

# THE REVIEW

OF THE SOCIETY

**FOR** 

JAPANESE IRISES

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#### PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Feb. 19, 1985

When I first talked with Lee Welsh about this page of The Review, I was uncertain about the title, since it is scarcely a letter in the meaning of the U.S. Postal Service. The more I have thought about it however, the better I like the term. Much as I would like to, I cannot write individual letters to each of you, but these pages can be a way for me to be in touch, to share my thoughts with you about our Society for Japanese Irises, and to ask for yours.

Let me start this first of my letters as president by saying how much I appreciate the priviledge of serving in this way. Elisabeth and I are looking forward with keen anticipation to the opportunities this role will give us to meet more of you and to become better acquainted.

Secondly, on behalf of all of us, I want to thank Ginny Burton for her great job as president over the past two years, and indeed, for her many services to the Society for years and years before that-which we know will continue! I want also to echo Ginny's graceful compliments and thanks to the outgoing officers. Bill Ouweneel's contribution to the cause of Japanese Irises, and to each one of us who love them, as Editor of The Review has been devoted, scholarly and enormous. He even helped recruit Lee Welsh to carry on in his place. Lee has demonstrated very clearly in the preceding issue and this one that The Review has again fallen into good hands.

In her last message Ginny mentioned the retirement of Harry Kuesel as treasurer and the acceptance of that important position by Carol Warner. In his characteristically efficient way Harry has helped Carol in this period of transition and she has our financial affairs in fine order. Carol has earned my warmest thanks also in another way. In November, Evelyn Minnick resigned as membership chairman and Carol accepted that responsibility in addition to the treasurership. This seems a logical combination, if it proves not to be too great a burden, since the dues must go to the treasurer in any event, and this saves one step. One of the obvious reasons for Evelyn's resignation was her then impending marriage with that other noted irisarian, Bennett Jones. This letter provides the opportunity to give best wishes to the newlyweds, as well as our thanks to Evelyn for her services as membership chairman.

In recent years the address labels for mailing The Review have been done for SJI through the kindness of Lee Eberhardt, to whom the Society's sincere thanks are due. He has done this for SJI purely out of friendship. Now it turns out that our own SJI Secretary, Florence Stout, also has a computer and she has taken over this essential job of the labels. She, Carol Warner and Lee Welsh have studied ways to take care of their various interlocking membership and mailing duties most effectively. It has given me the warmest sense of their devotion to SJI to see the way in which Carol, Florence, and Lee have undertaken these new responsibilities. Carol fears that the change of membership chairman and the new procedures may, at first, result in some errors as regards membership. She and I trust that if there are

any such errors, they will be understood symphathetically, and that you will notify Carol promptly so correction can be made.

Elsewhere in this issue (page 1) instructions are given for ways to join our Society, either through Mrs. Ramsey, Membership Secretary of A.I.S., or directly through Carol (Mrs. Andrew C. Warner), but memberships are so vital to SJI that attention is called to it here also.

In several of her President's Letters, Ginny Burton mentioned the possibility of our Society sponsoring a book on Japanese Irises, similar to the one published by the Society for Siberian Irises. This will be considered further at the board meeting in Indianapolis this May. A major consideration, of course, is that of cost, and this highlights the help SJI has received from the "Beardless Auctions" held in Massachusetts and Minnesota for the benefit of the AIS affiliated societies concerned with beardless irises. Elsewhere in this issue there are articles regarding the auctions held annually under the auspices of the Iris Society of Massachusetts and the Minnesota Iris Society. I call these to your attention and urge all who can to support these programs by donating Japanese Irises as described in these articles. auctions to date every plant donated has been sold. Clearly, therefore, the more plants donated the more money for our treasury. I hope too, that similar auctions can be developed in other parts of the country.

Whether or not funds are needed for a book, the record of recent years points clearly to the need for a modest increase in dues. In his President's Letter in the spring 1982 issue, Adolph Vogt pointed out that in 1981 expenses exceeded income by some \$200; now dues alone are not enough to pay for The Review and its mailing. The gifts to our Society from the beardless auctions have been of the greatest help and we are most grateful, but I am sure we all agree that we must reassess the dues picture. Currently we are the only society with dues (for a single, annual membership) remaining at \$2. I will ask the board members at Indianapolis to consider a small increase in keeping with the rising costs of printing, postage, and other items, and the dues levels of our sister societies.

You will find notes in this issue regarding the Japanese Iris shows and garden tours in Summerville and Kalamazoo. These provide wonderful opportunities to see and learn about Japanese Irises, meet old friends, and make new ones. Elisabeth and I hope that many of you will be able to attend these excellent meetings as well as the AIS Convention in Indianapolis.

In the last issue of The Review, Ginny Burton wrote an interesting report on the Popularity Poll she had inspired. Although she was disappointed that more members did not send in their votes, I think this was a very good start. Certainly it is most worth while and I have asked Ginny to continue it. Please have the poll in mind as you evaluate plants in your own and other gardens this season so you will be prepared.

One final word, please know that I want your thoughts and suggestions about our Society and am eager to hear from you. Best wishes for an excellent iris season.

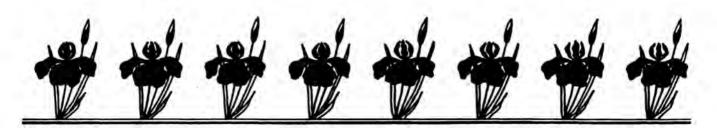
Bee Warburton

Lorenzo Paolucci's work with the Japanese irises was a valued addition to the hybridizing activities of Region One. He has been sorely missed since being drowned (June 3, 1980) in a boating accident in Long Island Sound. Not long before he died Lorenzo had brought a bouquet of his seedlings to Ethel Shepherd, and among them were some of the most beautiful Japanese iris flowers I have ever seen. Although his partner, Jane Conningham, continued his work, it is only recently that she is getting ready to name some. Since I felt it truly regrettable that none were available, it was a great pleasure to have her present at the regional auction this past summer. We have always had a good representation there of Currier McEwen's originations, some of Art Hazzard's, and many of Payne's, but some of Lorenzo's and Jane Conningham's new ones would add enough to make us a real center for the Japanese irises. New England is a natural location for them as most of its soil is acid.

So, I am very pleased to have received from the Connecticut Iris Society's auction, Lorenzacchio, of Lorenzo's, and from Jane Conningham, four of her numbered seedlings, and hope to add to them as Jane becomes more sure of her judgement.

I have for some years exchanged plants of Siberians and versicolors with friends in Japan. Dr. Hirao sent me some of his named ones, and Michio Cozuca and Akira Horinaka have both sent me collected laevigatas and laevigata hybrids (mostly with versicolor which seems to cross with them easily). These I find grow rather over-large in my garden and their flowers are rather small for the plants and are more like versicolor than laevigata flowers.

The first Japanese irises I ever grew were from collected seed of I. kaempferi (ensata!) and they gave me great pleasure in a row among all the other spent stalks, and they quite brightened the late June weed-pulling. I have just one plant of it now, and it is a lovely thing. I also have a few bright red (purple?) laevigatas from seed and have had trouble trying to select the best. They differ most in the size of the plants, as all the flowers have narrow petals. The first laevigata I ever grew, also from seed, was a charming speckled-type blue one, which I didn't know enough to appreciate at the time. The laevigatas are so diverse, yet most I have are rather simple flowers, and I love them. I was glad to see Dr. Ackerman's article (The Review, Fall '84) about the dwarf Japanese. I am waiting for them!



