

THE REVIEW

OF THE SOCIETY
FOR
JAPANESE IRISES



VOLUME 29

NUMBER 2

FALL, 1992

THE REVIEW
OF
VOLUME 29 THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES FALL 1992
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THIS ISSUE IS DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF LEE WELSH, LONG-TIME EDITOR OF THE REVIEW AND A TRUE SUPPORTER OF SJI. (In Memoriam - page 8)

THE REVIEW
OF
VOLUME 29 THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES FALL 1992
NUMBER 2 OFFICERS

President Mrs. Maurice B. (Shirley) Pope, Jr.
39 Highland Ave., Gorham, ME 04038
Tel. (207)839-3054

Vice Pres. Howard Brookins, N75 W14257 North Point
Dr., Menomonee Falls, WI. 53051
Tel. (414)251-5292

Secretary Robert Bauer, 9823 E. Michigan Ave.,
Galesburg, MI 49053 Tel. (616)665-7500

Treasurer Mrs. Andrew C. (Carol) Warner, 16815
Falls Road; Upperco, MD 21155
Tel. (301)374-4788

Immediate Clarence Mahan, 7311 Churchill Rd.,
Past Pres. McLean, VA 22101 Tel. (703)893-8526

Directors Dr. William Ackerman, P.O.Box120,
at Large Ashton, MD 20861 Tel. (301)774-7538

Mrs. James (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

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Through John W. White, RFD 2 Box 980, Auburn,
1992 ME 04210 Tel. (207)345-9532

Through Mrs. Bennett (Evelyn) Jones, 5635 S.W.
1993 Boundary St., Portland, OR 97221
Tel. (503)246-6706

Through Mrs. Ronald (Anna Mae) Miller, 6065
1994 N. 16th St., Kalamazoo, MI 49004
Tel. (616)349-5934

APPOINTMENTS

Editor, Mrs. John W. (Evelyn) White
THE REVIEW See address above

Membership Mrs. Andrew C. (Carol) Warner
Chairman See address above

Slides/ John Coble, 9823 E. Michigan Ave.,
Librarian Galesburg, MI 49053 Tel. (616)665-7500

Robins Patricia (Pat) Brooks, 102 Jefferson
Chairman Lane, Ladson, SC 29456 Tel. (803)871-023
Publicity Mrs. Wells E. (Virginia) Burton, 3275
Chairman Miller Dr., Ladson, SC 29456
Tel. (803)873-7388
Display Rich Randall, 524 Windsor Gate Rd.,
Garden Ch. Virginia Beach, VA 23452
Tel. (804)340-9077
Awards & Clarence Mahan
Registrations See address above

SURFS UP -- RIDE A NEW WAVE

Surfers say that waves comes in sets of 3.
In John Coble's article (7-92 AIS BULLETIN), "A
NEW WAVE OF POPULARITY", he states that JI's are
in the 3rd wave.

If we want this wave to increase in momentum,
we must show our JI's off by displaying them. Shows
are one way. Touring gardens is another. Inform
local flower and garden clubs that your garden has
Japanese iris and that it is available for tours.
Within your own iris club, promote a fun day of
touring members' gardens. If you sell or give away
JI's, please provide culture sheets.

By locally displaying the iris, the wave will
continue to grow.

P.S. If you would like to be listed in the Spring
"REVIEW" as a display garden, please send me your
name, address, peak bloom time, and phone number.

Rich Randall
524 Windsor Gate Rd.
Virginia Beach, VA
23452

To order the 1992 Cumulative Checklist for
Japanese Irises, send \$5.25 (USA only), or \$6.00
Foreign Surface mail, \$10.00 Air Mail Foreign to:
Howard L. Brookins
N75 W14257 North Point Drive
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

This year has been an especially sad year for SJI. The deaths of Adolph Vogt and Lee Welsh have left a deep void in the Society and in their friends' hearts. The willingness of these men to share their acquired knowledge of the Japanese Iris was well known. At every meeting or convention Adolph was surrounded with JI enthusiasts eager to listen to his words of advice and encouragement. (I wonder if they have kiddie pools in heaven.) Lee was a master at wheedling an article for THE REVIEW from JI gardeners. All of us are richer for having known these two kind gentlemen.

Our Society is financially sound again this year. This is due to the eager bidding on the Convention Irises and the generosity of the hybridizers who donate their irises to swell the Society's Treasury. Because of this we have been able to Maintain our Society without raising dues.

The new, updated checklist is available and selling well, and Clarence Mahan continues the Society's project of registering worthwhile irises hybridized in Japan.

When Lee Welsh died suddenly, we were left with an unexpected need. Someone had to take up the task of compiling and editing our REVIEW. I am pleased to report that Evelyn White has accepted that responsibility.

It is important that our Executive Board establish a budget and format for the REVIEW which satisfy the desires of the membership. Please send any recommendations (suggestion or complaint) to me, personally, in order that they may be considered by the Board at our next meeting.

Congratulations are due Claire Barr on her election as President of the American Iris Society. Claire has asked that she be relieved of her duties as our Display Garden Chairman. Rich Randall has accepted appointment to that important office. Thanks, Rich.

At the Board meeting in Kalamazoo committees were formed to design the new Awards Medal and to begin work on the picture reference book.

The Society was invited to hold the 1996 Convention in St. Louis, MO, the 1997 Convention in Sacramento, CA and the 2000 Convention back in Kalamazoo. This insures continuity for the next few years. 1998 and 1999 are the only years available in this century. You had better move fast if you've been hesitating about hosting a convention.

I wish to end my tenure as President of the Society for Japanese Irises by repeating that the demand for good quality, registered Japanese Irises is exceeding the supply. AIS affiliates report that the Japanese Irises always sell out at their iris auctions and sales. Because of all the recent magazine articles and the sale of the Japanese Iris book, gardeners are searching for irises to buy. Their interest will quickly die when they receive a tiny, dried object hidden in a plastic bag of sawdust or sphagnum moss. Please donate, trade, or sell your extra irises. Pot them up and make them available to visitors during bloom season. All the hard work of committees and members is useless if interested gardeners are repeatedly disappointed by the death rate of this junk. Let's help our Society continue to grow.

Many thanks to all who helped me and to all the rest for their quiet tolerance.

Sincerely,
Shirley Pope



BUSINESS ITEMS

"The Review" is published semi-annually by the Society For Japanese Irises. Editorial Office is located at RFD 2 Box 980, Auburn, ME 04210. Deadlines for receiving copy are March 1 and Sept. 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 Membership Chairman, The Society for Japanese Irises.

RENEWALS: If your mailing label is marked with the expiration date 9207, this will be the last copy of "The Review" on your present membership. PLEASE RENEW.

Address Changes: Please notify 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 3 issues,
All subsequent volumes contain 2
issues each.

SJI Slide Set Rental \$ 5.00

IRIS LAEVIGATA - book rental \$ 5.00

All prices include postage. Send your requests for items above 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 ads, text only, \$2.00 for up to 5 lines and for each additional 5 lines or fraction thereof. Send ads with check to Editor.

TIDEWATER IRIS SOCIETY
INVITES YOU TO THE 1993
CONVENTION OF
THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES

THURSDAY - SATURDAY
JUNE 3rd, 4th and 5th

CONVENTION HEADQUARTERS
will be the

HOLIDAY INN
EXECUTIVE CENTER
5655 Greenwich Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23462
(804) 499-4400
1-800-HOLIDAY

Please make your room reservations directly with the Holiday Inn before May 18th. One night's deposit or credit card guarantee are required. Be sure to mention the Japanese Society to receive the convention rate.

The Hotel rates are \$62.00 (plus tax) per night for 1 to 4 people.

Free Shuttle from the Norfolk Airport

CONVENTION REGISTRATION DEADLINE is MAY 18th, 1993
Please register early.

Convention Registration Fee: \$75.00 per person
Includes 2 Banquets, 2 days of bus tours, and 2 full lunches.

Mail your reservations to:

Mr. Ron Harris
3592 N. Ingleside Drive
Norfolk, VA 23502

The Convention will have a Beardless Iris Show on Thursday. A tour of Norfolk Botanical Gardens is planned; you will see the Arthur Hazzard memorial bed, where we have planted donations of approximately 66 of the 88 JI's that Arthur introduced. In the same general location is a bed with 59 guest irises. Of other interest is their rose garden, which contains 4000 roses, and the camelias of which they have over 700 varieties.



IN MEMORIAM
LELAND M. WELSH
1929 - 1992

Leland was born and raised on a farm in the Eaton Rapids area of Michigan and held many values derived from this background. He loved to make jellies and pickle, dry corn, and use many treasured family recipes for potlucks and entertaining friends. He honed some of the skills he learned from his mother and had a fine recipe collection.

Leland studied horticulture at MSU and, after serving in the Korean War, enrolled at the University of Michigan, where he received a degree in Architecture. He worked as a draftsman and architect. He loved irises and was a member of South-Western Michigan Iris Society from about 1966 and served in many officer positions.

Lee was especially interested in the Iris Shows and served a Chairman of many of them. He was a 20yr. member of AIS and enjoyed several national conventions. He served Region 6 as Judges training Chairman for 10 years, keeping the records and arranging and/or presenting programs to improve the quality of the judges of shows and gardens.

He had a special love for the Japanese Iris Show and had arranged with Sylvia Wong, a Sogetsu teacher, to do a very large arrangement as a focal point of this year's show, and for her to give arrangement demonstrations.

Lee served on the editorial committee for JAPANESE IRISES, the book edited by Currier McEwen for SJI. Photography was a major hobby; he had wonderful pictures of most types of irises and shared these in programs and for use in iris publications. Lee enjoyed knowing and having friends in many of the specialty Iris Society Sections and became a Life member in AIS and several sections. He was a very dedicated worker, especially serving as Editor of THE REVIEW, the publication of the Society for Japanese Irises, for 8 full years. He was artistic and designed many high quality covers for local shows and AIS publications, using his drafting and architectural training.

Currently serving as Vice President of SIGNA, the species group, Lee gave several programs on species and was currently growing several species.

Lee will surely be missed when people realize how many jobs he performed with great skill and dedication. He was a member of First Methodist Church of Kalamazoo, sang in the choir, and was famous for the pies he made for them on many occasions. He also served on the altar committee and did many arrangements for the altar.

Leland unselfishly shared his talents with all those he came in contact with.

Anna Mae Miller

1992 JAPANESE IRIS AWARDS

PAYNE AWARD

votes	28	JAPANESE PINWHEEL (C. McEwen)
		(runners-up)
	17	EDGE OF FROST (M. Dienstbach)
	17	WINE RUFFLES (W. Ackerman)
	15	CASCADE CREST (T. Aitken)

HONORABLE MENTION

votes	36	ELECTRIC RAYS (T. Aitken)
	24	JOY PETERS (W. Ackerman)
	19	AMETHYST WINGS (W. Ackerman)
	19	LITTLE SNOWMAN (A. Vogt)
	18	SOUTHERN SON (C. McEwen)
	16	SILVERBAND (B. Bauer/J. Coble)
	11	FUGI'S SNOWCAP (G. Bush)
	11	LITTLE SNOWBALL (A. Vogt)
	11	SPARKLING SAPPHIRE (A. Vogt)
	10	POPULAR DEMAND (C. McEwen)
	10	WILDERNESS RUBIES (J. Wood)

HIGH COMMENDATION

votes	8	J82-A-25 (B. Bauer/J. Coble)
	7	J83 JI " "
	6	J88 H3 " "
	5	86-1-9 (T. Aitken)

This information was provided by Kenneth Waite,
AIS Awards Chairman.

SPECIAL AWARD GIVEN

At Clarence Mahan's suggestion and with the unanimous approval of the Executive Board of The Society for Japanese Irises, The Special Recognition and Honorary Lifetime Membership Award for 1992 was presented to Florence E. Stout.

The RVP for her Region, Chuck Simon, accepted the award on her behalf at the Welcoming Banquet in Kalamazoo.



IN MEMORIAM
ADOLPH J. VOGT
1904 - 1992

Adolph was born and raised in Louisville, KY. He graduated from Manuel High School and went right to work at AT&T.

In 1941, when Adolph and his wife Clara bought an acre lot in Louisville, they found irises already growing in the garden. Clara borrowed a Cooley Iris Catalog from a neighbor, and for the next 20 years they had tall bearded irises almost exclusively. In 1961, after receiving a Walter Marx Catalog and still later attending a JI show in Terre Haute, IN and meeting several other JI folks, tall bearded irises took a "back seat" to JI.

