

# Pacific Iris

Almanac of the Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris



[www.pacificcoastiris.org](http://www.pacificcoastiris.org)

Volume 42 No 2 Spring 2014



# Cal-Sibe siblings



'Golden Waves', top, and 'Lyric Laughter', bottom, are sibling Cal-Sibes from the same cross, between a yellow-flowered seedling of *I. forrestii* and *I. innominata*. Jean Witt noted that the Siberian parent was a yellow 40 chromosome Siberian seedling, closer in form and color to *I. forrestii* than to *I. wilsonii*. The SIGNA Checklist states that the Siberian parent was *I. wilsonii*. Jean reviewed her notes, and said this is incorrect, it was a *forrestii* seedling.

Year of registration: 1979 for 'Golden Waves', 1988 for 'Lyric Laughter', both by Jean Witt

Photographs: Jean Witt

# Pacific Iris, Almanac of the Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris

Volume XXXXII Number 2 Spring 2014

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SOCIETY FOR PACIFIC COAST NATIVE IRISES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President, Bob Sussman  
12142 Alison Drive, Santa Rosa Valley, CA 93012  
(805) 523-8604 e-mail: matilija@gte.net  
First Vice President, Michael Monninger  
4861 Brookhill Terrace, Riverside, CA 92509  
(909) 361-3177 e-mail: regomdm@yahoo.com  
Second Vice President, Position open  
Immediate Past President, Debby Cole  
7417 92nd Place SE, Mercer Island, WA 98040  
(206) 232-7745 e-mail: dcthree@juno.com  
Secretary-Treasurer, Kathleen Sayce  
PO Box 91, Nahcotta, WA 98637  
(360) 665-5292 e-mail: ksayce@willapabay.org

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Editor, Gareth Winter  
64 Michael Street, Masterton, New Zealand 5810  
(00646) 377-5373 e-mail: wintergareth53@gmail.com  
Historian/Archivist, Richard Richards  
5885 Cowles Mt. Blvd., La Mesa CA 91942  
(619) 464-2180 e-mail: mongo2u@cox.net  
Recorder, Kenneth Walker  
1391 Santa Clara Ave., Concord, CA 94518  
(925) 825-2350 e-mail: kenww001@astound.net  
Seed Distribution, Louise Guerin  
2200 E Orange Grove Blvd, Pasadena, CA 91104  
(626) 808-1986 e-mail: siber@siber-sonic.com  
Trek Chairman, Position open  
Web Manager, Bob Seaman  
7051 South 126th St., Seattle, WA 98178  
(206) 772-2780 e-mail: kcisbob@leonineiris.com

ALMANAC REPRESENTATIVES

Washington/British Columbia, Position open  
Oregon, Position open  
Northern California, Kathy Braaten  
10288 Kenwood Drive, Grass Valley, CA95949  
(530) 477-2811 e-mail: katbrat@cebridge.net  
Southern California, Michael Monninger  
(see above contact information)  
Central U.S./Central Canada, Position open  
Eastern U.S., David Schmieder  
566 Old Road to NAC, Concord, MA 01742  
(978) 369-3383 e-mail: ornacirises@verizon.net  
Australia/New Zealand, Position open  
Europe, Position open

Website: <http://www.pacificcoastiris.org>  
Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/SPCNI>

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Cover photograph:

*Iris douglasiana* in the UC Botanical Garden at Berkeley



# President's Message

This has been a year where several new things got done. We now have a new beautiful website <http://www.pacificcoastiris.org> thanks to our new web master Bob Seaman, and Louise Guerin, our new Seed Exchange Chairperson completed her first annual Seed Exchange. We appreciate their hours of volunteer work to complete their tasks— in spite of all the helpful and well meaning suggestions from their iris friends.

More and more information pictures, and comments also continue to be added to our social media iris site, <https://www.facebook.com/SPCNI>, in addition to all sorts of other iris sites in which Pacific Coast Iris pictures and information are now being routinely posted. These sites make it easy to post pictures and short comments about Pacific Coast Irises on a real time basis and it's almost always spring somewhere in the world.

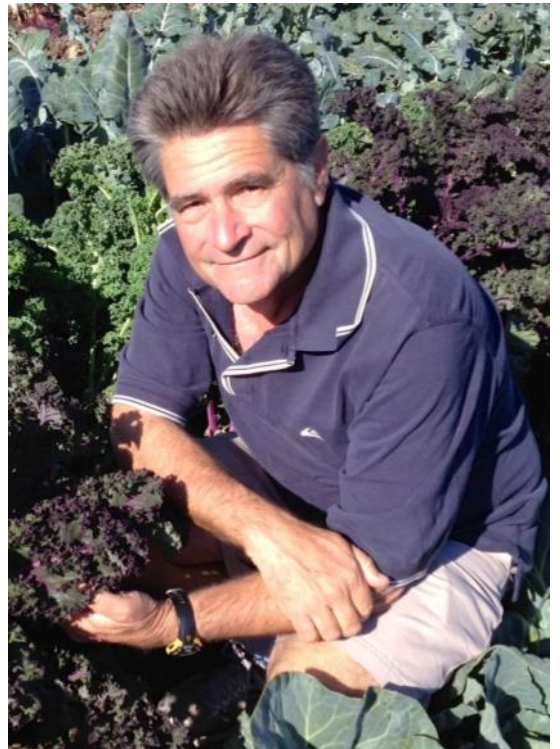
There's other stuff we have to do. We need to do a "trek" as we haven't done one in a while. We're not quite like other iris groups and while we do visit other gardens, our "gardens" have been somewhat larger areas where Pacific Coast Irises grow effortlessly in nature. Looks like the most convenient time will be at the next AIS Convention, in Portland.

Research and science? There's growing anecdotal chatter that our Pacific Coast Irises are, for lack of a better word, adaptive, meaning some grow better in some places than others. As they leave their natural range, there are fewer species and hybrids that will grow. However, some will grow outside their range and so will the seedlings and crosses from those few – generally. Kathleen Sayce, who keeps everything running, has been looking at this in an organized way. This is a particularly interesting thing for me too as Southern California is outside the "natural range" and people love these Pacific Coast Irises.

I'd like to thank all our volunteers who give of their time without pay. Their efforts that continue to make this a growing (couldn't resist) and improving organization. And, keep going to the web – there's new stuff on the way.

We wish you all a happy growing season with lots of new and interesting seedlings.

All the best,  
Bob



*'Spinning Sarah' at Matilija Nursery  
Photograph Bob Sussman*

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Victor A. Cohen, 1967

Reprint of British Iris Society 1967 booklet, describing species ,  
sub-species and distributions. 40 pages, \$8.00

**A Revision of the Pacific Coast Irises** Lee W. Lenz,

1958 Reprint of Aliso journal article 5.5x8.5, 72 pages. \$8.00

**Hybridization and Speciation in the Pacific Coast Irises**

Lee W. Lenz, 1959. Reprint of Aliso article 72 pages, \$8.00

If ordering both of Dr Lenz's reprints, \$14.00

All three volumes , \$20.00

**Diseases of the Pacific Coast Iris**

Lewis & Adele Lawyer, 1986. Fall 1986 Almanac, 22 pages, \$4.50

**Almanac Index, 2005,**

includes the following indices: author, subject, species, hybrids,  
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<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/PacificIris/>.

