

THE REVIEW

OF THE SOCIETY
FOR
JAPANESE IRISES



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1999

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COVER PHOTOS

Front Cover - **CASCADE CREST** (Aitken '88) Winner of
1997 Popularity Poll (Photo by T. Aitken)

Back Cover - **1997 Payne Medal** winners - TIE! - (top)
ELECTRIC RAYS (Aitken '90) (Photo by J. Coble) and
(bottom) **IAPETUS** (Innerst '88) (Photo by L. Welsh)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Another exhilarating summer of moving iris is slowing. (It never stops in the Northwest!) Guest iris have trickled into the central distribution point (our yard), then are scattered to the guest gardens. The guest beds have expanded to hold some 3 or 400 guest plants. Even these extensive displays will be dwarfed by the private collections of JI's of the display garden owners and in several cases additional thousands of seedlings. This time around, our more diverse garden locations should ensure good bloom at either early or late gardens. The stage is set for 1999 in Portland.

As a new editor, I am really becoming appreciative of the work of our SJI editor, Evelyn White. Winter is the season for writing. If you have a burning topic that you want to read about, tell Evelyn. If you have information that you feel would be constructive to other irisarians, report it.

Some topics that I think would be useful: Are iris borers a problem in your area and if so, are there some iris that appear to be resistant? Why do iris borers only thrive in the eastern half of the country? What stage of their life cycle is vulnerable to the environment? What different control methods work for pests, whether borers, thrips, grubworms, nematodes, or spider mites? Which poisons, retardants, or mulches work with Japanese iris. Anything that minimizes the toil and maximizes the aesthetic appreciation of JI's is worthwhile.

Another project (one that I am also considering for the AIS Bulletin) would be a master index of topics in past issues of the REVIEW; this would greatly increase the value and use of earlier publications. Let's unlock the doors of knowledge passed on by our predecessors! Is there a librarian in the house?

An interesting new concept is being tried this fall with the International JI Symposium at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton, Ontario. I have great admiration for the pioneer spirit of the planners of this event. My thanks to Kathy Guest

in New York and Cathy Boyko in Ontario for setting the wheels in motion. I am sure that others will record the outcome.

Have a great winter and plan a great summer!

Terry Aitken

ROBIN REMINDER

There are two Japanese Iris Robins in flight: one a hybridizer's Robin and the other a general Robin open to anyone interested in JI's. If you would like to join either one, contact Robins

Chairman: Patricia Brooks
102 Jefferson Lane
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1997 JAPANESE IRIS AWARDS

(Melody Wilhoit)

W.A. PAYNE MEDAL

TIE !

ELECTRIC RAYS (T. Aitken) 31 votes

IAPETUS (S. Innerst) 31 votes

Runners-Up

PINK DIMITY (L. Reid) 27 votes

JOCASTA (S. Innerst) 19 votes

ORIENTAL CLASSIC (C. McEwen) 19 votes

AWARD OF MERIT

DIOMEDES (S. Innerst) 35 votes

PICOTEE PRINCESS (L. Reid) 32 votes

Runners-Up

ELECTRIC GLOW (T. Aitken) 24 votes

AMETHYST WINGS (W. Ackerman) 20 votes

HONORABLE MENTION (4)

RASPBERRY GLOW (Aitken) 27 votes

INK ON ICE (Aitken) 23 votes

ABRACO (Innerst) 21 votes

BLUE EMBERS (Bauer/Coble) 17 votes



JAPANESE IRISES IN UNDERHILL, VERMONT

Barbara Schmieder
Massachusetts

On Sunday, July 11, about 35 Japanese iris lovers met at the garden of Phil Cook in Underhill, Vermont for a tour of the garden and Judges' Training. Region 1 arranged the tour and people came from several New England states and New York to see this remarkable garden, containing about 400 different Japanese iris cultivars.

The long driveway, the sweeping lawn area, and the slope up to the house give only a few hints of the irises, as many are hidden behind evergreens or are around a corner that can only be discovered by walking around the property. Because the garden is very large (65 acres, not all in garden, though), Phil is able to plant a lot differently than most of us who have much less space.

The irises are planted in widely spaced island beds, about 6 or so per bed, and each bed features only one hybridizer. So, for example, if you want to compare Ackerman plants, you have 5 or six growing side by side to evaluate.

One iris that caught everyone's attention was a white 3 fall variety with a dip in the center of the falls - reminiscent of a white Siberian iris. The form is so different from many Japanese iris that we had seen that the judges there encouraged Phil to introduce it and he will, probably next year. It will be named 'La Mouette' (The Gull), as the clump looks like a flight of white birds.

The Judges' Training session was very good, covering many points thoroughly and clearly. It is probably the first time that any of us had attended a session given by a mother and son team - Debby and Andrew Wheeler. We all learned a lot and hope that they will give more joint sessions.

The following are excerpts from a fine, well-illustrated report in the July 19 issue of the *Burlington Free Press* (Story and photos by Cheryl Dorschner)

A long grassy driveway meanders to Cook's Poker Hill Gardens. Here wildlife sometimes prevails over plant life. But last week some 30 members of the New England chapter of the American Iris Society were scrutinizing Cook's outstanding collection of Japanese irises.

Cook says he's been "serious" about Japanese irises for about nine years. About 20 years ago, during what Cook once called his "dwarf conifer phase" he bought his first Japanese irises. "They did fine, but I was interested in other things." About a decade ago, he ordered more irises. "But it was attending a Japanese iris convention that really did it. I got serious when I started to have to have all of them," he laughs. "Now I have on my computer a list of the names of all 700 Japanese irises. I have about 400 of those."

