

THE REVIEW

OF THE SOCIETY

FOR

JAPANESE IRISES



VOLUME 32
NUMBER 2
FALL 1995

**THE REVIEW
OF THE
SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Officers and Appointments	1
Cover Photo	2
President's Letter - John Coble	3
Business Items	5
1995 Japanese Iris Awards - Bennett Jones	7
1996 Convention Plans - Susan Smith	8
American Horticultural Soc. Award to Currier McEwen	12
Membership Reminder	12
Yabuya Report Available / Note from Dr. McEwen	13
1995 Convention Reports	14
Key to Convention photos	31
1995 Convention Awards - Clarence Mahan	32
Information on Robins	32
Report from New Zealand - Eddie Johns	33
1995 JI Popularity Poll - Kathy Guest	35
Comments from Popularity Poll Contributors	36
Request for material - Sue Pierce (England)	37
1995 Show Reports	38
SJI Board Meeting (Towson,MD) - Carol Warner	42
Treasurer's Report - Robert Bauer	47
Nominating Committee Report	48
Editor's Review - Evelyn White	Inside back cover

THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES

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APPOINTMENTS

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Members. Robert Bauer
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Slides/ John Coble
Librarian (Address previous page)

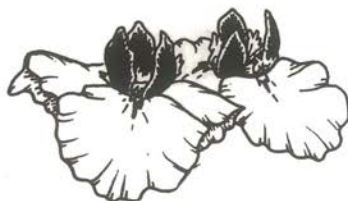
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Display Rich Randall (Address previous page)
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Cover photo: **CASCADE CREST** (Aitken '83) 1995 **triple**
winner: 1) **Payne Medal** - 2) **Favorite Garden Iris** at SJI
Convention - 3) **Popularity Poll** winner. Photo by T. Aitken.



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Welcome back to the warm kitchen or den where you are reading this, after a cool fall of planting, transplanting, and garden cleaning. Who would have thought that we could get chilled again after the hot summer of '95!

The high point of the season was the SJI Convention in Towson, Maryland. Please read all of the accounts of the convention in this issue. Try to imagine all of the excellent cooperation from all of the members of the Francis Scott Key Iris Society that went into putting on the convention: two years of planning, planting, and caring for the iris beds and guest iris plants. And the champion of all chairwomen brought the iris show, meetings, buses, and whole convention into a wonderful experience for all of us. Carol Warner, already recognized with the SJI Distinguished Service Award, is deserving of a second award. But even as President, I don't know how to decree a second life membership! Would if I could, Carol. Thank you.

Congratulations to Terry Aitken for his CASCADE CREST winning the Favorite Garden Iris at the convention. Congratulations continue as CASCADE CREST won the top honor in the 1995 SJI Popularity Poll, and the 1995 AIS Payne Medal award. CASCADE CREST is the first iris to win the Payne Medal without having previously won the Payne Award, as had most of its competitors on the ballot.

Congratulations also to the Western New York Iris Society for promoting Japanese iris. They staged a large display of Japanese iris stalks at a local nursery with more than 300 visitors attracted by their publicity of the event. Now that they have "tested the market" with very favorable response and a few new members, they plan to start having official Japanese iris shows. With great help and cooperation from fellow club members, Kathy Guest has done her best to promote JI in the Buffalo area. Their "show" also attracted many visitors to their rhizome sale in search of JI plants.

We would welcome more local clubs to consider a Japanese iris display/show for the public (and probably surprise a lot of your own club members too). It will attract more attention to iris and your local club. Please write to me or Kathy Guest if you need ideas or assistance.

Please write to Rich Randall if you would like to list your garden as an SJI Display Garden or want any information about the program. Rich also has a database of rare JI that are being grown in the Caretaker Program; write him if you would like to help grow or donate varieties of JI not in commerce.

This is suppose to be the season now when we are not "too busy" with gardening to plan for next year's events. Talk up JI or give a talk about JI at a winter club meeting; plan a JI show or display; arrange to have some JI plants available at your local rhizome sale or auction with a culture sheet handout. And "talk up" a car pool to next year's JI Convention in Missouri.



See you in St. Louie?

John Coble

John Coble

BUSINESS ITEMS

"The Review" is published semi-annually by the Society for Japanese Irises. Editorial office is located at 193 Jackson Hill Road, Minot, ME 04258. Deadlines for receiving copy are **February 15** and **August 15**, 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.

ADDRESS CHANGES: Please notify Membership Chairman.

SALES and RENTAL ITEMS:

THE JAPANESE IRIS by Currier McEwen \$24.95

COLOR POSTCARDS of JAPANESE IRIS

Set #1 16 different W.A. Payne introductions

Set #2 18 different Payne Award winners

1 set (designate #1 or #2) \$5.00

2 sets (one of each set) 9.00

4 sets or more (designate #s) 4.00 each

Overseas orders - add \$1.00 per set for Air mail

Back issues of "The Review", per copy \$1.50

Volume 1 (1964) consists of 3 issues. All other 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 above items to Librarian John Coble. Make check to 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

Half 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 and checks made out to The Society for Japanese Irises to the Editor. Note: If there is interest in submitting a color ad to be placed inside back or front cover, contact Editor for information.

1992 CHECKLIST AVAILABLE

There is a limited supply of the 1992 Cumulative Checklist for Japanese Irises. If you wish to order one send \$5.25 (USA only), or \$6.00 Foreign Surface mail, or \$10.00 Air Mail Foreign to:

Howard Brookins
N75 W14257 Morth Point Drive
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051

This checklist will be the **last issue** to contain all the obsolete names. By the time the next version comes around, we expect that all the improper names in commerce will be correctly registered.

SJI MEMBERSHIP LIST AVAILABLE

An up-to-date membership list for SJI can be obtained from Treasurer Bob Bauer. It will be produced as a computer printout, listing members alphabetically by states. Price - \$3.00 including postage. Send check made out to SJI to Robert Bauer (address in front of this issue).

1995 JAPANESE IRIS AWARDS

Bennett Jones, Awards Tabulator

W. A. PAYNE MEDAL

CASCADE CREST (J.T. Aitken)	51 votes
(runners up)	
FRECKLED GEISHA (L. Reid)	44 votes
JAPANESE PINWHEEL (C. McEwen)	41 votes
KALAMAZOO (A. Hazzard)	16 votes

AWARD OF MERIT

CAPANEUS (S. Innerst)	37 votes
JOY PETERS (W. Ackerman)	34 votes
GEISHA OBI (L. Rich)	33 votes
ORIENTAL CLASSIC (C. McEwen)	30 votes

(runners up)

MICHIO (A. Miller)	23 votes
DOUBLE FIRST (C. McEwen)	23 votes
LITTLE SNOWMAN (A. Vogt)	22 votes

HONORABLE MENTION

DIOMEDES (S. Innerst)	55 votes
PICOTEE PRINCESS (L. Reid)	39 votes
JACIVA (C. Harris)	32 votes
ELECTRIC GLOW (J. T. Aitken)	30 votes

HIGH COMMENDATION

9J 55 16D (L. Reid)	16 votes
ROSEWATER (Bauer/Coble)	11 votes
T6 90/44 (C. McEwen)	5 votes
91 JA 3 (C. Harris)	5 votes

Note: 223 ballots cast

THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES

**Annual Convention
June 13-15, 1996
St. Louis, Missouri**



Meet me in St. Louie, Louie and bring your notebook, camera, and your highest expectations for delighting in the latest and greatest of our favorite flowers. They'll be featured in six unique, private gardens plus the extraordinary, world famous Missouri Botanical Garden, a 79 acre, 136 year old horticultural showplace and world research center. In fact, "The Garden" is home to the world's most active research program in tropical botany and houses 4.5 million preserved plant specimens. A feature of the garden that will be of special interest to us is Seiwa-En, a fabulous Japanese garden that covers 14 perfectly maintained acres and is the largest of its type in the Western Hemisphere. Representing centuries of tradition, waterfalls, streams, and basins complement a serene four-acre lake surrounded by landscaping that is intricate, mature, and absolutely gorgeous. A one-half acre Geodesic Greenhouse is the symbol of the garden and should not be missed as well as several formal rose gardens and rose demonstration gardens, an herb garden, maze, hosta walk,

English woodland garden, scented garden, rock gardens, and a vast new Home Gardening center complete with 23 demonstration gardens as examples for home gardeners. The brand new Chinese Garden and beautiful, architectural Boxwood Garden will be just opening for our tour. There is a tram service available if your tootsies get tired. Another place to refresh is inside The Garden Gate Shop which houses a vast selection of books. For all who love things botanical, this absolutely stupendous place is worth a trip to St. Louis all by itself. It is amazing and you'll LOVE it!