Members are encouraged to join this group, a simple online way to  
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check on scheduled activities, and contact other SPCNI members.

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# Virtual Iris Show

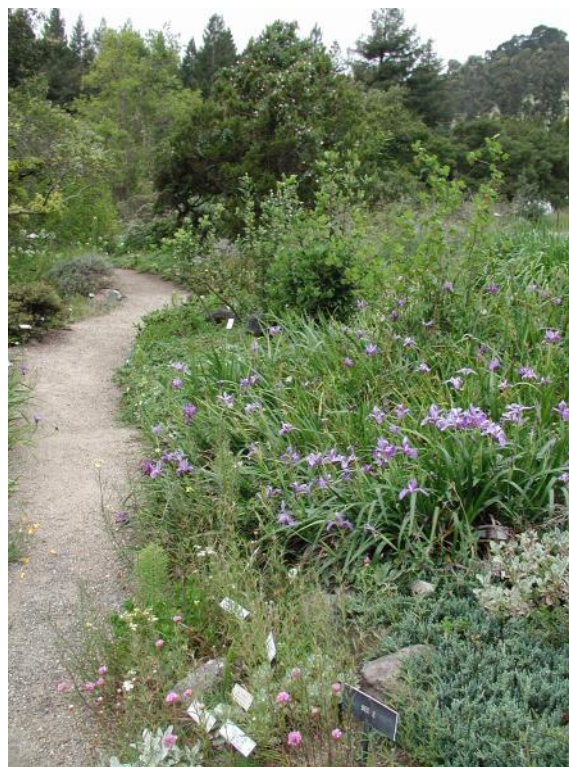
## Kathleen Sayce

We all like photographing our favourite PCIs and sharing them with others, but there's another reason to take pictures this spring. The American Iris Society is having its first-ever digital Iris Flower Show online. For details, see <http://wiki.irises.org/bin/view/Main/VirtualIrisShow> . This includes the email address to send in your photos.

For each species or variety submitted, three photos are required: one of a flower from the top down, one of the flower from the side, and one of the flower spike. You may also send in a fourth photo, of the clump. It's the first time AIS has tried this, and it should be interesting to watch over the spring and summer. As I write this in late February, submissions for early flowering groups, including *I. reticulata* [<http://wiki.irises.org/bin/view/Main/VirtualIrisShowTable1Reticulatas>] are already coming in.

Photos are being accepted by Section, in three categories: Species, hybrids and seedlings. Send photos to Bob Pries, who sorts them, resizes them to the AIS format, and then posts them on the show in the appropriate section.

This is a great way to share your photographs and to make the wider Iris world aware of the beauty of Pacific Coast Native Irises.



*Pacific Coast Irises in the UC Botanical Garden at Berkeley*



# from the editor's desk

March and April are odd months for those of us who love and grow PCIs in the Southern Hemisphere. At the moment, I can see from perusing the SPCNI Facebook page and reading emails and blogs, the great Northern bloom season has started in the warmer areas of Southern California, and will be working its way up the western coast, where the majority of our members are based. Exciting times are ahead – hopefully your cameras are at the ready to take pictures for *Pacific Iris*, and for the newly announced AIS Virtual Iris Show.

However, down in the southern climes things are quite different—the days are shortening again, and we are experiencing the last flushes of an Indian summer. Here in Wairarapa, New Zealand, we have had a dry late summer/autumn, and I am patiently waiting for the first of the proper autumn rains to arrive so I can start to divide the PCIs, and pot up some of those for further trial.

In the glasshouse the first of this year's seeds have started to germinate, so daily inspections are the order of the day, to ascertain which crosses have had viable seed and which are going to provide a plethora of babies to choose from when pricking out. Germination has been good and there are going to be plenty of seedlings from most crosses.

Of particular interest this year is a batch of seed from a cross of a late-flowering PCI hybrid with my dark-flowered *I. chrysographes*, one of the crosses written about by Jean Witt in this edition, between a PCI and a 40 chromosome Siberian. In an ideal world, I would love to be able to convert the seedlings into tetraploids, using the techniques described by Lee Walker, also in this edition. Some of the resulting seedlings should be fertile if crossed with tetraploid PCIs and Siberians, as advocated by Tomas Tamberg, resulting in a new class of iris that Tamberg calls Tetra-Calsibes. He describes varieties resulting from multiple generations of tetraploid breeding as being the “most spectacular types of iris flowers”.

It begs the question of whether the creation of a race of tetraploid irises, based on PCIs but also including Siberian genes, offers a different pathway for future irisarians. As Lee Walker suggests, these irises should be more amenable to division and should also be easier to grow, as well as having larger flowers and more robust health. In effect, we should be able to create a race of irises that rivals the TB for range of colour and form. We may even be able to create a race of true-breeding dwarf varieties as well, similar to MDBs.

But these new irises will also represent a giant departure for traditional PCI growers. Unlike many iris groups and societies, ours is a broad church, with many different kinds of iris lovers, from those who want to grow the latest seedlings from Joe Ghio and John Taylor, with their fabulous colours and modern form, through to those who are more interested in growing species and species-like plants.

Hopefully, as a society, we can continue to oversee the rapid evolution of our favourite irises, while at the same time retaining our interest in the species that make up the Californicae, both in the wild and in the garden.

Best wishes from the south,

Gareth



Seedling 11-027

Photograph: Gareth Winter

# Interseries Crosses with Californicae

## Jean Witt

Although I knew from the 1939 Checklist about Amos Perry's early crosses of *Californicae* with species of other Beardless Iris—his 'Margot Holmes' won the first Dykes Medal in England in 1927—my real interest in this sort of hybrid began when I saw a spontaneous seedling in the garden of Leona Mahood here in Seattle. It was a 'doug' bee seedling that was obviously a cross with *Iris forrestii*. If this was so easy that bees could do it, so could we, and several of our Northwest breeders resolved to try.

*Californicae* will also cross with *I. lactea* of Series *Ensatae*, native to Eurasia. Tomas Tamberg, in Germany, who has worked with this group, described his *Calsata* hybrids in the 1979 BIS Yearbook, p. 52, as “hardy, semi-evergreen and drought resistant with a long flowering period and flowers very much intermediate between the two parents.”

A cross between species of Series *Californicae* and Series *Tripetalae* occurred in our area many years ago. Mrs. Elvie B. Page of Olympia, WA, found a spontaneous garden hybrid between a blue *I. setosa* from Alaska and pale yellow *I. tenax* ssp. *gormanii*. When asked how she knew it was a hybrid, she said she had picked the pod off a *gormanii* plant. The flowers are a mousy blue with creamy undertones, and have the 'ping pong paddle' standards that are typical of *Tripetalae* hybrids. It was registered and named for Mrs. Page by her friend Hattie Hubbard, also of Olympia. Simonet, in France, produced a deliberate 'Tenosa' hybrid [*I. tenax* X *setosa*]. Whether either of these hybrids are still extant I do not know.



'Carrie Dawn' is a Cal-Sibe cross between 'Valley Banner' and a Siberian iris. 'Valley Banner' is a hybrid PCI of natural origin, thought to be a combination of *I. tenax* and *I. chrysophylla* with distinctive purple-colored standards. In 'Carrie Dawn', the purple styles came through.