#### JAPANESE IRIS POPULARITY POLL

In his President's Letter, Dr. McEwen has asked for the continuation of the popularity poll started last year by Ginny Burton. To make this poll meaningful, participation by a number of SJI members is important. Please keep the poll in mind when looking at gardens this year and make notes of your preferences.

To participate in the poll, make a list of your 10 favorite varieties seen in gardens this year, in order of preference from 1 thru 10. Mail the list to:

Mrs. Wells E. (Ginny) Burton 3275 Miller Drive, Ladson, SC. 29456

Deadline for posting your list to Ginny is August 15th. She will compile the results for publication in the Fall, '85 issue of The Review.

#### JOIN A JAPANESE IRIS ROBIN

Becoming a member of a Japanese Iris Robin is a great means of exchanging information about the culture of JIs and what varieties do well in your area. To join one write: James A. Mahoney, AIS Robin Chairman, 704 Jefferson NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110, or Ruth L. Strickler, Japanese Iris Robin Director, 1205 East 66th Terrace, Kansas City, MO. 64131.

#### RENEWAL NOTICE or EXPIRATION DATE

Although this information is printed on page one, and normally will appear only there in the future, due to the change in procedures and personnel, it is being amplified here for your attention.

The date of expiration for your membership is printed by the computer on your mailing label. Please check to see if it is correct, and if not inform the Membership Chairman immediately. If the date is 9999 you are receiving a complimentary copy.

If your expiration date is 8501, this will be your last copy of The Review, unless you renew your membership. If your renewal has just recently been sent in, then please ignore this notice as there is an inevitable gap in passing along this information. Carol is being very efficient in passing on new member and renewal information to Florence, and trying to get the membership list up to date. It does take a little time however, from Membership Chairman to computer, and may have overlapped the printout of labels sent to the Editor for mailing.

Above all, we do not wish to lose ayone due to oversight or error. If you have not renewed, please do so, and let us know how we can make the Society and The Review more responsive to your interests.

# HOW TO GET SET FOR A BEARDLESS IRIS AUCTION

#### Based on notes from Ainie Busse

Region 1 of AIS and the Minnesota Iris Society have both been holding beardless iris auctions for several years. The monies generated through these auctions are sent to their respective sections; for example, the monies received from species irises go to SIGNA, for japanese irises to SJI, for Siberians to SSI, etc. A look at some of the annual financial statements for SJI, including the one in this issue of The Review, will indicate how important the success of these auctions has been to the financial well being of The SJI.

The Beardless Iris Auction serves a two fold purpose. It gives interested AIS members the opportunity to buy beardless irises that are not readily available in their Region; and it provides an avenue through which the sections can earn much needed monies on a regional level. Besides, it's a lot of fun!!

Ainie Busse of Cokato, Minnesota, prepaired a flier last year giving hints on how to have a successful Beardless Iris Auction. The following is a reproduction of those hints:

The MECHANICS for conducting a BEARDLESS IRIS AUCTION are very simple. appoint a person to represent each beardless section and he/she will do the contacting of those people growing the irises. They need not contact only hybridizers, but those within the region who grow the irises. The names of donated plants are given to the BEARDLESS IRIS AUCTION CHAIRPERSON, who compiles a bid list. A copy of the bid list is sent to all AIS people you think will be interested as well as to the local membership. The donor can send the plant to the chairperson, or send a card with the name of the beardless iris with the understanding they will send the plant direct to the successful bidder at the appropriate time.

The "PLANT PAL" is a help to those who are unable to attend the sale. A "Plant Pal" acts as a surrogate to bid according to instructions given from the absent bidder. The "Plant Pal" is given instructions as to what to buy, how high to bid, and how many plants to buy.

TABLE SALES are a delight to those attending the auction. They also draw the general public who are curious about planting beardless irises, but feel insecure about spending large sums of money on only one plant. Occasionally, there are little "treasures" for table sales that are a fun departure from all the green iris plants. The goal is to help the beardless sections in any way you can.

#### SUGGESTED PROCEDURE OUTLINE:

 CONTACTS-Each person representing a beardless iris section should make a list of people to contact by phone or letter.

- PUBLICITY-Use your regional newsletter, the local chapter newsletter if you have one, fliers, word-of-mouth, area garden club newsletters, local newspapers and radio, local arboretum bulletins and/or boards, nursery associations, area college and university extension newsletters, state horticultural societies, etc.
- AUCTIONEERS-Ask about 4 people to help sell. Usually these are local AIS members who are already known for their auctioneering skills.
- 4. CASHIER(S) & CARD-KEEPERS: Ask two people to help. "Runners" are a help in getting the card back to the cashier from the bidder.
- 5. CARDS: For each item to be auctioned. The cultivar or species name and the auction number is on the card. It is helpful to have some description of the plant, the hybridizer's name (if a cultivar), and the name of the donor on the card.
- 6. AUCTION OR BID LIST: A master list of all items to be auctioned.
- 7. CULTURE LISTS-This is helpful to the newcomers who will be planting some of the beardless items for the first time. They need not be sophisticated. We keep a master and photocopy as needed.
- 8. EQUIPMENT: Tables, chairs for cashier 6 card-keeper, extra chairs, paper bags (to put the purchases into), beverage (hot and/or cold), styrofoam cups and napkins, cookies (optional), pencils and/ballpoint pens, plain paper, extra labels for plants without any tags, small plastic bags, rubber bands and/or stapler.
  - 9..PLANT PAL LIST: Should be people who are fairly knowledgeable about the plants being auctioned. Also, it is helpful if the "Pal" knows the absent bidder personally.
  - 10. LOCATION OF AUCTION: This is of the utmost importance! The U. of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum is by far our best location since it draws such a large number of the visiting public. You have a similar location, I'm sure. A home of a member is suitable if it can accommodate a crowd and if it is located within a metropolitan area. Our experience of having the auction 60 miles from the Twin Cities on two consecutive years was not profitable.
  - 11. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: A letter of thank you to the donors is a must! Also, the chairperson should inform the local people of the final results of the auction via newsletter or the like. Further, the national chairperson of each beardless iris section is always interested in knowing if there have been monies made for their section.

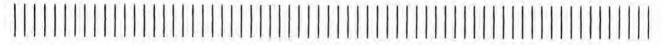
12. ATTITUDE: A sense of humor, adventure, anticipation and cooperation.

A look at the article titled "Upper Midwest Beardless Iris Auction Set to Bloom", in the July 1980 AIS Bulletin, may be of further help in making plans.

Consider having a BEARDLESS IRIS AUCTION in your REGION this year. In Making plans, if you have any questions, contact:

Mrs. Ainie Busse 635 E. 7th St. Route 2, Box 13, Cokato, MN. 55321

EDITOR'S NOTE: Thank you Ainie for your contribution. May your mail box be filled with inquires.



