

# THE REVIEW

OF THE SOCIETY

FOR

JAPANESE IRISES



VOLUME 33  
NUMBER 2  
FALL 1996

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

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**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Officers and Appointments . . . . .	2
Cover Photos . . . . .	3
President's Letter - John Coble . . . . .	4
Business Items . . . . .	6
1996 Japanese Iris Awards - Melody Wilhoit . . . . .	8
Honorary Life Membership Award to Dr. Yabuya . . . . .	9
Membership Reminder . . . . .	10
1996 Convention Reports . . . . .	11
Key to Convention photos . . . . .	23
My 1996 JI Season - Virginia Burton . . . . .	24
1996 JI Popularity Poll - Kathy Guest . . . . .	26
Comments from Popularity Poll Contributors. . . . .	27
Problems in Hybridizing Tetraploids - Chad Harris . . . . .	28
1996 Show Reports . . . . .	29
The Maine Event - Peter Weixlmann . . . . .	33
SJI Board Meeting (St. Louis, MO) - Evelyn White . . . . .	36
Nominating Committee Report . . . . .	38
Editor's Review - Evelyn White. . . . .	39

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## COVER PHOTOS

Cover photos: Front - **BLUE SPRITZ** ( Delmez '96) **Favorite Guest Iris** at 1996 SJI Convention in St. Louis, MO (Photo by D. Delmez).

Back cover - 1996 **Payne Medal** winners - TIE - (top) **EDGE OF FROST** (M. Dienstbach '88) and (bottom) **KALAMAZOO** (Hazzard '89) (Photos by John Coble)

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

On these cool fall days we issue a warm welcome to all of our new subscribers and members. It has been about 15 years since I experienced the anticipation that arrived with my first issue of the REVIEW. I sat down and read it cover to cover; it was only about eight mimeographed pages then! We've come a long way quickly with the dedication, energy, enthusiasm, and foresight of new editors and more members contributing articles: both scientific and back yard gardening experiences. We have a wonderful editor with Evelyn White. I hope she receives the many letters of appreciation that the readers at least think about sending to her (an SJI Postcard would to nicely!).

We thank those that have sent articles to the editor and we hope more readers will submit articles, comments, or questions. Questions can help the editor and myself realize what information our readers would like to read more about. We may be able to pull articles from back issues or request new articles from gardeners or hybridizers that have been growing JI for several years. Let us hear from you.

The interest in Japanese iris is still growing, especially whenever people are exposed to their existence; either at flower shows or in color photos in magazine articles. The local club JI shows or exhibits are the best publicity our favorite flower can receive. The REVIEW can help announce your show to our readers, but the local clubs must publicize the exhibit to the general public. Provide culture sheets and display some back issues of The REVIEW; maybe even hand them a JI postcard! I have extra overprints of the Postcards that can be used for publicity. Write to me for some show publicity material.

Our Publicity chairwoman, Kathy Guest, has been spreading the word about JI and SJI on the Internet. Also Bill Smoot, Clarence Mahan, and Ted White are finding internet questions about JI. This is a fast growing media and there are many

people looking for information on Japanese iris. SJI will be getting more publicity information onto the internet soon.

The Convention in St. Louis this summer was well organized and planned by the local clubs and appreciated by the attenders. SJI thanks the gardeners and committees for their work, and the hybridizers for sending guest iris plants that make these conventions of special interest.

The next convention is planned for 1999 in Portland, Oregon, and the work on guest beds has begun. With no JI convention next year, we hope to see many of you next year for the SJI Section meeting and SJI Board meeting at the AIS national convention in Dearborn, Michigan, the first week of June.

Congratulations to the tie winners of the 1996 Payne Medal: **EDGE OF FROST** by Marie Dienstbach and **KALAMAZOO** by Art Hazzard, selected by Ensata Gardens. What a change we've witnessed, more than 170 judges voted for the Payne Medal. There were years in the 1970's when there was no Payne Award given for lack of any eligible iris receiving 10 votes! We are fortunate today to have so many more hybridizers, more gardens growing JI for viewing, and more AIS judges feeling confident to vote the ballot on Japanese iris. The Japanese iris are out there, growing in more display gardens than ever. Please make plans this winter to get out and see even more JI, next summer.

**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

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

Full page layout, **Color** 4" x 7" - \$00.00

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### NEW 1996 J. I. CHECKLIST

Nearly 200 confusing, unapproved names have been dropped and about 250 new entries have been added since 1992, including about 170 Japanese imports registered by Clarence Mahan for SJI.

No more searching through *REVIEWS* for annual registrations. Get the correct spellings for the JI imports in your garden.

Order from SJI Sales Chairman:

John Coble

9823 E. Michigan Ave.

Galesburg, MI 49053

\$5.00 postpaid US

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(\$US only, Make checks payable to SJI.)

Also available on disk, write for details.

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### SJI MEMBERSHIP LIST AVAILABLE

An up-to-date membership list for SJI can be obtained from Membership Chairman 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 on page 1 of this issue)

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*1996 Japanese Iris Awards*

*Melody Wilhoit*

**W. A. PAYNE MEDAL**

**TIE !**

**EDGE OF FROST** (M. Dienstbach) 46 votes

**KALAMAZOO** (A. Hazzard) 46 votes

Runners-Up

**IAPETUS** (S. Innerst) 39 votes

**ELECTRIC RAYS** (T. Aitken) 30 votes

**AWARD OF MERIT**

**BUTTERFLIES IN FLIGHT** (T. Aitken) 85 votes

**LITTLE SNOWMAN** (A. Vogt) 27 votes

Runners-Up

**AMETHYST WINGS** (W. Ackerman) 26 votes

**SILVERBAND** (Bauer-Coble) 24 votes

**HONORABLE MENTION**

**BELLENDER BLUE** (Bauer-Coble) 36 votes

**EPIMETHEUS** (S. Innerst) 28 votes

**PINK DACE** (J. Copeland) 27 votes

**CASCADE STORM** (L. Reid) 25 votes

**CASCADE SPRING DRESS** (L. Reid) 21 votes

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**Award for Dr. Tsutomu Yabuya**  
(Clarence Mahan)

