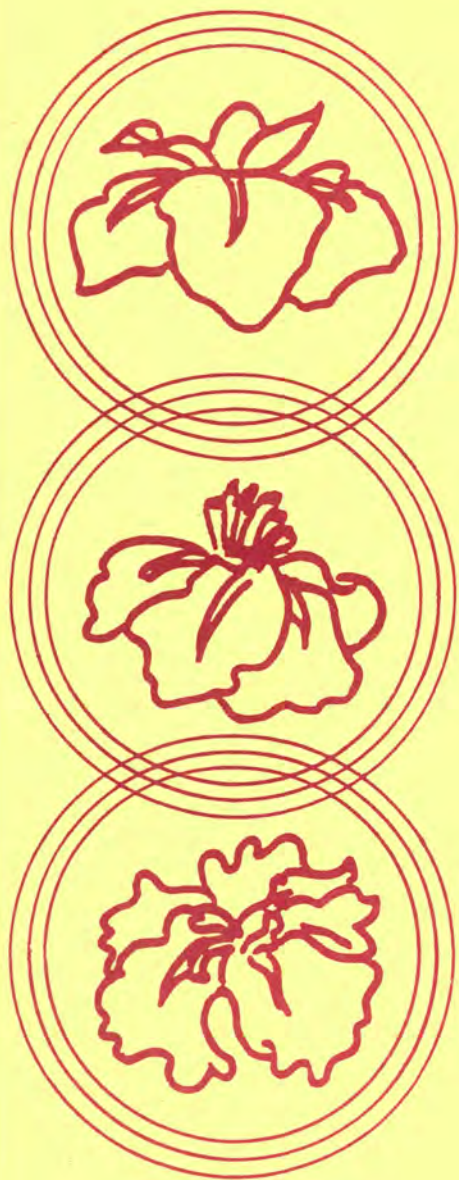


# THE REVIEW

OF THE SOCIETY  
FOR  
JAPANESE IRISES

VOLUME 28  
NUMBER 2  
FALL, 1991



THE REVIEW  
OF

VOLUME 28  
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THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES

FALL, 1991

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Awards & Registrations	Clarence Mahan See address above.	



**LILAC PEAKS**  
**Adolph Vogt - 1987**

**1991 Payne Award winner**

**photo by Richard O'Melay**

THE REVIEW  
OF

VOLUME 28  
NUMBER 2

THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES

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## 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; with earlier receipt desirable. Black and white photographs, colored prints (glossy) and black and white drawings are welcome. Reprinting---permission is granted to any other iris society publication to reprint any material in this publication with due acknowledgement.

**Dues:** Single annual, \$3.50; triennial \$9.00; life \$75.00  
Family annual, \$4.00; triennial, \$10.50; life, \$100.00  
Send either to the AIS Membership Chairman, or directly to The Society For Japanese Irises Membership Chairman.

**Renewals:** If your mailing label is marked with the expiration dates of either 9101 or 9107 this will be the last copy of "The Review" on your present membership. Please renew.

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

### Sales and

**Rental Items:** The Japanese Iris by Currier McEwen \$24.95

Back Issues of "The Review", per copy \$1.50  
Volume 1 (1964) consists of three issues,  
all subsequent volumes contain two issues  
each.

The 1988 Cumulative Checklist of JI \$4.00

SJI Slide Set rental. \$5.00

IRIS LAEVIGATA - book rental \$5.00

All prices include postage. 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.

## THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

This year has been very interesting. It has been fun to watch the growing interest in Japanese irises. We've had people come to the garden with "THE JAPANESE IRIS" tucked under their arms eager to see real life Japanese irises. The book is selling well and is surely creating interest among gardeners.

Our membership is growing and more regions are having shows. Because of the generosity of our hybridizers, the convention auction is keeping our treasury healthy. All in all, the Society for Japanese Irises is in good condition.

The Oregon convention was wonderful. The convention committee members and convention gardeners all apologized for the lack of bloom but, in reality, we were blessed with excellent accommodations, well-grown Japanese irises, beautifully groomed gardens and breath-taking scenery. None of us will forget seeing Lorena Reid's new 40 chromosome Siberian creation. It was well worth the long flight across the country.

Remember Kalamazoo in '92.

I thank all of you for your support. Please continue to spread the word about this wonderful iris.

Sincerely,

Shirley Pope

## ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

The mailing label on this issue of "The Review" shows the status of your dues payment according to records of the Membership Chairman. Please check this notation, and if it is incorrect, please, advise the Membership Chairman accordingly. If it is correct, and you are delinquent in your dues, how about renewing?

Since the Membership Chairman was very busy with the National AIS Convention last spring, renewal notices were not mailed out to members, whose membership expired in January, 1991. Be advised therefore, that, if your mailing label has either the date 9101 or 9107, this will be the last issue of "The Review" you will receive, unless you renew your membership.

## NEW ROBINS CHAIRMAN

Pat Brooks has accepted Shirley Pope's request to take over the Robins Chairmanship, vacated by the resignation of Vince Bitzer. Pat is a member of the Summerville Iris Society at Summerville, NC, and lives at Ladson. She has been a regular participant in the Summerville iris shows. She writes that in addition to irises, her interests include showing pomeranians at dog shows and collecting rocks.

Pat asks that any directors of Japanese iris robins currently in progress please contact her. Anyone wishing to join a robin, either new or existing, should contact Pat. Her address and phone number are listed inside the front cover of this issue. This is a good way to learn more about irises and to become acquainted with new iris people.

## 1991 AIS AWARDS TO JAPANESE IRISES

The following information has been received from James Copeland, AIS Awards Chairman.

### PAYNE AWARD

votes

19 LILAC PEAKS (A. Vogt)

runnersup

18 HEGIRA (S. Innerst)

15 WINE RUFFLES (W. Ackerman)

### HONORABLE MENTION

votes

49 KALAMAZOO (Hazzard/Bauer Coble)  
25 SYLVIA'S MASQUARADE (Eddy/Miller)  
22 ICY PEAKS (A. Vogt)  
21 ROSE FRAPPE (A. Miller)  
20 GEISHA OBI (L. Rich)  
16 ROSE WORLD (L. Reid)  
15 CASCADE SPICE (L. Reid)  
14 MCKENZIE SUNSET (L. Reid)  
13 EBB AND FLOW (Hirao/Hager)  
13 KATY MENDEZ (C. McEwen)  
12 WILDERNESS SNOWBALL (J. Wood)  
10 RASPBERRY GEM (A. Miller)



IRIS LAEVIGATA---THE BOOK  
John Coble

The Society for Japanese Iris expresses its sincere appreciation and thank you to Mr. Mototeru Kamo of Japan for presenting us with a copy of the newly published book (1990), IRIS LAEVIGATA by Akira Horinaka.

This is the first book published on Iris laevigata. Akira Horinaka has briefly reviewed the history of laevigata in its 300 years of cultivation in Japan and use in the arts and literature. He reports that there were a dozen different colors and forms of laevigata mentioned in the literature 200 years ago. Today he lists 70 known cultivars with about 10 being most popular. He lists only two known cultivars from U.S. hybridizers.

There is also a brief description of inter-specific crosses made between I. laevigata and versicolor, and ensata, with just a mention of work beginning with setosa, and Louisiana irises. Several color photos of laevigata x versicolor and laevigata x ensata show the very slight distinctiveness of these hybrids and why there appears to be no great demand to grow these iris as garden cultivars. With problems of sterility in these crosses, it will take great patience of hybridizers to develop these new hybrids into cultivars with desirable garden qualities. Horinaka does point out that new work with laevigata x Louisiana iris does require embryo culture to germinate seedlings; to date he has not yet observed the blooms of these new seedlings. In this respect, the book has been published prematurely for details on inter-specific crosses.

The main value of this book is noted in part by its full title: The Pictorial Book of IRIS LAEVIGATA. It is mainly a picture book, and U.S. readers need to be aware that most all of the cultivars shown are not available in commerce in the U.S. The book is 262 pages with 146 color photos. There are 35 pages in English as a partial translation.

The book is available from Mr. Kamo, at Kamo Nurseries in Japan for \$60.00 U.S. A better deal is to rent the book from SJI to review it yourself before spending what I think are big bucks for a small (information wise) book.

The SJI copy of IRIS LAEVIGATA is held by the Librarian and available for rental of \$5.00 plus the return postage (will run about \$2.50 priority mail). You might wish to rent it to show at an iris society meeting so that several people could see it at one time.

Review opinions by John Coble  
Librarian



1992 SJI CONVENTION  
KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN

JUNE 26 & 27, 1992

"Back to Kazoo in '92"

Next spring the SJI Convention will again be held in Kalamazoo, Michigan, where SJI conventions first began in 1985. Hosts for the event will be the Southwestern Michigan Iris Society.

Please note the change of date from that previously published. A series of three early seasons, resulting this year in the cancellation of both our shows, caused reconsideration of the date. Now---everyone tell the weatherman to co-operate.

THE HOTEL

Headquarters will be:

The Radisson Plaza Hotel at Kalamazoo Center  
100 West Michigan Avenue  
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007  
Tel. (616)343-3333  
1-800-333-3333

Room rate \$63 + 7% tax, single or double  
\$73 + 7% tax, triple or quad.

To obtain this special rate be sure to indicate you are attending the Society For Japanese Irises Convention.

A block of rooms is being held by the hotel until May 25th, 1992.

The hotel has been completely renovated since our original commitment was made to hold the convention there. All guest rooms have been refurbished and all public spaces remodeled, with the grand opening scheduled for November, '91. Operation of the hotel was taken over by Radisson just this year, and given the Plaza designation, one of only two in Michigan and fourteen nationally to presently be so designated as one of Radisson's top line hotels. This is our opportunity to enjoy the Cadillac at the Chevrolet price.

The hotel provides limousine service from the airport. Notify them in advance of your arrival time or, if arrangements are not made in advance, a call on their direct phone line from the airport lobby will bring service within 15 minutes.

Location of the hotel is only 3 blocks from Kalamazoo's Intermodal Transportation Center, served by both Amtrack and bus lines.

Parking is available in a city ramp across the street from the hotel. The ramp is connected to the hotel by an enclosed sky-walk. For hotel registrants a special rate of \$2.50/day is available, if paid through the hotel.



**The Radisson Plaza Hotel at Kalamazoo Center  
as photographed during remodeling**

#### **TENTATIVE CONVENTION SCHEDULE**

##### **Friday, June 26.**

- 8:00 - 10:30 AM Entries accepted for Iris Show
- 10:30 - 11:30 AM Judges training on show judging
- 11:00 AM Show judging
- 1:00 PM SJI Board Meeting
- 2:30 PM Ikebana Demonstration by Sylvia Wong
- 4:00 PM Judges training on garden judging
- 6:00 PM Welcome dinner, program---Currier McEwen  
will show slides of his 1991 trip to  
Japan.

##### **Saturday, June 27.**

- Breakfast - on your own or have continental  
breakfast in your first tour garden.  
Juice, coffee & rolls will be available.
- 8:00 AM Buses leave for garden tours.  
Lunch--at Copeland Garden--Jim Copeland  
will again display his fishing prowess  
and his chef's abilities with a fish  
fry!
- 5:00 PM Buses return to Hotel
- 6:00 PM Social Hour w/cash bar
- 7:00 PM Banquet, program and plant auction.

#### **THE SHOW**

The show will be held at the convention site. It will be in a central open area at the lower level, open above to the main lobby. In conjunction with our show will be an exhibit of Bonsai by the BONSAI SOCIETY OF KALAMAZOO.

We urge anyone who has bloom at the time to bring some of it along and participate in the show. There will be sections for both named varieties and seedlings.

Artistic arrangements for this show will be by invitation only---a non-judged exhibit. If you are an arranger we invite you to participate. Bring your own container and accessories, and flowers if you are able. Let us know and we may be able to provide some bloom and live materials. Though the use of Japanese iris is encouraged, it is not mandatory for this show, and other flowers may be used in combination with them. To reserve space and receive complete information on schedule and type of spaces available, please contact the show chairman, Anna Mae Miller. Her address is:

6065 N. 16th Street  
Kalamazoo, MI 49007  
Tel. (616)349-5934

#### JUDGES TRAINING

The judges training session on show judging JI is open to anyone wishing to participate. Bloom will be provided. Participants will select and groom the blooms for a special section of the show, and participate in the judging of that section. If you are interested in participation in this event please inform the Registrar at time of registration, so that we can have some idea of the number of blooms and space to provide.

The garden judging training is also open to anyone attending. We would like however to have some idea how large a room is needed, so if you feel you will be interested in attending this session please inform our registrar.

#### THE GARDENS

We have 5 gardens with guest irises scheduled for the tour. They include about 400 guest plants, representing approximately 200 different cultivars. These gardens range in size from the large Ensata Garden planting to small, personal gardens. Two of them are new to the Kalamazoo tour this time. More about the gardens in the next issue of "The Review".

#### REGISTRATION

Registration fee: \$60 for complete weekend  
Partial registration fees available upon request.

Make checks payable to:  
The Southwestern Michigan Iris Society

Send registration, or inquiries, to:

Carol Kerr, Registrar  
13015 Crinnion  
Cedar Springs, Michigan 49319

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN '92.**



# 1990 JAPANESE IRIS REGISTRATIONS AND INTRODUCTIONS

As taken from the  
AIS 1990 Registrations and Introductions.

AMETHYST WINGS (W. Ackerman, JI, R. 1989). Nicholls Gardens 1990.

BEIKOKU (R. Fabel-Ward, R. 1990). JI, 37" (94 cm), L. S. White; F. light violet, veined white. Yuki-No-Yama X self.

BLUSHING PRINCESS (W. Ackerman, R. 1990). Sdlg. A4-6-122. JI (3F.), 33" (84 cm), L. S. white with narrow dark purple (RHS 77A/B) margin; white style arms with pale purple lip; F. white blending to medium purple (77C/D) margin, green yellow (1B) signal. D5-12-115, inv. seedlings from Seiko-en Nursery X D5-12-133.

BROCADE BLUE (W. Ackerman, R. 1990). Sdlg. A3-10-62. JI (6 petals), 32" (81cm), E. Violet (RHS 93A), near yellow signal, blending to brighter shades of violet blue near ruffled edge; occasional 4 style arms. D4-7-128: (D5-11-33, irradiated seed x Double Cream) X self.