The Siberian parent is a 40 chromosome iris, no photo available. Jean Witt describes the Siberian parent as being “one of the dotted *plicata*-like plants that turn up in advanced generations (F2, F3, etc) of Siberian yellow x blue crosses”.

Photograph: Jean Witt



'Elvie B. Page' is a Cal-Tosa cross between *I. tenax* ssp. *gormanii* and *I. setosa*. This cross was the result of bee pollination in Elvie's garden, Olympia WA.

Year of registration: 1965, Mrs. R. W. Hubbard

Photograph: Jean Witt





'Crimson Accent' is a Cal-Sibe, from a cross between the white-flowered *Iris sanguinea* 'Snow Queen' and yellow-flowered *I. innominata*.

*I. sanguinea* is known for red bracts, except in this white selection, so it is interesting to see that the bracts are red in the progeny, hence the name 'Crimson Accent.'

*I. innominata* x *I. sanguinea* 'Snow Queen' = 'Crimson Accent'

Year of registration: 1998, Jean Witt

Photograph: Jean Witt

'By a Bee', a cross between *I. tenax* and a garden Siberian, was found in the wild in Oregon, and passed around locally among species buffs. It was not sufficiently interesting to inspire additional crosses of this type.

On the other hand, those of us who tried crosses between *Californicae* and the 40 chromosome *Sibiricae* were quite successful, and introductions from this combination quickly became fairly numerous. I gave them the name Cal-Sibe when I offered my first ones for sale. I use the term for crosses in either direction, but some people prefer to use Sib-Cal as well.

Yes, the seedlings are sterile, unless treated with colchicine, but sterility is not a bad thing in a garden flower—no risk of seedlings swamping the original variety—and parental combinations are endless. Six species of *Sibiricae* are currently available: Yellow *I. forrestii* and *I. wilsonii*; blue to violet *I. clarkei*, *I. delaveyi*, and *I. bulleyana*; deep red to black *I. chrysographes*; as well as striped and dotted, plicata-like intraseries hybrids.

Only a few of the twelve species of *Californicae* have been used. Most Cal-Sibe hybrids have come from *I. douglasiana*, *I. innominata* and *I. tenax* or named PCI varieties. This does not mean that the other species have nothing to offer, only that most have never been tried. I did find dwarf *I. chrysophylla* to be an unsatisfactory parent; its large spathe valves choked its hybrid progeny, so that the flowers could not open properly.

When I was making a lot of Cal-Sibe crosses, I obtained a number of seedlings with which I was well pleased: 'Fine Line', 'Lyric Laughter', and 'Golden Waves'. This last went to England where it won a High Commendation from the Royal Horticultural Society. My most current registration, 'Fauxmo' [false missouriensis], with blue and white stripes, is a good substitute for *I. missouriensis*, which does not take kindly to Seattle's climate. It needs hotter summers and alkaline soil.



'Fauxmo' is a Cal-Sibe cross, (((*I. forrestii* x *I. chrysographes*) x Craig's Blue-Eyed White (aka Briarcup) which is also described as (*I. douglasiana* x unknown)). It has the appearance of *I. missouriensis*, but tolerates dry summers and acid soils of Seattle, WA better than this species, hence the name.

Year of registration: 2001, Jean Witt.

Photograph: Jean Witt

I also raised one 28-40 Cal-Sibe, and feel that this combination, too, has possibilities, particularly with Siberians in the new colors. I registered it as 'Crimson Accent', because of its prominent red spathes. This plant had been in my garden for many years. The flowers were pale yellow smudged gray-blue. Finally one year the tissues rearranged themselves, the uneven smudging disappeared, and the flower became presentable.

Other breeders who have worked on wide crosses in recent decades include: Lorena Reid, formerly of Springfield, OR; Tomas Tamberg from Berlin, Germany, and Leck Komarnicki from Warsaw, Poland.

Carla Lankow's 'Rubicon', a luminous near-red Cal-Sibe, exemplifies what today's breeders can look forward to achieving.

The goal of a Pacific Coast type flower on a plant hardier in severe climates is well worth pursuing. *I. tenax* and *I. innominata* tend to bloom almost a month ahead of most of the 40 chromosome Siberians, so one needs to save pollen. *I. douglasiana* blooms about a month later and will overlap with the Siberian flowering season. Mailing pollen from one climate to another is also a possibility. The rather dry PCI pollen ships and stores without freezing.

Seedlings which I sometimes wish I'd kept include:

- A candelabra-branched deep violet had flowers that were too small for its 30-inch stem, and candelabra branching is out of character for Cal-Sibes.
- A sib to 'Carrie Dawn', with an even prettier blue-speckled flower, had an impossibly crooked stem. One year it looped in a complete circle.
- Some of the little *I. innominata* hybrids lacked stout enough stems to hold their flowers up.

As a group, Cal-Sibes exhibit hybrid vigor, divide and transplant easily, and thrive in perennial borders. Anyone embarking on a far-cross hybridizing program today will find a far greater color range in the parental types than we had available years ago. The possibilities are endless, and the results are great fun.

*'Margot Holmes' is important as the first Cal-Sibe, by Amos Perry. It was awarded the first Dykes Medal by the British Iris Society in 1927, and its parents are I. chrysographes and a purple-flowered I. douglasiana.*

*Photograph: Carla Lankow*

## Cal-Sibe crosses are not new

The first iris to be awarded a Dykes Medal by the British Iris Society, in 1927, was a wide cross between *Iris chrysographes* and *I. douglasiana*, 'Margot Holmes'. This wide cross hybrid between two Iris species of different sections was also awarded the Silver Medal by the Iris Society of England in the same year.

The Dykes Medal was established by BIS to annually commemorate William Rickatson Dykes (1877-1925), following his untimely death in a motor vehicle accident. A prolific writer and researcher, he focused on irises in college and wrote many papers on various species and sections. He was also an active hybridizer. The British Iris Society began in 1922; Dykes was a founding member, and his early death was a shock to the young society. The Dykes Medal has become one of the most distinguished awards in the Iris hybridizing world.

The hybridizer of 'Margot Holmes' was Amos Perry, born into a notable horticultural family. He produced many hybrid irises, including several wide crosses, over a long and distinguished career at Perry's Hardy Plant Farm, Enfield, Middlesex, England





# A bit about Cal-Sibs

Patrick Spence

I am truly blessed. I have been involved in the iris world for about 10 years now. During this time I have had the pleasure of being educated and mentored by both Carla Lankow and Jean Witt. Among the many types of iris they have taught me about, Cal-Sibs are one of my favorites.

What is a Cal-Sib? Simply put, a Cal-Sib is the result of a cross between a Pacific Coast iris (PCI) and a Siberian iris.

Why should I grow one? There are too many reasons, but the most important is because they make an outstanding garden plant: beautiful and interesting flowers, attractive foliage for most of the year (some are semi-evergreen), easy to transplant (a pesky trait of the PCIs done away with), and easy to grow. They require only average garden soil, water, and fertilizer. I have too many “special needs” plants in my gardens, so it’s a real treat to have plants this good that thrive on neglect.

How do I grow one? It’s very easy. Find a place in your garden, dig a hole, and plant root side down. However, I do have a few bits of advice. Keep the roots wet while they’re out of the ground, and plant them in a location that gets at least a half day of sun. Keep the plants well watered until they are established, and give them a little balanced fertilizer now and then.