The management at AT&T were so pleased with Adolph's work that they gave him a 2 year accelerated engineer's course in Atlanta; this was the equivalent to a 4 year engineer's training program. This was the only time that Adolph lived away

from Louisville. He retired from AT&T in 1969, after 44 years in the company's equipment engineering department.

In the 1979 Spring issue of THE REVIEW, in his letter as President of The Society for JI, Adolph said, "I said yes to the nominating committee because I welcome the opportunity to be of service to the Society and to do what I can to encourage more people to grow JI". As President of SJI he had a plan and accomplished it to its fullest.

Adolph served the American Iris Society well. He served as Regional Vice President for Region 7 from 1973 to 1975. On the national level of AIS he was a member of the Board of Directors, 1976-78. He received the Distinguished Service Medal from AIS, as well as a Life Membership and Service Achievement plaque from the Society for JI.

He was a Master Judge of AIS, and received two Payne Awards, the highest award given to a JI hybridizer. The Vogt JIs winning this award were ORIENTAL EYES in 1988 and LILAC PEAKS in 1991. The Payne Award is a rotating Prince Erk vase of silver, 10½" tall and 5 3/4" across the top. It is mounted on a mahogany base that carries several silver escutcheon plates on which are engraved the names of successive winners. The cup is engraved with the likeness of a JI. It has the same status as the Award of Merit.

Adolph's JI's are consistently in the top ten of the JI Popularity Poll; this attests to his knowledge of hybridizing and carefully kept records. He advocated quality and beauty in his JI. The names he chose were colorful-- for example: VERMILLION SUNSET, STATELY FLAMINGO, ROSY SUNRISE, ICY PEAKS, LILAC PEAKS, ORIENTAL EYES, DUAL PERSONALITY, LITTLE SNOWMAN, and LITTLE SNOWBALL, to name a few.

Adolph had the gift of working happily with others, the vision to see the beauty of JI in his own garden. He looked to the world beyond and then did something about getting others interested in JI. He was most generous with his JI and his seeds.

On a personal note - I met Adolph in 1975 and he casually asked me if I grew JI. I said "no". Those of you who knew Adolph know positively that you didn't tell him you did not grow JI, because he honestly thought everyone should and could grow JI. I received a package of JI rhizomes that fall and enough JI seed to plant a 3 acre lot like peas in a pod in rows 3' apart. The rest is history. I am most grateful for the kindness he showed the Summerville Iris Society from 1977 to 1992, and to me personally from 1975 to 1992.

Recently the TV Gardening Program in Louisville had a Memorial Tribute to Adolph and showed his garden and JI.

Adolph is buried in the East Haven Cemetery in Louisville, KY with his wife and son. He was a warm, gentle, generous friend to all and is sadly missed.

Virginia Burton

FUTURE SJI CONVENTIONS

- 1993 - Virginia Beach - Norfolk, VA - June 3-5
- 1994 - Summerville, SC - June 2-4
- 1995 - Baltimore, MD
- 1996 - Greater St. Louis
- 1997 - Sacramento, CA
- 1998 - Open
- 1999 - Open
- 2000 - Kalamazoo, MI

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

Please check your label to see when your dues expire. Renewal bills are not sent out, only overdue notices, so please send in your dues before they expire.

Carol Warner
Membership Chairman

AN ANNUAL FERTILIZING PROGRAM FOR GARDENERS
Elsie Skinner

As a landscape designer and retired owner of a landscape contracting and maintenance firm, I have developed a fertilizing program which has enabled me to obtain wonderful bloom sizes and healthy foliage. My activities as a master judge and active member of the National Council of Federated Garden Clubs, the Hosta Society and the Japanese Iris Society have caused me to focus on growing plant material for use in flower arranging and horticultural exhibits.

As we reside in the Lake Oswego, Oregon area, our garden emphasizes Rhododendrons, Azaleas, hardy evergreen ferns, Hostas, Japanese Iris, and decorative bulbs.

The fertilizing program, which is described below, encourages healthy, disease resistant plants and large blooms. Be sure to read all the manufacturers' labels and directions before using any materials in the garden. It is also a good idea to have your soil tested to determine if the pH-factor is appropriate. Our garden has a pH of 5-6.

Trees have their own fertilizing requirements which are satisfied by the use of tree stakes at the drip line as per the manufacturer's recommendations. Tree stakes are usually applied once a year, usually in the Fall or Spring.

The following program for all shrubbery, Japanese Iris and Hostas is the same. I find that the following schedule has worked well in our garden.

In January, apply fertilizer at the drip line in a scattered fashion, using Rhododendron plant food 5-10-10± trace elements, even if the ground is frozen. Remember, don't walk on frozen lawn if it's not covered in snow. In approximately 4-6 weeks the fertilizer will reach the plant roots.

In March, apply Sulfate of Ammonia (20-0-0) when the Japanese iris show approximately 2"-3" of new growth. Be sure to clear away all dead foliage and apply fertilizer only around the outside of the clumps. Fertilizer can burn the plant

if applied directly to the leaves or crown of the plant. For shrubbery, apply the Sulfate of Ammonia around the drip line of the plant.

In May, apply plant food (16-16-16) to all shrubs and Japanese iris. Hosta, which start growing a bit later, need a different fertilizer. I recommend the slow release "Osmocote" (14-14-14), which is good for four months. Apply the first application in March. Repeat this application in June.

In June, apply "Peters" foliar feed (20-20-20) to the stems and foliage of Japanese Iris. Be careful not to spray this on blossoms and buds. Apply the foliar feed at 10 day intervals until after the plant is done blooming or by the first of July. Remember NOT to allow your Japanese Iris to dry out, keeping them moist at all times allows better distribution of the fertilizer.

Typically, I don't fertilize any plants after July in case there is an early freeze. New foliage should harden before the frosts. You should adjust the timing of fertilizer to accommodate weather patterns in your area.

Having addressed the basic fertilizing program above, I want to mention two common ailments that occur occasionally. Plants that are not absorbing the fertilizer, typically show yellow streaking between the veins of the leaves. I have found that the application of a mixture of Epsom salts and Iron Chelates helps alleviate this problem, which is called Chlorosis of the leaves. Mix 3 tablespoons of Epsom salts (Sulfate of Magnesia) and 1½ teaspoon of Iron Chelates to a gallon of water and apply to the drip line of the affected plant. Usually one gallon is sufficient for most shrubs and an improvement should be noticed in approximately 4-6 weeks. Typically one application every three years is sufficient.

Another problem that shows up on Japanese Iris is yellow streaking, which is different than what I described above, and is caused by an imbalance in the pH level of the soil. When this occurs in my garden, I apply granular ferrous sulfate or agricultural wettable sulfur to the ground. Be careful not to pile up the fertilizer - sprinkle

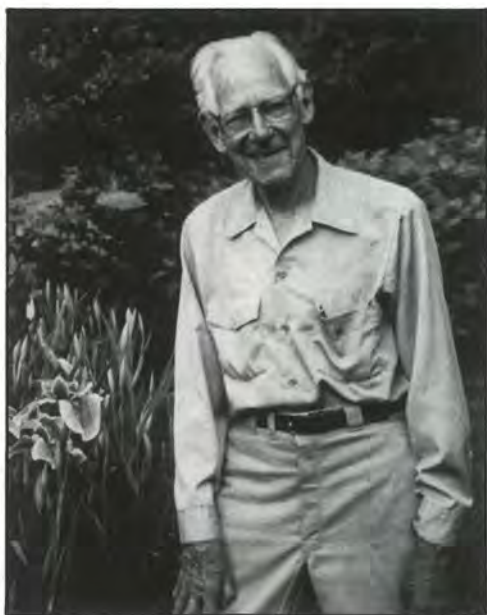
it across the surface of the soil and water it in. The quantity is determined by the area you are treating and typically is addressed in the manufacturer's directions. Don't forget that a routine watering program is also critical to maintain a healthy garden. Letting the soil dry out too much or over watering can cause problems.

Mulching the garden with compost helps conserve moisture in the soil and, unlike bark dust, does not take nitrogen from the soil. I have found, over the years, that adding garden mulch to make the soil friable, together with the fertilizing program described above, has helped our garden to be most satisfying. The rewards of healthy plants with lush foliage and long lasting blooms makes daily weeding worthwhile.

Great Blooms and Happy Gardening,
Elsie Skinner



James and Elsie Skinner
Lake Oswego, Oregon



McEWEN BOOK WINS HORTICULTURAL AWARD

Currier McEwen of South Harpswell, author of "The Japanese Iris", is the recipient of the Helen S. Hull Plaque for Literary Horticultural Interest from the National Council of State Garden Clubs Inc.

Books on horticulture or garden design must be of exceptional merit and must have been written by a member of the National Council of State Garden Clubs to be considered for the competitive award. The Hull Plaque was presented to McEwen during the Garden Club Federation of Maine convention June 17-19 at Sebasco Estates.

The awards book notes: "The Japanese Iris" by Currier McEwen is the first definitive book in English on the history and cultivation of Japanese iris, *iris ensata*, (*kaempferi*) and its cultivars. The book includes history and photographs from the wild species to the major types of cultivars. Information about qualifications for flower shows, hybridizing and registering seedlings is included.

Scholarly in scope, warm in tone, the information is as accessible to the novice as to the advanced professional."

McEwen has been an active member of the Harpswell Garden Club for more than 30 years. He has served as chairman of the Scientific Committee of the American Iris Society and is a past president of the Society for Japanese Irises.

Excerpt from THE TIMES RECORD
Brunswick, Maine
Monday, June 29, 1992

1995 SJI CONVENTION UPDATE

The Francis Scott Key Iris Society will host the 1995 convention on June 23, and 24, 1995 in the northern Baltimore area. Hybridizers who wish to send guest rhizomes of recent introductions and seedlings under serious consideration for introduction may do so this fall, or preferably next Spring or late Summer. We have found that the two year plants seem to provide the best display for our area. Irises received this fall will be potted and held over winter for Spring planting.

Four tour gardens are committed and another is under consideration. Up to four rhizomes of each variety may be sent to the convention chairman: Carol Warner, 16815 Falls Road, Upperco, MD 21155. A more formal invitation for guest Japanese, Spuria, or Louisiana irises will appear in the Spring 1993 REVIEW.

SJI MEMBERSHIP LIST AVAILABLE

An up-to-date membership list for S.J.I. can be obtained from the Secretary, Robert Bauer. It will be produced as a computer print-out, listing members alphabetically by states. Price is \$3.00 each, including postage.

Send a check made out to The Society for Japanese Irises with your request to Robert Bauer, address as listed on page 2 of this issue.

JAPANESE IRIS DISPLAY GARDEN PROGRAM

Survey Summary
by Claire Barr

Japanese irises are gaining in popularity year by year as awareness of them grows. To see them is to love them. The primary object of the Display Garden Program is to make available to irisarians, and to the general public, gardens where they may see well-grown Japanese irises.

According to a survey of Display Garden owners to evaluate the program, many of the gardens listed received few visitors during the previous season, and many of those who came were not aware that the garden they were visiting was in fact an official Display Garden. Some of the larger and already well-known gardens are hosts each year to many visitors, who may or may not know about the program.

Among suggestions for promoting the awareness of the Display Garden Program:

- 1) Owners should share some of the responsibility of publicizing their own gardens locally as display gardens.
- 2) Post signs stating that this is a Japanese Iris Display Garden.
- 3) Publicize the program and give listings in garden magazines and newspapers to attract the attention of non-society members.
- 4) Notify local garden clubs and encourage group visiting.
- 5) Prepare slide shows and encourage local clubs to pool orders for Japanese irises.
- 6) Provide Japanese iris culture directions for visitors to the gardens.

One comment in the survey concerned the lack of standards for landscaping and for the number of cultivars grown in a garden, stating that it would be difficult to set guidelines for such standards. Current guidelines include accurate labeling with the name or seedling number of the iris, the name of the hybridizer, the registration date, and possibly the acquisition date. Garden owners should grow some of the newer introductions and should be willing to add new ones from time to time. They should have information for visitors about sources for purchasing plants.

Some comments from the survey: (1991 season)
Currier McEwen: "The Japanese bloom season was about 7-10 days early and magnificent....Normally JI bloom in our part of Maine is at peak about mid-July, but bloom was earlier this year. However, I expect bloom from early July into early August with my repeaters going on to mid-to-late August."

Shirley Pope: "We had more interest in our garden this year. The book (Currier McEwen's THE JAPANESE IRIS) is the reason, but I think that gardeners are becoming more aware of the beauty of the Japanese Iris. We must always provide culture directions to all our visitors so that this interest won't die out again."

