



Spuria News

Spring 2022

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



Dave Niswonger at a 2015 AIS convention garden in Portland Oregon

(Andi Rivarola photo)

(Editors note: the names of the cultivars Dave is holding is unknown as they were blooms that were found on the ground at a convention garden although they do resemble Dave's 'Missouri Clouds' and 'Adriatic Blue')

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'Line Dancing'

2021 Spuria Symposium Winner

Charles Jenkins by Comanche Acres - 2007

(Andi Rivarola photo)

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(terms expire 2023)

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President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer are elected officers serving 3 year terms and take office at SIS Annual Board Meeting at the AIS Convention or July 1 if no AIS Convention. The current terms expire in 2023.

The Spuria Iris Society is a section of the American Iris Society and holds a Board of Directors meeting each year at the AIS National Convention. As an affiliate of the AIS, the Spuria Iris Society is a tax exempt organization, group exemption number 3686. Your participation is welcomed and encouraged.

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Membership Rates

Annual Domestic (includes Canada)	\$12
Tri-annual Domestic (includes Canada) .	\$30
ALL E-Members* - Annual . . .	\$ 6
ALL E-Members* - Tri-annual .	\$15
Annual Overseas	\$15
Tri-annual Overseas	\$40

* E-Members receive an electronic copy of the Spuria News and **must have a current e-mail address on file with the Spuria Iris Society.**

Membership Renewals

For memberships that are expiring, the renewal due date is located in the upper right hand corner of the address label. Membership renewals may be made by:

1. Electronically through the Spuria website (www.spuriairissociety.org) using PayPal via the membership page.
2. Electronically through the AIS website (www.irises.org) using either Visa, Master Card or PayPal.
3. By mail sending the appropriate funds (check made out to "Spuria Iris Society") to the Membership Chair, include your name, mailing address and E-mail address if renewing as an E-Member (required).

Article Submission

For articles, information, or photos to be printed in the Spuria News, please submit to the Editor, Darol Jurn (spuriairissociety@gmail.com or djurn@prodigy.net). Publication deadlines are:

Spring edition: February 28
Fall edition: August 31

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The Spuria Iris Society can be found online at:

www.spuriairissociety.org and
www.facebook.com/spuriairissociety

e-mail: spurisirissociety@gmail.com

President's Message

by Andi Rivarola



It is with great sadness that we report that our dear friend, Dave Niswonger is now creating beautiful irises in heaven. I don't know much about his passing except that he passed away on February 2nd.

Dave was an exceptionally creative, and prolific hybridizer. He created an incredible amount of spuria irises, many winners of the Eric Nies Award, such as: 'Cinnamon Stick,' 'Chocolate Fudge,' and all the beautiful Missouri-named spurias, 'Missouri Rivers,' 'Missouri Springs,' 'Sunrise in Missouri,' 'Missouri Sunset', and the very popular 'Adriatic Blue,' among many others.

We're going to miss Dave for the wonderful person that he was, generous, always ready to give an impromptu talk, and counsel anyone with his Spuria knowledge. The beautiful rainbow of colorful spurias will accompany the many other varieties of plants that he was interested in.

He also hybridized SDBs, IBs, Siberian and species irises. Please don't miss Dave's page on the AIS Wiki to see for yourselves the fantastic list of introductions by Dave Niswonger: <https://wiki.irises.org/Main/Bio/HybridizerNiswonger>

On other news, I hope to see some of you at the Las Cruces, New Mexico Convention of The American Iris Society.

I personally can't wait to see the gardens and spend some time in that beautiful state. New Mexico has ideal conditions for growing spuria irises, and many other varieties. So, I hope to be surprised.

The AIS has put together a Marketing strategy to help AIS Sections (like the Spuria Iris Society) and iris clubs around the country gain members. During the months of March through May, 2022 any new members of the Spuria Iris Society will also become members of the AIS, FREE for one year. Please take a read at the 2022 AIS Membership Drive full details somewhere else in this newsletter.