Phil has begun the patient task of hybridizing irises. "I've been doing anywhere from 20 to 40 crosses a year. It takes three years to raise one from seed to bloom. I'm working on a dwarf for the front of the border and trying to extend the bloom season by working on an early variety."

After 30 years of research and teaching at the University of Vermont, in 1992 Phil Cook took an early retirement to move to his parents' home - which they had built in the 1960s - to care for them and their 65-acre property. He has been growing Japanese irises on his parents' property for about 20 years, and has built the landscape into a woodland garden, rock garden, greenhouse and potted-plant nursery, fenced vegetable gardens, iris propagation beds, and a collection of iris gardens connected by mowed trails and bridges.

Because they (Japanese irises) don't show the rapid growth of, say, bearded irises, Cook finds it's better to divide them in the spring and plant them in spring.

1997 JAPANESE IRIS POPULARITY POLL

(Kathy Guest - New York)

This year we had 42 ballots from 19 states and 2 countries.
Michigan had the most ballots.

Votes Cultivars

- | | |
|----|--|
| 15 | CASCADE CREST |
| 11 | JOCASTA |
| 9 | JAPANESE PINWHEEL |
| 8 | CRYSTAL HALO, ELECTRIC RAYS, FRECKLED
GEISHA |
| 7 | FRILLED ENCHANTMENT, ROSE ADAGIO |
| 6 | ROSEWATER |
| 5 | ANYTUS, IAPETUS, MAINE CHANCE, MICHIO,
ORIENTAL CLASSIC, SUMMER STORM,
TIDELINE |
| 4 | BELLENDER BLUE, HEGIRA, FLASHING KOI,
KALAMAZOO, PERSEPHONE, TEA CEREMONY
TUPTIM |
| 3 | CAPRICIAN BUTTERFLY, CENTER OF
ATTENTION, CHIDORI, CHIYO-NO-HARU,
DIOMEDES, ELECTRIC GLOW, GOOD OMEN,
IZU-NO-UMI, NIAGARA POWER, ORIENTAL
EYES, PRAIRIE TWILIGHT, REISYUN, ROSE
FRAPPE, ROSY SUNRISE, RUFFLED DIMITY
SEAFURY, SOUTHERN SON, STATELY
FLAMINGO, THE GREAT MOGUL, VIRGINIA B |

TWO VOTES EACH

Abraco, Agrippine, Asian Warrior, Azure Heaven, Azure Perfection, Azure Ruffles, Beautiful Accent, Blue Embers, Blue Spritz, Butterflies in Flight, Chigokesho, Confetti Shower, Crepe Paper, Damsel Knight, Dancing Waves, Double First, Dynamic Impact, Engeltje, Flying Tiger, Graceful Dancer, Gusto, Hatsu Kagami. Hidenishiki, Hue and Cry, Ink on Ice, Japanese Harmony, Joy Peters, Knight in Armor, Kontaki-On, Kyomai, Magic Opal, Midnight Stars, Mist Falls, Picotee Princess, Pink Dimity, Prairie Chief, Rose Queen, Sapphire Crown, Sea of Amethyst, Silver Cascade, Silverband, Star at Midnight, Swirling Waves, Tessa Dark Eyes, Total Image, White Parachute, Yusho

Over 100 other cultivars received one vote each.

CAN'T IDENTIFY: Kagari Bi, Machi Musume, Saigyo-zuku,
Sakurei-no-sono ???????

COMMENTS:

I received only one E-Mail ballot this year, from R. Dennis Hage who reported that CHIGOKESHO won Best of Show for him this year!

Phil Cook sent an annotated list:

Chidori - huge peony-like blossoms, A favorite with visitors.

Oriental Classic - imposing elegance

Japanese Pinwheel - unique and striking

Sea of Amethyst - exceptionally prolific this year, two major
flushes of bloom

Tuptim - best I've ever seen it

Star at Midnight - favorite of the dark flowered forms

Hue and Cry - Brazen!

Hatsu Kagami - two good flushes of bloom

Crepe Paper - one of the last to begin flowering - delicate

Niagara Power - Great branching and subtle interplay of colors. Seemed more impressive this year than at the '95 Maryland meetings.

Phil finishes by adding "All in all, a very good season in Vermont. It started late - 10 days or so behind usual."

Tony and Dorothy Willott of Ohio write: "Early blooms were good....the bearded irises were late so there were still a few in bloom when the Japanese started at their normal time."

Joe Watson - Georgia

Yosho was fantastic with the daylilies - beautiful companions. Rose Frappe bloomed and bloomed well into the daylily season. Cascade Crest as usual was delightful - even in the hot sun. None of the above were in a pool, although I have started this with some plants. The cultivars mentioned I highly recommend for our southern Japanese iris lovers. Each one was a "queen" for different days in our garden.

Carol Warner - Maryland

It has not been a good iris year here. We have had no rain for a month and the JI's are drying up before they open. Worst of all has been the lack of growth on my first year lineouts. Many are lost entirely and others are struggling to stay alive. Shipping will be a challenge this year.

Chad Harris - Washington

All plants I've listed have good landscape value, long bloom time, good clump habit, clean foliage and blooms well spaced and above the foliage. Because I choose plants for breeding by point score, my list is way too short. Hard to choose your favorites when you love them all!

My own comments - Japanese bloom here was extraordinary, although the bearded iris season was terrible. We had a very long, cold wet spring - disaster for many plants but the JI's thrived and I had bloom on irises that I thought had died! Japanese Pinwheel appeared like Lazarus and took my breath away. Rosewater was exquisite and Niagara Power was absolutely stunning. This was the year for Japanese Iris in western New York. Kathy Guest

MY "DISH PAN" GARDEN

Virginia Burton
South Carolina

My "Dish Pan" garden is not like any other J. I. garden! It is tailor-made for my disabilities, namely, macular degeneration and 'arthur'.

