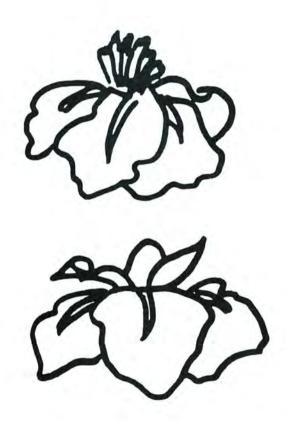


VOLUME 17, NUMBER 2 FALL, 1980



THE REVIEW

OF THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES

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Mrs. Wells Burton, 210 Miller Drive,

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NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Through 1980 Mr. Leland M. Welsh, 1003 Newton Ct.,

Kalamazoo, MI 49008

Through 1981 Mr. Ben Hager, 309 Best Road South,

Stockton, CA 952Q6

Through 1982 Mrs. Frank Vincent, Box 460,

Boneau, SC 29431

APPOINTMENTS

Editor, THE RFVIEW Mr. W. E. Ouweneel, R.R. 31 Box 206 Terre Haute, IN 47803

Membership Chairman Mrs. C. Robert (Evelyn) Minnick,

324 N.E. Park Circle, Kansas City, MO 64116

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

It is welcome news that the popularity of Japanese Irises is increasing. Commercial growers report more orders and inquiries.

Two lovely Japanese Iris shows were open to the public this year. The first was at Summerville, South Carolina, and the second (on the fourth of July weekend) at Kalamazoo, Michigan.

We need to have the Japanese Iris Check List brought up to date. The existing list covers registrations only through 1966. This would be a nice project for a local group. It would consist of going through the AIS registrations from 1967 to date and arranging them in alphabetical order. During the last five years they have averaged only 12 per year. I would like to hear from that local group.

I wish to acknowledge receipt by the Society of three checks from the following sources:

AIS Region 1 \$100.00 Iris Society of Minnesota \$87.00 Iris Connoisseurs of Michigan \$485.25

With daily rising costs these generous contributions are welcome gifts.

Just a little extra care at this time of the year will bring your Japanese Irises through the winter in good condition. Everyone knows they like plenty of moisture for good growth in summer but may not realize that adequate moisture is required in the winter. The best way to insure this moisture all winter is to apply a mulch.

Since we do not hear anything to the contrary we presume that your Japanese Irises are growing to perfection.

Adolph Vogt

SOUTH CAROLINA JAPANESE IRIS SOCIETY TOUR AND SHOW

As announced in the Fall, 1979, issue of THE REVIEW the South Carolina Japanese Iris Society show and tour was held in Summerville May 30 and 31.

It was well described in the Summerville Journal-Scene with almost a full page of pictures of Japanese Irises and individuals. The text of the article is reproduced with permission below.

IRIS TEST GARDEN IN FOCUS FOR FLORAL EVENT

By Marilyn Weber

Joe and Elsie Grimsley have done a lot of special things with the garden in back of their home at the end of Doty Avenue but a garden project which is the joint effort of Elsie and her friend, Virginia Burton, was in the spotlight last weekend.

The two Summerville flower fanciers have a special feeling for iris and together they have the first test garden in the United States for a species of that flower—the Japanese Iris. Last weekend, growers and lovers of iris from five states gathered in Summerville for a weekend of activities related to iris.

Activities included a tour of the test garden, a judges' training session, a show and tours of Meadowlake Gardens and Magnolia Gardens. Activities started Friday evening at the test garden site where Adolph J. Vogt of Louisville, Ky., president of the Japanese Iris Section of the American Iris Society, conducted a judges' training session.

Vogt, who retired in 1969 after working 45 years in equipment engineering for South Central Bell Telephone Company, has been raising iris and many other kinds of flowers for 42 years.

Vogt was perhaps one of the more eager visitors to the test garden--three of his seedlings are in their second year in the garden.

Vogt said the garden "obviously provides an ideal location for the Japanese Iris."

He noted that his own seedlings appear to be doing even better in the test garden than they did in his garden in Louisville.

Elsie and Virginia have planted the seedlings which have been sent from iris hybridizers in three states--Kentucky, Michigan and South Carolina. They expect seedlings from hybridizers in Maine and Georgia this fall.

The seedlings remain in the garden for three years. Elsie plants and care for the iris, Virginia records all the necessary data on each plant--description, measurement, blooms, branching, development of fans and so on. If the plants perform well after three years they are judged and win the right to be named by their hybridizer.

