

# THE REVIEW

OF THE SOCIETY  
FOR  
JAPANESE IRISES



VOLUME 26  
NUMBER 2  
FALL, 1989

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OF  
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OFFICERS

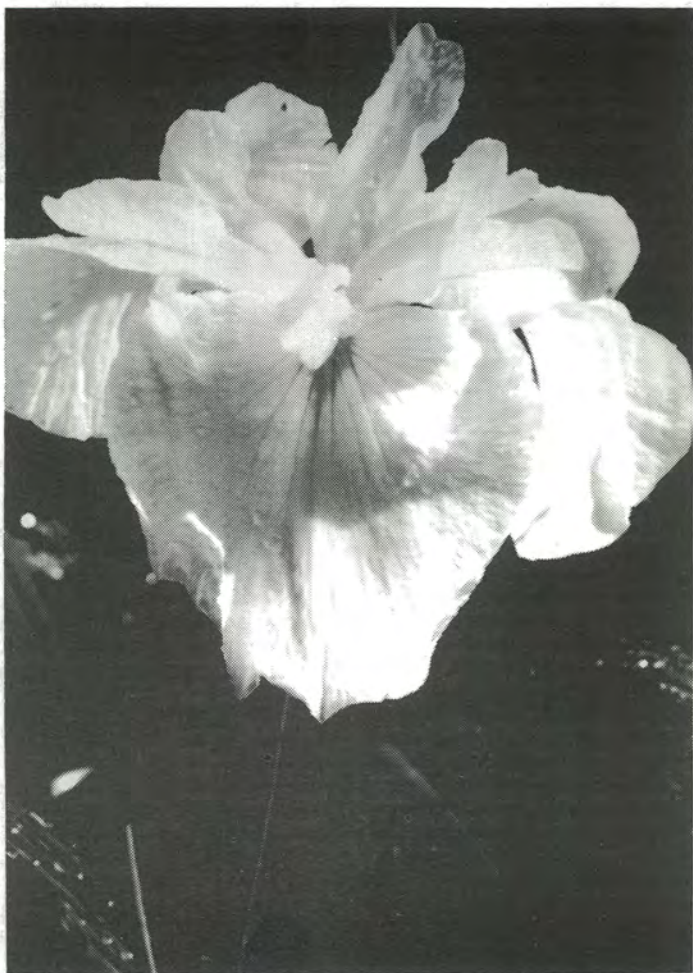
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**SH-30 by DR. HIRAO**

As seen in Nicholls Garden  
Manassas Convention

Mrs. Hirao has given SJI  
permission to register and  
introduce this seedling as  
**SHUICHI HIRAO**, in  
Dr. Hirao's Honor.

Photo by L. Welsh



## BUSINESS ITEMS

The Review is published semi-annually by The Society For Japanese Irises. Editorial office is at 7979 West D Ave., Kalamazoo, MI. 49009. Deadlines for receiving copy are March 1 and September 1; earlier receipt of material is desirable. Black & white photographs and drawings are welcome; please indicate if you want them returned. Reprinting is by permission of the writer and editor, with due acknowledgement.

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**Renewals:** If your mailing label is marked with the expiration date 8907 this will be the last copy of "The Review" on your present membership. Please renew. If you have just recently sent in your dues, ignore the notice as there is an inevitable gap in passing along the information.

**Address changes:** Please notify the Membership Chairman.

**Back issues:** Back issues of *The Review* are available for a charge of \$1.50 per copy, including postage. In some cases there are no original copies available, but photo-copies will be provided at the same charge. Volume 1 (1964) consists of three issues, all subsequent volumes contain two issues each. Order from the LIBRARIAN. Include a check made out to The Society For Japanese Irises in an amount to cover the number of issues ordered.

<b>Slide Sets &amp;</b>	SJI Slide Set rental.	\$ 5.00
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	Marx catalogs ('55 & '64) reprints	\$ 2.50
	Kamo Nursery color posters; rental	\$ 3.00
	Payne breeding diagrams;	
	10¢/variety, 50¢ minimum	
	THE JAPANESE IRIS book, rental	\$10.00
	The 1988 Cumulative Checklist of JI	\$ 4.00

Send your requests to Slides/Librarian Chairman, John Coble, with check made out to The Society For Japanese Irises. Please order slide sets early for scheduling.

**Advertising:** Will be accepted for plants and horticultural related items. Charges are: Full page layout, \$18.00; ½ page layout, \$10.00; short adds, text only, \$2.00 for up to five lines and for each additional five lines or fraction thereof.

For information on how to prepare and submit adds, contact the Editor. Send adds to the Editor with payment in the form of a check made out to The Society For Japanese Irises. Deadlines as noted above.

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## THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Many exciting things are happening in the world of Japanese irises. First, our Society is in good health. We have never had such a large convention as our grand bash at Manassas, Virginia this past June. Many, many words of praise have been said to me for this happy event. Credit goes primarily to God who gave us such glorious weather and so many splendid bloom stalks. Secondly, credit goes to all the people in my own Region 4 who put in so much work under the expert leadership of Convention Chairman Carol Warner and Co-Chairman Diana Nicholls. Thanks also go to Dick Sparling who chaired the very successful beardless iris show, and to all the people who brought entries. Having an iris show in Virginia with entries from Missouri, Michigan, and other distant realms makes for a most impressive event. What a wonderful weekend!

There were many outstanding new Japanese iris introductions and seedlings blooming in the tour gardens. One of the top vote getters was SH-30, a huge white single hybridized by the late Dr. Hirao. Mrs. Ryuko Hirao, Dr. Hirao's widow, has kindly granted consent for our Society to register and introduce this seedling. In the name of the Society, I have registered it with the name SHUICHI HIRAO, as our tribute to one of the greatest hybridizers in the long history of our beloved Japanese iris.

It is a pleasure to announce that the Tidewater Iris Society (Region 4), whose president is Rich Randall, has offered to host the 1993 SJI Convention in the Virginia Beach - Norfolk, Virginia area. This offer is especially gratifying since it means we have expanded into a new area.

Several local iris societies have agreed to try having beardless iris shows in the next few years. Two local societies, the Tidewater Iris Society in Region 4 and the Sidney B. Mitchell Iris Society in Region 14, have made definitive plans for Japanese iris shows in 1991. Our members who belong to local societies that do not have beardless iris shows can make a valuable contribution to the goals of our Society by advocating and organizing such shows. Every Japanese iris show brings in new members and spreads the popularity of Japanese irises.

We have made much progress in getting our book on Japanese irises published. Dr. McEwen has completed his work, pictures and drawings for the book have been selected, and we have entered into a contract with the University Press of New England for its publication. Dr. McEwen has granted all author's rights to the Society. Our contract allows the Society to obtain copies of the book at the wholesale price so that we can retail it. We have underwritten the publication in the amount of \$15,000 from the fund that was set up for this purpose and from a \$5,000 loan from the AIS Foundation. If plans materialize without any hitches, the book should be available by the time of the AIS Convention in Omaha next spring. Of course, the "smart people" will be sure to get a copy with Dr. McEwen's autograph. Distribution and sales will be managed by our Immediate Past President, Don Delmez.



I have written to a number of commercial nurseries which sell Japanese irises by mail requesting that they upgrade the quality of the cultivars they offer. This was an issue that very much concerned the membership at our two spring business meetings. Wayside Gardens would like very much to upgrade their Japanese iris offerings if they can find suppliers who can furnish plants in the quantities they require. A most gracious letter from Michael Dodge of White Flower Farm informed me that that quality nursery is determined to acquire new outstanding cultivars to offer to the public. Busse Gardens is in process of upgrading its offerings as well. The positive, professional policies of these nurseries deserve our support. Take the time to drop these businesses a letter expressing your appreciation.

All of us were very saddened to learn of the passing of Barney Hobbs shortly after he returned home from the SJI Convention. Barney's iris interest were universal, and he was a staunch supporter of SJI for many years. How we enjoyed his friendship, and how many kindnesses he did for so many of us! We shall miss him much.

In closing I would like to pass on a few words about some Japanese iris cultivars. Every year some new varieties, some that I have grown for years, rise to the level of "favorites". This year THE GREAT MOGUL outdid itself in my garden. When performing at its best, what single maroon iris can compare? In Carol Warner's garden I saw a fantastic performance by LILAC PEAKS. In my own garden the two best performances were probably by HIGARA, which I consider to be one of the finest varieties ever introduced, and LILAC GARDEN which consistently is the best performing late season variety I grow---a much more vigorous performer than DANCING WAVES, another good late bloomer.

My wife, a student of the Ikenobo School of Ikebana, has long considered old ELIZABETH NOBLE to be one of the best tall bearded irises for Japanese style arrangements. The soft but clear contrast of the white and purple petals, shape of the buds, and smaller flowers are reasons she has cited. Her favorite Siberian for arrangements is TEALWOOD because of its dark, dramatic color, bud form and long lasting qualities as a cut flower. This year she concluded that PRAIRIE BLUEMOON is an outstanding Japanese iris for Ikebana arrangements because of the curve of its branches and many, excellently formed buds. So if you are a flower arranger you might want to start growing PRAIRIE BLUEMOON if you don't have it in you garden already. Providing this advice is part of my president's duty, no there is no charge. God bless you all.

Clarence Mahan

## NOTICE

### The Iris of Japan

The Chesapeake and Potomac Iris Society presented a gift copy of a reprint of George M. Reed's The Iris of Japan to everyone who attended the SJI convention in Washington D.C. There are a few copies available for people who were unable to attend. If you would like one, send \$5.00 plus \$1.00 shipping cost to Clarence Mahan, 7311 Churchill Rd., McLean, VA 22101. Make \$6.00 check payable to C & P Iris Society. This is your chance of a lifetime to get a great Japanese iris classic! The remaining copies will be sold on a "first come first served" basis. Supply limited.

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## ERRATA

### PROGRESS IN THE BREEDING OF JAPANESE GARDEN IRIS, Iris ensata Thunb.

by Tsutomu YABUYA

In the above article, published in the last issue of "The Review", Vol. 26 No. 1, Spring, 1989, there were three errors in typing. Please make note of the following:

1. On page 18 under "History of the Breeding", in the third paragraph (25 lines up from bottom of the page) the sentence which read, "One was through vegetative division of rhizomes" should read, "One was through seed production by outcrossing, and the other through vegetative division of rhizomes".
2. On page 21, 15 lines up from the bottom, the word "homologous", should read "homeologous".
3. On page 21, 11 lines up from the bottom, what read "x Japanese Garden iris", should read "x Japanese Garden iris by Japanese Garden iris".

The editor wishes to thank Dr. Yabuya for pointing out these errors and apologizes to him and the reader for any loss in meaning to this important article which may have occurred as their result.

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## 1989 JI POPULARITY POLL RESULTS

### Virginia Burton

Last year we had 39 people voting in the JI Popularity Poll and 15 states were represented. This year (1989) we have 61 voters from 19 states. The states are: N.C., S.C., VA, CA, Del., MD, MI, PA, OR, NY, MA, ME, MO, IL, GA, LA, KY, OH, and CT. The first 6 to send in votes were John Wood, Virginia Burton, Caryll Randall, Brian Lazarus, Ruth Randall, and Walter Hoover.

Comments from entrants:

John Wood, NC.---WILDERNESS SNOWBALL has nice branching, long period of bloom and is a clean white. WILDERNESS RUBIES is the nearest to red I have seen and stands out in a garden. RETURNING TIDE has "grown on me"---is tall and lights up the area it is in. If I could have only one iris it would be FRECKLED GEISHA. (The 2 Wilderness iris are John's new introductions.---VB).

Virginia Burton, SC.---On April 11 we had a frost that turned the new outer foliage of the JI a creamy white, May 11 I had my first JI in bloom, a seedling. May 15 the tree removers were here because of a lightning strike on one and pine bark beetles on 2 next to JI beds. May 20 MISS COQUETTE out. LASTING PLEASURE (after blooming earlier) and GAIETY finished the JI season on July 21!

Clarence Mahan, VA---HEGIRA is a fantastic hybridizing achievement. We had a tornado like storm during bloom season with 70mph wind and rain falling like coming from a bucket. Hegira's flowers were still perfect afterwards and stalks straight and tall. No other JI came through the storm as well.

Georgia Rhodes, OH.---Enjoyed the SJI Convention, voted for a pink JI sdlg. of Ackerman's but neglected to write down the number for myself. (Can someone help her? VB).

Georgia Maxim, CA---"Grows JI and sells all over the USA, wishes JI conventions and auctions were nearer".

Freda Hazzard, VA---Arthur's KALAMAZOO (JI sdlg. 796) was showy and quite a favorite. Bob Bauer and John Coble do such an excellent job as gardeners. At Manassas there were a nice variety of show stalks and many fine garden specimens.

Doris Simpson, MD---CASCADE CREST was the most outstanding JI, to me, seen in Carol Warner's garden. ENCHANTED LAKE is still my top favorite and GAY GALLANT comes a close second.

Frances Thompson, SC---SUMMER STORM was the first JI I ever had to bloom so it remains my favorite.

Barbara Schmieder, MA---I only grow 18 JI but 17 bloomed this year and they were spectacular, probably due to a very rainy June. I saw lots of nice JI in the Schafer/Sachs garden...hope to see JI in Maine in 1990.

**Leland Welsh, MI---**After attending the SJI Convention at Manassas, and several trips to Ensata Gardens, it is sure difficult to pick only 10 favorite iris. There are so many. It is interesting to note how the list can change from year to year. To some degree this may be what color or form is appealing to me at the moment, but often the iris that was so spectacular last year, was either not seen, or not seen doing well this year, and vice versa. Also, there is the luck of the draw...what iris is at peak condition the particular day one visits a garden. Two on my list are there not only because I think they are nice iris, but they seem to be fairly consistent, doing well year after year. They can even do fairly well here in my poor soil under dismal care. These are PRAIRIE NOBLE and PRAIRIE CHIEF. Though observed for a shorter period of time, but possibly of the same consistent performance is GRAPE FIZZ.