George Bush: "1991 was the worst season for moisture loving irises in my memory.....Much of the JI bloom was small because of the drought. It was not a good year to evaluate or judge blooms. Along with the drought we had temperatures in the 90's and 100's all through the period. Many of the buds dried up and never opened."

Sterling Innerst: The Japanese Iris season here was the best ever. Even though it got very dry here - no rain from 3 weeks before the D.C. convention until Oct. - the bloom season was long, six weeks and wonderful. I did soak the bed once a week until water was restricted, then I watered only the transplants. All lived and went into winter looking good. CAPRICIAN BUTTERFLYwas a standout. TEA CEREMONY ...had 107 blooms opened at one time on a great 2-yr. clump. IAPETUS, HEGIRA, and CAPANEUS were all wonderful at home."

Bill Ackerman: "We had a severe drought this year. This made growing JI's very difficult. I had very heavy losses despite my efforts to keep things watered....Usually, I have several repeat bloomers each year (ex. ROYAL FIREWORKS, TAFFETA AND VELVET, GRAPE FIZZ, and WINE RUFFLES), but this year there were none."

Clarence Mahan: "I was able to visit a number of gardens to view Japanese irises this year. Dr. Jimmy Smart, who is establishing the national JI display garden in England, stayed with Suki and me for a week. Jimmy and I visited the gardens of Hal and Gayle Griffie (Biglersville, PA),

George Bush, (York, PA), Sterling Innerst (Dover, PA), Rosalie Figge, (Towson, MD), Carol Warner, (Upperco, MD), Dr. William Ackerman, (Ashton, MD), and Alex Summers, (Delaware)... There were so many impressive Japanese iris cultivars to be seen this year that it is almost unfair to mention only a few....Growing in a pot on my deck, Hiroshi Shimizu's REISYUN (a named seedling not yet introduced) was in bloom when a local garden club toured my garden. One of the men on the tour offered me \$100. on the spot for it. When I explained it was a guest and I could not sell it, he doubled the offer! Of course, it still couldn't be sold (I wouldn't have sold it even if it hadn't been a guest!).... it was the most impressive pink Japanese iris I have seen."

Carol Warner: "For the most part the only visitors I had were the ones I called and told to come. I wish more people would take advantage of the opportunity to see Display Gardens. Regional publicity hasn't done much in the past; but a listing in gardening magazines seems to create interest... JAPANESE PINWHEEL was nice....CASCADE CREST is tops in every way. ELECTRIC RAYS is a very good grower and won queen at our show."

Diana Nicholls: "The season was the worst ever. 2nd hottest summer on record. The main problem was not really the heat but lack of rainfall... I spent the summer trying to keep things alive. We are on a well here....Most visitors are not aware my garden is a SJI Display Garden."

Ginny Burton: "My JI beds are new after having been demolished by Hurricane Hugo....We (the Summer-ville Iris Society, 5 gardens) are building our gardens up with newer JI's in anticipation of the 1994 convention. I have donated 34 named JI's to the town's park plus 60-70 JI seedlings..... I have my phone number at Town Hall here in Summer-Ville as well as at the tourist area in downtown Charleston."

Bob Bauer: "The 1991 season was great; an abundance of Spring rain helped a lot....No one has ever mentioned our listing as a display garden, so I don't know if that draws anyone. Our advertising is the usual draw for new visitors...."

Even SJI members do not use the Display Garden list as a guide for touring."

Jill and Jim Copeland: "The season was early... Our show was cancelled because the bloom was gone. Often we have a month of bloom...Judges should not vote for JI's unless they visit widely and often."

Anna Mae Miller: "We had a good bloom season but it was exceptionally early. I even think our plants are going into the winter in better condition than in the past few years....We had visitors, but it seems to me that people do not avail themselves of the opportunity. One of our favorites this year was HARU-NO-UMI."

James Shook: "...I am preparing a slide program that I will make available to area garden clubs, and I will also appeal for pooled orders. Shipping costs have become so expensive that a local club could save greatly by having one big order shipped to the same address. I have benefited personally from the Display Garden Program.

Hal Stahly: "Bloom this year on all types of irises was about two weeks earlier than normal. We had very warm weather in May and June, and it was really hot in mid-June when the JI's bloomed. A couple of Japanese imports did best for me this year, most notably IKE NO SAZANAMI."

Jean Stallcop: "Because of early heat the bloom season was shorter....I put display-pictures and culture information at a flower show June 1 in Indianapolis, listing my garden as a Display Garden and also naming gardens in Michigan and Kentucky."

Howard Brookins: "...in addition to my display bed, I have another bed of seedlings which are being raised without any acidity, under the guidance of Dr. McEwen. This is to continue CARE (calcium resistant), originally started by Max Steiger in Germany....As my soil runs between 7.5 and 7.9, depending on the amount of well water I have to use, it should be a good testing ground."

Melody Wilhoit: "1991 bloom was excellent. Third year clumps, which are now huge and need dividing, were eye level with huge bloom....visitors knew we were a Display Garden and were in awe of the JI's."

Excellent bloomers were: EDGE OF FROST, CENTER OF ATTENTION, COURT JESTER, CRYSTAL HALO, ROYAL PAG-EANT, MYSTIC BUDDHA, and FLYING STAG."

Barbara and Terry Aitken: "Bloom in the North-west was outstanding - just 2 to 3 weeks late. This was most unfortunate for the JI convention, as we really did want to share our bountiful display with our guests....the most outstanding guest iris was Adolph Vogt's LITTLE SNOWMAN. TAFFETA AND VELVET, by Dr. Ackerman, bloomed one stem at a time from early July until early November.. The hybrid Japanese iris seedling crop this year was the highlight of the whole season. Many of the super seedlings had DANCING WAVES as a parent ...one inherited characteristic is that the seedlings are all very late blooming. You might say that we have saved the best for last!"

Lorena Reid: "There were visitors here all through the Japanese iris season....I do not know how many were aware that we are a Display Garden for the SJI...Should I post signs and mention it to all visitors?....TAFFETA AND VELVET, JAPANESE PINWHEEL, and ROYAL CROWN put on quite a show this fall...."

Don Delmez: "This was the best Japanese iris bloom season ever!...The JI's started blooming May 22 and quit June 24, but it was too hot for the late bloomers.. I have added several new irises from Japan, including HUTSUHO, plus a few '91 introductions and some of my own seedlings."

It was strongly suggested that visitors be asked to call ahead, especially if the trek involves any distance. Approximate dates for peak bloom are included in the listing; however, actual bloom seasons may vary greatly. The 1991 season was very early in the East and Mid-west, while in the Northwest it was very late. Performance, also, can vary within the various regions (as shown by the garden owners' comments), depending in part on local weather conditions.

There are some changes in the Display Garden List. The iris world mourns the loss of Adolph Vogt; his Louisville Kentucky garden will no longer be listed. We welcome two new gardens, those of John, Evelyn, and Ted White of Auburn, Maine and Donna Aldridge, of Overland Park, Kansas.

JAPANESE IRIS DISPLAY GARDEN LIST

Region 1

1. Dr. and Mrs. Currier McEwen, Seaways Gardens,
Route 1, Box 818, South Harpswell, ME 04079
(207) 833-5438 July 7-21
2. Mrs. Maurice B. Pope, Jr., 39 Highland Ave.,
Gorham, ME 04038 (207) 839-3054 Mid July
3. John, Evelyn and Ted White, RFD 2 Box 980,
(Jackson Hill Road) Auburn, ME 04210
(207) 345-9532 Late July

Region 3

1. George C. Bush, 1739 Memory Lane Extd.,
York, PA 17402
(717) 755-0557 Mid-June to Mid-July
2. Mr. and Mrs. Sterling U. Innerst, 2700A
Oakland Road, Dover, PA 17315
(717) 764-0281 June 6 - July 10

Region 4

1. Dr. William Ackerman, 18621 Mink Hollow Road,
(P.O.Box 120) Ashton, MD 20861
(301) 774-7538 Mid June
2. Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Mahan, The Iris Pond
7311 Churchill Road, McLean, VA 22101
(703) 893-8526 June 1 - July 7
3. Mrs. Andrew C. Warner, 16815 Falls Road,
Upperco, MD 21155
(301) 374-4788 June 15-30
4. Nicholls Gardens, Michael and Diana Nicholls,
4724 Angus Drive, Gainesville, VA 22065
(703) 754-9623 Late May to early July

Region 5

1. Mrs. Wells E. Burton, 3275 Miller Drive,
Ladson, SC 29456
(803) 873-7388 Mid-May to Mid-June

Region 6

1. Robert A. Bauer and John A. Coble, Ensata
Gardens, 9823 E. Michigan Ave., Galesburg,
MI 49053 (616) 665-7500 June 25-July 15
2. Mr. and Mrs. James A. Copeland, 34165 CR 652,
Mattawan, MI 49071 (616) 668-2156
Last wk of May -1st two wks of July

3. Mrs. Ronald F. Miller, Old Douglas Perennials, 6065 Old Douglas Road, Kalamazoo, MI 49007 (616) 349-5934 June 25-July 17
4. James W. Shook, 3987 Lincoln Lake Road, Lowell MI 49331
(616) 897-0160 June 20-August 1
5. Dr. Harold Stahly, 8343 Manchester Drive, Grand Blanc, MI 48439
(313) 694-7139 Peak July 4
6. Mrs. Robert Stallcop, Rt. 2, Box 676, Greencastle, IN 46135
(317) 672-8206 June 10-15

Region 7

1. Dr. and Mrs. Edward T. Browne, Jr., 486 St. Nick Drive, Memphis, TN 38117
Peak 1st week in June

Region 8

1. Howard Brookins, N75 W14257 North Point Drive, Menomonee Falls, WI 53051
(414) 251-5292)

Region 9

1. Jerry and Melody Wilhoit, Route 1, Box 141, Kansas, IL 61923
(217) 948-5478 June 10-30

Region 13

1. Terry and Barbara Aitken, Aitken's Salmon Creek Garden, 608 N.W. 119th Street, Vancouver, WA 98685
(206) 573-4472 Month of June-Peak 15th
2. Mrs. Lorena M. Reid, Laurie's Garden, 41886 McKenzie Hwy., Springfield, OR 97478
(503) 896-3756 Last wk of May-1st wk of July
3. Allan and Dorothy Rogers, Caprice Farm Nursery, 15425 S.W. Pleasant Hill Road, Sherwood, OR 97140 (503) 625-7241 June 15 - July 5

Region 15

1. Lillian Champion, 12420 Seventh St., Yucaipa, CA 92399 (714) 797-9381 May 5-July

Region 18

1. Donna Aldridge, 7503 W. 54th Terrace, Overland Park, KS 66202
(913) 831-3990 June

Region 18

2. Donald Delmez, 3240 Connecticut St., St.
Charles, MO 63301 (314) 724-4274 June 1-25

Region 19

1. Presby Memorial Iris Gardens, 474 Upper
Mountain Road, Upper Montclair, NJ 07043
(201) 783-5974 July

A Gardener's Prayer

O Lord, grant that in some way it may rain
every day,
say from about midnight until three o'clock in
the morning,
but, You see, it must be gentle and warm so that
it can soak in;
grant that at the same time it would not rain on
campion, alyssum, helianthus, lavender, and
others which
You in Your infinite wisdom know are drought-
loving plants--
I will write their names on a bit of paper if You
like--
and grant that the sun may shine the whole day
long,
but not everywhere (not, for instance, on the
spirea, or
on gentian, plantain lily, and rhododendron)
and not too much;
that there may be plenty of dew and little wind,
enough worms, no plant lice and snails,
no mildew, and that once a week thin liquid
manure and guano
may fall from heaven.
Amen.

Karel Čapek

A WORLD PREMIERE

A NEW IRIS

June 26th, 1992 - A new hybrid iris was introduced today at the Montreal Botanical Gardens. This is, in fact, a world premiere since Iris x versata, known as "the iris with an oriental touch", is the product of a cross, which had never previously been successfully obtained, between Iris versicolor found in many regions of Quebec, and the Japanese Iris (Iris ensata).

This new hybrid was created by W.H. Perron & Co. Ltd. with the assistance of the Institut de Recherches en Biologie Vegetale and the Montreal Botanical Gardens.

As Mr. Pierre Bourque, director of the Botanical Gardens stated "with achievements such as these, the ornamental horticulture industry of Quebec is carving out an enviable position for itself on the international scene, through the introduction of a new product of superior quality".