I use plastic dishpans. They are placed in a north-south orientation to take advantage of our tall trees. The JI receive early morning sun and afternoon sun, but very little when the sun is directly overhead. I can group JI in pans, all of one color, for close evaluation.

As to JI in micro-climates: those to the NE on landscape timbers (raised two cinder blocks high) grew the best, from March to bloom. They increased and had large blooms, were insect-free, etc. INDIGO MAGIC, ROSY SUNRISE, BLUE MARLIN, CAPANEUS, and others were above catalog height.

I took a bloom of LION KING, a 9F JI, to my doctor's office early one morning. In late afternoon a woman from the office called....." Mrs. B, did you grow that ORCHID?" I said "Yes, but it is not an orchid, it is a Japanese iris." She said, "It's beautiful. I'm impressed." I guess this shows that the Summerville Iris Society, after 20 years, still has some people to educate.

I did not lose any JI over winter. The pans with the JI were placed 3 wide and 10 in length. They had a tarp which could be pulled up over a frame over them and secured. (Water froze in the rainwater barrel in the carport, but no JI froze in the pans.)

It's a different approach to JI gardening from what I have been accustomed to, OR it's my attitude adjustment period. What is that saying? "When given a lemon, make lemonade."

INTERNATIONAL JAPANESE IRIS SYMPOSIUM
Hamilton, Ontario

Kathy Guest RVP (New York)

The first ever International Japanese Iris Symposium is now just a memory - but a fabulous one that bears sharing.

The Symposium, for those who have escaped the posts over the last 6 months, was born from an idle comment made by John Coble of Ensata Gardens. We had recently returned from a daylily symposium in Canada and were gushing about it... and he said those fateful words: "Why couldn't we do this for Japanese Irises?"

This is a very dangerous statement to make to folks who are basking in the glow of a successful event and who don't have any real clear idea as to what it means to put one on. So this question fell on very receptive ears and some of us in Region 2 began an e-mail series of "what if's".

What if we planned this for the fall? What if we invited four outstanding speakers? What if we actually held it in Canada, and worked with Region 16 - an INTERNATIONAL Symposium!

By the next day, we had sketched in the framework of the symposium and the idea took on a life of its own. At this point, it should be mentioned that one reason that this idea was received so well is that there is a significant gap between JI Conventions. Additionally, there is an enormous amount of work being done with ensata that is not being efficiently disseminated. This was an opportunity to focus on our special iris without the distraction of bloom and tours.

We invited four very different people to be our presenters. Terry Aitken, Chad Harris, Tony Huber and John Coble. Because it was beginning to occur to us that we had not thought the concept completely through, we invited them with the understanding that they may have to cover their own

expenses. To our amazement, all four accepted on those terms.

A symposium, for anyone unclear about the term, is a conference on one subject. As far as we know, this has not been promoted in the sections, and it may be an idea whose time has come. Also, being fortunate to live on the edge of Canada and having worked with the Canadian Iris Society in the past, we approached them to co-sponsor this event - a truly international event! But deciding to do so raised some problems as well... there's the border (a concern since we planned to have an auction to help bridge the budget gap) and there's the currency. We came up with a plan to work with brokers for plant shipments (we dealt in postcards for the actual event, since it's too late to plant here), and we educated people on the currency exchange and how to figure it.

After many months of planning and inviting and e-mail meetings and crankiness, the day finally arrived. We had chosen the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton, Ontario as the actual site (this is the 'home' of the Canadian Iris Society and the Laking Garden holds many hundreds of irises - a big draw in the spring). We had invited people from all across the US and Canada, and we were thrilled to have 60 people join us on this grand adventure. Claire Honkanen traveled from South Carolina, many people (Howard Hughes, Hal Stahly, Anna Mae Miller and Jill Copeland to name a few) drove in from Michigan, Ellen Gallagher came from New Hampshire, the Whites came from Maine, Phil Cook came from Vermont, several folks came from Ottawa and several more from Quebec. It was a good mix and a great bunch of people.

Some folks (Terry and Chad) flew into Toronto, some flew into Hamilton and some flew into Buffalo. so we had drivers running all over gathering folks up. We had advised them to change their money at the border and we'd meet them in the lobby of the hotel. By the time Carol Warner, Peter and I arrived at 8:30 pm, everyone else was in and raring to go.

The day of the symposium dawned with a spectacular sunrise over Lake Ontario (where our hotel was perched), we headed

for the RBG and the lobby soon took on a carnival atmosphere. The registration included a beautiful periwinkle tee shirt designed by John Coble with the legend "International Japanese Iris Convention" over the artwork. We handed out tees and registration packets, while John and Bob hawked Currier McEwen's book, registration books and postcards and folks socialized and checked out the various catalogs and assorted propaganda we offered. It was hard to believe the day was finally underway.

The symposium itself kicked off with a welcome from yours truly for Region 2, then Cathy Boyko for Region 16 and for Canada. Terry Aitken said a few words on behalf of SJI and we turned the program over to our MC, Dorothy Stahly. Dorothy is the perfect person to undertake such a role because she is bright and funny and you have NO idea what she's capable of. There was one moment frozen in time where she suggested that everyone should take off their shirts to put on their beautiful tee-shirts and began to pull her own off. The look of utter horror on Hal's face is forever etched in my mind - neither he nor anyone else was sure she wouldn't actually DO it!