For those of you who enjoy dabbling pollen here and there, a Cal-Sib cross is easy to make. It’s made using the pollen from any of the Pacific Coast native species (series *Californicae*) or their hybrids with the pod parent being one of the species of 40-chromosome Siberian iris (subseries *chrysographes*) or their hybrids (Sino-Siberians or 40s). Jean tells me the cross can be made in reverse, but I haven’t tried this. My PCIs bloom weeks before my 40s, making it difficult to use a PCI as a pod parent. Jean also tells me you can use a 28-chromosome Siberian, but I haven’t tried this either.

The only real difficulty is in acquiring the 40s to work with. There are only a few on the market and only two nurseries (that I am aware of) that sell them, Wildwood Gardens (Will Plotner) and Cascadia Iris Gardens (me). There will be more available soon, but that’s a different article. Pacific Coast Natives and their hybrids are relatively easy to find.

All of the Pacific Coast Native species (now 12 of them after *I. thompsonii* was upgraded from hybrid to species status) have 40 chromosomes.

The Siberians are divided into two groups.

The Eurasian group has three species with 28 chromosomes (although some modern varieties are tetraploids). Most garden Siberians are derived from two species in this group (*siberica* and *sanguinea*). A third species (*typhifolia*) was recently added to this group. The Chinese group, known informally as Sino-Siberians or “40s,” has six species currently available. A seventh species is probably extinct, and an eighth is now considered a garden hybrid. All of these species have 40 chromosomes.



Lorena Reid’s Cal-sibe ‘Stitch Witchery’, a cross between PCI ‘All Shook Up’ and Iris *chrysographes*.

Photographer: Patrick Spence

This leads to questions about the evolution of PCNs and 40s—do they date back to the time when all the continents were one, Pangaea? We can speculate that they are derived from a common ancestor and they evolved along different paths when Pangaea broke apart. Although now completely separated by the Pacific Ocean, their sets of 40 chromosomes are still sufficiently alike to allow viable, though sterile, hybrids. Sadly, further hybridization and line breeding is impossible. Bottom line, whatever you get from your initial cross is all you're going to get. On the plus side, sterile plants make good garden plants—no surprise volunteer plants taking over the garden (another pesky trait of the PCIs done away with).

Why would anyone want to make this cross? Simply put, because we can.

Of course, there's the secondary reason—to take the vast array of colors and patterns from the PCIs and put them onto a plant that will thrive in areas where PCIs won't. When you make a cross between iris from different species groups (known as a wide cross), sometimes the resulting offspring will have “hybrid vigor,” meaning the plants grow vigorously. Anyone who has grown “Ally Oops” (Borglum, 2002) knows exactly what hybrid vigor is.

Over the years there have been many hybridizers of Cal-Sibs. Jean Witt's 'Lyric Laughter' (Witt, 1988) and Lorena Reed's 'Pacific Smoothie' (Reed, 1993) top the list, but Colin Rigby's 'Chapter Two' (Rigby, 1999) always makes me smile.



Tomas Tamberg in Germany also works with Cal-Sibs. My apologies to anyone out there I don't know about and haven't listed. If you work with Cal-Sibs, drop me a line. I would like to hear about your efforts.



Recently, Carla Lankow has made some very successful crosses that I'm growing in my garden for further evaluation and future introduction. I'm seeing dramatic improvement in the quality of both the plant and the flower over past Cal-Sib introductions. As hybridizers improve the quality of both parent species, it makes sense that a resulting cross would produce better offspring as well.

*All photographs by Patrick Spence*



A perfect example of this is Carla's seedling #04CS-013, a gorgeous red flower with immaculate form. The foliage is upright and polite. The stem has one to two branches for four or five buds. Look for this Cal-Sib to be introduced in 2015. It's also a guest iris that will be on display at the 2015 AIS National Convention and the 2015 National Siberian Convention in Portland, Oregon.



*Lankow 04CS-013*

I haven't hybridized for Cal-Sibs yet for several reasons. The main reason is that I already have 30 seedlings from Carla, most of which are high enough quality to introduce. I will begin hybridizing soon, perhaps this year even. There are so many new PCI hybrids to play with. One cross in particular that needs to be made is Siberian 'Dotted Line' (Reid,

1991) crossed with PCI 'Ocean Blue' (Ghio, 2002) or any of the other really good blue PCIs.

Somebody should also try to use the near-black *I. chrysographes* with any of the really dark PCIs Joe Ghio has come out with recently.

My intent with this article is to simply raise your curiosity in the hopes you'll give one of these truly great plants a try in your garden. If you are anything like me, garden space and time to maintain is a precious thing. However, Cal-Sibs are a terrific addition, and I do hope you will give one a try.

Editor's note: You can reach Patrick via e-mail at [PatrickATCascadiaIrisGardens.com](mailto:PatrickATCascadiaIrisGardens.com)



*Lankow 03CS-015*



*Lankow 08CS-012-L Clump*



# Nursery profile

**Nursery Name:**

UC Botanical Garden at Berkeley

**Owner:**

University of California

**Location:**

200 Centennial Drive  
Berkeley, California 94720

**Website:**

<http://botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu/>

**Retail Sales:**

On-site daily sales, Spring plant sale (last Saturday in April) and Fall Plant Sale (last Sunday in September).

**How and when did this nursery start?**

It formed in 1974 when volunteer docents started propagating plants for sale, the proceeds going towards the botanical gardens operations. Currently, we have over 100 active volunteers and staff members in our program.



*Iris douglasiana* hybrid

**What plants do you most like to grow?**

We grow a variety of plants that reflect the Botanical Garden's varied collections. About 60-70% of our offerings are appropriate for our regional Mediterranean climate.

We also grow specialty plants such as insectivores, palms, cycads, indoor tropicals, Mexican cloud forest plants, South African bulbs, and succulents to name a few.

**What are growing conditions for plants like in your area? (soil type, pH, world hardiness zone, general climate, rainfall, etc)**

We have a temperate and seasonal Mediterranean climate. Summers are usually dry and warm and winters are mild and damp. Average precipitation is around 25" annually. We are in USDA Hardiness Zone 9b: 25F to 30F. We have a clay-based soil that is fairly pH neutral. Common amendments include organic and drainage additions.

**What PCI do you prefer to grow, and recommend to gardeners to try?**

The Botanical Garden's California native collection features species Irises including *I. douglasiana*, *I. fernaldii*, *I. hartwegii*, *I. innominata*, *I. longipetala*, *I. macrosiphon*, *I. missouriensis*, *I. munzii*, *I. purdyi*, *I. tenax*, *I. tenuissima*. We also feature a variety of PCN Iris cultivars including Rancho Santa Ana's Canyon series. For bloom size and flower color, hybrid cultivars can't be beat. During the spring, we offer a variety of PCI for sale at our Plant Sales Deck.

**What do you recommend to gardeners for PCI care?**

Care is fairly simple. They grow well in dry summer/cool, wet winter areas and need no supplemental water in the summer. Top dressing with a quality organic mulch is appreciated. The best time to divide and transplant is in the fall. During drought years, some extra winter water will help ensure a floriferous spring.