This year the officers and directors of the Society for Japanese Irises selected Dr. Tsutomu Yabuya to receive the Society's highest award for outstanding contributions to the advancement of Japanese irises. Dr. Yabuya, who is on the faculty of the Agriculture Department of Miyazaki University in Japan, was recognized with the award of **Honorary Life Membership** for his extensive research into various characteristics of *Iris ensata*, and for twice travelling to the United States to present his study results to the Society. Among Dr. Yabuya's outstanding contributions to our understanding of the genetics and characteristics of the Japanese iris are the following works:

--- "High performance liquid chromatographic analysis of anthocyanins in the Japanese garden iris and its wild forms" (*Euphytica* 52: 215-219, 1991)

— "Chromosome associations and crossability with *Iris ensata* Thunb. in induced amphidiploids of *I. laevigata* Fisch. X *ensata*" (*Euphytica* 55: 85-90, 1991)

--- "In vitro propagation of Japanese garden iris, *Iris ensata* Thunb (*Euphytica* 57: 77-81, 1991) ( co-authored with Y. Ikeda & T. Adachi)

— " Factors Affecting the Velvety Outer Perianths of Japanese Garden Iris (*Iris ensata* Thunb.) (1993 The Japan Mendel Society; *Cytologia* 58; 47-51, 1993) (co-authored with Y. Aiko & T. Adachi)

--- "P-coumaroyl glycosides of cyanidin and peonidin in the flowers of Japanese garden iris, *Iris ensata* Thunb." (*Euphytica* 74: 47-50, 1994) (co-authored with M. Nakamura & A. Yamasaki)

--- "Flower color variations due to copigments in Japanese garden iris, *Iris ensata* Thunb." (Proceedings of IPBA, Rogia,

December 5-7, 1994, 239-250) (Co-authored with M. Nakamura T. Iwashina)

Past Winners of this award have been Lee Welsh and Adolph Vogt, who are now deceased, Dr. Currier McEwen, Florence Stout, Virginia Burton, George C. Bush, Ben Hager, Lorena Reid, Carol Warner, and Clarence Mahan. Dr. Yabuya is the first overseas winner of this award, and his many friends in the U.S. and Japan extend to him sincere congratulations.

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**Available: article by Dr. Tsutomu Yabuya of Japan**

Copies of Dr. Yabuya's report on "Studies of Flower Pigments of Japanese Irises" are still available from the Editor (address - page 2 of this issue) Please send \$1.50 to cover cost of printing and postage.

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**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 - page 1)

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## 1996 SJI CONVENTION REPORTS

June 13, 14, 15

St. Louis, Missouri

The 1996 SJI Convention, with headquarters at the Best Western Westport Hotel got underway Thursday evening, June 13. A delicious Welcome Buffet was served, followed by a show of slides from several guest hybridizers. Interesting new trends and enhancements to the J. I. scene were enjoyed.

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### JAPANESE IRIS FLOWER SHOW

Jeanne Paquet Wagner

It is always nice to have an iris show in conjunction with a convention and the Greater St. Louis Iris Society planned the 1996 Japanese Iris Convention, happily, to include a horticultural show. The Kirkwood Iris Society hosted the show, which was exceptional, and featured an extra added attraction of traditional Japanese arrangements by the members of the St. Louis Chapter No. 3 of the Ikebana International. The Ohara, Ichiyo, Ikenobo, and Sagetsu schools of design were well represented.

The Queen's table showed a diverse group of Beardless Iris from "Best Youth", Kevin Gromley, with I. Brevicaulis snaking its way to the head table - to a brilliant yellow Spuria, Japanese in name only, IMPERIAL SUN presented by Lu and Orville Dickhaut as Queen. Also included were:

1st Runner-up & Best J. I. - AZURE RUFFLES (Don Delmez)

2nd Runner-up - FRILLED ENCHANTMENT (James & Doris  
Loveland)

Best Louisiana - BLACK GAMECOCK ( J.W. Morris)

Best Species - I.Orientales (Lu & Orville Dickhaut)

Best Seedling - S93G-12, a Siberian, (Bauer-Coble)

Lu and Orville Dickhaut were Show Chairmen. Thanks to all who participated. It was a real bonus for the conventioners.

## JUDGE'S TRAINING AT THE JAPANESE IRIS CONVENTION

(Melody Wilhoit)

A large number of those attending the Japanese Iris Convention in St. Louis, Missouri filled the auditorium of the Best Western to hear Lorena M. Reid, owner of Laurie's Garden in Springfield, Oregon on the evening of June 14, 1996. Laurie is a grower and hybridizer of Japanese irises as well as Cal-Sibes, Sino-Siberians, and other beardless species and their hybrids. She maintains a large, beautiful garden where she hybridizes and sells her wonderful creations. Laurie is an active Master Judge for the American Iris Society, and all of us were very pleased to have her give us Japanese iris training. She has won many awards from AIS for her hybridizing efforts.

The large group was divided up into judging teams. Pots of blooming Japanese irises were then point scored on sheets Laurie passed out. After each team judged the potted Japanese, the team moved to a different cultivar. Some of the points Laurie stressed were:

>>> Japanese irises are classified as Apogons and belong to the series Laevigatae.

>>> The judge's handbook should be the Bible of judging any iris.

>>> An average flower should receive 50 points.

>>> Seedlings should receive more than 50 points.

>>> A perfect Japanese should receive 100 points.

>>> Compare the foliage. If all others have good foliage and one clump doesn't, then fault the one with bad foliage.

>>> Japanese irises should grow well everywhere.

>>> There should be two (2) increases for each flower stalk.