This new hybrid was developed through the Iris versicolor development programme initiated in 1987 by the Research Department of W.H. Perron & Co. Ltd.

The National Research Council of Canada has provided the necessary financial support to the programme which is aimed at developing the horticultural potential of Iris versicolor, a flower many would like to see become the floral emblem of the Province of Quebec.

Mr. Claude Lemieux, President of W.H. Perron Co. Ltd., was understandably proud of the success which the introduction of a new hybrid represents, especially when one considers that the improvement of a native species is a very great challenge for researchers.

This new hybrid will be much easier to grow in gardens than the native species. The larger and more numerous flowers, and the plant's improved disease-resistance will make this hybrid a choice plant for gardeners.

The director of the Institut de Recherches en Biologie Vegetale, Dr. Andre Fortin, was pleased

to convey his pride in seeing tangible results of this project. "This is an outstanding example of the scientific community and industry working together", he remarked.

Finally, Mr. Tony Huber, director of the Research department of W.H. Perron & Co. Ltd., who has been working on the project for several years, mentioned that Iris versicolor, which grows in many regions of Quebec, has up until now interested only a few hybridizers, whereas the Japanese Iris has been the subject of improvements and selections for more than 500 years.

The first Iris x versata should be available on the market in 1994. Specimen plants of this new hybrid are on display at the Japanese pavilion of the Montreal Botanical Gardens from June 26th to July 5th, 1992. The Botanical Gardens are open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Tony Huber or Monique Dumas-Quesnel at W.H. Perron, 2000, rue Dubois, Boisbriand (Quebec), Canada J7E 4H4

Ed. Note: The preceding was taken from a press release issued by W.H. Perron & Co. Ltd.

Early in July this year Mrs. White and I made a trip to visit with Mr. Tony Huber, (whom I had met at the AIS Convention in Atlanta) to see the new Iris "Versata" at W.H. Perron & Co., Ltd. This research center is located in Boisbriand, about 10 miles north of Laval, the second largest city in the Province of Quebec. Laval is a few miles west of Montreal.

The gardens at the research center were very well cared for, and the Versatas were in long rows of about 200 feet. These plants are spectacular, averaging about four feet tall and very floriferous. The colors range from purples, blues to reds. No whites or pinks have been obtained yet, but work is proceeding on those colors. The flowers are larger than Versicolors, and this year they are making back crosses on Ensatas to improve size and to achieve new colors. These will be the DOM-F3 generation.

The first cross was Ensata on Versicolor as the pod parent. The second cross was back onto Versicolors, which gave the second generation of Versatas, called DOM-F2. I have several plants of the F2 generation, started as seeds from seed which Mr. Huber gave to me in Atlanta. These plants are tetraploid and fertile both ways, either on versicolors or ensatas.

The versatas have 2, 3, and perhaps four branches per stalk, with five to six blooms per branch. The bloom period last year on some plants was 58 days; this year some plants are blooming a little more than 60 days. As Mr. Huber says, these are the garden plants of the future.

This was a most enjoyable trip, meeting with Mr. Huber and Monique Dumas-Quesnel. They welcome visitors from the United States.

For further information, see AIS Bulletin No. 279, October 1990 - page 70.

John W. White

ROBINS ARE FLYING

We now have two Japanese Iris Robins flying. The first one is a general one. We have many fine people in it, and we have all learned something from it.

The second one is a brand new Hybridizers Robin. It was suggested by Dr. McEwen. We promptly filled it up at the Japanese Iris Convention in Kalamazoo.

The general robin has been discussing the condition in which we receive iris from different growers. I reported that the UPS man told me that, when it is 90 degrees outside, the back of the enclosed part of the van tested out at 140 degrees. Think about it!

Pat Brooks

If you wish to join a robin, contact Pat.
Address on Page 2.

THE 1992 JI POPULARITY POLL RESULTS
Virginia Burton, SJI Publicity Chairman

In 1991 there were 44 voters from 15 states in the U.S. This year, 1992, there were 50 voters from 16 states in the U.S. PLUS 4 voters from Belgium. GREAT! JIs are getting more and more established in different areas.

- 11 votes----FRILLED ENCHANTMENT
- 9 votes----JAPANESE PINWHEEL
- 8 votes----ICY PEAKS
- 7 votes----ELECTRIC RAYS HEGIRA
 PEACOCK DANCE
- 6 votes----BUTTERFLIES IN FLIGHT
 CAPRICIAN BUTTERFLY
 DANCING WAVES GAY GALLANT
 ORIENTAL EYES SAPPHIRE STAR
- 5 votes----CENTER OF ATTENTION
 DOUBLE FIRST JOY PETERS
 SOUTHERN SON SPARKLING SAPPHIRE
- 4 votes----CASCADE CREST PRAIRIE FANTASY
 CHIDORI ROSE PRELUDE
 GOOD OMEN ROSE QUEEN
 GRAPE FIZZ RUFFLED DIMITY
 HARLEQUINESQUE SUMMER STORM
 KALAMAZOO THE GREAT MOGUL
 KNIGHT IN ARMOR
- 3 votes----CASCADE SPICE OCEAN MIST
 FLASHING KOI PRAIRIE TWILIGHT
 FRECKLED GEISHA REIGN OF GLORY
 GUSTO ROSE ADAGIO
 IKE-NO-SAZANAMI SPRINGTIME SNOW
 JOCASTA STAR AT MIDNIGHT
 KONGO SAN STATELY FLAMINGO
 KONTAKI-ON TEMPLE MAIDEN
 LITTLE SNOWMAN WARAI-HOTEL
 MAINE CHANCE WILDERNESS SNOWBALL
 MIDSUMMER HAPPINESS WINDSWEPT BEAUTY
- 2 votes----ANYTUS HIDENISHIKI
 BLUEBERRY RIMMED IPSUS
 CAPITOL DANDY IZO-NO-UMI
 CHIYO-NO-HARU KING'S COURT
 ENDURING PINK FROST LAVENDER SASHAY
 GAYETY LONG DELAY
 GOSAN-NO-TAKARA MOYAMAZORA

2 votes----	ORIENTAL CLASSIC	SNOWY HILLS
	PINK DIMITY	SORCERER'S TRIUMPH
	PINK SAPPHIRE	STRUT AND FLOURISH
	RASPBERRY RIMMED	SWEET MURMUR
	ROYAL CROWN	SWIRLING WAVES
	ROYAL FIREWORKS	UMI-BOTARU
	ROYAL GAME	USHIO-NO-KEMURI
	SAIGYOZAKURA	VIRGINIA B
	SAYURI	WIND DRIFT
	SIMPLE ELEGANCE	WINE RUFFLES
	SNOW AVALANCHE	

1 vote-----ACCLAIM, AMETHYST WINGS, BENI-BOTAN, BENI-TSUBAKI, BLUE LAGOON, CALICO PRINT, CAP-ANEUS, CHIGOSUGATA, CONTINUING PLEASURE, CREPE PAPER, CRYSTAL HALO, DACE, DAMSEL KNIGHT, DAPPLED DRAGON, DIOMEDES, DRIVEN SNOW, EBB AND FLOW, EDGE OF FROST, ELECTRIC GLOW, ENCHANTING MELODY, EXUBERANT CHANTEY, FROSTED PYRAMID, FUGI, GARDEN CAPRICE, GARNET ROYALTY, GAY TEMPTRESS, GEKKEIKAN, GENJI BOTARU, HAGOROMO, HAPPY AWAKENING, HAROGAMO, HEKITO, HEKIUN, HISAKATA, HOZAN, IAPETUS, IMMACULATE WHITE, IMPERIAL KIMONO, JEWEL SEA, KATY MENDEZ, LACE RUFF, LAVENDER KRINKLE, LILAC PEAKS, LING, MAGIC RUBY, MAI OGI, MISS COQUETTE, MIST FALLS, MORNING STAR, MYSTIC BUDDHA, ODORIKO, OVER THE WAVES, POPULAR DEMAND, PRAIRIE CHIEF, PRAIRIE ELITE, PRAIRIE GLORY, PRAIRIE PEACE, PRAIRIE ROYALTY, PRIMA BALLERINA, PURELY ORIENTAL, PURPLE PARASOL, RAVINE STREAM, RETURNING TIDE, ROSE WORLD, RUBY STAR, RUFFLED ENCHANTMENT, ROYAL BURGUNDY, ROYAL LINES, SAKURAGAI, SAKURA-NO-SONO, SCHEHERAZADE, SEA OF AMETHYST, SIROTAE, SHINO-NO-ME, SILVERBAND, SILVER CASCADE, SKY AND MIST, SPRINGTIME SHOWERS, SODULERLAND AND SUN, SYLVIA'S MASQUERADE, TAGA SODE, TON TON BANA, TRANCE, TSUZURE HISHIKI, TSUYUZO-RABARE, TUPTIM, VEILED ARTISTRY, WALK IN BEAUTY, WHITE PARACHUTE, WILDERNESS INTRIGUE, WILDERNESS RUBIES, WINGS AFLUTTER, WORLEY PINK, YAMATO HIME, ACK-COUNTABLE, HUE AND CRY.

(Ginny B. and the editor apologize for any Spelling errors)

The 16 states represented in this tally are:
AL, CA, DEL, GA, IND, MA, MD, ME, MI, MO, NY,
NC, OR, SC, VA, VT.--plus 4 voters from Belgium.

First to send in their ballots were Alice Kemper from CA, L.H. Walker from OR, V. Burton from SC, Walter Hoover from NC, and Jean Stallcop from IND.

COMMENTS

Suky and Clarence Mahan--"One JI that is not widely distributed is the gorgeous marbled USHIO-NO-KEMURI. It was a great performer in our garden this year. Our favorite white JI continues to be Anytus, which performs well everywhere and has such excellent substance. McEwen's DOUBLE FIRST was spectacular this year. It has performed better for us than any other tetraploid.

Pat Brooks --"ICY PEAKS and RUFFLED DIMITY are on my list every year. They are good "clumpers".

Jane Hall--Ginny B. says,"Jane, a friend from NY wrote to me re JI problems and I sent her letter to Dr. McEwen and Dr. Ackerman and asked them to give her some help--both have written to Jane--Here is her letter and IF anyone else is having this same problem and if you have a suggestion, please contact her at 785 Flyler Rd., Kirkville, NY 13082." Jane writes," Last year a new JI in my garden developed leaves that turned greyish rust as they matured. By the end of the season a couple of established plants also developed the same condition. They were in the same bed--really looked sickly. Being a new JI grower, I had no experience with this and neither had any of our local growers--all recent JI growers. This Spring as soon as the JI's were about 6" high , I started drenching all of them once a month with a solution of $\frac{1}{4}$ cup Clorox to 1 gal. water. The original sick one had started to develop the same discoloration as last year, but now this is barely noticeable. The others are nice and green. Will they be OK?"

Shirley Pope--"Although the season was late this year, we had excellent bloom and an excellent show."

Carol Warner--"This was the best year ever for JI here (MD). 10 favorites is not enough, couldn't we make it 25 or 50? CONTINUING PLEASURE, JEWEL SEA, and RYUKO HIRAO are still in bloom on 7/27/92. The Bauer/Coble seedling J82 A25 just finished after a month and a half of bloom."

Don and Sue Delmez--"our bloom season started 5/22/92 with TAKIMOMIJI (an import), a really nice 2F wine splashed white. Our season ended 7/4/92 with RED TITAN. This was one of our best bloom seasons ever. We had a lot of visitors coming to see the JI. Our weather was not nearly as hot and the cooler weather helped to keep the color so vivid, and the bloom lasted longer. Dr. McEwen's JAPANESE PINWHEEL bloomed for over 3 weeks--really lovely. It was one of the favorites for our garden visitors, who commented on its form and color.

Dr. C. McEwen--"I love TUPTIM, but lost it this past winter. Other growers have said it is not cold hardy. I wonder what the experience of others may be." (V B: Does anyone up north grow it with success--over winter?)

Shirley Pacquet-- I was more impressed with seedlings under number than with named varieties this year."

Joe/Janet Watson--"God bless you for introducing us to JI. Danny (their son) had 2 pretty JI seedlings in the JI you gave him. They were 3F and one was branched."

Philip Cook-- "August 15th deadline! I have some clones which are just coming into bloom for the first time--these were probably stunted by a sharp frost in June and with more temperatures in the 30's for a couple of nights. (Phil lives in VT) Many cultivars had only aborted buds, so the season's selection is limited. CREPE PAPER is this year's favorite, and I give high marks to ENDURING PINK FROST (early July). It was among the first to bloom and had a nice flower on it August 5. The others listed have their strong points--meaning that they were hardy enough to flower in spite of adverse weather."