I hope you will mention becoming a member of the Spuria Iris Society to your friends and family.

We certainly appreciate your support.

We want to always encourage new hybridizers to become Spuria iris hybridizers. How do we do that? What ideas would you share with us in order to accomplish this? Would you share with us?

Have a happy Spring.

Andi Rivarola,
President Spuria Iris Society

Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Debbie James
Report date 09/01/2021 through 02/01/2022

Beginning Balance	\$8,319.97
Income	
Spuria Checklist	
2 @ \$45 each	90.00
Membership:	
Single annual (6 @ \$12):	72.00
Single Triennial (9 @ \$30)	270.00
3yr E-Membership (5 @ \$15)	75.00
3yr International (1 @ \$40):	<u>40.00</u>
Total Income:	\$547.00
Expenses	
Newsletter costs:	221.56
PayPal Fees:	<u>14.51</u>
Total Expenses:	\$236.07
Ending Balance:	\$8,630.90
CD Balance:	\$1,214.50
Total Assets:	\$9,845.40

New & Returning Members

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

- Linda Baumgartner, Colorado Springs, CO
- Florence Darthenay, France
- Betty Ann Gunther, Los Alamos, NM
- Dianah Hackson-Head, Salt Lake City, UT
- Crystal MacDonald, Attleboro, MA
- William Maryott, Freedom, CA
- Terry Smith, Greenbrier, AR

Spuria News

MEMBERSHIP OFFER

For any NEW first time member that joins the Spuria Iris Society during the months of March, April or May 2022 will receive a 1 year FREE print membership to the American Iris Society (AIS) PROVIDED the new member has NEVER been a member of the AIS. This offer is made by the American Iris Society to the affiliates and clubs.

Board of Director Minutes

No Board activity has occurred since the last Board action taken January 10, 2019.

Spuria News Archive

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

Digital Program

The Spuria Iris Society is happy to bring you the 2013 Digital Presentation for your iris or garden club.

Please order the digital program via Paypal or send a check made to the Spuria Iris Society to our Treasurer:

Debbie James - Spuria Iris Society Treasurer
6634 Gaviota St.
Lake Balboa, CA 91406-5943

The current price is \$10.00.

Once the payment is received, an E-mail note will be sent to the buyer with information about downloading the program online via Goggle Drive. (If for some reason you do not have access to Goggle Drive, please let us know.)

Andi Rivarola
andinsky@gmail.com

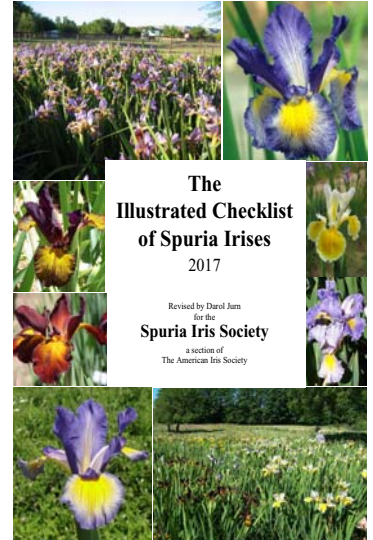
Spuria Checklist

The 2017 Spuria Checklist is currently available. This checklist includes many *new* and *updated* photographs including registrations through 2017, 265 pages. The price including postage is:

- \$45 for domestic orders,
- \$55 for Canada orders (US dollars),
- \$65 for International orders (US dollars)

To purchase perform ONE of the following:

- Visit <http://www.spuriairissociety.org/tools.html> using PayPal.
- Send a check to the Treasurer, Debbie James, made out to the Spuria Iris Society.



Include the following information with your order: Name, Address, State, City (and country for international orders). Please include an e-mail address or phone number so that we may contact you if necessary.

Visit the Spuria Iris Society "store" where anyone can purchase spuria items such as clothing, coffee mugs, and various other items. Visit <https://www.cafepress.com/spuriairissociety> to view available items.