>>> The number of stalks are just as important as the branching

>>> Color should be pleasing and harmonious.

>>> Distinction is how the flower is different from other flowers.

>>> Expansion of the season is quite important. Laurie prefers varieties to be long blooming.

>>> The carrying properties of the flower are quite important. The flower should catch your eye from across the garden.

>>> Point scoring helps the hybridizer to evaluate his or her seedlings. Laurie uses 50 points as average, instead of starting at 100 points and taking points off. Instead, she adds points for good traits.

>>> A good hybridizer should not introduce a Japanese iris seedling unless the points go far above 50 points. She said she feels the points should equal 80 or above.

>>> The flower should should last two (2) days whatever the weather does.

Thank you, Laurie, for showing us a different way to judge Japanese irises. We all enjoyed your candor and expertise.

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#### FAVORITE GUEST IRISES AT THE CONVENTION

1. BLUE SPRITZ (Delmez '96) had the most votes for Favorite Guest Iris. (See photo on front cover). Other favorites in no particular order were:

2. PICOTEE PRINCESS (Reid '92)

3. BLUSHING CRIMSON (Rich '95)

4. KALAMAZOO (Hazzard '89)

5. T690-23-1 (McEwen)

6. TOTAL IMAGE (Delmez '94)
7. DYNAMIC IMPACT (Delmez '95)
8. BLUE EMBERS (Bauer-Coble '93)
9. INFANT PRODIGY (Huber '93)
10. JAPANESE HARMONY (McEwen '94)

Thanks to Sue Delmez for providing this information.

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## REPORTS OF CONVENTION GARDENS

### The Bruce and Chick Buehrig Garden (Joan Verwhilst - Michigan)

As our bus travelled the oak-lined streets of Bellerive, the question was often asked, "What is the next garden like?" The answer was usually a smile and the comment, "Just wait, you've never seen anything like it." Bruce Buehrig met us at the end of the driveway and our first glimpse of the garden was a small pond, mixed shade plantings, and some interesting wall sculptures on a palisade fence. Chick greeted us at the back patio and invited all to partake of refreshments and enjoy the garden.

From this vantage point, the panorama before us invited gardeners of all persuasions to enjoy the time allotted for this garden. Set on two acres is a long, gently sloping hill shaded by mature trees, interlaced with bark-mulched paths. A dry watercourse and a large pond, complete with waterfall and friendly koi, enhanced the scene. Accenting the landscape design were astilbes for color, mature hostas and ornamental grasses for contrast, and dozens of daylilies ready to open. Our host explained that, since heavy machinery could not be used on this slope, several large boulders used as focal points were put in place using stretchers manned by 4 strong men.

Did we see Japanese iris? Yes, finally, at the lower level of the property, growing beside a small stream which had been completely inundated by flood waters just a few weeks earlier. The JIs survived and flourished; a mass of seedlings beside the



wooden bridge could have been a scene from Japan. All shades of pinks, blues, and purples with white were captured on film by many cameras. The guest seedlings were planted in the stream bed, and the sure-footed gave them close inspection, identifying particular ones spotted by those on the banks. Anna Mae Miller had two, 80-16-16 and 80-16-19, which looked good both far and near. Lorena Reid's purple, 9J55-ID, was outstanding, as was Johnnye Rich's white K-79-7-A (IMPERIAL PRESENCE).

The view looking upward to the house was equally awesome, and the long leisurely walk back to the patio was punctuated by frequent stops to admire yet another part of the garden - a hosta, a bit of sculpture, a graceful clump of astilbe, a Japanese maple, and occasional daylily bloom.

Fortunate are the AIS host cities with generous garden hosts such as Chick and Bruce Buehrig who graciously share their love of gardening and welcome others to enjoy the results of their efforts.

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The Nyla Hughes Garden  
(Kay and Andrew Yunger - Michigan)

The approach to the property is bordered with a row of tall, mature holly. At the edge is a large oak tree, home to a woodpecker. This is the beginning of a garden full of woodland atmosphere. Along the driveway is a bed of azaleas, rhododendrons, vinca and hostas. The front yard hosts a display of perennials. There is a relaxed, serene air with many shade loving plants, including two very striking GOLD STANDARD hostas.

The sunny portion of the front yard is home to the guest bed of Japanese irises. An immediate eye catcher was PRAIRIE GLORY by Marx - four huge blooms and numerous buds. Nearby was a very striking POPULAR ACCLAIM by Payne. Anna Mae Miller's 76-2-1 had at least a dozen buds and several stems had branching with buds that would be interesting to see when in bloom.





We followed a large, curving pathway of begonias and miniature roses, past an arbored swing, into the back yard. One side of the back is bordered by woods, the other has a border of trees and bushes. This garden has something of everything, including a pond and stairs descending to the lower level, where there is a pleasant patio. Gracious curved beds with collections of conifers, shrubs, hostas and grasses extend outward from the patio. A large yellow barberry makes a dramatic setting in back of red and dwarf spirea.

There are large beds of T. B. iris and peonies on either side of a bark-covered path leading to the rear of the property and a shady woodland garden with a bluebird box - a perfect ending to a dedicated gardener's labor of love!

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The Don and Sue Delmez Garden  
(Barbara Poole - Tennessee)

Don and Sue must be masters of Fen Shin, for every tree, shrub, flower, and sign was in perfect balance. As the bus came to a halt, our eyes were immediately drawn to a round bed directly in front of the house. In the center was a beautiful gazing ball on a pedestal, surrounded by a wide band of red geraniums, then dusty miller, and finally, a broad band of blue (or purple) petunias. A lovely patriotic display!

To the left of the drive was a beautiful Blue Spruce. The garden area beside the carport was a perfect blend of Christmas Tree Holly and a gorgeous Tri-color Beech. To the left, the area bordering the street was a beautiful cottage garden filled with many perennials, bordered by a row of clipped forsythia.