#### AUCTION TIME IN REGION 1

#### Marty Schafer

In the waning days of summer during the hectic harvest time, 50 friendly people gather in Concord, Mass. to throw a day-long party for some of their favorite plants, the apogon irises. The day begins early with coffee and socializing while awaiting arrival of people and rhizomes from Maine to Connecticut. Then, while workers outside set up sale tables and organize for auction, the true celebration starts.

Under the capable lectureship of sarah Tiffney we find ourselves face to blooming face with Iris lacustris, I. fulva, setosa, graminea, virginica "Gibson Girl", - old faces to some but to most of us quite new and fascinating. Although the bloom season is less than 90 days past, we are glad to relive it because we know that nine months and winter lie between us and our next meeting with Siberian, Japanese, and species irises. Currier McEwen, Bee Warburton, and Ken Waite share with us slides of the most recent results of their hybridizing efforts: Siberian irises with rims, ruffles, and feathery styles; Japanese irises with rich colors, glitter, and fantastic substance.

We are released into the sunshine to blink at the memories of wonders we have just seen and talk to our friends over lunch. At the same time there is a sale of older hybrids and some species. Excitement builds in anticipation of the auction to come. The money we know is going to the sections of the American Iris Society - the SSI is paying off the debt for its book project and the SJI is contemplating one.

The auction begins. It is an entirely friendly, competitive affair. Iris species like graminea which might reasonably cost \$3, if only we knew where to find them, are bid up in the excitement to \$11. The enchanting 'Laughing Brook' receives Ken Waite's full asking price plus six dollars. All Japanese iris, however old, are placed in the auction since they are uncommon in our area and there is building enthusiasm about them. Many bring more than the list price. The highlight comes with two of Dr. McEwen's tetraploid seedlings, heating up the bidding considerably. We are especially grateful to Adolph Vogt, Mrs. Hazzard, and Dot Rogers for their contributions.

The party breaks up as the shadows lengthen. Lucky is the person who did not buy more than he or she intended. The wail is heard everywhere, "where am I going to find room!" A contest is initiated on the spot to guess how much money has been made. Everyone underestimates. Almost \$2,000 for the Siberian section, \$500 for the Japanese section, and \$300 for SIGNA. Plans begin for next years auction.

The 1985 Northeast Apogon Auction will be held on August 18. Once again iris donations are requested from around the country. This year an emphasis will be placed on Japanese Irises to help finance the SJI's planned book about Japanese Irises. Please write to Marty Schafer, 45 Elm Street, Bedford, MA. 01730 if you are able to contribute or want to attend. He will give you all the details. If possible we would like slides of contributions - they will be well cared for and returned.

Editor's Note: The following information has been forwarded to me for inclusion as an addendum to Marty Schafer's above article. The "Beardless Auction" described above started more than 10 years ago as the brain child of Bee Warburton and Kevin Vaughn. Kevin, who was then a high school student with ardent interest in Siberian Irises, acted as spark plug until he went off to college. The auctions were held at the Warburton's home in Westboro, Mass. until 1982 when it was moved to the home of Barbara Whitehouse in Plainville, Mass. and in 1984 to Concord. At first it was concerned almost exclusively with Siberians, but in recent years there have been increasing numbers of Japanese Irises. The amount of money obtained has grown steadily over the years. Last year's auction, under the guidance of new and enthusiastic sponsors was a tremendous success. Marty Schafer and Jan Sacks and the others who worked with them deserve our warmest thanks. The \$500.00 provided to SJI last year is an indication of what this can mean for our Society if more of us will donate plants either by sending them directly for the auction or by offering them by name to be sent later to the highest bidder by the donor. Do please write to Marty Schafer for details.

#### ST. LOUIS BEARDLESS IRIS SHOW.

The Greater St. Louis Iris Society is presenting their 2nd annual Beardless Iris Show on Saturday, June 8th, 1985, to be held at the Ridgeway Center, Missouri Botanical Gardens, St. Louis, Missouri. The show is open to all, and will be judged by AIS accredited judges. You are cordially invited to exhibit and/or attend the show. For more information write or call:

Don Delmez 3240 Connecticut, St. Charles, MO. 63301 Phone: 314-724-4274

#### AN INVITATION FROM REGION 18

Keith Fillmore, Regional Vice President, and members of the O'Fallon Iris Society, the host club, have extended an invitation to attend their Region 18 Spring Tour and Meeting, to be held on May 17, 18, and 19, 1985.

Headquarters will be at the Noah's Ark Motel, 1500 South Fifth Street, St. Charles, Missouri, 63301. The motel is located off I-70 at the Fifth Street exit (going south) in St. Charles. Hotel reservations for rooms are \$41 a day single, and \$45 for a double room. Reservations may be made by mail or by phoning the motel at 314-946-1000.

Registration for the meeting is \$30 per person. This includes a slide program on Friday evening, a bus tour of 6 gardens with lunch included on Saturday, the Banquet Dinner on Saturday night, and the Judge's Training Program held at the Bohrer garden on Sunday morning.

Don Delmez, whose garden is on tour, has informed the editor that he is trying to force his Japanese irises, in hopes some will be blooming for the tour.

There will be an auction during the meeting. Included will be iris artifacts donated to Region 18 from the estate of Mr. & Mrs. Bob Crockett.

The Region 18 Garden Tour and Meeting immediately preceeds the National Convention in Indianapolis. You may wish to attend the tour and continue on to Indianapolis. To register, make checks payable to: O'Fallon Regional, and send to:

> Sue Delmez 3240 Connecticut, St. Charles, MO. 63301

#### SUMMERVILLE IRIS SOCIETY'S 6th JI WEEKEND

## "Ginney" Burton

The Summerville Iris Society's 6th JI Weekend will be May 31/June 1, 1985. We will be keeping the same schedule that I did for last year with the same theme, BUT, incorporating a cut horticulture schedule written by Mrs. P. R. Black, one of our new AIS members. The Camellia Garden Club will also be sharing part of the show's responsibilities. The cut horticulture division will be cut annuals, perennials and roses, and the exhibitor is to furnish his or her own green bottle for their cut specimen. Green bottles will be furnished for the cut JIs. Mrs. Black and I will be co-chairmen of the show.

The five design classes are all to be done in a creative manner using fresh and/or dried material except cl. 3, which calls for all fresh plant material. Cl. 1 is for novice, Cl. 2 and Cl 3 are for all, Cl. 4 for judges (design or horticulture), and Cl. 5 for florists. Classes 4 and 5 will be staged on pedistals with a top measurement of 16" x 20", and will be viewed from the front only. Frames for the other classes measure 36" x 30" and are to be covered with material furnished by the exhibitor. Entry times are 8 PM Friday evening, May 31st, and 7 to 9 AM Saturday, June 1st, at the Cuthbert Community Building, 101 W. 5th St., Summerville, SC.

There will be JI judges training from 5 to 7 PM Friday evening, May 31 at 306 E. Doty Ave., at the JI Test Garden. A buffet dinner will be served at the show building right after judges training. After entries close Saturday morning, the bus will take you to Mr. & Mrs. C. B. Rowland's for breakfast, and to see their many irises, including some very nice seedlings, some measuring 12"-14". From there we will go by bus to Cypress Gardens to see our clubs new planting done last fall. Here we will take a boat ride, have lunch and an auction. We will then go back to Summerville and see the show, have supper and a program. Prizes and games are all a part of the weekend. Marion Vincent will be our bus captain.