**What would you like to tell PI about your nursery that we haven't discussed or asked about?**

The UC Botanical Garden is a non-profit research garden and museum for the University of California at Berkeley, having a notably diverse plant collection including many rare and endangered plants. Established in 1890, the Garden, which is open to the public year round, has over 13,000 different kinds of plants from around the world, cultivated by region in naturalistic landscapes over its 34 acres.



# PCN-X Tetraploids

Lee Walker

When I was first asked me about the possibility of gaining tetraploidy in interspecies crosses involving PCNs, I had to pause a few seconds. I have never worked with PCNs, nor am I likely to have the time to do so in the near future, but the colors and patterns in PCNs are just wonderful – some of the best colors and patterns in the entire iris world. Then I replied that if the cross was not tetraploid to begin with, there were some difficulties to be overcome if one was to be successful in converting diploids to tetraploid.

First, and I feel most important and very difficult, is to find two species that are compatible, which are able to produce seeds that can germinate and produce seedlings. The mere fact that two species have the same chromosome count doesn't mean they will produce viable seeds, nor does the fact that two species have different chromosome counts mean that they won't produce viable seeds! Chromosomes do strange things.



*Tetraploid Siberian iris 'Rauchblau', Tamberg 2007*  
Photograph courtesy Terry Johnston



Once you have found crosses that produce seeds that will germinate and grow, then the seedlings themselves have to be viable.

The most likely cross to succeed in the second generation will be that of seedling to seedling from the same parents (although you might not want to continue this inbreeding for further generations as it would reinforce recessive traits, some of which may be highly undesirable). If the seeds and seedlings live from the F-2 (i.e., second generation) crosses, then the process of creating tetraploids can begin in earnest.

First, you have to get seeds to germinate under controlled conditions. When the seedlings are showing 1/8 to 1/16 of an inch (I start them in transparent containers) I place them in the treatment mix, for which I use 4cc's of SurflanAS per half gallon of distilled water. SurflanAS isn't as hard on the seedling during treatment as colchicine, so it increases your chances of success. After 24 hours of treatment, I remove the seedlings to clean water for 3 days of soaks and rinses, and then line them out into potting soil. The treatment process as a rule has a high mortality rate among seedlings, so be warned.

Even after the plants have survived the treatment phase and are growing, it may take years for the plants to calm down genetically and produce the final product. I have seen this habit in other tetraploids, mainly in my Japanese x Siberian work.

Also from my experience with Japanese tetraploid work, I have learned that, as a rule, it takes longer for the treated plants to bloom - some may take three years or longer. So keep those things in mind when selecting plants to keep, and do not be hasty.

Over the years, I have had some success with interspecies crosses. I am waiting for some to bloom at this time, but the Siberian X Spuria, I call them sibaspurs, are the only ones to this point which have produced seeds and seedlings which are not sterile. They have survived treatment at this time and are alive in my basement, and only time will tell their outcome.

You wouldn't make an interspecies cross unless you thought it would be an improvement, so why would you convert the result to tetraploidy? I feel it's worth the time and effort. The most obvious and noticeable advantages are in the flowers and their pigments. By doubling the chromosomes, the pigments undergo a doubling, and new and more intense colors also are exposed through the conversion process. New patterns and combinations of colors will appear. Next, plant hardiness will be improved. This I have seen from my TET Japanese conversions. They withstand the heat in my region better than the diploids. Foliage and its growth are likewise improved by conversion and will most likely become even better with future generations. Here again, I'm going on my experience with Japanese TET work.

Another advantage of tetraploids is in branching and bud counts - I've seen three branches (diploids usually have only one) in TET Japanese, and there is even a possibility of more. Along with additional branching come increased buds. Japanese TET bud counts have been as high as seven per stalk. I feel this number will go up with more work in the area. Additionally, TET Japanese are easier to dig and separate than diploids. Tetraploids have a strong tendency not to overgrow themselves in the clump, as diploids do. It will be exciting to see if these tendencies carry over into PCN and PCN-x tetraploids. I hope some of you are inspired to try it; you are welcome to contact me.

The future for interspecies crosses gone tetraploid is huge and bright, but it will be an arduous journey, mostly because of the vast amount of work that's still to be done. Only time will tell.

Editor's note:

Lee Walker lives near Roseburg, OR, in USDA zone 7B. You may write to him at 2515 Ten Mile Valley Rd, Ten Mile, OR 97481.

## Income/Expense Statement 12/31/2013

<b>Income</b>	
Donations	\$728
Dues	1360
Interest	4
Publications	9
Seed Sales	1132
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$3232</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Almanac Printing	\$696
Office	29
Postage	578
Seed Sales	207
Website	232
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1742</b>
<b>Net Income/Expense</b>	<b>\$1490</b>

## Net Worth Statement 12/31/2013

Checking	\$5081
Savings	3817
Scholarship Acct	3561
Pay Pal Acct	1817
Liabilities	\$0
<b>Total Net Worth</b>	<b>\$14,276</b>



# Wanted: Pacific Coast Iris Seeds

## Kathleen Sayce

The SPCNI Seed Exchange runs out of several dozen hybrid Pacifica seed lots each year, and has to substitute from other seed lots. More than sixty orders, and in some years, more than one hundred, go unfilled and substituted due to short supplies. If you grow Pacifica hybrids, and your plants set seed, please help us meet this demand. Think about saving seeds from 5-10 pods of each of your showiest hybrids to send to the Seed Exchange.

Our Seed Chair Louise Guerin has just come through her first seed sale, and is still upright and willing to continue to manage the seed exchange. Her contact information, along with that of other SPCNI officers, is in the front of this issue of *Pacific Iris* and on the website, and is in the annual seed ordering article in the Fall issue of *Pacific Iris*. Spring is the time to plan to save seeds.

The seed exchange does not need huge amounts of each variety. Five pods may produce more than 60-100 seeds, depending on how good pollination was for each flower. No more than 150 seeds are usually ordered of any one variety. On the other end, 10 seeds are enough for two orders, which is a good minimum to send in.

## Saving and Cleaning Pacifica Iris Seeds

The process is easier if mesh bags, such as organza party bags, are used to enclose ripening pods. This ensures that if the pods open when you are not there [which often happens to me], the seeds are not lost. Seeds are ripe 8-9 weeks after flowering, even when pods have not completely dried and gone brown. In the Pacific Northwest, the July-flowering plants are ripening seeds in early September, which is still enough time to send them to the Seed Chair.

If pods are damp, dry them in clean paper bags for a few days in a warm and dry [not hot] location, then open the pods, shake the seeds in a mesh sieve to remove dust and pick out the pod fragments, leaving only the seeds. You can also use a large metal bowl to swirl the seeds and blow the chaff out. Put the cleaned

seeds in a small paper bag, properly labeled with your name, the name of the species or variety of Pacifica iris (or your garden code if it is a seedling you are growing) and dry them for at least another week before mailing. This ensures that they do not mold while in the mail. When all your seeds are clean and bagged in labeled bags, and have dried for at least a week, then send them on to the Seed Chairman.

## Photos of Iris Flowers

Photos are also very helpful. You may have noticed in the 2013 seed list that a number of entries did not have photos. So, please get your digital camera out this spring and take pictures when your irises are in full bloom if you think you might send in seeds of those plants. You are welcome also to submit those photos to the AIS Virtual Iris Show (see page 5).