The Japanese irises were growing in a wide bed across the back of the property, with a smaller bed opposite on a higher level bordering the privacy fence. Here were the beauties! Starting at one end and working my way backwards, I found Aitken's 87-J-7, and INK ON ICE (Aitken '94), a large white with blue stylearms. JAPANESE HARMONY (McEwen '94) had a perfect bloom, as did his T690-23-1, which is very similar but



far more distinctive. It has white falls, a purple halo, veining, yellow signal, and purple stylearms with white edging. It was magnificent, and I think it went on everyone's "want list".

ENFANT PRODIGE (Huber '93) was a large well-established clump (as were all the Huber plants) - pale lavender with yellow signal. A darker halo made it most attractive.

Others I particularly enjoyed were:

BLUE SPRITZ (Delmez '96) a large lavender with dark veining and dark purple stylearms

PICOTEE PRINCESS (Reid '92) a lovely 6 fall pale pink with a darker border and white edging and white stylearms with darker tips

IAPETUS (Innerst '87) a 6 fall dark purple with a lighter center and dark veining. This also has a darker eye or halo on the falls.

CAPRICIAN BUTTERFLY, as always, was stunning with three perfect blooms.

SO-3 (Delmez) is a large three fall lavender with yellow signal and dark solid stylearms

BLUSHING CRIMSON (J. Rich '95) a lovely white with a dark blush, yellow signal, and white stylearms.

WHITE FLAG (W.Hubleau '95) a gorgeous large white from Belgium

Our twenty minutes here were all too short, but I did have time to spot a sign in one of the side beds that said "Gardeners Know The Best Dirt". Apparently Don and Sue know their dirt, for they certainly grow all their flowers well.

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### THE MARY TOFT GARDEN (Daniel Thruman - Wisconsin)

At the entrance to the back yard of Mary Toft's lovely garden was a deck with raised beds of Tall Bearded and Median irises nearby. The Japanese iris bed, with its guests, took center stage in full sun in the middle of the garden. A very pleasing Japanese iris clump was that of RED RINGLETS (Aitken '94) displaying stalks well above the foliage, very appealing in full bloom.







Just off the deck to the right was a beautiful vegetable garden. A border of red and white petunias, along with red cockscombs, offered a striking contrast to the vegetable garden.

In the backyard garden I noticed a delightful aroma. Upon inspection, I discovered a huge lily, "Othello", with 75-100 blooms and two rosebushes in full bloom along the back fence.

Thanks to Mary Toft for welcoming us to this interesting garden. This was my first Japanese Iris Convention and I thoroughly enjoyed it.

\*\*\*\*\*



Convention Guests in the Mary Toft Garden  
Photo by Dan Thruman

The Riley Probst Garden  
(Eileen O'Melay - Michigan)

The Probst Garden was the last garden of our tour. Just minutes earlier we were in a rain shower, but the skies cleared as we arrived at Riley's. In the front yard were many TB and MTB beds; we can only speculate as to the beauty this must have been in May. As we walked under the carport into the back yard we were greeted by Riley's guard dog.

Riley has some very nice hosta on display - Sunflower, Little White Lies, So Sweet, Brim Cup, and many more.

Behind the screened summer house Riley has his convention guest beds. We were thrilled to see Don Delmez' SDK-PU-1 (This is a three fall light purple JI). Don's TOTAL IMAGE, (six falls - nice lavender), and his SO-1, a three fall pink. This is a color that Don has been working towards. Lorena Reid's PICOTEE PRINCESS and her 8J60-1B13 were extremely beautiful. Johnny Rich's BLUSHING CRIMSON, a white six fall with lavender overlay, was also very nice. Other named JIs showing off well were KALAMAZOO, FLOWER MANIA, GEISHA MISCHIEF, and MADDOCKS, to name a few.

Riley's hospitality was most charming, the refreshments were very enjoyable - all in all, this was a delightful garden to visit.

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Guide to Convention Photos

Page 16 - Buehrig garden (top) and Delmez home (bottom);  
p. 17 - McEwen seedling T6-90-23-1 (top) and RED RINGLETS (Aitken '96) (bottom) - both in the Delmez garden;  
p. 20 - Lorena Reid seedling 9J 46-36 in the Missouri Botanical garden (top); and ISEJI-NO-HARU in the Smith garden (bottom); p. 21 - Tony Huber's seedling 94-022 at the Missouri Botanical Garden.

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MY '96 JI SEASON  
Virginia Burton (South Carolina)

My 1996 season started out with two JI seedlings. Both were blue/violet, 3 F, with splashes of near white; one had falls touching each other, the other had spaces between the falls. Neither had branching, **but** JI blooming on April 11 I'll welcome, regardless of their make-up.

Next came Dr. Ackerman's LASTING PLEASURE. Our usual SIS Memorial JI Weekend was changed to mid-week May to accommodate the Charleston group. LASTING PLEASURE was on time (with coaxing), and won me BEST OF JI SECTION and BEST in HORTICULTURE DIVISION, and a crystal basket donated by Claire Honkanen.

Next to appear was PINK DACE, which I have pampered for years. This year it came up with nine clusters of foliage **and** one bloom stalk in each cluster. I, like others, call this "committing suicide", but it was a beautiful sight. It did get PETERS 20-20-20 on March 26 and 14-14-14 OSMOCOTE pellets on April 28th.

Near PINK DACE was BROCADE BLUE, 3 F, 48", two branches plus terminal. I would have preferred to see the falls touching or slightly overlapped. The color, to me, is delphinium blue, distinctive. Branching extends the bloom season. Blooms do not come out all at once. This also had the OSMOCOTE and PETERS treatment.