Our first speaker was Terry Aitken. Terry's topic was "Universal Goals in Plant Breeding". He talked about similarities in work being done in other parallel plant programs. He started with the premise that people want more color per square foot, and it's up to hybridizers to provide that; by extending bloom for existing plants (earlier or later blooming irises, or reblooming, ever-blooming or repeat blooming irises). Another way is to improve the color in the plant, a concept illustrated with a "to-die-for" slide of variegated foliage with a red base - where he asked us to imagine that red climbing into and mingling with the green and white. After taking our imaginations through fantasy forms and sizes, Terry predicted that by creating more excitement in the plant, we will increase the membership of the Society as well.

Following Terry was Tony Huber from Quebec. His topic was "Extended Inter-Specific Crosses with Japanese Irises" Tony is waaaaay out there; creating new varieties by crossing outlandish species. His plant names are even new; Versata (versicolor and ensata), Reensata (versicolor x ensata x ensata), Biversata (versicolor x ensata x versicolor), and so on. The flowers are otherworldly and I won't pretend that I followed it all. But I have to say that Tony is a fascinating and intriguing presenter - as well as an extraordinarily generous one. He donated every plant he showed us - in multiples of 5 and 10. I can't wait to see how some of these exotics perform in the Guest garden. His reasons for crossing the species are the same as Terry's and Chad's and John Coble's; to improve the season.

At this point, we broke for a gourmet lunch in the RBG's private dining room. After enjoying strudel and sweets, Cathy Boyko took the floor and showed us slides that she had gathered from hybridizers all over the US and Canada. It was almost like taking a garden tour from the comfort of the cozy dining room.

Following lunch and an invasion of the RBG's gift shop (thoughtfully stocked with lots of iris paraphernalia) we returned to our meeting room for Part II. Chad Harris started off with his program for extending and improving JI bloom entitled "The Continuous Bloom". He said that his focus is the "gardenability" of a plant - that being bud count, whether it reblooms, whether the flowers bloom sequentially (rather than all at once causing the blooms to mash into each other), whether there is branching and how the branching is structured. Chad is ruthless when culling plants that don't meet his standards and he urged the judges present to make sure that the right plants get into the judging system.

The day's final speaker was John Coble, the inspiration for the symposium. His topic was "Hybridizing with Pure Recessive Whites" and I have to say that he spoke a little over my head in his observations on recessive and hidden genes. One interesting part, however, was his postulation that the colors on

a JI are layered and that when you have red as the underlying color for a blue iris, the red will show through every time - especially in photos. Or as he said "Bob's always lifting up skirts, looking for blue genes". He talked about the genetics of color and patterns and then had some fun with some slides of orange pom-pom JI's.

But wait, there's more. Although this concluded the formal presentation part of our day, we knew that folks would want to ask questions, which time didn't permit during the day. The topics ranged through various subjects - the most interesting one to me being using ground crab or Japanese beetles (!!) as a soil amendment, thereby diminishing the nematode population and making the soil hospitable to JI's for a longer time.

Then, while we were still all together, we launched into a FABULOUS auction! We had planned an auction in order to bridge a feared budget gap, and everyone was most generous. We had donations from all over which included lots of JI's, some species, a daylily, an original piece of artwork, a Christmas ornament and a case of homemade jam. Peter Weixlmann led the hilarious and spirited bidding and all our fears of poverty vanished like the pastries at lunch.

The day concluded with a "Dutch-Treat" dinner back at the hotel.

The next morning, some of us stuck around for good-byes and an excellent judges training session conducted by John Coble, and then we dispersed to our various states and provinces - some with a side trip to Niagara Falls in a beautiful, sunny and balmy fall day.

In conclusion, I would like to say that we were thrilled to be able to work with Canada to pull this off - and we were fortunate to have many willing hands to make the day flow smoothly. I'd also like to suggest that this is a concept whose day has come.. a full day of education on one broad topic, together with camaraderie and fellowship with our friends.

A GARDEN SHARED

Walter Hoover
North Carolina

"On a quiet street in the little town of Saluda, North Carolina, we met Japanese iris grower and former history teacher Walter Hoover." This is the opening line of a video produced in June 1995 for the Home & Garden Network series *A Gardener's Diary*. The camera carries the viewer from the opening shot of the small town's main street into the Japanese iris nursery at Charles Street Garden and then into the garden itself. The program provides an opportunity to view many Japanese irises in bloom, hear information about the cultivation of these irises, and move with the host and me through my garden. It also provides a special opportunity for me to explain how I became a devotee, like so many of you, to the growing of Japanese irises -- a devotion which grew out of the generosity of other gardeners.

Involvement in the filming for the garden series proved to be much harder work than being a gardener! But, when I finally received a copy of the finished video, I felt complimented that Charles Street Garden had been selected for the series and that the main focus was the Japanese iris.

This "event" grew out of my friendship with Martha Tate, garden writer for the *Atlanta Constitution* and co-producer of *A Gardener's Diary*, a syndicated show which airs regularly on the Home & Garden Network. Martha and I met a few years ago during the preview tours of the gardens which were part of the AIS Atlanta Convention. A short time later she visited my garden. As a result of that visit, she proposed filming the garden for the network during the Japanese iris bloom season. Though I realized the proposal could be one means of helping to promote AIS's goal of popularizing the iris, I hesitated because, although a person's garden may please them immensely, other more critical eyes may see that garden with less enthusiasm. Though one may be well informed about a subject, there are

always others with greater expertise. But I finally agreed to Martha's proposal with the understanding that she could change her mind about using my garden at any moment in the planning and we would still be friends.