Among the "just ordinary folks" private gardens on our tour will be some extraordinarily pretty backyard Edens. One gardener has been collecting rare and eye-catching plants for 31 years. This naturalist has created a woodsy wildflower walk, antique shrub rose border, and in addition to her guest iris bed has established many perennials all complemented by specimen trees and flowering shrubs. We'll also tour the plantings of our immediate past Missouri and Kansas AIS RVP, a hybridizer who has planted irises in front of and in the lush, large oak-lined depth behind his 1910 Italianate style frame home. The well-grown plants are almost "solid". We'll visit another suburban backyard, and stepping through the gate find an area lovely with "double flush" azaleas and hydrangeas blooming in concert with the Japanese irises, plus many perennials and annuals nodding their colorful heads.

The perfectly groomed and charmingly varied home garden of our past SJI president, and fabulous Japanese iris hybridizer, Don Delmez and his wife Sue, a talented designer and artist, will also be featured. Don's father was a nursery owner, so Don has come by his gifts naturally. He seeks out, landscapes, and maintains only the most beautiful garden specimens, and each and every leaf and petal receive his attention. Sue is also an avid gardener, and if "it takes two to tango", this duo wins

the garden dancing prize. They have achieved botanic perfection, and you'll see it when you visit this garden.

We'll also enjoy a wonderful two acre backyard adjoining university grounds. This space, surrounded by 100 year old oaks, sycamores, and towering pines, contains some quite dramatic landscaping elements including a five tiered pond and waterfalls, boulders, bamboo groves, pieces of sculpture, dwarf conifers, and collections of perennials, shrubs, specimen maples, and a featured Japanese planting beside a bridge. Wow!

A cottage garden surrounding an 1860 picket-fenced farmhouse will also open its gates to us. Winding brick paths lead to the pond and waterfall through perennials and annuals, old-fashioned and new. This home and the garden have been pictured in several national magazines.

The Convention will open with a Welcome and Get Acquainted Banquet Thursday evening, June 13, 1996 at 6:00 p.m. A slide program, speaker, and open discussion will follow. On Friday, June 14, entries for the iris show will be received from 8:00-10:00 a.m., followed in the afternoon by garden tours. That evening will feature two hours of judges training by Lorena Reid, grower and hybridizer extraordinaire who tends the commercial "Laurie's Garden" in Springfield, Oregon.

Saturday, June 15, the buses will again depart and wind us through the cobblestone streets of nearby, scenic St. Charles, Missouri's first state capital, on the banks of the Missouri River. After a garden visit here, we'll have more gardens, a delicious lunch, and then the amazing Missouri Botanical Garden. We'll rest a bit, heads full of beautiful visions, and then convene for our evening Awards Banquet. The guest speaker will be Shirley Pacquet of Prosperity, South Carolina. Shirley, past RVP of Region 5, is a Master Judge of both AIS and the National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc. She'll

waltz us down a Japanese iris-lined memory lane with entertaining stories of the history of SJI, its irisarians, old and new, and their gardens and pursuits. This will be just the inspiration we'll need to bid happily for the irresistible guest irises we've just enjoyed, plus others to tempt us, all to the benefit of the well being of our Society of Japanese Irises! Start planning now for your trip to St. Louis, America's Gateway City to the West, and create some lovely memories for always.

Headquarters for the Convention will be:

Best Western Westport Park Hotel

2434 Old Dorsett Rd.

(at I-270 & Dorsett Rd.)

Maryland Heights, MO 63043

phone (314) 291-8700

toll free 1-800-528-1234

fax 314-291-2891

For reservations call directly to the hotel. Please state your affiliation with the Society for Japanese Irises to receive convention rates of \$58.00 per night. A block of rooms will be held until May 31, 1996. After that date, rooms will be \$62.00. A free shuttle runs the 15 minute drive from Lambert Airport to the Best Western Westport Park Hotel on demand.

Registration fee is \$85.00 per person.

Send reservations to:

Annabelle Wiseman

500 West Highway N

Wentzville, MO 63385

phone (314) 327-8018

The Convention is hosted by The Greater St. Louis Iris Society, and our Convention Chairman is Don Delmez, (314) 724-4274. Additional information and a complete schedule will appear in the Spring issue of The Review.

by Susan H. Smith

**AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
ANNOUNCES
ANNUAL AWARD WINNERS**

Ten outstanding members of the horticultural community were honored at the American Horticultural Society's Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, June 22 - 24, 1995.

One of this year's winners is Currier McEwen, of South Harpswell, Maine. He received the Society's **Luther Burbank Award** to recognize extraordinary achievement in the field of plant breeding. McEwen has demonstrated this excellence in hybridizing irises and daylilies.

He has introduced 98 Siberian irises, 34 Japanese irises, and 43 daylilies since 1954. He introduced the first yellow Siberian iris ("Butter and Sugar") in 1976. He has published many articles and two books on irises and daylilies. In addition, McEwen holds his M.D. from New York University School of Medicine, where he was Dean from 1937 - 1955. He remained on the faculty until his retirement in 1970 and is currently Professor of Medicine Emeritus.

Note: News release from American Horticultural Society.

SJI extends **CONGRATULATIONS** to Dr. McEwen!

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. Send to Robert Bauer, Membership Chairman. (Address p.1)



AVAILABLE: Article by Dr. Tsutomu Yabuya

At the SJI Convention in Maryland, Dr. Tsutomu Yabuya, a professor in the Applied Genetics and Biotechnology Division of the Faculty of Agriculture, Miyazaki University in Japan, gave a lecture on "Studies of Flower Pigments of Japanese Garden Irises". Dr. Yabuya has sent us a detailed report with tables and charts illustrating the subject. The length of the article exceeds space available in The Review, but copies of it can be sent to readers who wish to have it.

If you would like a copy of this article, please send your request to the Editor (see new address in The Review). Please send \$1.50 to cover printing and postage.

Note regarding Dr. Yabuya's article:

At the Japanese Iris Convention in Maine in 1990 when Dr. Yabuya reported the presence of delphinidin in 'Chitosehime', it caused great interest among hybridizers as a tool to obtain flowers of true blue. At that time it was thought that creamy white flowers might serve best as the other parent. Dr. Yabuya's subsequent studies showed, however, that flavones are needed as co-pigments; these are found in large amounts in such blue-purple flowers as 'Suiten-issshoku'.

To date, seedlings from such crosses have not resulted in true blue. In his current article, Dr. Yabuya suggests that one may hope that continued crosses of 'Chitosehime' and its seedlings with others having the needed flavone co-pigments may result in the correct balance of genes to give the long sought true blue flowers.

Dr. Yabuya also makes hopeful suggestions regarding the use of cultivars containing the proper pigments to produce true red blooms.

1995 SJI CONVENTION REPORTS

June 22, 23, 24

Towson, Maryland

LADEW TOPIARY GARDENS

Riley Probst (Missouri)

On Friday, June 23rd we toured one garden, the Ladew Topiary Gardens. We spent close to 3 hours there. The gardens were developed between 1929 and 1971 by the late Harvey S. Ladew. Garden Club of America has called it "the most outstanding topiary garden in America". It is actually 15 different gardens, like separate rooms with high hedge walls, covering some 22 acres, plus the Japanese Iris planting. During his time, Mr. Ladew designed and maintained the gardens without professional help. Both the gardens and the house are on the National Register of Historic Places. Each of the gardens has a different name and theme. Some that made impressions on me were Tivoli Teahouse, Topiary Sculpture Garden, the Great Bowl, the Swan Hedge, Terrace Garden, and Portico Garden. The gardens are located in Monkton, MD about 14 miles north of Towson, convention headquarters.