Lodgings in the area are the Hamilton Motel, 415 S. Main St., Summerville, SC. 29483, phone 873-0220; Holiday Inn I-26/17A S, Summerville, SC. 29483, phone 875-3300; and Econolodge at I-26/17A Summerville, SC. 29483, phone 875-3022.

Reservations for the design classes are to be sent to Mrs. T. W. Brooks, 102 Jefferson Ln., Ladson, SC. 29456 by May 15, 1985. Registration for the four meals, bus trip, show, and all of the extras is \$25, and is to be sent to Mrs. C. B. Rowland, 113 Laurel Ave., Goose Creek, SC 29445 by May 15, 1985.

As you visit Cypress Gardens you will find markers with letters on them. The markers can be matched with descriptions in a guide folder you will be given. These gardens are a part of a plantation that was established

before 1725 by Sir John Ausbett of Dean, Scotland. An interesting dike is here which was constructed in pre-revolutionary times. It was built by slave labor and used to impound the waters of this swampy area. When the water was brackish in the rice fields due to seasonal or tidal influences, the water could be released from this reservoir into those nearby rice fields. Although the water through which you will glide in the boats is black, and you may think it is dirty, it is not. Actually it is very clean, the color is from tannin, a dye in the tree roots and decomposing vegetation. You'll see many cypress trees and their swollen buttresses, birds by the hundreds, et. Please join us. If you want additional information my phone no. is 803-873-7388.

#### ON THE PLUS SIDE FOR THE SUMMERVILLE IRIS SOCIETY

## "Ginney" Burton

Mrs. T. W. Brooks, our club president, has scheduled meetings for the 3rd Wednesday of every month. Others might be interested in what we are doing as a group that grows mostly Japanese Irises.

Programs that have been or are about to be held include: studying companion plants for irises, judging irises by the Handbook, how to enter shows, design classes, picnic, auction, slide program discussing iris parts (good and bad placement of bloom and branching), plant exchange, garden visits, recipes and garden hints for putting on 4x6 cards to make booklets, grooming iris for show, and insects and diseases of iris. We are also sending out our own SIS Newsletter 4 times a year.

We have three new members in our group who are AIS members. Mrs. W. Niedrich, our club secretary, Mrs. P. R. Black who is co-chairman with me for this year's show, and Mrs. Robert L. Thompson who is working on the show's horticulture and classification committee.

Mrs. C. B. Rowland, our club's treasurer, has given out hundreds of JI seed, and has given me seed of JI to give to the two garden club groups where I have given talks on JI. I have two more clubs to give JI talks to in May. Thus the Northbridge Garden Club, Charleston Garden Club, Moncks Corner Garden Club, and Saint Andrews Garden Club will all have been introduced to JI before the end of May.

The 75 JI first year seedlings that I sent to Callaway Gardens have been acknowledged by Kathye Crye, horticulturist at the gardens. The 25 second year JI seedlings that I gave to Beaufort Council of Garden Clubs have been acknowledged by Mrs. W. Rogers, President, who said they were planted at Royal Pines, overlooking a golf course and lake there in Beaufort, SC.

In January I also sent our JI slide program to McMartin in Oklahoma City. She called and said they were interested in JIs and did I have slides. As I had just given a program, I sent the tray on to her with JI culture sheet, sources of JIs, a list of AIS Bulletins that contained JI information, and pamphlets of places in our immediate area into which we have donated JIs, including Azalea Park, Magnolia Plantation and Gardens, Drayton Hall, Cypress Gardens, Callaway Gardens, and Beaufort.

John Coble loaned our group a set of slides including JIs, which he gave us permission to duplicate (all or some of). Harry Turner gave me some slides of Sumter which he took, and I had several of the JI Test Garden. Thanks to these two gentlemen we have a real presentable program an we are making real good use of it.

#### KALAMAZOO WEEKEND for JAPANESE IRISES

The Kalamazoo weekend for Japanese Irises, sponsored by the SOUTHWESTERN MICHIGAN IRIS SOCIETY, will take place on July 5th & 6th, 1985.

Main features of the event on friday, will be a special Ikebana exhibit and demonstrations by the SOGETSU SCHOOL MICHIGAN BRANCH, a Japanese and other late iris show, evening get-to-gether and a slide presentation by Adolph Vogt of the 1984 Japanese Iris Tour of Japan. On Saturday there will be a bus tour of local gardens with lunch and judge's training, followed by an evening banquet, program, and plant auction.

Headquarters for the event will be the Ramada Inn, 5300 South Westnedge Ave., Kalamazoo, MI. 49008. The Ramada is located just north of the Westnedge Ave. exit from I-94. Special group rates at the Inn for this event are:

Single room \$32.25/day plus tax. Double room 36.75/day " "

The Inn will hold a block of rooms untill June 14th. To make reservations write directly to the Inn or telephone:

(616)382-1000

Be sure to state you are attending the Japanese Iris Weekend to obtain the special room rate.

There are both commercial air flight and Amtrack service to Kalamazoo. If you are arriving by either of these, let the host committee know of your arrival time and arrangements will be made to pick you up.

After checking into the Inn, guests are to proceed to the Crossroads Mall, straight South about 1½ miles on Westnedge Ave. Activities at the Mall begin at 10:00 A.M. Friday, when the registration table opens for both weekend and show entry (horticultural specimens only) registrations. Our show chairman is John Coble. If you have any iris in bloom we urge you to bring them along for the show. Show entry registrations close at 12:00 noon, with judging beginning at 1:00 P.M., and the show opening to the public at 2:00 P.M.

Ikibana demonstrations by members of the Sogetsu School will be given at intervals throughout the day, with the Sogetsu Exhibit opening to the public at 1:00 P.M.

The table at the mall will close for weekend registrations at 5:00 P.M., and re-open in the Inn at 6:30 P.M. There will be an informal get-together at the Inn with coffee and dessert from 6:30 to 8:00 P.M., when the slide presentation will begin.

On Saturday, the buses will leave the Inn at 8:30 A.M. for the garden tours. There are about 105 guest iris plants, mostly Japanese Irises, from 16 hybridizers, planted in the tour gardens.

First stops will be at the Miller and Welsh gardens. The garden of Ron and Anna Mae Miller is a fairly large, long established, hobby and perennial garden, including a wide variety of plant material. They grow a number of types of iris, with emphasis on Siberian and Japanese irises, both of which Anna Mae is actively engaged in hybridizing. Lee Welsh's garden is a new garden, the first plantings being moved to it in late summer 1983. It includes a number of iris types, with a growing collection of Siberian, Japanese, and species irises.

Next stop will be the Copeland garden at the Wolf Lake Fish Hatchery. Here you will see in addition to the guest irises and a collection of named varieties, the introductions and seedlings of both Jill and son Jimmy Copeland. While here we will have lunch, featuring a fish boil prepaired by the master fisherman himself, Jim Copeland. After lunch there will be a one hour session of judge's training. Those not wishing to attend judge's training may tour the interesting exhibits in the Fish Hatchery's Visitor Center.