Spuria Membership

Total Memberships = 161
 Total Memberships last year = 158
 Members who belong to AIS = 77
 Life Members = 39
 E-Memberships = 27

Complimentary Memberships:
 New Zealand Iris Society - newsletter exchange
 AIS Bulletin - Jane Milliman
 AIS Library - Dave Silverberg
 AIS President - Jody Nolin
 Dave Niswonger - Honorary Life

Overseas Members:

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

Domestic Membership by State:

AL = 1	AR = 3	AZ = 10	CA = 33
CO = 3	FL = 1	GA = 5	HI = 1
IA = 4	ID = 2	IL = 4	IN = 1
KS = 3	MA = 1	MI = 3	MN = 1
MO = 4	MT = 1	NC = 3	ND = 1
NE = 3	NM = 5	NV = 4	NY = 1
OH = 4	OR = 8	PA = 1	SC = 3
SD = 2	TN = 4	TX = 22	VA = 1
WA = 7	WI = 1	Canada: = 3	

Dave Niswonger

by Darol Jurn

It is with great sadness to learn of the passing of Dave Niswonger on February 2. Dave was a great person, isirain and prolific hybridizer who had a significant impact on the iris world, especially to the world of spuria, introducing no less than 66 spuria. Dave's spurias earned the Nies Medal 16 times. Those winners include: 'Cinnamon Stick' 1995, 'Chocolate Fudge' 1996, 'Missouri Rivers' 1998, 'Sultan's Sash' 1999, 'Missouri Springs' 2001, 'Sunrise in Missouri' 2002, 'Missouri Sunset' 2003, 'Missouri Rainbows' 2004, 'Missouri Iron Ore' 2005, 'Adriatic Blue' 2006, 'Missouri Orange' 2007, 'Missouri Autumn' 2009, 'Missouri Dreamland' 2010, 'Missouri Orchid' 2013, 'Missouri Morning' 2015, and 'Castor River' 2016.

Dave was a Navy corpsman stationed at Sampson, New York, during the war, returning afterward to finish his degree at Southeast Missouri State University. He served as a hospital administrator for 30 years and the American Heart Association as an educator and fund-raiser. It was during this time that hybridizing became important to Dave where he would perform hybridizing in the dark after work.

Dave began hybridizing tall bearded irises in 1953, median irises a little later, and spuria irises in 1967. A friend, Charles Pickett, gave him a spuria in 1960. It was named Sunny Day. He really wasn't interested in growing it, but since it was a gift, he planted it and didn't give it any particular attention. After growing the spuria in the same spot for six years, he had a clump with sixty bloom stalks. This amazed him. So, he decided that he probably should grow and hybridize spurias. He started with varieties hybridized by Ben Hager, Walker Ferguson, and Marion Walker.



In this undated photo Dave is checking out a spuria clump at a national convention garden. (source of photo unknown)

Dave married Marie Deneke, a school teacher, in 1948 and they had three children.

David, Mary Dee, and John grew up pulling out weeds and quickly got burned out on the process.

Marie refused to pull weeds, but helped in the planting of seedlings by laying them out in the rows and watering.

One time when she got to the end of a row, and had a few left, she asked if she could throw the remainder over the fence. Dave nearly had a heart attack and yelled, "that might be my best seedling in the whole bunch!" Now he has five grandchildren that he is trying to introduce them to the art of pulling weeds. He hasn't been successful thus far!

Dave feels that the surface has barely been scratched in the hybridization of spuria irises and hopes that many more will join in the fun of creating new cultivars.

His accomplishments in the iris world serving as President of The American Iris Society (1996-1998) and the Spuria Iris Society (1983-1985). During his hybridizing lifetime he was the recipient of many AIS medals including the Dykes Medal for the TB 'Everything Plus' in 1991, the Knowlton Medal for BB 'Marmalade Skies' in 1984 and the Nies Medal 16 different years. He received the

Bennett C. Jones Award for Outstanding Median Hybridizing in 2008 from the Median Iris Society.