CALAMARI (Jill Copeland, R. 1990). Sdlg. 86-1. JI, 36" (91 cm), E-M. S. purple violet (RHS 80A) rimmed white (155B); violet (87D) style arms; F. white (155B) veined and sanded purple violet (80A), yellow (5A) signal. Unknown parentage.

CELESTIAL PINK (C. McEwen, R. 1990). Sdlg. 80/168(4). JI (diploid, 3 F.), 32" (80 cm), E-LM. S. soft light pink (lighter than RHS 75D); white styles with pink (69C) tufts; F. light pink (75C) with small central white area around soft yellow signal; ruffled. 76/17(3): (Sakurajishi x Mitsu Sakura) X unknown.

DAMSEL KNIGHT (H. Knight by J. Wood, R. 1990). Sdlg. K-101-86. JI (6-petal), 38" (96 cm), ML. White ground with 1/2" to 3/4" blue violet border; ruffled; white styles edged blue violet. Unknown parentage.

DOWN EAST POSTLUDE (C. McEwen, R. 1990). Sdlg. T1 76/66B. JI (tetraploid, 6F.), 32" (80 cm), L-VL. Light blue (RHS 97A) lightening to (97C), yellow (8A) signal blending to greenish (150B). Jewelled Sea X Returning Tide.

EDGED DELIGHT (W. Ackerman, R. 1990). Sdlg. A4-6-123. JI (3F.), 34" (86 cm), M. S. white, 1/8" dark purple (RHS 77A) margin; white style arms; F. white, ruffled margin, yellow green (150A) signal. D5-12-115, inv. sdls. from Seiko-en Nursery X D5-12-133.

ELECTRIC RAYS (J. T. Aitken, R. 1990). Sdlg. 83J-1-12. JI (6 petals), 40" (102 cm), M. S. mid violet; F. same with light blue rays extending from yellow signal to 1/2" from edge; ruffled. Knight in Armor X Reign of Glory. Aitken's Salmon Creek Gardens 1990.

ENGELTJE (James Copeland, Jr., R. 1990). Sdlg. 80-15-1. JI, 32" (81 cm), M. S. white (RHS 155B) fringed violet (87A); white style arms; F. white (155B), yellow (9A) signal. Unknown parentage.

FRISCHE BRISE (U. Knoepnadel, R. 1990). JI, 27½" (70 cm), L. S. violet; dark blue styles; F. light lavender to white veined blue violet, yellow signal. Sdlg. X unknown. Friesland Staudengarten 1990.

FUJI'S SNOWCAP (G. Bush, JI, R. 1989). Bush 1990.

GALA PERFORMANCE (A. Miller, JI, R. 1988). Old Douglas Perennials 1988.

HINT OF YELLOW (C. McEwen, R. 1990). Sdlg. 85/95C. JI (diploid, 6 F.), 36" (90 cm), M-L. F. creamy white with light yellow (RHS 12A) veins at inner half, yellow (12A) signal; light yellow styles. White Parachute X Continuing Pleasure.

HUSKY HERO (W. Ackerman, R. 1990). Sdlg. A3-5-90. JI, 46" (117 cm), M-L. S. violet (RHS 83A); large violet style arms; F. violet (83A) veined darker., yellow (7A) signal. "Yamataikoku" X D5-6, double cream inv. sdls. from Seiko-en Nursery.

ICY PEAKS (A. Vogt, JI, R. 1981). J. Wood 1988.

IMPERIAL KIMONO (G. Bush, JI, R. 1986). Bush 1990.

JEVER DOPPELDECKER (U. Knoepnadel, R. 1990). JI (6 F.), 39" (100 cm), M. White, yellow signal. I. ensata sdlg. X I. ensata sdlg. Friesland Staudengarten 1990.

JOY PETERS (Ackerman, JI, R. 1988). Nicholls Gardens 1990.

KIMIKO (A. Miller, JI, R. 1988). Old Douglas Perennials 1989.

LET ME SEE (W. Ackerman, JI, R. 1989). Nicholls Gardens 1990.

LITTLE SNOWBALL (A. Vogt, JI, R. 1985). Ensata Gardens 1990.

LITTLE SNOWMAN (A. Vogt, JI, R. 1981). Tranquil Lake Nursery 1990.

MICHIO (A. Miller, JI, R. 1988). Old Douglas Perennials 1989.

MIDSUMMER HAPPINESS (C. McEwen, R. 1990). Sdlg. 85/95F. JI (diploid, 6 F.), 39" (98 cm), M-L. Blue (RHS 95C/D) with clean white lines extending to edge, rich yellow (13B) signal; ruffled; tufted styles and stamen petaloids. White Parachute X Continuing Pleasure.

ORIENTAL BOUQUET (W. Ackerman, R. 1990). Sdlg. A3-10-111. JI (10 petals, 6 petaloids), 22" (56 cm), M-L. Very pale violet blue (RHS 91D) ground, veined very dark violet blue (89A), heavier around green yellow (1A) signal; 8 style arms veined violet blue (90A). D4-10-86, inv. sdls. from Seiko-en Nursery X self.

PINK CANOPY (G. Bush, JI, R. 1989). Bush 1990.

- PINK LIPS (G. Bush, JI, R. 1989). Bush 1990.
- PINK MYSTERY (Marx by C. McEwen, JI, R. 1988) Laurie's Garden, Seaways Gardens 1990.
- RASPBERRY GEM (A. Miller, JI, R. 1988). Old Douglas Perennials 1988.
- ROSE FRAPPE (A. Miller, JI, R. 1988). Old Douglas Perennials 1988.
- ROYAL ONE (W. Ackerman, JI, R. 1989). Nicholls Gardens 1990.
- SAKAKO (E. Hulbert, R. 1990). Sdlg. 83SKJ3. JI' (6 petal), 36" (91 cm), ML. White, white rays running into wide pink border, yellowish green signal; white style arms and crests edged pink. Sakura-jishi X self. Cooper's Garden 1990.
- SHUICHI HIRAO (S. Hirao by Society for Japanese Irises, R. 1990). Sdlg. SH-30. JI (3 falls), 35" (89 cm), M. White, yellow signal veined green; cream style arms tipped white. Unknown parentage.
- SNOWY TRIO (G. Bush, JI, R. 1983). Bush 1990.
- SOROCCO (D. Spoon, JI, R. 1989). Nicholls Gardens 1990.
- SOUTHERN SON (C. McEwen, JI, R. 1989). Pope's Perennials, Seaways Gardens 1990.
- SPARKLING SAPPHIRE (A. Vogt, JI, R. 1985). Ensata Gardens 1990.
- STATELY FLAMINGO (A. Vogt, JI, R. 1987). Ensata Gardens 1990.
- STURMVOGEL (Uwe Knoepnadel. R. 1990). JI (diploid), 47" (120 cm), EM. White, yellow signal. Sdlg. X unknown. Friesland Staudengarten 1990.
- SYLVIA'S MASQUERADE (E. Eddy by A. Miller, JI, R. 1988). Old Douglas Perennials 1990.
- TAFFETA AND VELVET (W. Ackerman, JI, R. 1984). Nicholls Gardens 1990.
- TEA CEREMONY (G. Bush, JI, R. 1986). Bush 1990.
- WILDERNESS CRINOLINE (J. Wood, R. 1990). JI (6-petal), 35" (89 cm), ML. White ground infused pink and blue, giving a mother-of-pearl iridescence, gold signal; white styles. Icy Peaks X unknown.
- WILDERNESS DEBUTANTE (J. Wood, R. 1990). Sdlg. W-102-82. JI (6-petal), 35" (89 cm), M. Crimped and lightly ruffled pink (RHS 73B), gold signal; white styles tipped pink. Enchanting Melody X unknown.
- WILDERNESS INTRIGUE (J. Wood, R. 1990). JI (6-petal), 30" (76 cm), ML. White ground, violet blue (RHS 89C) veining on border, yellow (5A) signal; red purple (72A) petaloids veined lighter on border; violet blue (89A) styles. Ike-No-Sazanami X Prairie Velvet.



**THE 1991 JI POPULARITY POLL RESULTS**  
**Virginia Burton, SJI Publicity Chairman**

There were 44 voters from 15 states this year. Ballots were sent from GA, SC, NC, WA, CA, ME, VA, MA, PA, MO, KY, MI, OH, OR, and AL.

The first one to vote was Marjorie Deaton of Alabama, second were MR. and Mrs. J. Grundies of North Carolina and third was Marcia Smith of Washington. I had zeroxed 75 ballots and took them to Oregon, each marked either Thanks or Please vote, and two had a "squiggley" mark. I had told Shirley Pope that if the two with the "squiggley" mark came back that I would donate a ten dollar JI to each. Neither came back and only 4 of the others came back.

The results for 1991 and comments are:

12 votes----FRECKLED GEISHA

11 votes----REIGN OF GLORY

10 votes----CASCADE CREST, FRILLED ENCHANTMENT and GOOD OMEN

9 votes----LILAC PEAKS

8 votes----GAY GALLANT and KALAMAZOO

7 votes----PEACOCK DANCE

6 votes----MIST FALLS and ORIENTAL EYES

5 votes----CAPRICIAN BUTTERFLY, ICY PEAKS, JAPANESE PINWHEEL, PERIWINKLE PINWHEEL, ROYAL CROWN and SHERWOOD GLACIER

4 votes----CAPRICIAN CHIMES, DACE, ELECTRIC RAYS, ENCHANTING MELODY, HEGIRA, ROSE ADAGIO, PRAIRIE ROYALTY, SWIRLING WAVES and UMI BOTARU.

3 votes---CRYSTAL HALO, FLASHING KOI, FROSTBOUND, JAPANESE SANDMAN, JOCASTA, KNIGHT IN ARMOR, LET ME SEE, MICHIO, ORIENTAL TRACERY, PRAIRIE GLORY, ROSY SUNRISE, ROYAL GAME, SPRINGTIME SHADOWS, SPRINGTIME SNOW, STRUT AND FLOURISH, SUMMER STORM, SWEET MURMUR, THE GREAT MOGUL and TUPTIM.

2 votes---ANYTUS, AZURE RUFFLES, CONTINUING PLEASURE, DANCING WAVES, GARNET ROYALTY, GLITTER AND GLAMOUR, HAGAROMO, IMMACULATE WHITE, IZU-NO-UMI, JOY PETERS, KATY MENDEZ, LE CORDON BLEU, LIGHT AT DAWN, LITTLE SNOWMAN, MACKENZIE SUNSET, PINK BUNNY, PINK DIMITY, PRAIRIE FANTASY, PRAIRIE TWILIGHT, PURPLE PARASOL, RASPBERRY RIMMED, ROYAL FIREWORKS, RUFFLED DIMITY, SILVERBAND, SIMPLE ELEGANCE, SNOWY HILLS, SWEET AND LOW, SYLVIA'S MASQUERADE, TRANCE, WARAI HOTEL, WILDERNESS RUBIES, WINDRIFT, WINE RUFFLES, WINGED SPRITE, YAMATA HIME and YAMATA KOKU.

1 vote---AGRIPPINELLA, BLUEBERRY RIMMED, BLUE LAGOON, CALICO PRINT, CAPANEUS, CAPRICIAN SYMPHONY, CASCADE SPRING DRESS, CENTER OF INTEREST, CRESTED WAVES, DAMSEL KNIGHT, DAPPLED DRAGON, DARK ENCHANTMENT, DOUBLE FIRST, DRIVEN SNOW, EDGE OF FROST, ENDURING PINK FROST, ENKAISUU, EXUBERANT CHANTEY, FRINGED CLOUD, FROSTED PYRAMID, FUJI, FUJI'S SNOWCAP, GALATEA, GAYETY, GAY TEMPTRESS, GEISHA DANCE, GEISHA PARASOL, GUSTO, HARI-NO-UMI. HARLEQUINESQUE, HATSU KAGAMI, HEKITO, HERCULES, HIME KOPAMI, HUE AND CRY, IAPETUS, IKE-NO-SAZANAMI, IMMACULATE GLITTER, IMPERIAL MAGIC, IPSUS, JOYOUS TROUBADOR, KING FIREFLY, KING'S COURT, KOZASA GAWA, KYOKKO, KYOKUSHO, LASTING PLEASURE, LAVENDER KRINKLE, LEAVE ME SIGHING, LOVE GODDESS, MAGIC OPAL, MAINE CHANCE, MAI OGI, MAMMOTH MARVEL, MEMORIAL TRIBUTE, MIDNIGHT STAR, MIDNIGHT WHISPER, MIDWEST IDYLL, MIHOKOGARA, MIYOSHINO, MURAKAMO, NARAHITI, NUMAZU, OMEN, ORIENTAL CLASSIC, ORIENTAL ELEGANCE, OSHO KUN, PASTEL PRINCESS, PERSIAN RUG, PINK SAPPHIRE, PIN STRIPE, PRAIRIE SAPPHIRE, PRIMA BALLERINA, ROSE AND SILVER, ROSE PRELUDE, ROSE QUEEN, ROSE TOWER, ROYAL LINES, ROYAL RAMPARTS, SAKURA, SAPPHIRE STAR, SEA FURY, SEA OF AMETHYST, SEA TITAN, SEN HIME, SHEER FASCINATION, SILVER CASCADE, SIREN SONG, SORCERER'S TRIUMPH, STAR AT MIDNIGHT, STIPPLED RIPPLES, SOUTHERN SON, SUMMER SNOWFLAKE, TAGA SODE, TEA CEREMONY, THUNDER AND LIGHTNING, VEINED AND BEAUTIFUL, WALK IN BEAUTY, WILDERNESS SNOWBALL, WOUNDED DRAGON, YUHI, YUKI KAMURI and YUSHO. --- A number of these I am not familiar with and do not find them in the check list so the spelling is not verified.

#### Comments with the 1991 JI Popularity Poll:

Jean/Jerry Grundies, NC.-- "We are truly sold on JI. They are beautiful. Walter Hoover convinced us that we should try a display of them (Carolina Mountain Society) so last Thursday and Friday (June 6/7) we (4 members) placed 20 different varieties in the entry hall of "Opportunity House" a Community Center for Senior Citizens. The viewers raved over the JI so we hope this will be the beginning for our society and we get lots of sales at our auction on July 20. We hope in another year to get down to the Summerville Show." ((VG. some time ago Walter Hoover and I had discussed a possible beardless show in NC. This sounds like a real good start. Next year will be bigger and better, I'm sure. Congratulations to all!))