The Topiary Sculpture Garden has a varied topiary display that ranges from lyrebirds, Churchill's top hat and victory sign, to a unicorn and sea horses. The Great Bowl has a large oval pool about 10 feet deep in the center of a several-acre bowl-shaped lawn. Surrounding this bowl area is a topiary swan hedge containing 12 swans. The Terrace Garden consists of 3 terraces with Canadian hemlock hedges sculptured into obelisks, garlands, and windows that give a view over the countryside. There are also French setting hens on nests. There is a permanent iris garden just off from the Great Bowl. Here, along a central stream, are planted bearded (including reblooming), spuria, Siberian and Japanese irises.

The separate Japanese Iris planting for the convention was in the Meadow Garden, down the hill below the studio/cafe and the cutting garden. The Japanese irises were planted in a ripple

design extending out from an old apple tree. The 3 beds contained some large clumps of Japanese irises donated by Bruce Hornstein and Richard Huges, Rosalie Figge, and Carol Warner. One fifth of the Guest irises were also planted there.

The following are some irises that particularly attracted my attention:

SURPRISE LIGHT (W. Hublau, from Belgium), a white ground irregularly veined and speckled magenta violet with yellow signals

BEAUTIFIL ACCENT (D. Delmez '94) medium blue irregularly splashed white, with deep yellow signals

GRAPE FIZZ (W. Ackerman '81, grape violet splashed with white, yellow signals

SEA OF AMETHYST (Rich '71) white ground with amethyst veins, stylearms edged darker violet, yellow signal

MIDNIGHT STARS (T. Aitken '88) dark blue-violet (almost black) with bright yellow signals

ELECTRIC RAYS (T. Aitken '90) deep blue-violet with white veins (rays) radiating out from a yellow signal; white stylearms edged violet.

CASCADE CREST (T. Aitken '88) white ground, almost plicata pattern with lavender edges, darker stylearms and petaloids, and yellow signals. This iris was voted favorite garden (non-guest) iris of the convention.

ORIENTAL BOUQUET (W. Ackerman '91) white veined deep violet with darker violet stylearms and petaloids, many yellow signals. Aptly named - one blossom makes a bouquet. This iris was 3rd runner-up for favorite garden iris.

An iris under seedling number that I noticed was Delmez **STW-VWI-SAR-1**. It is white with heavy veining on the falls and dark purple stylearms.

Two historic irises looked quite good here: **CRYSTAL HALO** (W. Marx '58) deep blue-violet edged lighter with bright yellow signals; and **OCEAN MIST** (W. Marx '53) medium violet falls with a yellow signal located in a white spot, white stylearms edged lavender.

Other iris that were blooming well were **GLITTER AND GLAMOUR** (Payne '69), **GRACEFUL DANCER** (Delmez '95), **ORIENTAL EYES** (Vogt '84), **DIOMEDES**(Innerst '92), **ABRACO**(Innerst '92) and **BELLENDER BLUE** (Bauer/Coble '93).

The only thing that marred our visit to this lovely garden was the rain, sometimes quite heavy. But you could almost always find a few brave irisarians with rain gear, umbrellas and cameras in hand strolling through the Japanese plantings. The peak Japanese bloom was great and the local people said it had been quite dry and they needed the rain. My shoes were still damp on Sunday when we flew home. To my pleasant and great surprise, my slides came out quite good, considering that I was holding an umbrella with my left hand and my camera in my right hand with no support. All in all, I enjoyed my visit to Ladew and I probably will return if I am in Baltimore again.

BEARDED IRIS SHOW

Friday, June 23, 1995

Towson, Maryland

Joe and Margo Griner (New Jersey)

On Saturday June 17th at the Delaware Center for Horticulture in Wilmington, DE, Larry Westfall of Exton, PA had won Queen of Show with his JAPANESE PINWHEEL and the Sweepstakes AIS Silver Medal. It was doubtful that there would be many entries at the Francis Scott Key Iris Society Show at the SJI national convention in Towson, MD. After all, it was over an hour south and six days later! We were in secondary bloom in South Jersey as we struggled to take a few to Towson Thursday night. Show placement was almost complete when Larry arrived with 20+ excellent blooms. Having entered 30 beautiful stalks the weekend before, how did Larry come up with another 20? His efforts were well appreciated. Larry was the 14th entrant, raising the entries to over 127 blooms of 115 varieties (including seedlings). His entries turned out to be the ones to beat!

Larry won the Sweepstakes and the AIS Silver Medal with 15 blue ribbons; he swept the Queen's table with **LITTLE SNOWMAN** (Vogt '90), **AGRIPPINELLA** (Straw '81), and **LIGHT AT DAWN** (Marx '57). The judges had a difficult time deciding on these three from 31 blues: Carol Warner had 8 blues (winning the Bronze Medal) followed by Charlie Conklin (3), Rosalie Figge (2), Bill Ackerman, Dan Schlanger, and Joe and Margo Griner each with (1).

The judges were Barbara Aitken (Vancouver, WA), Claire Honkanen (Isle of Palms, SC), and James Burke (Buffalo, NY). Dorothy Fingerhead (Newfields, NY) was apprenticing. Some of the other outstanding blues were:

<u>IRIS</u>	<u>HYBRIDIZER</u>	<u>EXHIBITOR</u>
ABRACO	Innerst '93	Westfall
ACK-COMMODATE	Ackerman '95	Ackerman
AMETHYST WINGS	Ackerman '90	Ackerman
ANYTUS	Innerst '91	Figge
AUGUST EMPEROR	Marx '62	Westfall
CRYSTAL HALO	Marx '59	Warner
CASCADE CREST	Aitken '90	Warner
DANCING WAVES	Payne '64	Westfall
FRILLED ENCHANTMENT		
	Marx '58	Schlanger
FROSTED PYRAMID	Marx '60	Westfall
GEISHA GOWN	Maddocks '63	Westfall
HEGIRA	Innerst '85	Westfall
IKE-NO-SAZANAMI	Hirao '56	Warner
JAPANESE PINWHEEL	McEwen '88	Figge
MIYUKI	Hager import	Westfall
ORIENTAL ELEGANCE	Payne '65	Warner
PRAIRIE PRINCESS	Hazzard '77	Griner
ROYAL GAME	Vogt/Stahly '84	Westfall
SEA FURY	Payne '59	Westfall
SENSATION	antique '17	Conklin
WINGED CHARIOT	Payne '57	Westfall

There was an excellent showing of 35 seedlings from Bill Ackerman, Kitty Ackerman, Don Delmez, and Clarence Mahan. Don had brought on the flight from St. Louis about twenty JI's

in waxed tissue paper. It made for tough competition and more excitement in the show. The judges awarded 9 blue ribbons in the seedling class, with Don's SP-5 winning Best Seedling of the show. This pink JI caught our eye early on...as our video will attest...it was one of 4 of Don's seedlings that the judges liked too. The nine seedlings awarded blue ribbons were:

B1-14, B5-17, A4-4-86

W. Ackerman

S-3-2

K. Ackerman

SP-5, DLBT-1, DB-W-SA-3, DB-V-O-V-1

D. Delmez

ALEX SUMMERS

C. Mahan

We would have liked to spend more time at the show, but we were quickly moved on the buses to spend the rest of the day in the rain at Ladew Gardens, where we were able to see which irises were able to withstand a downpour. The rain didn't dampen the spirit of the Convention guests or their hosts. It was a grand three day experience: meeting new people and sharing ideas with friends...and as for the *Grande Host*, Carol Warner, she is phenomenal!. How she was able to Chair the Convention, enter irises and help run the show, host a tour, host a dinner and run an auction in three days....and smile all the way...is remarkable! We are sure that everyone present appreciated Carol and her committee's efforts.

