

# Spuria News

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



# Spuria News

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(terms expire 2023)

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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 2023.

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. As an affiliate of the AIS, the Spuria Iris Society is a tax exempt organization, group exemption number 3686. 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:

- 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 Pay Pal.
- 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 (spuriairissociety@gmail.com or 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

email: spurisirissociety@gmail.com

# President's Message

by Andi Rivarola

Dear friends,



The Pandemic is still ranging on all over the country, and around the world. Political and social unrest is around everyone. Will it ever end?

I hope that you and your loved ones are OK. Keeping healthy and happy besides avoiding crowds, and avoiding

all health challenges.

Dealing with these societal changes we're experiencing, it may be a good idea to make changes on all aspects of our lives. Some people, for example, have adapted rather quickly to the electronic age, using Zoom more often, getting together with loved ones also. Others, of course, have not, and it's easy to understand how this could be since we're all different, aren't we?

So, my question to you is: what are the things that we could do for the Spuria Iris Society to improve, change or adapt to the current situation. Please don't be shy, share your thoughts and suggestions.

I feel happy and honored that I was able to participate in two international trips last year. And, the memory of the gardens and people I met sustains me still in 2020. I'm glad that I took so many pictures also, so I can not only recreate my mind and also confirm through them I did indeed visit these beautiful places.

I just hope that many of you are in close reach to a garden. I moved in 2019, and I've been working hard, renovating my new garden. I will definitely not be done with everything that I want to do with it anytime soon. I still have many irises in pots because I've encountered many boratious rodents. Namely, gophers and squirrels that eat everything from roots to leaves. So far, they have managed to eat all iris leaves as they come out, and so that kills the plants. I am planning to plant more potted plants on the ground and also build some raised beds. What do you do with these monsters?

The American Iris Society is putting together some great webinars via Zoom, and I hope you're participating.

There's always room to learn something new about irises.

Please be sure to share with us any news or pictures of your garden. Especially if they contain spuria irises. With that in mind, we wanted to let you know that we have a new e-mail address for SIS. It's spuriairissociety@gmail.com.

Have a good start to fall 2020

Andi Rivarola, President Spuria Iris Society



'Adriatic Blue' - Niswonger 1996 Jurn photo

#### New Members

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

- · Mary Moss, Maryville, TN
- · Linda Doty, Denver, CO
- · Janice Lovell, Fresno, CA
- Christine Meagher, North Las Vegas, NV
- Susan Grigg, Raleigh, NC
- · Lucy Huff, Spring Branch, TX
- · Jeanie Jackson, Greenville, TN
- · Paul Love, Searcy, AR
- · Kathy Mcartney, Val Caron Ontario, Canada
- · Christine Meagher, N Las Vegas, NV
- · Elizabeth Seamans, Pittsburg, PA
- · Margaret & Patric Spence, Lake Stevens, WA

# Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Debbie James Report date 02/01/2020 through 09/01/2020

Beginning Balance Income	\$7,654.88
Spuria Checklist 1 @ \$45	45.00
Membership: Single annual: Single Triennial 3yr E-Membership: 1yr E-Membership:	96.00 180.00 75.00 <u>6.00</u>
Total Income:	\$402.00
Expenses  Newsletter costs: Checklist shipping Eric Nies Award Website domain fees PayPal Fees:	225.81 7.34 69.06 135.16 87.73
Total Expenses:	\$445.10
Ending Balance: CD Balance:	\$7611.78 \$1,214.17
Total Assets:	\$8,825.95



'Banned in Boston' - Vaughn 2012 Jurn photo

# Spuria News

#### Cover Photo

A flower arrangement by Anna Cadd for the Mt Diablo Iris Society virtual show, "Celebrating 100 years of the American Iris Society." The arrangement titled "It's a Long Way, Baby" features Spuria Irises 'Belise' (Simonet 1964) and 'Dandelion Smile' (Cadds 2005) together with pink geranium - Pelargonium hirsutum. Next to the crystal vase are two AIS Bulletins, AIS Millennium issue from Winter 2020 and Bulletin No 11 from May 1924, edited by Secretary R.S.Stutevant, which features Beardless irises only. The old species 'Belise' next to modern variety 'Dandelion Smile' shows the progress in hybridizing and emphasizes the differences between two distant AIS Bulletins!

#### **Board of Director Minutes**

No Board activity has been conducted since the 2020 spring edition of the Spuria News (previous board action taken January 10, 2019).

### Election of Spuria Iris Society Officers

There were no nominations received from any member at large for any Spuria Iris Society Officer position. The existing Spuria Iris Society Officers agreed to continue in their positions for an additional term ending 2023, therefore per Article VI Section 2 of the Spuria Iris Society Bylaws the existing Spuria Officers will continue in their current positions until the new terms expire in 2023.