Ruth Walker, VA.-- "I only have around 50 JI but they were the prettiest this year that they have ever been. I have been using a soaker hose to keep the moisture in mine. I also mulch with cypress mulch. My last one to bloom was PRAIRIE PRINCESS 6/30/91. I've had some kind of iris in bloom since 4/1/91."

Pat Brooks, SC.-- "My list changes every year as I see more and more JI. 7/3/91 PINK DIMITY is blooming. I believe it is a repeater. 5/5/91 started the season with ROYAL FIREWORKS. That is two months of JI. Perhaps our two months of JI was



due to cool spells at various times in May and June."

Adolph Vogt, KY-- "My bloom was one week early this year. GOOD OMEN and SAPPHIRE STAR opened May 27. The last to bloom on July 7 was KONGO SAN and WOUNDED DRAGON."

L. Moss, CA-- "I would like to see an article in "The Review" regarding a fertilizing schedule for maximum growth and bloom." ((VB. does any one have a fool proof suggestion?))

Watsons, GA-- "Danny wanted to vote also--hope his vote counts. ((VB. Danny is an AIS Youth member growing JI and seedlings and his vote surely does count)). "ROYAL GAME, a first year plant, bloomed late on a fantastic stalk!

Clarence/Suky Mahan, VA-- "Bill Ackerman's LET ME SEE was stunning in every garden we saw it in this year. As in the last several years, HEGIRA was a standout--the substance of this iris is incredible. Anyone who did not have the opportunity to visit Sterling Innerst's garden at peak bloom missed seeing JI growing better than I have ever seen them. It was like seeing a glimpse of Paradise."

Cyndi/Charlie Turbow, KY-- "I saw a clump of GOOD OMEN at Laurie's Garden at the SJI Convention. It was my favorite JI this year."

V. Burton, SC.-- "I've had quite a year of JI. My first JI to bloom was a seedling 4/30/91. My first named JI to bloom was MISS COLQUETTE 5/4/91. The last named ones to bloom were OL MAN RIVER and GUN YUU 6/26-30/01. What I thought was my last JI seedling from FLASHING KOI, to bloom was 7/4/91, but then came another seedling from FLASHING KOI on July 31. In between times EVENING TIDE decided to bloom again 7/13-19/91 and SH-8 7/14/91. By July, here, the temperature is so hot and humid if one does not pick them and bring them inside they litterly "cook" (get mushy) in full sun." "For L. Mos in CA--last fall I received some JI via mail. I had prepared two beds, having to start over after Hugo. One bed is 24' by 4' and the other one is 16' by 4'. I dug each about 6" deep and put in several bags of potting soil from Walmart, put the JI in 3 across and 3 to every length of landscape timber (8'). In between the rows, not on the JI, I liberally put cottonseed meal, raked it in and watered it real well and let it set for three or four days. Then in the same area I put 10-10-10 and raked it in and watered it real well. I've got the best increase I've ever had, nice sturdy foliage and (I better not brag) I find no disease or insects. Next year will tell the story and I'll find out if I have ONLY great green plants or that I have great bloom also."

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# STUDIES ON THE BREEDING OF JAPANESE GARDEN IRIS,

Iris ensata Thunb..

## 3. IN VITRO PROPAGATION

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### Introduction.

In the previous articles (Yabuya 1990, 1991), interspecific cross-breeding and cytogenetics of aneuploids were discussed as the first and second of the three subjects of the lecture entitled "Studies on the breeding of Japanese garden iris, Iris ensata Thunb." at THE 1990 CONVENTION OF THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES. The present article is concerned with the third subject which is in vitro propagation.

It is well known that I. ensata is propagated by division and this process in many garden varieties is slow because of the small numbers produced each year. In addition, as this species is an outcrossing one, seed propagation can not keep genetic uniformity of the varieties.

Rapid propagation is desirable for bulking up new varieties. The technique of tissue culture for speeding up propagation has been applied widely in garden species (Mantell et al. 1985). However, the in vitro propagation of I. ensata remains an unsolved problem, although plant regeneration by means of flower organ culture was reported (Ichihashi and Kato 1986).

Yabuya and co-workers (Yabuya et al. 1991) have studied on in vitro propagation of I. ensata and its related species, I. laevigata Fisch., I. pseudacorus L., I. virginica L. and I. versicolor L. through young scape and mature embryo culture.

### Young scape culture.

Explants of young scapes of I. ensata and its related species were cultured on MS medium (Murashige and Skoog 1962, pH5.8) with lmg/NAA( $\alpha$  - naphthaleneacetic acid), 1 mg/1 6-BA(6-benzyladenine), 30g/1 sucrose and 10g/1 agar. Responses in the scape cultures of these species to callus, shoot and root induction are presented in Table 1. I. ensata was characterized by high variety specificity for callus, shoot and root induction. Among 23 varieties and one wild form of this species tested, "Okichidori" "Miyukisudare" and "Meiji-1" exhibited a considerable rate of shoot induction, although these varieties induced poorly rooted shoots. Surprisingly, the only modification, half-strength MS inorganic salts, for the above medium proved very effective for shoot induction in the scape cultures of "Okichidori" which exhibited the highest value of shoot induction among varieties of I. ensata (Table 2). On the other hand, all varieties and wild forms of I. laevigata (three varieties and one wild form were used), I. pseudacorus (one wild form), I. virginica (one wild form) and I. versicolor (one wild form) exhibited low rates of shoot induction as shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Results of young scape cultures of Iris ensata and its related species

Species	No. of explants cultured	Callus induction rate (%)	Shoot induction rate (%)	No. of shoots per explant	Root induction rate (%)	Rooted shoot induction rate (%)
<u>I. ensata</u>	1490	51.5	19.8	1.25	18.0	2.2
<u>I. laevigata</u>	241	71.5	13.7	0.45	39.0	0.8
<u>I. pseudacorus</u>	46	28.3	0	-	0	-
<u>I. virginica</u>	121	7.4	0.1	0.01	1.9	0
<u>I. versicolor</u>	42	52.4	2.4	0.29	3.6	0

Table 2. Fruits of young scape and shoot cultures of the variety "Okichidori" of Iris ensata

Culture	Medium	Shoot induction rate (%)	No. of shoots per explant	Root induction rate (%)	No. of roots per shoot
Young scape	1/2 MS+1ppm NAA+ 1ppm6-BA+3% sucrose+ 1% agar	82.8	8.06	-	-
Shoot	1/2MS+1ppmNAA+ 1ppm6-BA+3% sucrose+ 1% activated charcoal+ 1% agar	-	-	75.7	7.58

For shoots obtained from the scape cultures of I. ensata and I. versicolor, effects of sucrose concentrations (30, 60, 90g/l) and activated charcoal (10g/l) on root induction were examined by using  $\frac{1}{2}$ MS with 1mg/l NAA, 1mg/l 6-BA, 30g/l sucrose and 10g/l agar as the basic medium. The addition of 1% activated charcoal to the media had a marked effect for root induction independent of sucrose concentrations, varieties and species tested.

#### SEE TABLE 2

According to our results (Table 2) of the scape and shoot cultures in the variety "Okichidori", ca. 92 plantlets can be obtained from one young scape when a 15 mm scape is sectioned into 1mm discs. To produce 1,000 plantlets, therefore, ca. 11 stems are required for the culture. Thus, this in vitro technique has considerable potential to speed up the propagation of garden varieties in I. ensata, and further studies should be done to overcome the variety specificity for shoot induction.

#### Mature embryo culture.

Plant regeneration via somatic embryogenesis was successfully induced in mature embryo cultures of I. pumila L. and I. setosa Pall. (Radojevic et al. 1987, Radojevic and Landre 1990). In vitro propagation of both species is also feasible by this method. However, the reason why this is not a suitable method for the propagation of Iris garden varieties is because their mature embryos used as explants can not keep genetic uniformity due to their outcrossing nature. On the contrary, the propagation of wild species of this genus need not keep genetic uniformity. Also, the wild species can not produce many seedlings because of high seed dormancy. Therefore, in vitro propagation through mature embryo culture is applied to the useful wild species as genetic resources.

Mature embryos of I. ensata and its related species were cultured on MS(pH5.8) medium with 1mg/l 2, 4-dichlorophenoxy acetic acid (2, 4-D), 1mg/l kinetin, 250mg/l proline, 200mg/l casein hydrolysate, 50g/l sucrose and 8g/l agar, and the results are shown in Table 3. I. ensata, I. laevigata and I. versicolor induced no embryogenic calli, while I. pseudacorus and I. virginica, induced embryogenic calli. In the latter species, the % of explants which obtained embryogenic calli was 10.4% for I. pseudacorus and 9.3% for I. virginica, respectively (Table 3). Moreover, plant regeneration was observed when embryooids obtained from the embryo cultures of both species were cultured on MS medium (pH5.8) with 1mg/l gibberellic acid and 1mg/l kinetin, 50g/l sucrose and 8g/l agar. This is the first report of plant regeneration via somatic embryogenesis in I. pseudacorus and I. virginica.



**Table 3. Results of mature embryo cultures of Iris ensata and its related species**

Species	No of explants cultured	Callus induction rate (%)	Embryogenic callus induction rate (%)
<u>I. ensata</u>	173	24.9	0
<u>I. laevigata</u>	78	47.4	0
<u>I. pseudacorus</u>	48	33.3	10.4
<u>I. virginica</u>	43	44.2	9.4
<u>I. versicolor</u>	38	5.3	0

We have not yet succeeded in the induction of an embryogenic callus for I. ensata, but in in vitro propagation of this garden species, young scape culture is a suitable method as mentioned above.

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REQUEST FOR ARTHUR HAZZARD IRISES  
Rich Randall

In both the Fall '90 "ROOTS" (page 18) and in the Spring '91 "REVIEW" (page 30), articles appeared about the newly dedicated Arthur Hazzard Memorial Garden. In an effort to have a complete collection of the 88 irises that he introduced, we at Tidewater are scouring the country sides. If you grow any of the below listed irises and would like to contribute it (your name will be on the marker as donor) we would appreciate it. Please contact me BEFORE sending, to prevent duplication. In addition, I'm asking for your help. If you know anyone who grows these or, who you think may grow them, would you please bring this request to their attention or drop me a line.

Thank you

Rich Randall  
524 Windsor Gate Rd.  
Virginia Beach, VA 23452  
(804) 340-9077

IRISES THAT THE MEMORIAL IS IN NEED OF

ANGELIC ADVOCATE	PRAIRIE CONTENTMENT	PRAIRIE ROYALTY
AZURE PERFECTION	PRAIRIE COQUETTE	PRAIRIE RUBY
BLEW DOWN	PRAIRIE FORALPHA	PRAIRIE SAPPHIRE
CHIMADE	PRAIRIE FORBETA	PRAIRIE SILK
ELEANOR'S CHOICE	PRAIRIE FORGAMMA	PRAIRIE SNOW
ENCHANTMENT	PRAIRIE GLAMOUR	PRAIRIE SUNBURST
GOSSAMER THREADS	PRAIRIE IDYLL	PRAIRIE SUNRISE
MAGNIFICENT MAGIC	PRAIRIE IVORY	PRAIRIE VIOLET
MAROON GIANT	PRAIRIE LOVE	PRAIRIE WAND
MINUET IN BLUE	PRAIRIE MANTLE	PRAIRIE WONDER
NUMAZU	PRAIRIE MARVEL	RUBYTONE
ORIENTAL ORGANDY	PRAIRIE NOBLE	SHIN HEIWA
PASTEL RUFFLES	PRAIRIE PAL	STOUT FELLOW
PRAIRIE BLISS	PRAIRIE PASSION	VEINED ARTISTRY
PRAIRIE BLUEMOON	PRAIRIE PATIENCE	VEINETTE
PRAIRIE BLUE RIBBON	PRAIRIE PEACE	VIOLET SPECTACLE
PRAIRIE CHARM	PRAIRIE PINK	VIRGINIA B.
PRAIRIE COMET	PRAIRIE QUALITY	WHITE CHIFFON



## THE 1991 CONVENTION REPORTS.

### THE AITKEN GARDEN Jean Erickson

On alighting from the bus at the top of the gently sloping land of several acres which is the garden of Barbara and Terry Aitken, I was again struck by the "greenness" of it all. As a long time resident of the semi-arid southwest coast, I am keenly aware of wide expanses of lush trees and grasses.

The Aitken home was almost concealed by cherry, birch, and maple trees and some magnificent Pacific Northwest evergreens. I asked about two beautiful specimens fifteen to twenty feet tall and symmetrically shaped. Terry called them Hinoki Cypress and laughingly said he had acquired them in small containers some eight years earlier with the intention to bonsai them. This plan was torpedoed by other pressures in the garden and they were subsequently planted in the yard. I guess they could be considered "the bonsais that got away".

An attached glasshouse held many orchids. Some, in the rear were under fluorescent lights. Later I heard Terry say it was inevitable that he would succumb to the urge to make some crosses with them. He had already started.

Near the entry were columbine, daylilies, hostas and azaleas. Sheltered among some of these plants were many small pots of neatly planted iris seedlings a few inches high.

Touring the Aitken garden is always a pleasure due, in part, to the superb organization. Laid out in defined areas are many beds all neatly maintained and well marked with signs as to the type of iris. Individual varieties--in rows--are placed alphabetically and also well marked. There is no hunting for labels in this garden. At this point, it seems necessary to talk about the weather. For the gardener this is the most often discussed topic, following the plants themselves. We soon learned that bloom on the Japanese irises was going to be sparse because this spring was reported to be the latest in twenty-five years.

I began walking the rows, heeding the call from the blooms, one after another. There was a large, oval shaped display bed at the foot of the gentle slope where I found a Siberian which I thought could stop traffic. It looked delicate yet I knew it was sturdy with substance. It was nicely ruffled and there were many blooms for the amount of foliage. The cream-white standards over pale yellow falls were pretty under the overcast sky. It is a 1991 introduction from Hal Stahly. It's name? MOONSILK, and I fell under its spell.

