



**Almanac:
Society for
Pacific Coast
Native Iris**

**FALL, 2000
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PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM THE SPCNI TREASURER

Prices listed are for SPCNI members

Check List of Named PCI Cultivars

Lewis Lawyer, Editor: 59 pages. Lists and describes Pacific Coast iris and named hybrids through 1995. \$6.00 postage paid.

Diseases of the Pacific Coast Iris

Lewis & Adele Lawyer: ALMANAC, Fall 1986. 22 pages, 9 photographs. \$3.50 postage paid.

A Guide to the Pacific Coast Irises

Victor A. Cohen: The British Iris Society 1967. Booklet, 5.5 x 8.5, 40 pages, 16 line drawings, 8 color and 6 black-and-white photographs. Brief description of species and sub-species including their distribution. \$4.00 postpaid

A Revision of the Pacific Coast Irises

Lee W. Lenz: Photocopy of *Aliso* original. Booklet 5.5 x 8.5, 72 pages, 9 line drawings, 14 photographs, and 12 maps. Definitive work on the taxonomic status of the *Californicae*, with a key to the species and sub-species. Detailed maps and accounts of distribution. \$6.00 postage paid.

Hybridization and Speciation in the Pacific Coast Iris

Lee W. Lenz: Photocopy of *Aliso* original. Companion booklet to the above, 5.5 x 8.5, 72 pages, 30 figures, graphs, drawings, and photographs. Definitive work on naturally occurring inter-specific crosses of PCI, including detailed account of distribution. \$6.00 postage paid. If ordered together, both Lenz booklets may be obtained for \$10.00 postage paid.

ALMANAC

DEADLINES: March 1 and September 1. Back issues are available for \$3.50 each, postpaid. Please address the Editor.

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MEMBERSHIP & SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris is a section of the American Iris Society; membership in AIS is a prerequisite for membership in the SPCNI. If you wish only to receive the *Almanac* (two issues per year), the annual subscription rate is \$6.00.

Membership	Individual	Family
Annual	\$ 6.00	\$ 8.00
Triennial	15.00	18.00
Life	75.00	100.00

Please send membership-subscription monies to the SPCNI Treasurer. Foreign postage: please add \$1.00 for annual, \$3.00 for triennial, \$10.00 for family.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The time has come when I must address this as my last President's message to you. My tenure will end in January 2001, and it is time to turn over the throne to my good friend and very capable and knowledgeable Vice-President, Richard Richards. For those of you that don't know Richard, he is a long time SPCNI member, a Southern Californian who grows many types of iris, and a recently retired professor. We have shared good times together at our functions, AIS conventions and through the miracles of today the E-mail. I know he will do an excellent job and looks forward to meeting as many of you as he can, and to serving all of you.

My term has been a challenging one in trying to lead the era beyond Lewis and Adele Lawyer's devoted helm. With the talented abilities of Steve Ayala (Petaluma, CA), who volunteered out of the blue, we have entered the internet age. Our website has won awards and is in my opinion, the best of any online plant organization. We continue to draw new members because of its outstanding content. I was so pleased when Steve Taniguchi stepped in to be the *Almanac* Editor. I think he even has surprised himself with his tremendous abilities for this responsibility. Our resident photography buff Damon Hill (Sebastopol, CA) has organized three excellent slide programs that are available to anyone that would like to admire our envied floral displays (Note: look in the *Almanac* for the article as to how to order these slides for your group.). Along with membership dues our biggest revenue source is the seed exchange. Debby Cole (Mercer

Island,WA) is doing an admirable job in administering the program.

At the beginning of my leadership my wife Terri volunteered to be your Secretary/Treasurer. Her abilities and dedication have contributed greatly to our continued success. Through my forced association, and our dedicated partnership, I will continue to be in touch and assist wherever needed.

What would I like to see for the future? We are all disappointed when one of our favorite plants just dies for no reason. Can we share more of our success as well as our failures? Today's hybridizers are working towards new breakthroughs with their efforts. Although many outstanding new registrations come by chance growing and selecting, the planned crosses of proven cultivars is what will hopefully give us the new and hardy plants of the future.

Now that I am moving on, I will continue with our nursery business, serving as Treasurer of the American Iris Society and enjoying my family. I will continue to contribute where possible, and look forward to seeing more of you that I call my friends in SPCNI.

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of being your President.



Jay Hudson

FROM THE EDITOR

First of all, I'd like to thank Jay Hudson for the excellent job he has done as President of SPCNI. He was especially helpful to me when I assumed the position of Editor.

The second item I want to address is the delivery of the last issue of the *Almanac*. It

seems that many of the *Almanacs* languished in the post office for a month before they were delivered. If any of you were supposed to receive a Spring *Almanac* and did not, please contact me and I will send you another one.

The opinions expressed in articles and letters appearing in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views or beliefs of the SPCNI. Remarks about specific irises, companies, products, and services shall not be considered endorsements by the SPCNI.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM THE SECRETARY/TREASURER

Dues Notices

Beginning with January 1, 2001, no first dues renewal notices will be sent to you. Please note the expiration date of your membership on the address label. This date indicates the month and year that your SPCNI dues are due. We will continue to send a final reminder notice if we have not heard from you.

Foreign Rates

In January of 2001, foreign dues will be increased by \$1.00 (\$1.00 for annual, \$3.00 for triennial, \$10.00 for life) to cover postage. The final notice will show increase for foreign postage, however when you notice on your address label that your membership dues are ready to be paid, please increase the dues by \$1.00. Thank you for understanding the need to keep the cost of the Almanac lower so more money can be spent on quality.

Donations

SPCNI will gladly accept tax deductible donations to be used toward production cost of the Almanac. We would like to continue to have high quality, as well as more color photographs within the Almanac. Donations will be a way to increase our quality and quantity. If you wish to make a donation, please send it to:

Terri Hudson, Membership Secretary-Treasurer
33450 Little Valley Road, Fort Bragg, CA 95437

Please include a note with your donation indicating that it is for color production of the Almanac. (We have already received a donation from Nils Sundquist, Sundquist Nursery in Washington State in honor of Colin Rigby for sharing so much information about Pacific Coast Iris. Thank you, Nils.)

SPCNI Membership List

The SPCNI will be offering its membership list to individuals for a slight fee to cover the cost of mailing and printing (approximately \$3.00 for the US, \$4.00 for overseas). This list can be used only for contact purposes and cannot be used or sold as a business mailing list. If anybody wants to be excluded from the list, please contact Terri Hudson. If members have e-mail and would like their e-mail address included in the list, please contact Terri.