Past AIS Presidents Gary White and Dave Niswonger at the 2017 AIS convention in Des Moines IA (Andi Rivarola photo)

Dave is a retired Hospital Administrator and used the garden as his stress reliever. He has belonged to as many as fifteen plant specialty groups. Besides irises, the plant organizations include dahlias, gladiolus, daylilies, berries with a special interest in gooseberries, vegetables, and nut trees. He has introduced three dahlias, six gladioli (one of which won an All American Award), three hickory nut trees, four Black & Persian walnuts, thirty nine daylilies and over two hundred fifty irises.

He received the Gold Medal from the Men's Garden Clubs of America for Horticultural Achievement. I Dave has also received the Sir Michael Foster Medal from the British Iris Society for the International promotion of Irises.

More can be read at his obituary: <https://www.semissourian.com/story/2935129.html> and the AIS encyclopedia: <https://wiki.irises.org/Main/Bio/HybridizerNiswonger>

Missouri Ramblin

By Jim Hedgecock

Hello Iris Friends,

I hope this note finds you all well from the Covid and getting ready for the spring bloom season. We are still having some pretty good snows and mixed in some days in the 50's.

I planted around 15 hundred spuria seeds in cans last fall and now we will see what happens. I do not like cans for spuria seeds, but I decided I would try this again. The problem is that they don't sprout in many instances until the second year. Then, when they sprout, they are like grass and it is hard to separate them and plant. I prefer the seeds in open ground. That is really a problem also. If they don't sprout the first year, what happens if the area starts growing weeds and grass. The only answer I have for that problem is to try to keep the seedling area weeded the first year.

Seventeen years ago I planted 3000 spuria seeds in open ground in rows. I just left them alone and they began to sprout seedlings the first year and they did so for 15 years. I pulled new seedlings out for introduction every one of those 15 years. I finally decided 2 years ago, that I had got just about all the new good seedlings that were left. If you read this and understand what I am saying, putting spuria seeds in open ground will work great, but you will contaminate the ground with the seeds that may sprout for years to come.

Dave Niswonger and I discussed this problem several times down through the years. Dave planted spuria seeds in containers and then set them out when they sprouted in the spring. I do not get enough growth on the seedlings to set them out in the spring. So, I wait until the fall. If I do this, I try to set them out in August. That's a problem also, because August is often our hottest month. That means extra watering for those seedlings.

I don't have the perfect answer to this set up. When these sprout this time, I am going to set out the whole can of seedlings in the ground and let them grow to a larger size and then divide them and plant in rows.

I don't have a real good handle on who is hybridizing spurias right now, but I do know a lot more people are growing spurias. Give them a try, you won't be sorry.

God Bless all of you and your gardens and I hope to see you at the Las Cruces convention.

Respectfully,
Jim Hedgecock

Spuria Symposium Results

By Darol Jurn

The 2021 symposium winner once again is 'Line Dancing' (B.C. Jenkins 2007). Line Dancing has found it way to the Spuria Symposium multiple times including a repeat symposium winner in 2020, 2019 and 2017 and appearing in the top ten in 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2018.

New to the top ten are 'Hot Chili', 'Kiss of Caramel', 'Ibex Ibis', 'Innovator', 'Small Endeavor', 'Rhett's Surprise', and 'Salmon Sunset'. None of these new additions have appeared in the top ten in the past 3 years.

Reoccurring visitors to the top ten are 'Lemon Tower' and 'Midnight Rival'.