I found SKYWINGS (Peck '71), a Siberian beauty with light blue standards and falls just a little darker. I wished for the pleasure of rendering this blue on film as one does with Delphinium and Mecanopsis baileyi--the striking but difficult blue Himalayan poppy we admired in Roy Davidson's garden in 1984. There was LADY OF QUALITY (McEwen '82), a blue-violet with a lovely lilt to the falls--not giving the impression of being misshapen--which had a thin edge of silver, and WIZARDRY



(Hollingsworth '84) with light blue feathered style crests in a nice medium blue flower. And there was Shirley Pope, herself, also walking the rows and SHIRLEY POPE (McEwen '79), the very floriferous purple. It was dark enough to cause the bright half-moon signals to fairly glow.

There were many heavy-budded, robust Japanese seedlings and named varieties which promised great bloom in a number of days. Of the early old friends, there was SAPPHIRE STAR (Marx '83), a pale lavender with white veining and styles tipped lavender, a lovely three-fall variety; and WIND DRIFT (Vogt/Stahly '84), a three fall white. The standards on this one are erect and have violet veins with some marbling between. Lorena Reid has been breeding for early bloom and there was her SPRINGTIME SNOW ('84), a pristine three fall white of undeniable quality.

There were many bearded irises in bloom, and of course, I couldn't resist three of them: CALICO CAT (Lankow '89), a border, has soft yellow standards. The falls are lavender-violet with distinctive hafts of wine color. I have never seen this growing out of class, and I really like it. CLASSIC EDITION (O. Brown '86) is listed as being brick pink in color. I dunno. A fellow convention visitor and I thought its color was more similar to our old friend MINNESOTA GLITTERS. (The 1959 R & I book describes MINNESOTA GLITTERS as being intense orange with a pink overlay). Sure 'nuf, this color looked similar on a more modern blossom. We both admired this one. DRIFTING ALONG (O. Brown '88) is a laced and ruffled pale lavender blue with tangerine tipped beards and it also produced nice stalks.

This 1991 Japanese Iris Society convention was pleasant and well planned. There was some initial disappointment at the sparse bloom, but isn't friendship of irisarians from all over the country a priceless experience?

Would I go again? Absolutely.

#### **HARRIS GARDEN** **James Copeland**

As the bus approached Lincoln avenue, there was no evidence of any garden. Being led across the street and through a wooden gate (the Harris garden is completely enclosed by a tall grey wooden fence), was like stepping into an "oasis" in the middle of the desert.

Inside the gate was Chad, greeting each guest as they arrived. The garden was beautiful, well designed and extremely well manicured. The paths were laid out so that guests could move freely throughout the garden.

The present garden is now 14 years old. Prior to that a large house occupied the lot and had to be removed. After two years of hard work, including soil build up and sculpturing of beds, a nice variety of trees and evergreen plants was brought in. The Japanese maples especially caught our attention. In 1988 a windstorm blew down a big tree, creating some extra work for Chad. No evidence of the damage remained as he had spent many hours repairing and re-landscaping this area.



Left:

Barbara & Terry Aitken  
in their garden.

Below:

Chad Harris Garden

Bottom:

Chad Harris' talks with  
Anna Mae Miller &  
Currier McEwen

Photos by Rich Randall





Chad first became interested in irises by visiting the Aitken's Salmon Creek Garden. He now grows many kinds.

A pool accenting one area of the yard was surrounded by roses.

Unfortunately the weatherman did not cooperate with allowing a "normal" spring in the Portland area. Unseasonably cool, cloudy and wet weather set the bloom season for Japanese iris back 2 to 3 weeks. Only a very few had revealed their first bloom. The guest beds of Japanese iris were grown as well as any we have ever seen. Plants were lush green with many plants nearly chest high and huge buds just straining to show their colors. One could only imagine what a show would be forthcoming.

There were Siberian iris, roses, pansies, nut trees, bonsai evergreens grown in pots and many other interesting things to see. We were later told that some guests had been invited into the house to see Chad's aquarium which was built into a wall. What a relaxing place to be.

Everyone was well pleased with their visit to Chad's garden and was envious of him, because he would get to see all of those huge Japanese iris that were waiting to bloom.

#### CAPRICE FARMS NURSERY

Marky Smith

Early the first morning, our tour bus crested the hilltop southwest of Portland and arrived at Caprice Farms, where we were greeted by the owners, Al and Dot Rogers, and their children, Robin and Rick. To visit Caprice, with its panoramic view of rolling green Oregon hills, is always a pleasure, and one that intensifies in June. For me, it was extra special. My first experience with *I. ensata* was in 1960, when I stumbled into the Walter Marx Gardens in Boring, Oregon, during peak bloom. Paradise itself could not have been more overwhelming, and I was hooked on the genus *Iris* for life. Several years later, when Walter and Louise Marx started dispersing their nursery, Al and Dot began to collect their plants as a hobby, one that has multiplied to the present day.

In 1976, the Rogers received all of Marx's selected seedlings, both iris and peony, which they registered for him and which form the basis of their introductions over the years. Such *Jl* cultivars as CAPRICIAN CHIMES, PERIWINKLE PINWHEEL, ROYAL LINES, last year's introduction, SHERWOOD GLACIER, and the 1990 Payne Award winner, CAPRICIAN BUTTERFLY were all saved thanks to their interest.

Unfortunately, due to a long, cold Northwest spring, almost none of the Japanese irises were in bloom. Happy exceptions among the handsome planting of guests included Lorena Reid's *SPRINGTIME SNOW*, a dainty single white; and *SPRINGTIME SHOWERS*, an equally early marbled single, with shades of orchid, violet, and rosy lavender splashed on the white ground like raindrops. How fortunate for us that Lorena bred both these Edo types to "stretch" the season into mid May.



The commercial irises were filled with buds, but only one awesome planting of SAPPHIRE STAR showed color and a few diamond dusted, soft orchid-blue single flowers, with faint white penciling and a white halo around the lemon-yellow signals. In contrast, several clumps of Siberians drew every eye, especially Currier McEwen's powerful, very dark violet tetraploid REGENCY BUCK. Other plantings included massive hostas and rows of promise among the daylilies.

All promises were fulfilled by the sweeping hillside of blooming peonies, for which Caprice is famous. Here were long rows of Marx's towering LOUISE MARX, a huge white Japanese type with yellow stamens, contrasting with his very dark red bomb, FIRE OPAL. Pinks included HEIDI (Tischler), another Japanese type, with the softest rose halo around raspberry-tipped stamens, and GAY PAREE (Auten), a cream-white center surrounded by vivid petals of hot pink. More peonies in the display garden; the striking lobata CYTHEREA (Saunders), passing from cherry-rose through coral to peach, and CORAL CHARM (Wissing PP-4247), with splendidly formed, huge semi-double blossoms of coral peach fading to ivory gold on a gigantic plant. These magnificent plantings, the fine view, and the warm hospitality of the Rogers' family brought us back to our bus in a rose (and pink, red, coral, cream and peach-colored) haze of pleasure, a fitting response to their fine gardening and the Marx and Marhigo legacy today.

#### LAURIE'S GARDEN

Carol Warner

Lorena Reid's garden in Springfield was a fantastic display of species, Japanese, Siberian, and about every other beardless iris known to man. Her upbeat attitude, friendliness and desire to educate everyone about the virtues of each variety was a treat. Laurie and her husband, Alan, manage and maintain the entire garden themselves.

The visitor is immediately struck with the incredible neatness of everything. Paths of fresh sawdust were as soft as carpeting underfoot. No weeds would dare to grow in this garden. Perfectly straight rows displayed huge clumps of each variety grown to cultural perfection. Photographers had to shoot pictures at eye level of some of the 40 chromosome Siberians.

Clumps of Japanese irises, SPRINGTIME SNOW and SPRINGTIME SHOWERS were in full bloom near the entrance to the garden. Each variety seems to send up a great quantity of stalks giving an outstanding clump effect. A section of GOOD OMEN, an early marx ruffled wine self, lined out for sale, was a mass of bloom. Other Japanese irises which showed nice bloom were GAY GALLANT, GARNET ROYALTY, and ROSE WORLD. A pink Ackerman seedling, A4-2-122 with very tiny style arms, large yellow signal with white halo and unstable color pattern caused quite a bit of attention. CASCADE SPICE, which was just coming into bloom, looked very nice.

The 40 chromosome Sino-Siberians stole the show in this garden. They are derived from crosses of the species I.



Two Views  
in  
Laurie's Garden

Photos by Howard Brookins



bulleyana, I. chrysographes, I. forrestii, I. delavayi, I. clarkei, I. wilsonii, I. dykesii and their hybrids. For many of us who can't grow these at all, or can barely bloom them out of the foliage, it was a completely new experience. BUTTERFLY MODE, (Reid '91) was fascinating with its dark blue violet standards and falls. The white signal, outlined in dark violet, was of interest to me. Laurie called it a "butterfly signal" which is derived from the I. clarkei influence. Her CASCADE CREME was also in peak bloom and was lovely. Others which were gorgeous specimen clumps were BEAUTIFUL FOURTY, BLUE FORTY, MAUVE MOOD, PRAIRIE WARBLER, PUGET POLKA, VARIED BUNTING, BERLINER RIESE and BERLIN DARK MANTLE.

Species irises blooming on outstanding clumps included I. dykesii, I. fulva RED DAZZLER, and I. clarkei (Blue by Witt).

Cal-Sibes (a sterile cross of a Sino-Siberian and a Pacific Coast Native) which were absolutely gorgeous were HALF MAGIC, PACIFIC WAVES, SWIRLING MIST, IN STITCHES and GOLDEN WAVES. Lorena's CS 86-27 (G4-6) was voted the best seedling of the show in Portland. (She is competing with TB seedlings in this show). Her Cal-Sibe was a beautiful ruffled bicolor with violet standards and deep maroon falls, nicely branched and carrying 7 or 8 buds.

The crowning highlight of the garden was the discovery of a peachy orange 40 chromosome Sino-Siberian seedling (8S23-2) blooming for the very first time. We could all share with Laurie the excitement and joy of finding a new wonder of nature. She had selfed a maroon Bee-signal chrysographes which had thrown an albino (clear yellow with no dark markings) seedling. The absence of color in this albino seedling when selfed allowed the peachy color to show up.

After a very short two hours in this garden I decided to throw out all my tall-bearded irises, bring back a whole summer of Oregon weather and order one of everything Laurie grows. Her garden is really heaven on earth.

#### THE MEEK GARDEN Shirley Pope

We were greeted by geese and ducks as we got off the buses at the Meek's garden. Because it was windy and cool (really cold), I headed straight for the hot coffee. While waiting for the crowd to spread out I admired the garden and inspected the landscaping that was still in progress. Most true gardeners are always adding or changing plantings. The 4 different varieties of Japanese Maples, beautifully placed and waiting to be planted caught my eye immediately.

Many of the convention goers were crowding into Mrs. Meek's iris artifacts shop. The shop probably was necessitated by 25 years of collecting. By the time we were able to get through the door all the warm pullovers, with irises on them, were sold out. There were a few mugs, dishes and other items with Japanese irises on them, but remembering the overstuffed suitcase, common sense prevailed.





Top: **Good Omen (Marx R. 1956)** Winner of  
Favorite Garden Iris Award, as seen  
in Laurie's Garden.

Photo by Rich Randall

Bottom: **Meek Garden**

Photo by Shirley Pope

Opposite Page:

Top & Center: **Views in the Japanese Garden**

Bottom: **Lunch in the park**

Photos by Rich Randall.





The crowd had thinned out by the time we reached the Japanese iris display garden. The irises were lush and well grown in a raised bed. We were told that the soil had been enriched with sheep manure and the irises looked well mulched. Sheep manure, mulch and a cool wet spring are certainly the right ingredients for lush green growth. Lots of buds, but only ROYAL RAMPARTS (Marx '78), a deep red purple self, was eye catching.

We thank the Meeks for inviting us and we hope to return someday during peak bloom.

### SCHREINER'S GARDEN Howard Brookins

A special treat of the 1991 Japanese Iris Conventin tour was a peek at the Schreiner's gardens and fields. Part of the planned tour was an opportunity to see Robert Schreiner's personal collection of Japanese irises in his home plantings. To arrive at his yard meant walking through Schreiner's display garden of tall bearded irises. With the extremely late spring season in Oregon, many of the TB's were in peak bloom, so we observed their beautiful stalks while walking through, giving us an idea how the professional people raise TB's for display purposes. The raised beds were in great shape, and were attracting large crowds. Soil was mounded about 12" high, with borders of various colored pansies planted between the grass and irises. A sign in the beds as you entered said it all; "Positively No Dogs Allowed". Every clump was a real "show" clump! It was great to see that Japanese iris fanciers aren't as prejudiced towards one type of iris as the usual TB fanatic is, turning their backs on anything but TB's! Many members stopped to take pictures of the lovely clumps, making it difficult for our bus captains to get people back on the road again. This was a great sneak preview of what is in store for us at the 1994 Portland AIS Convention!

Rounding a corner of the Schreiner display beds, we were given our first glimpse of Bob Schreiner's home plantings. The beds are laid out in semicircle patterns on either side of a large well manicured lawn, with three separate beds on either side. Behind the beds are various specimen trees and shrubs, totally separating things from the "busy" world of commercial plantings in the area. The Japanese iris were planted in the center set of beds, with four clumps of each variety set in rows. Name tags were at each end of the rows, so the bed accommodated a large group easily, as viewing could be done from the grass path on either side.

As had been the case in all gardens, peak season for Japanese iris bloom was a week or so away. Some of the Japanese irises in bloom were HATSU-KAGAMI, a delightful 3 fall pink self, with gold signals and gold veining; I. MIKOKAGURA, which translates to "Rainbow Colors"; NARIHIRA, Dr. Hirao's deep velvety red-purple, with delightful overlapping petals; HARUNGKIYOKO, a red-violet with white sanding and dashing; Payne's ORIENTAL ELEGANCE, white with light lavender edging and sanding; and Walter Marx's BLUE LAGOON, a blue sanded white. In bud was Hirao's SHIN-ASAHI-NO-YUKI. A nice 3 fall



pink was MY YOSHINO. Also open were FUJI SNISHI, lavender, with white edging, Fred Maddock's GEISHA GOWN, a beautiful white self; MIDARE-ITO, a pale lilac self, who's Japanese name translates to "Tangled Threads", describing it's somewhat messy appearance; Hirao's six falled HIME-KAGAMI, a pink with bright yellow spears and dark pink veining; ENCHANTED SWAN, a lovely white with yellow tinting, very properly named, as a clump looks like a group of swans, with irregular petal patterns suggesting birdlike shapes.