**Eric Baker, NY---**A fantastic bloom season, helped by more than 20" of rain since April 1st. Just what the iris needed.

**James/Bertha Shook, MI--**STRUT AND FLOURISH produced the most bloom in our garden. SNOW AVALANCHE was our first variety to bloom and the last to finish the bloom season.

**Dr. McEwen, ME---**JAPANESE PINWHEEL is my best I think, great color, substance, bud count and it repeats. DOUBLE WHITE is the best in whites I've seen, ruffled, crisp, double and some green in the signal. ITZU-NO-UMI closest to true mid blue. HIME KAMI closest to true rich pink and very floriferous (deeper pink than MYOSHINO). CONFETTI SHOWER is a lovely blend of colors. KALAMAZOO, dramatic color. KATY MENDEZ, my favorite of the intermediates, nice size, proportions and color. ROSE ADAGIO, my favorite of the multipetaled ones. BLUEBERRY RIMMED, good size, substance and pattern. TROPIC SHOWERS, my favorite of the marbled ones.

**Carol Warner, MD---**Innerst's JI seedling 3044-1 was great, there are some very good JI coming from Japan as guests. Two of Dr. Hirao's seedlings, SH-3 and SH-30 were fantastic. It was a great year for JI, so much rain here that I never had to water.

**Joe/Janet/Danny/Lou Ann Watson, GA---**LING and FAIRY CARILLON have been beautiful. UMI BOTARU was excellent. Each year JI seem to do better in GA. A great asset of theirs is their lovely foliage which puts our TBs in a lower category for over all garden value. Our JI highlight our hemerocallis season. Together they are unbeatable!

**Pat Brooks, SC---**YAMATO HIME had a bloom on a 3" tall stalk August 2nd after blooming normally earlier in the JI season.

**Roger M. Donaldson, KY---**1st JI to bloom was ARTHUR HAZZARD on June 4th, along with PEACOCK DANCE. WOUNDED DRAGON opened July 3rd and opened its last bloom July 14.

**Bob Bauer, MI---**JI were so great this year at the Convention--they had so much rain. Our season was good too. It is so hard to choose. We had some nice rains here in Galesburg this year--for a welcome change.



There were 203 named JI receiving votes this year. Congratulations to Dr. McEwen and his JAPANESE PINWHEEL for receiving 30 votes. Runners up were: DANCING WAVES, 17 votes, FRECKLED GEISHA 16, TAGA SODE 15, GAY GALLANT and KALAMAZOO 14 votes each. CAPRICIAN BUTTERFLY 11 votes, CRYSTAL HALO, IAPETUS, LILAC PEAKS and ORIENTAL EYES all had 8 votes each. CONTINUING PLEASURE and THE GREAT MOGUL each had 7 votes.

These 7 varieties had 6 votes each; CAPANEUS, GARNET ROYALTY, HEGIRA, ICY PEAKS, IMMACULATE WHITE, ORIENTAL CLASSIC and ROSE QUEEN. The next 12 had 5 votes each---CENTER OF ATTENTION, ENDURING PINK FROST, FROSTED PYRAMID, GLITTER AND GLAMOUR, IKO-NO-SAZANAMI, JACASTA, JAPANESE SANDMAN, LIGHT AT DAWN, OCEAN MIST, OL MAN RIVER, RASPBERRY RIMMED, and SAKURA-JISHI.

The next 16 had 4 votes each---ANYTUS, CASCADE CREST, EDGE OF FROST, FRILLED ENCHANTMENT, GEISHA GOWN, KINGS COURT, KNIGHT IN ARMOR, LAVENDER SASHAY, PINK DIMITY, PRAIRIE BLUEMOON, ROYAL FIREWORKS, ROYAL GAME, STRUT AND FLOURISH, SWIRLING WAVES, WIND DRIFT, and WORLD'S DELIGHT.

21 varieties had 3 votes each---AGRIPPINE, DOUBLE FIRST, EVENING TIDE, FLASHING KOI, FROST BOUND, GALATEA, KATY MENDZ, LASTING PLEASURE, LING, MAIKO-NO-HAMA, PERIWINKLE PINWHEEL, PRAIRIE GLORY, PRAIRIE TWILIGHT, PURPLE PARASOL, ROSE FRAPPE, ROYAL CROWN, ROYAL LINES, RUFFLED DIMITY, SEA FURY, SEA OF AMETHYST, and YAMATIKOKU.

The next 38 had 2 votes each---ARTHUR HAZZARD, CAPRICIAN CHIMES, CONFETTI SHOWER, DOUBLE CREAM, FAR EAST CAPRICE, FOURFOLD MYSTERY, FUJI, GEISHA PARASOL, GOOD OMEN, GRAPE FIZZ, HAGAROMO, HALL OF MARBLE, KONTAKI-ON, LEAVE ME SIGHING, MAINE CHANCE, MAI OHGI, MEMORIAL TRIBUTE, MICHIO, OVER THE WAVES, PRAIRIE FANTASY, PRAIRIE MANTLE, PRAIRIE NOBLE, PRAIRIE ROYALTY, SAKUAAKU, SAKURA-NO-SONO, SHAKKO-YO, SHEER FANTASY, SNOW AVALANCHE, STIPPLED RIPPLES, SUMMER STORM, SWEET MURMUR, VIOLET AND SILVER, WIRAI-HOTEL, WILDERNESS RUBIES, WILDERNESS SNOWBALL, WINE RUFFLES, WORLEY PINK and YU-SHO.

Finally, 96 varieties had one vote each---ACCLAIM, AICHI-NO-KAGAYAKI, AMETHYST UMBRELLA, AOSHIBA GAKI, AZURE RUFFLES, BLUEBERRY RIMMED, CAPRICIAN SYMPHONY, CHIDORI, DARK ENCHANTMENT, DARK INTRIGUE, DAZZLING DEBUTANTE, DOUBLE WHITE, DRIVEN SNOW, EMIKO, ENCHANTED LAKE, ENCHANTING MELODY, ENDURING PINK FROST, EXTRAVAGANT PLUMES, FAIRY CARRILLON, FASHION MODEL, FIERY STEED, FLYING TIGER, FRINGED CLOUD, GALA PERFORMANCE, HAPPY AWAKENING, HAPPY FAWN, HIGH CASCADE, HIME, HOZAN, IMPERIAL KIMONO, IMPERIAL ROBE, IPSUS, JOYOUS CAVALIER, JOYOUS TROUBADOR, JOY PETERS, KAGAMI, KAMAZUMI-NO-UTA, KONGO SAN, KOZASA-GAWA, LAVENDER HINT, LAVENDER KRINKLE, LILAC GARDEN, LONG DELAY, LORENZACCIO, MAMMOTH MARVEL, MIDARE-I-TO, MIDNIGHT WHISPER, MIST FALLS, MIYOSHINO, MY HEAVENLY DREAM, NIGHT BLIZZARD, NIKKO, ORIENTAL ROYALTY, PEACOCK DANCE, PEACOCK STRUT, PIN STRIPE, POPULAR ACCLAIM, POPULAR DEMAND, PRAIRIE ARDOR, PRAIRIE CHIEF, PRAIRIE DELIGHT, PRAIRIE IVORY, PREMIER DANSEUR, PURPLE MARLIN, RASPBERRY GEM, RECURRING THEME, REIGN OF GLORY, RETURNING TIDE, RORI-OGI, ROSE ADAGIO, ROSE PRELUDE, SAPPHIRE STAR, SEA TITAN, SETSU-NO-HOMA, SORCERERS TRIUMPH, SPARKLING SAPPHIRE, SPRINGTIME SNOW, STAR AT MIDNIGHT, STORM AT SEA, STRANGER IN PARADISE, STRIPER,



TAIKO, TRANCE, TROPIC SHOWER, TUPTIM, UMI-BOTARU, UNJOBIKA, VENETIAN VELVET, VIOLET ENCHANTRESS, VIOLET SPECTACLE, WALK IN BEAUTY, WINGED CHARIOT, WINGED SPRITE, WISTERIA SHADOWS, YAMATO-HIME, YU HI, and YUKICHI DORI.

It has been interesting---I should have taken Japanese in school instead of Latin and French!

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#### JAPANESE IRIS CONVENTION - 1991

Guest irises are arriving at the iris "farms". The Northwest convention probably will have a very different character from previous eastern conventions, since the main displays will be in the fields of commercial growers and the scope of the total plantings are best measured in acres - each. Many other types of irises could also be on display, depending on weather, etc.

The main tour will include Laurie's Garden, 120 miles south of Portland, a stop off at the Schreiner gardens where Bob Schreiner has a large display (one hundred or more varieties) of Japanese irises, then on to Caprice Farms, high on a hill west of Portland, then back to town to the urban setting of Chad Harris' beautifully manicured (large) courtyard garden in Vancouver, and back to the nearby convention center. The Aitken garden could be the setting for a pre-convention party, since the logistics of the day long bus tour does not permit viewing of all the gardens in this area on a one day tour.

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#### FUTURE SJI CONVENTIONS SCHEDULED

- 1990 - Portland, Maine
- 1991 - Portland, Oregon
- 1992 - Kalamazoo, Michigan
- 1993 - Virginia Beach - Norfolk, Virginia
- 1994 - Open



**MAINE IRIS SOCIETY  
INVITES YOU TO THE  
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THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES**

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For more information contact:

Evelyn J. White, Registrar

RFD 2 Box 980

Auburn, Maine 04210

Phone: (207) 345-9532

## 1989 AWARDS TO JAPANESE IRISES

### AIS AWARDS

The following information has been received from Ken Waite, AIS Awards Chairman.

#### PAYNE AWARD

votes

24 BLUEBERRY RIMMED (C. McEwen)

runnersup

15 WINE RUFFLES (W. Ackerman)

14 ANYTUS (S. Innerst)

#### HONORABLE MENTION (JI)

votes

27 LILAC PEAKS (A. Vogt)

20 PINK DIMITY (L. Reid)

17 LASTING PLEASURE (W. Ackerman)

16 EVENING TIDE (W. Ackerman)

16 LACE RUFF (W. Ackerman)

16 SKY AND MIST (W. Ackerman)

13 LAVENDER KRINKLE (W. Ackerman)

11 IMMACULATE WHITE (C. McEwen)

11 SPRINGTIME SNOW (L. Reid)

10 CAPRICIAN CHIMES (Marx/D. Rogers)

10 ORIENTAL ROYALTY (C. McEwen)

#### HIGH COMMENDATION (JI)

ACKERMAN, W.

6 votes A3-10-111

5 votes A6-3

BAUER/COBLE

5 votes J82A-25

AITKEN, T.

6 votes 83J-1-12

INNERST, S.

5 votes 1532-2

#### AWARDS FROM SJI CONVENTION, MANASSAS, VA.

There were a total of 99 ballots cast in each catagory.

#### FAVORITE GUEST IRIS

2nd runner-up with 6 votes,

A3-10-111 (W. Ackerman)

1st runner-up with 12 votes

KALAMAZOO (A. Hazzard)

Winner with 47 votes

JAPANESE PINWHEEL (C. McEwen)



## FAVORITE GARDEN IRIS

2nd runner-up, tied with 6 votes each  
ENDURING PINK FROST  
DANCING WAVES

1st runner-up, tied with 7 votes each  
GAY GALLANT  
OCEAN MIST

Winner, tied with 8 votes each  
TAGA-SODE  
HEGIRA

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EXCERPT FROM:  
ELLA PORTER McKINNEY'S  
IRIS IN THE LITTLE GARDEN (Boston, 1927)

Submitted by Clarence Mahan

### JAPANESE IRISES---LATE JUNE TO JULY

No single phrase so aptly describes the attraction of the irises we call Japanese as Reginald Farrer's "insolence of beauty." Often I ask exclaiming visitors, "Just why do you admire the Japanese irises?" and the reply is invariably, "Because they are so stunning." Sheer size and fine color give to the flower a touch of compelling arrogance which replaces the fragrance and the response to light and shadow and the exquisite form that endear to us other types of the iris.

The bloom comes in late June and July, when the days are long and hot. The great floppy petals of the singles are in accord with the languor of the season, and the broad flat doubles, on slim stalks in ranked file, are superb offerings carried aloft in the procession celebrating summer. They dominate the garden in their season.

Lovers of Wedgwood will find the blues and violets of this fine porcelain echoed in these irises, and there are lilac-pinks that image treasured remnants from the cupboards of our grandmothers. There are cool, clear whites and whites of softest ivory marked in gold. There are pale clarets and deep wines velvety and black-shadowed. There are sometimes delicately lined and misted flowers of great beauty and some of lively vivacity.

Through centuries of patient skill concentrated on the wild Iris kaempferi, with small red-purple flowers, the Japanese have produced results that are truly amazing. They have left no records and we cannot know whether other species entered into the remarkable types which have come to our Western gardens. The first plant flowered in Europe in 1857. Both I. setosa and I. lavigata grow wild in Japan, but seedlings from our garden plants show only I. kaempferi blood.

## CULTIVATION AND SITUATION

Beautiful prints of elaborately coiffed Japanese women in gay kimonos, standing under wide sunsades on tiny bridges, with sweeps of iris blooming riotously in shallow water, are responsible for the widely disseminated idea that Japanese irises, to flourish, must dabble their toes in water.