#### Spuria News Archive

Historic editions of the Spuria News can be found in the AIS online Hager-DuBose Memorial Iris Library of Iris Literature located at: http:// wiki.irises.org/Hist/ArchiveSpuriaNews

# 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 Goggle Drive, please let us know.)

Andi Rivarola andinsky@gmail.com

#### Spuria Checklist

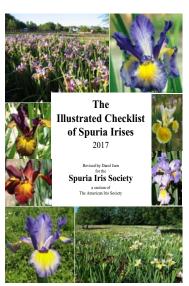
The Spuria Checklist has been revised for 2017 and is currently available. This checklist includes many *new* and *updated* photographs including registrations through 2017 for a total of 265 pages. The purchase price including postage is:

- \$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.
- Send a check made out to the Spuria Iris Society to the Treasurer, Debbie James.

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 <a href="https://">https://</a>

www.cafepress.com/spuriairissociety to view available items.

# Spuria Membership

Total Memberships = 151

Total Memberships last year = 175

Members who belong to AIS = 75

Life Members = 39

E-Memberships = 25

Complimentary Memberships:

New Zealand Iris Society - newsletter exchange

AIS Bulletin - Jane Milliman

AIS Library - Dave Silverberg

AIS President - Jody Nolin

Dave Niswonger - Honorary Life

#### Overseas Members:

Denmark = 1	France = 1
Hungary = 1	New Zealand = 1
Russia = 1	

#### Domestic Membership by State:

AL = 1	AR = 3	AZ = 9	CA = 29
<i>CO</i> = 3	FL = 1	GA = 4	HI = 1
IA = 4	ID = 2	IL = 4	IN = 1
KS = 3	MA = 1	MI = 3	MN = 1
MO = 4	MT = 1	NC = 3	NE = 3
NM = 5	NV = 4	NY = 1	OH = 4
OR = 8	PA = 1	<i>SC</i> = 3	SD = 2
TN = 3	TX = 21	VA = 1	WA = 7
WI = 1	Canada: = 3		

### AIS Spuria Awards

Due to COVID-19 the AIS made the decision to cancel the AIS awards for 2020. this is a very unfortunate situation for all hybridizers, commercial gardens, judges, and the iris-buying public. But with travel restrictions in place many judges were not able to make any garden visits whatsoever, and the AIS Board of Directors felt that it had no choice but to cancel. For additional information please refer to the AIS website: http://www.irises.org/about-ais/awards-symposiums/#awardsballotinfo.



'Under the Rainbow' - Cadd 2008 Jurn photo

## Spuria Symposium

By Darol Jurn

It is that time of year to find out what spuria are your favorites. How was your spuria iris season? Here in Sedona we had below average rain and average temperatures through our summer dormant season, so far this fall has been cooler and wetter than normal. Last spring my spuria bloom was delayed well after the TB bloom.

In spite of the type of season you may have had we hope you will share your list of favorite spuria irises from this year's growing season. It will be interesting to see which ones each of you enjoyed. Will 'Line Dancing' be the top iris again this year?

Remember, each member can select up to 10 irises. Your TOP favorite should appear in the first position. The remaining should be listed in descending order of preference. Points will be awarded as follows,

- ·10 points are awarded to the first Spuria listed
- ·9 points are awarded to the second Spuria listed
- ·8 points are awarded to the third Spuria listed
- ·And on down the list so that 1 point is awarded to the tenth Spuria listed

The top 10 Spurias will be determined based on the total number of points earned by each of the cultivars selected.

Don't forget to indicate the location of your garden and/or your USDA zones. Varietal comments are always welcome. Your input could assist others in deciding which ones they may want to grow.

Return your list to Darol Jurn NO LATER THAN November 16, 2020.

E-mail: djurn@prodigy.net or spuriairissociety@amail.com

Mail to: Darol Jurn 100 Sedona Vista Dr. Sedona, AZ 86338-6017 USA



'Kristi's Chorus' - L. Johnsen R2012 Jurn photo

# Missouri Ramblin

By Jim Hedgecock

Hello Spuria Friends,

I hope this article finds you all well and coping with the COVID-19 issue. At best, it promises to be a possible lengthy process. I have several concerns about the future of our society and the awards for our spurias.

One possible solution that might help is to establish a series of spuria test gardens. Colorado Springs is one that is still operating after many years. They are making a concentrated effort to revive the test gardens. They are accepting spuria irises. Why not try to establish several test gardens around the US for spurias? These could be by

an individual or a local region or society. Next, it would be imperative to promote the test gardens to judges. Not just a blurb in the national bulletin, but a personal invite to all AIS judges to visit these gardens. A list of judges is available and it should be used in this effort.