Some companion plants with the Japanese iris included a lovely clump of bright red lupines, a beautiful fringe tree, loaded with its delicate lacy white flowers, nice clumps of fox glove, and various peonies scattered throughout the garden. Adjacent to the pool were lovely clumps of spuria and Louisiana irises.



**Two views of Schreiner Garden**

Photos by Howard Brookins

## THE 1991 JI SHOW REPORTS

Oakland, CA---reported by Virginia Burton, SJI Publicity Chairman.

The Sydney B. Mitchell Iris Society, an affiliated club of A.I.S., held their first late iris show in the Lakeside Park Garden Center in Oakland, CA on Sunday, May 26. Show chairman was David Lennette.

In the Horticulture Division were classes for bearded iris, 3F and 6F Japanese iris, Louisiana iris, Siberian iris, Spuria iris, other beardless iris, historical iris (introduced prior to 1950, species and natural hybrids), miscellaneous iris, and also collections. There was a Youth Division, Seedling Division, Educational Division and an Artistic Division. A display of design by students of Murayo Sawai, President of the Northern California Ikenobo Ikebana Society, was also staged.

Held in conjunction with the show was a two hour judges training session on Japanese and other late blooming types of beardless iris by Mary Dunn and Glenn Corlew.

Best of Show was won by a Cal-Sibe, SWIRLING MIST. Best of 3F JI was PEACOCK DANCE, and of 6F JI was HALL OF MARBLE. The best Siberian was PUGET POLKA, with DESTINATION taking best spuria and HOLDEN CLOUGH was best of other beardless iris. There were 80 entries in the show. Other JI entered in the show were SPRINGTIME SHOWERS, MIYOSHINO, PRINCE AURORA, SAPPHIRE STAR, GALATEA, ABUNDANT DISPLAY, FLASHING KOI, PIN STRIPE and PINK DIMITY.

Marjorie Murray talked to Shirley Pope, SJI President, and I as we were being driven to the airport from the Portland SJI Convention, about their show. We asked her to send us a schedule and report so that I could write it up for "The Review". Thanks Marjorie, the idea of 3F and 6F classes for JI is new to me as well as a historical class. We all can benefit from new ideas obtained from JI show reports.

### Summerville, South Carolina---Virginia Burton

The Summerville Iris Society held its JI weekend on May 31 and June 1. There were 32 people taking the 2 hour judges training course on Awards and Ballots. John Wood of NC. and Adolph Vogt of KY. were instructors. Hilda Crick, A.I.S. Chairman of judges and judges training also spoke on A.I.S. Rules and Ethics.

The show theme was "Happiness". There were 20 artistic designs done in a creative manner. In class 1, "The Temple", a horizontal design, Barbara Mitchum won 1st place. Lavina Goldsberry won 1st place in class 2, "Iris Blessings", a novice class on a pedestal. In class 3, "Festival of Flowers", a parallel design, Barbara Mitchum took 1st. Class 4, "Bound and Free", Moribana, was won by Barbara Mitchum. In class 5, "Oriental Express", Leora Moore took 1st place and Best of Show. Barbara Mitchum won Design Sweepstakes.



In the JI companion plant division of 125 entries Leora Moore had 22 1sts, winning Horticulture Sweepstakes. The Japanese iris division was entered by 5 exhibitors. John Wood won Sweepstakes and also the J. B. Hale Memorial Plaque for best seedling. Virginia won best JI specimen of the show and also Best Local JI entry with REIGN OF GLORY. In the species class John Wood won 1st with a specimen of I. brevicaulis.

On Saturday our guests were taken by bus to the spacious gardens of B. C. and Maggie Johnson, (on tour for 1994), then to lunch at a church near by, followed by a visit to Good Earth Gardens. They then returned to Summerville to Quincy's Restaurant for supper, courtesy of SIS. After supper we had the auction, ably handled by Ruth Wilder, to help defray our expenses. Our constitution and by-laws says we are to be a non-profit organization. When all figures were in we had about \$16 to the good---that is about as close to non-profit as we want to be! Thanks to all of our guests who help to keep us solvent and, also, to a super hard working SIS membership.

### Virginia Beach, VA --- Dalynne J. Kelly

The Tidewater Iris Society presented its first Beardless Show to the public Saturday, June 1, at Lynnhave Mall, Virginia Beach, Virginia. Doing anything for the first time is always the hardest, and certainly a learning experience. But, with all the enthusiasm generated in our Society for Japanese iris, a show dedicated to these beauties just couldn't be overlooked this year. We had the normal pre-show jitters, especially since temperatures were hovering in the high 90 to 100 degree range a solid week before the show. One of our members, Bob Smithson, even went so far as erecting a tent over his iris bed to protect them from the blistering sun. Now that's what I call dedication.

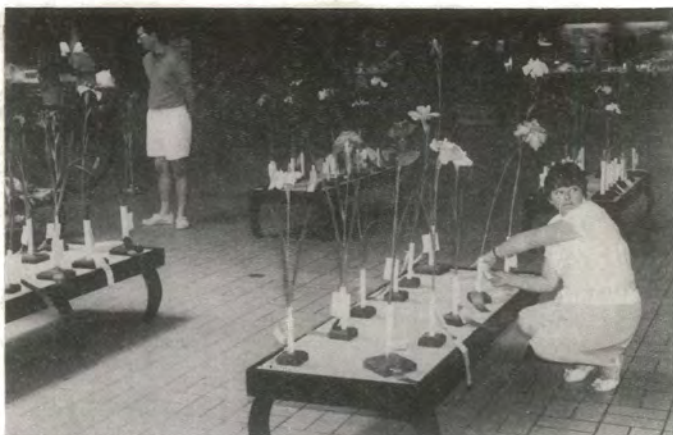
Even with all the perils, we managed to have a total of 55 entries (all Japanese) shown by 7 exhibitors, which were judged by Clarence Mahan and Freda Hazzard. Queen of the Show went to PRAIRIE TWILIGHT exhibited by D. J. Kelly. The first, second and fourth runners-up were ANYTUS, JOY PETERS and WORLDS DELIGHT, exhibited by Rich Randall. Our third runner-up was IKE-NO-SAZANAMI, exhibited by Bob Smithson.

The Best Seedling went to SH-24, hybridized by Dr. Hirao and exhibited by Rich Randall. The Silver Medal was won by Rich Randall and the Bronze Medal went to Bob Smithson.

To enhance the Japanese theme, Rich Randall made our display tables. They were covered with straw mats and made low to the ground, which placed the iris at the ideal viewing heights. The curved legs and simplicity of design set the perfect mood for the show. Bill Smoot brought in a beautiful oriental screen, hand painted on silk, and used it as a back drop for the Queen's Table. What a striking presentation it made!

Thanks to everyone who worked on the show with such dedication and creativity and to all the exhibitor's enthusiasm, we had a successful and beautiful first show.





Top & left:  
Virginia Beach, VA  
Show

Photos by Rich Randall

Bottom:

Hendersonville, NC  
Display

Photo by Walter Hoover



### **Hendersonville, NC.---Walter Hoover**

The Carolina Mountain Iris Society of Region Four staged its first Japanese iris display June 6 and 7 at the Opportunity House in Hendersonville, North Carolina. Twenty nearly perfect specimens provided by the Grundies, Hoover, Nelson, and Nix gardens were displayed.

CMIS has for several years attempted to promote the cultivation of beardless iris--especially the Japanese--among its members and within the larger community. This display was conceived with that goal in mind. If the reception that this display received is any indication of future interest, then the gardens of Western North Carolina should be overflowing with Japanese iris in years to come. One older gentleman remarked as he viewed the display, "They look just like the formal gowns my girlfriends used to wear--just more beautiful!"

The additional purpose of publicizing the society's July 20th iris auction was also served by this recent display. Handouts available, adjacent to the display, promised that in addition to the usual bearded iris there would also be a large number of Japanese iris available at this year's auction.

After this success, it is hoped that within the next year or two an annual juried Japanese iris show will become an important activity in this area of Region Four.

### **St. Louis, Missouri---Sue Delmez**

The Greater St. Louis Iris Society held its annual Beardless Show on June 8, 1991 at the Missouri Botanical Garden. There were 14 exhibitors, showing 114 entries. Best Japanese was JACASTA, exhibited by Don Delmez. Best of Show was a spuria, ELEANOR HILL, exhibited by Shelton Butt. The Silver Medal was won by Don Delmez and the Bronze Medal went to Shelton Butt. Best seedling was a Japanese, MBSW-1, exhibited by Don Delmez.

In the Design Division, Lu Dickhaut and Rita Kinsella tied for Best Design. There was also a tie for sweepstakes between Jo An Finke and Lu Dickhaut.

### **Washington D. C. Area---Diana Nicholls**

The show sponsored by The Chesapeake and Potomac Iris Society and The Francis Scott Key Iris Society was held at the Chattham Mall, Ellicott City, Maryland June 22, 1991. Our bloom season was running two weeks plus ahead of normal and our show date was a week later than normal, which resulted in most gardens being bloomed out. Carol Warner having one of our northern most gardens was able not only to save the day but practically put on a one woman show. She exhibited the Queen, ELECTRIC RAYS, and first and second runners-up, ROSE FRAPPE and JAPANESE SANDMAN, and took the AIS Silver Medal. Rosalie Figge was recipient of the AIS Bronze medal. Best Seedling was awarded to Sterling Innerst's 3044-1, a six fall violet having a lighter center with rays within the center area.



Harrisburg, Pennsylvania---report not received.

Kalamazoo, Michigan---show cancelled.

Weston Massachusetts--Barbara Schmieder

On Saturday, July 6, Weston, Massachusetts was the scene of a beautiful Japanese iris show, in cooperation with the hosta and hemerocallis societies. The irises were the only judged entries, but the hosta and daylily displays certainly added to the enjoyment of all who visited the show. For the third time, Tom and Alice Schaefer co-chaired the show, and Tom even had to take over staging, as our wizard show designer, Jane Cratsch, had a family reunion that day.

Most of us in Massachusetts were on the tail end of our bloom by the show date (the season was two weeks early!), but we were rescued by Shirley Pope, John and Evelyn White and Warren and Marie Hazelton of Maine. This certainly points out the advantage of having a regional show. Next year the show will be in Maine and we can help them out if the season is late!

There were seventy-three entries in the horticultural division and nine in the artistic division. Winner of the Silver Medal and Certificate was Shirley Pope, with six blue ribbons. The Whites (John, Evelyn and Ted) won the Bronze Medal and Certificate with two blue ribbons and five seconds. Best Specimen of Show went to Shirley Pope for CONTINUING PLEASURE. First runner-up was PRAIRIE SWEETBRIER, exhibited by the Hazeltons. Shirley Pope had second runner-up with ORIENTAL CLASSIC. Best Seedling (out of fifteen entries) was the McEwen/Pope entry 80-168.

The Artistic Sweepstakes was won by Evelyn White. Evelyn also had Best Design, "Watercolor". The theme of this division was "Picture This", and the design certainly showed how well-suited Japanese irises are for flower arranging.

Visitors to the show were asked to vote for their favorite iris. Many said that they couldn't choose - all of them were beautiful. Eighty-three people chose favorites and the runaway winner was JAPANESE PINWHEEL, with sixteen votes. MIDSUMMER HAPPINESS and a pink ensata seedling of McEwen/Pope tied for second place with six votes each. YAWANOBE was third with five votes. Everyone agreed that it was a beautiful show. The staging (mats on the floor, fans and parasols on the walls) and the containers (Frank Sousa's wonderful PVC tubes set into wooden blocks painted white) added just the right touch to the opulence of the Japanese irises.

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## WHEN IS A PAYNE A PAIN?

Rosalie Figge

As an aftermath of the National AIS tours through my garden, I decided that at LAST I could re-arrange my plantings. The Japanese irises needed replanting last year, but my ground was tied up with guest irises. It didn't take long for the dirt and irises to start flying--the soil to be mixed with "goodies" for the replanting and the irises, tied in neatly named bundles, into buckets of water. What a good time I had!

Not only seeds germinate in the soil - but my ideas formulate while digging around. Why not have a Payne Award Bed, I thought? What a brilliant idea! After all, I had Dykes beds! Checking books and buckets - I have over 170 after all, voila!

It might be possible! I lined out my irises by dates of awards - then an S.O.S. phone call and check to ENSATA brought me nearer my goal! BUT - what a pain that Payne Collection turned out to be! The FRUSTRATIONS! Even with another frantic call to ENSATA (in the fever of excitement of being so near my goal, the U.S. Mail was too slow) it was to no avail! The ones I was STILL missing are the ones difficult to find because they are difficult to grow. I had already run up against this with my Dykes. If I had a dollar for everytime I've had to replace KILT LILT, RIPPLING WATERS, and SKYWATCH, I could order irises with abandon! They are BEE-yu-tee-ful irises IF they stay with you. Is it any wonder I plant VANITY everywhere? It grows and blooms to reward you and all viewers are entranced.

My present soapbox is that irises should be judged in more than one garden in one area - the important titled awards should go to those that will bloom more universally. How about judges renewing their vows?

But - back to the problem! Here I almost have a Payne Bed, but for three missing ones. PLEASE, does anyone have (at a sensible price - to me): PRAIRIE LOVE SONG, FUJI, and/or BLUEBERRY RIMMED. I have and love RASPBERRY RIMMED.

At this writing, I don't know what the '91 Payne will be - please, not another pain! I can only hope it is a willing, tough, prolific grower and not another shy violet!



## JAPANESE IRIS CULTURE IN JAPAN

Currier McEwen

In 1987 Mototeru Kamo spent several days with us at Seaways Garden and at that time brought some Japanese irises of Japanese origin, chiefly introductions of Drs. Hirao and Tomino, Ichie and his own, which he thought would be useful additions to my breeding pool. In 1990 when he returned for the Japanese Iris Convention held that year in Maine, he was disappointed in the way the plants were growing and thought that the soil at Seaways had deteriorated. We talked at that time about steps to be taken to improve our soil and Elizabeth and I made serious plans to visit Japan and learn at first hand the methods of plant culture used there. With the urging of our Japanese friends, that visit was made in June 1991. Some of our interesting and delightful experiences of that trip will be recounted in future articles. This one is concerned with the culture of the plants, especially at the Kamo Nursery at Kakegawa and Hiroshi Shimizu's garden at Sagami-hara. I am indebted to Mr. Kamo, Mr. Ichie and Mr. Shimizu for the information they gave me and for their answers to my many questions during the preparation of this article.