The sunshades and the isolation of the iris from other plants in near association are valuable cultural hints in these exquisite prints, but the "toes in water" is a false suggestion. It is the habit of the Japanese to flood the iris plantings at the budding and blooming stage, but at other times of the year the ground is comparatively dry. Sun they must have to flower, but it is not necessary for the entire day. I have them blooming well in full sun, in only morning sun, and in sun from about eleven until three. In all these plantings isolation is given. There is no attempt at succeeding pictures. The handsome foliage throughout the season suffices. No planting of these irises should ever be made where water stands in the winter. This is fatal.

## SOIL AND FERTILIZATION

Those who read and reread Mrs. C. W. Earle's Potpurri from a Surrey Garden will recall her boast of "the finest, largest flowers I have ever seen in England" from her I. kaempferi. "We have in the hole Japanese primulas and Japanese iris, though they do not flower as well as in the dry bed above, which is the hottest, dryest, most sunny place in the garden; and the only attention they get, after being planted in good leaf mould, is some copious waterings when the flower buds are formed."

Soil leaning to heavy rather than sandy, full of moisture-holding material,--leaf mould, well-decayed manure, or garden compost,--is essential to success both in beauty of foliage and in bloom. If these are given, with normal seasons of rainfall watering is not necessary, though of course appreciated. I have had wonderful bloom from plants simply cultivated in a vegetable garden plot. The soil was in fine tilth, and the rains sufficient. A mulch of granulated peat moss is advised, and would, I think be excellent, though I have not tried it.

It must be kept distinctly in mind that the Japanese iris is not a lime-loving plant--not a "calciphil," to borrow a musical descriptive word from the botanists. It does not, in robust plants, pine away if the wind carries a powder of lime to it from other operations in the garden, but none should be incorporated in the soil. Small plants are very susceptible. This spring a treasured small plant pined. I suspected the cause in the liming of soil for some legumes near by. It was lifted and placed in a pot filled with a mixture rich in leaf mould and free from lime. The response was immediate. Large and established plants in the same row showed no discomfort, though they must have been exposed to identical conditions.



## PLANTING: TIME AND METHOD

Growers generally advise either very early spring or late summer and early autumn planting for I. kaempferi. If freshly propagated plants full of active rootlets can be procured early and from nearby, spring planting is satisfactory. If roots are shipped from a distance, or are from divisions of old clumps, spring planting will be attended with much loss. My own experience leads me to prefer late August and early September. I have planted just as the flowers were fading, in late June or early July, with no loss, but there was no bloom the succeeding year. Late August and September plantings never fail to give some bloom, however sharply divided, and none fail to grow, though shipped from considerable distances. In one's own garden, of course, liberties may be taken and plants shifted around at any time, if care in watering is used.

Place the crowns two inches below the surface. Examination of I. kaempferi plants will show that new roots push out from the backs of the fans or leaves. If the plant is placed with its crown at the surface, as we do for the Pogoniris, the first heavy rain will wash the soil away and the new roots will have to make flying buttresses of themselves if they get anchorage. This is too much to ask of them. The rhizome is slender, the fibrous roots are numerous. For convenience in planting, shorten the roots to five or six inches. Do not double into a shallow trench, as even good gardeners sometimes do, but spread the roots as much as possible, firming them well into the ground. If the weather is showery, every plant will grow like a weed. If there is a prolonged drought and there is much planting to do, it is better to wait for rains, to save labor. I have a record of plants shipped a journey of two days and planted October 25, that bloomed -- not at full height -- the following season.

## PROPAGATION

(a) **By division.** - A clump of four years' growth will furnish an astonishing number of plants. Strong hands will be needed to start the operation. I find great pleasure in dividing a favorite sort in late August - the Scotch in me delighting in the muckle of beauty to come from the mickles of roots that will be the outcome of the work. Though it is a general practice to cut through these crowns, I never do it. It seems a needlessly cruel practice, and I doubt if time is gained. After my helper's strong hands, working first one way then the other, back and forth with a little persistent patience, have started the mass, it begins to fall apart easily enough into natural divisions. Seated on a camp stool, with a stout khaki or rubber-cloth apron over the lap, there is no operation of the garden more delightful. Of course, the gloves must be good strong ones. We do not usually shorten the foliage until the division is finished; then it is cut back to five or six inches. Replanting must be done at once, or else the plants should be protected from drying out. The strong rhizomes of the Pogoniris may stay out of the ground to make time for other insistent operations, but not so the Apogons. If rapid increase of the variety is wanted, divide into single fans; if display, into three or more; but all the old and lifeless root-material should be cut away.



Eighteen inches to two feet or more apart is not too much for planting where a massed effect is desired, with the plants to remain in position for four or five years. Accent plantings in a border may be made of three to five roots of a kind, spaced eight to ten inches apart with fans pointing outward.

An effective maintenance of established clumps is obtained by taking off from the sides large pieces and filling the holes with the richest compost. This operation is best carried out at the end of summer, when the pieces removed may be divided and reset in new place. We insert the fork, which must be a strong one, with back to the centre of the clump, prying downward and outward, then from the front of the piece to be taken off, repeating until finally headway is made. It is an operation that taxes the strength of the strongest man, and no woman, however ambitious to do her own gardening, should attempt to divide and old clump of Japanese or of Siberian iris if there is a stronger hand and back to be called to the task.

(b) By seeds.---A great deal of pleasure may be had from sowing the seeds of Japanese iris. The results are often delightful, and it has been said by Mr. Dykes that those originating from home seed are more adaptable to home conditions. If the seeds are sown as soon as ripe, the germination will be very good the following spring. Choose a sunny spot out of doors in rich, unlimed soil. October is a good month in which to sow. Make drills an inch deep and four inches apart -- or even less, if the plants are moved early from the seed bed. Sow thinly, Cover and press down well. I always ring such beds around with small stones which say to all, including myself, "Keep off!" After freezing, cover the bed with leaves held down by brush, both to retard the germination if, by chance, the winter has long mild thaws, and to keep the seeds from heaving too much. Uncover with the approach of settled weather. The little spears, looking like grass, will appear in this (New Jersey) climate in early May. The rows help the inexperienced eye to tell which is grass. Transplant in August to nursery rows, ten to twelve inches apart in the row. Keep watered and weeded until established. A mulch of granulated peat moss will save work both in watering and weeding, beside giving to the soil a degree of acidity much liked by the iris.

#### WINTER CARE

I cannot emphasize too strongly the necessity for mulching first-year plantings. Established plants protect themselves with the heavy foliage, but young plants, left naked where heavy and long-continuing snows are uncertain, will be heaved out of the ground. This means certain death for all Apogon iris. I. kaempferi is one iris to which a winter mulch of stable manure may be given. I never use this, because its price in the part of the world where I live is that of emeralds, and also because I have a great abundance of oak leaves, which make wonderful winter mulches by reason of their thick texture and resistance to packing. These must be held down by branches.

## PESTS AND DISEASES

The only pest that I know is the iris borer. Allowed headway, this works great havoc among the small crowns. No disease has ever attacked an I. kaempferi to my knowledge. Injury from corn borers is reported. These leave easily observed traces and should be dug out of the stalks at once. The rose chafer has great fondness for the light colors. I wish I knew a remedy for this despoiler of beauty.

## SELECTION OF VARIETIES

Though the nomenclature of these irises is much mixed, -- the same name given to different plants and the reverse, -- very beautiful varieties may be obtained. Mention must be made here of the fine work undertaken by Dr. G. M. Reed of the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens, New York, in making a study of all commercial forms obtainable, with the object of clearing nomenclature and also of determining the best garden forms with relation to habit, time of blooming, color, and so forth, with notes on culture. The bulletin which we hope may come from this work will be a valued garden reference.

Garden selections are happiest when made from the soft and clear colors. Dancing tigers and those with the rings, streaks, and stipes of Jacob's cattle, or the mottlings of Joseph's coat, belong in curio collections, not in the garden picture.

The list given below is not long, but each variety has been grown in my own garden, or has been under observation and approval in the gardens of friends who are discriminating.

**Kamata** is my favorite Japanese iris. The bloom is not large, but so blue! -- the blue of fresh cornflowers on first opening, and flax-blue as it gives its color to the day. The three lower petals are lined slightly with the ivory reverse; the small standards match in blue, as do the crests of the ivory styloid petals. It grows to thirty or thirty-six inches and usually gives on each stem four flowers, which are of good substance. It should be planted near a pathway; the precious blue quality is somewhat lost in the distance.

I have made a detailed description of this variety, because before me, in one of our foremost general catalogues, it is described; "beautifully mottled white and purple; 6 petals." In the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens, where they grow Japanese irises so beautifully, **Kamata** coincides with my description.

**Azure:** a six-petaled soft mauve-blue of great beauty.

**Amethyst:** three large petals of lavender.

**Norma:** tall, fine, pale lilac-pink "self." Double.

**Morning Mists;** a large three-petaled white, thick crepe-like surface, dusted across by pale blue.

**Gold Bound:** a fine and well-known double white.

**Violet Beauty:** tall, single, large-petaled true violet of crepe-like texture with conspicuous yellow centre. Dr. Reed of the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens considers this the finest violet in the whole collection grown there.

**Nightfall:** not very tall, rich red-purple, shadowed in almost black velvet. Indescribably rich in color, and delightful as a foil near some of the pale pink or orchid sorts.

**Pink Progress:** lilac-pink, similar to **Norma** in color, but single.

**Ondine:** beautiful. White in effect, and perhaps more easily obtained than **Morning Mists**, which it resembles.

**Quakeress:** an old variety in deep pink-mauve with sky-blue halo. This is highly thought of by Mrs. Cleveland.

**Kuro-Kumo:** a deep purple, overlaid with blue, and valuable for its late bloom. Double.

**First Frost:** earliest to bloom. Single white.

**Identification.** -- Often in amateur flower shows the classification committees make the error of admitting small-flowered I. kaempferi as Siberian iris. The size of flower is not the determining distinction, but the midrib of the foliage, which is heavy in all Japanese irises, and not pronounced in the Siberian irises.

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**Editor's Note:** The above article should be of interest to historical iris, or iris history buffs. In reading it, one needs to keep in mind that it was published 62 years ago. No, the name I. kaempferi is not back in use for Japanese irises, the editor simply left the article in-tact as originally written. It is curious to note, in spite of all that has been written about Japanese irises since this article was first published, how little has really changed. The cultural information for the most part is still good. Even one or two of the recommended varieties might still appear on such a list, but today we have so much larger a list from which to choose.

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#### REVISED BYLAWS AVAILABLE

The SJI Bylaws have been revised according to the amendments passed at the meeting in Memphis last spring. Copies of the complete revised Bylaws are being sent to all SJI Board members. Anyone else wishing to receive a copy may do so by contacting the Editor of "The Review" -- address at front of this issue.



## JAPANESE IRIS CONVENTION

Ruth Wilder

The Society for Japanese Iris Convention for 1989 was sponsored jointly by Chesapeake and Potomac Iris Society and the Francis Scott Key Iris Society and was held June 16 and 17 with headquarters at the Holiday Inn in Manassas, Virginia. Approximately one hundred thirty two members attended with twelve regions being represented.

The weekend began with a Beardless iris show held at the Holiday Inn. Several Siberians and Spurias were exhibited as well as a nice selection of Japanese iris. Rose Queen was selected as Queen and was exhibited by Richard Sparling. Since the show was in the motel and open from one until seven o'clock, it gave us late arrivals an opportunity to view the show before we were to attend the buffet dinner and judges training.

Judges training was led by John Coble of Galesburg, Michigan and was a lively session with much participation from the class.

Despite an early morning rain we were ready to load the buses at seven thirty on Saturday morning. This was after a full breakfast served at the Holiday Inn. The rain had not dampened anyone's spirits. Three buses were loaded and we made our way to the home of Mike and Diana Nicholls. This lovely place is located some eight miles from Manassas. Mike and Diana were right on hand to greet us as we entered the garden. Think of lush green grass, a background of trees and beds of perennials and you will get the idea of just what we viewed as we started toward the rear and the iris beds. A bed of larkspur and flax caught my eye as we started back.

Other types of irises were grown in addition to the Japanese, but Japanese bloom was quite evident. Beds were spaced to make easy viewing for the crowd that descended all at one time. The seedling bed created a lot of interest as did the named varieties. Some of the seedling numbers that I jotted down were Ackerman's A2-53, a white with purple veining; A6-3, a lavender from the pink side with dark purple around the signal; SH 30, Hirao, which was a large white that really stood out; Anna Mae Miller's 79-40-8 received a lot of attention. This is one of the bluest I have seen and is now named MICHIO. Donald Spoon's DMS 86-2 a white with purple standards and purple veining was also very nice. A 45-44 named JOY PETERS (Ackerman 1990) was one that I really liked. This is a lavender fading to a pinkish lavender. There were many more nice seedlings here--one could spend the whole day and write something nice about each one of them.

Some of the named varieties that I added to my ever growing want list are DANCING WAVES (this clump had fourteen bloom stalks) an oldie by Payne that was a violet to purple; GARNET ROYALTY, a deep maroon with a gold signal, by Lorena Reid; ORIENTAL EYES, by Adolph Vogt is a must have. This iris has a pale violet base with purple halo effect around the yellow

signal. KALAMAZOO was also performing well here. EDGE OF FROST is a fairly new one that I really liked. This one was a deep violet with an almost white pencil line edge. Here again, if I could write down all that I liked it would take the whole article.

I am sure that it takes a joint effort to maintain this garden but I am told that Diana is responsible for all of the perennial beds. When asked just what kind of fertilizer was used, I found out that horse manure with sawdust predominates.

Our next stop was across country to "Draycott" the home of the Warner's, Andy and Carol. This lovely nine acre hillside garden is located in northern Baltimore County, MD. Busses were backed in and up the hill so we did not have to do all that climbing.