The 2021 top ten Spuria irises as selected by our members are (numbers in parenthesis are total points received from participants):

2019	2020	2021	Cultivar
1 (28)	1 (57)	1 (34)	'Line Dancing' (Charles Jenkins by Comanche Acres - 2007)
n/a	n/a	2-tie (19)	'Hot Chili' (Terry Aitken - 2014)
n/a	n/a	2-tie (19)	'Kiss of Caramel' (A&D Cadd - 2002)
10 (15)	10 (15)	4 (16)	'Lemon Tower' (Lee Walker - 2008)
n/a	n/a	5-tie (15)	'Ibex Ibis' (Brad Kasperek - 2012)
n/a	n/a	5-tie (15)	'Innovator' (Ben Hager - 1991)
5 (21)	5-tie (21)	5-tie (15)	'Midnight Rival' (Larry Johnsen - 1993)
n/a	n/a	5-tie (21)	'Small Endeavor' (Jim Hedgecock - 2017)
n/a	n/a	9-tie (14)	'Rhett's Surprise' (Charles Jenkins by Comanche Acres - 2006)
n/a	n/a	9-tie (14)	'Salmon Sunset' (Lee Walker - 2007)



2nd place tie
'Hot Chili' - Terry Aitken - 2014
(Aitken photo)



2nd place tie
'Kiss of Caramel' - Anna & David Cadd - 2002
(Cadd photo)



4th place
'Lemon Tower' - Lee Walker - 2008
(Plotner photo)



5th place tie
'Ibex Ibis' - Brad Kasperek - 2012
(Kasperek photo)



5th place tie
'Small Endeavor' - Jim Hedgecock - 2017
(Hedgecock photo)



5th place tie
'Innovator' - Ben Hager - 1991
(Jurn photo)



9th place tie
'Rhett's Surprise' - Charles Jenkins
by Comanche Acres - 2006
(Hedgecock photo)



5th place tie
'Midnight Rival' - Larry Johnsen - 1993
(Jurn photo)



9th place tie
'Salmon Sunset' - Lee Walker - 2007
(Jurn photo)

Spurias in St. Louis

by Jim Morris

I have grown a few spuria irises in my current garden for about 30 years. It is interesting to me that some have thrived without care and others just disappeared.

The two with the greatest vigor for me have been 'Archie Owen' (Hager 1970) and 'Missouri Springs' (Niswonger 1994). 'Archie Owen' (Nies Award 1973) has been in the garden in the same spot for the entire 30 years and I can attest to it being a real winner, my favorite spuria of all time. This one has not clumped for me but rather spread about eight feet in that time. It has never failed to bloom and the golden yellow blossoms are large and bright. Dave Niswonger's 'Missouri Springs' (Nies Medal 2001) has been around for about 15 years and has clumped up and in the past three years has had 25 to 38 bloom stalks. It is a gorgeous bright blue with a small yellow signal planted in the front of our house to the side of our driveway. Passer-byes almost always comment on how tall and beautiful it is.



'Missouri Springs' (Niswonger 1994)
Jim Morris photo



'Archie Owen' (B Hager 1970)
Jim Morris photo

My most recent favorite is 'Adriatic Blue' (Niswonger 1995) which grows well and quickly established itself at the top of my list of spurias. It won the Nies Medal in 2006. A second planting of it has bloomed each of its two years in the garden. Another tall plant, it and the first planting have show stalks with standards and style arms deep blue, and gold falls edged blue.

Another outstanding addition to the garden was 'Missouri Copper Mine' (Jesse Emmons 2010). I first saw this on the show bench at an iris show in Columbia, MO which was sponsored by the Showme Iris Society. It was stunning and easily was best in its class and best beardless iris against strong competition by Siberian, Louisiana and Japanese irises. I immediately obtained it from Jesse Emmons and planted it. It has bloomed each year after and draws strong interest from garden visitors. One of only two introductions by Emmons, it won an Award of Merit in 2015 -- no small feat for a first-time hybridizer.