Kakegawa is some 25 miles from the southern coast of Shizuoka Province, roughly halfway between Tokyo and Kyoto. In winter the lowest temperature is from 28 to 36 degrees F and the highest from 45 to 55 degrees F. In summer low temperatures are 70 to 80 degrees F and high from 80 to 90 degrees F. Average yearly rainfall is about 78 inches with much of that in the summer and little in the winter. It rarely snows, and then not enough to cover the ground. There may occasionally be frost but it is melted by noon. In a normal year, the Japanese irises start blooming about the first week in June and are at peak bloom in mid-June. Mr. Kamo believes the climate at Kakegawa is too hot to be ideal for Japanese irises. He is therefore, at present, creating a new nursery at Asagiri, in the foothills of Mt. Fuji, where it is so much cooler that peak bloom occurs about three weeks later.

The natural pH in soil samples tested for me by the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Service was 5.7 which is, I gather, typical of the natural soil acidity there. There were good amounts of potassium, phosphorus, calcium and magnesium. That laboratory does not test for nitrogen. The most striking feature was the large amounts of clay as indicated by cation exchange capacity (me./100 gm.) of 21.8. Samples collected and allowed to dry, felt rather like bricks and were hard to break. This was true also of samples collected below Mt. Fuji and near Tokyo. Mr. Ichie said that the soil at Kakegawa at one time contained too much clay and sand was added. The yearly application of large amounts of composted manure also helps the soil consistency.

The Kamo Nursery is a commercial one with a large part of the plants taken by the 100,000 or more people who visit the nursery each year. Therefore, thousands of the plants are grown in pots which the buyers can take with them while in bloom. Hence, pot culture is very important, but I will discuss regular culture in the garden beds first. Before



taking up the individual measures used, however, I must say that Mr. Kamo and Mr. Ichie wish me to explain that they are not confident that these measures are the best. From year to year they discontinue or modify some, always seeking improvement.

### Planting Seeds

Seeds are planted in pots in late February using a planting mix of one-half sand and one-half finely ground, light brown peat moss and are left in a greenhouse. No manure or fertilizer is used. When the seedlings are about 4 inches tall, in late March or April, they are planted individually in pots or are lined out in garden rows about 4 inches apart.

### Culture in Garden Beds

Plants to be transplanted are dug and divided as soon after bloom as possible; the early bloomers first. Mr. Kamo mentioned that new roots do not develop well if soil temperature is above 77 degrees F. If it is not necessary to see the plant in bloom that year, the transplanting is done at Kakegawa as early as January to early March.

Plants are divided into single divisions and are lined out in rows 30 inches apart. If the divisions are to be left only one year, they are planted 4 inches apart with crowns about at soil level. If they are to remain longer, they are placed about 10 inches apart and deeper.

Fertilizer: An inch of composted cow manure is spread between the rows at time of planting (whether in February or after blooming), again at the other of those times, and ideally also in spring. This serves not only as fertilizer but also as mulch to help control weeds and retain moisture. I can attest to the fact that it causes no unpleasant odor and is not unpleasant to walk on. Mr. Ichie mentioned the use of composted cow manure as a mulch to be spread 3 inches deep between the rows in the spring and tilled into the soil in late August.

At time of planting, a form of dried fish fertilizer is applied. I am told that this causes an unpleasant odor for three or so days and then is not unpleasant.

In the spring, granular non-organic fertilizer is used. This is applied at the rate of about one half cup per plant if widely scattered but about half that much if applied in a limited distribution around individual plants. This is done every month until shortly before bloom. If a manure mulch is being used, a formula of 5-3-2 for nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium respectively is selected but if a straw mulch is used, a formula of 8-7-5 is preferred. However, no non-organic fertilizer is used for newly planted plants until the new roots are established which takes some four to eight weeks. Mr. Kamo made the point that all organic materials used as mulches or dug into the soil are broken down by micro-organisms that require nitrogen. Hence, some additional non-organic fertilizer is used even in beds fertilized with manure. Mr. Ichie has said that in the regular garden area where large amounts of composted manure are used, this



supplies the full need for phosphate and potassium so the solid fertilizer used contains only nitrogen (formula = 30-0-0).

Water: The soil is kept moist constantly after planting until the new roots are well established. It is less important after that but, in fact, Japanese irises always need water.

At the Kamo Nursery, an overhead spray of water is used except during the period of bloom when the rows of potted plants and those in the garden rows are flooded. Mr. Kamo emphasized that this is done primarily because the visitors to the nursery expect it and not because it is necessary. Overhead sprinkling is easier, less expensive and better for the plants. The sprinklers are used for one hour daily when there is no rain. At the nursery, flooding the rows of plants has the additional practical advantage that it keeps the thousands of visitors from walking through the rows. This is important not only to save plants from being injured but especially because walking on the heavy clay soil compresses it so that oxygen and other necessary elements cannot get to the roots.

Pests: The iris borer appears to be more of a problem in Japan than in the United States for I was told that there are at least two kinds: small ones reaching about one half inch long and larger ones an inch or more long at full size. The smaller ones are mainly in southern parts of Japan and produce two or three generations yearly. The larger ones are mainly in the northern regions and, I gather, resemble those we are familiar with in the United States. Both types are controlled with a granular type of pesticide applied twice in the spring and twice during the blooming season. A liquid pesticide is also used. I did not identify it but it is not dimethoate.

In recent years, thrips have become more noticeable but are not much of a problem except that they spoil pollen and interfere with potential crosses. Hence I judge they may be different from those that we are familiar with that damage the leaves. They are controlled with the same pesticide used for the borers.

### Rotation of Crops

This subject was discussed in some detail with Mr. Kamo and Mr. Ichie, in spite of the fact that it cannot be used at the Kamo Nursery. The reason for this being that the huge display and sales area cannot be moved. Nevertheless, both these expert growers believe strongly in its value when conditions permit it to be used. I have taken it for granted that the age-old practice of crop rotation used by practical farmers is sound. But still, I have wondered why it is that a single crop grown for many years in the same soil gradually deteriorates. I was therefore much interested in the views of these experienced growers. They advanced three reasons for the deterioration:

- A. A loss in the balance of microbial population in the soil;
- B. The accumulation of toxic substances in the soil resulting from applications of mineral fertilizers,

chemical sprays and secretions from the Japanese irises themselves;

- C. The death of old tissues and shortcomings of growth characteristics such as the yearly origin of new roots of Japanese irises higher than the previous ones bringing them too near the soil surface for suitable growth of the plant.

Since crop rotation cannot be used at the Kamo nursery to help correct these problems, a series of counter measures are relied on as follows:

1. A balance of good drainage and adequate watering (addressing causes A and B);
2. Use chiefly of natural fertilizers with limited applications of non-organic fertilizers for special purposes (A and B);
3. When replanting, they till deeply (A and B);
4. Use of abundant composted manure (A);
5. Divide clumps every three years (C);
6. When plants are dug, they discard the old soil about the roots and replace it with fresh soil (B);
7. If a disease of significance appears, they fumigate that area with methyl bromide (A).  
(Note: their other use of methyl bromide is to sterilize the plastic pots used for the potted plants.)

### Pot Culture

As I mentioned earlier, pot culture is particularly important at the Kamo Nursery, because many of the plants sold are taken directly by the huge number of people who visit the nursery at bloom time, taking potted plants of flowers they see and like.

In January to early March plants to be potted for sale the following June are divided into single divisions and planted in 3 inch pots. If they are to be in the pots longer, larger ones are used. The growing medium is one-half sand and one-half coarse peat moss. No manure or fertilizer is used. The pots are watered from above just enough to keep them moist until bloom time when the rows in which they stand are flooded enough to have the water level less than an inch above the bottom of the pot. This is done not because that is necessary at bloom time but, as said above, because people visiting the nursery expect it. Solid fertilizer (formula = 8-7-5) is used twice monthly from March to October at the rate of .3 grams per pot.

Hiroshi Shimizu in Sagamihara, about 25 miles southwest of Tokyo, who grows all his plants in pots also believes that pot culture is not the best, but it is used in nurseries primarily to assist in sales and in private gardens to save space. Land



is so expensive in Japan that most gardens are small and by using pots, more plants can be grown. He prefers overhead watering, but has his pots in very shallow water from May to September when it is hot and dry. Because he commutes to work in Tokyo, he does not have the time required for daily overhead watering. During that period he must sometimes allow the pots to dry in order to allow a free exchange of oxygen. From September to April the pots are watered only from above because if they stand in water at that time the roots die.

## PROGRAM FOR SOIL IMPROVEMENT AT SEAWAYS GARDEN

Currier McEwen

As mentioned at the start of the preceding article, Mototero Kamo, when he visited our Seaways Garden in July 1990, was concerned that our soil had deteriorated since his first visit in 1987. At that time we discussed with him various means for improving it. Subsequently, on our visit to Japan in June 1991, we explored this problem further with him and Mr. Ichie. This article is based chiefly on their recommendations.

Of first importance in the rejuvenation program they advised was the addition of organic material through manure, compost and cover crops.

**Manure:** Only well composted manure will be used. In empty garden areas, this will be scattered perhaps an inch or two thick and at once tilled into the top 6 inches of soil. In areas already planted, Mr. Kamo suggested spreading as much composted cow manure as possible between the rows in early spring and tilling this into the soil when the leaves reach the height of 6 inches.

**Cover Crops:** Of the various cover crops we have tried, buckwheat has served well. It grows so fast that we have this year been able to till three crops into the soil. The first crop was planted early spring right after tilling in a crop of winter rye. This is being done in a vacant area. Each crop of buckwheat was tilled into the soil just as it reached early bloom stage. Following this, a planting of winter rye was made in late September.

In addition to these organic measures, we will apply granular mineral fertilizer in spring (or summer for the ones just planted) and also after bloom in the amounts and formulas noted in the preceding article.



Our plantings are on a three year schedule; that is, our new seedlings, when lined out in the garden, remain there for three years of evaluation and are then removed. Those to be kept for breeding or possible introduction are planted in another prepared area and the others are discarded. Those to be discarded are removed that fall. Those to be kept remain in place until the next spring since transplanting is best done in the spring in our area. In the spring, when the area is empty, the oat straw and composted manure accumulated over the three years will be rototilled into the soil. If the area is not to be used that year, buckwheat (or vetch and oats) will be sowed to be followed in September by winter rye. If, however, new seedlings are to be planted there that spring, a new 1 or 2 inch layer of composted manure will be tilled into the top 6 inches as soon as the area is empty. Also, the rows will be shifted so that the new ones will be where the paths between the rows were before.

As mentioned in the preceding article, the greatest difference in the tests of the soil at Kakegawa and at Seaways was the water holding capacity due to the abundance of clay in the sample from the Kamo Nursery. Our soil is a sandy loam which needs lots of water and our water capacity is such that we can leave the sprinkler on only two hours in the morning and again in late afternoon. This means that it takes four days to cover the entire Japanese iris garden area. We will next year have a small test area to try one of the water-holding polymers such as Moisture Miser on a trial basis and another test area to which we will add clay. We are also testing the use of composted manure vs. oat straw as mulch, soaker hoses vs. overhead sprinkling, composted manure used in prepared trenches prior to planting vs. being used in planting individual plants, and the usefulness of monthly watering with soluble fertilizer in addition to the granular fertilizer applied in early spring and after bloom. Results will be reported as experience accumulates.

I will make one other comment regarding the state, in 1990, of the plants Mr. Kamo so kindly brought me in 1987. Normally, they would have been dug and replanted in the fall of 1989 after three years of growth but because of the Convention to be held the next year, I did not want to disturb them. Thus they were in their fourth year. When they were dug that fall, the roots of most of the plants were very nearly at soil surface and very poor. Some plants indeed were so poor that they died after transplanting, but all the rest look fine this year after being replanted. It was a dramatic demonstration to me of the importance of replanting Japanese irises every three years unless they are growing where their roots are constantly moist, as beside a pond.

Finally, I will add a note about our soil pH. Tested every few years with a simple Sudbury Kit, the pH in various garden areas at Seaways has been 5.3 to 5.5. In spite of that suitably acid soil, I have foolishly used acid type fertilizer for the Japanese iris beds. This year the pH tested by the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Service was 4.7 and I have scattered dolomitic ground limestone. Certainly one does not want to use acid fertilizer if the soil is suitably acid naturally.

## HONEYSONG NOTES ON JAPANESE IRIS

Alex Summers

These notes deal with my experiences with Japanese iris. A tale of failures and difficulties, some of which still crop up, and finally a degree of success.

My first exposure to these iris is lost in obscurity. Certainly I knew of them on my visits to various Gold Coast estates and in later years through my work as a landscaper and nurseryman. I vividly remember the gorgeous display outside the Japanese pavilion during a visit to the World's Fair in 1940.

I knew Dr. Shuichi Hirao back in the '60's. In fact we were exchanging plants (no iris) before the Hosta Society was formed in '68 as my records mention a box of plants received in July '67, one of which is the well known award winning Hosta, *Montana aureo marginata*. It was probably 5 years later when his book came out and he offered me a copy. By that time he was "Shu" and I was "Alex", quite good friends although we'd never met.

It was indeed surprising that the first Japanese iris I have any record of growing, about 10 plants, were given to me by Mototeru Kamo on July 28, '78 on a visit to my Long Island garden with his wife, daughter and another female associate. A couple failed to grow, the rest did not match the labels (in English) which were probably attached to the plants by a Japanese helper who knew no English. These were planted on the lawn near a vernal pond on the portion of an estate where we built a home in 1960. The pond was a modified kettle hole left by a block of ice way back when the glacier covered a good part of the continent and actually stopped and melted on that very spot. As the pond was shallow it dried up each summer and the area became infested with field mice which, of course, devoured the roots. About 5 survivors plus PURPLE PARASOL, acquired during a Maine visit to Dr. McEwen, were brought to my Delaware home in '80. Also about that time I acquired a few nice clumps of white iris from Mrs. Hitchcock, the widow of one of the polo playing wealthy socialites who died when his horse fell on him. All these grew well until a build up of meadow mice and voles found them one winter and all but one scrap from Kamo was lost. In addition I completely lost another collection from a friend in Pennsylvania. Same rodent problem. Siberians planted alongside are still intact.