As we entered, the rock garden at the front of the house met with interest. Dwarf evergreens, some iris (not blooming) and other suitable rock garden plants made up this area. The fish pond near the woods at the back of the house also created a lot of interest. Carol's irises are planted near the swimming pool and the guest irises were lined out in the back part of the vegetable garden. Here, again, this made for easy viewing. I was particularly interested in a group of English irises of mixed colors. Since I have tried these several times unsuccessfully, it was nice to see some in bloom.

In the guest area Ackerman's A6-3 was again performing well. Although it was not a guest listed in our convention guide, I really liked a white seedling by Lineberger. This one was performing well with many bloomstalks. Bauer-Coble's J83F-5, a dark purple really caught my eye. DARK ENCHANTMENT (Ackerman) a purple blending to a violet blue at the edge; LING, ONE OF Jill Copeland's that is white with yellow styles, and KALAMAZOO were also added to my growing list.

Lunch was at the Warner's. Before we departed we had an opportunity to see the iris stained glass windows at the front entrance.

On our way from the Warner garden to Washington and Georgetown University we had a mini sightseeing tour of Washington, D.C. I, for one had not been to Washington except to pass through, so it was an unexpected treat to see Constitution Avenue.

At Georgetown University the gardens were laid out to appear as if they were designed in 1841 by a Jesuit Priest. The beds and borders are most interesting. Beds are raised with borders of cobblestone and bricks. Statuary are very evident in the garden. Annuals and perennials were very colorful. We were told that the garden is dominated by the iris collection, numbering over 1,000 varieties, including species, dwarf and tall bearded, as well as the beardless irises, especially Japanese iris from the breeding program of Dr. William Ackerman and Dr. D. M. Spoon, the curator of these gardens. This is a two and one half acre garden that is bordered by national parkland as a green oasis where one can escape to relax. It is a place that I would like to visit frequently to see the different flowers in bloom.

Spoon's DMS A-5, a mottled purple and white, DMS 86-7, a white with purple lines; Miller's MICHIO, were ones that I liked best. JAPANESE PINWHEEL, a dark purple and white, and LITTLE SNOWMAN, a white, were added to my want list. It was in this garden that I think I saw Miller's ROSE FRAPPE. There were so many nice ones that I didn't write down--now I wish that I had.

Our next stop was "The Iris Pond", the home and garden of Clarence and Suky Mahan in McLean, Virginia. This garden is terraced and all areas are well utilized. Bearded irises, Louisiana, Spurias, Siberians, Species--you name it and it will probably be found growing in one of the beds. At the top of the garden is an artificial pool alive with fish, tadpoles, and some frogs jumping among the water lilies. Stone lanterns, a garden Buddha, and a ceramic "tanuki" from Japan greet you in this garden.

Although there were no guest irises here, there was an almost complete set of Payne Award winners, and some Japanese imports that are not grown elsewhere in this country. There were also a lot of perennials in this garden. What a day! Time to return to the motel and rest a minute or two before going to the Awards Banquet and Auction.

What are my thoughts on this convention? The whole convention was well planned and well organized timewise. Carol Warner should be given a lot of thanks for a job well done. The whole convention committee is due a lot of credit. This committee included Diana Nicholls as co-chairman; Mike and Ann Lowe, who kept the registrations; Dick Sparling, show chairman; Rosalie Figge, bus captain; Nancy Schumann, treasurer; Doris Simpson, who did the cover design for the book; Mike Lowe, who made the nice name tags. Carol also did the program book and Diana handled all the guest irises. If you really want to make some money at an auction get Clarence Mahan for the auctioneer and hold on to your checkbook.

The whole week end was great--the accommadations were very satisfactory, the food was all very good, and I enjoyed every bit of it. Thank you for hosting this convention.

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**BEARDLESS IRIS SHOW**  
**June 16, 1989**  
**MY GENERAL IMPRESSIONS**

**Lois Rose, Partlos, Virginia**

I don't grow many Japanese irises, but I want to expand, so I took off for the beardless show held in conjunction with the Society for Japanese Irises Annual national Convention in Manassas, Virginia, in hopes of seeing a few for my "want list".

I went expecting to be disappointed. Organizers in the Chesapeake and Potomac and Francis Scott Key Iris Societies farther north had told those of us a bit farther south to bring any beardless irises we had to the show, as their season was running so late they weren't sure they'd have anything. So off I went with three rain battered, heat wilted blooms from my garden -- the best I had -- arriving at the Holiday Inn shortly before the deadline for entering. Having learned from a slightly embarrassing experience at my first TB show, however, I ran in to case the joint first. One peek in the room where the show was being staged and all thought of entering my poor bedraggled blooms flew my mind. They weren't needed. (They became part of a display at the registration table in the lobby.)

The form -- and height! -- of the flowers was different, but that show rivaled any spring show I had attended. Making a want list here would be no problem. The problem -- once the judges finished an hour late due to the number of entries -- was seeing the flowers through the crowd. A little patience paid off and the wait was worth it.

To start with, the staging was most attractive. White linen tablecloths and uniform containers made of various sized PVC pipe set in wooden bases set off the already lovely flowers on tables around three sides of the long room. Down the center were tables containing two large arrangements -- for display only -- and the Queen's Table. A nicely done educational display explaining the culture and types of beardless iris greeted visitors just inside the door. A table of refreshments courtesy of the Fredericksburg-Richmond Iris Society provided the finishing touch.

My attention went first to the Queen's Table. Delicate and lovely as always, good old ROSE QUEEN, exhibited by Dick Sparling, won Queen of the Show. Runners-up were PRAIRIE GLORY, exhibited by Don Delmez, and THE GREAT MOGUL, exhibited by Clarence Mahan. I was impressed by the fact that Don had transported PRAIRIE GLORY (and several other entries in the show) all the way from St. Charles, Missouri! I was equally impressed by the sheer height and width of THE GREAT MOGUL. Aptly named! Best seedling in show was William Ackerman's ACK-COMMODATE, a gorgeous deep violet six petal bloom with a narrow white edge around each petal. And you had to like the name.

As the crowd thinned I slowly worked my way around the exhibits -- several times. I have to admit I had one complaint: if Japanese irises are going to insist on growing this tall, then one to two feet should have been sawed off the legs of the exhibit tables, or the containers should simply be placed on the floor, so the flowers are viewed as they are in the garden -- from above. But, in spite of having to stand on tip toes and stretch my neck to study the blooms, my want list grew rapidly. I found I had a preference for the simpler, more tailored three-petal blooms. ENDURING PINK FROST, a white with pink styles was quite lovely, as was the small, delicate GASAN NO TAKARA, also a white with a violet edge. EVENING TIDE was quite different in form -- one of the "rabbit ears" varieties, I was told -- with standards medium purple and falls washed with light purple. The three petals of TIME AND TIDE were so wide that at first I mistook it for a six petal variety. This one was silver in appearance, with purple veining and a narrow purple edge. PRAIRIE COQUETTE was a striking white with purple veining, deep purple style arms, and a yellow signal. YAMATAIKOKU was by far the blackest entry. Of the six petal varieties that caught my eye, I think WINGS AFLUTTER was my favorite. This white flower with a wide violet edge was aptly named, as it looked just like wings aflutter. ANYTUS was a pure white with fantastic substance. CRYSTAL HALO was a gorgeous purple with a white edge. Several varieties with some shade of purple veining on a white ground appealed to me -- SEA OF AMETHYST with its amethyst veining, LASTING PLEASURE veined violet, JAPANESE SANDMAN veined purple, and PRAIRIE EDGE, veined violet with a violet edge, to name a few. The list could go on and on.

And then, since this was a beardless show, there were a few things other than Japanese iris to drool over. RIPE WHEAT, a brown spuria with a gold signal is starred and underlined on my want list! The pink Louisiana used in the one arrangement, which I was told was BRYCE LEIGH is also a must.

But want lists and articles must both end sometime. So off I will go again, extensive want list in hand, to find sources for these lovely iris.

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**JAPANESE PINWHEEL**  
McEwen '88

Winner of  
Favorite Guest Iris  
at Manassas Convention  
as seen in  
Spoon Garden.

Photo by  
Anna Mae Miller

## 1989 CONVENTION REPORTS

### **THE SHOW --- John Coble.**

At 7:00 a.m., June 15th, the TODAY SHOW news had headlines of a near-tornado, 60 mph winds, torrential rains and hail in Washington, D.C. There must be an iris show there the next day! Let's go! We did!

We expected to see a small show with less than ideal flower condition. So why would it take the judges so long to judge the show? When the doors opened and the waiting crowd entered the display room, it was wall to wall blooms. It was one of the largest shows of Japanese iris that I had seen. Crowded tables with big, tall stalks and huge, well grown blooms. A few blooms exhibited heroic battle scars of the storm, but the overall good condition and cultural perfection brought beams of anticipation of what we would see the following day on the garden tours.

The show was a huge success. Club members throughout the Region helped exhibit blooms to make it a success. The Siberian iris brought from the "Northern States", were admitted, and added some diversity. Always a welcome sight was a crowded table of excellent seedlings exhibiting so much potential and promise for the future -- watch for the Jan. AIS BULLETIN which will list the many EC's voted at this show.

Congratulations C & P and FSK Iris Societies!

### **NICHOLLS GARDEN --- Claire Honkanen**

As we settled in for our bus ride to the first garden on our schedule, we were concerned about the overcast sky and threatening showers. On arriving at the Nicholls' garden, however, we immediately forgot this possibility and proceeded to concentrate on the beauty awaiting us.

This garden is truly one that needs to be seen to be really appreciated! I am very grateful to have had that opportunity.

Upon arrival we were graciously greeted by Diana and Michael Nicholls. Their obvious sense of pride in their gardening expertise is well-deserved.

Most of us headed for the iris beds first and there were many ready for us to enjoy in this spectacular setting. After looking intently and admiringly a while, I looked up and around to enjoy just being where I was at that moment. A group of evergreen conifers standing and swaying gently, yet majestically, were quite impressive. The garden is enclosed by wooded area. Beautiful trees and shrubs casting their shadow or perhaps protecting this area. My eye was also drawn to a large number of fruit trees as well as blueberries and strawberries growing nearby. It was easy to envision the edible treats soon to be available here. The perennials and flowering shrubs also were showing off their unique beauty.





Above: Back yard of Nicholls Garden w/iris beds as seen from entrance.

Below left: Diana & Mike Nicholls in their garden,

Below right: They grow "em big" in the Nicholls Garden

Photos by L. Welsh





Above: Side yard of Warner Garden.

Right: Don Delmez talks w/ Carol & Andy Warner in the Warner Garden.

Below: Guest plantings in back yard of Warner Garden.

Photos by L. Welsh





The horticultural practices of the Nicholls are impressive. The neat garden beds and profuse, insect-free, foliage so lush and green made one ask for their formula. Diana remarked that their soil is naturally acid, and she has it treated before planting. She provides the necessary nutrient balance and uses a horse manure and sawdust mixture (readily available to her at minimal expense). She undertakes all the garden maintenance and Michael does the extensive mowing and other care.

The guest iris beds and a number of seedlings naturally drew the most attention. Some of the Japanese iris particularly drawing my notice were: JAPANESE SANDMAN, FLYING TIGER, ORIENTAL EYES, KALAMAZOO, MAMMOTH MARVEL, HEGIRA, OCEAN MIST, and especially an Anna Mae Miller seedling which she had named "MICHIO". Other seedlings of Hirao and Ackerman caught my eye as well.

Needless to say, our visit in this garden was all too short and we hated hearing the whistle telling us it was time to move on to other special gardens.

#### CAROL WARNER'S 'DRAYCOTT' GARDEN, Upperco, MD. --- Anna Mae Miller

I left the late season of Siberian iris bloom to fly to Washington, D.C. to attend the Japanese Iris Society Convention. It is such a privilege to visit others gardens and have the opportunity of seeing so many hybridizers efforts gathered together in one area. On Friday, we were treated to a large show of cut specimens of mostly Japanese iris, a few Siberian, Spurias and other beardless irises. But the real reason for the trip was to visit four lovely gardens in the area. We left for the garden tour at 8 A.M. on Saturday, seeing in route some of Northern Virginia and Maryland, the lovely rolling country near our nations capital.

Carol Warner's garden was the second one on tour. The site is rolling hills with a rail fence along the drive and woods on the right and an evergreen planting as background on the left. Against this Carol and Andrew have developed lovely island beds. They have planted some beautiful tree specimens: Cedrus Zedora; Japanese Umbrella Pine; Concolor, as well as Balsom and Frazier Firs. In the perennial beds she had two of the new Achilleas namely paprika and Rose Beauty. A cold front had hung over the Warner garden for several days and Carol had actually watered some of the Japanese iris with heated water hoping to force them into bloom. There was a large clump of MAMMOTH MARVEL (Marx 58) as well as KALAMAZOO (Hazzard by Bauer-Coble 89) a 3 petal single, brilliant white with contrasting dark blue-violet veins, with dark purple style arms. Dr. Ackerman's seedling A6-3 was a lovely pink. To show what the season was like there were four Siberians in bloom: ROANOKE'S CHOICE, REPRIS (Warburton), STANDING TALL (Johnson) and a white seedling of Hal Stahly's, 85/1A.





Above left: Diana Nicholls  
talks iris with  
Sterling Innerst  
in Warner Garden.

Above right: John Coble  
(left),  
talks with  
Don Spoon in  
Spoon Garden.

Left: Currier and Elizabeth  
McEwen enjoy lunch on  
pool deck steps  
in Warner Garden.

Photos by L. Welsh



Left:  
Clarence & Suky Mahan  
pose at "The Iris Pond".