Have you ever noticed how few votes it now takes to win a Dykes Medal? It will be worse for spuria awards. HM's, AM's and the Eric Nies Medal could be won by a hand full of votes. A Eric Nies Medal could easily be won at single regional with just a few attending judges voting. The tragedy here is it might not even grow in other parts of the US.

So what can a hybridizer do to help the situation? Dallas is having a dual spuria and Louisiana convention in 2023. Send your spuria guests to it now. This may be the best chance you have to win awards in spurias for some time to come. The society needs to have a strong presence at the convention with plenty of door prizes and a spuria auction or sale. Also, a very informative program that covers culture and lots of photos. I put up a beginners spuria special for the first time this year and I was shocked at how many people did not know anything about spuria culture.

These are just my thoughts and ideas. Do you have more, let your spuria officers know about them. They need your support more than ever.

God Bless you, your families, and your gardens.
Jim Hedgecock



'Black Stetson' - Hedgecock 2018 Hedgecock photo

#### Editor's Corner

By Darol Jurn

Since the 2020 AIS Awards have been canceled, I needed to provide something of substance to the members, so I requested assistance from several members to provide me with photos from their gardens or shows. Hopefully this edition will fill a photo void that the canceled 2020 AIS awards would have otherwise provided.

The 2019-2020 winter in Sedona was a relative wet winter. I had hoped the wet winter would contribute to a much better bloom season than 2019. Very much to my dismay the 2020 bloom season was even more disappointing than the 2019 bloom season. Every spring I normally invite my local iris club for a garden visit with judges training and lunch provided. This year the club had planned to give judges training on my spuria. Because of the concerns and restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic I canceled the annual visit. As unfortunate as the pandemic has been I was saved an embarrassing club visit due to the VERY poor bloom.

Since I experienced great blooms in previous years I had a strong desire to identify the cause of my bloom issues. Things I do know:

- The last two bloom seasons has been very disappointing.
- My garden has had great blooms in previous years.
- The summer monsoon rains of 2019 and 2020 were non-existent (we receive on average 18-20 inches of rain per year with approximately half of that provided by the summer rains).
- I fertilized the past two years as I have in previous years.
- The foliage of my iris appear to be great (no discoleration or any other visual damage of the foliage).
- My garden's chemical analysis has been unknown until this year.
- My garden is watered by a drip system (1/4" tubing with drip emitters every 6 inches) that has been in place for at least 9 years.
- In recent years my watering system has not provided a consistent water distribution, i.e., over time various emitters have become partially blocked providing less water by the affected emitters.

With this known information in hand I decided to submit several soil samples to a regional lab for a complete agricultural analysis of my soil. The results indicate one of my garden plots is very high in salts with a recommended action to provide extra water to flush the salts from the root zones (the ph of this plot is slightly less than 7.0 which is good for iris). The remaining garden plots are high in some parameters but should not impact my bloom quantity or quality. These plots have a ph at or slightly above 7.0.

In recent years my watering system has not been providing a consistent distribution of water to my beds. I now have replaced all drip lines to establish a consistent watering pattern and have changed my watering schedule with longer watering durations with the intent to flush the high salt concentration from the root zone. Now I wait to see what this change will bring to my garden for the 2021 bloom season.

This past spring I attempted to cross pollinate several spuria during the 2020 bloom season. For the early bloomers I gathered and stored (in the refrigerator) the pollen of individual blooms until such time a suitable recipient bloom presented it's time for penalization. For about half of the crosses I used fresh pollen. I attempted 11 crosses. As the weeks passed it became apparent that my hybridizing skills are less than adequate as NONE of my 11 attempted crosses took. During the same period nature successfully made at least the same number of crosses. So I will seek the assistance from a known successful hybridizer before the 2021 bloom season arrives.



'Cosmic Impact' - Cadd 2006 Cadd photo

#### 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."

Sixty years ago (1960): The Eric Nies Award winner was 'Lark Song' by Eric Nies (no photo available)

Fifty years ago (1970): The Eric Nies Award winner was 'Baritone' by Walker Ferguson (photo courtesy of Spuria Iris Society)

A note of interest, the cover page of the July edition contained an article and photo of the AIS National



Convention held in New Jersey where the Presby Memorial Iris Garden was the highlight for the convention.

Another article of interest was the reflection of the 1968 AIS convention site Berkley California. It was noted at the time of the 1968 convention the hotel appeared in somewhat of a "run down" state where the front lawn was immaculately manicured with many modern irises. Two years later (1970) reveals the conditions have reversed where the hotel has been renovated and the front garden was found neglected. The front garden was impacted by the ravages of drought, insects, moles and vandals that have all but obliterated the once beautiful iris garden. Of the hundreds of bearded iris that once grew in 1968, two years later maybe a dozen survived. A note of interest is that the tougher spurias multiplied in spite of the adverse conditions in the front garden.