SPCNI SLIDE SET AVAILABLE

Three slide sets are available through SPCNI. Our Slide Chairman, Damon Hill, has produced it and it can be obtained by requesting it from him at 4613 Maddock Road, Sebastopol, CA 95472.

The charge is \$7.50 for any of the three sets. One set deals with species, the second is concerned with hybrids, and the third combines the subject matter of both of these. The slides in each set will be contained in a Kodak carousel. The carousel will be convenient to use and less likely to be damaged in shipment. Payment (payable to SPCNI) should be sent to Terri Hudson, SPCNI Secretary-Treasurer. See the address on page 2. The person requesting the slides is financially responsible for return of the slides.

HELP WANTED

It's almost time for SPCNI to revise the *Check List of Pacific Coast Iris* and your Editor needs some help. There are several ways a person can help, and I've listed them in increasing order of difficulty:

1. If you have noticed any errors in the previous version (through 1995) or in the yearly lists for 1996 through 1999, please send the error and the correction to the Editor.
2. The Awards section needs to be updated with all award winners from 1996 through 2000. It would be nice if someone could provide a list of award winners. The list should contain cultivar name, hybridizer, type of award (HM, AM, Mitchell), and year of the award.
3. We need someone to review the section that contains information about the species, subspecies, and natural hybrids.
4. The Supplemental Information section (which contains Originators & Their Cultivars, Registrants by Year, Cultivars & Their Progeny, and Historical Summary) needs to be reviewed and updated with current information.
5. After all of the sections are updated, I would greatly appreciate it if someone could check all the sections for consistency.

Please contact the Editor if you are interested in helping.

AWARD WINNERS FOR 2000

Vernon Wood's PINK CUPID is the year 2000 Mitchell Medal winner. PINK CUPID, which was registered in 1993, is pinkish with a darker center and veins (see the color page). PINK CUPID's parentage is 89-7:(ROARING CAMP x 87-9) X RIVA. PINK CUPID was one of the pinkest PCI when it was introduced.

In addition to PINK CUPID, Vernon Wood has hybridized many award winning PCI, his most famous perhaps is MIMSEY which won the last Mitchell Award in 1992, and the first Mitchell Medal in 1993. Vernon has also won numerous Awards of Merit for his PCI.

A list of all PCI year 2000 winners is given below:

Sydney B. Mitchell Medal

PINK CUPID (Vernon Wood) 22 votes

Runners Up:

DEEP BLUE SEA (Joseph Ghio) 16 votes

WESTERN BLUEBIRD (John Weiler) 14 votes

Award of Merit

MANTRA (Joseph Ghio) 14 votes

PACIFIC SNOWFLAKE (George Shoop) 12 votes

Runners Up:

BLUE MOMENT (Duane Meek) 11 votes

SEA ADMIRAL (Vernon Wood) 11 votes

Honorable Mention

EASTER EGG HUNT (Joseph Ghio) 10 votes

SIERRA AZUL (Joseph Ghio) 10 votes

MASCOT (Joseph Ghio) 9 votes

DISTANT NEBULA (Vernon Wood) 8 votes

STEINBECK COUNTRY (Joseph Ghio) 8 votes

Runners Up:

COMET TRAILS (Vernon Wood) 7 votes

MARINE MAGIC (Lois Belardi) 7 votes

PHILOSOPHY (Joseph Ghio) 7 votes

POINT SANTA CRUZ (Joseph Ghio) 7 votes

EAST COAST REPORT

John White, Minot, ME

I had four plants bloom this year and I made five crosses. The plant in the slide [see color page] had a total of 47 bloom stalks. Since raccoons took a lot of my markers I don't know exactly what it is. It looks like a cross of a pink or light pink *I. tenax* with an *I. innominata*. It is a nice flower and grows well. It looks like pinkish light tan.

The seed I received last fall is doing very well. The *I. tenax* X MANTRA are 12" to 18" tall now and there are 40 or so seedlings. The *I. tenax* X NIGHT EDITOR are doing nearly as well and there are about 12 of those. The (IDYLWILD x *I. tenax*) X EAGLE EYES are also growing very well and I have about 12 of them. The *I. tenax* X CANYON SNOW did not germinate in the house so I put the seed flat in the garden and covered it with pine needles. I received *I. hartwegii* from SIGNA and have

about 8 plants. I also planted *I. hartwegii australis* but that seed did not germinate indoors and I put the flat in the garden and covered it with pine needles. All of the above seed received the cold room temperature of 50 to 55 degrees for 30 to 35 days. I am quite pleased with the way the seedlings are growing.

I have 8 or 9 plants that have survived 2 to 4 Maine winters. This last winter was very hard on a lot of plants. No snow cover until January 15, then cold temperatures in the low teens, single numbers, and a few nights 3 to 4 degrees below zero. If we received any snow before January 15 it warmed up and melted and at night the temperature dropped to the very low numbers. I lost about seven hundred Japanese iris because the wet crowns froze and then rotted. We hope this next winter is normal and treats us more kindly.

BREEDING WITH *CHRYSOPHYLLA*

George Gessert, Eugene, OR

Hybridizers have given *Iris chrysophylla* little attention, no doubt because as Pacificas go it is rather modest. The flowers are white or cream-colored with narrow parts held in a single plane like six-pointed stars. They rise only a few inches above the ground. A clump is charming but not comparable to *I. tenax*, *I. douglasiana*, *I. munzii*, *I. innominata*, or *I. bracteata*.

Throughout *I. chrysophylla*'s range, which is from the southern Willamette Valley to the California border, it displays little variation. However, in the Cow Creek drainage in southern Douglas County there are *I. chrysophylla* specimens with stems up to twelve inches long, with pink or red bracts. And the Noti irises in Lane County have pale lavender flowers. The Noti irises have received some attention, perhaps because they bloom

several weeks earlier than other Pacificas in the southern Willamette Valley. Superficially Noti irises look like *I. tenax*, but their long perianth tubes identify them as *I. chrysophylla*, or at least as closer to *I. chrysophylla* than to *I. tenax*. They are probably an ancient stabilized hybrid population. (See "The Noti Irises of Lane County, Oregon" by Roy Davidson, in the Fall, 1982 Almanac, and "More on the Noti Irises of Lane County, Oregon" also by Roy Davidson, in the Spring, 1987 Almanac.)

The origin of the Noti irises is unknown, but they occur in an area that was once heavily populated by Kalapooia Indians. Is there a connection between these irises and the Kalapooia? For centuries the Kalapooias set fires to keep land clear for hunting and gathering. These fires burned during the dry season, which usually begins in late June or

early July, and runs to the end of September. Dry season fires would have favored irises that bloomed early, and that produced seed capsules close to the ground, where they would have been less vulnerable to flames than capsules held high. The Noti irises have ground-level capsules.