## For More Information on Iris Seeds:

Read the section on Seed Ripening, Collecting, et cetera, on our website at [http://www.pacificcoastiris.org/gardeniris\\_handlingseeds.html](http://www.pacificcoastiris.org/gardeniris_handlingseeds.html) for more information on how to clean Pacifica Iris seeds. It's easy, it's fun, and it helps SPCNI offer more Pacifica Iris seeds in our sale than any other iris seed inventory in the world.



*This season's crop of seedlings, germinating in the editor's glasshouse*

*Photograph Gareth Winter*

# Going to seed

**Louise Guerin**, SPCNI Seed Chairman reports on last year's exchange.

It certainly was an interesting - and somewhat intense - project. The learning curve was a bit steep at first, but then things smoothed out. A few errors were made, but people were lovely when they reported them (and I made good whenever possible).

Modern named hybrids were certainly the most popular seeds ordered. There were several types that had many requests but not nearly enough seeds available. Kathleen and I are discussing ways to make things less frustrating for shoppers. For example, super small orders of three seeds versus not accepting less than 10 seeds of one variety unless there is another donation of that same variety available as a substitute. We are also discussing how to ensure that shipping costs are met. Larger packets of seed heading overseas requiring a customs form were more expensive to ship than the amount of postage collected. We may need to change how the postage is calculated on orders of more than 24 packets.

There is also an excess of some seeds—'Mendocino Blush', 'Periwinkle Persian', and several others.

Seeds that were in good supply are still available but will be available in smaller batches for the 2014 exchange. Bob Sussman's PCIs nearly ran out. Garry Knipe's PCIs ran out on the last order. Those seeds that were specialized (Bob's for warmer Southern California gardens and Garry's very early hybrids) were both popular. The various Ghio recent hybrids were also popular. It would be good if there were more of those seeds available.

I love the site but was wondering how to get more photos posted. I had gotten some photos from Bob Sussman but I'm not sure if they were not the right resolution or if there was something else preventing them being scanned and used for the Exchange page. Photos really do help to sell the seeds, so the more of them available, the better.

Here is a list of the most requested seeds:

The aforementioned Bob's, Debby's and Garry's PCIs	
Baby Blanket	Big Money
Canyon Snow	Distant Nebula
Drive You Wild	Earthquake
Egocentric	Escalona
Geof's	Gold Dusted
(Gravitas x <i>I hartwegii australis</i> )	
Harry's Rootbeer	Jean Erickson
Laureles	
Line Drawing* (most seeds ordered)	
Lines That Rhyme	Mission San Antonio
Night Editor	Pacific Frost
Pacific Rim	Rancho Corralitos
Raspberry Dazzler	Rincon
Sea Admiral	Stroke of Midnight
Untitled	Valley Banner

For species, *Iris gormanii* was popular, but the supply limited. The same is true for *Iris macrosiphon*. Both the *Iris innominatas* were popular. Again, only a limited number of seeds were available. *Iris tenax* ssp *tenax* (with the pinkish cast) was also a popular species.

The number of people donating seed dropped considerably for the 2013 Exchange. I'll be trying to contact various members who have donated previously to see if I can get more people to participate on the donation end. Contacts through my 9-5 job have given me hope of finding a few more new donation sources.

The last point I'd like to make is that I was very ably assisted with my many questions by Kathleen Sayce and Emma Elliott. I want to thank both of them for their very kind and patient assistance. The next Exchange should run much more smoothly and orders turn around more quickly. Most of the kinks have been worked out.

Thanks to everyone for helping to make the Seed Exchange a successful one.

**Louise Guerin**



# New Members, Fall 2013–Winter 2014

If a member moves to a new address and wishes to have their new contact information posted, please let the Secretary or Editor know. Your new contact information will be posted in the next issue of Pacific Iris.

\*\*\*Current members, if your digital address changes, please contact the Secretary immediately so that SPCNI can keep in touch with you.\*\*\*

In this list, the @ is replaced by AT, so that the email addresses are not actively linked.

## Welcome to our new members!

Madena Asbell  
6271 Saylin Ln  
Los Angeles CA 90042  
[madenaasbell AT gmail.com](mailto:madenaasbell AT gmail.com)

Mary Ann & John Avera  
2802 Forest Lodge Rd  
Pebble Beach, CA 93853  
[mryanavera AT yahoo.com](mailto:mryanavera AT yahoo.com)

Mona Basich  
1504 Ross Rd  
Weiser ID 83672  
[monabasich AT gmail.com](mailto:monabasich AT gmail.com)

Ann Bayles & Glen Perkins  
4069 Fraser Rd  
Courtenay BC V9N 9P4  
Canada  
[hcfnuts AT shaw.ca](mailto:hcfnuts AT shaw.ca)

J Boesaard  
J V/D Vegstraat 36  
2225 TT Karwijk  
Netherlands  
[boesaard47 AT zonnet.nl](mailto:boesaard47 AT zonnet.nl)

Paul Bygreve  
The Abbey Nursery  
Forde Abbey  
Chard, Somerset TA20 4LU  
United Kingdom  
[Paulandpoppy AT btinternet.com](mailto:Paulandpoppy AT btinternet.com)

Ivan Craig  
910 Rome Dr  
Los Angeles CA 90065  
[hrandiac AT ktb.net](mailto:hrandiac AT ktb.net)

Amy Dearborn  
PO Box 1311  
Bellingham WA 98227  
[doeadearborn AT gmail.com](mailto:doeadearborn AT gmail.com)

Barbara Engel  
171 Bear Ck Rd  
Kelso WA 98626  
[bdengel AT msn.com](mailto:bdengel AT msn.com)

Diane Evans  
9 Meynell CT  
Oratia, Auckland 0602  
New Zealand  
[Diane05 AT woosh.co.nz](mailto:Diane05 AT woosh.co.nz)

Diane Ford  
1310 University Rd  
Hopland, CA 95449  
[fordd AT sbcglobal.net](mailto:fordd AT sbcglobal.net)

Sherry Gallegos  
2 Holly View Wy  
Bellingham WA 98229-7854  
[xmaspeed AT msn.com](mailto:xmaspeed AT msn.com)

Mike Goebel  
NOAA-SWFSC  
8901 La Jolla Shores Dr  
La Jolla CA 92037  
[Megoebel AT yahoo.com](mailto:Megoebel AT yahoo.com)

Grange Park Aquatics  
18 Brigg Rd  
Scunthorpe, Humberside DN17 3QR  
United Kingdom  
[Greensaquatics4 AT yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Greensaquatics4 AT yahoo.co.uk)

Mark Greene  
16157 Camino Del Sol  
Los Gatos CA 95032-2634  
[Mr.mgreene AT comcast.net](mailto:Mr.mgreene AT comcast.net)

Stephen Hemenway  
848 43<sup>rd</sup> St  
Oakland, CA 94608  
[stephenhemenway AT gmail.com](mailto:stephenhemenway AT gmail.com)

Amy Jerominek  
613 Crosby St  
Altadena CA 91001  
[amyalternate AT yahoo.com](mailto:amyalternate AT yahoo.com)

Andrea Karpinsky  
510 Primrose Rd  
Kelowna BC V1X 4L6  
Canada  
[ajkarpinsky AT hotmail.com](mailto:ajkarpinsky AT hotmail.com)