From Copelands we will bus to the Bauer/Coble garden. This good sized garden was first started 10 years ago around an unusually fine 1860s farm house. The first named varieties of iris, mostly T.B.s, were planted in 1980, and the first Japanese irises in 1981. It is situated on a rich, ancient river bed soil. Already the planting has taken on the appearance of a well established garden, with many Japanese iris plants having developed into large clumps. In addition to a sizeable collection of named varieties, there will be a number of 1st & 2nd year bloom seedlings to evaluate. While here we will have another hour of judge's training. If lucky, while at the Bauer/Coble garden we may have the chance to see a display of some of the fine stained glass windows, lamps, and etched glass produced by the Bauer/Coble Studio.

The buses will return us to the Inn about 5:30 P.M., where at 6:15 there will be a social hour with cash bar. The banquet dinner will be served at 7:00 P.M., followed by our speaker, Dr. Ackerman. The evening will finish off with a plant auction. Included will be many of the guest iris plants seen during the day, with the proceeds going to The Society for Japanese irises. Plants will be dug and shipped to successful bidders about September 1st. Those attending, and anyone else, are urged to bring or send iris plants, artifacts, or whatever they would like to donate, for the auction. You may provide a list of plants for shipment later to the successful bidders if you desire. You may designate, if desired, that proceeds from donated items go to the SJI, or to the SJI Book Fund. There is the possibility of a Bauer/Coble stained glass iris window being included in the auction.

General Chairman for the weekend event is Mr. Robert Bauer, 9823 E. Michigan Ave., Galesburg, MI. 49053. Telephone (616)665-7500. If you would like more information you may contact the Chairman, or if you would wish a complete printed schedule of show and/or events in advance, a request to him will bring you one when they become available.

Registration cost for the complete 2 day event is \$18. Make check payable to the Southwestern Michigan Iris Society and send with your reservation request to Mr. Bauer. Reservations should be recived by June 29th, earlier would be desireable. If for some reason you must cancel your reservation, full refund will be assured if cancellation is received by July 2nd.

Come and join your fellow SJI members for a weekend of fun, fellowship, and iris viewing at Kalamazoo.

#### JAPANESE IRIS PHOTOGRAPHS NEEDED

In preparing the proposed new book on Japanese Irises, good photographs will be needed. Desired are not only photos of individual blooms of varieties, but pictures of mature clumps, and especially, if possible, of clumps and plantings used effectively in landscaping.

The up-coming bloom season is a good time to be thinking of new photos for the book. If you have slides for consideration contact Dr. Currier McEwen, (address in front cover) for submission arrangements.

#### MEETING REMINDER

The Society For Japanese Irises section meeting at the Indianapolis Convention will take place on May 20, at 9:30 A.M.

#### MARHIGO IRIS

#### Dot Rogers

The Marhigo story began as a hobby back in 1937, when Walter and Louise Marx were collecting named Japanese Irises. They imported many different strains from Japan but finally settled on the Higos, of which there were approximately 300 varieties used. In their 1955 catalog there is a note which states: "We have discontinued growing all other Japanese Iris strains in favor of the Higo which has proved vastly superior in all respects".

They refer to 1946 as the birth of the Walter Marx Gardens as a commercial nursery: in 1949 they offered the first Higos for sale. Between 1953 and 1956 the Marhigo seedlings started to appear in their catalog, and from then on to the late 1960s there were some one hundred varieties registered under the Marhigo name.

Many thousands of seedlings from hand-pollinated Higo seed were selected and reselected under a controlled breeding program to produce their "7 Series" as follows:

The BUTTERFLY SERIES represents the charm and daintiness associated with Madame Butterfly. These are bordered and stippled doubles as well as singles, with small white standards trimmed reddish or bluish purple.

CARMEN SERIES - The red selections with shades from light to dark selfs, and sometimes with small to large white centers. The Higo KARAHASHI was the main parent here.

MANON SERIES - The delicate and subdued shades of levender, orchid, and pink comprise this group.

PARSIFAL SERIES - These are the white ones, many different forms and sizes, doubles and singles, but all pure white.

PINAFORE SERIES - The clear blues, without lavender or purple shadings. Marx describes the colors as campanula, cornflower, and periwinkle blue for the lighter shades, and Wedgewood and navy blue for the darker hues.

RHINEGOLD SERIES - The purple selections, stemming from HISAKATA and KARAHASI, velvety texture, from deepest shades of plum, violet, pansy and royal purple, to lighter shades of amaranth and amethyst, these are the bold ones.

RIGOLETTO SERIES - This last group contains the veined and marbled varieties. Marx called them flamboyant, exotic, even bizarre, sometimes resembling their desert relatives, the Oncocyclus Iris. They can be veined, striated, penciled, splotched, or marbled. NISHIKI-GI is back of many of these.

Varieties of Marhigo Iris as well as those of their daylilies were planted and exhibited at the International Garden Show in Hamburg, Germany. They received awards on plants and blooms in 1963, 1964 and 1965.

It is unfortunate that Al and I did not meet the Marxs until the early 1970s; by that time their beautiful and extensive display gardens were gone, and many of Walter's dreams were just memories. He was, however, a teacher looking for someone to carry on his ambitious hybridizing projects.

Walter died in December of 1978, but we continued our friendship and business arrangements with Louise. She was the one with the business acumen, the one who taught us the rudiments of running a mail order nursery. We did not find out until the last year of her life that her given first name was Virginia, and that she far preferred it to Louise, but by that time the peony Louise Marx had already been named and registered. We lost a good friend and advisor when Louise died in January of 1984.

Note: Walter was an absolute master of words. He sometimes would suggest, sometimes even insist, that we use his words and phrases in our naming and description program. Anyone familiar with the old Walter Marx Gardens catalogs will find many similarities.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Dot informs me they were once told that all of Walter's record books were unfortunately destroyed by water damage. She has tried, so far unsuccessfully, to obtain more information from Walter's daughter. Perhaps, if we are lucky, more information will become available later about his hybridizing program. For now, my thanks to Dot for sharing the above information at the Editor's request.

### HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA BEARDLESS IRIS SHOW

Area XI of Region III will hold its fifth Beardless Iris Show on Saturday, June 22, 1985 at the Harrisburg East Mall, Wanamaker Court, Harrisburg, PA. It is a horticultural specimen only show with Section I being for Japanese Irises and Section VI for any seedling. Entries will be accepted from 8:00 to 10:00 A.M. The show will be open to the public from 1:00 to 8:00 P.M.

Anyone wishing to exhibit or attend may obtain further information, or a printed schedule, by contacting the show chairperson:

DOROTHEA W. MARQUART 2060 Good Hope Road Encola, PA. 17025

#### GALESBURG GARDEN CULTURE

#### John Coble

A familiar situation often seen at iris shows or gardens, is an experienced iris grower asking the grower of an exceptional show stalk, "what kind of fertilizer do you use?" If the asking grower does not have the same soil or watering practices, etc., the fertilizer the second grower uses is of little real information. The culture we give Japanese iris on our farm in Galesburg, Michigan, is specific to our soil and weather. One would have to use common sense plus experience to raise JI the same, two miles up the hill on sandy soil, or 200 miles away in red-clay soils of southern Indiana.