I. tenax X *I. chrysophylla* hybrid swarms are not uncommon in Lane and Douglas counties. In my experience swarms occur only where human activities have significantly altered the environment, such as along roads, beneath power lines, in pastures, and in clearcuts. In these accidental gardens, irises can be as various as the hybrids in any breeder's plot. Flowers come in shades of violet, cream, grey, and pink, and often have gold signals webbed with dark veins. Some hybrids bloom earlier or later than either parent species.

The best known *I. tenax* X *I. chrysophylla* hybrid is VALLEY BANNER. Its elegantly patterned flower has white standards, dramatic red-purple style arms, and white falls netted with dark purple veins. Ruth Hardy discovered it growing in a field about 20 miles south of Eugene. She registered it in 1958.

During an iris hunt in 1985 I chanced on several other irises with the "Valley Banner" pattern. I described these in "Eight new 'Valley Banners'" in the Fall, 1985 Almanac. In the next few years I found an additional dozen "Valley Banner"-type irises. I used some of them in breeding, and produced many new "Valley Banner"-type irises. Second and third generation hybrids included interesting variations on the "Valley Banner" pattern, such as flowers with both standards and falls heavily netted with veins, falls with prominent signals or eyespots, and pale tan "Valley Banners". However, I have not been able to get yellow flowers with a good "Valley Banner"-type

pattern. *I. chrysophylla*'s white or cream-colored grounds often reappear in advanced generations. This can be useful in breeding for vein patterns, which show up best on pale grounds.

Besides "Valley Banner"-type hybrids, I found several other exceptional *I. tenax* X *I. chrysophylla* hybrids. One had extremely broad falls, like a round-petalled *I. tenax*, but was cream-colored and pencilled with a few brown veins in the signals, like *I. chrysophylla*. Another was an exquisite shade of silvery lilac, a self except for a small violet eyespot at the apex of the signal. Neither of these interspecifics produced noteworthy offspring.

I had better luck with a plant that closely resembled *I. chrysophylla*, but had white falls covered with pale violet veins that were broken into a uniform pattern of dots and dashes. All offspring from crosses with WESTERN QUEEN and with *I. imminata* had broken vein patterns. The pattern appears to be dominant. However, some hybrids had dots and dashes in many configurations, some of them highly distinctive. Last year I registered a vigorous white with intense purple dots and dashes around the signals as RUTH KAC.

I. chrysophylla and its first-generation hybrids almost always have narrow flower parts. However, by crossing these irises with broad-petalled garden hybrids, flower parts as broad as any sold today can be expected in a generation or two. As for *I. chrysophylla*'s short stems, they do not persist when breeding with longer-stemmed Pacificas.

Until very recently I have not had space to grow more than a few dozen *I. chrysophylla* hybrids per year. There are significant opportunities here for anyone who is patient and curious.

[Editor's note: If you are curious about the patterns and colors described above, turn to the color page for several examples of George Gessert's *I. chrysophylla* hybrids. If you are interested in growing *I. chrysophylla*, seed is still available from the seed exchange. Refer to the seed exchange list contained later in this issue.]

PACIFIC COAST IRISES - WHAT I GROW AND WHY I LIKE THEM

Jean Witt, Seattle, WA

We had wild irises – *Iris missouriensis* – where I grew up in eastern Washington, but after I joined AIS I found that the world was full of irises. I set about collecting as many species as I could. These included *I. douglasiana* and other PCI. I learned we had a second species in southwestern Washington – *I. tenax*. I even managed to collect a plant or two on the way to Portland before the freeway was put in.

Since I liked the dainty flowers of PCI and the plants did well in my suburban Seattle garden, I kept adding a few more species and named clones – old standbys AGNES JAMES, AMIGUITA, Ami Royale, and Golden Nymph – all apparently well suited to Seattle's glacial soil and winter-wet climate. They may lack "modern" flower form, but their performance is impeccable. Several clones of *I. innominata* were given to me by Roy Davidson and others, from their collecting trips in southwestern Oregon in the 1960s. Again, several of these proved very durable in the garden. The best of them, perhaps, is an orange-yellow form of *I. innominata*. One that didn't make it – to my regret – was a bing-cherry-colored flower of that same species. A medium blue *I. tenax* with a darker blue thumbprint from the Oregon Cascades is another I'd like to try again.

I. bracteata grew well for me for many years, but finally seems to have disappeared. *I. purdyi* MEMORIA ELWOOD departed to summer rot a year or two ago after many years' residence, but left behind interesting seedlings; other clones not quite so elegant now take its place. *I. chrysophylla*, collected in the Oregon Cascades, is happy along the walk on the south side of the house. It even sets seed – tiny short-stemmed capsules with very few seeds. The *I. tenax* X *I. chrysophylla* hybrid VALLEY BANNER cannot be said to be a vigorous grower, but I have managed to keep it going, and

it has given me promising seedlings. One of these is a tiny pale pink with darker pink style arms – too fragile to be a commercial item, but indicative of the inherent possibilities.

Lovely deep blue-violet *I. macrosiphon* succumbed during reworking of the rock garden, but left its genes in the sinister tan/violet "Morticia", with black perianth tube and petal bases. Newer, bluer *I. macrosiphon* seedlings seem to be spreading their white blazes around without any help from me. Two half-*munzii* hybrids from Ben Hager have been with me for 25-30 years, badly winter-damaged only once in that length of time. Eventually I hope to get around to combining these with my best *I. tenax*.

I've had several of Joe Ghio's older things long enough to consider them permanent here. COUNCILMAN is always the first PCI of the season and I wouldn't be without it. IGNACIO, BIG MONEY, JUNIPERO, and RESTLESS NATIVE are others of his that have been successful. I've tried to collect plants from a variety of breeders and different venues. CREAMY CUSTARD, raised by the late "Red" Logan of Tacoma, is a vigorous pale yellow. Whites CANYON SNOW and WESTERN QUEEN have also done well. ANTIQUE JEWEL, gold with a bleeding red signal, appears to be of mostly *I. innominata* derivation, as does a warm white and raspberry red seedling bequeathed me by Leona Mahood. Even the late Fred Crandall, local breeder of TB, couldn't resist trying his luck with PCIs, and I inherited several of his seedlings – wide petaled blues and whites.

My preference in PCIs is for the smaller types such as *I. tenax* X *I. innominata*, or crosses of the various color forms of *I. innominata*, which have given me some very good bright reds in plants of rock garden size. Unfortunately, these do not transplant or ship

well. Seed strains could be a possible answer. I also prefer flowers with more of a species look than is currently fashionable, because for me they grow better than some of the newer things further removed from the wild.