The date to begin filming was set. Martha arrived on the preceding day to sit and talk with me at length, recording our conversation so it could be used later to provide some voice-over segments (filmmaker terminology!). Our conversation ranged from general gardening discussions, to specific content about Japanese irises, to gardening philosophy. Early next morning the film crew arrived. Worries about weather and having sufficient blooms was over. It was the beginning of two days of perfect weather, lots of mid-season blooms, as well as cooperative neighbors who agreed not to run lawnmowers. So, filming began.

Initially, the filming moved at a leisurely pace with series host and horticulturist Erica Glassner engaging me in conversation as we walked among the many iris blooms in the nursery. But, this changed as the shooting director began the inevitable retakes. By mid-morning Erica was perspiring and I was sweating in the intense summer sunlight. But the crew pressed on and, by late morning, we were ready to move from the nursery to the segment to be done in the garden that surrounds our home.

This part of the filming was arranged as a casual walk for Erica and me through various areas of the garden. Our conversation ranged in content from the structure of the garden and the time and effort involved to the changing nature of a garden, specific plants, water features, and personal gardening preferences, as well as cultivation and climatic considerations. My description may suggest that this part of the filming was less demanding; It was not! The summer temperature had not changed and there were, again, endless retakes. After a short but very welcome lunch break, the process continued for several more hours before the sun finally set on that day's session. Early the next morning (dressed, of course, in exactly the same outfits with

sunburn the only change) we completed the final filming in about two hours.

Several weeks later, Martha called. She had just viewed the finished product and was quite excited about the results. I personally wondered if what happened in front of the camera for approximately ten hours could ever be edited into a fine or even presentable product. But, it was, Martha assured me, a twenty-six minute program of the finest quality, ready for airing. When the copy finally arrived and my wife and I reviewed it for the first time, we were spellbound. The film crew, Erica, Martha and the editing staff had worked wonders -- the magic of the medium took us on a journey through our garden and me on a journey through my gardening that I had never imagined. Such a process graciously hides the flaws, enhances the goodness, and is kind to its participants. While I know there are more magnificent gardens than mine, more expert cultivators of Japanese irises than I, and better "actors" than I, in the end I found myself quite rewarded by Martha's persistence and by this unusual opportunity. Perhaps, each time the video airs on the series, someone else may decide to engage in gardening - particularly in the growing of Japanese irises.

SUMMERVILLE IRIS SOCIETY'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Geny Morrison
South Carolina

The Summerville Iris Society had a birthday this year of 1997 and turned 20 years old! This called for a celebration and the decision was made to "do the honors" at our annual Summerville Iris Society Weekend. First we decided to honor our founder, "Ginny" Burton and those who assisted her that first year. The second decision was to stay within the perimeter of Summerville, our home, to show not only local gardens but some of the city's historical sites. Since we always have a

Flower Show this weekend, we decided on the title "THE ROARING TWENTIES" for the show. Doris Hatten was the Show Chairman, and Peggy Beason and Lucille Limehouse were co-chairmen of the weekend events. Our bus captain, Joy Murray, secured buses, mapped out routes, and gathered gifts for on the bus diversions.

FORTUNATE FOR US, GINNY BURTON HAD SAVED THE VERY FIRST WEEKEND SHOW SCHEDULE PLUS VARIOUS PUBLICITY ARTICLES, ETC., and she graciously prepared a display table of these items.

For our Friday evening banquet, the meal was prepared by SIS members. We had enough "home made" food for the banquet. Ida Mellard, our secretary, was chairman. Dessert was a large SIS birthday cake decorated with fresh iris blooms. The hotel set up tables for our use.

Judges' Training was presented by Rev. Everette Lineberger, an accredited AIS judge from Inman, S.C. His subject, "GARDEN JUDGING: LOOKING AT GROWING FOR JUDGING AS WELL AS DOING THE ACTUAL JUDGING", was not only informative but interesting, capturing the attention of growers as well as judges.

On Friday staging members met at the Cuthbert Center at Azalea Park in Summerville to prepare for Saturday's Flower Show. Saturday found show entries in both floral design and horticulture being presented. Four gardens were visited on Saturday: the private gardens of Dr. and Mrs. James Martin, the public and private gardens of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Grimsley (Flowertown Florist of Summerville), the private garden of Mrs. Betty Hoats, and Linwood Bed and Breakfast Gardens. The last named had an outdoor wedding the same day but graciously honored their commitment to SIS. Local historical sites along the way were pointed out to visitors; this made the bus tour more interesting. After lunch at a local restaurant, we returned to Cuthbert Center for viewing the Show and checking winners' ribbons. SIS is happy to report that the Novice Award went to

a youth member.

We have learned that chairmen must be willing to work with and train novices, and novices need to seek help from chairmen as well. Our 1st president, Mrs. Wells (Ginny) Burton has given us robust training in this arena. Our casual motto is: "A lot can get done if you do not care who gets the credit." All SIS members share in the credit for our 1997 "Roaring Twenties" weekend, and we hope you can join us for our next one scheduled for May 29 and 30, 1998.

AIS Region Five is very fortunate to have Marshall Goforth as Vice Chairman. He is ever there with support, encouragement and true friendship.

1997 JI SHOW REPORTS

St. Louis, MO....June 7....Sue Delmez

The Greater St. Louis Iris Society held its annual Beardless Iris Show on June 7 at the Missouri Botanical Garden. This year, like last, arrangements were presented by the members of the St. Louis Chapter No. 3 of the Ikebana International. The Ohara, Ichiyo, Ikenobo, and Sageteu Schools of Design were well represented. This display has been a great asset to our beardless show.