Other spurias that have performed well in my garden include: the diminutive 'Elfin Sunshine' (Jenkins 1998, Nies Medal 2008) a pale yellow self with small flowers; 'Ross Island' (Nancy Price 2010) the dark red-brown (hortensia?) blending to a burnished yellow blaze, which won an Honorable Mention in 2016; 'Son Of Sun' (Wickenkamp 1983) a bright yellow that won the Nies Medal in 1994; 'Betty Cooper' (McCown 1982, Nies Medal 1993) with standards light violet streaked pale yellow and falls the same with an orange center and veined brownish-purple; 'Gold Mania' (Blyth 1989/90) growing very tall in rich gold; and, 'Cast Of Green' (Aitken 2010) in dark brown with the falls fading to a green cast by the second or third day.



'Adriatic Blue" (Niswonger1996)
Jim Morris photo

For many years I have grown *I. ochroleuca* L. (Linneus 1771) which was later changed to *I. orientalis* after the 1939 checklist had unfortunately popularized the first superseded name. It has thrived in lousy soil and rock and blooms in light yellow with white standards. It is ubiquitous throughout the U. S. and most people just know it as a "flag."

Another species spuria that I obtained from Dave Niswonger is *I. musulmanica* (Fomin 1909), later changed to *I. spuria* (Linneus 1753) subspecies *musulmanica*. This is a cheerful small-flowered bloom in medium blue with lighter veined falls and a small yellow signal. Then there is the short spuria *I. graminea* which is a delightful and attractive garden plant. Located to the side of a big rock it has thrived for many years and I have been able to share it with many rock gardening friends of mine. It is basically 12-16" tall in reddish-purple with up to three flowers per stem. The style arms are dominant with narrow purple standards and falls violet-veined on white ground. The shiny leaves overtop the flowers. Its bonus is that it has a delicious plum scent. I highly recommend it for every garden as I do a representative sample of other spuria irises.

A Request for Wickenkamp Iris

By Vern Hammett

Dear fellow Spuria Fanatic,

A year ago, while I was moving and had my Wickenkamp Spuria collection in buckets, Dallas suffered unseasonably cold weather. I am certain most of you heard about our loss of electrical power.

Due to the exposed nature of the iris, I lost the entire collection of my "Wickenkamp iris." Now I am asking yo to help me restore my iris garden. I am Floyd's only relative who is interest in preserv-ing his legacy.

As I was preparing to move the spuria, I sent a number of specimens to growers in Arizona, Mis-souri, and South Carolina. I plead with you now to help me rebuild Floyd's contribution to the spuria world. This letter is sent in the spring with the hope that you will remember my request this fall when it is time to ship rhizomes. I will gladly pay



'Missouri Copper Mine' (J. Emmons 2010)
Bob Skaggs photo

for the rhizomes and shipping if necessary. My contact information:

Vern Hammett
207 Glenwood Drive
Murphy, TX 75094-3448
vern.hammett@gmail.com
(940) 367-4127

Following is a list of Floyd's introductions:

Betty My Love	Chica de Sonora
Colbalt Mesa	Dusty Trails
Kaibab Trail	Kitt Peak
Love For Leila	Mystic Mesa
Oro de Sonora	Picacho Peak
Son of Sun	Sonoran Caballero
Sonoran Carnival	Sonoran Cutie
Sonoran Legacy	Sonoran Nightfall
Sonoran Seniorita	Sonoran Skies
Sonoran Sunset	Sunrise in Sonora
Wyoming Cowboys	

Editor's Corner

By Darol Jurn

Carelessness can become a gardeners night-mare..... This past fall I was one of those gardeners. Late last summer I harvested several of my spuria clumps as they were getting too big and encroaching on the neighboring clump. I performed the usual protocols for harvesting spuria including digging, cleaning, disinfecting using a dilute bleach solution, and storage (refrigeration). I had done this many times over the years without problems. But this past year was unfortunately different... I donated many of the rhizomes keeping a few of each cultivar for replanting. I prepared my soil and replanted my rhizomes within a couple weeks of harvest. As time went by it became very apparent something was seriously wrong as very few rhizomes showed growth and the ones that did were showing stunted growth (abnormal leaf growth). After review of my processing steps it became clear that I was careless with mixing the dilute bleach solution and the rhizomes may have been left in the solution for too long as I was consumed with other concurrent activities that distracted my attention. Needless to say I am now in a recovery mode determining which lost cultivars are available and I am making plans to secure replace-

ments. For you spuria growers, please be warned to not get careless with processing your spuria rhizomes especially if you use a dilute bleach solution.