I don't do much hybridizing any more – too little room and too little energy, so I have yet to realize my goal of a vigorous three-way hybrid combining *I. tenax*, *I. innominata*, and *I. douglasiana*. I still make occasional crosses of PCIs and a number of Cal-Sibe crosses every year. Even without planned crosses, new patterns keep popping up in my garden – double halos and spot patterns of many kinds. The most recent were violet flowers with one eighth-inch spots of tiny violet dots near the tips of their white signals, somewhat like a pattern previously described by Dora Sparrow. Offhand, it looks to me as if *I. innominata* is the source of these variations.

There are many reasons why I like PCIs. I can tuck them into odd corners beyond the reach of the hose; they are ideal plants for the water-conservative garden. Their evergreen leaves maintain their good green color the year around. I get about two months bloom from a succession of types: *I. tenax* and *I. innominata* early, and *I. douglasiana* late. The blooms make exquisite small-scale flower arrangements, even if the individual flowers are more fleeting than the florist's Dutch irises. The ivory and rust seedpods are as good as flowers in dried bouquets. PCI clumps don't have to be divided nearly as frequently as bearded irises, and dividing can be postponed by cutting out part of the clump every year or so for plant sales – PCIs are always in demand around here. They come so easily from seed that hand-pollination is not necessary in order to obtain beautiful seedlings, if garden display rather than introducible varieties is the object.

REBLOOM IN PCI

John Weiler, Fresno, CA

In the spring issue of the Almanac, Garry Knipe wrote about his interest in finding fragrance and rebloom in the Pacific Coast Iris hybrids. This was a pleasant surprise since I had already begun to write a few notes on my observations of rebloom for named clones of these irises in my own garden. Although I cannot add information about fragrance, I can contribute a bit to the rebloom interest.

In the past there have been occasional out-of-season stalks produced on some of the PCIs growing in the garden in our warm Central Valley at Fresno but I have failed to record which iris clones did rebloom or when the extra bloom occurred. This year I carried a notebook with me every time I worked in the garden and was surprised to find how many cultivars actually rebloomed. The rebloom occurred only on well established plants, all of which were two to four year old clumps. No rebloom occurred on first year plants. Although there

has never been any fall rebloom recorded here, the observations recorded here would fit the irises into the repeat reblooming category in which irises bloom at normal spring season and then bloom again a few weeks after the spring bloom is finished. In Fresno, spring bloom usually comes from mid-March to the end of the first week or ten days in April.

Three weeks after spring bloom the first to offer repeat bloom was the violet on white plicata, WISHING (Ghio 93). It produced only a single stalk of rebloom on a large clump but it had shown that repeat bloom in one earlier year. At four weeks after spring bloom, both POINT SANTA CRUZ (Ghio 95), a pretty, warm terra cotta self and GORDOLA (Ghio 96), a broad, deep yellow, bloomed again. POINT SANTA CRUZ had one stalk but GORDOLA produced four repeat stalks on a single clump. At five weeks after spring bloom three other cultivars began blooming. BABY BLANKET (Ghio-

98), a rich brownish red overlaid with pearly mauve at the signal gave one stalk as did VENTANA (Ghio 86), a white with gold signal and lavender eyelash markings around the signal. CHIEF SEQUOIA (Weiler 91), a lavender blue self, has consistently produced rebloom on some plants each year since its introduction. A dozen plants are kept and usually about one in four plants reblooms annually. This year four of the twelve rebloomed with one starting at five weeks following spring bloom, two at six weeks and the other at seven weeks. All but one produced two stalks of rebloom each and the fourth produced three stalks. Furthermore, while the early spring stalks either are unbranched and have three buds in the terminal or have one branch with total blooms on the stalks at three or four, the rebloom stalks all carried better branching (two branches plus terminal) and a higher bud count (6-7 per stem effectively extending the time the plants rebloom).

The only one of these PCIs reported to rebloom earlier in *The Checklist of Reblooming Iris* is CHIEF SEQUOIA with several records from California and one from Portland, Oregon, all in USDA zones 8 and 9. Since the plicata, WISHING, has had some rebloom in two different growing seasons, I conclude that it, too, has the tendency, at least in my garden, to rebloom and is recommended to others to try. The rest of those reblooming this year may never rebloom again but some or all may well prove to have the tendency to rebloom. They will be watched carefully for the next few seasons. In the meantime, if you are interested in rebloom of PCIs, any of these are certainly worth a try for rebloom in your garden.

I have not observed any blooms on PCIs in autumn although I tried to add the autumn remontant, LADY AUTUMN (Bernard 96). The nice plant obtained did not establish nor have I been able to find it listed again to try a second time. It would, indeed, be desirable to use it in breeding work with the late spring or early summer repeat rebloomers hoping to get multiple bursts of bloom during the growing

season. It may be possible to get spring bloom, repeat bloom, and autumn bloom on a single clone.

In the years since introduction of CHIEF SEQUOIA an attempt has been made to retain the broader, taller foliage and high bud count inherent in the line from the strong influence of *Iris munzii* although there was little to suggest remontancy could be obtained. More recently some descendents of a sibling to CHIEF SEQUOIA have shown rebloom during the past three years. A couple are medium blue violet with plicata-patterned falls and yellow signal, another is a self, much more blue with less violet influence, triangular falls and no signal. A large clump of this latter one produced nine stalks of repeat bloom six weeks after spring bloom ended. Two more recent seedlings have very broad, nearly orbicular falls and both have the plicata pattern. One is a pale lavender blue on white and the other is a little darker with far less lavender influence. Each produced one repeat bloom stalk at five weeks following their spring bloom.

These seedlings were intercrossed this spring to see if the trait could be enhanced. Plans are in the making to introduce WISHING into the line and some crosses will be made to broaden the color range in these remontants. Such clones as GORDOLA for yellow, BABY BLANKET and POINT SANTA CRUZ should help produce the red-brown tones and VENTANA may help obtain white. It seems likely such crosses may have to be carried into advanced generations to recover the remontant trait in significant numbers. Furthermore, I understand that at the Monterey Bay Iris Show a seedling of Joe Ghio's was exhibited which is a rebloomer. Excitement? Of course! We are seeing the dawn of a remontant group of PCIs. All can help by reporting any rebloom in their gardens. Those so inclined to hybridize should all try a few crosses for enhancing remontancy. The more people working on the problem, the sooner we will all enjoy much extended bloom and repeated rebloom on our PCIs.

MORE ON REBLOOM IN PCI

Steve Taniguchi, Santa Clara, CA

This year two of my PCIs exhibited extremely long bloom seasons. The two cultivars are PESCADERO (Ghio, R. 1980) and RARE REWARD (Ghio, R. 1988). The repeat bloom trait seems to contribute to long bloom duration.