"Ginny" Burton--STATELY FLAMINGO had 3-way branching, plus the terminal with two blooms open at once and nicely spaced. It has 3F and was 40". TON TON BANA, a collected species from Japan, had LOADS of small JI bloom 2" across, red/vi, two blooms in the terminal; some had one way

branching with 2 blooms in each--38"--some of us loved it! ICY PEAKS was a mass of bloom across the top of the clump. It was Beautiful! EXUBERANT CHANTEY was a sea of blue/violet -- a vigorous grower. In dividing it this month I had all I could handle.(3 yr plant.) CAPANEUS is another good grower here and increases. The center reminds me of the pompom type iris, similar to CHIDORI, which also does well in this area. LITTLE SNOWMAN is a beautiful 6F white, but here it is not little in size or height. 6/30/92 IPSUS, IMPERIAL ROBE, MAGIC RUBY, STATELY FLAMINGO, WORLD'S DELIGHT and SH-7 were in bloom after all others were gone. 7/30/92 IMMACULATE WHITE had a repeat bloom. It was a "Crazy year" and I guess I'm not telling you anything about the season. We, SIS, changed our show date to one week earlier and, if it hadn't been for good friends like Walter Hoover and his car full of iris, our show bench would have been skimpy. Better luck next year to all of us.



Freda Hazzard
and
Andrew Yunger
in the
Yunger
Garden

Convention
1992

THE 1992 CONVENTION REPORTS

THE COPELAND GARDEN Bud Maltman

As you probably already know or have read, the Copeland home and garden is located at a fish hatchery owned by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Jim Copeland is the manager.

Therefore, when I stepped off the bus, there was a definite aroma of fish in the air. It was not from the hatchery, but from a delicious fish fry in progress that was to be our lunch for that day. Jim and his friends were kept busy keeping up with the demand for more and more fried fish.

After looking around the landscape, I decided to take care of first things first and eat my lunch. Since I was on the last bus to arrive here, I wasn't about to take any chances on Jim running out of fish.

When lunch was over, I began to look for material of note to help me write something for this article. Since bloom was scarce, as most of the Japanese irises were still in bud, it was going to be difficult to describe a lot of guest irises for you to read about.

I first asked Jim if he could give me any information on the hybridizing efforts being put forth by Jill and him, and he suggested I should talk to her. After looking across the lawn, I spotted Jill Copeland with a few convention members looking intently at a plant in her seedling garden. I walked over and the plant everyone was admiring was Jill's own PXE-1 seedling, now called "Pixie-Won". The plant is an interspecies hybrid cross between *I. pseudacorus* and *I. ensata*. The foliage was light green toward yellow with several stalks coming forth from each plant division. This is not a tall iris, as the stalks averaged approximately 18 in., but it is definitely a breakthrough in making such crosses. "Pixie-Won" was in bloom and I can describe it to you quite well. The form has three petals and the violet falls curve downward. The styles are white, with yellow signals, and to complete the bloom description, the tiny standards are also violet. The largest of the plant division had five stalks with three buds on each stalk. I believe Jill has a winner in this iris.

After my interview with Jill I learned that she and Jim have about 3000 variety seedlings, 50 named Japanese irises and 100 pseudacorus that are from white to very yellow in color. Also, Jill said that her efforts in breeding Japanese iris also included producing plants for alkaline resistance, as much of the soil in her area was alkaline.

Behind the garden area and to the left of the Copeland house, there was a water stream with a large planting of pseudacorus and versicolor iris along the water's edge. I can only imagine what that must look like when in full bloom. Should be really spectacular.

At this point I said thanks to Jill, as she was quite busy with her convention visitors, but not before she told me that her most important breeding effort, at least to me, was to produce ensata blooms on pseudacorus plants. If she accomplishes this, think of what an iris this would be. We could have a tall plant with stalks having several branches, lots of buds, and with blooms that could be purple, lavender, violet, blue, etc. Maybe this is a little "way out", but I can dream, can't I?.

Two guest irises of note that were blooming in the garden were JOY PETERS by William Ackerman and John White's seedling 86M-6. I asked John had he introduced 86M-6 since I saw it in his garden at the Portland, ME convention two years ago. He told me not yet. Too bad as it is worth describing. The flower form has 3 flaring falls. The standards have violet veining over lighter background. The falls are more violet with light violet stitching. Yellow signals and purple styles complete the coloring. The stalks at Kalamazoo were about 28 to 30 in. tall, and the buds and bloom were above the foliage.

The other iris, JOY PETERS, was also doing well and would be a worthy addition to your garden. It was a lilac pink self with yellow signals, three falls, and semi-flaring form. I don't know why, but it seems I am attracted to the three petal varieties most of the time.

I could describe several other very worthwhile guest and non-guest irises that were doing

well at the convention, but I'll leave that to the other articles being written for the REVIEW.

The 1992 Kalamazoo convention was a good one despite the scarce bloom. The Michigan members gave us a very good time, the gardens were splendid, hospitality could not have been better, the judges training was well done, especially Hal Stahly's slide presentation of what's good and what's bad when garden judging; and, last but not least, the food was terrific.

Thanks, Southwestern Michigan. Hope to see you again.

ENSATA GARDENS
Richard Kiyomoto

The chance to finally visit Ensata, after years of indecision as to which varieties to order from their catalog and then receiving such beautiful plants, was like a pilgrimage to a shrine. It didn't disappoint, even in a year when varieties were blooming late.

The guest beds were planted near a gravel river which replaced beds of DACE and KYOKKO in the Japanese Garden behind the house. There were too few blossoms open to evaluate the varieties, but the majority had produced good clumps and the clean, green foliage showed the result of excellent care. In the Japanese Garden was a serpentine bed planted with JI varieties which Bob and John consider their favorites, but these were also too early to view.

Behind a garden planted along the driveway leading to the house was the commercial garden with rows of the iris listed in their catalog, varieties under evaluation, and Bauer/Coble, Jonnye Rich, and Adolph Vogt seedlings. In the commercial garden there were more than 50 different Japanese Iris in bloom, beds of Louisiana and Spuria Iris in full bloom, and a beautiful show by the Calsibe "Golden Waves". Among the JI seedlings and new varieties that attracted my attention were the Bauer/Coble seedlings J86E-3, J86F-1, J86H-1, J82A-25, and J88H, and Jill Copeland's PINK DACE and CALIMARI.

Ensata Gardens is much more than iris. It is a well-tended collection of interesting herbaceous perennials, shrubs, trees, landscape, and

home . . . what a fortunate setting for the Japanese Iris and all of us.



Convention-goers in the Copeland garden,
(top) and in the Wikel garden (bottom)



Calsibe "Golden
"Waves" at
Ensata Gardens

Dick and Eileen
O'Melay



THE O'MELAY GARDEN

Bruce Hornstein

I have heard it said that a garden is often a mirror of the people who plant and nurture it. It reflects their needs, tastes, sense of symmetry and love of texture and colors.

The O'Melay garden, a lovely respite during the convention, was a wonderful reflection of its owners, Dick and Eileen O'Melay. Dick designed the charming hillside home and its lofty (at least 12 ft.) waterfall with circulating ponds.

At the base of the waterfall was a spectacular specimen of Rodger's flower $\leq 1 \geq$ (*Rodgersia Aesculifolia*) - $\langle 2 \rangle$ H.T.H. - that I understand is hardy even through Michigan winters. It has gigantic palmate leaves and sprays of florescences that would have graced any tropical rain forest. The circulating pools, at top and bottom, were planted lavishly with all sorts of perennials and annuals, giving splashes of color to the landscape. There were ornamental grasses, herbs, small shrubs, begonias, impatiens, and ageratium with a background of twisted dwarf evergreens. Throughout these plantings were naturalized settings of rocks varying in size, color, and texture. The overall effect was that of informal elegance.

The rocks, I understand, are the to-date sum total of a collection by the O'Melay's which they have amassed during their travels. There were black rocks from the beaches of Oregon collected during our Society convention there, numerous rocks from the Maine convention, and a rather large collection from a camping trip which, according to Eileen, made it virtually impossible to move about the camper.

Sloping down from the house was the main garden, consisting of numerous beds with a more formalized parterre effect. Here were flowering plantings, often in blocks of color. In particular were two small beds of marigolds, surrounded by brick and stone paths, which had a dramatic burst of color. There was a large specimen of sage, which lent its violet bloom as an accent to the garden. Some annual poppies created lively interest

in a number of the visitors.

In the main garden were the 112 guest Japanese Iris and the 95 cultivars that Dick and Eileen have collected. Unfortunately, there was little bloom due to the unseasonably cool weather. From the fine, healthy, well grown plants that were observed I imagine the bloom was spectacular when it arrived.

Originally the entire large garden had been devoted to vegetable production for their growing family. Now that the children are grown and live elsewhere, it has basically served other purposes. However, there was one small area at the far edge by some trellises where a fine vegetable garden still exists.

Scattered throughout the gardens were paths of heavy gauge woven plastic that are used to control erosion runoff in road building, but here were used to provide walkways. Just goes to show us gardeners what useful products exist with ingenuity and recycling. These paths were extremely practical and useful during the heavy traffic of the day.

Behind the house and extending back to the property line of tall white pines were several large overflow beds for numerous iris and daylilies. The opposite side of the house was wooded and Eileen was in the process of creating a woodland garden. She is being assisted with this arduous task by her two grandchildren, Ashley and Jeffrey. She proudly told me about their moving rocks and plants, and that Ashley, now 11, has known since age 3 the importance of removing the roots when weeding.

The postscript of this mirrored garden is how Dick and Eileen have created a thus-far three generational heritage in the love of gardening. No one could give a finer gift.

<1> Thanks to Carol Kerr - resident expert in nomenclature

<2> Ask Suki Mahan

THE WIKEL GARDEN

Chad Harris

Garden (gard'n)n. 1. A plot of land used for growing flowers, vegetables, or fruit. 2. A planted tract used for public enjoyment. 3. A yard; lawn. 4. A fertile, well-cultivated region. 5. A plot of land in Kalamazoo named "Crow Moon Garden".

We were first introduced to the garden with an introduction in our Convention program. Saying much "Womanpower" was required of Christina, Linda, and Virginia Wikel is an understatement of what these three women have built. I can safely say that they would put many a landscape architect to shame.

With a difficult land plot of 60' by 300', I was led by a graveled walkway through galleries of well planted trees and shrubs. What captivated most people in the first gallery is a wonderful specimen of Mata Sequoia, a deciduous Redwood. But looking around, you would find Japanese Maples, Hostas, and several varieties of ground cover all well marked with garden tags. Exploring this gallery I came across a mini garden in a traditional English form. Planted, you found Linum alba, Silene alba white-crest, Dianthus, Salvia, Geranium clarkii, silene saxifraga, Veronica longifolia, and Snapdragons, all in their white forms. I would have loved to see this area aglow at night with a full moon.

Walking through a forest of trees I came across a woodland stream flowing into a large pond. In and around the pond were many frogs. Knowing how delicate these amphibians are to garden chemicals, I marveled at the lack of disease and insect damage throughout the gardens. Planted in the pond was a rainbow of color from the waterlilies.

Stepping out of the trees, I found myself on the other side of the world, for below me was a large Japanese garden. The central focal point of this garden is a large pond filled with Koi of many colors. Surrounding the pond were the Japanese Iris in cultural perfection. In bloom were two of Ackerman's Intros: JOY PETERS, a very nice 3 fall orchid pink; and EVENING TIDE, a 6 fall dark lavender. Also found here were the Louisianas in full bloom - reds, lilac, white, and sunshine yellow.

As you would start to take your eyes off the bright colors of bloom, you would start to see the warmth and harmony of the foundation of this garden. The only straight line found here is a traditional zig-zag bridge. Everything else had the natural flow of curves, including the softness of the large collection of weeping pine, spruce, and cedars.

Crow Moon Garden (when the crows nest in March and are quiet) is not only a garden of labor and love, it is a piece of living art. Thank you, ladies, for inviting us into your world.

THE YUNGER GARDEN

LaRue Boswell

In front of the house are many plants and a fish fountain, one of the many fountains seen around the garden. As you enter the garden, you walk up a long driveway; on your left side and a bit higher, there are trees and miniature conifers. In the shady spots throughout the garden there were chairs and tables placed for enjoying that section of the garden.

