beautiful seedlings, some of which he had slated to destroy, but changed his mind when we all screamed at him! I really liked 'Remembering Vic' (Walker, 2005), huge lemon spuria named in memory of Vic Brody, partner of long time SRIS member Frank Foster. We also admired the seedlings of new spuria hybridizer, Nancy Price. I particularly liked '98-7-3' with deep red brown flowers and diffused yellow signal; and '98-6-2', with unusual deep blueberry standards and blended blueberry and yellow falls. Way to go, Nancy!

In this company Cadd's spurias were also looking good and Dave was right. 'Moonlight Shy' (Cadd,

2002) was shining with white flowers. 'Singing Light' (Cadd, 2005) was sporting 8 buds and 'Speeding Star' (Cadd, 2002), with deep blue standards and almost milky white falls, was asking for praise.

As we were leaving this beautiful garden, Dave Silverberg announced that this was his last Convention and open garden, as he just hit 80 years old and plans to retire. But who can believe this old Joker?

For lunch we enjoyed barbecued baby back ribs with all the trimmings! It was so delicious that we stuffed ourselves like Christmas turkey! It was just a short ride to Will and Tracy Plotner's Wildwood Gardens in Molalla; otherwise we would have fallen asleep! Despite lunch, we still were drawn to the snack table with homemade fudge and strawberries that was placed almost under the roots of one of five huge trees that recently crashed on the property. Thirty-nine named varieties and nine seedlings were planted in two long beds. 'Lemon Suntea' (Cadd, 2004) was exactly as it is supposed to be, tall with broad lemon flowers. 'Sparkling Cider' (Cadd, 2002) was really beautiful in a blend of white, yellow and lavender.

I had an interesting discussion with Chad Harris about Terry Aitken's 2010 introduction 'Cast of Green'. This spuria, with velvety brown maroon standards and blend of brown and yellow on falls, has flowers open for 3-4 days. When they are aging, you can see a layer of green color on the falls. We were not sure if the colors are evenly distributed in three layers of cells and some pigment is just disappearing. I made a mental note to discuss this with Terry, but then forgot. I was so intrigued that I bought this spuria during the bus auction, to observe this later. To my surprise, I found another one, 'Twilight Mode' (Blyth, 2004), with deep blue standards and falls a blend of blue and yellow, where the green color was really visible. There is always something new to learn!

Grabbing another piece of fudge we jumped on the bus for a short trip to the Salmon Creek Garden of Terry and Barbara Aitken. Their property is now located in the middle of the city but I remember that 15 years ago cows were grazing on their meadow. Forty-three named varieties and seven seedlings were planted together with Terry's collection of different spurias and his seedlings. I was still ambitious and tried to take as many pic-

tures as possible, but most of the others had found a row of chairs and were lazily chattering with friends. One of the most beautiful spurias was 'Lilting Lavender' (Aitken, 2009), lavender blue standards and a blend of lavender and yellow with tiny lavender rim on the falls. There were some beautiful seedlings of Terry's, but they were not clearly labeled. There was a whole row of 'Cast of Green', and I was able to spot the "green" falls. 'Speeding Star' was still looking excellent, as were 'Red War Clouds' and 'Sparkling Cider'. I wandered into the greenhouses, where crackers with cheese and strawberries were served between Terry's orchids. Maybe it was just spuria overdose, but most of the 60 attendees seemed to be flagging and were hanging out there too. Maybe talking to old friends was more entertaining.

We left the friendly hosts and headed to the hotel for the banquet. The chicken marsala was great; as was the guest speaker, Dr. Lee Walker, in a business suit no less! I have known Lee for over 15 years and never saw him look so civilized! It was interesting to hear about his (sometimes controversial) hybridizing process, but the results were there: Lee received the Best Introduced Variety Award for 'Red War Clouds' (Walker, 2010) and Best Seedling Award for '95-28-6' (I think). But not only Lee was beaming with pride: Terry Aitken presented us with the 2009 Wister Medal for our TB 'Italian Ice'. We couldn't go to Madison, so Terry brought the award to us in Portland. Even David was feeling great!

To finish this wonderful Convention, on Sunday we attended judges training given by Dave Niswonger; and afterwards said goodbye to the wonderful and gracious garden owners, Convention committee members, the members of the Greater Portland Iris Society and all attendees. It was a Convention to remember!

## A Blast from the Past

By Darol Jurn

With the electronic capture of historic Spuria Newsletters almost complete, I thought it might be appropriate to bring a few items of interest from the past to the present. With this in mind here is my first attempt at bringing you a blast from the past.

*Fifty years ago:* The Spuria Iris Society still in its infancy was seeking new members. Then President

Ben Hager announced in his President's Message a membership drive to encourage current members to sign-up new members to the society. The reward for the member who signed up most new members was a rhizome of 'Wakerobin', second place a rhizome of 'Driftwood' and third place a rhizome of 'Golden Lady'. In that same President's Message it was also announced that Spuria display gardens were becoming a reality with planned gardens to be open to the public in Denver, Portland, Albuquerque and Oklahoma City.

*Forty years ago:* In 1970 outgoing SIS President Ila Crawford passed the reign to incoming president Archie Owen during the AIS Convention held in New York. It was in New York that the Eric Nies Award was presented to Ben Hager for his hybrid of 'Connoisseur'. Membership Chairman Dr. Clarke Cosgrove noted that Spuria Iris Society membership reached an all time high of 519 members. In 1970 the annual membership dues were \$1.00 (with dues increasing to \$2.00 for 1971). Incoming President Archie Owen noted there is an ongoing effort to update the Spuria display gardens. Included in the 1970 Spuria News was an article about the subject of Spuria Hybrids in Turkmenia (series of articles from several newsletters) contributed by Dr. Lilija Soboleva from the Soviet Union, it makes for some interesting reading. The 70's newsletters also note that the Spuria Iris Society was active with seed exchanges, a packet of 20 seeds for \$0.25.

*Thirty years ago:* In 1980 the Eric Nies Award was presented to O. David Niswonger for his hybrid 'Buttered Chocolate'. During the SIS board meeting, it was voted to send a newsletter to all AIS Region VPs with the intent of possibly bringing in new SIS members. 'Ping And Pang' (Ben Hager, R. 1976) was introduced by Melrose Gardens.

*Twenty years ago:* It was announced that SIS annual dues would increase to \$5.00 starting in 1991. An interesting fact contributing to this increase is that the cost to publish the newsletter was in excess of \$600 per issue. Spuria membership was noted at 232 members.

# Spuria Sources

**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)

**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@cellinet.net](mailto:redbud@cellinet.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.scottsisirigardens.com](http://www.scottsisirigardens.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 (623) 932-3412.

**Calling all Hybridizers**

Include your Spuria introductions in the Spuria Slide Show. Send a slide of your newest introduction or even older cultivar to:

Riley Probst  
 2701 Fine Ave.  
 Modesto, CA 95355

Your slide must have the name of the cultivar, hybridizer and year introduced written on the slide. The slides will become the permanent property of the Spuria Iris Society.

Want to help the Spuria Iris Society save on costs? Are you willing to receive the Spuria News electronically? If so please request the Membership Chairman update the membership roster to reflect your willingness to accept the newsletter electronically. You will also need to inform the membership chair of your current e-mail address.