Another 5 years passed. A nurseryman friend from Long Island who shifted his operation to the Shenandoah Valley and then found, to his dismay, that his soil was not acid enough for Japanese iris, decided my spot with wild azaleas and Mountain Laurel was just right for a few Japanese iris. He and his wife and daughter arrived with 54 banana boxes filled with all kinds of plants, including over a thousand roots of *I. ensata*, out of his cooler. These they helped plant. The rest took me over a week to get in. Naturally they also departed with 54 banana boxes of daylilies and hosta which I had in surplus.



In the three years before we built another home I decided that the iris would do better in a damp spot, as they had dwindled to a very few of each kind (about 10 varieties). Most went back to the original source, some to another nursery, and some to the mice.

Another year after the above planting and another load and source. This time large clumps of Eleanor Westmeyer's iris arrived. These I used for landscaping an area, wet at times, damp sometimes, and plain dry the rest. Naturally some of these dwindled in the two years before they were moved. But large clumps in partly wet soil, seasonally, do not disappear that fast or completely and I have most if not all. Unfortunately the Westmeyer iris, actually acquired from a friend of hers, was in part mislabeled, as were some of the previous lot.

We moved in 1987 into our present home on the same premises alongside a dug pond, 22 feet deep and about 75 feet long. Opposite is another dug pond slightly larger but shallow. Both are connected and drain through ditches and slow moving streams eventually into the Chesapeake Bay. The house is heated and cooled with a ground water heat pump. The iris are planted in a modified "rice paddy" which is flooded periodically, sometimes daily. Rodents, except for muskrats, stay away from wet or muddy areas. So the rodent problem is permanently solved.

A few screw-ups in labeling seem natural but to find it a problem with each nursery that sells iris seems a bit disturbing. Perhaps it is a minor complaint to find one or two wrong in each lot of 2 dozen or so; still, it doesn't please me.

The worst lot was from a well known mail order nursery. Of the six ordered, 3 failed to grow. As they discontinued listing Japanese iris the money for the 3 iris was refunded. The following year (1991) the remainder flowered. None of the 3 resembled even slightly either the photos or any of the descriptions listed. After receiving 3 letters from different people in their complaint department and one unproductive call to their horticultural specialist, I am stuck with 3 junky iris. Please boycott any nursery that does not guarantee plants being true to name.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Mr. Summers identified the nursery, but it was felt to be poor policy for "The Review" to publish a complaint against any one individual nursery. If you would like to know what one however, Mr. Summers will be willing to provide the information. His address is:

Alex Summers  
P.O. Box 430  
Bridgeville, DE 19933

We are aware that several mail order nurseries are guilty of supplying Japanese iris plants of questionable value. These plants are not being grown by the individual nurseries. Several companies use the same photographs in their catalogs, and even the same packaging. It would appear the plants are coming from large wholesale sources, usually from Holland, and are often not as advertised. Beware!



We recommend that Japanese irises be purchased from iris specialists or home gardeners who list AIS registered varieties. They will usually provide a larger selection of varieties, with a better chance of receiving quality plants true to name. Several of these are listed in the Commercial Directory section of the AIS Bulletin. The Society for Japanese Irises can also provide a list of sources if you contact our membership chairman, Carol Warner. See inside front cover of this issue for her address.

Just in case you are wondering, the word "HONEYSONG" comes from the name of Alex's property, which is "HONEYSONG FARMS."

### **POTTED JAPANESE IRIS** **Shirley Pope**

This spring, as an experiment, we potted up several varieties of Japanese irises for visitors to our gardens. In previous years, while admiring the irises during peak bloom, eager customers have been disappointed to find we won't dig during bloom season. The potted irises turned out to be a huge success. Gardeners were delighted to have the chance to purchase and take home a named, registered Japanese iris in bloom. Along with the iris went a CULTURE SHEET so there would be no chance of forgetting how to care for their new purchase.

We potted the plants in early spring during our shipping season. We used 1 gallon plastic pots, a 3 fan iris and equal parts loam and pro-mix, thoroughly mixed. The pots were sunk in the garden so the sun would not cook them in the plastic pots. We watered the pots regularly and fed them bi-weekly with Miracid.

I took a pot of STRIPER (Copeland '84), in bloom, to our local nursery this summer. We wanted to test the nursery trade. We agreed on a price and they sold it that afternoon to a walk-in customer. We are planning to supply the nursery with a variety of named and registered irises next year. They will be potted and will be sold with a culture sheet. The nursery is happy to be able to stop selling Japanese irises labeled "Mixed Colors."

Would you pot up a few of your named irises to sell, swap, give to friends or take to your society's iris auction? It would not only help wipe out some of the junk on the market today, but the ordinary gardener would be able to buy quality plants.

THE IRIS  
FROM THE FLOWERS AND GARDENS OF JAPAN

**Editor's note:**

The following material was forwarded to me by two different members, Clarence Mahan of Virginia and Slavko Zivojnovich of Minnesota, for suggested inclusion in "The Review". I will use the material as offered by Clarence, since his submission is a longer, more complete excerpt, and it was accompanied by several explanatory comments and footnotes.

**Clarence's introduction:**

The Flowers and Gardens of Japan is one of the "A & C Black" books, a series well known to fine book authorities because of its magnificent illustrations. A & C Black books were not "written" but, as the covers announce, they were "painted and described." They were all published in London by Adam and Charles Black. The Flowers and Gardens of Japan was "painted by" Ella DuCane and "described by" Florence DuCane. It was published in 1908, and is avidly sought after by collectors of rare and beautiful books.

This past year I was able to add a superbly preserved copy of this wonderful book to my collection of "iris books." The illustrations of Japanese irises in garden settings are exquisite. The text provides a glimpse of "old Japan" which will not be seen again. Although irises are mentioned throughout the book, the chapter which deals exclusively with irises is of special interest to the "iris historian." In reproducing that chapter here, I have added footnotes to explain, or clarify, certain material for the reader. I only wish I could share the magnificent illustrations with you.

**The Book Text:**

"If I were to be asked which of all the show gardens in Japan---a garden devoted to the cultivation of one especial flower---gave me most pleasure to visit, I should unhesitatingly answer Hori-Kiri,<sup>1</sup> the garden of hana shobu or Iris kaempferi,<sup>2</sup> in the neighbourhood of Tokyo. Throughout the month of June this garden remains a feast of subdued colour; for the iris is no gaudy, flaunting flower, but a delicate blossom shading from pure white, through every shade of mauve and lilac to rosy purple, and so deep a blue as to be almost black. In the first days of June the paths winding through the rice fields from the banks of the river Sumida will be crowded with sight-seers whose steps are all bent in one direction and with the same intent---to pay their annual visit to Hori-kiri; and throughout the month this never-ending stream continues from early dawn until the setting of the sun or the rising of the moon. Flower-sellers there will be too, one perhaps with only a modest bunch of half-opened buds in a wooden tub shaded from the sun by a large umbrella, not the unpicturesque object recalled to our English minds by the word umbrella, but one made of pale yellow paper, large and flat, with bamboo ribs, the owner's name inscribed in bold, black Chinese characters---or farther on a little stall decked with lanterns, and a gay-coloured curtain with some device



suggestive of the iris; tiny toys, little fairy baskets of split bamboo with just one iris blossom, or fans painted with a giant bloom covering the whole fan, and other dainty trifles, to carry home to the little ones left at home or as a souvenir of this iris land.

The garden of Hori-kiri must be of very ancient date, as the fine old pine-trees, dwarfed and gnarled maple and juniper bushes, are not the growth of this generation, or even the last.<sup>3</sup> The garden is said to date from some three centuries, and to be handed down from father to son, always in the same family. Nothing could be more perfectly laid out for the proper display of its especial flower, the shaping of the beds, the placing of the bridges, and even the colouring of the little summer-houses in which to entertain their host of guests---all has been thought out by this artistic family; and last, but by no means least, the clothing of the little maids who wait on them with untiring zeal---their kimonos and obis all harmonizing in colour.

I have lingered too long on the surroundings of the flowers, and the reader will want to know more of this wonderful flower which deserves so much attention---it does indeed deserve the attention, for surely by the middle of the "dew month" it is hard to imagine anything more beautiful than the scene which meets the eye. Some seventy varieties of this kind of irises are grown, many raised from seed and jealously treasured by the owner of the garden. There are early and late varieties, three weeks almost between their time of flowering, but by the second week in June the second blooms of the early varieties will have opened and the first blooms of the later ones, so the effect is as if all were flowering together; every shoot of the plants seems to bloom; there are no gaps in their serried ranks. The mere variety is amazing. Some are pure white, only veined with a faint tinge of green; some have a margin of lilac; some are shaded; some mottled; but surely the most beautiful of all is just a great single bloom of one shade, be it white, lilac, or blue. Many people prefer the duplex flowers with an inner row of small petals, but to me this form seemed to have lost some of the natural beauty and grace of the true iris. I tried to learn something of their cultivation, hoping it might be of help to those who grow those poor specimens known in England as Iris kaempferi. It is not the plants themselves, or the varieties, which are at fault, for many thousands of roots leave the Hori-kiri garden every year to be scattered throughout the world,---it would seem to be the soil and climate which they resent and stubbornly refuse to adopt; for a few years they linger and even bravely flower, and then they begin to pine and droop like some poor home-sick mortal pining for his native land.<sup>4</sup>

August appears to be the especial month for dividing the roots or replanting them, so that month had better be chosen as the beginning of the iris year. The yellowing foliage is ruthlessly cut to half its natural height and the plants divided, for no clump is ever allowed to grow so large and old that it is hollow in the center;<sup>5</sup> the outer shoots appear to be the strongest, and have most promise of bloom for the following year. The beds are sunk a foot or so below the



paths; and the rich soil is like a quagmire, not with standing water, but like swampy ground. In November the plants are all cut down, in preparation for the first dressing of manure in December. The liquid sewage is liberally applied, once towards the end of the year, and then again after an interval of a few weeks, the final dressing being given in January. By February the growth has started, and once the young leaves appear there can be no more manuring, or the foliage would suffer. From now until the time of flowering, the regulation of the irrigatin seems to be the chief matter to ensure success in their cultivation. Each variety has its own especial name, generally with some poetical meaning, but difficult for the European ear to grasp, and I noticed that, no doubt for the sake of the foreign market, all the rows were numbered as well as named.

Do not imagine that this is the only iris garden of Japan. There are many others, though I always think that Hori-kiri ranks first, not only for the beauty of the garden, but the actual flowers seem larger and better grown than anywhere else. Only a few minutes' drive from Hori-kiri will take you to Yoshino-en<sup>6</sup>, celebrated for its wistaria as well as its irises. The ground is larger than Hori-kiri and the irises are well grown, but as the garden is not devoted entirely to their culture the effect is not so pleasing. The whole district almost seemed devoted to the culture of shobu--many, many fields of them I passed; but as they are grown entirely for the sake of cutting the blooms for market, there is never any mass of color to be seen.

The gardens of Kabata, belonging to the Yokohama Nursery Company, are perhaps the most extensive iris gardens in Japan;<sup>7</sup>

I felt almost dazzled and bewildered by the very size of the grounds---acres of irises---a beautiful sight; but I never derived the same pleasure from it as from the smaller garden. The iris is one of the few flowers which seems to be allowed to enter into the precincts of a true Japanese landscape garden: in many a private garden a stream will be diverted to feed an iris bed, placed where a piece of swampy ground would be most in keeping with the rest of the miniature landscape; or even the margin of a tiny lake will be utilized for just a few plants of shobu. I remember seeing an old priest tending his little colony of irises, which no doubt were chosen with great deliberation from a large collection for some especial beauty. How often have I seen an old man and woman considering on which particular favourite their few yen shall be expended, and then departing, the happy possessor of a new treasure to add to their little store. My friend the priest's collection all grew in pots; they did not look as though they would attain their full height and beauty: but as if to reward the loving care bestowed on them they all showed promise of flower; and no doubt in due time they will have been arranged so as to give the best effect and greatest pleasure to their grower.

I asked a Japanese who, with his little gentle wife, was sitting in quiet contemplation and evident enjoyment of the scene, to tell me something of the flower as it appeals to the Japanese, and he said: 'We live here in the choicest floral kingdom; and to our mind the flowers are beautiful, and we do not ask why or how, the sight of their beauty is far more real to us than any meaning which they may suggest. You will find

no other nation like Japan, which loves Nature so truly in her varied forms and holds communion with all her aspects; we love the iris as a flower, but as nothing else. I cannot make my mind associate it with any meaning of zeal or chivalry, nor do I think of it as any messenger; it appeals to me only as a little quiet beauty of the water side, making friends with the sadness of the rainy season. In our poems the iris is almost inseparable from water; one of our celebrated poetesses has written the following seventeen-syllable poem<sup>8</sup>---

Midzu ga kaki,  
Midzu ga Kashikeri  
Kakitsubata.

(Water was the painter,  
Water again was the eraser  
of the beautiful fleur-de-lis.)

It is the universal custom throughout Japan to celebrate the fifth day of May by hanging bunches of shobu beneath the eaves of our houses, and to put them into the hot water of the public baths, as it is perfectly delicious for the bathers to inhale their odour. We also drink sake in which they have been steeped, on the same day.<sup>9</sup> I feel proud to hear that the fleur-de-lis, as I believe you call the iris, is the national flower of France, as I like to think that it has found a home in the West, and when I was told that the flower which was put above Solomon's greatest glory was not the lily of our country, but that of the iris family, I felt glad and agreed with it.'

The delicate Iris tectorum would be an immense addition to our English flower gardens, if only our summers were hot enough to bake their roots sufficiently to make them flower. I succeeded in making them grow; they threw up their shoots each year, but never one single flower, until at last, disgusted, I condemned them, like so many other treasures brought from foreign climes, as unsuited to our cold grey skies. Late in May these irises will be in full bloom and forming a purple spur on the top of the thatched straw roofs of the farm-houses; they are generally planted in this way (hence their name),<sup>10</sup> and transform the roof ridge of many a peasant's dwelling into the aspect of a flower garden. Many different reasons are ascribed to their being planted in this manner; some say the irises are planted to avert the evil spirits, and there is a superstition that they are efficacious in the prevention of disease. There is also a legend that during one of the famines that devastated the land in olden days an order went forth that all cultivated land was to be given up to the growing of rice, but that women of Japan, determined to save their iris roots, from which their powder (so essential to the toilette of every young Japanese lady) is made, planted them on the roofs of their houses. I give the tale with all due reserve, as I was never able to verify it, nor do I even know for certain that their precious shiroi is made from iris roots.