Japanese iris are influenced to a greater degree by culture than any other iris. In most cases the same cultivar can be grown and maintained at 30" tall with 5" blooms--or can be nurtured to 50" with 9" blooms and many with two branches. Last year we had newly prepared beds that did produce 38-48" plants, 3-6 bloomstalks on one-year transplants, and several stalks with two branches--a trait that the hybridizer didn't even realise was there.

The new beds began with our fairly rich heavy loam soil, which is about 14-18" deep, of natural pH 6.5. We double-dug the beds to 16" deep. The topsoil with sod (killed with Round Up) was put back into the trench to about 8" and covered with 4-6" of straw. We then sprinkled on a high nitrogen fertilizer to help compensate for the nitrogen that would be used up in decomposition of the straw, and tilled it thoroughly. Then the remaining soil was put on top of this to within 2" of the trench top (excess soil left over was used to make a juniper mound elsewhere). Another 4-6" of straw and fertilizer were applied and again tilled thoroughly.

One year after the beds were prepared, the pH was 4.5! This lower pH is the result of decomposition of the organic matter; and will most likely start going up within another year as the decomposition of the original straw is finalized. We will try to maintain the lower pH with annual applications of sulphur (longest lasting) or iron sulfate.

We also mulch the plants with 2-3" of straw annually. In spring we sprinkle a balanced fertilizer on top of the old winter-rotted mulch, and mix this into the topsoil, then apply a new 3" layer of straw mulch. If you wish to tone down the new yellow color, a solution of one cup iron sulfate to one gallon of water sprayed on the straw will darken it to a rusty-gray within 15 minutes. This can be repeated in a week if darker mulch is desirable.

The deep mulch will keep most weed problems to a minimum, although the primary purpose is to retain soil moisture. Well cultured Japanese iris do need extra water. We maintain at least one inch of water per week--throughout the growing season. Any week that Mother Nature does not give one inch of rain, we supplement by watering to a total of one inch. Use a lawn sprinkler and any straight-sided can to measure 1". Drip irrigation would be ideal.

Do not use <u>hay</u> for mulch-the weed and alfalfa seeds <u>will</u> germinate and come up through the mulch, and are strong-rooted perennial weeds. Wheat straw will yield a wheat crop that is also a clump forming perennial plant! Oat straw is the best of these farm-produced mulches. Oats that do germinate pull out very easily, and if remaining in fall will be killed with winter's freezes. These are hints on mulch, otherwise use common sense and what is most economically available to you.

As mentioned earlier, several of our one-year transplants produced 3-6 bloomstalks the first year. True, the newly prepaired rich beds helped, but also the planting of the 2-4 fan divisions in spring gave us robust clumps by fall (and we watered all summer). The divisions planted in late May gave up to 8 bloomstalks and 20 fans the next year. Those planted in mid June gave 3-4 bloomstalks and 10-15 fans. Those planted in mid July gave 0-2 stalks and 4-8 fans. 30% of the July plantings did not bloom. 100% of the spring planted rhizomes bloomed the next year. Also noted was that we had a week-end of -30 degrees F in Feb., with no snow cover (and no extra mulch) and no JI in this new bed were lost. We feel that new fall transplants without well-developed root systems or healthy, strong rhizomes, are susceptable to freeze-drying under those conditions.

Our seedling bed last year gave us plant growth just about as good as the previously described bed. The seedling bed was previously a garden. It was covered with 2" of manure, sprinkled with a balanced fertilizer (20-20-20) and tilled thoroughly. However, by this fall the pH was back up near 6.5 and some JI were showing light green foliage. It was quickly corrected with a drenching of Miracid (30-20-20), but these water soluble fertilizers are good for about three weeks! So we added agricultural sulphur (handful around each plant) scratched through the mulch into the topsoil. By spring it should have the pH to 5.5, which we think is optimal in our soil. We can report on the success of this application next fall....or....we would really like for all of you to come to Kalamazoo next summer and see the results of these bed preparations.

The plants blooming in the seedling bed last summer were the end results of the above culture, and the subject of another article to be written. They were the results from 1982 seed. In summary; the seeds were germinated in Jan. '83, grown under lights until 8-10" June 1, when lined out in the prepared bed. Increases were noted in July, 8 to 12 fan clumps by fall. In July '84, we had 75% bloom on the first-year seedlings: several giving 2-3 bloomstalks, and a couple gave 5 and 6 bloomstalks. Some with 2-3 bloomstalks also had two branches on each stalk.

For comparison, we have a group of three smaller JI beds prepared by simply spading the sod under, in 1981. These beds have some established clumps, but blooms are now getting smaller. These beds will be dug this summer after bloom and prepared with the experience we have gained from the above mentioned beds.

We do not pretend that the culture we give to our Japanese and other beardless iris is a casual week-end hobby, we do take extra time to specialize in apogons. But we do hope you will come spend a casual week-end with our area gardens July 5 & 6 at the Kalamazoo Weekend for Japanese Irises.

## A QUESTION OF DISEASE IN JAPANESE IRISES

#### Currier McEwen

Ever since 1975, when I first began growing Japanese irises in fairly large numbers, I have been concerned about what I thought might be a disease of the roots. The affected plants tend to be poor in growth and have brown streaking of the leaves. The roots, especially those at the central part of the clump, are dead or nearly so, although the rhizomes look healthy. A severely affected plant can be lifted from the soil merely by pulling on the foliage without digging. I have discussed this problem with Adolph Vogt and other experienced growers of Japanese irises, who have suggested that the problem is due not to disease, but to poor growing conditions. To study this further I have carried out a few experiments, looking for the possible presence of disease or of damage by pests. This is a report of some results thus far.

Nematodes --- In 1978 I reported studies on the presence of the meadow nematode, <u>Pratylenchus penetrans</u>, in Siberian and Japanese irises These microscopic worms were present in the roots of all plants which I examined from various parts of the United States and from foreign countries. Through the use of a nemacide obtained nematode-free plants which were then grown sterilized soil. Their roots were a cleaner white than those of untreated plants but growth and bloom were no better. although the meadow nematode is harmful to some fruit and other crops, it appeared to cause no significant damage to the Siberian and Japanese irises. This is indeed important because it appears to be ubiquitous all over the world. As part of the more recent studies this question regarding nematodes was again explored. They were present in the affected plants, but equally so in the roots of plants growing well and I believe one may conclude that Pratylenchus penetrans is not responsible for the root damage under consideration. The more harmful root knot nematode has not been found in any plants here. Our winters apparently are too severe for it.

Thrips---Sarah Tiffney, knowing of my interest in possible diseases of Japanese irises, has sent me information about a type of thrips affecting irises, and especially Japanese irises, which in Cynthia Westcott's The Garden Bug Book (1946) is referred to as Bregmatothrips iridis and in P. P. Pirone's Diseases and Pests of Ornamental Plants (1970) as Iridothrips iridis. In 1982 when I first learned of this from Mrs. Tiffney, I easily found them in apparently normal Japanese iris leaves. Pirone says "The thrips feed from May to November causing russeting and soot-like blackening of the foliage and much stunting of growth. The tops usually die out and turn brown, and in older clumps almost all of the roots die". In 1983, as part of the present study of my plants with root damage, I again searched for these thrips, but found none in the leaves of the unhealthy plants. Certainly none of these plants have shown any "soot-like blackening".