I am trying some JI with PETERS 20-20-20, also some in 2-gallon black plastic containers set in Rubbermaid dishpans (one to each dishpan). I have eight growing like this, all in a row. This way I can flush out the warm/hot water 2" deep in each pan. (We have already had 99 degrees F for several days - this being written May 31, 1996). The hot water in wading pools, trenches, or dishpans will cook the JI roots and you will find yourself with a handful of nice green foliage and a black mushy root system. This has happened to me in South Carolina.

I am growing my JIs in micro-climates - Northwest in the ground. TON TON BANA, VIRGINIA B, RYUKO-HIRAO, PINK DACE, BROCADE BLUE, SWEET MURMUR, WILDERNESS SNOWBALL, etc. had OSMOCOTE and Peters. In the East, I use a 4' wide pool. Containers have OSMOCOTE dug into the soil around the plants' base; four handfuls of Peters was tossed into the water. Here I have JOY PETERS, ICY PEAKS, BLUSHING CRIMSON, BROCADE BLUE. FRECKLED GEISHA, etc.

To the Southeast - in dishpans with only PETERS 20-20-20 in the 2-4" of water in each pan - I have ACK-COUNTABLE, LASTING PLEASURE, and FOREIGN INTRIGUE (a gorgeous JI, 6 F silvery blue-violet edged crystal white - a combination of KALAMAZOO and CRYSTAL HALO). I would like to see this one with all buds punctured at an early stage to throw all growth into the terminal, and at its peak standing in a corner of a Japanese home. It is an 'eye catcher'.

To the West - On May 25th I had BROCADE BLUE (2 branches plus terminal) and SUMMER MOON. ORIENTAL EYES was out between May 30 and June 8, also ROSY SUNRISE, etc. These were grown in a trench, using two sheets of clear plastic on the ground, 10 potted JIs in 2-3 gallon containers. There are treated boards, 10' long, 6" wide, on each side. The plastic is pulled up over the sides of the boards and stakes on the sides hold the boards in place. The trench is flooded and is easily filled and emptied.

Earliest to bloom were two JI seedlings. The last to bloom was BLUSHING CRIMSON on June 15th.

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Thanks, Virginia, for sharing your gardening practices with us. We shall be most interested to learn of the results. (ED.)

## 1996 JAPANESE IRIS POPULARITY POLL

(Kathy Guest - New York)

Here are the results of the 1996 Japanese Iris Popularity Poll. The return this year was not as high as last, but we "made history" in that we had three returns by e-mail! The first was Bill Smoot, and he was quickly followed by Anne and Mike Lowe, and Ellen Gallagher. Perhaps there'll be a time when all votes are electronic!

The WINNER was **ROSE ADAGIO** with 13 votes.

There was a three-way tie for 2nd - **JAPANESE PINWHEEL**, **FRECKLED GEISHA**, and **ELECTRIC RAYS**, each with 12 votes. 3rd was **KALAMAZOO** with 11 votes, and **CRYSTAL HALO** came in 4th with 10 votes. **CASCADE CREST** and **BELLENDER BLUE** shared 5th place with 9 votes each.

Following with the number of votes received were: 7 votes - **PICOTEE PRINCESS** and **IAPETUS**; 6 votes - **THE GREAT MOGUL**, **ROSE QUEEN**, **PRAIRIE TWILIGHT**, **PEACOCK DANCE**, **ORIENTAL EYES**, **HEGIRA**, **FRILLED ENCHANTMENT**, **DIOMEDES**, **CENTER OF ATTENTION**, **ANYTUS**, **ABRACO**; 5 votes - **SOUTHERN SON**, **ROSEWATER**, **PRAIRIE NOBLE**, **PINK DIMITY**, **ORIENTAL CLASSIC**, **LITTLE SNOWMAN**, **JOY PETERS**, **JOCASTA**, **DOUBLE FIRST**, **CAPRICIAN BUTTERFLY**.

There were 12 varieties that received 4 votes, 33 that received 3 votes, 41 receiving 2 votes, and another 108 that received 1 vote each. (It is evident that our tastes are widespread. I guess that's as it should be. Ed.)

Kathy also received the following comments with some replies:

From **Will Hublau (Belgium)** - This year we were able to see some cultivars three times, first in the beautiful gardens of our USA friends, Barbara and Chesley Poole, then in the gardens at the St. Louis convention. It was a good convention and we

visited many beautiful gardens, met many iris lovers, and the hospitality was great. Back home in Belgium was the start of bloom time and we saw all 350 plants in my collection. (Ed. note: Mr. Hublau sent some beautiful photos but these were unidentified.)

From **Eddie Johns (Australia)** - Our growing season has gone well with many beautiful blooms. Our few thousand seedlings began their first flowering and we spent many hours trying to tag all the good ones. It's very hard when they all look so good.

We have been watching our active volcano, Mt. Ruapehu, blow its top since early June and some days it is most spectacular. The volcano is over 300 miles away and that's close enough!

## USA

From **Sue Delmez** - The Greater St. Louis Iris Society had the pleasure of hosting the 1996 convention for the Society for Japanese Irises June 13-15. It was a wonderful experience and the turn-out was better than expected. We had visitors from Australia and Belgium and 19 different states. The bloom was good and everyone had wonderful comments about the gardens.

From **Mary Johnson** - Thanks for the opportunity to salute my favorite flower!

From **Currier McEwen** - My 10 favorites this year -  
**Southern Son** for nearest to true blue and long bloom  
**Hekuin** - (new this year) for true blue and white lines  
**Midsummer Happiness** - for *light* blue and tufted center  
**Electric Glow** - pattern  
**Oriental Classic** - favorite white  
**Love Goddess** - for progress toward yellow  
**Purple Plus** - favorite multipetaled  
**Freckled Geisha** - edged pattern  
**Fourfold Pink** - favorite pink  
**Japanese Pinwheel** - favorite "red"



## Popularity Poll (cont.)

### From **Bill Smoot (Cyberspace)**

I'm off the coast of New York. My ship is up here refueling and providing supplies to the Navy ships that are pulling up the wreckage of the airline explosion. I was going through old mail and realized that I hadn't cast my votes for the SJI Popularity Poll, *and* being the trendsetter that I am, I thought I'd be the first to cast CYBER-BALLOT!