With all of this being said, there is ONE spuria cultivar, 'Flutter Bug' (Don Shepard 2002) that is impossible to find (although I do have one unconfirmed possible source). If any Spuria Iris Society member has a clump of 'Flutter Bug' and are willing to share, I would be ecstatic and more than generous to receive a couple of 'Flutter Bug' rhizomes.

A Blast From the Past

By Darol Jurn

This column is only possible with the support of the members and clubs who have provided historic Spuria newsletters to the Spuria Iris Society for electronic capture. With this being said here is the continuation of "A Blast from the Past."

Fifty years ago (1972): The January edition cover has seedling photograph of a Niswonger seedling, it notes "seedling 10-71 is one of the 1,700 (yes 1,700) spuria seedlings which in 1971 were growing in the fields of the Cape Iris Gardens, Cape Girardeau, Missouri. Dave Niswonger who is the proprietor of that iris garden, hybridized all those seedlings." In a related in the same edition, Dave makes note that "I lost a number of seedlings from the "winter kill" we had in the Midwest this last spring; I was surprised that it affected the spuria seedlings. All seedlings from *I crocea* and *Iris musulmanica* (about 25 in all) were killed. Would this be an indication that those two species are particularly tender--or, should I say, "Can't they take the winter?"

The April edition of the Spuria News lists the display gardens, of which there are several locations including:

Aracdia CA	Berkley, Ca
Denver, CO	Kansas City, MO
Memphis, TN	Oklahoma City, OK
Phoenix, AZ	Roy, UT
San Marcos, CA	Upper Montclair, CA
New additions include:	
Bozeman, MT	Chaska, MN
Del Mar, CA	Lubbock, TX
Mansfield, OH	

It is worth noting that of these display gardens, two had a very large number of spurias on display, the largest being Cordon Bleu Gardens (located in San Marcos, CA). Their spuria display was more than triple the number of spurias (135) found in most other display gardens. The April edition also includes a small article on several of the display gardens with photos, it may be worth a look, and can be found in the AIS wikw at: <https://wiki.irises.org/Hist/ArchiveSpuriaNews>.

Thirty years ago (1992): In the winter edition, an article contributed by Charles Jenkins titled "Spuria Seed Germination", I found this article so compelling that I have reprinted the entire article here, this germination may be well worth a try:

"Several years ago, in a February, I found a number of spuria stalks with seed pods which I had put away and forgotten. I shelled out the seeds, and since they were extremely dry, I thought to soak them a bit before planting them.

I put each cross in a small container of water, and put them up on a high shelf. Then of course, I forgot them again. That is until a week or more later I was reminded of them by the awful smell - they were really fermented! I almost threw them out, but just to see, I rinsed them off and planted them in containers, which were put outside. To my surprise, they came up thick in a month or less, with excellent germination. Usually, I planted the seeds outside in November, and they did not germinate until the second spring.

With no occasion to try it again, I don't know whether this would always work. Perhaps having left the pods on the stalks had some effect. This happened in Oklahoma, where we have plenty of freezing weather in the winter, and very hot summers. But it might be worth trying, to get them up a lot sooner, if one has not planted them in the fall."