John Coble has reported to me that there have been severe infestations with thrips in the Kalamazoo, Michigan region in 1983 and especially in 1984. Thrips have attacked the blossoms, spoiling their appearance and eating the pollen from the anthers. A reddish brown streaking of the leaves was observed, appearing mostly in July and August. He describes the streaking as being present from the time new leaves emerge from the leaf axil, indicating damage to the new leaves prior to emergence. John believes the reddish brown color develops as a result of any injury to the leaf cells, whether by thrips or other means, and is probably the result of a secondary infection in the damaged tissue. Although the thrips damage has been harmful in spoiling the appearance of the plants and blossoms, John thinks it has not appeared to interfere importantly with the plants growth.

In my garden the streaking observed in the sick plants also occurred in July and August, but since I did not find thrips in the leaves of the unhealthy plants this season, it is unlikely, I believe, that the problem I have been concerned with is caused by thrips.

To investigate this---or the possibility of other pest damage---I carried out in the fall of 1982 a further series of experiments. Eighty Japanese irises showing, in greater or lesser degree, the poor growth and root damage under discussion were treated in a number of ways: (A) One portion of the clump was lifted, cleaned of dead roots and replanted. (B) A second portion was dug, cleaned, and then replanted in a mix of equal parts soil, Jiffy mix and Bovung in pots. The pots were placed in 1 inch of water for 8 weeks. The plants were then replanted in the garden. (C) A third portion was lifted, cleaned, and soaked in dimethoate (Cygon 2E), 1 tablespoon per gallon of water for 1 - 2 hours and then replanted. (D) a fourth portion, in the case of clumps sufficiently healthy to permit it, was left undisturbed in the garden row. Observations on these plants in 1983 suggest the following conclusions:

- Plants soaked in dimethoate for 1 2 hours were no better or worse than those replanted without the treatment.
- Those in pots set in water for 8 weeks had made excellent root growth at the time of replanting, but the next year did no better than the pieces which had been merely cleaned and replanted immediately.
- 3. Those portions that were in good health and had not been moved did fairly well the next year, but those that were in poor condition, showing motion when the foliage was pulled, and were left unmoved died or did badly.

These observations made in 1983 and 1984 certainly are not scientifically conclusive, but the results to date have shown no evidence of a living agent as the cause of damage. Adolph Vogt has reported to me that he believes the condition which I have feared was due to disease is merely a normal deterioration that occurs in Japanese irises that are left too long without replanting, are not fed sufficiently, and do not receive enough

water. The need for water is well documented by Bill Ouweneel in his 1977 article in The Review (2). I suspect that water plays the most important role. I had rather neglected my Returning Tide, which was lined out in a section of the garden not then in very active use. When it received the Payne Award in 1982 I naturally paid more attention to it, and was chagrined to find only three of ten small plants still alive where it had been lined out, and they showed the brown streaking on the leaves and were in poor condition. Careful cultivation, two applications of liquid fertilizer, and abundant watering changed the picture dramatically, and by late fall the leaves were a healthy green. There was no evidence of root or other damage, the three plants had made good growth, and they came through the disastrous winter of 1984 in fine shape.

The question of disease was raised again very dramatically in the spring of 1984, when to my dismay, I discovered that I had lost more than half of my Japanese irises. The remains of the plants were lifted, washed, and carefully examined. The roots were dead and the crowns were soft, suggesting soft rot as seen in tall bearded irises, but there was no unpleasant odor. In several, some evidence was shown of attempted new growth with a few healthy, white new roots and small green shoots. The dead portions were cut away and the living bits were replanted in pots or in the garden rows. Some of these plants were soaked in benomyl (Benlate), one tablespoonful in 2 gallons of water for 2 hours before planting, and others were not. Of the latter, some were given a soil soak of benomyl and others were untreated. Most of these salvaged pieces died, but a few grew into healthy plants. The numbers were not large enough to permit solid conclusions, but it is my impression that the treatment with benomyl made no difference.

As usual, I had planted the seeds harvested in the fall of 1983 in flats under lights in March, and had several hundred seedlings ready for planting in June. I was concerned, of course, that if the losses among the Japanese irises were due to disease, then the causative agent might be in the soil and kill the new crop of seedlings. I therefore fumigated a 12 x 12 foot area of the garden with methyl bromide and planted some seedlings from each cross in the treated area and some in the regular, untreated bed. All were given the same schedule of fertilizer and water and all did well with no difference between those in the treated and the untreated areas.

These observations are continuing, but currently I am encouraged to believe, with Adolph Vogt, that the root damage and the brown streaking on the leaves which have concerned me are not due to disease. The experience of 1984 was a traumatic one for me, but it had a good side too, because it has taught me, I believe, how to do better from now on. The chief lesson I think I have learned, is that an abundant supply of water is essential. In the past our one well has been adequate for the household needs but not, especially in July and August, for the garden also. Now

we have put in a separate well for the garden and we have used it freely throughout the summer and fall of 1984. Japanese irises in an older area of the garden which received less water still show some of the brown streaking on the leaves and rather poor root growth. In contrast the ones moved to an area where they receive plenty of water are green and have made excellent growth.

A second lesson, that of need for winter protection, also came from the 1984 experience. In the past I have used a mulch of about 10 inches of hay simply to prevent heaving out of the soil of small seedlings, and larger plants transplanted in late fall which have not had time to make an anchoring amount of new root In the fall of 1983 all the seedlings planted that spring looked so robust that I decided they would be secure from heaving without a mulch and I did not put one on. That winter I lost every one. Since then I have read the excellent article by Wray M. Bowden in The Review for Spring, 1984 (3) and have learned that in his area of Canada he places a "covering of six to twelve inches of wheat straw each November 1st". Although the Japanese irises in my garden in Maine have appeared to be winter hardy in the past, many of them obviously were not this past winter. believe this may have been due to the fact that a record breaking dry summer and fall in 1983 sent the plants in a weakened condition into a very cold winter which had very little snow to give protection. Perhaps they would have been able to withstand that cold if they had had all the water they needed during summer and fall and had been in good condition. Nevertheless, I will give winter protection from now on to be on the safe side.

In conclusion, I now believe that the unhealthy condition in the past of many of the Japanese irises in my garden has been due not to disease, but to improper care, and especially to the lack of adequate amounts of water. Similarly, I am confident that the losses sustained in the winter of 1983-84 were due, not to disease, but to winter damage to plants already in a weakened state.

## References

- 1. McEwen, C. Experience with <u>Pratylenchus penetrans</u>. The Siberian Iris, 4 (8): 8-10, 1978.
- Ouweneel, W.E. Lesson '76. The Review. 14 (1): 6-8, April 1977.
- Bowden, W.M. A comprehensive survey of the Japanese iris. The Review. 21 (1): 3-11, Spring 1984.

Please see next page.