### Problems in Hybridizing Tetraploid Japanese Irises (Chad Harris -Washington)

At the Japanese Iris Convention in St. Louis, Lorena Reid and I were surprised at how many other hybridizers have been able to get seed on tetraploid Japanese iris. Overhearing our comments, Evelyn White asked us to write about this. When we got back to Portland, OR, Lorena, Terry Aitken, Lee Walker and I talked about our problem of being able to get seed pods. At that time I thought Terry was the only one to get sets (I believe three germinating seed) after several years. But, Lee said he has been able to get several takes. He said that he gave thought of the climate that the majority of the United States is in during bloom season. He came up with 80 degrees F and high humidity (something that we don't get here in the Northwest). But we can hit 80 degrees F with @ 50 percent humidity. It's on these days that Lee has been able to get takes on the tetraploids.

Any feedback on this line of thought and another ideas? Your friendly hybridizers in the Northwest would greatly appreciate some feedback. (Please reply to Chad - address on page 1 of this issue. The subject is a tantalizing one. How about some reports from other parts of the country? Ed.)

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## 1996 JI SHOW REPORTS

Summerville, South Carolina---May 11---Claire Honkanen

The Summerville Iris Society show "Doin' the Charleston" was held Saturday, May 11, 1996. This year we sponsored our show along with hosting the Region V spring meeting May 10th and 11th. Our show again was held at the Cuthbert Community Center in Summerville. It was very well received by the general public and those attending the region meeting.

We had 15 exhibitors and 77 total entries. Special awards were as follows:

Best Iris in Show.....LASTING PLEASURE.... Virginia Burton

Best Seedling.....MHYDZ196.....Maggie Johnson

Silver Medal.....6 blue ribbons.....Marshall Goforth

Bronze Medal.....4 blue ribbons.....Maggie Johnson

Section A. Japanese iris had 4 entries from 2 exhibitors. Virginia Burton's LASTING PLEASURE was the winning entry.

Section B. All other iris had a total of 66 entries, 55 varieties, and 14 exhibitors. Maggie Johnson's EXTRAORDINAIRE was judged first place.

Section E...Other irideaceae was won by Kathy Woolsey with a gladiolus. There were 4 seedlings presented by 3 exhibitors. Design Awards went to Betty Black for Creativity, Lucille Limehouse - Novice, and Sweepstakes - Betty Black. Bearded, Japanese, Siberian, Louisiana, Spuria and species irises were shown. Due to the early date we had very few Japanese irises blooming. However, we had a lot of Iris versatility and this was very educational for those viewing the show. Judge's training was given by Clarence Mahan on the history and all aspects of Japanese irises. We had 75 or more attending the region meeting and most attended the lecture knowing it was a wonderful opportunity to learn a great deal about Japanese iris. We felt both the show and the weekend were well received. Attendees were glad they came for the fun, fellowship and education.

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Hendersonville, NC....June 13-14....Walter Hoover

The Carolina Mountains Iris Society held its Fifth Annual All-Japanese Iris Show on June 13 & 14 at the Opportunity House in Hendersonville. 10 exhibitors placed 88 entries in that show, representing 64 varieties. GLITTER AND GAYETY, exhibited by Pat and Randell Bowen, won Best Specimen. Everette Lineberger's seedling E-24, also exhibited by the Bowens, won Best Seedling.

The Silver Medal was awarded to Walter Hoover for 17 blue ribbons, and the Bronze Medal to June Middleton for 9 blue ribbons.

A sale table was an addition this year, and the visitors to the show could not resist. CMIS is well on its way to meeting its commitment to continue funding a horticultural scholarship at the local community college, thanks in part to this sale.

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St, Louis MO....June 14 show reported in Convention reports

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Vancouver, Washington....June 22....Chad Harris

The Greater Portland Iris Society in Region 13 was again taken over by seedlings at our Late Show held at the Vancouver Mall on Saturday, June 22. This was a nice change from the ceremonial house at the Japanese Gardens in Portland Oregon. The mall has great natural lighting for judging the cut bloom via the overhead skylights.

This year we had several different varieties of seedlings to evaluate, Louisiana, Cal-Sib, Chrysographes - and of course our much loved Japanese. Hybridizers exhibiting were: Aitken, Derr, Ludi, Reed, and Walker. Japanese iris growers - take note of Lee Walker. I think we will see some very nice things coming from him soon.

"Queen of Show" went to a lovely stalk of spuria "Goldmania"

displayed by Tracy and Will Plotner of Wildwood Gardens. The Best Seedling was Lee Walker's 93-75-6, a Japanese with 3 wide overlapping falls. Its white ground is evenly sanded blue-violet with dark veins and a 1/4 inch rim of red-violet. Standards are large with the same coloring as the falls. Best Japanese Iris was the GREAT MOGUL entered by Lee Walker.

It's too bad there is space on the Queen's Table for only one seedling of each class. There were several noteworthy Japanese seedlings left out. Terry Aitken entered #88J31, a round 3 fall blue-violet with darker veins, upright maroon standards edged in white, and solid dark violet styles. The overall effect was a light blue saucer with a dark red cup on it.

Lorena Reid's seedling #9J55-16D, probably a 1997 introduction, is a 6 fall light to mid-blue softly fading to a 1 inch white band. This iris has the look of perfectly spaced ocean waves rolling around in a circle.

Lee Walker had a large 6 fall dark plum purple seedling, #93-81-25, that I liked. Its white wire edge and ruffled form came from one of its parents, DANCING WAVES. Its deep violet color and velvety texture make it a stand-out.