In the test garden, the Japanese Iris seedlings have been planted at the very edge of the picturesque pond in the center of the Grimsley garden.

"This is like a trip back to grandmother's for these plants," Vogt said of the test garden site. "They do so well in a moist area."

Vogt's own garden back home in Louisville has over 100 main varieties of iris but the flower grower specializes in Japanese Iris. He has one garden bed in which he planted 2,000 seeds this year. A second garden has more than 1,000 tiny seedlings.

In the test garden, Vogt explained to the 40 iris growers who attended the Judges' training session iris hybridizing, plant vigor, desired branching, soil, water and growing location.

Demonstrating his method of pollinating iris to produce seed pods. Vogt used a pair of tweezers and a small paint brush to take pollen from one part of the flower and brush it elsewhere on the blossom.

Pollinating should be done in the morning, he pointed out. "You have to get up early to beat the bumblebees," he said.

Other aspects of his lecture included the scale of points used in judging the

Japanese Iris in both garden and bench judging.

On Saturday, 51 flower fanciers boarded a bus at the Community Hut for a trip to Meadowlake Gardens, a seven-acre garden in Hendersonville owned by the Mason Allgoods. Members of the tour were served lunch in the gardens by members of the Campbell Ashley Garden Club. After lunch, 43 of those on the tour continued on to Magnolia Gardens to view the Japanese Iris plantings of J. Drayton Hastie. Supper was served in the Plantation Kitchen. The group then returned to Summerville for a slide presentation by Vogt.

Throughout the day Saturday, a Japanese Iris Flower Show was held at the Community Hut featuring flowers from 20 exhibitors. The show also featured artistic arrangements, each containing iris.

There were 30 Japanese Iris seedlings exhibited by South Carolina hybridizers

John W. Wood of Gaffney and Mr. and Mrs. Hugh F. Knight of Sumter.

Winners of blue ribbons in the horticulture division were Marion Vincent of Summerville, John Wood of Gaffney, Joe Watson of Milledgeville, Ga., and Virginia Burton. Mrs. Burton won the Top Japanese Iris Speciman Award with her Japanese Iris "Peacock Dance".

In the artistic division, Mist O'Morn class, Shirley Paquet of Cayce won first prize. She was also awarded a silver tray for the best arrangement in the artistic division.

In the Returning Tide class, first prize went to Ira Parnell of Belton; Betty Black won first prize in the World's Delight class: Greta Ballard won first prize in the Fringed Cloud class; and Ira Parnell, first in the Evening Reverie class.

Additional silver awards were presented to John Wood for Best Seedling and Vir-

ginia Burton for Best Speciman.

Irisarians from the immediate locale who assisted with the weekend's events were: Pat Brooks of Ladson, artistic reservation chairman; Virginia Burton, show chairman; Eslie Grimsley, test garden owner; Jackie Taylor of Moncks Corner and Lucille Wishchuk of Charleston, reservations; Marion Vincent of Bonneau, bus captain; and Linda Vincent and Maxine Phillips, both also of Bonneau.

"Ginny" Burton writes "Next year's date is set for May 29/30, 1981 and will in-

clude Swan Lake which was beautiful yet the 9th".

Update on Rebloom - 1980

by Currier McEwen, M.D.

During the past ten years I have been particularly interested in the reblooming trait in Japanese and Siberian irises (1). That experience has led me to think of Siberians as falling into five categories in regard to their ability to have a second period of bloom, namely: 1, the large number that lack this capacity; 2, those that rebloom only occasionally and sparsely (occasional rebloomers); 3, those that can be depended on to rebloom each year when well grown (dependable rebloomers); 4, those whose second period is better than the first with taller stalks and better branching and bud count (preferential rebloomers) and 5, those in which the new stalks are apparent before the last of the first bloom ends (continuing bloomers). Prior to 1980 I had not seen rebloom of the preferntial type in Japanese and thought it probably did not occur (2) but this year three plants rebloomed preferentially. One is a diploid and the other two tetraploids. One of the latter, with large, white single flowers illustrated this feature particularly well. At first bloom the stalk was 27 inches tall with one branch and four buds. At rebloom the height was 36 inches and there were two to three branches plus terminal with up to nine buds. Thus although rebloomers of preferential type appear thus far to be less common in Japanese irises than in Siberians, they do occur; and experience with Siberians leaves me with little doubt that this trait will be readily increased through selective breeding.