Editor's Note: The conclusion of Dr. McEwen that the winter loss of his seedlings was due to their being in a weakend condition going into the winter is an interesting, and possibly quite valid one. I would like to suggest 2 more possibilities other than cold hardiness of the plants. (1) A mulch slows down the start of new growth in the spring. The unmulched plants may have begun growth during an early warm period, and were then unable to withstand a later cold spell. (2) A mulch helps to hold moisture. During a cold and open winter, sun and drying winds may further dry out both soil and plants, causing the damage. It would be interesting if anyone else who has observed such conditions could write in about their experiences and observations with Japanese irises.

#### COLOR VARIANTS IN WILD HANASHOBU

#### Bee Warburton

The Japanese irises are the one iris group believed to have originated strictly from breeding with a single species, usually known as I. kaempferi (properly I. ensata). The Japanese are marvelous plant breeders, and the Japanese irises are their masterpiece in this respect, but it does seem they had an especially variable species to start with. Michio Cozuca sent us a review of the wild forms, which is printed in AIS Bulletin 240, April 1981. An additional note in my files, without a reference...

"The usual color is reddish purple. Color vaiations, however, may readily be collected. Sometimes the color between the veins has faded out so that the more deeply colored veins are prominent. Pale color forms, some almost white, may also be collected and, in the vicinity of Morioka, very pale blue-purple types may be observed. Undoubtedly there is a great deal of variation in the wild plant in different sections of Japan, and it is quite possible that those who collected the plants in early times from such points as Kyushu, Tosa, Asoka Lake and other places obtained quite different natural types, which served as a starting point for the production of the highly specialized cultivated varieties."

Also, we may add, variants in form as witness the 5-petal variety sent us by Cozuca.

Many winters have I lived
Ever since the beginning of time
When out of the melting snow
Came the first frail flower which said
I am the spirit of spring.

Taos Pueblo (New Mexico)

#### READ ON

From a recent JI Robin, the following list was taken from Ginney Burton's letter. Articles on JI in older AIS BULLETINS:

1982 #244 Flowers With Multiple Parts Beyond Normal.

1979 #233 Rebloom In Siberian and Japanese Iris.

1976 #223 Methods of Inducing Tetraploidy in Siberians & JI.

1975 #219 Understanding JI Culture.

1975 #219 JI In A Few Easy Lessons. 1974 #215 Grow JI The Easy Way.

1974 # 213 Factors Influencing Germination of JI Seeds and Health of Seedlings.

1972 #204 Grow JI From Seed.

1969 #192 Growing Japanese Iris.

1963 #169 Flower Types in Japanese Iris.

## Editor's "REVIEW"

In my first issue, this space was called Editor's Notes. As it turns out, after using that term at the end or within an article, continued use of the term for this column would only add confusion. Thus, a change already.

As evident from comments in the President's Letter at the front of this issue, the many changes in personnel and procedures has considerable coordination and letter writing. appreciation to all who have so willingly helped to make the transitions regarding The Review run smoothly. My thanks also to those who have responded so readily to requests for information regarding sales, meetings, etc.

There are more changes under consideration for The Review. will be discussed at a board meeting during the Indianapolis Convention. I would appreciate any comments you might have, (especially before the meeting) regarding what you would like to see The Review become. Changes in foremat, content, layout, etc; or if you would prefer it not to change.

One of the satisfactions from becoming your editor, was to receive my first complimentary copy of the British Iris Society's Newsletter of the Siberian Spuria and Japanese Group. surprising to find it opened with a reprint of a poem I had used in the last issue. It is nice to know that something which you have done is giving pleasure to people nearly half-way around the world.

As I noted in the last issue, for the most part, articles of interest about Japanese Irises must continue to come from you, the SJI members. How about your experiences in hybridizing? Have you made any genetic studies of JIs? What special growing techniques have worked for you? Do you have special climate or soil problems, and how do you resolve them? How do you start your seeds, line out transplants? What varieties are doing well in your area? What else would you like to share with us? Your articles are needed, and continue to be welcome.

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## MINUTES 1984 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES.

The board of directors met briefly at 9:30 PM, May 29, 1984, with the president, Virginia Burton, presiding. Members attending were Mrs. Burton, Dr. Currier McEwen, Adolph Vogt, James Foreman, Harry Kuesel and Evelyn Minnick, acting as secretary. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss ideas and a format for publishing a book on Japanese Iris similar to the Siberian Iris Book.

Discussion was on the following topics:

- 1. Possible chapters for a J.I. Book.
- 2. How to finance publishing.
- Persons who might be responsible for writing various chapters.
- 4. Finding a publisher.

Dr. McEwen has already agreed to act as editor for the book.

Harry Kuesel, treasurer, gave us an overview of our finances, stating we had \$1,500.00 in savings and \$1,000.00 in checking. Our expenses run about \$600.00 per year, meaning the Society will have to find other ways to finance the book.

Evelyn Minnick, Acting Secretary.

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#### MINUTES, 1984 ANNUAL MEETING THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 AM Monday, May 28, 1984 by Virginia Burton, President. For the interest of people attending, the business meeting was brief in order to have more time for presentation of the program. It was moved and seconded that we approve the minutes of the 1983 meeting as published in The Review. Motion carried. Harry Keusel gave a report showing the Society is solvent.

Virginia Burton introduced Adolph Vogt, past president, who introduced Dr. Currier McEwen. Dr. McEwen gave a slide program with accompanying comments. His program was broken down into the following sections:

Type of forms.
Colors and color patterns.
Tetraploids-Diploids
Repeat bloom.
Continuing bloom.
Miniatures.

Virginia Burton showed slides which had been forwarded by Dr. W. L. Ackerman. They included some of the new shorter growing JIs he is working with, new color breaks, and flowers that last 4-5 days instead of the usual 3 days.

At the completion of the program, a drawing for door prizes was held with donations coming from Virginia Burton, Dr. McEwen, and Adolph Vogt.

Evelyn Minnick, Acting Secretary.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

## The Society For Japanese Irises

## January 1, 1984 - December 31, 1984

CANTINGS ACCOUNT (C-+15)	
SAVINGS ACCOUNT (Certificate of Deposit) Cash in Savings Account - Jan. 1, 1984 Interest	\$ 1,500.00 158.38
Transfer from checking	341.62
Total in Savings Account - Dec. 31, 1984	\$ 2,000.00
CHECKING ACCOUNT	
Cash in Checking Account - January 1, 1984	\$ 1,019.02
INCOME:	
Dues \$ 526.50	
Publication Sales 127.00	
A.H. Hazzard Memorial Book Fund 40.00	
Region 1 Beardless Auction 509.00	
Interest on Checking 63.48	
TOTAL INCOME \$ 1265.98	
EXPENSES:	
Editor - Spring REVIEW \$ 482.58	
Editor - Fall REVIEW 484.07	
Membership Chairman 30.06 Treasurer	
Kuesel - postage 20.00	
Warner - postage 4.00	
Checks and Deposit Slips 6.11	
Rubber Stamp 5.20	
Transfer to Savings 341.62 TOTAL EXPENSES \$ 1373.64	
Cash in Checking Account - December 31, 1984	\$ 923.36
Cash in Savings Account - December 31, 1984	2000.00
TOTAL CASH ON HAND	\$ 2923.36

Respectfully submitted,
Carol S. Warner, Treasurer