JUDGING JAPANESE IRIS

2 Hour Judge's Training illustrated with slides

Reported by Anna Mae Miller (Michigan)

Bob Bauer, a partner in ENSATA GARDENS, made a thorough, slide illustrated presentation. He was clear and precise. We need AIS garden judges to promote Japanese Iris and vote the ballot so awards are *meaningful*. Judges need to grow as many varieties as possible for knowledge of the cultural requirements and to grow plants typical of the particular cultivars. Since it is not possible for most judges to grow all the varieties, they must educate themselves by visiting gardens and trying new varieties to keep up on new trends. At least grow the different types.

There are 2 distinct types of judging:

1. SHOW BENCH where Cultural Perfection counts 75 points, and Condition and Grooming - 25 points. Awards are given to the exhibitor rather than to the flower. Seedlings are judged on Distinction-25, Flower-50, and Stalk-25. No concern for the plant--does it grow well? Any AIS judge visiting the show can vote for an Exhibition Certificate (EC) for a worthy iris. It takes votes from 5 judges to secure the EC.

2. This is the real distinction between Show Judging and Garden Judging. In garden judging the Plant counts 50 points, Flower-30, and Distinction -20. The plant must have vigor, and grow well the whole season. A glaring defect is a plant that has difficulty growing after transplanting. The hybridizer may be blinded by a certain color or pattern, but without a healthy growing plant the cultivar is not worthy of introduction. Extension of the bloom season may add distinction to a new cultivar. It is the AIS garden judges' responsibility to visit hybridizers' gardens and give encouragement. **VOTE FOR WORTHY SEEDLINGS.** It takes votes from only 5 judges out of about 800 AIS Judges for a cultivar to receive High Commendation (HC).

In the 3F varieties of Japanese irises, standards at 45 angle is the classical form. Faults are: standards too tall (mule ears) or color pattern not distinct (sort of streaky - making a color fault) - all standards should take the same position to maintain balance. Falls should not be too droopy/pinched - falls should be flat or arch down gracefully. There should not be too much space between falls, especially in the haft area. Styles can be too long, not standing upright. Splashed flowers are not always consistent; this can be a problem on the show bench. Blooming down in the foliage and goose-necking (weak neck) are fatal faults. Bob showed slides to illustrate good and bad forms. Examples of **good classical form** are:

TOKEN OF FRIENDSHIP (Payne '69)

THE GREAT MOGUL (Payne '58) Epitome of classical form
PRAIRIE VELVET (Hazzard '72) Pendant, slightly pinched falls - standards a bit low

JOYOUS TROUBADOUR (Payne '69) Flaring form

CALAMARI (Copeland '92)

Bob discussed **color patterns** and illustrated with slides of the following:

PRAIRIE SAPPHIRE (Hazzard '70) - styles - thick solid color, white crests

WARE HOTEI! - before 1900

TUPTIM (Rich '74)--WOW- difficult to grow in some areas

PRAIRIE NOBLE (Hazzard '72) - Everything + ruffles

PRAIRIE MANTLE (Hazzard '76) - Wide overlapping falls

INDIGO MAGIC (Bauer/Coble '96) - There we go.

ROSEWATER (Bauer/Coble '96) - More styles.

To illustrate blooms with **multiple petals** the following were given as examples:

FROSTED PYRAMID (Marx '60)

SAKURAJISHI (Tomino'52 -R'92)

ROSE ADAGIO (Payne '69)

Discussion followed this excellent training session.

ROSALIE FIGGE GARDEN

A Little Paradise

Chad Harris (Washington)

Rosalie Figge has planned and planted one of those gardens that you wish you could stay and watch for a full year. Visiting her garden, with all of the different textures and blooms, for only one hour, I can imagine early Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter.

The "Bones" of the garden are some wonderful mature trees, planted around the house and the deck to provide shade. (the deck, if you were acute enough to notice, has irises carved in the vertical slats of the rail. Trees planted along the side and to the back of the garden provide very welcome shade, and many people took advantage of this in the mid-afternoon heat. One of the trees at the back of the garden is a wonderful specimen of a Dawn Redwood. To the side is a large canopy formed by a Paperbark Maple. Underneath it in the dark shade, Tri-colored





Ferns add more color and textures.

In the center of the garden were the iris beds. To one side there was a large collection of Dykes winners from America, England and France. On the other side were the Japanese iris beds, all bordered with Iridaceae (blue eyed grass). Throw in daylilies, coral bells, a large planting of butterfly bush and you have the makings for major overload in colors, textures, and smells.

The Japanese Iris that we saw were at peak bloom and just too numerous to do justice to in a short space. But - I agree with one thing that was brought up by Clarence Mahan at the closing banquet: Rosalie Figge should be voted Favorite Garden Iris seen in Bloom.

Thank you, Rosalie, and thank you, Francis Scott Key Iris Society, for your wonderful hospitality.

SANS SOUCI GARDEN

Leona Savoie (Conn) and Jacqui Clark (Vt)

As our bus meandered down ever-narrowing roads to an even narrower lane, our anticipation heightened. We turned left into Sans Souci Garden. We had learned from our convention booklet that "Sans Souci" means "Without Care". What a misnomer this is! The gardens obviously require and receive vast amounts of loving care.

Our hosts, Bruce Hornstein and Dick Huge, welcomed the conventioners not only to the gardens, but also to their spacious, two year old, contemporary home.

On display in the great room was a rare, priceless collection of one hundred color woodcuts of Japanese Iris blossoms. These were open accordin-style on two long tables. Clarence Mahan owns the collection and shared it for convention viewing. He believes it is the last remaining catalogue in the U.S. of the Yokohama Nursery Company that operated in Yokohama,



Japan from 1890 until the 1920 earthquake. Each exquisite panel bore the name of the flower in English and in Japanese.

The flawless beauty of the woodcuts was found repeated in the garden bloom. The guest Japanese, which numbered in excess of sixty different varieties, were located in the first and second beds on the northeast side of the driveway. They presented an exquisite display of color and form. Other iris plantings also delighted us. We all enjoyed the bed of Payne II's, as well as other flowers. A greenhouse boasted a fragrance of coconut that emanated from an orchid plant with tiny flowers.

We left Sans Souci with our senses filled and our souls without care!

DRAYCOTT GARDEN

Peter Weixlmann (New York)

The ornately carved barge docked at Draycott Garden. A mere glimpse of the glory of the gardens beyond was concealed by dappled sunlight and a steep path leading to the heavens. Compelled by the thirst for beauty, we mounted the slope. As the dwelling appeared, the mistress of the garden emerged from the bamboo and ricepaper structure like an exotic butterfly emerging from its chrysalis. The sun danced on her satin gown. The earth goddess bid us enter her paradise with a warm greeting "HEY Y'ALL! COME ON IN." We had arrived in Carol Warner's little piece of heaven. [Note: Peter waxed a bit poetic - most of us traveled by bus. ED.]

Having had the pleasure of seeing Draycott in the Spring several years ago, it was equally thrilling to be there again in early summer. There is no lucky coincidence or caprice in these extensive plantings. Draycott is a true garden and Carol is its visionary gardener. An expert colorist, Carol uses perennials, shrubs and trees for their foliage and form as well as for their bloom.

Each side of Carol's garden is bordered by woods, which have inviting paths winding through her collection of hostas, ferns, trillium, and astilbes to reward the adventurer's efforts.

The skeleton of the garden is conifers, both needle and broadleaf. Huge pine and spruce grow side by side with gorgeous holly and rhododendron specimens of extraordinary vigor. Twelve foot beds cascade and cradle the terrain of rolling hills, taking full advantage of the topography.