Duane Meek mentioned in the Spring 1991 *Almanac* that PESCADERO is a fall rebloomer. Since I started recording first bloom dates in 1996, PESCADERO has rebloomed only once (in January and then in March of 1996), although I do remember seeing blooms on the plant in December a previous year. This year PESCADERO started blooming 02 January and the last bloom was 02 April, a total of 92 days of bloom. Since typical bloom duration for this cultivar is one to one and a half months, I believe the long bloom duration this year to be the result of the repeat bloom period overlapping with the initial bloom period. PESCADERO also produces branches on its bloom stalks which helps increase bloom duration.

RARE REWARD has produced one or two repeat bloom stalks in past years. This year RARE REWARD exhibited lengthy repeat bloom. The first period was 23 February through 26 April (64 days), and the second period was 30 April through 30 May (31 days) for a total of 95 days of bloom. RARE REWARD has always had the longest bloom duration of the PCI I have, even though it does not branch. Instead, it paces itself and spreads its bloom over a long period. In 1998 it bloomed for 82 consecutive days.

I've made a couple of crosses involving RARE REWARD, but none of the offspring showed signs of repeat bloom. Repeat bloom, however, may be related to the size and health of the plant and a two-year seedling may not be large enough to support repeat bloom. Another possibility is that repeat bloom may be a recessive trait that would not show up unless

the correct parents are crossed. RARE REWARD is a cross between CUPERTINO and BUBBLY. It is interesting to note that both CUPERTINO and BUBBLY contain PESCADERO and siblings of PESCADERO in their ancestry.

Other cultivars that sent up repeat bloom stalks this year were AUGIE (Phillips, R. 1974) which had one repeat bloom stalk, and CANYON SNOW (Emery, R. 1974) which had repeat bloom for about two weeks (many stalks, but I didn't bother to count). Both of these instances appear to be flukes as neither cultivar has exhibited this behavior before.

For the hybridizer interested in breeding PCI that rebloom, PESCADERO is probably a good choice. RARE REWARD may also have the desired genetic makeup. I do not know if PESCADERO and RARE REWARD are still available from commercial sources. My research into the PCI registration information, however, shows two newer cultivars that are descendants of RARE REWARD. The two varieties are MANTRA (Ghio, R. 1992) and MASCOT (Ghio, R. 1997). MANTRA's parentage is NATIONAL ANTHEM X (RARE REWARD x WESTERN WORLD). MASCOT is MANTRA X (SAN ANDREAS sib. x NATIONAL ANTHEM). I do not know if MANTRA or MASCOT reblooms, but perhaps crosses with either cultivar may produce offspring that rebloom. An interesting experiment would be to cross one of the cultivars mentioned previously with CHIEF SEQUOIA which is described as a reliable rebloomer in the previous article.

[Editor's note: PESCADERO X SAN ANDREAS seed (lot# 98094) was offered in the 1998-1999 seed exchange. SAN ANDREAS is another variety that has been reported to rebloom. If anyone is growing plants from those seeds, please write and indicate whether you've noticed rebloom.]

NOT CATCHING THE SEED YOU WANT TO COLLECT?

Terri Hudson, Fort Bragg, CA

For the last several years I have felt badly as we were not contributing much seed to the Seed Exchange. We are gone during the month of July which is typically the month that PCI seed pods open and drop their seed on the North Coast of California. Carla Lankow, President of SIGNA told me how to solve this problem using tulle (very fine net used for corsages and bridal veils) bags. Mae Lauer gave me 2 rolls of tulle she no longer needed. This was much easier than buying yardage, then folding and

folding to get it ready to cut. My mother made bags for us that were cut approximately 5" x 3", the bag itself becoming about 4 3/4" x 2 3/4". I asked my Safeway produce manager for bag ties and went to work tying off pods. In the past, I found that if the pods had not opened and dropped their seeds, the earwigs loved pulverizing the seed. With the pods enclosed, yet able to breathe, there were no earwigs, and there were seeds to share.

2000-2001 SEED EXCHANGE LIST

Debby Cole, Seed Distribution Chairman

Those who responded, indicated willingness to give a little more to SPCNI in exchange for seed, so please note the following price changes. All seeds on the following list of this year's donations are priced at \$1.50 for the first packet and \$.50 per additional packet in an order. Orders over 12 packets please add an extra dollar. Canadian orders please add \$0.50, and other foreign orders please add \$1.00 to aid with postage. Please order by lot #. Including the "variety" may prevent errors. Make checks payable (in U.S. currency) to SPCNI and send check or U.S. currency with order to

Debby Cole

SPCNI Seed Exchange

7417 92nd Place SE

Mercer Island, WA 98040 USA

All orders will be held until January 15. At that time all seed will be divided, packaged and sent out as ordered so that buyers may have sufficient time to plant their seed for this spring's germination. Most packets will be generous. Orders will be filled in the order received, and, in the case of a very popular item, no packet will contain less than 5 seeds. Please specify possible substitutes. We reserve the right to limit the number of packets sent to a single person if the item is in short supply. Because of the time and cost involved in returning small refunds, no refunds will be made; funds sent for orders that cannot be filled will be considered donations to the SPCNI treasury.

We include a list of seeds left from previous years. Germination of old seed should be more difficult, but not impossible; abrading the seed with a file or coarse sandpaper or nicking it with a knife or file-edge, then soaking it for a day before planting, should help. Great success has been reported in germinating old seed suspended in fine mesh bags inside one's toilet tank for a day or more, subject to the usual flushing, then planted in flats or pots of gritty mix, covered up to 0.5" (2.5mm) deep, and held at an average 50 degrees F. for a month.

Unless otherwise specified, all seeds are open-pollinated. Lot-numbers are followed by the donor-symbol and the item description. Asterisk* indicates limited availability. (Order soon!)