I am sure you will see these wonderful flowers, along with the plants that support them in 1999. In the last half of June, GPIS will be hosting the national SJI Convention. Five large gardens will be showcasing new introductions and seedlings. Hope to see everyone interested in Japanese irises. Further information can be obtained from Chad Harris, Mt. Pleasant Farm, 12 Marble Road, Washougal, Washington 98671.

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Dover, Delaware....June 23....June Roop

The Diamond State Iris Society held it iris show on June 23 at the Blue Hen Mall & Corporate Center in Dover . The show was a great success. and we were proud of the outcome. There were 6 exhibitors with 42 entries. We were fortunate to have as judges Harold Griffie and Charles Conklin, both of Pennsylvania

Best Specimen of the show was CASCADE CREST exhibited by Betty Unruh. Betty has been showing for quite a number of years. She is a Master Judge for AIS and quite a grower.

The Silver Medal for most blue ribbons was won by Joan Wood; the Bronze Medal for 2nd most blue ribbons was awarded to Connie Marino.

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Kalamazoo, Michigan...July 6...James Copeland

The Southwestern Michigan Iris Society held its annual Japanese Iris Show on July 6. Five exhibitors presented 42 entries - each a different Japanese iris cultivar.

Best Specimen of the show was DOUBLE FIRST, exhibited by Jill Copeland.

Best seedling was Bauer/Coble's J93K-4. The Silver Medal went to Ensata Gardens with 21 blue ribbons. The Bronze Medal was awarded to Jill Copeland, who earned 3 blue ribbons.

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Auburn, Maine...July 13...Warren & Marie Hazelton

Maine Iris Society held its Japanese Iris Show once again at Auburn Middle School. Its tri-level setting was particularly pleasing to our guests on the Maine Event tour. Seven exhibitors entered 113 entries of 71 cultivars - mostly Japanese plus a few Siberians.

DAPPLED DRAGON brought Paul Dostie, its exhibitor, his first Queen of Show. Judged the Best Seedling of many presented was Andrew Wheeler's Japanese - DB 1-1. The Silver Medal was won by the Whites, and the Bronze Medal by Andrew Wheeler. Kathy Marble of Harvard, Mass. received a plaque for Best Design and also won the Artistic Sweepstakes.

We were honored to have as horticultural judges John Coble, Bob Bauer, Dr. Hal Stahly and Kathy Guest - all of them were part of the Maine Event tour. (An account of this tour follows. Ed.)

The Design judges were members of the National Council of State Garden Clubs. The Design Division entries always appeal to our visitors.

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## THE MAINE EVENT

Peter Weixlmann - W. Seneca, NY

In this corner - WNY Iris Society members and iris junkies. In the other corner - the hybridizers and garden owners of Maine.

**Round 1** Wednesday evening, July 10th, in the garden of - well, *me*, a 'meet and greet' the hybridizers and notables picnic was hosted. Our guest list:

Marilyn Harlow - AIS Membership Secretary, hybridizer

Hal and Dorothy Stahly - Hal is past President and current Vice President of AIS and a hybridizer

Bob Bauer - SJI Treasurer & Membership Chairman, hybridizer and co-owner of Ensata Gardens

John Coble - SJI President, hybridizer and co-owner of Ensata Gardens

Ran and Katie Lydell - hosta hybridizers and owners of Eagle Bay Hosta Nursery

Glenn Properjohn - Australian visitor

The menu was "A Taste of Buffalo", featuring local cuisine. The opportunity to schmooze these great folks was shamelessly exploited by members unable to travel with the group.

**ROUND 2** Thursday, July 11th - TKO! Marilyn Harlow came down with a nasty virus and had to bow out. The rough and ready left Buffalo for Albany at 7:30 AM. A quick stop for lunch and on to Foxbrook Iris Farm in Colrain, Mass. Andy Wheeler is the gardener and hybridizer at Foxbrook - and he's all of seventeen. Not a lightweight contender by any means.

Andy is working on some interesting pinks out of ROSE QUEEN and nice blues and whites as well. His enthusiasm was contagious as he led the way through his seedling patch up the hill to his parents' home. Our members placed some orders, had refreshments, and Andy and his mom, Debbie, led us to the Bridge o' Flowers; a turn of the century trolley bridge spanning a river has been converted to a walking path planted on both sides with hundreds of perennials, trees, shrubs, and even wisteria vines climbing up the bridge supports, Quite a technical feat.

Next stop was Orange, MA and the garden of Steve and Marcia Smith. A running brook and pond area form the centerpiece, with both Japanese and Siberian irises planted nearby. Species iris are also at home, mixing with a six-branched purple ensata. Beautiful bloom on other cultivars kept everyone scrambling for camera and pen. Our stamina was waxing so it was onward - 70 more miles to the hotel and some rest.

**ROUND 3** Friday, June 12th - After a breather everyone was up for the fight. Unfortunately, a severe drought knocked off our visit to York Hill Farm, but owner, Darlyn Springer, located another challenger. The garden of Dick Jarzowski was nothing short of spectacular. A steep hill winds down to his remarkable gardens. Grass paths wind around island beds of daylilies, rare japanese umbrella pine, and assorted japanese maples with lace leaf foliage. A waterfall and pool feature koi and water plantings. Most interesting is a dry pond with a wooden moon bridge and bronze heron sculptures wading among the stones. The Japanese iris are highlighted in numerous beds by blue and white porcelain ornaments.

A short breather for lunch and on to Shirley Pope's garden in Gorham, Maine. Shirley sells from her garden, so it's created as more of a nursery. Loads of beardless iris, perennials of all kinds, and, for the hosta lover, it was paradise! All the blue hosta were almost charcoal gray, they were so well grown. Shirley was a great hostess - after several purchases, it was on to O'Donal's Nursery. The vans were filled with more "can't do

withouts", and it was off to Portland, Maine. Post hotel check-in we took a sunset harbor cruise...past seals and seabirds, beautiful homes and hidden coves - a most relaxing journey.