Below:  
Japanese iris planting  
in the Mahan Garden.

Photos by L. Welsh





The pool edged with flat stones was planted with several waterlilies and Koi were swimming around.

The lovely luncheon was served with speed by several ladies from Carol's church and it was a real pleasure to have such lovely surroundings to enjoy good food and fine company with fellow irisians around the country.

#### THE SPOON GARDEN---Hal Stahly

Don Spoon's garden is located on the campus of Georgetown University. The bus negotiated a narrow street up a steep hill and deposited us near the observatory. Here, in a relatively small and secluded area, the garden contains a profusion of plants -- trees, shrubs, and perennial flowers. One particularly striking flower in bloom was a brilliant red crocosmia. Off to one side is a naturalized area of mature trees with shade plants growing beneath. This should be a beauty spot virtually year round.

Clearly, in mid-June the star performers are the Japanese irises. Don grows other types of irises also, but only the JIs were blooming when we were there. It was not possible to get descriptions of all of them in the time we were allotted, but I'll mention several that were in good bloom.

Clean, white LITTLE SNOWMAN (Voght) was growing taller in this area than it does elsewhere; tall or short, it is an excellent six-petal flower and seems a strong grower. Terry Aitken's seedling 83JI-4 (I believe this is CASCADE CREST, 1988) was looking good. It is a double, white with a band of light blue brushed around all petals. The style arms with much darker edging make a nice contrast.

Ann Mae Miller had the good fortune to see two of her most recent introductions doing well in this garden. ROSE FRAPPE is a single of light rosy violet color with deeper rose style arms and veining. MICHIO, which was in good bloom in another garden also, is a soft, light blue double veined white. The white style arms have yellow in the center, and this with the yellow signal gives a pleasing glow to the bloom.

An unregistered seedling from Ensata Gardens, Bauer-Coble J82A-25, was making a strong statement in this garden and elsewhere. A medium to deep red violet self, this one has great carrying power -- impact even at a distance. It seems to be a vigorous grower as well. Drawing the biggest crowd, though, was Currier McEwen's JAPANESE PINWHEEL. A vibrant but smooth deep red violet, it sports a striking white edge around all petals. This one was eventually voted favorite guest iris of the convention.

Our thanks go to Don Spoon and the other guest gardeners as well, and to all the locals who helped in producing the convention. It was a memorable experience for us, and that can be attributed to the hard work that went into preparation. We are grateful.





Above: Part of Spoon Garden  
viewed from observatory tower.

Photo by Anna Mae Miller

Below left:  
Rich Randall announces  
award winning irises  
at banquet - Convention  
Chairman Carol Warner  
seated at left.

Below right:  
President Mahan rolled  
up his sleeves to  
become auctioneer  
par excellence.

Photos by L. Welsh



## THE MAHAN GARDEN ("THE IRIS POND") -- Leland Welsh

The home of Clarence and Suky Mahan sits on a modest city lot in McLean, Virginia, just a short distance across the river from Washington D.C.. Not what you would expect for a garden that puts out a sizeable list as a commercial source for many types of irises. The house sits into a hillside, sloping down to the right as you approach.

Our first stop at driveway level was for coffee and an array of goodies, including beautiful and delightfully tasty petit fours. From there one ascended to the left, past the front entrance with a large clematis vine in full bloom, and a magnolia tree planted beneath with a collection of hostas. The path led through a narrow garden at the side of the house, filled with a variety of flowering plants, and even a few practical ones such as a tomato tucked in next to a service entrance door. At the end of this path came arrival on a lattice covered patio at the back of the house, shaded by vines. Displayed on the patio were several pots of Bonsai.

At the right of the patio the grade had been terraced. These terraced beds are the location of the bearded iris collection, most of which had been removed, making room for planting guest irises this year for the 1991 AIS convention.

Directly behind the patio was the Japanese iris collection in full bloom. It filled nearly every foot of space from patio to the pond. Stepping stones through the Japanese planting led to a footbridge over the pond, views of waterlilies, frogs and Koi, and on to a shaded area. Here was a collection of hostas, other shade loving plants, and a seat for viewing the garden more leisurely when it was not filled with bus loads of people.

Back into the Japanese planting the camera and notebook recorded several specimens. These ranged from new to old varieties, and several imports. Among them were:

KONGO SAN - by Toko-en, a 6 petaled dark violet; Enduring Pink Frost (Ackerman 85) a relatively small 3 petal white with lavender pink standards and style arms, delicate and pretty; World's Delight (Marx 51) 6 petal pale pink; TAGA SODE, a 6 petal import of bright fuchsia boldly striped white, the clump was in full bloom; GALATEA (Marx 61) 6 petal medium blue with white veins; OCEAN MIST (Marx R52) 6 petal light to medium blue with white center; FUJI (Abell 77) 6 petal white with narrow clear blue edging on all petals, received the Payne Award in 1981 but this may be the only known existing plant of it; LA FAVORITE (Childs 1923-1928) 6 petal dark purple, veined darker; and a Mahan seedling JA7-1, a 6 petal white with lavender pink edges on the white style arms.

All this and more in one small garden, combined with the hospitality of the Mahans, and then it was time to get back on the buses.

## BILL ACKERMAN'S GARDEN

John Coble

After attending the SJI Convention, and a "must do" return visit to the Nicholls garden Sunday morning, our car load drove up to Bill Ackerman's garden in Ashton, Maryland. Bob Bauer, myself, Lee Welsh and Barny Hobbs had not driven 700+ miles to pass up the opportunity to visit this hybridizer's garden.

Bill had many, many excellent seedlings on the show bench, but that could only be representative of what he must have in the garden. Boy, was that the truth! As with most hybridizers' gardens, they seldom get enough AIS judges to visit and view their seedlings. Bill was most appreciative of our interest, visit, and comments on his seedlings. We saw many distinctive seedlings; and this was just one day during his extended bloom season. We all wish we lived closer for return visits. Not only for more JI bloom, but also for more visits with this "master" gardener who has camellia and daylily seedlings that we could see--many more varieties of plants being "hybridized" were in gardens on the other side of the house that we didn't even get to see! His long lane leading from the road was lined on both sides with rows of Bradford pears--an ornamental pear developed by Bill when he worked at the USDA!

One of Bill's JI seedlings that was a guest plant on the convention tours was quite notable, A310-111: 7-9 falls, white with purple veins. Popular with many attendees as it was 2nd runner-up for the "best guest" iris. **LASTING PLEASURE** (Ackerman 85) was blooming nicely on the tour and in several beds in Bill's garden. It drew our attention whenever seen; a crisp 6 fall white with red-purple veins and multiple red-purple styles, each flashing white crests. Bill's house is surrounded by several gardens of row-plantings of Japanese iris and daylilies. His space is limited and the gardens are mainly planted with seedlings and a few named varieties.

On the seedling show bench we had made notes on the following Ackerman seedlings (Named or numbered):

A4-2-123 (Ack-Scent Pink): 6 fall pink - Wow!

A4-3-148 (Ack-Commodate): 6 fall purple w/ white edges; 2 branches.

A4-10-32: 3 fall huge white w/ red halo & veins; red stds & styles.

A3-6-42: 3 fall pink. Wide, touching to overlapping falls.

A4-7-31; 6 fall dark pink.

At Bill's garden we noted or photographed the following:

A3-5-90: A huge, 3 fall, blue-purple like **The Great Mogul**!

A3-6-42: 3 fall pink; just as nice as on the show bench.

A4-3-55: Very nice 6 fall white w/ blue veins and styles.

A4-3-69: 6 fall bright blue. Maybe better than **Le Cordon Bleu**?

A4-3-148: (Ack-Commodate) 6 fall red-purple with white edges.

A4-2-123: Ack-Scent Pink; Just as nice in the garden as on the bench.

A4-6-122: 3 fall white: Stds. white w/ lav-pink wire rim.

A4-6-123: Watch for this one! 3F white: Stds. w/ purple wire rims.



A4-7-90: Very blue multi-petal with true blue halo.  
A4-8-22: 6F lavender with slight white halo.  
Ack-Countable: 6F white with red splashing.  
A4-2-121 (Ack-Scent Red): 6F dark rose. Nice.

Thank you Bill. The only way that we could have had a better time, would have been another hour of sunlight and one more roll of film!

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## WONDERFUL MEMORIES AND A LITTLE MORE

Diana Nicholls

A look back at the 1989 National Convention for The Society for Japanese Irises leaves me with wonderful memories. The Japanese iris were just magnificent. I do sincerely thank all the hybridizers who participated in the convention for sending some of their most recent work. The blooms were very much admired by all who came to see them. Another wonderful part of the convention was renewing old friendships and making new friendships.

Many of the hybridizers that sent guest plants also came for the convention and saw their JIs in bloom. In addition to your own notes, the notes of friends, comments from other judges and all the rolls of film shot in the garden, I thought a little more feedback on what the JIs were doing weeks later in Nicholls Gardens would be of interest to you. **OL MAN RIVER** put up one super stalk--three branches and just kept on blooming. I was particularly watching one guest JI when I noticed it had sent up four additional stalks. I was real excited about the possibility of having a repeater. Then I looked around the garden and discovered that many of the guest JIs were sending up repeat stalks. **LITTLE SNOWMAN**, which isn't little; **MICHIO: EVENING TIDE: LING: ROSE FRAPPE: LACE RUFF: EDGE OF FROST: Ackerman's A47-105, A2-53 and A43-69; Bauer/Coble's J-83F-5 and J-83J-1; Kaltmanis's MK87-12 and MK87-11 and Spoon's DMS 86-5** all send up repeat bloom stalks. The longest blooming clump was **DMS86-5**. I did not note when the first bloom opened but it had many blooms open on the 10th of June when a garden club came to visit the garden. The last bloom closed on July the 19th. Most of the repeat stalks had better branching than the original stalks. Many had three branches and some had four branches. Many of my own JI's repeated also this year. Some are listed as repeaters and others are not. Today is July 20. Each day this week has seen the last bloom on several cultivars close until next year. However, **LITTLE SNOWMAN** is still going on its last bloom stalk. Kaltmanis's **MK 87-12** is on its last four branched stalk. Ackerman's **A43-69** still has two stalks going and, I believe, will be the last to finish the JI season for 1989.

Again, "thank you", to all who participated in the convention. We all had a great time.

## MY FIRST JAPANESE IRIS CONVENTION

Howard Brookins

Many of our Wisconsin Iris Society Members attend the American Iris Society national Convention every year, and we have many reports from them telling of the exciting new varieties of tall bearded iris seen at these conventions, of old friendships renewed, and slide shows showing what the future holds. I attended my third AIS convention this year, and really enjoyed myself. As some of you know, my interest in iris leans towards the beardless varieties; Siberian, Louisiana, Species, and Japanese. With others in Wisconsin only interested in bearded iris, my garden was the only one where I'd ever seen Japanese iris in bloom, and they are nothing to be proud of, as I'm still learning the "how to's", so I decided to attend this years JI convention, held in Manassas, Virginia.

The convention began on Friday, with a competitive show of Japanese and other beardless iris. What an introduction to the world of Japanese iris! I'd never seen such a collection of huge, beautiful flowers, some as large as dinner plates. The flat form of a Japanese iris is so graceful and different, compared to the tall bearded iris. They range from single "three petal" blooms, to compact blossoms with twelve petals, each type a real beauty. It was interesting to note that "Queen of Show" was taken by an older three-petal variety, an excellent pink iris. With all the beautiful specimens at the show, it's amazing something old and simple still was the best stem shown.

Following the show, judges training was offered by John Coble, one of the owners of Ensata Gardens of Michigan. John, and his partner Bob Bauer, have become experts in Japanese irises, listing nearly 200 varieties in their 1989 catalog. Then a buffet dinner was held, where everyone was able to meet people with similar interests from around the country.

On Saturday morning, busses picked us up at the hotel and we were off to visit four gardens. First stop was the garden of Diana & Mike Nicholls, and what a stop! Imagine seeing iris growing FIVE FEET TALL if you can, but that's what greeted us! Diana's secret is to mulch her Japanese iris with several inches of horse manure, mixed with the sawdust used as bedding for the horses. This was the first garden I could take pictures in without stooping over to find the flowers in the viewfinder. In fact, with the close-up lens I use for flower pictures, I had to STEP BACK in order to get the entire blossom in the viewfinder! One blossom I remember in particular, a white by Adolph Vogt, was named LITTLE SNOWMAN, and stood nearly 48" high in the garden. As Mr. Vogt was on the tour, I asked him why he named it LITTLE SNOWMAN. His reply was he had never seen it over 24" in any garden before. In addition to the various whites, there were the usual purple, red-violet, and blue solids, and many with white or colored stripes or edges.



The next garden was that of Carol Warner, another beauty with Japanese iris mixed into perennial flower beds, and spread out over several acres at the top of a steep hill. As Carol's garden was north of the DC area, bloom was just starting to open, so we were able to observe many of the earlier varieties. I was particularly interested in the use of Japanese iris in a mixed perennial bed. They make outstanding accent plants.

Following lunch at the Warner's, we returned to the DC area, and visited the Georgetown University garden of Dr. Don Spoon. The Japanese here were in their prime, with good healthy plants grown in artificial "bogs". These were raised beds, with plastic swimming pool liners used to create the conditions Japanese iris love. Again there were many great blooms, and some promising seedlings.

The last garden of the trip was the garden of Clarence and Suki Mahan in McLean, VA. Clarence puts out a complete catalog of all types of iris, so I expected a large spacious garden, and was surprised to find a city lot, with every inch of space utilized. The house sits at the top of a hill, and the side lot is terraced with raised beds for the bearded irises. Highlight of the garden was the artificial pond just behind the patio, surrounded with Japanese iris in peak bloom.