Many thanks to our few but mighty seed donors this fall:

A	Steve Taniguchi	D	Jay and Terri Hudson
B	Debby Cole	E	Adele and Lewis Lawyer
C	Garry Knipe	F	Elyse Hill

YEAR 2000 SEED DONATIONS

SEED FROM NAMED GARDEN HYBRIDS

<u>Lot #</u>	<u>Donor</u>	<u>Variety</u>	<u>Lot #</u>	<u>Donor</u>	<u>Variety</u>
C0001	D	Agnes James	C0024	E	Little Jester
C0002	B	Air Show	C0025	D	Mission Santa Cruz
C0003	D	Altar Boy*	C0026	D	Pacific Dazzler
C0004	D	Baby Blanket*	C0027	B	Pacific Frost
C0005	D	Banbury Melody	C0028	E	Pacific Rim
C0006	B	Big Money	C0029	D	Palo Alto*
C0007	E	Califia	C0030	D	Pasadena Indian*
C0008	D	Californian	C0031	D	PetName*
C0009	E	Chimes	C0032	D	Poppy
C0010	A,D	Ciao	C0033	D	Raffles
C0011	D	Clarice Richards*	C0034	D	Rhett's Memory
C0012	A,D	Deep Magic	C0035	D	Rincon
C0013	D	Distant Nebula*	C0036	E	Schoolboy
C0014	D	Eagle Eyes*	C0037	D	Short Order
C0015	D	Earthquake*	C0038	D	Smuggler's Cove
C0016	D	El Centro*	C0039	D	Spring Daze
C0017	D	Encircle*	C0040	D	Three Cornered Hat
C0018	D	Endless	C0041	D	Tiger Cub
C0019	B	Fault Zone	C0042	D	Uvas*
C0020	D	Foothill Banner*	C0043	E	Mixed garden hybrids
C0021	B	Gold Dusted	C0044	D	Mixed garden hybrids
C0022	E	Harland Hand	C0045	B	Mixed garden hybrids
C0023	B	Idylwild			

SEED FROM UNNAMED GARDEN HYBRIDS

<u>Lot #</u>	<u>Donor</u>	<u>Seedling #</u>	<u>Description</u>
C0050	B	96PC11	Late blue-veined ruffled spidery white; glossy wide arching foliage
C0051	E	XP 64E	Foothill Banner sib
C0052	E	XP 235B	Strong blue, open type
C0053	E	XP 269A	Powder blue, ruffled
C0054	E	XP 317A	Pacific Rim x XP 215A: Valley Banner type, very dark styles
C0055	E	XP 317B	Pacific Rim x XP 215A: Valley Banner type, ruffled

SEED FROM UNNAMED GARDEN HYBRIDS (continued from previous page)

<u>Lot #</u>	<u>Donor</u>	<u>Seedling #</u>	<u>Description</u>
C0056	E	XP 317E	Pacific Rim x XP 215A: Large, ruffled; circular signal; purple styles with matching falls, rim. See the picture on the color page.
C0057	E		Miscellaneous munzii-hybrid seed.
C0058	E	XP 317	Bulk from which 317s were selected. This is not open-pollinated seed. It is the actual cross: Pacific Rim x XP 215A
C0059	E	XP 319A	Powder blue
C0060	E	XP 320A	Large Valley Banner type
C0061	E	XP 320C	Valley Banner type, slim, greenish signal
C0062	E	XP 328A	Blue, lined, vigorous

SEED FROM HAND-POLLINATED CROSSES

<u>Lot #</u>	<u>Donor</u>	<u>Description</u>
C0070	B	Air Show x Marine Magic
C0071	A	Commitment x Big Smile
C0072	A	Common Sense x Big Smile
C0073	A	Eagle Eyes x Commitment
C0074	B	Marine Magic x Chief Sequoia
C0075	B	Mar Monte x Gold Dusted
C0076	C	<i>I. douglasiana</i> x (fragrant) <i>I. macrosiphon</i>

GARDEN-GROWN SEED OF PCI SPECIES

<u>Lot #</u>	<u>Donor</u>	<u>Species</u>
C0080	D	<i>I. innominata</i>
C0081	D	<i>I. douglasiana</i>
C0082	E	<i>I. purdyi</i>

SEED FROM PREVIOUS SEED EXCHANGES:

PREVIOUSLY OFFERED SEED FROM NAMED GARDEN HYBRIDS

<u>Lot #</u>	<u>Variety</u>
C0100	Augie
C0101	Califia
C0102	Casa Pacifica
C0103	Crandall's White
C0104	Mendocino Banner
C0105	Spring Daze
C0106	Mixed garden hybrids

PREVIOUSLY OFFERED SEED FROM UNNAMED GARDEN HYBRIDS

<u>Lot #</u>	<u>Seedling #</u>	<u>Description</u>
C0160		Mixed <i>munzii</i> seedlings
C0161	XP143B	Veined blue-violet
C0162	XP210	Selections from cross inv. two good blues
C0163	XP224F	Violet
C0164	XP317B	Valley Banner type, ruffled
C0165	XP318A	Ruffled pinky-violet, large rounded signal speckled blue at edge
C0166	XP325	Very late bloom (mix)
C0167	XP325J	Very late bloom, branched stalk
C0168	RET17	Yellow, washed mauve; parentage unknown
C0169	RET18	Ruffled light powder blue; doug flower, <i>tenax</i> foliage; parents unknown
C0170	RET 28	Ruffled light lavender; parents unknown

PREVIOUSLY OFFERED SEED FROM HAND-POLLINATED CROSSES

<u>Lot #</u>	<u>Description</u>
C0110	Mission Santa Clara x Osocales
C0111	<i>I. chrysophylla</i> x <i>I. douglasiana</i>

PREVIOUSLY OFFERED GARDEN-COLLECTED SEED OF PCI SPECIES

<u>Lot #</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Description</u>
C0120	<i>I. bracteata</i>	very pale lavender
C0121	<i>I. douglasiana</i>	ruffled lavender
C0122	<i>I. douglasiana</i>	tall, vigorous
C0123	<i>I. douglasiana</i>	dark falls
C0124	<i>I. douglasiana</i>	U. C. Berkeley Botanic Garden
C0125	<i>I. douglasiana</i>	"Late Doug"
C0126	<i>I. innominata</i>	lavender-pink
C0127	<i>I. innominata</i>	yellow with gold vein
C0128	<i>I. tenax</i>	clear pink

WILD-COLLECTED SEED OF PCI SPECIES FROM PREVIOUS YEARS

<u>Lot #</u>	<u>Donor</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Description</u>
C0130		<i>I. bracteata</i>	Waldo-Sanger Peak Rd., 2800', Josephine Co., OR
C0131		<i>I. chrysophylla</i>	Cow Creek Rd, OR
C0132	F	<i>I. chrysophylla</i>	BLM 27-3-11.1, Douglas Co., OR
C0133	F	<i>I. douglasiana</i>	Salt Point, Sonoma Co., CA

WILD-COLLECTED SEED OF PCI SPECIES FROM PREVIOUS YEARS

(continued from previous page)