Due to an extremely late season our show had only 52 entries among 5 exhibitors. Best Specimen of the Show was a Japanese Iris, ALL IN WHITE, hybridized and shown by Don Delmez. First runner-up was a Louisiana, ARCADIAN MISS, also shown by Don Delmez. Best Spuria was PENNY BUNKER, exhibited by Bob Barker. Best Species, I. halophia, was shown by Orville and Lou Dickhaut, and Best Tall Bearded was FEATURE ATTRACTION, shown by Stephine Rust, one of our Youth members. Don Delmez's SPUR-3 was chosen Best Seedling. There was a Design Division for Youth only. Stephine Rust won 2 blue ribbons for her designs. The Silver Medal for most blue ribbons was awarded to Orville and Lou Dickhaut, and Don Delmez received the Bronze Medal.

Hendersonville, N. C.....June 12-13....Flossie Nelson

On June 11, 1997, Walter Hoover, June Middleton, and I arrived at Opportunity House, Hendersonville. Walter had silk screens; June, bottles; and I had show supplies. Furniture was moved, silk screens put up, and bottles filled. Within a few hours the lobby was ready for the show. We all went home to search for blooms, when relief helper, Betsy Higgins, arrived. About 6 PM Randall Bowen of Shelby, NC arrived with a good many stalks. Thus the sixth annual show sponsored by the Carolina Mountains Iris Society was launched.

At 7:30 on Saturday we opened the doors and soon were busy. Eight exhibitors brought 79 entries. 62 different varieties were shown. The temperature outside rose to the 80s, inside remained nice and cool. Judges, Mrs. Fredericka Wilson of Spartanburg, SC and Mrs. E.L. Paquet of Prosperity, SC, awarded Best Specimen of Show to a wonderful stalk of FRINGED CLOUD, exhibited by June Middleton.

Walter Hoover of Saluda, NC was awarded the Silver Medal (with 19 blue ribbons), and June Middleton, with 13 blue ribbons, received the Bronze Medal. Randall Bowen of Shelby, NC was awarded Best Seedling for his DH-3.

Around 200 visitors viewed the show on the 12th and another 100 on the 13th of June. Another Japanese Iris Show under our belts!

Ellicot City, Md.....June 21....Carol Warner

The 1997 Beardless Iris Show sponsored by the Francis Scott Key and the Chesapeake and Potomac Iris Societies was held on Saturday, June 21 at the Chatham Mall in Ellicot City, MD.

Ten exhibitors entered a total of 111 stalks of Japanese, spuria, Siberian, Louisiana, English, versicolor and pseudacorus irises.

Queen of Show went to a tall, well-branched stalk of FASCINATION CHILDS exhibited by Carol Warner. Runners-up on the queen's table were ALEX SUMMERS, MYSTIC BUDDAH, and ODYSSEUS. Dr. William Ackerman's seedling B 5-5 was judged Best Seedling.

The Silver Medal for the highest number of blue ribbons went to Carol Warner and the Bronze Medal went to Dr. and Mrs. William Ackerman. The show was staged on low tables for easy viewing and presented a very oriental overall appearance. It was well received by the mall personnel and the viewing public.

Frelinghuysen Arboretum, N. J.....June 22.....Joseph Griner

AIS Region 19 held its 1st North Jersey Iris Show on June 22. Seven exhibitors entered a total of 49 cultivars. Queen of Show was RETURNING TIDE exhibited by Joe and Margo Griner. 1st runner-up, Pseudacorus ALBA-WOOD and 4th runner-up, BOLD PRETENDER (a Louisiana) were entered by Nancy Chambellan. Winners of the other runner-up positions were 2nd, JACK ATTACK (Louisiana); 3rd, GOLD BOUND (J.I.); and 5th, a collection of CAPANEUS - all exhibited by the Griners.

Judges were John Schueller and Dorothy Fingerhood. Photos from the show are on the following pages.

Kalamazoo, Michigan.....July 5.....Jill Copeland

The Southwestern Michigan Iris Society held its 22nd Annual Japanese Iris Show on Saturday, July 5 at the Maple Hill Mall in Kalamazoo. There were 5 exhibitors with 49 cultivars entered - Japanese, Louisiana, Spuria, and Siberian irises.

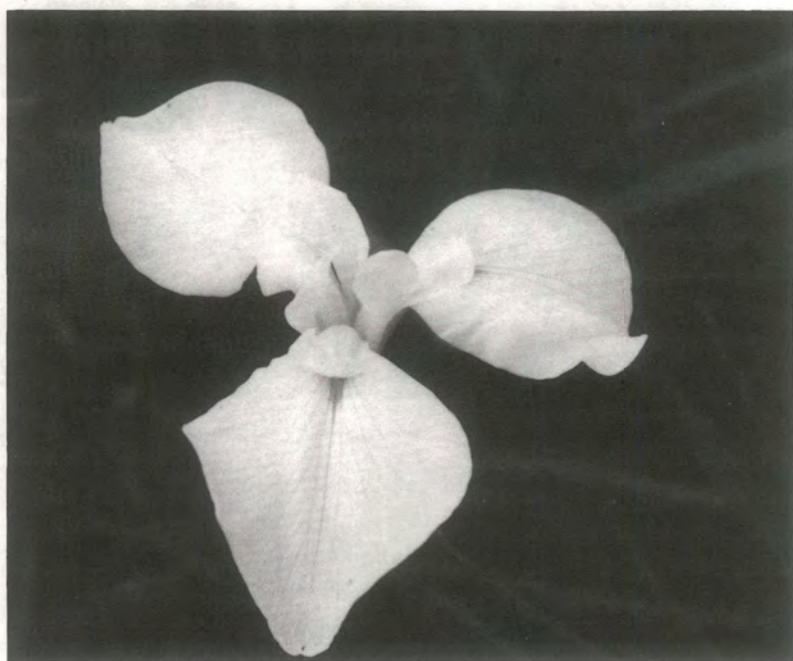
Best Speciman of Show was the Japanese iris, HEGIRA, exhibited by Ensata Gardens. Ensata also received the award for Best Seedling with their Japanese seedling J93K-3. The Silver Medal went to Ensata with 17 blue ribbons and the Bronze Medal was won by Florence Spraupe.