**ROUND 4** Saturday, July 13th - Just as we were winning the bout, out came hurricane Bertha who hit like a contender. The pouring rain never gave us a fighting chance. We were invited to attend and judge the Maine Iris Society's Japanese Iris Show, which was great. Entries numbered over a hundred. The judges: Bauer, Coble, Guest, and Stahly had Don and Donna Lowry as apprentices. The excellent quality of the show kept them busy. The rest visited with the show workers and wandered the cut hosta leaf exhibit, besides buying iris rhizomes from the fund raiser sale in the lobby. Queen of Show: DAPPLED DRAGON

Bertha's six inches of rain made the visits to the Moors and White gardens hopeless. We hope for an invitation back to both these special gardens. We took a pass on Rock Oak Gardens also.

**ROUND 5 - The Maine Event** Bertha blew out to sea overnight, and Sunday was a beautiful day. At South Harpswell Currier and Elisabeth McEwen greeted us at the drive and toured their garden with the group. Currier's PURPLE PLUS ('92) held up well. This double dark purple tet with velvet falls did him proud. T2 83/110 (MAINE CHARM '97) was gorgeous. This 7-inch flower is round, opens pale blue and matures to silver white with the stalk of a TB. BLUEBERRY RIMMED and RASPBERRY RIMMED both bloomed well. Many seedlings, battered by wind and rain, by late afternoon had new flowers starting to unfurl.

A trip to Earthheart gardens owned by Sharon Hayes Whitney, who is helping to evaluate and introduce Currier's new iris was brief. We hurried back to McEwen's for a New England lobster/clambake. After lunch, several lucky apprentices received garden training by the master himself. Finally, we had to part, taking memories of a special day in our lives. Thank you, Currier and Elisabeth, for your friendship and hospitality!



President John Coble welcomed both officers and guests to the SJI Board Meeting. Present were H. Brookins, R. Randall, G. Hall, J. Coble, R. Bauer, C. Harris, S. Pope, D. Delmez, J. White, and E. White. There were not enough officers present to make a quorum.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Slides and Sales - John Coble reported 100 sets of postcards have been sold since the last SJI Convention, 750 sets in all sold. Rentals of slides totaled 8.

Membership - Bob Bauer reported that membership in SJI is now 570.

Robins - Pat Brooks, Chairman, was not present.

Publicity - Chairman Kathy Guest was not present. John Coble gave her praise for a job well done, particularly in securing new members.

Display Gardens - Chairman Rich Randall said he had in the last year contacted 100 SJI members to ask if they wished to host a Display Garden; he received little response. Those present found no objection to spending @ \$50. a year on this program.

Caretaker Gardens - Rich Randall reported no feedback from participants. He plans to continue the program. Next year caretaker gardeners will have had these plants for three years, so perhaps the plants will be ready to be divided and shared.

Awards & Registrations - Chairman Clarence Mahan was not present. John Coble announced that Dr. Tsutomu Yabuya would be this year's recipient of the Honorary Life Membership award. John Coble will write to the Japan Iris Society and announcement of the award will be made in the Fall *Review*.

Nominating Committee - A report will appear in the Fall *Review*. All officers, one Board member and one member of the Nominating Committee are to be presented.

Editor of Review - Evelyn White asked for articles from members, reminding them that the deadline for the Fall issue is August 15. She also mentioned that the cost of color separation for a slide to be used in the *Review* could be @ \$75.00.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Incorporation - An attorney has been consulted. He and Terry Aitken are attempting to determine the necessity of incorporation and any problems involved.

Guidelines for Conventions - A committee of Don Delmez, Shirley Pope, and Carol Warner are to report at a later date.

Letter of policy to Advertisers - No report.

Future Conventions - 1999 - in Portland, Oregon and 2001 - in Kalamazoo.

New Checklist - has been completed. Thanks to Howard Brookins and Bob Bauer. Copies available.

John Coble announced that SJI has made a contribution of copies of all its back issues of the *Review* to the Royal Horticultural Society at Kew Gardens in England. He also reminded those present that any material for the new AIS Library in Silverton, Oregon should be sent to Evelyn Jones. This library is at present 75% catalogued.

New Business - John Coble announced that 80 JI slides had been copied for the New Zealand Iris Society and sent to Eddie Johns.

The question was asked whether all RVP's received a copy of the *SJI Review*. No, only those who are SJI members receive copies. Respectfully submitted, Evelyn White, sec pro tem

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominating Committee is pleased to offer the names of the following members to serve as Officers of the Society for Japanese Irises, starting January 1, 1997.

President: Terry Aitken, 608 N.W. 119th St., Vancouver, WA 98685  
Tel. (360) 573 - 4472

Vice President: Sterling Innerst, 2700A Oakland Rd., Dover, PA 17315  
Tel. (717) 764 - 0281

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

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

### 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. (360) 835 - 1016

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

NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBER (Serving through 1999): Chad Harris (address above).

If no other nominations are received by December 1, 1996, these nominees shall be duly elected.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lorena Reid, Chairman  
Kathy Guest  
Kathy Colburn

## THE EDITOR'S REVIEW

Once again my most sincere thanks to our members who have contributed articles and reports for this issue - some of them are first-time contributors. I wish time allowed me to thank each one personally.

Remember that there will be no SJI convention until the 1999 convention planned for Oregon. That means that the space in *The Review* usually used for convention plans and reports will be waiting for some input from members. Do send us your suggestions for and experiences with Japanese Iris gardening, as well as other articles of interest. Deadline for the Spring issue is **February 15**.

Reports of two convention gardens, the Missouri Botanical and the Smith garden, we hope to have in our Spring issue.

My apologies for a later than usual Fall issue. A total knee replacement in August and the ensuing therapy has taken a lot of time and energy, but I'm recovering.

Best Wishes for the holidays and a good winter (whatever that is in your location).

Evelyn White, Editor



**1996 Payne Medal Winners**