It should be remembered that rebloom in both Japanese and Siberian irises differs strikingly from that in most bearded ones in fact that the rest period between first and second bloom usually is only one to three weeks. The white tetraploid mentioned above bloomed here in Maine from July 7th to August 30th with only about a week in late July when there were no flowers -- exceptionally good performance under any circumstances and especially for a plant only two years old blooming for the first time.

References

- 1. McEwen, C. Experience with rebloom in Siberian and Japanese irises, Bull. American Iris Soc. No. 233:73-77, 1979
- 2. McEwen, C. A Note on Rebloom, The Review Fall 1979:5.

Lorenzo Paolucci

On June 3rd 1980 the Society for Japanese Irises suffered a sad loss in the death of Lorenzo Paolucci through a tragic boating accident. He had been a member only since 1978 but all who met him were aware at once of his tremendous vitality and ethusiasm. Jane Conningham, his gardening partner, reports that Lorenzo always had an inveterate interest in growing things and that even in college his quarters were a jungle of potted plants. About 1970 he became interested in orchids and in ensuing years grew thousands, specializing largely in dendrobium species and hybrids many of which were his own seedlings. He won an assortment of awards from the American Orchid Society for these efforts. Perhaps his most notable introduction was a dendrobium from New Guinea which had previously been unknown in this country.

Shortly after he began with orchids he became interested also in Japanese irises and obtained seeds from a source now, unfortunately, unknown. The resulting seedlings were of superior quality. Gradually irises -- species, Siberians and Japanese but especially the latter -- became his abiding interest and in 1979 he sold his orchid house to devote the bulk of his gardening time and effort to them. He obtained a major part of Walter Marx's large planting of Japanese irises and started an extensive and carefully planned program of hybridizing. His introductions are of such

recent origin that they probably are not yet as well known as they deserve to be and surely will be. To mention just three: Lorenzaccio is a superb nine-petaled dark red, Stormy Monday a flower of similar perfect form in very dark blue and Miss Tomopink, a lovely double, is close to true soft pink and is a dependable rebloomer. They are unsurpassed in these color classes.

Lorenzo was only 39. For the world of flowers in general and especially for the Society of Japanese Irises his death marks the loss of a member and friend whose efforts had already accomplished much and who offered great promise for the Society and the future of Japanese irises. Fortunately his work will be carried on. Lorenzo would wish no finer memorial than the flowers still to come from the breeding program he began.

Currier McEwen

MOVING ?

If so, please send your old and new addresses to the SJI Membership Chairman, Mrs. C. Robert Minnick, 324 N.E. Park Circle, Kansas City, MO., 64116. By doing so you can save the SJI some money. The Post Office does not forward Third Class mail to new addresses. With the last issue, in one instance, 40 cents postage was paid for the original mailing, the same for the return and again for mailing to the new address. In addition 45 cents postage was spent in clearing up the matter and notifying the Membership Chairman - a total of \$1.65 out of the SJI Treasury instead of the basic 40 cents. Thanks.

WANTED

A copy of THE JAPANESE IRIS by Kuribayashi and Hirao. Send details to Mr. S.P. Wright, Director, Parks and Recreation, City of Sumter, Sumter, SC., 29150.

1003 Newton Court Kalamazoo, Mi. 49008

Mr. Adolph J. Vogt 5101 Fegenbush Lane Louisville, Ky. 40218

President: Society for Japanese Irises. 4 Sept., 1980

Dear Adolph,

The nominating committee is pleased to report the following people have been contacted, and accepted nomination as officers of the Society for Japanese Irises.

For officers; 2 year terms for 1981 and 1982

President: Mr. Adolph J. Vogt

Mrs. Wells (Ginney) Burton Vice-President:

210 Miller Drive

Ladson, South Carolina 29456

Mrs. Florence E. Stout Secretary:

150 N. Main

Lombard, Illinois 60148

Treasurer: Mr. Ford L. Grant 2125 Sturdevant

Davenport, Ia. 52804

Board of Directors: to complete the term for 1981 vacated by Mrs. Burton, to accept the Vice-Presidency.

> Mrs. James (Jill) Copeland Wolf Lake Fish Hatchery

Rt. 1, M-43 Mattawan, Mi. 49071

Appointed to Nominating Committee through 1983:

Mrs. Ronald F. (Anna Mae) Miller 6065 N. 16 St., Rt. 6

Kalamazoo, Mi. 49007

We recommend these nominees to the society for election to their respective offices.

The Nominating Committee for 1980

Mr. Leland M. Welsh, chairman

Mr. Ben Hager

Mrs. Frank Vincent

Ouweneel Copies to: Hager Vincent