Above: Joe and Margo Griner with award for Queen of Show at North New Jersey Iris Show

Page 28 (top) Dorothy Fingerhood and John Schueller - Judges for N.J. show (both photos by Griner)

Page 28 (bottom) "La Mouette", a unique Japanese Iris ready for 1998 introduction. See article on page 9. (Phil Cook photo)



The 1997 Region 1 show was a Japanese Iris Show hosted by Western New England Iris Society and held for the second time at the Academy on Route 2 in Charlemont, Mass. The theme of the show was Heavenly Beauty.

Several types of irises were exhibited, including Japanese, Species, Louisianas and interspecies crosses. Eleven exhibitors entered 132 specimens. Of these, 34 entries were Japanese iris seedlings and 3 were species cross seedlings. Most of the seedlings were entered by John White of Minot, Maine. Best Seedling was awarded to Tony Huber for an interspecies cross, Iris x biversata (this is [(I. versicolor x ensata) x I. versicolor], entered by Andrew Wheeler of Colrain, Mass.

Best of Show went to the Japanese Iris, IAPETUS. First runner-up was TIDELINE; second runner-up, CASCADE CREST; and third runner-up was DIRIGO DEBUTANTE. All of these were entered by Andrew Wheeler.

The Silver medal was won by Andrew Wheeler and the Bronze medal went to John White. In the Design Division Kathy Marble won both the Artistic Sweepstakes and the Best Design of Show.

Next year the Maine Iris Society will host the Japanese Iris Show on July 11 at the Auburn, Maine Middle School.

ALL SHOW PARTICIPANTS PLEASE NOTE: Will all chairmen of shows **please** send me information on your show's date, location, time open to the public, person to contact for further information and any other pertinent information to reach me by February 15, so we may include this in the Spring REVIEW. After the show please send the report of winners, attendance etc. to reach me by August 15. This will be included in our Fall REVIEW. Many thanks. (Editor)

JAPANESE IRIS DISPLAY GARDEN UPDATE

Betsy Higgins
North Carolina

Our local college, Blue Ridge Community College, is situated beside a lake and is surrounded by evergreens, dogwoods, rhododendrons and azaleas. In 1994 Carolina Mountains Iris Society planted a Japanese iris display garden along the perimeter of a section of the lake. About 28 clumps . representing 20 varieties were planted. Muskrats undermined several clumps, but most of them grew well and bloomed in 1995, 1996 and 1997. By the summer of 1997 they needed dividing --a formidable task!

Blue Ridge Community College has an excellent Horticultural program with a 2-year Associate's degree. Each year Carolina Mountains Iris Society funds a scholarship for a second-year student in this program.

We discussed the situation with the Director of the program, Chip Howe, and he volunteered his students' help in the digging, dividing, and replanting of the irises as part of their curriculum. The surplus plants became part of our Sales and Auction event and helped fund the scholarship.

In addition to CMIS gaining some young, strong backs and youthful energy, the students learned how to care for Japanese irises. This time we planted a few feet from the water's edge - to foil the muskrats -- hopefully. We look forward to bigger and better bloom for visitors, teachers and students to enjoy in 1998!



POPE'S PERENNIALS

SIBERIAN IRISES

JAPANESE IRISES

NEAT TRICK (John White '97): Diploid, 35" E-M. A two tone blue violet with neat white splashes on the falls. A medium size Siberian iris considered by Dr. McEwen to be a breakthrough in the Siberian iris world. **NOTE:** This unusual Siberian is growing so well that we are now able to offer it at **\$25.** Don't be without it! Don't overlook its two siblings, **ELISABETH McEWEN** and **MAURICE POPE**, available at **\$12.** each. All three grow well and have a long bloom season.

1998 JAPANESE IRIS INTRODUCTIONS OF JOHN WHITE

DIRIGO CLOUD NINE: Diploid , 6 falls, 36-40", M-L. This introduction will send you soaring! Soft sky blue with a white center, gold signals, and white stylearms tufted light blue. A vigorous grower..... **\$35.**

DIRIGO SNOWFLAKE: Diploid, 40", M-L. This 6F white iris floats over the foliage like a big Maine snowflake. Veined light green and with a greenish-yellow signal, SNOWFLAKE is 40" tall. Very weather resistant.

FALL ORDERS ONLY\$35.

When ordering please add \$4. for shipping and handling. Postage for overseas and Canadian shipment will be for full amount including State of Maine Phytosanitary Certificate charge of \$25. per package. Please specify Spring or Fall. For these cultivars and a list of other Japanese and Siberian irises send a stamped self-addressed business envelope to

**Shirley Pope
Pope's Perennials
39 Highland Ave.
Gorham, ME 04038-1701**

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, 1998.