'Other people no less positively affirm the growth to be accidental. Others, again, assert that the object is to strengthen the thatch. We incline to this latter view; bulbs do not fly through the air, neither is it likely



that bulbs should be contained in the sods put on the top of all the houses in a village. We have noticed, furthermore, that in the absence of such sods, brackets of strong shingling are employed, so that it is safe to assume that the two are intended to serve the same purpose.' (Chamberlain's Things Japanese)<sup>11</sup>.

No matter the reason for their being so planted---be it for protection, be it for the sake of vanity or merely for safety---the effect is none the less charmin, and later in the year these little roof gardens are sometimes gay with Hemerocallis aurantiaca or a stray tuft of scarlet Nerine.

The true Iris japonica or chinensis is a shade-loving plant, with many lavender-coloured flowers on a branching stem, each outer petal marked with purple lines, and in the centre of the flower a deep orange horn. Like so many delicately marked flowers, it has a very short life, each individual bloom appearing to last only from one sunrise to the next, but the stems bear so many blooms that other buds quickly open and fill the gap of yesterday's blossom.

Iris gracilipes seems the commonest and most free-flowering of all the irises. In May its graceful purple flowers and vivid green grass-like foliage seemed to fringe each pond, and the only fault I had to find with this form of iris was the short duration of its flowering season; the plants bloom so freely they appeared to flower themselves to death, and after one short week their slender heads would hide themselves untill the resurrection of the next 'flower month.'

I learned that the Iris laevigata, which appears to be synonymous with Kampfer's iris<sup>12</sup>, is much used as a decoration for ceremonies and congratulatory occasions, but on account of its purple colour it is not desirable for weddings, though permissible for betrothals. It is much honoured in the art of flower arrangement, and ranks high among the flowers used for the vase on the tokonoma; and the leaves are as much prized as the flowers, lending themselves to the bending and twisting required to attain the regulation curves. As a rule it is not permissible to use the leaves alone of a plant which may bear a flower, or the flowerless branches of a shrub which may bear blossoms or berries; but Iris japonica seems an exception to this rule, and the leaves alone may be used before the flowers appear. The first of the ten artistic virtues attributed to certain combinations is headed in Mr. Conder's list<sup>13</sup> by Simplicity---expressed by rushes and irises in a two-storey bamboo vase. The beautiful arrangement known as Rikkwa<sup>14</sup> (double stump arrangement) consists of a combination of pine, iris, and bamboo grass."

#### Footnotes:

1. This garden is described in detail, as it was in the 1920's, by George M. Reed in The Iris of Japan. In Reed's book it is designated "Horikiri-yen".

2. Now designated Iris ensata.



3. According to George M. Reed, Horikiri-yen had been "in the Isakai family for at least ten generations. One of the earliest owners, who lived in the early part of the 17th century, was a floral decorator for the first Tokugawa Shogun."

4. We now know that with acid soil and proper nutrients, water and division, Japanese irises can flourish in most areas of Great Britain just as they do in Japan. This makes one contemplate what we do not know about growing Pacific Coast Native irises in the East today. Perhaps before much longer we will come to understand why Pacific Coast Natives thrive in England but not on the Eastern seaboard of the U.S. Then we easterners shall be able to grow these beautiful American native irises just as the English can now grow Japanese irises.

5. Many of us have learned from sad experience that one cannot divide Japanese irises too often. The happier the Japanese iris is in its other treatment, the more often it demands division. To ensure success, I believe Japanese irises must be divided every three years, and sometimes every two years when they are particularly well grown.

6. This garden, also described by Reed, was located at Yotsugi, about a mile from Horikiri. A samurai named Masui established a restaurant at the site in the early 17th century. In the 19th century it was famous for its tree peonies, one specimen being nine feet tall and bearing more than 200 flowers.

7. This is not the garden described by Reed as the "Yokohama Nursery Company" garden. The garden described by Reed was at Totsuka, near Yokohama. Reed pointed out that the Yokohama Nursery Company specialized in hanashobu, and changed the location of its gardens on several occasions.

8. The iris named in this poem is kakitsubata (Iris laevigata). The translation of Japanese haiku is very difficult to do well, and the beauty and connotations are never fully captured. This poem in Japanese has only seven words. The author's translation uses 13 words and does not adhere to the strict 5-7-5 syllable form demanded by haiku. Another translation might be:

Water created  
Water annihilated---  
Blue water iris.

9. The "iris" of the ancient "Iris Festival" on the fifth day of the fifth Month was not an iris at all. Rather, it was the "Sweet Flag" (acorus calamus augustifolius), the leaves of which have a fragrant odor when crushed. Thus, if one feels compelled to imitate the custom of putting something in one's sake, it had best be the leaves of the Sweet Flag---not the leaves of an iris.

10. The Latin root of tectorum means "to build."

11. The quote used by Ms. DuCane is from Basil Hall Chamberlain, Things Japanese. There is a paperback of this work, published by Charles E. Tuttle, under the title Japanese Things: Being Notes on Various Subjects Connected With Japan.

12. It was not until Dykes gave the clear, definitive explanation of the differences between Iris ensata (then Iris kaempferi) and Iris laevigata that the relationship between these two distinct species was understood. DuCane clearly understood that the Japanese regarded these two irises as distinct species, and I interpret her use of the verb "appears" to be a questioning of the wisdom of Western botanists who classified the hanashobu as a variant of I. laevigata.

13. Josiah Condor, Landscape Gardening in Japan (Kelly and Walsh, Ltd., 1893). There is an excellent modern paperback reprint of this work published by Dover Press. Interestingly, in Condor's work the following irises, with Japanese names in parenthesis, are listed as suitable for use in Japanese gardens; Iris japonica (Shaga); Iris laevigata (Kakitsubata); Iris siberica var. orientalis (Ayame) [Now designated Iris sanguinea], and Iris tectorum (Ippatsu).

14. DuCane's "rikkwa" would be transliterated "rikka" today. This is the classic form of Ikebana developed in the early 17th century by Ikenobo Senko.

MINUTES OF SJI BOARD MEETING  
FAIRVIEW PARK MARYOTT HOTEL  
FALLS CHURCH, VA  
MAY 18, 1991

Minutes by Bill Ackerman  
Edited by Robert Bauer

Attendance - Shirley Pope, Howard Brookings, Carol Warner, Clarence Mahan, Anna Mae Miller, Jill Copeland, Bill Ackerman, Virginia Burton, Rich Randall, and Sterling Innerst.

Meeting was called to order at 1:40 PM by President, Shirley Pope.

Secretary's report - not heard due to absence of Bob Bauer. Bill Ackerman volunteered to take minutes.

Treasurer's report - given by Carol Warner and copy distributed. Accepted as read.

Membership report - Discussion on how to maintain level of membership. Each year there are losses, but also gains through new members. Howard Brookins indicated this is typical of most sections. Present dues do not actually cover expense of publishing the REVIEW. Difference more than made up by auctions of guest garden plants. Decision made to leave dues as they are.

Robins - Pat Brooks was recommended and approved as the new Robins chairperson.



Awards & Registration - Appointment of Clarence Mahan to replace Richard Randall.

Nominating Committee - Replacement of Ronald F. Miller (expiration 1991) by Anna Mae Miller (to expire in 1994).

Old Business - Subject was brought up about Clarence Mahan's prior suggestion of SJI producing a new book involving color photos and descriptions of new JI cultivars (Clarence had not as yet arrived at the meeting, so discussion was brief and inconclusive).

New Business - Question about the use of terms "3 falls", "6 falls", etc., instead of petals. Use of falls as the better terminology was approved.

Check List - Has been entered into computer. Distinction between hybridizer and introducer has not always been made clear in the past. This should be corrected.

Registration of Japanese cultivar introductions - Clarence Mahan indicated not much progress so far on this. Some cultivars distributed under wrong names. Need knowledgeable people to describe and photograph Japanese cultivars for registration. Clarence has received permission from Mrs. Hirao to register all of her late husband's cultivars. Those growing Japanese introductions should send list to Clarence (to avoid duplication of efforts). Describer needs to make two slides of each cultivar - 1 of flower and 1 of plant (clump). Also need information on number of styles and falls.

Clarence Mahan indicated that Japanese iris introductions were sent to Portland, Kalamazoo, Virginia Beach, and Summerville. Heavy losses all around. Carol Warner will send replacements of those lost (of which she still has plants).

Discussion that some of Hirao's seedlings are not worthy of naming. Board gave Clarence authority to cull those of poorer quality.

Problem was raised regarding nomenclature of duplication in JI cumulative checklist (1988) of cultivar name "Galatea" listed (Marx import, Bush list) followed by (Marx). It was suggested and approved that the second variety should be listed as "Galatea Marx."

Membership Dues - Howard Brookings asked why lack of covering costs of Review publication by membership dues should be subsidized by plant auctions. However, no one felt the dues should be increased. It was suggested to ask Lee Welsh about approaching new printer for better work at a more reasonable price. Howard gave the example of the printing work done for the Reblooming Section, which apparently gets more for less money.

Life Membership - One of the JI chapters wrote Shirley about a life membership for its library. Most present felt this should only be granted to a person, and the request was denied.

Meeting adjourned at 3:25 PM.



SJI BOARD MEETING  
RAMADA INN  
PORTLAND, OREGON  
JUNE 14, 1991

Robert Bauer, Secretary

Meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM by President Shirley Pope.

Attendance - Other officers attending were: Howard Brookins, Carol Warner, Robert Bauer; Directors Jill Copeland and William Barr; committee chairpersons John Coble, Claire Barr and Virginia Burton; and guests Currier McEwen, Rosalie Figge, Adolph Vogt, Chad Harris and from England, Dr. Jimmy Smart.

Currier McEwen announced that Mototeru Kamo has donated to the SJI Library the book Iris Laevigata by Akira Horinaka. One may purchase the book through Kamo Nursery in Japan for \$60.00. It was decided that the book could be rented from the SJI Librarian for 4 weeks for \$5.00, and that the book and the rental should be announced in The Review.

The Board was informed that SJI owns 50 copies of The Japanese Iris by C. McEwen held by Howard Brookins and 13 additional copies held by Ensata Gardens. Carol Warner was appointed to find out how many copies have been sold and if reprints can be made if the book is sold out.

Slides and Hhistorian - Chairman Coble requested that hybridizers send him slides of their registrations. He also announced that he had received slides and other material from the estate of Arthur Hazzard, donated by Frieda Hazzard.

Publicity - Chairman Burton announced that 2 or 3 new beardless iris shows are scheduled this year and that the popularity polls have been printed.

Display Gardens - Chairman Barr would like to hear from display gardens after the bloom season to learn if people are attending them. She feels publicity about the gardens is lacking and perhaps A.I.S. would publish information about the display gardens. It was suggested to approach magazines such as Flower and Garden and Horticulture for free announcements of the garden.

An "Invitation to Join SJI" brochure was discussed. Brookins, Warner and C. Barr volunteered to prepare it. It should have information on the society, its activities, benefits, display gardens, dues, etc. Copeland moved to fund the project, Coble seconded and it was unanimously approved to print about 1000 copies.

Old Business - Warner moved that the society purchase a half page ad in the winter Bulletin of the A.I.S. to promote sales of The Japanese Iris by C. McEwen. Barr seconded and it was approved that Secretary Bauer be in charge of the ad.

The registration of JI was discussed. Mototeru Kamo has informed McEwen that he will register his cultivars with A.I.S. He was questioned who would register Shuichi Hirao's cultivars. It was announced that Hirao's seedling #30 sent to the 1989 SJI convention and subsequently distributed to the '92 and '93 conventions was registered as "Shuichi Hirao" and would be introduced by auctioning plants later at this convention. Warner is currently growing the stock and will send the plants to the successful bidders. The problem of registering the remaining Hirao seedlings, and other Japanese cultivars in the U.S. was not resolved.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM.

#### NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

6065 N. 16th St.

Kalamazoo, MI 49007

October 23, 1991

To - Shirley Pope, SJI President,

The Nominating committee is pleased to report the following SJI members have been contacted and agreed to serve a term as Directors at Large.

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

Tel. (301)774-7538

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

Tel. (616)668-2156

William E. Barr, 12565 Cloudesly Dr. Rancho Bernardo,

San Diego, CA 92128 Tel.(619)451-6333

Appointed to the nominationg committee through 1994

Anna Mae Miller, 6065 N. 16th St., Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Tel. (616)349-5934

The nominating committee for 1990 was

Ronald Miller, Chairman

John White

Evelyn Jones

cc White, Jones

### THE EDITOR'S "REVIEW"

This past week-end brought more rains, and the end of the color season. What a glorious season it was in Southern Michigan! Color was the brightest I remember seeing it in several years, and it seemed to last over an unusually long period. If only it could last until time for snow at Christmas, but alas, we must get through dreary, bare November.

Ample offerings again made for a full sized "Review", with a variety of material. My thanks to all who contributed. A special thank you to Dr. Yabuya, for his series of important research articles, the third and final one in this issue. I hope we will be hearing more from him shortly.

At this point however, the back-log barrel of material has become empty. So folks---keep sending, and replenish for the next issue---please.

This issue owes a special debt of gratitude to Caryl Randall. She volunteered, in the absence of the Editor, (I was unable to attend the Portland Convention) to arrange for garden and photographic coverage of the convention. My deep appreciation to her for taking on this job. Without her efforts, convention coverage might not have happened.

Preparations are well under way in kalamazoo for next years convention. Do note the change of date from what was published in the last issue. We hope to see a large number of you here in June.

I wish to again bring to your attention the notices on membership renewals and Robins. These are important and deserving of your consideration.

There were shows in three new areas this year. GREAT! One report came as a complete surprise, since I did not know any showing was being planned for that area. Hopefully, all will plan to repeat the effort next year. Please let me know of your plans, so that notices can be published in the Spring issue.

Soon it will be January. Time to sit by the fire and start dreaming about next years garden. Meanwhile, Merry Christmas to everyone.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lee".