Balazsne Deczky Katali  
Dumjarich 58  
Budapest 1224  
Hungary  
[Bdkati62 AT freemail.hu](mailto:Bdkati62 AT freemail.hu)

Volker Klehm  
Scharnweberstrasse 125  
13405 Berlin  
Germany  
[Volker.klehm AT yahoo.de](mailto:Volker.klehm AT yahoo.de)

Sharyn Mandell  
9081 Wagner Ck Rd  
Talent OR 97540  
[sharyn AT connpoint.com](mailto:sharyn AT connpoint.com)

Tyler Taunton  
447 Country Club Dr  
San Francisco CA 94132  
[Tyler.taunton AT yahoo.com](mailto:Tyler.taunton AT yahoo.com)

David Toole  
153 Marama Ave N  
Otara 9 RD  
Invercargill, Southland  
New Zealand  
[t00lie AT xtra.co.nz](mailto:t00lie AT xtra.co.nz)

Sean Zera  
5635 Thomas Rd  
Ann Arbor MI 48108  
[Zera AT umich.edu](mailto:Zera AT umich.edu)

# Where to get PCI's

## List of nurseries

### US: California

#### Annie's Annuals

740 Market Ave, Richmond, CA

[info@anniesannuals.com](mailto:info@anniesannuals.com)

888-266-4370

[www.anniesannuals.com](http://www.anniesannuals.com)

Retail, 9-5 daily, and online ordering with mail order shipping, US. AA has been expanding its PCI listings for several years. Wide variety of warm climate (zone 9-11) annuals and perennials, including native plants.

#### Bay View Gardens

1201 Bay St, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

831.423.3656

PCI hybrids along with several bearded iris types; Joe Ghio, owner, is one of the most prolific PCI hybridizers of the past 50 years. Mail order from print catalog only.

#### Elkhorn Native Plant Nursery

1957 California One, Moss Landing, CA 95039

831.763.1207

[www.elkhornnursery.com](http://www.elkhornnursery.com)

Several PCI species among a larger range of native California plants. Open 8-4 daily.

#### Grow Native Nursery

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden

1500 N College Ave, Claremont, CA 91711

909-625-8767

[www.rsabg.org/grow-native-nursery.com](http://www.rsabg.org/grow-native-nursery.com)

Daily sales at nursery, seasonal special sales; second location for GNN at Los Angeles Botanic Garden

#### Huntington Library and Botanic Garden

1151 Oxford Rd, San Marino, CA 91108

[www.huntington.org](http://www.huntington.org)

Annual spring and fall sales, including PCIs.

#### Las Pilitas Nursery--Escondito

8331 Nelson Way, Escondito, CA 92026

760.749.5930

[www.laspilitas.com](http://www.laspilitas.com)

Online catalog, wholesale and retail, several PCI species and hybrids.

#### Las Pilitas Nursery--Santa Margarita

[second location]

3232 Las Pilitas Road, Santa Margarita, CA 93453

805.438.5992

Online catalog, wholesale and retail, several PCI species and hybrids.

#### Matilija Nursery

8225 Waters Road, Moorpark, CA 93021

805.523.8604

[www.matilijanursery.com](http://www.matilijanursery.com)

On line plant availability list, sales at nursery; several PCI species and hybrids. Open 8:30-noon, Monday through Thursday, 8:30 to 2 p.m., Friday and Saturday.

#### Mendocino Coast Botanic Garden

18220 N Hwy One, Ft Bragg, CA 95437

707-964-4352

[www.gardenbythesea.org](http://www.gardenbythesea.org)

Retail sales at nursery next to gift shop in garden when garden is open, 9-4 daily, 9-5 in summer; PCI species and hybrids available, as well as seeds [in gift shop]

#### Santa Barbara Botanic Garden

1212 Mission Canyon Rd, Santa Barbara, CA 93105

805-682-4726

[www.sbbg.org](http://www.sbbg.org)

Annual fall sales includes PCIs, SBBG is a source for PCI 'Canyon Snow' which was first propagated here.

#### The Plant Deck at UC Botanic Garden at Berkeley

200 Centennial Dr, Berkeley, CA 94720

510-642-3343

[www.botanicgarden.berkeley.edu/shop/plant\\_deck.shtml](http://www.botanicgarden.berkeley.edu/shop/plant_deck.shtml)

The Plant Deck is open 10:30 to 4:30 daily

#### Theodore Payne Foundation

10459 Tuxford Street, Sun Valley, CA 91352

818.768.1802

[www.theodorepayne.org](http://www.theodorepayne.org)

Several PCI species, sales at garden; open 8:30-4:30, Tuesday-Saturday.

#### Tree of Life Nursery

PO Box 635, 33201 Ortega Hwy, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

949.728.0685

[www.californianativeplants.com](http://www.californianativeplants.com)

Several PCI species; open 9-4 daily.



### **Yerba Buena Nursery**

12511 San Mateo Rd (on Hwy 92), Half Moon Bay, CA 94109

[www.yerbabuenanursery.com](http://www.yerbabuenanursery.com)

New location; open 9-5 Tuesday to Saturday, Sunday 12-4.

### **US: Oregon**

#### **Portland Nursery**

5050 SE Stark, or 9000 SE Division, Portland, OR 503-231-5050, or 503-788-9000

[www.portlandnursery.com](http://www.portlandnursery.com)

Daily retail sales at both retail locations, 9-6; some PCI species and hybrids available from time to time. Go and ask! No shipping

#### **Schreiner's Iris Gardens**

3625 Quinaby Road NE, Salem, OR 97303

[iris@schreinersgardens.com](mailto:iris@schreinersgardens.com)

800.525.2367, 503.393.3232

[www.schreinersgardens.com](http://www.schreinersgardens.com)

On line catalog, ordering, and sales at nursery, open 8-4:30 daily; a few PCIs, and many other kinds of iris

#### **Wild Ginger Farm**

24000 Schuebel School Road, Beavercreek, OR 97004 503.632.2338

[www.wildgingerfarm.com](http://www.wildgingerfarm.com)

On line catalog and mail order sales are suspended for 2014 due to internet issues. Retail sales and sales at gardening events will continue in 2014. WGF is developing new PCI hybrids, and has posted photos on their website. Extensive rock garden and succulent plants selections.

#### **Wildwood Gardens**

PO Box 250, 33326 South Dickey Prairie Road, Molalla, OR 97038

503.829.3102

[www.wildwoodgardens.net](http://www.wildwoodgardens.net)

Online catalog and ordering; catalog \$5; PCIs and Cal-Sibs along with other iris groups.

#### **Sevenoaks Native Nursery**

29730 Harvest Drive SW, Albany, OR 97321

[info@sevenoaksnativenursery.com](mailto:info@sevenoaksnativenursery.com)

541-757-6520

[www.sevenoaksnativenursery.com](http://www.sevenoaksnativenursery.com)

Wholesale orders only, over \$200. Several PCI species; many native plants. Visitors welcome, call ahead.