Evidently Suki has had something to do with planning this garden, as one could picture this to be the way things are planted in Japanese gardens with which she would be familiar. Every bit of space utilized. There were hundreds of bearded iris, many varieties of Siberians, and hostas everywhere, in addition to the Japanese iris garden.

The final evening was spent with a lovely dinner, followed by an auction of the newer varieties of Japanese iris, and a collection sent from Japan for the convention. If you'd like a delightful experience next summer, join me at the 1990 Japanese convention, which will be in mid July in the state of Maine. The highlight of that convention will be the garden of Dr. Currier McEwen, perhaps THE hybridizer for repeat blooming Japanese iris. If Maine is too far to travel, then join me at the 1991 JI convention in the other Portland (Oregon). A visit this July whetted my appetite for THAT convention, as I had a sneak preview of one of the gardens (Laurie's). It's amazing how well she grows Japanese iris with her pH of 5.0. Such lovely foliage, about ten shades darker than here in Wisconsin where I add lime very time I water the Japanese bed.

She still had some late bloom stalks July 20th, so I'm really looking forward to seeing her garden at peak.



FALLS, NOT PETALS -  
A PLEA REGARDING TERMS

Currier McEwen

The chief feature that governs the classification of the two major types of Japanese irises is the number of floral parts in the position of falls. It has been customary to use the term petals for them, calling those with three falls 3 petaled and those with six falls 6 petaled types. Unfortunately, this is incorrect. The standards of irises arise from the inner circle of the perianth and botanically are petals. The falls arise from the outer circle and botanically are sepals. Clearly the terms 3 and 6 petaled refer to the falls: hence, botanically the falls in the single flowers and the outer three falls in the doubles are sepals and it is the standards (and only the inner three falls in the double flowers) that are petals. Furthermore, if one uses the term petals in its common, non-botanical sense both single and double flowers have six petals. Surely we should refer to these two types as having three and six falls instead of three and six petals.

In the use of the term petals that noun has been made an adjective by adding ed. Similarly the adjectives 3 and 6 petaled could be adopted. This has an odd sound but, if used, would soon become familiar. However, one can equally well merely say and write 3 and 6 falls. In the check list and many catalogues the two types of flowers are often abbreviated as 3P and 6P. I urge that 3F and 6F be used instead.

The terms single and double are also well established to designate these two types of Japanese irises. Actually, those terms are not fully appropriate either since both types have the same number of floral parts but, at least, they do not violate botanical meaning. If used as abbreviations for single and double sets of falls they fit well.

This discussion has been concerned with the single and double types of flowers. In the case of multipetaled types I believe that term as now used is reasonable. Botanically, the extra segments are petaloids derived from the modified stamens and styles and, like the standards, are at the central area of the blossom. If one wishes to designate a multipetaled blossom by the total number of floral parts they can be described as having 9 or 12 petals (or whatever the actual number is) using petals in its common, non-botanical sense.

I am sure there will be some readers of this article who will consider my concern about these terms ridiculous and whose reaction will be that the word petals has been used for as long as any of us can remember, that everyone knows what is meant by three and six petaled so why not just leave it alone.

My answer is that that is exactly the sort of attitude that led to the use of the term Iris kaempferi for at least 50 years after it was known that it should be Iris ensata. Shuichi Hirao pointed out in a footnote in his monumental book that it was known that the name should be Iris ensata but he was using kaempferi because that term was so widely known in this country. It was not until 1985 that the Board of the Society for Japanese Irises finally took official action and adopted Iris ensata as the correct name for use by the Society.

I do not believe this issue is insignificant and I hope earnestly that you will all join me in adopting this change and use the terms singles or 3 falls, doubles or 6 falls, and multipetaled.

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### 3p AND 6P, NOW 3F AND 6F?

John Coble

We have all been using a misleading nomenclature for decades and it will be hard to switch terms and usage of new descriptions which are actually more precise. We've changed from I. kaempferi to I. ensata with enough publicity and repetition. Now, as Ben Hager writes us, "we are on a new campaign". 3P and 6P? We have no Japanese iris with three petals! All iris have at least six petals - three standards and three falls.

In the JI we have those with three small standards and three large prominent falls. Would these not be more precisely abbreviated 3F (falls)? The other type of JI have no standards and six falls (the standards having converted to falls with completely developed signals), now redundantly referred to as 6P where we suggest a more precise 6F. For the JI that produce more than six falls it is suggested we continue to refer to them as "multipetal" (7-12+ falls: 7-12+F). Currier McEwen has also accepted this "campaign" and will promote its use in the new book on Japanese Iris - out next spring. We plan to use the new, more precise symbol in our catalog next spring. Will other catalogs also use 3F, 6F and 9F?

Other iris groups are just beginning to see new "forms" appear from their hybridizers; the Siberian and Louisiana iris now have varieties with six falls and no standards. We hope that they will learn from our misuse of terms and adopt an appropriate symbol. If we all were to continue with the symbol 6P, what a dilemma for the future hybridizer that develops an iris with six standards and no falls!

We saw one Japanese iris this summer that is quite unusual. It was a bloom on GOSAN-NO-TAKARA, an import JI from Japan that translates "treasure for three to five". The plant produces blooms with 3, 4, 5, and 6 falls, and at the same time 3, 4, 5, and 6 standards, which are very small (5mm) as in I. setosa. A couple of the blooms had six falls and six standards (and six styles).

We would like to hear some feedback comments. Please drop a response to me or Lee (addresses at front of this issue).

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(Editor's note) Well folks, there you have it, two separate articles on the same subject from two of today's leading personalities in SJI. What do you think? If you have opposing viewpoints please let us hear them for the next issue.

## THE 1989 JI SHOW REPORTS

### **SUMMERVILLE, SC.---June 3rd,---Virginia Burton**

The standard Japanese Iris Show was held at the Cuthbert Community Building. First place winners in the design division were: Class 1 "Flight of Atlantis" - Mobile, Peggy Beason; Class 2 "Moonscape" - frame, Barbara Mitchum; Class 3 "I have a dream" - pedestal, Betty Black; Class 4 "Lift Off" - floor design, Glaire Honkanen; and Class 5 "Different Encounters" - double frames, Betty Black. Betty Black also won design sweepstakes.

In the JI specimen stalk division there were 10 exhibitors and 56 entries. John Wood of Mooresboro, NC. won JI Sweepstakes, JI seedling award and J. B. Hale plaque and best species award. Joe Watson of Milledgeville, GA won best specimen in the JI division with GAY GALLANT.

In the "Companion Plant to JI Division" Leora Moore won horticulture sweepstakes with 12 blue ribbons. There were 120 entries in this division.

The tour bus came to see my JI first and then on to Meadowlake Gardens where the Allgoods obtained and planted many JI imports plus there were thousands of "hems". Adolph Vogt and John Wood conducted the 2 hour judges course and did their usual good job.

### **ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI---June 3rd.**

The Beardless Iris Show was held, but the date did not coincide with JI bloom --- No JI were exhibited.

### **MANASSAS, VA.---June 16---Diana Nicholls**

This was our 4th annual beardless iris show. One hundred sixty three entries by seventeen exhibitors. Wow!!! I am so pleased to see more and more of our members growing and showing their beardless iris blooms. I saw a great many wish lists being prepared from the beautiful blooms that were brought to the show. I want to thank all the first time exhibitors for helping us to have such a nice show.

In addition to Japanese iris, we had Siberians, mainly from our Michigan friends, Louisianas, Spurias, Species and lots of seedlings to let us see some of the directions that hybridizing is taking. Joy Peters arranged for Mrs. L. Dow Adams and Mrs. Robert Overholtzer to do invitational artistic designs using Japanese iris. LAVENDER KRINKLE hybridized by our own Bill Ackerman was featured in one of the arrangements.

The great median man who can also do quite nicely with TBs showed us that beardless iris pose no problem for him. Dick Sparling won Queen of the Show with ROSE QUEEN. THE GREAT MOGUL and PRAIRIE GLORY were selected as two runners-up on the Queen's Table. Exhibitors were Clarence Mahan and Don Delmez. Mr. Delmez brought his stalk all the way from Missouri.



Bill Ackerman has been busy in the seedling patch again. His ACK-COMMODATE was awarded Best Seedling in the show. Those of you who came to the show saw some other very nice seedlings from Bill as well as other hybridizers. Clarence Mahan who grows wonderful show stalks took the AIS Silver Medal for most blue ribbons. Diana Nicholls had the second most blue ribbons for the AIS Bronze Medal.

Our judges were Shirley Pope from Maine, Lee Welsh from Michigan and Freda Hazzard from Virginia.

A big "Thank YOU" goes to Dick Sparling, show chairman, and his entire crew. The Fredericksburg Iris Society was responsible for the delightful goodies we all munched on during the set up and show.

From myself, a "special thank you" to each and everyone of you who brought in bloom stalks from near and far. The show was hosted by the Chesapeake and Potomac Iris Society and the Frances Scott Key Iris Society.

#### **PORTLAND, OREGON---June 17th---Terry Aitken**

This was our first time to hold the Japanese iris show at the spectacular Japanese Gardens, nestled into a ravine in the West hills of Portland. The site is about five to six hundred feet above downtown Portland, and opens up to the east with an absolutely spectacular view over Portland to the snow capped profile of Mt. Hood in the Cascade range.

Our show fit like a glove in the main Pavillion, an authentic Japanese structure. Our problem has been with table height and the tall stems of Japanese irises. This year, we left the legs of the tables folded up and set the tabletops on wooden crates so that the table top was about 16" off the floor. We use bed sheets for table covers, and these were draped and tucked under to make a very attractive base for the display. The flowers displayed this way were seen at their normal height of three to four feet off the floor. This was a very successful adaptation.

In the great room of the Pavillion, commercial displays ringed the perimeter of the room, while competition tables 'floated' in the center. Each of the three commercial growers set up a sixteen foot long display with fifty to one hundred named varieties. Another sixteen foot table was loaded to capacity with numbered seedlings, by Lorena Reid, Terry Aitken and Chad Harris.

When judging was completed (by a very full compliment of both judges and apprentices), Chad Harris carried the day. His magnificent specimen of KNIGHT IN ARMOR won best of show. As has happened before, final judging was swayed by stem and foliage, whereas several contenders displayed virtually perfect conditioned flowers. Chad also won best seedling (#85J-A-1) from among a very large field of tough contenders. This also was a magnificently grown specimen in pale lavender blue and white, displaying superior substance, wonderful six petal shape and deeply fluted and flaired petals. An inspiration indeed.

## **HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA---June 24th**

The Harrisburg East Mall was the setting for a showing of about 80 entries. Queen of the show was JAPANESE SANDMAN, exhibited by Larry Westfall. The four runners-up were HIGERA, exhibited by Larry Westfall; IPSUS, exhibited by George Bush, MIDSUMMER REVERIE and GALATA, exhibited by Harold Griffie.

Best seedling of the show was seedling number 1532-2 by Sterling Innerst and exhibited by Carol Warner.

Hope Nancarrow and Gary Mitchell were co-chairmen for the show.

## **KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN---July 1st---Leland M. Welsh**

The Southwestern Michigan Iris Society held its 15th Japanese Iris Show on Saturday, July 1st, 1989. Theme for the show was "An Oriental Fantasy", with Leland Welsh as show chairman.

Twelve exhibitors entered a total of 97 horticultural specimens, 20 seedlings, 2 educational exhibits and 23 artistic arrangements. The horticultural specimens represented a total of 78 different cultivars. In addition to Japanese irises, there were Spuria, Siberian and Louisiana irises on exhibit.

Ensata Gardens won Queen of the Show with their specimen of PRAIRIE DELIGHT. They also made a clean sweep of the Queen's Court winning all six runners-up. Needless to say, Ensata Gardens also won the Silver medal, with 24 blue ribbons. The Bronze medal went to Mr. & Mrs. Ronald F. Miller with 9 blue ribbons. The Millers also won a bronze medal certificate for sweepstakes in the Other Than Japanese Iris Cultivar Section of the show.

Seedling J82B-3 by Ensata Gardens was selected as best seedling of the show. In addition to the best seedling, 5 other seedlings were awarded Exhibition Certificates through voting by judges attending the show. They were: J86J-8 and J85B-13 by Ensata Gardens, 86-1 and 83-005 by Jill Copeland and 80-15-1 by James Copeland, Jr.

Bronze Medal Certificates were won by Sue Copeland and Anna Mae Miller for their educational exhibit entries.

In the artistic division the sweepstakes was won by Bernard Jones with 3 blue ribbons while best arrangement of the show went to Leland Welsh.

Adding considerable interest to the show was a Sogetsu Ikibana Exhibition by Sylva Wong---Assistant Director, and members of Sogetsu Michigan Branch. Mrs. Wong did two demonstrations during the afternoon of Sogetsu Ikebana which were very inspiring to watch.

## **NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS---July 2nd---Please see page 52**

## JAPANESE IRISES FREEZE TO DEATH

Shirley Pope

When I reported in the July AIS Bulletin that all was well with the Japanese irises I was wrong. To make the April 15th deadline for copy to be used in that issue I examined the gardens quickly. The Siberian irises had been sprouting for a week or so and all was well. The JIs were showing signs of green sprouts here and there and I assumed that the rest would come along later. Well, I assumed wrong. The green sprouts here and there were really all that was left. The deep ice from the cold, pelting rains and the hard, deep freeze from the lack of snow cover killed the JIs at random. Dead were some new fall transplants, some spring transplants, some 1 year clumps, some 2 year clumps, some 3 year clumps, etc.