The island beds hold many unusual plants. For example, *Acanthus spinosus* (or bear breeches) - its glossy green spiny foliage gives rise to 4 foot spikes of purple satin bracts containing pink veined white blossoms, which play off a miniature pink rose and purple pink loosestrife planted nearby. Bright red heuchera reflect ruby daylilies and vibrant pink phlox, and amethyst buddleias cool the scene as does the emerald green foliage of peonies. Iris abound within this flowing landscape: bearded in all sizes, Siberians, and of course, Japanese.

The Japanese planting was an exciting mix of color, form, and hybridizers. Currier McEwen's **SOUTHERN SON** ('90) is cadet blue - a large ruffled 6-fall beauty, possessing 3 branches for a long bloom season. His tetraploid seedlings put on quite a show. **T6 88/62 (2)** is a tet with blue veining and lavender standards. Branching and clean foliage add to its great garden effect, and the flower was at least 6-7 inches across.

Terry Aitken was well represented by his '94 introduction, **ROLLING SEAS**, a 6-fall cobalt blue with great substance and, as the name suggests, rolling ruffles, a bright yellow signal, and nice branching. His **ELECTRIC GLOW** ('92) is a ruffled blue-purple, both in standards and falls, which feature lighter electric rays in the center, radiating out to the violet edge.

Bauer/Coble had the tallest iris in bloom, **BELLENDER BLUE** ('93). With 2-3 branches, this 3-fall blue-violet flower commands attention. The largest crowd gathered around their

1996 introduction, **ROSEWATER**, which won favorite guest iris at the convention. What's so special? It is the most beautiful rose-amethyst color with a blue halo across its 6 ruffled falls. It has clean foliage and great branching. If Monet had painted Japanese iris, the result would have been **ROSEWATER**.

Speaking of pastel watercolor delights, Hirao's **BLUE DWARF** is just the ticket. Light lilac standards and 3 falls of ice blue-orchid make a stunning garden effect. **YAYOI-KAGAMI** (Hirao '68) is a frosty lavender grape with 3 flaring falls, cupped standards and styles of rose, extremely floriferous; it was a great foil for Anna Rettig's 1995 introduction, **NIAGARA POWER**. This iris has 3 large falls of orchid blue-grey, veined magenta, and rose upright standards held on 3 branches with multiple socketed buds, making for a season extender.

Lorena Reid proves that she is a hybridizer's hybridizer. Her **PICOTEE PRINCESS** ('92) was great in all gardens, including Draycott. If you like them ruffled, this is your kind of flower. Heavy duty ruffles form an overlapping round flower of pristine white, splashed and sanded rose with a large picotee edge of the same rose pink, topped off by lacy cupped styles of dark purple. Lorena had many seedlings of the highest quality, but the show stopper was her **9J-55-16D** - a true delphinium blue, fading to a wide white edge around the 6 bubble-ruffled falls, lacy standards. This could be the best of its color class so far.

Time passed much too quickly, and before the tasty treats could be finished, the last photo taken, or the last garden area explored, it was time to leave. Our gracious hostess bade us farewell and we set sail from this little piece of Eden, filled with lasting memories of a unique and special place and its equally special caretaker. We know the sun will never truly set on Draycott Garden.





THE STERLING INNERST GARDEN

Phil Cook (Vermont)

As the bus slowly backed into a narrow dead end lane, we entered a world almost completely hidden from the residential street from which we had come. It was a horticultural carnival with brilliant colors, a menagerie, touches of whimsy, and something for everyone who was at all interested in plants.

At the front of the brick A-frame house were attractive beds of hostas, which provided a quiet contrast to the many containers of bright geraniums. Curious pieces of garden statuary were scattered about - such as a frog fishing in the bird bath. A wooden frame provided a "Christmas tree" which was decorated with hanging baskets of brilliant annuals. A bed of cannas added to the color, and, behind the greenhouse, the geese were sounding their nervous welcome.

Most of our tour members headed directly to the iris beds, but I spent several precious minutes exploring the grounds and waited for traffic in the display beds to subside. The variety of horticultural interests and talents was impressive. Fruit trees and nut trees were planted in the "back lot", as well as many iris, which I assume were lined out for commerce. In another plot, vegetables were intermixed with rows of irises. Was this a form of crop rotation? In the shade of the locust trees at the side of the house, a great number of orchids and other greenhouse plants in pots were spending the summer. How they could ever be fitted back into the greenhouse is a puzzle. I am not particularly enthusiastic about bearded iris, but I was awed by the display beds Sterling had constructed. The iris (alas, well past flowering) were in raised beds bordered by large pieces of a very attractive sandstone. They must have been spectacular earlier in the season.

Well, what about the Japanese iris? Simply, they were grown to perfection. The soil is a heavy red clay and there was evidence that Sterling uses compost quite liberally. The beds were heavily



mulched with straw, but even this didn't keep feet from getting muddy after the heavy rains which were experienced during the convention. However, the Japanese iris loved it and we obviously hit the peak of the bloom season. My list of noteworthy cultivars is too long to recount here, but a large island of Sterling's beautiful **DIOMEDES** lingers in my mind. I have been a fan of Sterling's introductions and was therefore very interested in looking at his seedling beds. There were many interesting plants under number but one (**4269-10**) really caught my eye. This is a large heavily ruffled white with blue-violet veins and dark blue style arms. I have a particular weakness for this pattern and would like to lobby for introduction of this seedling; I'm sure other visitors could have easily picked different favorites from among the hopeful throng. Time was short and I didn't get to carefully study the guest irises.

The bus started up its engine all too soon and I still hadn't had a chance to chat with Sterling. Maybe another time I'll be able to learn more about the man behind these gardens and those very distinctive cultivar names. It was a rare pleasure to be able to visit the collections of such an enthusiastic plant lover and hybridizer - and a fitting finale to a convention tour that featured wonderful hospitality and food, lovely pastoral scenery, marvelous gardens, and outstanding Japanese iris. Oh - I had almost forgotten about the rain!

Key to Convention photos by **JaNiece Mull (Virginia)**: p. 21 - Our guests from Japan - Dr. Yabuya. Mr. T. Ichie, Mr. K. Negishi, Mr. H. Shimizu ; and from Belgium - Willy Hublau, Jeanine and Francine Gilissen, and Jacques Milissen. p. 22 - Rosalie Figge with garden guests; Anna Rettig (NY) receiving applause at banquet. p. 24 - Views from "Sans Souci". p. 28 - Scenes in the Warner garden. p.30 - Sterling Innerst and wall display at Innerst garden.

CONVENTION AWARDS AT SJI CONVENTION

Towson, MD, June 22-24, 1995

Clarence Mahan (Virginia)

FAVORITE GUEST IRIS

- Winner: ROSEWATER (Bauer-Coble R.95)
1st Runner-up: Lorena Reid's 9J-55-16D
2nd Runner-up: NIAGARA POWER (Rettig '95)
(Tie) STELLA NIAGARA (Rettig '95)
3rd Runner-up: ABRACO (Innerst '93)
4th Runner-up: PICOTEE PRINCESS (Reid '92)
(Tie) Currier McEwen's T6 90/44

FAVORITE GARDEN IRIS

- Winner: CASCADE CREST (Aitken '88)
1st Runner-up: BUTTERFLIES IN FLIGHT (Aitken '91)
2nd Runner-up: DIOMEDES (Innerst '92)
(Tie) DOUBLE FIRST (McEwen '86)
3rd Runner-up: JAPANESE PINWHEEL (McEwen '88)
(Tie) ORIENTAL BOUQUET (Ackerman '91)
THE GREAT MOGUL (Payne '58)
-

SJI ROBINS INFORMATION

Two SJI Robins are flying about the country. One is a Hybridizers Robin, and the other is a General Interest Robin. If you are interested in joining either one, please contact Pat Brooks, Robins Chairman. Her address is in the front of this issue. You might find the comments and information from other SJI members interesting and helpful.

REPORT FROM NEW ZEALAND

Eddie Johns (Rongotea, New Zealand)

(Ed. note: These are excerpts from a letter Mr. Johns sent to Carol Warner dated June 4, 1995)

It was good to meet you in Portland last year. I was totally blown away with the AIS convention and the good people that I met. It was inspiring.