### **US: Washington**

#### **Aitken's Salmon Creek Garden**

608 NW 119th Street, Vancouver WA 98685 360.573.4472

[www.flowerfantasy.net](http://www.flowerfantasy.net)

Online catalog, and ordering, and sales at nursery; irises of all kinds

#### **Cascadia Iris Garden**

PO Box 2520, Woodinville, WA 98072-2520

[Patrick@cascadiairisgardens.com](mailto:Patrick@cascadiairisgardens.com)

425.770.5984

[www.cascadiairisgardens.com](http://www.cascadiairisgardens.com)

On line catalog, and sales; irises of all kinds

#### **Dragonfly Farm Nursery**

34881 Hansville Rd NE, Kingston, WA 98346

360-638-1292

[dragonflyfarms@centurytel.net](mailto:dragonflyfarms@centurytel.net)

[www.dragonflyfarmnursery.com](http://www.dragonflyfarmnursery.com)

Retail sales, Thursday-Saturday, 9-5, Sunday 9-4, or by appointment if you call ahead [email is the preferred contact mode]

#### **Far Reaches Farm**

1818 Hastings Road, Port Townsend, WA 98368

360.385.5114

[www.farreachesfarm.net](http://www.farreachesfarm.net)

Retail sales, 9-4 daily; and on line catalog with shipping; wide variety of interesting and unusual plants

#### **Leonine Iris**

7051 S 126th St, Seattle, WA 98178-4337

206.772.2780

[www.leonineiris.com](http://www.leonineiris.com)

On line catalog, PCI hybrids and many other iris sections.

#### **Sequim Rare Plants**

Sequim, WA

[Olympic\\_coast@olympen.com](mailto:Olympic_coast@olympen.com)

[www.sequimrareplants.com](http://www.sequimrareplants.com)

On line catalog and ordering only; several PCI hybrids along with a wide variety of other perennials

#### **Sundquist Nursery**

3809 NE Sawdust Hill RD (P O Box 2451), Poulsbo, WA 98370

[www.sqnursery.com](http://www.sqnursery.com)

Visit only on Open Garden Days; the annual list is posted on their website; no mail orders.

## Canada

### Fraser's Thimble Farms

175 Arbutus Road, Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 1A3,  
Canada

250.537.5788

[www.thimblefarms.com](http://www.thimblefarms.com)

Online catalog and ordering, several PCI species; many other kinds of plants, including terrestrial orchids.

### Pacific Rim Native Plant Nursery

43356 Hillkeep Place, Chilliwack, BC V2R 4A4, Canada

604.792.9279

[www.hillkeep.ca](http://www.hillkeep.ca)

## New Zealand:

### Nikau Hill Nursery & Water Garden

North Island, New Zealand

[nikauhill@nikauhill.co.nz](mailto:nikauhill@nikauhill.co.nz)

[www.nikauhill.co.nz](http://www.nikauhill.co.nz)

Online ordering and mail order shipping; located on North Island, address not prominent on website. Several PCI spp. mentioned on website.

## United Kingdom:

### Broadleigh Gardens

Barr House, Bishop's Hall, Taunton TA4 1AE, United Kingdom

01823 286 231

[broadleighbulbs.co.uk](http://broadleighbulbs.co.uk)

Several PCI hybrids, main source for extant Broadleigh named hybrids; many other plants.

### Aulden Farm

Leominster, Herefordshire, HR6 0JT, United Kingdom  
01568.720.129

[www.auldenfarm.co.uk/pacificcoastiris.html](http://www.auldenfarm.co.uk/pacificcoastiris.html)

Several PCI seedlings; many other plants



'Broadleigh Rose' - Photograph by farreachesfarm.com

# Swiss maids

Our member Liselotte Hirsbrunner reports of growing PCIs in the middle of continental Europe.

Few people can grow PCIs successfully in Switzerland. Because we live in the mountains (at 4000ft.) and get 5 - 6 months of snow cover, I can grow them in special mini climates. Under larch trees on steep banks (facing south), they do well with the acid mulch of the trees (*Larix decidua*). Unfortunately these lovely iris are the voles' favorite food in the winter—it is a constant battle! When they survive, sometimes late freezes in May or early June will destroy the flowers. But I just keep on growing them from seed....





# Getting Seeds Through US Customs to the Seed Exchange: A possible pathway

Kathleen Sayce

Pacifica Iris growers can be determined folks. This year our new Seed Chairman, Louise Guerin, set up a 'small lots of seeds' import permit with US Customs. This allows people to send seeds into the US from other countries, in lots of under 50 seeds per packet, and fewer than 50 packets per mailing, and will help with two way seed and gene exchange among our members.

However, the path of seed importing doesn't always run smoothly. We were unable to get any seeds from out-of-country members for the 2013 seed exchange. The tale does not end here. SPCNI member Diane Whitehead lives in Victoria, BC, just across the Straits of Juan de Fuca from the US and state of Washington. The destination address for the permit is mine, the Society's official address, on the south coast of Washington, fewer than 300 miles away.

Starting in September, 2013, Diane sent seeds to SPCNI via the Seattle Customs Office, carefully following all the instructions, which include not putting the final address on the outside of the package, including a label inside with the final address, a copy of the SPCNI Seed Import Permit, an inventory with all seed lots labeled as *Iris douglasiana* along with additional identifying numbers, et cetera. The outcome was that the seeds passed inspection, but documents were missing, so it was sent back to her.

We reviewed everything, determined that I'd omitted a key permit, which I emailed to her, and Diane tried again. This time, the seeds passed inspection, passed customs paperwork review (all the pieces of paper were present and correct), but it was stamped undeliverable, and it was sent back to her. The final destination label was missing from the contents when she got it back in the mail, and as before, the customs label had been removed. Everything else seemed to be in order. By now it was early January 2014. We pondered what to do next. Diane was up for another try.

I talked to a Postmaster, Mark Scarborough, in Long Beach, WA, who took it as a personal challenge to decipher what had happened, and where. After a few emails with photos and a couple of phone calls, and his review of photos from Diane of the outside of the envelope, he determined that after Customs took off their address label, that person did not put on the la-

bel to the final address. Then it was sent on to the US postal service, where, without a delivery address, all that could be done was to turn it around and send it back to Diane.

So, in round three, Diane wrote the final delivery address on the front of the envelope. Then she carefully taped the gaudy customs label over it, and mailed it again. The customs label was taken off during inspection, the final address was intact, and it went into the mail. From her house to mine took two weeks. Ironically, the final destination label was still inside when the package reached me.

The seeds have now been sent on to Louise, and will be available for the next seed exchange in late fall 2014. Thanks to Diane's determination to figure this out, we know how to successfully ship seeds into the US, at least some of the time: Write the final address (SPCNI's official mailing address, which will be in the packet of materials you get from me) on the outside of the envelope, cover it with the customs label, well-taped on, and make sure all the required paperwork and listed seeds are inside. Oh, and don't forget to include the spare mailing label to SPCNI inside, just in case customs staff follow their own instructions.



A 2013 John Taylor seedling

Photograph John Taylor



*Cal-Sib 'Lyric Laughter' - Photograph by Patrick Spence*



*Lankow's Cal-Sib seedling 08CS-018-C—Photograph by Patrick Spence*



At right—*Iris douglasiana* ex Bed 18

Below – Pacific Coast Iris blooms

Both photographs—

UC Botanical Garden at Berkeley







*Some of the remarkable seedlings from Australian breeder John Taylor's 2013 season. Photographs—John Taylor*