<u>Lot #</u>	<u>Donor</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Description</u>
C0134		<i>I. douglasiana</i>	Sandy, OR
C0135		<i>I. douglasiana</i>	NFH 33, 6 mi from US 101, Gold, Beach, OR (white)
C0136		<i>I. hartwegii</i>	Fiddleton
C0137		<i>I. hartwegii</i>	Shaver Lake Village (lt-med lavender-blue)
C0138		<i>I. hartwegii</i>	Amador Co., Hale Rd.
C0139		<i>I. hartwegii</i>	Amador Co., Shake Ridge Rd.
C0140		<i>I. innominata</i>	China Flat, Coos Co., OR
C0141	F	<i>I. innominata</i>	China Flat, Douglas Co., OR (gold)
C0142		<i>I. innominata</i>	Rd. 3353, China Flat, 1600', Douglas Co., OR
C0143		<i>I. macrosiphon</i>	Indian Valley C.C., Marin Co., CA
C0144		<i>I. munzii</i>	Bear Creek, CA
C0145		<i>I. munzii</i>	Off Mineral King Rd., 3-5 mi above Three Rivers, CA (pale lavender blue)
C0146		<i>I. tenax</i>	Eden Valley, OR (pale lavender)
C0147		<i>I. tenax</i>	Benton Co., OR (various violets and purples)
C0148		<i>I. tenax</i>	Boring, OR (light to medium)
C0149		<i>I. tenax</i>	Boring, OR (dark)
C0150	F	<i>I. tenax</i>	BLM 27-3-11.1, Douglas Co., OR
C0151		<i>I. tenuissima</i>	Hwy 299, OR
C0152		<i>I. thompsonii</i>	High Divide Rd., Del Norte Co., CA

SEED DONATION PLOTS REVEALED

Debby Cole, Seed Distribution Chairman

SPCNI members deserve to be made aware of the care and generosity of their fellows involved in donating seed to this year's Seed Exchange. True, you can just let the bees do their thing and gather up the results when you spot them splitting later – but some people go even a step further. Jay and Terri Hudson, for instance, did indeed "just let the bees do it" for their large collection of PCIs – but when it looked as though the pods were almost ripe, they had to go out of town! So Terri, ever resourceful, made many small nylon tulle (mesh slightly finer than PCN seed size) bags and fastened them over the ripening pods, and as you can see from the seed list, captured a magnificent array of seed. Elyse Hill, responding to a last-minute call for more seed

contributions even as her husband Ed emerged from surgery, generously raided the refrigerator and sent several batches of seed they had wild-collected in 1997. Garry Knipe shared some fruits of his quest for scented PCI (see article in the Spring, 2000 issue of the Almanac). Steve Taniguchi contributed several crosses in pursuit of well-formed pinks and reds, plus seed of some very new cultivars, and Debby Cole sent seed of crosses for new color/form/pattern combinations in the blue ranges. Lewis and Adele Lawyer gave us seed of several uncommon named cultivars, as well as many of their outstanding *munzii*-derived seedlings. We hope you want what these dedicated people contributed, as well as the older stock.

Now, how about 2001?

SPCNI SEED-GATHERING IN 2001

Debby Cole, Seed Distribution Chairman

SPCNI's Seed Exchange is in sore need of new supplies of seed of many PCI species, most especially *I. fernaldii*, of which we have none. We have very small supplies of *I. chrysophylla*, *I. macrosiphon*, *I. munzii*, *I. purdyi*, and *I. tenuissima*, and we would love to be able to offer some *I. hartwegii* ssp. *columbiana* and ssp. *pinetorum*, some *I. tenax* ssp. *klamathensis*, and some *I. tenuissima* ssp. *purdyiformis*. The known locations of these species and subspecies are listed by counties near the back of SPCNI's "Check List of Pacific Coast Iris," readily available from SPCNI. Are you brave enough to plan a foray into unfamiliar territory for your vacation in 2001? To guess the dates from the timespans of previous successful Expeditions in the area? To chart locations of new or hitherto unreported colonies for other dedicated iris hunters? To collect the seed pods you flag at a later date, or trust some

closer member (call Terri Hudson for names) to do it? We need you!

But that's not all. As part of the quest for material from which to breed hardier PCI, we'd like to receive PCI seed (of named varieties, planned crosses, hardy seedlings, or garden-grown species) from growers outside the areas for which PCI are native – i.e., non-west coast USA, **especially** foreign.

Lastly, we'd like to offer seed from named varieties not previously included in our listings – just because. So if you're growing something other than what was offered this year, save a few pods of each for us.

Send any and all contributions to Debby Cole, 7417 92nd Place SE, Mercer Island, WA 98040, USA, hopefully by September 15, 2001. If they aren't yet ripe by then, please send word (also e-mail: <dcthree@juno.com>) of your intentions!

OLDIES

Steve Taniguchi, Santa Clara, CA

Current PCI cultivars are much improved over the older more "primitive" hybrids which I will call "oldies". New cultivars have flowers that last longer, colors that resist fading, leaves that stay greener, stems that branch, etc. Even so, many of us still like the oldies. Some of us like the narrower, more delicate looking flowers. For others, the oldies bring back pleasant memories of places and people. As for me, I like to see the contrast between the oldies and the newer hybrids. I'm always amazed at the physical differences between the oldies and the recent hybrids. It's almost as if they are actually different types of plants. Over the years I've collected several oldies. I've listed some of them below and included some comments about each. Two of them are from

the early eighties, so I'm not sure they really qualify as oldies, but I've listed them here because they have narrower flower parts like the oldies.

AGNES JAMES (Starker, R. 1939) is white with a yellow signal. It grew well for me but died last year after contracting some sort of disease. This cultivar was mentioned several times as a good grower in the "How Do Your Iris Grow" article in the Spring and Fall 1997 *Almanacs*. I suspect the death of my plant was due to a combination of high temperature and my tendency to over water.

AMIGUITA (Nies, R. 1947) is a very attractive blue-violet with a darker purple border around the signal. The stems of my plant tend to get long and "snakey", but this could be due to its

shady location. The plant itself is very durable and has survived one complete transplant (I moved the entire clump) with no ill effect.

AUGIE (Phillips, R. 1974) is a nice reddish color with a "classic" iris shape. It seems to be popular as I've seen specimens displayed at iris shows almost every year. In addition to having a pretty flower, AUGIE has attractive, dark green leaves. My plant is in a large plastic pot and has been doing well for many years.

CANYON SNOW (Emery, R. 1974) is white with a yellow signal. The falls are rather broad for the time it was introduced and it remains as the most popular white cultivar to this day. Part of its appeal is due to its ability to survive in many different areas. In fact, it was the favorite PCI in both the 1991 and 1997 surveys conducted by the SPCNI. One year I forgot to water my plant and most of the leaves became dried and somewhat crispy, but it came back to life after I watered it. This is one tough PCI.

MISSION SANTA CRUZ (Ghio, R. 1982) is a dark red-magenta and a freshly opened flower is amazing. Unfortunately the color fades in the sun. My plant gets full sun; perhaps if it were in a shady location it would retain the intense color it has on opening.