The year has gone fast, and we are now coming into our winter. Heavy snow in both the South Island and in the central North Island has closed the major highways to many cities until snow machinery can clear it. Rongotea does not get snow, but it certainly feels like it when the southerly winds blow. Day temperatures have dropped to 7 degrees C with the overnight low of minus 2C. Each winter it seems that we get more wind and rain with only a few frosts.

I enjoyed spending time with Marilyn Harlow and Bill Maryott after the convention. As a parting gift they gave me about 1 kilo of JI seed that had been collected from Japanese imports at Roris Gardens in Sacramento.

Upon my return to NZ, I waited eagerly for time to pass so that I could soak the seeds and put them in the refrigerator to help break dormancy. After they were sowed, they came up like hair on a cat's back and it took many days to pot them into tubes. I kept 3,000 seedling for myself and donated 500 seedlings to the local iris group to help members learn about growing JI's from seed and growing them on to evaluate them when they flower. Another 1,500 seedlings went to a water garden park in New Plymouth to develop a swamp area.

Our soil here is good loam/clay of a slightly heavy nature, rich in humus and minerals with an acid pH because of our reasonably high rainfall.

My partner, Adrian, and I have excavated out a 3/4 acre pond and have developed a sunken garden around the pond to plant out the imported JI cultivars from John & Bob at Ensata. I prepared two areas either side of the pond on ground level and planted my 3,000 seedlings in virgin soil. Their growth has been amazing and most of them have produced 5-8 fans in the first growing season. I half expected them to send up flower stems in the first year, but nothing like that. I gave them artificial fertilizer (12-10-12-6) every 8-10 weeks, with "little and often" being the motto here. Mostly the fertilizer was applied during a shower of rain to prevent burning between the fan joints or roots.

A few seedlings have been quite dwarf in their growth habits, so I have lifted them out and lined them in a separate area to grow on for flowering evaluation this December. It would seem that no one in New Zealand has done much work with evaluation of JI seedlings, so I have been reading my bible (The Japanese Iris by Currier McEwen) every chance I get. I look forward to the day when they start flowering, which is only 7 months away.

This will be my third year of importing varieties to New Zealand from Ensata in Michigan. I find their plant product excellent and their service great. The plants I imported in November '93 have bulked up very quickly and I intend to release some for sale on a limited basis, when we open the garden for public viewing in early December.

I have been hybridizing cultivars this flowering season with just the ones I liked, with no rhyme or reason, and have collected seed to sow this August. I have become quite addicted to Irises and now have quite an extensive collection of JI's (over 200 cultivars).

1995 JI POPULARITY POLL

Kathy Guest (New York)

I have to say I *very* much enjoyed tabulating the results of the 1995 JI Popularity Poll. It was fun to get letters from all over the world - and I had fun reading the comments the voters jotted down...one lovely soul even enclosed *pictures!* There were 56 voters. States represented were New York, Massachusetts, Maine, North Carolina, South Carolina, Michigan, Virginia, Maryland, Missouri, California, Connecticut, Illinois, New Jersey, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Washington, and Wisconsin. There were 2 voters each from Belgium and Canada and one from New Zealand. Here are the results: The winner - **CASCADE CREST** with 27 votes. **JAPANESE PINWHEEL** was 2nd with 16 votes, and **DIOMEDES** was 3rd with 15 votes. In order : 12 votes - CAPRICIAN BUTTERFLY and PICOTEE PRINCESS; 10 votes - FRECKLED GEISHA, NIAGARA POWER, 9 votes - STELLA NIAGARA, ROSEWATER; 8 votes - JOCASTA, DANCING WAVES, ABRACO; 7 votes - IZU-NO-UMI, SOUTHERN SON, KALAMAZOO; 6 - ELECTRIC RAYS, ROSE QUEEN, JACIVA, BUTTERFLIES IN FLIGHT; 5 - ORIENTAL EYES, CRYSTAL HALO, HEGIRA, MIDSUMMER HAPPINESS, DOUBLE FIRST, LIGHT AT DAWN; 4 votes - SEAFURY, STRUT AND FLOURISH, MCKENZIE SUNSET, MAINE CHANCE, OCEAN MIST, FRILLED ENCHANTMENT, HUE AND CRY, JOY PETERS, GUSTO, SUMMER STORM, ROSE ADAGIO. 3 votes went to: IKE NO SAZANAMI, KATY MENDEZ, TAGA SODE, LITTLE SNOWMAN, TOTAL IMAGE, LILAC PEAKS, PRAIRIE GLORY, PERSEPHONE, CENTER OF ATTENTION, SUMMER SPLASH, ELECTRIC GLOW, BLUE EMBERS, WARAI HOTEL, PRAIRIE NOBLE, JEWELLED SEA.

There were 2 votes for 48 other varieties and 1 vote for another 55. Following are comments from some of the voters:

from **Currier McEwen**: Some of the best I have seen are among those we will be introducing for Kamo but none are yet registered. I am always a bit embarrassed at the number of my own I list, but they are the ones I know best.

from **Virginia Burton**: PINK DACE and BROCADE BLUE bloomed first on April 26. Brocade Blue has made a nice clump in two years. SOUTHERN SON and EXUBERANT CHANTEY bloomed last (6/4/95).

from **Barbara Schmieder**: We saw lots of Japanese bloom in our region this year. Three of our hybridizers had some outstanding seedlings - John White, Richard Kiyomoto, and Andrew Wheeler. In our own garden FRECKLED GEISHA was the star.

from **Carol Warner**: Ten favorites is too few! I need at least 50. How about 10 favorite guests: 9J-55-16D (Reid), T6-88-62(2) and T6-90/44 (McEwen), ROSEWATER and J86-MM-11 (Bauer/Coble), KOSHUI-NO-ASA (Shimizu), TAMAORI-HIME, UKIMIDO, and HIRYU (Oshida), MJ3-R (Mary Dunn).

from **Eddie Johns** (New Zealand): This time last year I enjoyed your early summer/late spring season and joined everyone in Portland for AIS. I had a magic time and came home to NZ an 'iris-aholic' and turned fallow ground into gardens for my JI's. We grow approximately 160 cultivars and have planted 3,000 seedlings of seed collected from plants in Japan from American sources. They will start flowering in early December.... We have had a few frosts and the JI's are turning a beautiful gold.

from **Don and Sue Delmez**: Our bloom season was one of the best in many years, as you may know how much moisture we had here in the midwest. Our season started with an import, TAKIMOMJI and we still had bloom on July 9th with JAPANESE PINWHEEL. Don was fortunate to win Queen of Show with one of his new introductions, TOTAL IMAGE, and Best Seedling at St. Louis as well as at the National Convention

in Maryland. We're working very hard planning for the 1996 Convention in St. Louis. We hope to have good bloom and good attendance.

from **W. Hublau** (Belgium) Our bloom season is over now and, since we visited the convention in Baltimore (MD), we had two bloomtimes in one year. We met many iris lovers and saw a lot of flowers. The hospitality was very good - many thanks to all who have worked so hard on the convention - it was *great*.

from **Helen Ganders** (British Columbia, Canada): Just sending you a view of part of our JI bed (*Note: wonderful pictures were enclosed*). ELECTRIC RAYS and GAY GALLANT head our favorites in the top 2 positions. The very hot summer we experienced this year, (for us - i.e., Pacific NW) caused quite a change in intensity of pigmentation of several irises. KING'S COURT was much paler this summer, while CRYSTAL HALO was darker.

from **John Coble and Bob Bauer**: We're up to our bippy's in weeds and 1,000's of iris plants to dig and line-out; only about 3,000 to dig and ship this month!! (August, I presume. Ed.)