The irises that survived were also fall transplants, spring transplants, etc., planted in the same gardens right next to their dead neighbors. The ice was just as thick and the ground was just as cold. What happened? I called Dr. McEwen to report the losses and to ask for advice. He and Elizabeth drove right over (a 95 mile round trip) to see the plants. He immediately recognized the problem. The irises froze. He also had severe losses from freezing several years ago. Probably more mulch would have prevented this damage, but, maybe not. My last heavy iris loss was in the early seventies. We had the same prolonged freezing rains. I did not grow JIs at that time, only tall bearded irises, so I can't compare the damage.

From now on the JIs will be mulched heavily to try to prevent this destruction from happening again. I feel I was lax in not mulching evenly. That's why some survived while others died. We will also do as much transplanting as possible in the spring so the plants will be securely rooted. Most of our losses were in new fall transplants.

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### EXCERPTS FROM JI ROBIN SOUTH

Edited and Submitted by Clarence Mahan

Diana Nicholls: ROSE QUEEN is such a lovely little pink. Everyone should grow it. Last year my clump was magnificent....I have added WILDERNESS SNOWBALL and WILDERNESS RUBIES....The JIs were coming up great, then two weeks ago we had four nights of low twenties, one night at 21 degrees. The tips of the JIs were growing so fast and were so tender that they froze. It makes the JI foliage a bit unsightly and makes me mad that it happened with the convention coming up. (ED: The little tip freeze that Diana experienced in no way detracted from the magnificent display conventioners saw in her garden!)



**Adolph Vogt:** This has been a good year for my JI...I registered two JI this year. A six petal lavender-pink was registered as ROSY SUNRISE and a 3 petal red one as VERMILION SUNSET. I enjoyed the Summerville JI show and tour to Meadow Brook Gardens. It sure was a beautiful place. They have increased their JI planting and all those daylilies were gorgeous.

**Ruby Buchanan:** There was one surprise among the JI seedlings. The twelve-petalled one which I gave the garden name of "Pied Piper" produced a late scape after blooming for two weeks in June---the last bloom folded July 15th....They say that Necessity is the mother of invention, and I think that Laziness must be the father thereof! The neighbor to whom I gave some of my extra JI plants a few years ago moved away last fall and left all of her JI clumps uprooted and discarded in tall grass behind her house. After I had found that she was not going to replant the irises, I collected them and put them into an 8' wading pool as they were: not separated or planted in pots. Imagine my surprise to find more scapes there than in my garden row in June.

**Shirley Paquet:** The Mike and Diana Nicholls garden was fantasyland for any grower of Japanese iris. I don't believe I have seen them grown better anywhere. And the quality of the seedlings ws just outstanding. I wanted one of everything I saw. Ackerman's JOY PETERS was so unique; it looked like a Siberian on hormones! Now, if this is "typical" of what each can do, we will have a hard time judging in the future.

**Clarence Mahan:** The kalamazoo Convention in 1988 opened my eyes to the genius of Arlie Payne, and to his great achievements (with such a small number of cultivars in his original breeding stock). He must have been gifted by God with a sixth sense for detecting the potential of individual cultivars. The stalk of LILAC GARDEN that I took to Harrisburg last year caused a minor sensation since it is so gorgeous, and not even the very experienced growers like George Bush, Bud Maltman, and Larry Westfall had seen it before---and these men all know quality in JIs.

**John Wood:** I had a nice clump of KANGAJO, an import, and it just turned brown and died. It was in with more JI's and none of the others did that. I have never experienced this before. I dug it out and found two small green spurs which I rejuvenated...I hope. (ED. All will be pleased to know that John succeeded! KANGAJO is alive and growing well now.)

**Rosalie Figge:** I tried that porous-to-water black carpet when I planted the JIs last fall---I really replanted them all---made a hole in the cloth where the iris was---hopefully leaving room for increase---and covered it all with shredded bark mulch because I hate to see that shiny stuff showing. They are coming up pretty well. I don't think I've lost any.

1988 JAPANESE IRIS  
REGISTRATIONS, INTRODUCTIONS  
& CORRECTIONS OF EARLIER REGISTRATIONS  
as taken from the  
AIS 1988 Registrations and Introductions.

JOCASTA (S. Innerst, JA, R. 1987). Name corrected from Jacasta.

ACK-CEPTANCE (W. Ackerman, R. 1988). Sdlg. D5-14-137. JA, 36" (91 cm), M. Heavily ruffled lavender (RHS 76A/B), White around yellow-green (154B) signal; white style arms with violet tip. D5-5-39 X self.

ACK-CIDENT (W. Ackerman, R. 1988). Sdlg. A3-19. JA (6-petal), 20" (51 cm), M-L. Near white ground, veined dark violet (RHS 83B), yellow-green (154A) signal; violet (83C) style arms in starlike pattern. D5-3-5 X D5-3-59.

ACK-COMMODATE (W. Ackerman, R. 1988). Sdlg. A4-3-148. JA (6-petal), 28" (71 cm), L. Lavender-purple (RHS 78B) ground, veined reddish purple (77A), narrow white rim, yellow (11A) signal; broad violet (83B) style arms with large white lip. D5-13-144 X self.

ACK-COMPLISH (W. Ackerman, R. 1988). Sdlg. A3-11-28. JA (9-11 petal), 20" (51 cm), E. Heavily ruffled violet (RHS 83C), blending to darker violet (83A) around yellow (13A) signal; 5 style arms. D4-7-67 X self.

ACK-COUNTABLE (W. Ackerman, R. 1988). Sdlg. A2-53. JA (6-petal), 42" (107 cm), M. White ground, mabled and striped violet (RHS 83B); white style arms with violet margin and lip. PD-243 X PD-132.

ACK-SCENT PINK (W. Ackerman, R. 1988). Sdlg. A4-2-123. JA (6-petal), 34" (86 cm), M. Ruffled lavender pink (RHS 73A) veining over lighter (73C) ground, lighter at edge, yellow (13A) signal; white style arms with lavender pink (73B) lip and edge. D4-3A-86: (D5-5-41 x self) X B62698, 'Miyoshino'.

ACK-SCENT RED (W. Ackerman, R. 1988). Sdlg. A4-2-121. JA (6-petal), 32" (81 cm), M. Ruffled lavender pink (RHS 76A), blending to reddish purple (77A) at edge, yellow (13A) signal; white style arms with reddish purple (77A) lip and edge. D4-3A-86: (D5-5-41 x self) X B62698, 'Miyoshino'.

CAPANEUS (S. Innerst, JA, R. 1987). Ensata Gardens 1988.

CASCADE CREST (J. T. Aitken, R. 1988). Sdlg. B3J1-4. JA, 36" (91 cm), ML. White with 1" light blue band; white style arms edged dark blue. Knight in Armor X Reign of Glory. Aitken's Salmon Creek Garden 1988.

CASCADE SPICE (L. Reid, R. 1988). Sdlg D552-2. JA (double), 36-45" (91-114 cm), M. Ruffled white, outer third to half rosy purple, inner rim of rosy purple flecking, lemon yellow signal; white style arms tipped rosy purple on crests. A116-5 (maroon sdlg. x white sdlg) X Mystic Buddha.

CHANCE BEAUTY (J. Ellis, R. 1988). Sdlg. 72/16-2. LAEV., 36" (91 cm), M. S. Pale yellow; F. yellow, veined chocolate, deep yellow signal patch. I. pseudacorus X I. ensata. AM (BIS) 1988.

CREPE PAPER (James Copeland JR., R. 1988). Sdlg. 82-1-3. JA, 34" (85 cm), M-L. Ruffled white (RHS 155C), veined and washed violet blue (93C/D), yellow (7A) signal; white (155C) style arms. Unknown parentage.

EBB AND FLOW (S. Hirao by B. Hager, R. 1988). Sdlg. #3. JA, 40" (102 cm), ML. F. (6) blue and deep lavender blend, deeper around yellow signal, lighter at edge; white style arms, light violet crests. Unknown parentage.

EDGE OF FROST (M. Dienstbach, JA, R. 1987). Redbud Lane Iris 1988.

FOURFOLD MYSTERY (C. McEwen, R. 1988). Sdlg. T3 76/35(8). JA (tetraploid), 35" (88 cm), EM-L. S. pale rose purple (RHS 75D) edged light purple violet (80/B); F. dark purple violet (80A), white area around bright yellow signal, white midline halfway to edge. Pink Mystery X T2 73/5: ((Mizukagami x "Kumorano-Kari") x unknown) x induced payne tetraploid seed).

GALA PERFORMANCE (A. Miller, R. 1988). Sdlg. 79-41-13. JA, 40" (102 cm), M-L & RE. S. white; violet styles; F. white, veined purple. 69-1 X 76-2JA-30.

GEISHA OBI (L. Rich, R. 1988). Sdlg. K70-3B. JA (double), 38" (97 cm), M. Medium fuchsia red, veined white from pale yellow signal to  $\frac{1}{2}$ " solid border; white styles, fuchsia red crests. Maddocks M65-9 X K60-7C: (Worley Pink x Leave Me Sighing).

GO GREEN (C. McEwen, R. 1988). Sdlg. T4 80/80(5). JA (single tetraploid), 36" (90 cm), EM-L. Ruffled white, green (RHS 144C) signal. T3 77/8(1): ((73/7, Hirao seed x unknown) x ((Garden Caprice x sdlg.) x ('Agiha' x 'Shikino-Hajime')) X T1 74/36B: (((Silver Frills x sdlg.) x (World's Delight x white sdlg.)) x (68/25(1), Hirao seed x Garden Caprice)).

IAPETUS (S. Innerst, JA, R. 1987). Ensata Gardens 1988.

ISABELLE (Vilmorin, JA, R. 1906). Listed as obsolete in '39 Check List.

JAPANESE PINWHEEL (C. McEwen, R. 1988). Sdlg. T3 80/97. JA (single tetraploid). 40" (102 cm). E-L & RE. S. medium wine red (darker than RHS 77A), lighter (77D) fine line edge; F. medium wine red with very distinct fine edge (lighter than 77D), medium yellow (11B) signal. T1 74/7E: ((Garden Caprice x self) x Frostbound) X T2 77/38(1): (T1 64/12 x (73/7, sdlg. from Hirao seeds x unknown)). Pope's Perennials, Seaways Gardens 1988.

JOCASTA (S. Innerst, JA, R. 1987). Ensata Gardens 1988.



JOY PETERS (W. Ackerman, R. 1988). Sdlg. A4-5-44. JA, 34" (86 cm), M. S. lavender pink (RHS 69B); near white style arms with pale purple (76B) margins and lips; F. ruffled lavender pink (69B) at edge, blending to pale purple (76B) near yellow green (154A) signal. 84(14-91); (Double Cream x B62691, 'Gosho-asobi') X B62698, 'Miyoshino'.

KATY MENDEZ (C. McEwen, R. 1988). Sdlg. JM83/121(1). JA (diploid double), 28" (70 cm), M. Medium violet (RHS 88D), veined darker violet (88A), yellow signal; dark violet blue style arms. JM80/167(19): (JM73/22, Eternal Feminine sib x unknown) X JM81/101(15): (Gekka-N-Nami x unknown).

KIMIKO (A. Miller, R. 1988). Sdlg. 67-15-2. JA, 40" (102 cm), ML. Bright purple (RHS 78A) stippled white, dark violet blue (89C) halo; violet (89B) style arms. Unknown parentage.

KINA (J. Copeland, R. 1988). Sdlg. 83-006. JA (double), 29½" (75 cm), ML. Violet (87A/81B) Blend, violet blue (89C) around yellow (7A) signal; white (155A) styles tipped violet. Sdlg. X unknown.

McKENZIE SUNSET (L. Reid, R. 1988). Sdlg. D552-5. JA (double), 36-42" (91-107 cm), M. Fluted and ruffled violet, white area around greenish gold signal with white rays extending outward; white style arms tipped violet. A116-5: (maroon sdlg. x white sdlg.) X Mystic Buddha.

MICHIO (A. Miller, R. 1988). Sdlg. 79-40-B. JA (6 petal), 36" (91 cm), M. Mid blue violet (RHS 93C), veined white, white area around yellow signal; white style arms, pale yellow in center. 76-4: (Friendly Victor x unknown) X Strut and Flourish. EC 1988.

MIDNIGHT STARS (J. T. Aitken, R. 1988). Sdlg. 82J6-2. JA, 42" (107 cm), ML. Dark red purple, bright yellow signal. Purple Parasol X Magic Ruby. EC 1987. Aitken's Salmon Creek Garden 1988.

ORIENTAL CLASSIC (C. McEwen, R. 1988). Sdlg. T4 80/80(7). JA (double tetraploid), 40" (102 cm), EM-L. White, greenish yellow (RHS 144C) signal. T3 77/8(1): ((73/7, Hirao seed x unknown) x ((Garden Caprice x sdlg.) x ('Agiha' x 'Shikino-Hajime')) X T1 74/36B: ((Silver Frills x sdlg.) x (78/25(1) x Garden Caprice)). Pope's Perennials, Seaways Gardens 1988.

PINK DACE (J. Copeland, R. 1988). Sdlg. 86-12. JA (double), 23½" (60 cm), E-M. Violet blue (RHS 92A), fading to white (155C), sanded pink, yellow signal; white style arms. Sdlg. X self.

PINK MYSTERY (C. McEwen for L. or W. Marx, R. 1988). JA (double tetraploid), 35" (88 cm), M. Pink (RHS 75B), greenish yellow signal; white styles tipped pink (75B). Unknown parentage, but probably Mata Hari X 'Karahashi'.