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

Vice Pres. Sterling Innerst, 6011 Mountain Road, Dover, PA 17315 Tel. (717) 292-3775

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

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

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Chad Harris, MPO O1R, Marble Rd., Washougal WA 98671 Tel. (360) 835-1016

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

Dr. L. Bruce Hornstein, 3819 Beatty Road, Monkton, MD 21111

NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBER (Serving through 2000): James Burke, 47 Vincent St., Lackawanna, NY 14218

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

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Guest, Chairman
Kathleen Colburn
Chad Harris

MINUTES OF THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Tuesday, June 3, 1997 - Dearborn, Michigan

The meeting was called to order by president Terry Aitken at 2:10 p.m. Others in attendance were Bob Bauer, John Coble, Jim and Jill Copeland, Joan Cooper, Chad Harris, Bruce Hornstein, Anna Mae Miller, Carol Warner, and Peter Weixlmann.

There was no official meeting of the board last year because a quorum was not in attendance at St. Louis. Bob Bauer's treasurer's report, printed in the Fall issue of *The Review*, was accepted as printed.

Terry announced that the Empire State Iris Society is planning an International Japanese Iris Symposium on Saturday, October 11, 1997 at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton, Ontario. Anyone interested should contact Kathy Guest for information,

A get well card was passed to be sent to Rich Randall. Evelyn White had been quite ill but was reported to be better and even doing a bit of weeding in the irises.

New Business

SJI is not covered under the blanket of AIS for the non-profit tax status. We must do our own and the board felt that it would be worth the effort. The Bylaws will be reviewed by Bob Plank and they will need to be altered. The Median Section has completed the project and Terry will talk to Bob Plank to get the process started for SJI.

Treasurer Bob Bauer reported that SJI has about \$22,000.00 and he suggested that we need a project. Carol Warner made a motion that Bob produce an attractive color "Invitation to Join" flyer. Chad Harris seconded and the motion was passed.

Discussion on creating a policy for scheduling the section

conventions indicated controversy over future dates again. The next SJI Convention will be in Portland, Oregon in 1999 and there are definite Siberian and HIPS conventions in 2000. Discussion on this topic was to continue at the Siberian Section Board Meeting to follow.

Membership in SJI is down about 100 members. The same quantity of *The Review* is being printed, so John brought extra copies to use for display and promotion at future shows.

The 1997 Japanese Iris Registration Book is available at the convention for \$4.00 or \$5.00 by mail. Only 100 copies were printed.

Chad Harris was elected to the Nominating Committee. Kathy Guest, Chairman, and Kathleen Colburn are the other members of the committee. Nominations are needed for one new board member and a new member of the nominating committee.

John Coble suggested that SJI have a web page on the internet. It was suggested that Bill Smoot be contacted to see if he would be willing to do that for SJI.

Bob Bauer has stopped sending out a source list to new members. He will talk to our editor, Evelyn White, about printing a list similar to the one in *TSI*. A new culture sheet is needed and it could be possible for a group at the Symposium to come up with one that would apply to all areas of the country.

Chad Harris announced that Portland still has room for some guest plants for the 1999 convention. They should be sent as soon as possible.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00.

Respectfully submitted, Carol S. Warner, Secretary

THE EDITOR'S "REVIEW"

We have recently returned from the J. I. Symposium in Hamilton (see Kathy Guest's report on page 15). This get-together was very well coordinated and the presenters gave us a lot to think about. With no J.I. Convention until 1999 - this symposium bridged the gap well for J.I. growers. The hospitality was superb. We were fortunate to be among the group that enjoyed the trip to Niagara Falls.

Please notice Terry Aitken's suggestions in his President's Message for future articles for *The Review*. **Feb. 15** is the deadline for me to receive articles or ads for the Spring issue. I welcome the input!

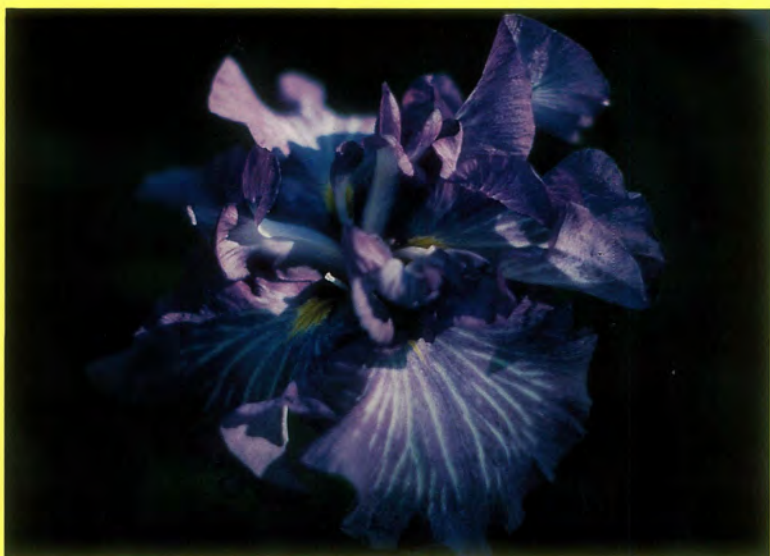
Apology (particularly to the St. Louis people): In the 1997 Spring issue I suggested that there would be reports on 2 St. Louis Convention gardens that were not reported with the others. Unfortunately - I cannot keep my promise because I have never received the expected reports and have been unable to reach the supposed contributors. We did thoroughly enjoy the lovely Smith garden and the great Missouri Botanical Gardens and thank them for their participation.

Now is the time for cutting back our irises and finishing the Fall cleanup - a most satisfying procedure once it's accomplished!

I wish you all Happy Holidays and may 1998 be kind to you and your gardens.



Evelyn White



1997 Payne Medal Winners