REQUEST FOR MATERIAL

We have had a request for material from Sue Pierce, the new Editor of the *Newsletter of the Siberian, Spuria & Japanese Iris Group of the British Iris Society*. She was pleased to receive a report of the Maryland Convention from Dr. McEwen, and would like more information from U.S.A. If you have an item of interest send to:

Sue Pierce
Measham
Swadlincote
Derbys., DE12 7HZ
ENGLAND

THE 1995 SHOW REPORTS

St.Louis, MO----June 10----Sue Delmez

The Greater St. Louis Iris Society held its annual Beardless Iris Show June 10, 1995 at the Missouri Botanical Garden, St.Louis, Missouri.

We had a nice showing of Japanese, Spuria, Louisiana, Siberian, and a few bearded irises. Best of the show was a Japanese iris, TOTAL IMAGE, shown by Don Delmez. This was quite an honor for Don, as this is one of his new '95 introductions. First runner-up was a Spuria, ILA CRAWFORD, shown by Orville Dickout. Second runner-up was a Japanese, MCKENZIE SUNSET, exhibited by Don Delmez.

Best Siberian was DREAM HOLIDAY. Best Seedling was SP-4, a Japanese, by Don Delmez. Best miniature tall bearded was QUIRK, exhibited by Riley Probst. The Silver Medal was won by Don Delmez, and the Bronze medal was awarded to Orville



Don winning Best of Show (Photo by Jean Morris)

Dickout. There were 7 divisions in the Design Division, one being Youth. Best Design and Sweepstakes went to Vince Italian. Joey Italian had the Best Youth Design.

Hendersonville, NC----June 15-16----Flossie Nelson
The Carolina Mountains Iris Society produced its 4th annual Japanese Iris Show on June 15 and 16 at the Opportunity House in Hendersonville, North Carolina.

Seventy nine stalks were entered by 13 exhibitors. Blue Ridge Community College entered five stalks (4 blue ribbons). These were from the planting around the lake, which our club planted and helps to maintain. Their AZURE took Best of Show; they also will be awarded the Bronze Medal. Walter Hoover won the Silver Medal. Best Seedling was William Ackerman's A3-2-95.

AIS judges were Rich Randall of Virginia Beach, VA and Shirley Paquet of Prosperity, SC

Wilmington, Delaware----June 17----Bud Maltman

The Delaware Valley and Diamond State Iris Societies co-sponsored our annual beardless show on June 17 at the Delaware Center for Horticulture. Eight exhibitors placed 81 entries of many different varieties of Japanese iris, along with a few late Siberians and Louisianas on the exhibition tables.

Best Specimen of Show was JAPANESE PINWHEEL exhibited by Larry Westfall. Runners-up to the Best Specimen with their exhibitors were:

CASCADE CREST by Bud Maltman

CHIYO NO HARU - Larry Westfall

CENTER OF ATTENTION - June Roop

FLYING TIGER - Larry Westfall

Silver Medal went to Larry Westfall for most blue ribbons. June Roop received the Bronze Medal for second most blues.

In addition to the single cultivars entered there were also five Japanese iris artistic arrangements placed near the entrance to the show room for the public's viewing pleasure.

Summerville, South Carolina----May 27----Peggy Beason

The Summerville Iris Society held its flower show, "The Glow of Iris", on May 27 at the Cuthbert Community Building in Summerville. Helen Beason was Show Chairman and Lucille Limehouse was Co-chairman.

Twenty five members took the two hour Judge's Training session designed by Virginia Burton on "How to judge an Iris Show". Walter Hoover of Saluda, NC was the instructor, assisted by Pat Brooks and Maggie Johnson.

At the show there were 21 entries in the Japanese Iris Division. Walter Hoover won the AIS Silver Medal with 7 blue ribbons. The Bronze Medal went to Peggy Beason for the second most blues. Blue ribbons were also won by Pat Brooks and B.C. Johnson, whose SWEET MURMUR was Best in Show.

There were 57 entries in the Companion Plant Division. Betty Black won the Sweepstakes Award in this division with her specimen of variegated ginger. In the Design Division, entitled "The Glow of Iris from Dawn to Dusk", blue ribbons were won by Betty Black (2), Leora Moore (2), and Ulysses Salvo. Crystal awards were given to each of the top winners.

Kathy Woolsey provided an educational exhibit. It showed the growth of the iris plant, through both pictures and actual plants, from "Seed to Bloom", the title of the exhibit.

The show was open to the public at 1 pm and a plant sale was held outside the building at that time.

Portland, Oregon----June 19---Chad Harris

The Greater Portland Iris Society's "Late Show" was held at the Japanese Gardens in Portland on June 17. There were 74 entries, including Japanese irises, Spurias, and Cal-sibes, furnished by 7 exhibitors. 36 were named cultivars, and 38 were seedlings.

Queen of Show was ELECTRIC RAYS, entered by Chad Harris. Best Seedling was Chad's 91JA3.

Seven blue ribbons earned the Silver Medal for Chad Harris, while the Ludis of Mountain View Iris won the Bronze Medal.

Charlemont, Mass.----July 15----Deborah Wheeler

The Regional Japanese Iris Show "East Meets West" was sponsored by the Western New England Iris Society. Our first Japanese show was successful in spite of record heat for weeks before, pushing most members' irises way beyond show material. The day of the show, members and Region 1 participants still arrived on time, even though a severe storm blew through the area at 7:15 AM, knocking out the power and closing many roads to traffic - due to downed trees and hot wires.

To sum up the show - we had a nice compliment from Dorothy Fingerhood of New York, who came over to apprentice judge the show. In summary she said " The show was great...the seedlings were wonderful...and more than we saw at the convention...first time I have ever seen English Boxes...the judges were excellent and very consistent."

Need I say more - except to report that the Best Specimen of the Show was CASCADE CREST, which, by the way, also won the Payne Award this year. The Best Seedling was 92C-A1-1, a Japanese by John White. Best Design was won by Andrew Wheeler. AIS Silver Medal went to Debby Wheeler, and the Bronze Medal was won by Warren Hazelton.

The staging in the recital hall at the Academy at Charlemont was the perfect height for displaying Japanese irises, and even without lighting and flush toilets, the show went on!

SJI BOARD MEETING TOWSON, MD

The Executive Board Meeting of the Society for Japanese Irises was called to order by the president, John Coble at 10:40 a.m. on June 23, 1995 in Towson, Maryland. John introduced the officers which were present: Vice President, Terry Aitken; Secretary, Carol Warner; Treasurer, Bob Bauer; and Directors, Jill Copeland and Chad Harris. A warm welcome was extended to several new members and the guests from Japan.

The treasurer's report through December 31, 1994 from Carol Warner was accepted as printed in The Review. Bob Bauer submitted a written treasurer's report from January 1 - June 15, 1995 showing a balance of \$15,116.76. He noted that \$10,000.00 had been placed in a twelve month certificate of deposit at 7% APR. His report was accepted and filed.

The secretary's reports, (Bauer at the Portland AIS Convention and Warner at the Summerville SJI Convention) were accepted as printed in the Fall 1994 issue of The Review.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Slides and Sales: John Coble

650 sets of post cards have been sold so far. The slide sets have been circulating and are quite informative. More slides of new introductions are always needed.

Membership: Bob Bauer

SJI has approximately 590 active members. Bob submitted a copy of a welcome letter, culture sheet and source list which he sends to new members.

Editor: Evelyn White

Evelyn thanked everyone who has helped to contribute timely material for The Review and hopes the material will keep coming. There have been several favorable comments on the color on the back cover.

Robins: Howard Brookins

No report

Publicity: Kathy Guest

Anyone having articles or ideas on any ways to get information out, please get it to Kathy. Each section should select some articles and get them to national magazines. Good pictures will add greatly to coverage.

Display Gardens: Rich Randall

The list is growing, we now have 77. If you would like to be a display garden, contact Rich.

Caretaker Program: Rich Randall

We are trying to save some of the older and more rare varieties. Rich needs a list of which irises you are growing.