NATIVE WARRIOR (Phillips, R. 1970) is an extremely attractive reddish color. I can't comment on growth habits since mine bloomed out after a year. According to the PCI check list, both NATIVE WARRIOR and AUGIE are from a cross between AMIGUITA and CLAREMONT INDIAN.

OJAI (Walker, R. 1959) is a combination of purple and violet and its flower parts are quite broad compared to other PCI introduced at the same time. When I first started growing PCI in the early nineties, my first PCI were mostly late eighties Joe Ghio hybrids. Then I read somewhere that OJAI was the first Mitchell Award winner, so I rushed out and bought it, and I had all kinds of great expectations. Unfortunately these great expectations went unfulfilled because I unfairly compared OJAI to the newer Ghio hybrids. Later I realized that OJAI has some very good qualities that I had overlooked. My specimen of OJAI is a good grower and a dependable bloomer. This plant was robust enough to survive a complete transplant from one area to another. OJAI starts blooming for me in April, which makes it one of the later bloomers I have. OJAI genes are contained in many of today's hybrids. I was looking through the *Checklist of Pacific Coast Iris* the other day and I found that if you trace back far enough, many of the cultivars listed contain OJAI somewhere in their ancestry. OJAI was registered in 1959 which makes it older than I am. Now I'm impressed.

PESCADERO (Ghio, R. 1980) has red-violet falls with a lighter rim. The standards are white with red-violet veins. I really like this one. It is an early bloomer (the average first bloom date over the last five years for my plant is 29 January) and has the potential to rebloom. The stems often branch. My plant is overcrowded in its pot, but is still doing very well.

LETTERS

[Editor's note: This following are excerpts from letters exchanged between Lech Komarnicki and Adele and Lewis Lawyer. Letters were edited for length and PCI related topics.]

Lech Komarnicki, Poland

Winter was unusually mild; nevertheless we had a few weeks with temperatures near to 0 F. I am glad I can inform you that all my PCIs

survived the winter and all but two clumps bloomed in spring and early summer (between May 15 and June 15). Two of the blooming clumps, from seed from the BIS seed exchange, marked as *I. tenax*, turned out to be *I. setosa*! It is amazing they survived two dry months in summer and then a dry winter. Strange thing - neither of these clumps nor the true (hopefully) *I. tenax* lost their leaves for the winter.

The first to bloom were from mixed hybrid seeds from SPCNI (in light violet, red, deep purple, and orchid) giving from one to five stems per clump. Next were four seedlings from XP325 (Late Doug X XP251A) that differed only in intensity of color from light blue to lavender to light violet. The first started a week later than the mixed hybrids, the last nearly three weeks later. Except for the last one that had only one stem as well as the *I. tenax* that bloomed a bit later than the first XP, the others had about 20 stems each! None of the stems were branched, but as a rule all had three terminal buds. Altogether I had more than 250 blooms so I pollinated like mad.

The plants were prepared for winter the same way as before - heavy mulch from poplar leaves, pine needles, and agrofiber, no water from the end of October, glass window on top of the frame. It seems this method works. Plants of *I. tenax* kept in the cold room without watering also survived the winter but are not as big as the others, and they did not bloom. It seems they do not like the pots.

It is probably worth saying that on May 3 and May 12 we had late frosts. The last was especially dangerous and killed all the stems of bearded irises. But thanks to a TV warning I covered the PCIs with the fabric and glass and the only damage done was to the leaves which made contact with the glass window.

Enclosed find some photos [one of the photos is on the color page]. Of course I cannot say if these hybrids are good or not because I saw the PCI flowers for the first time and could not compare them with prize winners. But regardless of the judge's point of view, they were for me very nice and gave me a lot of pleasure and satisfaction. For me it was a grower's success.

Adele Lawyer, Oakland, CA

We are pleased to receive your letter reporting on the substantial and rapid progress you have made in hybridizing Pacific Coast native iris. It was great to see the color photographs, not only to view the profusion of bloom, but one picture of the cold frame and protective fabric, as well.

The shape of your hybrids is not of "modern" form, but not all PCI enthusiasts prefer this form. Many prefer the slimmer silhouette of the native iris, which is graceful and balanced.

The deep colors and dark, velvety contrast of the falls in relation to the standards is beautiful in your hybrids. I particularly admire the one with red-black, downward oriented falls with a lighter, hairline edging. Another one with velvety black falls is also outstanding and adds ruffling to the assets. The foliage and vigor of growth are very impressive in all your pictures.

THE LAST WORD

From the Editor

- 1) Thanks: to everyone who submitted articles, letters, and photos; to Debby Cole for putting up with all of my seed exchange questions; to Jay Hudson for printing the color pages on his color printer which allowed us to have two color pages (instead of one) this issue; and to Garry Knipe for proofreading the majority of this issue.
- 2) Garry Knipe has volunteered to be the Northern California *Almanac* Representative. Garry wrote an article on fragrance and rebloom for the last issue of the *Almanac* and is a very enthusiastic supporter of Pacific Coast Iris. We will have some biographical information about Garry in the next issue of the *Almanac*.

- 3) This year, as I attempted to gather seed from CANYON SNOW, I had a difficult time because the seed pods stayed closed, tenaciously guarding their contents. As I struggled to open the pods and reveal the seeds, I kept looking around for the police because I was afraid they would arrest me for indehiscent exposure. To avoid future **punishment** of this sort, please write a letter to the editor for publication in the *Almanac*. Do you have a nice plant grown from the seed offered in the seed exchange? Are you growing PCI species? Do you grow PCI in containers? Have you won awards for PCI displayed at shows? Do you hybridize PCI? Are your PCI pest and disease free? Do you make trips to see PCI in the wild? If your answer is yes to any of these questions, you have important information to share with your fellow SPCNI members.
- 4) Happy Holidays!

Color Page #1

Top Left:	John White's winter-hardy PCI photo: White	Top Right:	RUTH KAC (George Gessert, R. 1999) photo: Gessert
Middle:	Typical <i>I. tenax</i> x <i>I. chrysophylla</i> hybrids photo: Gessert		
Bottom Left:	Unnamed seedling involving <i>I. chrysophylla</i> photo: Gessert	Bottom Right:	Seedling derived from a "Valley Banner"-type plant photo: Gessert

Color Page #2

Top:	2000 Mitchell Medal Winner PINK CUPID photo: Wood		
Middle Left:	Lewis and Adele Lawyer's seedling XP317E photo: Lawyer	Middle Right:	One of Lech Komarnicki's PCI in Poland! photo: Komarnicki
Bottom Left:	Witt seedling from Davidson orange/yellow <i>I. innominata</i> photo: Witt	Bottom Right:	Witt seedling, cream with lines photo: Witt