Within minutes you can feel that here is a home and garden full of love, beauty, and family pride. There are many memorials and mementos for passing the family history down to the future generations. One such is a memorial plaque to honor Andy's father, Frank Anton Yunger. There is a bench that was rescued from the Mississippi River, refinished by Mrs. Yunger's father, and placed in the garden.

The Japanese Iris were not quite "ready for us"; there were many well grown, healthy plants, and many buds -- they probably put on a wonderful show the following week. We did see a Louisiana Iris, BUXOM, one of Mary Dunn's.

In the six years that Andy and Kay Yunger have owned the red brick house (former home of Arthur Hazzard, built in 1940), there have been many changes. There are many bird baths and statuary, including "David". It is a rather formal garden with many beds for different plants, day-lilies, Siberian Iris, peonies, and a vegetable garden. The walkways are stone, and FESTUCA

SOLLING GRASS. Herbs and succulents are tucked in many places, but always with an artistic touch. There are all kinds of perennials and ground cover, and honeysuckle-edged walkways. It was so nice that all the plants were identified with name markers. Trees are planted so that the plants that need sun will have sun, and the plants and "people" who need shade will have it.

Around the house we found the Hosta beds - Andy's wonderful collection of Hosta, about 80 varieties all sizes and colors. A blending of rocks, Coral Bells, and Bleeding Hearts edged the Hosta beds. Some of the Hostas we liked were: VENTRICOSA, GOLD STANDARD; the smaller ones - CRAIGS TEMPTATION, LOUISA, and LEMON DROP; and the variegated HUKU-CHU-HAN. Other interesting shade plants were the Alaskan fern, RED SENTINEL astilbe, many succulents, and a PORCELAIN VINE climbing a tree. We also found a fall-blooming rhododendron, a 50 year old Mountain Laurel, and a 45 year old pink dogwood.

In a small breezeway just outside the back door there is a delightful water fountain with three cherubs, representing the Yungers' three children, Ann, Mark, and John.

This is a beautiful garden - so much to see in such a short time. I will always remember the big plants with so many companion plants - and the warmth and love of the garden owners.

Thank you for sharing your garden with us.

JUDGES TRAINING at CONVENTION

SHOW JUDGING - JILL COPELAND

By Carol Warner

The show judging session at the Kalamazoo Convention was taught by Jill Copeland in the lower lobby of the Radisson Hotel. Jill began the session by noting that in show judging one is judging the grower and not the cultivar. You are judging how the exhibitor grew and presented that particular variety of Japanese iris.

Two specimens of RUBY TONE were compared.

If the stalk is taller and the flower is better, this usually indicates better culture. In judging Japanese irises there is no such thing as "overgrown". Extra petaloids in the center of the flower may also indicate better culture. A larger number of buds may also result from more water and fertilizer, but some varieties will produce only 2 buds regardless of extra care.

Some Japanese irises change color as they mature. DACE is a light blue color in bud and the first day it is open. The second day the color changes to white. The flower also gets larger on the second day. Pattern will also vary in intensity. Flowers have a different form when opening and closing. Those that are just opening will lose points on form if not open all the way. A flower which is closing will lose even more points. Form was also discussed and it was stated that there can be no spaces between the petals on a six petal variety. There was discussion on personal preference as to the form for three petal varieties.

One of the students (Chad Harris) was asked to groom an iris for exhibit. A dead bud was groomed out, some damaged foliage was carefully cut with the natural shape of the leaf maintained; a Q-tip was used to remove a little dirt, bug, or pollen; and the specimen was wedged straight in the exhibition bottle. A specimen that might have received a third place ribbon was now a first place candidate. A stalk which is short may be raised in the container. If the judge feels that the exhibit is too short, then he/she can take off points on culture but can not take off points on grooming. If there is no foliage on the exhibit, this is only considered when comparing 2 exhibits of the same variety.

A question was asked about point scoring and exactly what is the range for a blue ribbon, etc. Jill's answer was, "You can't reduce an art form to a mathematical form; one year may be a 90-100 point year, another may be quite different." Point scoring may be a good way to settle disagreements between judges and may be a very good way to judge, especially if the judges become quite good at it and can do it quickly. The test for student judges was to point score several specimens.

Judging seedlings is entirely different: this time the iris is being judged. Grooming is not counted but diseased leaves and bugs should still be removed. Buds or dead flowers should not be removed, although the dead flowers may be trimmed slightly to neaten the appearance and still leave evidence of previous bloom. Branching may not be important because the clump may have multiple stalks. The main point to consider now is distinction.

The final judging for queen of the show is to choose the iris that best typifies the category. Obviously outdated characteristics such as species form would not be considered. By "best" the AIS Handbook for Judges means "Modern looking". The preceding statements brought many comments from those present. A very nice stalk of SILVERBAND could not be considered, because the flower is quite similar to the species. A suggestion was made that a group be formed to try to change the guidelines on this point.

GARDEN JUDGING - HAL STAHLY

By Shirley Pope

While in Kalamazoo I attended the Garden Judging training session. Our instructor was Hal Stahly. The program was held at the convention hotel. Hal, unflustered after having to tear down his equipment and set up in another room, began to lead us step by step through the requirements of properly judging irises in the garden. Showing slides, using two projectors, he discussed the different forms of the flower using two different views, one looking down on the flower, the other a side view. He discussed and showed us flaring, semi-flaring, vertical arching, and pendant forms. Pendant forms, he explained, feature falls that drop quickly from the haft. There is no prescribed form in Japanese Irises. The only requirement is that the form should be pleasing to the eye.

Hal stressed orderliness. The flowers should not look messy. His examples of messy irises were: uneven spacing between the petals and extra long petaloids that give the flower a lop-sided appearance. The two projectors enabled him to show us good and bad examples of flower form at the same time.

He continued on by showing us examples of good and bad flower stalks. Good: the proper size to display the flower and the spathe strong enough to hold the bloom upright. Bad: flower and stalk out of proportion and the flower tipped over out of the spathe. Discussing substance of the flower, he said that it should be firm enough to hold its shape until it closes. A flower should be able to stay open 5 or 6 days in cool weather, 3 days in normal weather, and 2 days during an extreme hot and dry spell.

Referring to color, he emphasized that any color or pattern is acceptable as long as it is clear and harmonious.

In judging the clump he showed us slides of flowers blooming down in the foliage, instead of sitting on display in a sea of green; overbloom, where all the flowers were all jumbled together rather than arranged; foliage that looked vigorous and healthy instead of sprawling; and stalks that were held upright instead of consistently falling over. Side by side, he showed us good and bad examples of plant and flowers. He reminded us that, in judging, the plant receives 50 of the 100 points.

Hal ended his program by showing us a beautiful clump of PRAIRIE CHARM, a ruffled 3 fall white. If I were point scoring his program, he would get 100+.

The 3 years of planning has passed and the 7th SJI Convention has come to Kalamazoo for its 3rd convention here, checking out the guest iris which the hybridizers have sent to us to see how they like our growing conditions. I can't say the weather has cooperated. What can I say?

There were 153 (4 cancelled due to health) attending from 25 states, Canada, and England. There seemed to be many interesting conversations going on—people who were only names meeting and getting to share experiences with growing one of their favorite flowers.

Anna Mae Miller

A GLIMPSE INTO THE FUTURE

Terry Aitken

Iris breeding is an obsession from the early cool damp days of March (MDB season) until the last Japanese Iris goes down in the sweltering heat of July. The Japanese iris season is especially satisfying since it heralds in a slower pace of activity. Relief, perhaps, from the frantic pace of the TB season, but also because it seems to be the JI's where the goals are being achieved most rapidly.

The CASCADE CREST, ELECTRIC RAYS, RASPBERRY GLOW line continues to produce greater intensification of ruffled 6 fall flowers with clusters of stylearms as primary features. A spinoff of this line is a group of miniature JI's (under 20" with small flowers and foliage). Strong rim patterns on 6 falls abound. In our quest for a 6 fall sky blue, we have moved with IZO-NO-UMI (3 falls) through several generations to stud plants that we feel "can do it" with the next population.

Amongst the reds (raspberry reds) NARI HIRA has produced a huge velvety 6 fall self on robust stems - a truly imposing clump with great floriferousness - surely headed for introduction. Another promising direction in reds has been the block of seedlings from GRAPE FIZZ. Superior substance and form (crossed with RUBY STAR) and clustered tufts of stylearms are standard features.

One of our favorite named varieties for all around superior plant characteristics is DANCING WAVES. Its seedlings are easily recognized, and we are seeking color variations in both reds and blues, maybe even pinks? These plants also produce tufts of dark styles as an added feature. They tend to be very late blooming and very tall. (DANCING WAVES and its children do not usually produce pollen, so they must be used as pod parents.)

The pinks have always been in high demand and we have just begun several variations in this direction. A white flower with a pink rim (second generation from RUBY STAR) looks like a good start. Also a sturdy 6 fall pink self seems likely. An

entirely new color break could come from the (GRAPE FIZZ X RUBY STAR) line in the form of pinks with a white spatter pattern. Another variation would combine the DANCING WAVES line with this group to produce a pink flower with dark purple styles.

Lest we make it sound too easy (it is), there are some ideas that seem to be going nowhere in a hurry. I have been fascinated with the idea of combining the yellow styles (cream really - which are frequently seen on white JI's) with plants that have pink styles or (SHOOT FOR THE MOON!) maybe even orange styles might result. So far, the pink and cream styles have cancelled each other out, leaving me with snow white styles. I will pursue this idea for a couple more generations, as it seems particularly worthwhile.

We are avoiding violet/purple crosses as being less productive use of our time and space. One exception is TAFFETA & VELVET. Last year it was virtually an everblooming iris from June until the November freezes, and it still managed to send up more bloom this Spring on small transplanted divisions! This plant is a 3 fall purple whose most distinguishing feature is its tall upright standards. We are crossing T. & V. with our most advanced red lines, hoping for more sequential bloom down the road.

With tetraploids, we have had very little encouraging results. They have been very difficult setting pods, and germination has been lackluster. We are averaging one plant a year and the best we have come up with is a 6 fall propeller-shaped red-rimmed white out of BLUEBERRY RIMMED. We are concentrating on 6 fall tets and using "it" with ORIENTAL CLASSIC and KINA.

Last year we tried the tetraploid pseudacorus DONAU with tet. JI's and got pods every time, although very few seeds resulted. Out of 5 pods only a dozen seeds resulted and only one plant germinated. It is growing very vigorously (3" PER DAY) and turning into a very large plant. We are growing a population (100±) of DONAU seedlings in hopes of finding a later blooming variant. This year, we got 25 pods on DONAU with every Tet JI available. A pollen exchange with Currier McEwen got similar results for him. There should be considerable activity in this breeding line in upcoming years.

THE 1992 JI SHOW REPORTS

Summerville, SC---May 23---Virginia Burton

Thirty one American Iris Society members took the 2-hr. Judges Training session in the Cuthbert Community Building in Summerville, May 22, 5-7 PM. James and Peggy Jeffcoat of Blythewood were head instructors, assisted by Wayne Smith of Columbia and T.A. Gilliam of Huntsville, AL. Virginia Burton was Chairman of the class. Regions 4, 5, and 24 were represented in the class.

In the Show, Maggie Johnson of St. Stephens won Horticultural Sweepstakes in the division, "Companion plants for Japanese Iris", with 18 blue ribbons. Betty Black of N. Charleston had 12; Peggy Beason of Summerville -3; Leora Moore of Charleston had 1 and won an Award of Merit with her Oak Leaf Hydrangea; Helen Beason of Summerville won 1 blue and the Horticulture Excellence Award with her orange gladiola. Others winning 1 blue ribbon were Kathy Woolsey of Charleston, Jung Sumner of Charleston, and Claire Honkanen of Isle of Palms. Maggie Johnson won an Award of Merit with her Asiatic daylily FIRE KING, and Betty Black won an Award of Merit with her variegated Hosta. There were 86 entries in this division.

In the Iris Division Walter Hoover of Salada, NC won Horticultural Sweepstakes, having the most blue ribbon winners. Mr. Hoover will receive the Silver Medal awarded by the AIS. He also won Best Specimen in the species division with Iris versicolor, and also Best Specimen in the Siberian Iris section with SHIRLEY POPE. Pat Brooks won the 2nd most blue ribbons, winning Best Japanese Iris Specimen with SAPPHIRE STAR. She will receive the Bronze Medal. Virginia Burton won the Best Japanese Seedling Award (and the plaque given in memory of the J.B. Hales for Best JI Seedling) with SH-4, an iris hybridized by Dr. Suichi Hirao of Japan. She is growing it in her yard for the 1994 Society for Japanese Iris Convention to be held here in Summerville. SIS members will host that convention. Crystal awards were given to top award winners by SIS members.