Awards and Registrations: Clarence Mahan

President Coble began by thanking Clarence for the job he has done in registering more than 150 irises that were available in commerce but which were not registered with AIS. Clarence reminded us that unregistered irises are not eligible for awards at a show.

Nominating Committee for 1995: Rich Randall, Chairman

The written report was accepted and will be printed.

OLD BUSINESS

A review of the minutes from several previous meetings revealed some items which were not completely resolved.

From 1993, a motion passed for Howard Brookins to begin proceedings for SJI incorporation. John will contact Howard as to what has been done thus far. Rich Randall asked why this is being done. The AIS is asking each section to do this because there is a question about a broader liability. AIS will not cover us. The Median Society and the Empire State Iris Society may have completed the process and may be able to offer some assistance. There are very strict limits put on assets if the group

is disbanded. Jill Copeland noted that incorporation really doesn't protect anyone. Anyone can sue or be sued. Don Delmez stated that incorporation was considered when the bylaws were revised and Article 14 states the process if SJI is dissolved. At this point, however, the bylaws are not acceptable for incorporation. John will contact Jim Morris for guidance and will begin working with the board and may appoint another committee to work on this process.

From the 1994 Portland, Oregon meeting, the Payne Award Trophy retirement was not completed. Melody Wilhoit, AIS Awards Chairman, will be asked to get the trophy and retire it to the new AIS library or to John Coble, SJI Librarian.

From the 1994 Summerville, SC meeting, there was a question of policy concerning replacement of a member of the nominating committee. The president cannot replace a member, it takes the action of the entire board.

Copies of the Bylaws were never sent to board members as directed in the minutes. These copies were available and were distributed to the officers and any other members present who wanted them.

The committee to write a "policy" for auction money at the SJI Convention consists of Carol Warner, Shirley Pope and Don Delmez. No action has been taken by the committee but the "policy" may be part of a set of guidelines for hosting a convention.

A motion was passed for a "certificate" to be signed by all growers who wish to advertise in The Review or be listed on the SJI Source List but no action was taken on this. By 1995 SJI urged people to sell only registered irises. Clarence wrote an excellent article concerning this in the Spring 1995 issue of The Review. The Society should not sanction nurseries that sell incorrectly named varieties. This is our policy, it is a rule of voluntary compliance. We have no power to enforce or police the policy. Clarence Mahan and Shirley Pope will work on a

letter based on Clarence's article to be sent to those who advertise or are listed in our source list explaining our policy. Carol Warner made a motion that we do not require a signed "certificate" or charge the extra \$5.00 for a listing in The Review. Rich Randall seconded and the motion passed.

There is a schedule of fees for advertisements published in The Review. A question was raised about colored ads on the inside of the covers. The editor, Evelyn White, will check with the publisher and was given authority to set a price. The price will be stated with or without the color separations.

NEW BUSINESS

The reoccurring idea of raising dues to an amount which would cover the cost of printing and mailing The Review was suggested. Clarence suggested that we leave well enough alone. Shirley seconded and the idea passed.

Future SJI Convention sites and dates were discussed. The next meeting will be held in St. Louis, MO June 13-15, 1996. Terry Aitken is the appointed AIS coordinator for section conventions. Next year the Siberian meeting and the Japanese meeting are on the exact same date. This is quite regrettable for both groups and a plan must be devised to keep this situation from happening again. Terry suggested that there are not enough new introductions to warrant a convention every year. A Siberian meeting was tentatively planned for 1998 but has since been cancelled. One has been tentatively set for 2000. A SJI meeting has been tentatively planned for 1999 in Kalamazoo, MI. Jill suggested that we have to have a schedule and stay on it! Terry Aitken must be the final clearing house for all scheduled section meetings. Invitations for hosting future SJI meetings should be addressed to president, John Coble, who will then clear them and schedule with Terry.

Clarence Mahan asked the board to consider another donation to the AIS Library Fund. \$1,000.00 was donated in 1994 and he made a motion that an additional \$1,000.00 be sent again this

year to match the AIS donation for the new library at Silverton, OR. Quite a lively discussion followed on the status of the move and the eventual accessibility of material. Bob Bauer noted that SJI has its own library and none of our material is in the AIS Library. The secretary called for the question and the members of the board voted 1 in favor of the motion and 3 opposed. The motion failed.

Carol Warner raised the need for a new Japanese iris checklist or a update sheet of registrations to add to the previous issue. It is quite difficult to judge at a show and check the last several issues of the Review to see which irises have now been registered and are eligible for awards. The board voted to issue an entirely new checklist.

Bob Bauer moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

Carol Warner, Secretary

LAUNDRY HELP NEEDED

HELP! My Japanese irises have stained most all of my work clothes. A colorless sap gets on my clothing when the leaves are cut for shipping or transplanting. When the clothes are washed, the sap instantly turns brown and seems to be impossible to remove. I've noticed the same thing on the clothing of my family and friends. Does anyone have a suggestion for removing the brown stains? I've managed to ruin some good clothes too. Any successful techniques will be shared with the membership in the next issue. Please advise **Carol Warner, 16815 Falls Rd., Upperco, MD 21155. THANKS.**

SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES

Treasurer's Report

January 1, 1995 - June 15, 1995

Income

Cash Transfer	14, 639.52
Interest	27.80
Membership Dues (Incl. \$325 Life)	1275.00
Book Royalty	450.01
Librarian/Slides Chmn	634.60
Advertizing (Review)	82.00
York Convention (Misc.)	292.45
Checklists	36.75
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	17,438.13

Expenses

Spring Review	1567.00
Editor	43.17
Iris Registrations	187.50
Membership	75.12
Checklists	37.18
Display Gardens	156.28
Caretaker Program	31.19
York Convention	67.88
Librarian	146.55
Bank Account Checks	9.50
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	2321.37

Balance

15,116.76

(Includes \$10,000.00 in 12 Mo. CD at 7.0% APR)

(Includes \$100.00 in a required Savings/Checking Account)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominating Committee is happy to offer the names of the following members to serve as the Officers of the Society for Japanese Irises, starting January 1, 1996:

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

Vice President: Terry Aitken, 608 N.W. 119th St., Vancouver, WA 98685 Tel. (206) 573-4472

Secretary: Mrs. Andrew (Carol) Warner, 16815 Falls Road, Upperco, MD 21155 Tel. (410) 374-4788

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

Immediate Past President: Howard Brookins, N75 W14257 North Point Drive, Menomonee Falls, WI 53051 Tel. (414) 251-5292

DIRECTORS AT LARGE:

Mrs. James (Jill) Copeland, 78118 M-40, Lawton, MI 49065 Tel. (616) 624-1968

Chad Harris, MPO 01R, Marble Road, Washougal, WA 98671 Tel. (206) 835-1016

Patricia (Pat) Brooks, 102 Jefferson Lane, Ladson, SC 29456 Tel. (803) 871-0239

NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBER (Serving through 1998) Kathy Colburn, 93 Doolittle Road, Harpursville, NY 13787 Tel. (607) 655-1726

If no other nominations are received by November 1, 1995, these nominees shall be duly elected.

Respectfully submitted: Rich Randall, Chairman,
Lorena Reid
Kathy Guest

THE EDITOR'S REVIEW

As I assemble The Review for printing, I realize what a great group of people make up our Society. Your contributions - articles, reports, pictures, etc. - make our publication a real review. Do keep them coming!

Sharing your gardening experiences, problems, and plans can lend encouragement to others. Jot them down when the gardening is done, and send them in for our Spring issue. Be sure I receive them **by February 15** at our **new** address (see front of book). No! we have not moved - just a change in our postal service.

The SJI Convention in Maryland may be history, but it leaves us with wonderful memories. Our sincere appreciation! I hope to see you in St. Louis in 1996.

Our Fall season in the Northeast has been extremely dry. Let's hope our plants won't be seriously affected.

Best Wishes and a Happy Holiday Season to you all.

Evelyn White



Japanese irises enhance other plantings at Carol Warner's Draycott Garden during the 1995 SJI Convention tour. Photo by Jim Wilson.