- POPULAR DEMAND (C. McEwen, R. 1988). Sdlg. T1 80/134. JA (single tetraploid), 30" (75 cm), M. S. violet (RHS 81C) with fine white edge; F. white with blue (88B) pinstripe veining, light yellow signal. 77/65(1): (((Garden Caprice x self) x Frostbound) x unknown) X unknown pinstriped sdgl. Pope's Perennials, Seaways Gardens 1988.
- RASPBERRY GEM (A. Miller, R. 1988). Sdlg. 78-35-4. JA (double), 40" (102 cm), M-L. Dark red violet, fading to purple violet (RHS 80B), F. veined darker, yellow signal. Kimiko X Storm and Sea.
- ROSE FRAPPE (A. Miller, R. 1988). Sdlg. 78-35-24. JA (single), 42" (107 cm), M. S. red violet (darker than RHS 80A), edged white; F. white, veined violet (83C), yellow signal; dark violet (83B) style arms tipped white. Kimiko X Storm at Sea.
- ROSE WORLD (L.Reid, R. 1988). Sdlg. A120-1. JA (double), 36-48" (91-122 cm), ML. Lightly ruffled bright red purple with small area around lemon yellow signal spears; white style arms tipped rosy orchid. World's Delight X Rose Tower.
- ROYAL BURGUNDY (C. McEwen, R. 1988). Sdlg. T4 80/62. JA (single tetraploid), 34" (86 cm), EM-L. S. dark purple (RHS 77A); purple violet (80C) styles tipped darker (80A); F. red violet (darker than 80A) with velvety sheen, rich cadmium orange (23B) signal. T3 77/8(1): ((73/7, Hirao seed x unknown) x ((Garden Caprice x sdgl.) x ('Agiha' x 'Shikino-Hajime')))) X T1 76/16P: ('Mitsu Zakura' x Simple Elegance).
- SKYROCKET BURST (S. Hirao by B. Hager, R. 1988). Sdlg. #10. JA, 37" (94 cm)l, M. S. white, edged fuchsia purple; white style arms, fuchsia purple crests; F. white, distinctly veined fuchsia purple from greenish yellow signal to wide fuchsia purple edge. Unknown parentage.
- SYLVIA'S MASQUERADE (S. Eddy by A. Miller, R. 1988). Sdlg. 5-81-1. JA (6 petal), E-L. S. light orchid pink, darker around yellow hafts, blue haze around eye; F. light orchid pink, veined darker, darker halo and bluish cast around yellow eye; white style arms tipped light orchid. Unknown parentage.
- WILDERNESS RUBIES (J. Wood, R. 1988). Sdlg. W-101-83. JA (6 petal), 20-25" (51-64 cm), M. White with almost full border of red purple (RHS 57D), golden yellow (7B) signal; feathered styles tipped red purple (57D). Unknown parentage.
- WILDERNESS SNOWBALL (J. Wood, R. 1988). Sdlg. W-101-82. JA (6 to 9 petal), 30" (76 cm), M. White (RHS 155B), yellow green (1B) signal; feathered white styles. Icy Peaks X unknown.

MINUTES OF THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Saturday, April 29, 1989 - Memphis, TN

The meeting was called to order at 9:08 pm by President Clarence Mahan. Other officers in attendance were Shirley Pope, Robert Bauer, Carol Warner, Don Delmez; Board member Jill Copeland; and Committee members Terry Aitken, Virginia Burton, John Coble, Vince Bitzer, and Claire Barr.

The Minutes of the 1988 Board meetings and the Treasurer's report were accepted as printed in The Review, Fall 1988 issue. The Treasurer reported a Savings account balance of \$14,343.98 (of which \$975 is allocated to Life Memberships) and a Checking account balance of \$887.35.

The Membership committee reported 42 new members from the US, 3 from Canada and 2 foreign. Slides Chairman Coble indicated that there have been many requests for slides, 2 from Canada. The slide sets (2) have been revised, adding many new varieties, but more slides of new varieties are needed from the hybridizers.

Clarence Mahan announced that the By-Laws revisions will be presented for approval by the membership at the JI Sectional Meeting on the next day. It was announced that the new Checklists will be available at the meeting. The price is \$4.00, the same price is asked when ordering by mail, even though the postage is \$1.05. Virginia Burton encouraged those present to vote the Popularity Poll.

Kalamazoo, Michigan requested and received permission to hold the Japanese Iris Convention in 1992. Other future sites are 1989 - Manassas, VA; 1990 - Portland, ME; 1991 - Portland, OR. The 1993 date has not been requested.

Under New Business, Carol Warner invited everyone to attend the JI Convention in Manassas, Virginia, and supplied all attendees of the AIS Convention in Memphis with invitations.

Membership Chairman Warner indicated it was a sizable task to notify members with delinquent dues. AIS does not notify of delinquency. If we do not notify, unless members notice the year code on the mailing label of their copies of The Review, they would be unaware that their fees were due. Howard Brookins offered to print cards which Warner could send to notify members of delinquent dues.

There were many favorable comments on the quality of the last issues of The Review. These issues have been larger than in the past and were considerably more costly. Treasurer Warner announced that the cost of The Review now exceeds the Society's income and funds will have to move from Savings to Checking if the cost remains high.

A discussion of the nomenclature of JI began when nursery catalogs of large mail order firms were displayed. Many of the varieties were mislabeled, translated from the Japanese language, or the names were not registered with the AIS.



Among the worst of the problems was with the yellow inter-species hybrid, Aichi-no-kagayaki. All large nurseries were displaying the proper photograph of the variety, but were supplying the species *I. pseudacorus*. President Mahan said he would write to the nurseries to point out the problem to them and suggested that everyone interested in JI write to the nursery when they see an obvious error in nomenclature.

It was pointed out that the supply of official stationery is low. President Mahan said that he would talk to Editor Lee Welsh about reprinting it; he will get the information and discuss it at the June Convention in Manassas.

Judging standards for JI, as published in the AIS Handbook for Judges and Show Officials, were discussed and it was decided that they have obvious errors and could stand revision. Jill Copeland and Currier McEwen will co-chair a committee to redraft the standards for judging JI and will present them for a discussion at the June convention.

Currier McEwen presented the Board with a brief history of the book on JI which will be published this year. Most of the information was published in his article in the spring issue of The Review. It will be a 7" x 10" format, hardcover, Smythe sewn binding, non-acid paper, published by SJI and printed by the University Press of New England. It will be approximately 224 pages, 16 pp in color of 32 pictures, 1 p in B&W, with 12 pen & ink illustrations. The dust cover will have a color photo of Tuptim from the front cover of the July 1987 Bulletin of the AIS and a frontispiece of Kamo Nursery in Japan. There will be few landscape pictures, most will illustrate colors and patterns of the flowers. The price will be \$25-30 with a first edition of 5,000 copies. Currier then passed copies of the appendix for review for possible corrections or omissions.

President Mahan discussed the business portion of the publishing of the book. The Society would be the author and the legal agreement would be between the University Press and SJI. The Press will market the book and SJI would receive royalties of 10% on net sales. SJI must subsidize \$15,000 toward publishing, with royalties amounting to as little as \$5,000. SJI could realize more return if it also retails the book. There was some objection to the high cost of the subsidy, but it was pointed out that the funds which will be used to subsidize the book were originally donated to the SJI from various auctions and groups for the publishing of the book, even if none of the money is returned through sales. It was pointed out that after the book is published, there is no need to maintain a large fund, currently \$13,400, because SJI is a non-profit organization, and the need for that money will no longer exist.

Shirley Pope moved, Joan Cooper seconded and it was unanimously passed to borrow \$5,000 from the AIS Board at 3% interest to finance the book and maintain financial security in the treasury, even though enough funds will probably be accumulated this year to publish the book without the loan. Virginia Burton moved, Joan Cooper seconded and it was unanimously passed to have President Mahan proceed with the negotiations with the University Press toward publishing the book.

The meeting was adjourned. At 3:45 pm the next day at the SJI sectional meeting, the By-Laws revisions, as published in The Review, were unanimously approved by the membership. Also at that meeting, President Mahan introduced the officers, Carol Warner and Shirley Pope invited the members to the 1989 and 1990 JI Conventions, and Currier McEwen presented a history on the book of Japanese iris which SJI is publishing.

#### Friday, June 16, 1989 - Manassas, VA

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 pm by President Clarence Mahan. Other officers and committee members in attendance were Shirley Pope, Robert Bauer, Leland Welsh, William Ackerman, Don Delmez and John Coble. A total of 18 were in attendance.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The Treasurer's report was approved which included a Savings account balance of \$19,260.59 (of which \$975 is allocated to Life Memberships and \$5,000 is on loan from the AIS Foundation) and a Checking account balance of \$1,091.96.

Stationery: Lee Welsh reported bids to print more stationery were for 500: \$73.19 and \$77.50, and for 1,000: \$107.49 and \$111.25 from Minute Man and Pip respectively. Metal printing plates from Pip would cost an additional \$50 - 60. It was decided to print 1,000 for \$107.49. It was announced that an additional supply of stationery had been found. A motion was then unanimously approved to have the stock of stationery sent to President Mahan and to let the President decide whether more should be printed.

Judging JI: John Coble reported that Jill Copeland and her committee have devised a new point scoring system for judging JI, and that he will present it at the Judges Training Session for discussion. President Mahan said that after discussing the system at the training session, he would ask Jill to send the material to the Directors for their comments before publishing it in the Fall Review. The new system will be discussed at the Board Meeting in Spring, 1990.

By-Laws: Now that the changes have been approved, it was decided to have a new complete set made. President Mahan asked Editor Welsh to do this and to provide a set to each Board member plus approximately 10 extra sets.

JI Book: A discussion was held on the contract with the University Press. It was decided that President Mahan should sign the contract if it is added that a minimum of 5,000 copies would be printed. A committee was appointed (Clarence Mahan, Don Delmez and Robert Bauer) to market the book at the pre-publishing stage and at the AIS convention in Omaha next year.

President Mahan proposed that a color slide of all new JI registrations be required by AIS, the slides to be kept by the SJI Historian. It was agreed and President Mahan will write the appropriate AIS officials.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The nominating committee is pleased to report the following people have accepted nomination as officers of the Society for Japanese Irises:

### Nominating Committee -

Ronald Miller (serving through 1991)  
6065 N. 16th Street  
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

John White (serving through 1992)  
RFD 2, Box 980  
Auburn, ME 04210

### Directors at Large -

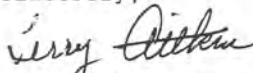
William E. Barr  
12565 Cloudesly Drive  
Rancho Bernardo,  
San Diego, CA 92128

Dr. William L. Ackerman  
P.O. Box 120  
Ashton, MD. 20861

Jill Copeland  
34165 County Rd. 652  
Mattawan, MI. 49071

If no other nominations are received, these nominees shall be considered elected.

Sincerely,



Terry Aitken, Chairman  
Jill Copeland  
Mrs. Wells E. Burton



## THE EDITOR'S "REVIEW"

Days and nights are getting chillier in Michigan. We have already had 4 hard frosts, doing in the chrysanthemums early. It's time to get the garden ready for winter, sit by the fireplace and dream of bloom seasons past and to come.

Surely the highlight of this past season was the convention in Manassas. Anyone not attending will soon realize they missed a great display of irises as they read the extensive coverage in this issue of "The Review". Now we look forward to next years meeting in Maine---irises plus a clambake!!! Sometimes I think I should have been born on the New England coast!

The full pleasure of the convention was somewhat dampened by events following our return home. Barney Hobbs, Bob Bauer, John Coble and I drove together to Virginia and I had roomed with Barney during the convention. Upon arriving back at Galesburg about 6:30 Monday evening, as Barney drove off for his home in Indiana, we had no indication of imminent disaster. It was hard to believe that he was in the hospital, in intensive care, by noon the next day. Life can be so fragile! His enthusiastic presence at our iris meetings in Region 6 is greatly missed.

A second highlight of the past bloom season was a series of trips to Ensata gardens. Each year seems to find a different variety or two taking center stage for attention. This time a magnificent clump of SEA FURY was one of the star performers. The slide collection grew considerably this year. If you have good new slides you have taken, how about submitting them to Slides Chairman John Coble for consideration as additions to the SJI slide Sets?

This issue has proved the most difficult one yet to pull together. MY thanks to reliable stalwarts, like Clarence Mahan and Currier McEwen, for last minute submissions. Upon request, when all else was failing, they submitted meaningful material to give the issue some depth of content. Please keep your articles coming, but please, please, try to remember deadlines. They have a purpose, and meeting them would make putting "The Review" together so much easier.

Best wishes,



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Last minute  
insertion.

JAPANESE IRIS SHOW -- 1989  
IRIS SOCIETY OF MASSACHUSETTS

Marty Schafer

This was ISM's second Japanese Iris Show and our experience showed! (Pardon the pun). We had more ideas, exhibitors, irises, arrangements and more visitors than the year before. We invited the New England Hosta society to join us and they presented a cut-leaf exhibition. Hundreds of leaves displayed Hosta's infinite green, blue, yellow and white variegations and combinations. The Japanese irises floated in the center of the room - displayed only on rice mats to give onlookers a normal view of their jewel-like colors and forms.

A Japanese dancer in exotic costume, an origami table, and a Hosta-Japanese iris fantasy landscape filled the room with festivity and excitement. LING was chosen Queen of the Show with MILADY'S FAN first runner-up. I was thrilled to have my seedling, J87-3-4 voted best in show and favorite iris (a popularity poll of all show goers).

The Hosta Society is gung-ho to have another show next year. ISM is going to take a year off and exhibit at the Maine JI Conventions. See you there!



Above Left:  
Arrangement by  
Jean Doucette



Above Right:  
Best Seedling in Show  
J87-3-4 Schafer/Sacks  
(Lorenzaccio x  
Royal Game).



Right:  
Exhibit by Phil Kratsch

Photos by Jan Sacks