In the Design Division Jung Sumner won 1st in the Novice Class; Verley Stirman of Ladson won 2nd; Mr. B.C. Johnson of St. Stephens, 3rd; and Maggie Johnson won HM. In the Horizontal Class, on ped-

estals, Betty Black won 1st and Claudia Hucks of Moncks Corner won 3rd. In the Creativity Class, Claire Honkanen won 1st and the Creativity Class Award; Kathy Woolsey - 2nd; Barbara Mitchum of Moncks Corner - 3rd; and Sue Taylor of Moncks Corner - HM. In the 2nd Creativity Class Kathy Woolsey won 1st and also Design Sweepstakes; Leora Moore - 2nd; Barbara Mitchum - 3rd; and Claudia Hucks - HM. In the Small Design Class Barbara Mitchum won 1st, Geny Morrison 2nd, Claudia Hucks 3rd, and Lavina Goldsberry of Ladson won HM.

Leora Moore won a blue ribbon on her Educational Exhibit on Japanese Iris, which showed JI in motion with a mobile, thus interpreting the show's theme, "Poetry in Motion". Claudia Hucks was chairman of this show, with Maggie Johnson as co-chairman. New design classes were incorporated in this division and were well executed.

In charge of light refreshments were Lavina Goldsberry, Pat Brooks, Carolyn Croker, Kathleen Flood, and Ruth Wilder.

34 members took the chartered bus to Meadowville Gardens in Hendersonville, SC and Mount Carmel Herb Farm in Walterboro. Geny Morrison was bus captain. Packets were given to all bus travelers and were marked "In Memory of Adolph Vogt, a strong supporter of SIS". Mr. Vogt was the first to help me establish JI in the Azalea Park in Summerville and continued to support us up until his death in April of this year. "Goody Bags" furnished by SIS were also given out on the bus.

Virginia Beach, VA---June 6---Bill Smoot

Tidewater Iris Society presented its Second Annual Beardless Iris Show on Saturday, June 6, 1992, at Lynnhaven Mall in Virginia Beach. Usually when something goes wrong it's during the show. For us it was the afternoon before the show - and it took the form of a tornado watch, complete with hail, high winds, and 1½ inches of hard rain. Many entries were severely damaged by the adverse weather and did not make it to the judging tables. Despite the weather the show went on and eight exhibitors presented 62 entries for competition. We also had 34 entries for display only. Of these 24 came from The Norfolk Botanical Gardens Japanese

Iris seedling bed & Arthur Hazzard Japanese Iris Memorial Bed. The show was beautiful with the entries displayed on Japanese coffee tables and an oriental silk screen serving as a background.

Judges Clarence Mahan, Ruth Walker, and Libby Dufresne awarded Queen of the Show to SARU ODORI, a JI exhibited by D.J. Kelly. First and Second Runners-Up were JOY PETERS (JI) and KYOUMIA (JI). Best seedling was SH-3, a Hirao seedling exhibited by Rich Randall. There was a tie for blue ribbons and the Silver Medal was decided by the most red ribbons. D.J. Kelly won the Silver Medal with 4 red ribbons and Rich Randall won the Bronze Medal. People's Choice winner was HEGIRA (JI), exhibited by Bill Smoot. Bill also received a Special Bronze Medal for his educational exhibit. Anna Brooks presented the Best Design of Show.

One entry which created quite a sensation was GOLDEN WAVES, a CAL-SIB entry of Rich Randall. This is the first Cal-Sib to be grown and shown locally, and was the first opportunity for many to see a live specimen. Rich received a Special Horticultural Award for his entry. Now that Rich has shown us that Cal-Sibs can be grown here, we look forward to seeing Cal-Sib entries in future beardless shows.

St. Louis, MO---June 8--- Don Delmez

The Greater St. Louis Iris Society held its annual Beardless Iris Show June 8, 1992, at the Missouri Botanical Garden. 83 entries were exhibited. Queen of the Show was a Spuria, VINTAGE YEARS, shown by Sheldon Butt. A Japanese Iris, PRAIRIE CHIEF, was first runner-up. Second runner-up was FLOWER MANIA, a JI; both runners-up were exhibited by Riley Probst. Best seedling was WIDR-1 by Don Delmez. The Silver Medal was won by Sheldon Butt, while Don Delmez received the Bronze Medal.

In the Design Division - Rita Kinsella won Best Design and Sue Delmez won the Artistic Sweepstakes.

This is the first time the club has shown the Japanese Iris on very low tables, and it made for a much nicer show and better viewing of the JI.

We had many good comments on the show and I'm sure we will continue to use this method of showing the JI.

Hendersonville, NC---June 18 and 19---Walter Hoove

The Carolina Mountains Iris Society held North Carolina's first Japanese Iris Show at the Opportunity House in Hendersonville on June 18 and 19.

After a warm winter, a cold Spring, and a heavy snowfall in May-- another historic first for the area, we knew this was a charmed event. The show date approached and local Japanese Iris growers became apprehensive--one week before the June 11 and 12 show dates and no color was showing in even the earliest varieties. The decision was made to postpone the show by one week. (As of the original show dates there were only two Japanese iris -- WINE RUFFLES and WILDERNESS SNOWBALL-- in bloom in one member's garden).

To make the necessary change of show dates, all of the arrangements had to be renegotiated, members notified, publicity corrected, and out-of-region exhibitors contacted. Judges had to be notified and this resulted in Shirley Pacquet stepping in for Ginny Burton, who could not juggle a prior commitment.

The new show dates approached and still most of the local growers were far from peak, which was at least a week away. But the combined efforts of our members and additions from growers in Region Five, whose gardens are approximately 1000 feet lower in elevation, resulted in a splendid first show.

The show had a total of 71 entries. John Wood won both the Horticultural Sweepstakes and Queen of Show, taking this second honor with his own 199 introduction, DAMSEL KNIGHT. Everette Lineberger took the Bronze Medal.

After the reception given our "display" last year and this successful first official show, there is even greater enthusiasm among members to grow more Japanese Iris and to have an even bigger--and--later show next year.



The Carolina Mountain Iris Show was staged against rice paper screen to provide unity and authenticity. Photos by Walter Hoover



Judges for CMIS' first JI Show: l.to r., Shirley Paquet of Region 5, Frances and B. J. Brown of Region 4.

Washington, DC--June 20--Clarence Mahan & Carol Warner

On Saturday, June 20, the Chesapeake & Potomac Iris Society and Francis Scott Key Iris Society held their 7th annual joint Beardless Iris Show. The season was very late in the Washington-Baltimore area, and there was much anxiety that entries would not be up to par. As it turned out, all fears were groundless. Fourteen exhibitors brought a total of 109 entries, representing 92 different cultivars.

A lovely stalk of EDGE OF FROST exhibited by Diana Nicholls was awarded Queen of Show. Best Seedling went to Bauer/Coble J82-A25. The Queen's Court was comprised of HEGIRA, shown by Bobby

Lively-Diebold, KALAMAZOO, exhibited by Carol Warner, and Diana Nicholls' entry of RASPBERRY RIMMED. The Silver Medal for most blue ribbons was won by Carol Warner. Clarence Mahan won the Bronze Medal. Judges were Ruth Walker, Rich Randall, and Larry Westfall.

The show was held at the U.S. Botanic Garden Conservatory. The garden is located right in front of the Capitol, so there is a great flow of tourists from all over the U.S. and foreign countries. This creates a lot of interest from many people who have never been exposed to beardless irises.

Kalamazoo MI---June 26--- Anna Mae Miller and
Caryll Randall

The Japanese Iris Show in Kalamazoo was held in the Lower Lobby of the Radisson Plaza Hotel, headquarters for the 1992 JI Convention.

It turned out to be a very nice show thanks to SJI members from MD, PA, VA, and MO for bringing about 2/3 of the 94 entries of JI, Spuria, LA, Siberian, and specie and interspecies hybrids.

When one descended on the escalator to the Lower Lobby, there was a display of quilts and wallhangings using pieced and appliqued iris patterns. Much originality in dealing with the iris shapes was evident. This display was hosted by 5 members from the Log Cabin Quilters and works from 5 other members were also on display.

To create a little atmosphere, Sylvia Wong, a Sogetsu teacher of Ikebana set up a large arrangement. A collection of Japanese kites was flying over the Japanese iris from the floor above and one created a changing reflection of the walls.

Best Specimen of the Show was CALAMARI, exhibited by Ensata Gardens, MI. Best of Section BELISSINADO -- a Spuria entered by Carol Morgan also of MI. Best Seedling was Ensata Garden's #J82A - 25.

The Silver Medal went to Ensata Gardens, and Bruce Hornstein of MD won the Bronze Medal. Other blue ribbons were awarded to: Don Delmez - 3,

Rosalie Figge, MD - 3; M/M Ronald Miller, MI - 3; Carol Warner, MD, Carol Kerr, MI, and Suky Mahan, VA each won 2 blue ribbons; and Charles Conklin of PA won 1 blue.

Queen's Court included:

HOZAN	Exhibitor:	Don Delmez
ELECTRIC RAYS	"	Carol Warner
GEISHA MISCHIEF	"	Ensata Garden
CAPRICIAN BUTTERFLY	"	Carol Warner
USHIO-NO-KEMURI	"	Suky Mahan

Many people enjoyed the Bonsai exhibit set up by the Bonsai Society of Kalamazoo. This included specimens of Tamarack, Narrow Leaf Fig, Pine Yellow Eye Glass, Golden Full Moon Maple, Ivy, Kinasville Boxwood, and Scotch Pine.

Auburn, ME---July 11---Evelyn White

The music room at Auburn Middle School was the scene of Maine Iris Society's 2nd Japanese Iris Show on July 11, 1992. The green-carpeted tri-level provided a lovely backdrop for the colorful and striking Japanese blooms. Potted Hosta plants and Japanese wall hangings and parasols added a decorative touch.

In the Horticultural Division the Valentés of East Lebanon, ME won Queen of Show with a stalk of DOUBLE FIRST. First runner-up was ORIENTAL CLASSIC, exhibited by the Whites of Auburn; 2nd runner-up was MIST FALLS, entered by Sacks/Schafer of Carlisle, Mass. The Best Seedling award went to T6-87-14-2, a large red violet bloom edged in white, hybridized by Currier McEwen.

The Silver Medal for most blue ribbons went to the Whites, and the Bronze Medal went to Sacks/Schafer.

"The Wonderful World of Disney" was the theme for the Artistic Division. There were 24 entries in this division. Blue ribbons were awarded as follows: Class I "Beauty and the Beast" - Evelyn White; Class II "Snow White" - Peter Young of Buckfield, ME; Class III "Fantasia" - Kathy Marble of Harvard, MA (This arrangement was judged Best Design of the Show, also); Class IV "The

Little Mermaid" - Kathy Marble; Class V "Pinocchio" - Murline Douglas of Bowdoinham, ME; and Class VI "101 Dalmatians" - Kathy Marble. A blue ribbon in the Youth Class went to Jenny Austin of Springvale, ME for her design of "Thumper in Bambi". The Artistic Sweepstakes award was won by Kathy Marble.

In addition to the display of irises, there was an exhibit of Hosta leaves. Displayed in appropriate-sized containers were many varieties from Dwarf to Giant species. Green, blue, and yellow Hostas, as well as many variegations, gave a good indication of the possibilities for use of this wonderful foliage plant.

John and Evelyn White were General Chairmen of the show. Shirley Pope of Gorham, ME headed the Horticultural Division. Peter Young, Chairman of the Artistic Division was assisted by Pam Elwell of Oakland, ME. Russ and Joan Moors of Auburn, ME were in charge of the Hosta exhibit. This exhibit was for display only and was not judged. However, the public were invited to vote for their favorite Hosta: ANTIOCH and GOLD STANDARD tied in the popularity poll.

Iris Horticultural Judges were Dr. Currier McEwen of South Harpswell, ME, Richard Kiyomoto of North Haven, CT, Rebecca Wong and David Nitka, both of Feeding Hills, MA.

Judges for the Artistic Division were accredited judges of the National Council of State Garden Clubs.

As evidenced by remarks in several show reports, weather conditions played a major part in show scheduling and execution. This was indeed true of 2 Iris Societies whose shows were cancelled, those scheduled in Portland, Oregon and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Our sympathies to them - our hope for better fortune next year.