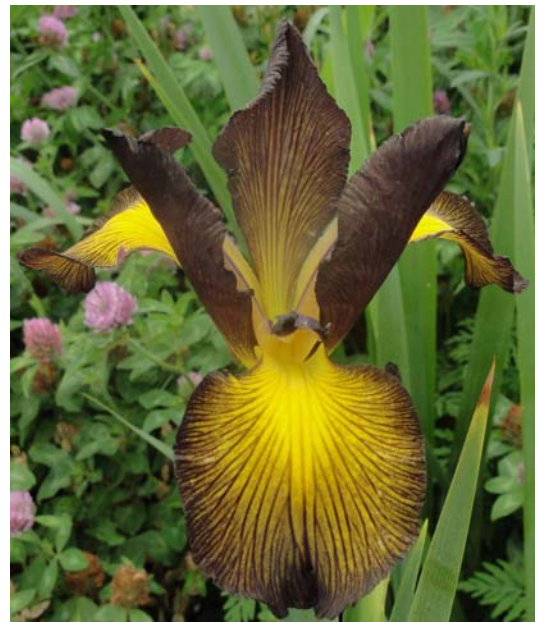
Editor note: I found this accidental germination by Charles Jenkins an intriguing possibility. This past summer I had a bumper crop of bee pods, far more than in past years. With the excess seeds I will give it a try.

Ten years ago (2012): On the subject of germination (in the previous paragraph), Brad Kasperek contributed an article that discussed seed germination. In his interesting take he states: "Seed germination has been the bane of my spuria hybridizing and I've tried everything I could think

of to improve my results..." Brad goes on to note: "So with this work out of the way I finally decided it might be a good idea to check with Dave Niswonger to see if he could provide any help with my germination problems. Dave told me that the most important factor affecting spuria seed germination was how many soil particles were in direct contact with the seed. Thus he plants his in a seed bed made of loamy soil without any added peat moss or other organic material and gets around 75% germination. Incorporating organic material would reduce germination by reducing the seed to soil contact. Additionally, he said to NEVER POT the seeds up because potting mixes have very poor soil to seed contact."

2022 Introductions

Missouri Gold Mine (Jim Hedgecock - 2022) SPU, 36 inches, medium bloom season. Ruffled standards dark red purple with yellow rays from base on inside of petals. Ruffled falls brilliant yellow signals starting deep in the throat, turning into bright yellow rays with red purple lines., 1/8 inch red purple rims. Mild, pleasant fragrance. Lost parentage. Available at Comanche Acres, www.comancheacresiris.com.



July In Cheyenne (Jim Hedgecock - 2022) SPU, 34 inches, medium bloom season. Ruffled standards pale lavender pink with lighter edges and center stripe. Style arms yellow ending in pink lavender. Ruffled falls red brown with soft yellow covering most of the petals. Irene Benton X Evening Dress. Available at Comanche Acres, www.comancheacresiris.com.



Solar Pinstripes (Jim Hedgecock - 2022) SPU, 34 inches, medium bloom season. Ruffled standards red brown, faint yellow rays at midribs. Style arms yellow with red brown tips and purple center line. Ruffled falls bright yellow, red brown rays covering entire petal border at petal edges. Ruffled Canary X Unknown. Available at Comanche Acres, www.comancheacresiris.com.



Midnight Assassin (Jim Hedgecock - 2022) SPU, 34 inches, medium bloom season. Ruffled medium purple with dark gold rays at signal area surrounded by darker rays. Lost parentage. Available at Comanche Acres, www.comancheacresiris.com.



Simply Enduring (Nancy Price - 2022) SPU, 42 inches, medium bloom season. Available at Wildwood Gardens via email: gardens@molalla.net.



Smile In The Sunshine (Nancy Price - 2022) SPU, 42 inches, medium bloom season, Available at Wild-wood Gardens via email: gardens@molalla.net.



Nebula Wind (Anna Cadd - 2020) SPU, 40-41 inches, medium late bloom season. Standards: semi erect deep yellow gold wide standards, falls: wide deep gold yellow wavy falls with darker light orange section in the middle with 4-5 small lines. Huge bloom 6 inches across. Available at Cadds Beehive via email: caddsisiris@comcast.net



Spuria Sources

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