Forty years ago (1980): The Eric Nies Award winner for 1980 was 'Buttered Chocolate' by hybridizer Dave Niswonger (Barry Blyth photo).



Thirty years ago (1990). The Eric Nies Medal winner for 1990 was 'Cinnamon Stick' by Dave Niswonger (Donald Evans photo).

In the summer edition Dave Niswonger contributes a follow-up article regarding the gues-



tion does spuria seed color correlate to bloom color? Dave writes: "Seed Color - Is there Any Meaning - In a previous issue of the Spuria Newsletter, I raised the question as to whether any growers had grown seedlings by the color of the seed to determine if there was any significance. I had reported that I had sown and kept separate white seed and dark seed from 'Blue Lassie'.

This past season was a very poor season for me, but I can report that of the seedlings that did bloom, the light colored seed produced white or light blue seedlings and the dark seed produced darker blue seedlings. This is just a preliminary report since all the seedlings did not bloom. Again. I raise the question as to whether anyone has done this and what their results have been."

Another article of interest by Charles Jenkins titled "Are There Reblooming Spurias?" Charles notes that one of several I. Halophila seedling crosses from SIGNA seed contributed by Eberhard Schuster of Germany displayed apparent reblooming qualities. In this case one seedling bloomed mid-April, a second bloom in early June and a third bloom in mid-July. He also noted that one 1971 introduction by Walker Ferguson, 'Spring Island' was registered as a "rebloomer". For those of you who are interested check out the article at the Wiki address: https://wiki.irises.org/pub/ Hist/Info1990SpuriaNewsletter02Fall/ 1990%20Fall%20Spuria%20News%20AIS.pdf.

Twenty years ago (2000). The Eric Nies Medal winner for 2000 was 'Ila Remembered' by Ben Hager, (Jurn photo)

In the summer edition Dave Niswonger contributed an article "Fading Blues." In it Dave



and Ben Hager discuss the observation of fading blues in spurias. I also find my spuria blues do fade. Although I have a slightly different take, when I moved my iris to my current location, I noted that my pink TBs seem to fade much more than when I lived in the Phoenix area. I suspect the culprit is ultra violent radiation as I now live at a higher elevation where the UV light is more intense. For those of you who are curious, the full article can be read at Wiki address: https:// wiki.irises.org/pub/Hist/ Info2000SpuriaNewsletter02Summer/

Ten years ago (2010). The Eric Nies Medal winner for 2010 was 'Missouri Dreamland' by Dave Niswonger (Bob Pries photo).

In the summer edition, Nancy Price contributed an article "Spuria Hybridizing Notes." This article is a wealth of infor-



mation compiling her learnings on hybridizing. In the article she discusses carotenes, anthocyanidin (pigments), chromosomes, and hybridizing. Read the article at Wiki address: https:// wiki.irises.org/pub/Hist/ Info2010SpuriaNewsletter2Summer/ 2010%20Summer%20Spuria%20News.pdf.

# Spuria News

# Spuria Sources

Abbey Gardens (Nancy Price)

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Cascadia Iris Gardens (Patrick and Margaret Spence)

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E-Mail: Patrick@CascadiaIrisGardens.com Website: www.cascadiairisgardens.com

Cadd's Beehive Iris Garden (Anna Cadd)

329 North St.

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E-mail: caddsiris@comcast.net

Cape Iris (Dave Niswonger) 822 Rodney Vista Blvd.

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Fax: (816) 424-3836

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Kary Iris Garden (Ardi Kary)

6201 East Calle Rosa
Scottsdale AZ 85251-4

Scottsdale, AZ 85251-4224 Phone: (480) 949-0253 E-mail: ardikary@aol.com Website: www.karyiris.com Quail Hill Gardens

2460 Compton Bridge Road Inman, SC 29349-8489 Phone: (864) 472-3339

Wildwood Gardens (Will Plotner)

P.O. Box 250

Molalla, OR 97038-0250 E-mail: *gardens@molalla.net* 

E-mail Will Plotner for a PDF catalogue.

Wildwood Gardens

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:

Full page: \$30 Half page: \$20

Quarter page: \$15

To submit advertising send the appropriate amount to:

Debbie James 6634 Gaviota St.

Lake Balboa, CA 91406-5943

E-mail: dbabski1962@yahoo.com

Send a hard or electronic copy of the advertisement to

the Spuria News Editor:

Darol Jurn

100 Sedona Vista Dr. Sedona, AZ 86336

e-mail: djurn@prodigy.net OR spuriairissociety@gmail.com

We request you provide a copy (electronic JPG or PDF format) of your desired advertisement. Please ensure the resolution is sufficient for the size of the advertisement.