Kansas City, MO---June 6---Donna Aldridge

The Greater Kansas City Iris Society was pleased to hold its first-ever late Iris Show on June 6, 1992 at Ward Parkway Shopping Center in Kansas City, Missouri, chaired by Kevin Morley. We, like so many other areas, suffered from strange weather patterns that gave us lighter and earlier-ending TB and Siberian bloom along with later-than-usual Japanese bloom. Nevertheless we had 60 bloom stalks on view, 50 as formal entries including Japanese, Siberians, Louisianas, Spurias, pseudacorous, TBs, MTBs, eight arrangements, and an educational display showing rhizomes of several different beardless iris types.

Best Specimen Award went to Wilma Little's spuria GOLDEN NUGGETS. Donna Aldridge won the Silver Medal for most blue ribbons and Jim Wadick won the Design Sweepstakes. Best of Section for Ensata was awarded to Donna Aldridge's SYLVIA'S MASQUERADE by Anna Mae Miller '90. The judges had an agonizing decision to make with the scene-stealing JI open save for $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch on one petal. Well, considering it was a bud at midnight, it did well! By early afternoon all the reluctant JI's had opened up well and were causing a delightful sensation with scores of people who had never seen any before!

The members' and public's response to the show was marvelous and the June Show promises to become a regular part of our very active QKCIS schedule. We'll have our third annual Beardless Sale and Auction in mid September, which will be opened to an enthusiastic public for the first time. We're working very diligently to spread the excitement over Japanese and other beardless iris in our area -- and it seems to be working.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

RFD 2 Box 980
Auburn, ME 04210

March 20, 1992

To Shirley Pope, SJI President

The Nominating Committee is pleased to report that the following people have accepted nomination as officers of The Society for Japanese Irises, for a two year term, starting January 1, 1993.

President.....Howard Brookins
P.O. Box 965
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051
Tel. (414) 251-1799

Vice President.....John Coble
9823 E. Michigan Ave.
Galesburg, MI 49053
Tel. (616) 665-7500

Secretary.....Robert Bauer
9823 E. Michigan Ave.
Galesburg, MI 49053
Tel. (616) 665-7500

Treasurer.....Mrs. Andrew C. (Carol) Warner
16815 Falls Road
Upperco, MD 21155
Tel. (301) 374-4788

Nominating Committee Member to serve through 1995
Rich Randall
524 Windsor Gate Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23452
Tel. (804) 340-9077

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

Respectfully submitted,

John W. White, Chairman
Evelyn Jones
Anna Mae Miller

cc. Jones
Miller

SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES FINANCIAL STATEMENT

January 1, 1992 - June 23, 1992

MONEY MARKET SAVINGS

Balance on hand 1/1/92	\$10,458.22
Interest	188.81
Life Memberships	425.00
Book Royalty	832.01
Memorials (Adolph Vogt)	140.00

BALANCE ON HAND 06/23/92	\$12,044.04
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Note: \$1450.00 is Life Memberships

CHECKING ACCOUNT

Balance on hand 1/1/92	\$ 5,802.12
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Income:

Dues	\$1,316.00
Interest	109.32
Librarian (reprints and slides)	24.00
Book Sales	384.30
Checklist Sales	* 46.00
NE Apogon Auction	200.00
Donation (Tucker)	25.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$2,104.62

Expenses:

Librarian (copies, postage)	\$ 12.29
Spring REVIEW	753.00
Membership Chmn (postage)	92.80
Engraved Payne Medal	19.95
Register Irises	307.50
Print 400 Checklists	1,160.35
Honorary Medal, Rent projector	97.01
Design and print 1000 Invitations to Join	129.15

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,572.05
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BALANCE ON HAND 06/23/92	\$5,334.69
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TOTAL CASH ON HAND 06/23/92	\$17,378.73
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Carol Warner, Treasurer

MINUTES OF THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 1992 - ATLANTA, GEORGIA

At 9:07 AM President Shirley Pope called the meeting to order. Her first report was that Adolph Vogt had passed away. Adolph was mentally alert while in the hospital with his bout of cancer. Prior to his death he requested that no flowers be sent but that instead donations be made to SJI. He also requested that his records be given to the Historian and that his irises be given to Ensata Gardens.

In attendance were Currier McEwen, Howard Brookins, Clarence Mahan, Claire Barr, Mike and Anne Lowe, Jim Foreman, and Rich Randall. Shirley appointed Rich Randall as acting Secretary. There was not a quorum and therefore this would not be an official meeting. The next meeting will be on June 26 at Kalamazoo, Michigan. The meeting continued with reports:

TREASURER - (Written report appears on Page 61)

MEMBERSHIP - Shirley reported that membership has stayed about the same.

ROBINS - (see page 29 of this issue)

DISPLAY GARDENS - Claire Barr encouraged members to buy new irises, and to publicize and spread the word locally that you have a Japanese Display Garden and that your garden is available for garden club tours. Discussion followed, led by the Lowes, that members should get out and do P.R. work, encourage tours, and that, when selling irises to individuals and garden clubs, culture sheets should be available.

AWARDS - Clarence Mahan recommended and those in attendance unanimously agreed that, for her outstanding efforts to SJI, Florence Stout should receive this year's award and that she also receive a lifetime membership.

REGISTRATION - Clarence reported that in 1991 some 30 irises have been registered or corrections have been made to the AIS Checklist. (see Spring '92 REVIEW, pg.25-26) Clarence further reported that he expects to register 30 more irises this year. Currier McEwen added that

he is growing approximately 100 other irises from Japan in years gone by that should be considered for registration, and that he is expecting 40 more from Japan.

OLD BUSINESS:

CHECKLIST - Howard Brookins reported that the 1992 Cumulative Check List is finished and that he had a supply on hand for sale.

REGISTRATION - Clarence reported that some gardens and nurseries like Busse, Wayside, and others have stopped selling bogus and/or erroneously "garden named" irises. It is believed that their actions is the result of SJI pressure. (P.S. from the Acting Secretary - Maybe SJI and its membership should bring pressure to bear on Spring Hill Nurseries. Their '92 Summer catalog continues to flagrantly flaunt their outrageous practice of misnaming, misrepresenting the color and publicizing erroneous information to the general public. All SJI members are encouraged to write Spring Hill (110 West Elm Street, Tipp City, Ohio 45371) about this "malpractice".)

NEW BUSINESS - Shirley Pope distributed Carol Warner's proposed new SJI membership application. It was approved with the recommendation that, like the 1992 Checklist, it also be printed in "shocking pink".

JI REFERENCE BOOK - This photo album project does not have a committee. Further discussion will continue at Kalamazoo. Clarence consented to be a consultant, and it was thought that Bob Bauer would also assist, at least as a consultant

JI MEDAL - Due to changes in the Dykes Medal Award system, AIS requires that each section have a Section Award winner by 1993 -- for presentation in 1994. At this meeting it was recommended that ours be the Payne Medal.

CONVENTION SITES - For 1996 and 1997 it was thought that new areas should be probed. Kansas is a possibility for 1996. Shirley will contact Donna Aldridge about this.

HIPS FOR JI'S - In an effort to keep old registered JI's from becoming extinct, due to lost

names and deaths of growers, Shirley suggested that we start a "caretaker" program. To those members who agree to grow old irises stock would be provided. Discussion will continue in Kalamazoo.

Acting Secretary,
Rich Randall

FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 1992 - KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN

The meeting was called to order by President Shirley Pope at 1:30 pm. Others in attendance were Jill Copeland, John Coble, Robert Bauer, John and Evelyn White, Rich Randall, Rosalie Figge, Currier McEwen, Donald Delmez, Marie Dienstbach, Donna Aldridge, Howard Brookins, Carol Warner, Bill Smoot, Clarence Mahan, and Pat Brooks.

Carol Warner submitted her Treasurer's Report and it was unanimously approved. She then handed out copies of the brochure "Invitation to Join SJI" which will be used to promote SJI. As membership chairman, she reported that the membership had remained constant at about 560 members.

It was announced that the editorship of THE REVIEW had been assumed by Evelyn White on a temporary basis due to the death of Lee Welsh. Those in attendance were very appreciative and offered support in Evelyn's new role. She announced that the format of THE REVIEW would remain basically the same, but the cover would change to resemble THE SIBERIAN IRIS with a color photo. She asked if the members thought the cost of printing had been too high and if the editor should be required to adhere to a budget. No budget was set and because the printer was changed to AG Press and because of the color cover, she was given freedom to use her best judgment until more experience of the printing costs could be obtained. She announced that the next issue would be dedicated to Lee Welsh, and that the publishing would continue as semiannual (Spring and Fall).

Robins Chairman Pat Brooks announced that she had 10 correspondents in a robin. Howard Brookins said he had enough names to start another and Currier McEwen suggested that a hybridizer's robin should be started.

The Slides/Librarian Chairman John Coble announced that he had received the slides and papers from the estate of Adolph Vogt and that he would be organizing them this winter. The SJI slides program is very successful; two separate programs are available with about 10 program requests per year.

The President announced that the Display Gardens Chairman had expressed a desire to resign, and when the President receives the resignation, she will appoint a new chairman.

Awards and Registrations Chairman Clarence Mahan asked for help from members in descriptions of Japanese iris imports from Japan. He has sent lists to various members to describe them during the bloom season this year. Some of the spellings present problems when applying for a name from AIS. Mr. Hirao's names seem to be the most consistently spelled, and conform to a system of spelling which is most commonly used; this system is the one which will be used by Clarence when he registers the imported iris with AIS. Clarence would also like suggestions from members for the Distinguished Service Award which SJI bestows. It was suggested that the Award need not be an annual event.

The Payne Medal section award was discussed. Bob Bauer agreed to chair a committee for this medal. Rich Randall and Donna Aldridge volunteered to serve on the committee.

John White reported for the Nominating Committee. (Report on page 60 of this issue). The slate was accepted without dissent and the members were considered elected.

Rich Randall was appointed coordinator for the Historical Iris Preservation Society (HIPS) and the newly created SJI "Caretaker" program to preserve Japanese irises which may be in danger of being lost. Howard Brookins agreed to be chairman of the SJI "JI reference picture book" project. It was suggested that the project be on a subscription basis with new pages added each year as SJI funds permitted. It was decided that a massive single project would be too costly and yearly additions would provide more flexibility about the varieties

to be included. Others volunteering for this committee are Clarence Mahan, Bill Smoot, Carol Warner, and Robert Bauer.

The President announced that the convention schedule had been filled well into the future:

- 1993 (first full weekend in June); Virginia Beach, VA
- 1994 (June 2-4); Summerville, SC
- 1995 Baltimore, MD (Guest plants requested for Fall, 1992 or Spring, 1993; Carol Warner, Chm)
- 1996 Greater St. Louis Area Iris Society (Guests requested Spring 1993; Don Delmez, Chm)
- 1997 Sacramento, CA (Contact Joe Grant)
- 2000 Kalamazoo, MI (Contact Jim Copeland)

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert A. Bauer, Secretary

PHOTO CREDITS

Walter Hoover, pg. 54, 55

Anna Mae Miller, pg. 8, 17

Elsie Skinner, pg. 16

John White, pg. 5, 34, 38, 39

Ted White, pg. 11 and Cover photo (JAPANESE
PINWHEEL - 1992 Payne Award winner)

THE EDITOR'S "REVIEW"

When I accepted this assignment, I wondered if there would be material enough for a "respectable" Fall REVIEW. I need not have been concerned. Articles and reports, some solicited-some voluntary, have been trickling in.

I have not found time to thank personally each of you who has contributed. Please accept this as an expression of my most sincere appreciation of all your contributions. This is your Review, and it should, quite properly, be a reflection of your thoughts and experiences.

After all the fall cleanup is done and your garden is "put to bed", put your thoughts down on paper. Tell us about your experiences and your experiments. Material will be needed for the Spring issue. Please see that it reaches me by February 15, so we may get out a timely Spring REVIEW.

The convention in Kalamazoo is history now, but it will live in our memories as a superb gathering, despite the lack of bloom. Thanks to all the Michigan people for their hospitality. The SJI conventions are great get-togethers. Make plans now to attend the convention in Virginia Beach next June.

At the suggestion of the members of the Executive Board, THE REVIEW is sporting a new type of cover. Let us know your reactions. Ideas for change or improvement are always welcome.

This is my first attempt at editing your REVIEW. It has been an experience to cherish.

May your HOLIDAYS be happy, and PLEASE may the weatherman be kind to us this winter.

Evelyn White
Editor, pro tem