

VOLUME 35

NUMBER 2

FALL 1998

THE REVIEW

OF THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES



BUTTERFLIES IN FLIGHT



W.A. PAYNE MEDAL 1998





Shimizu Photos

Ko Reijin



Nagai #6



Dewa Musume

THE REVIEW OF THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES

VOLUME 35 NUMBER 2

FALL 1998

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Officers and Appointments	2
Cover Photos	3
President's Letter - Terry Aitken	4
Business Items	5
1997 Japanese Iris Awards - Melody Wilhoit	7
SJI National Convention in 1999 - Chad Harris	8
Award to Jill Copeland - Clarence Mahan	10
Robin Reminder	10
Memoriam Honoring Rich Randall	11
New Zealand Symposium - Correction	11
Thinking About Youth - Jean Morris	12
Summerville Iris Society Weekend	14
1998 JI Show Reports	15
A Trek to Lee Walker's Garden - Terry Aitken	20
1998 Popularity Poll - Kathy Guest	23
Comments from Members	25
1997 Season in Victoria, B.C. - Joy Flint	28
Reblooming JI's On The Way - Terry Aitken	29
More News on Reblooming - B. Hornstein / J. White.	30
Nominating Committee Report	32
Secretary's Report - Carol Warner	33
Nagai Type of Japanese Iris - Hiroshi Shimizu	35
Advertisements	38
Editor's Review - Evelyn White - - - - -	Separate page

THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES
OFFICERS

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

Vice Pres. Sterling Innerst, 6011 Mountain Rd., 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., Galesburg
MI 49053 Tel. (616) 665-7500

Immediate Past Pres. John Coble (Address same as Robert Bauer)

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Chad Harris, 12 Marble Road, 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 Tel. (410) 557-0250

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Through Kathleen Colburn, 93 Doolittle Road, Harpursville
1998 NY, 13787 Tel. (607) 655-1726

Through Chad Harris (Address above)
1999

Through James Burke, 47 Vincent St., Lackawanna, NY
2000 14218

APPOINTMENTS

Editor Mrs. John W. (Evelyn) White, 193 Jackson Hill
REVIEW Road, Minot, ME 04258 -4413
Tel. (207) 345-9532

Members. Robert Bauer
Chairman (Address previous page)

Slides Chm John Coble
Librarian (Address previous page)

Robins Patricia (Pat) Brooks
Chairman (Address previous page)

Publicity Kathy Guest, 494 North St., East Aurora, NY
Chairman 14052 Tel. (716) 655-1762

Display William C. Smoot, 213 Derby Road, Portsmouth
Garden VA 23702-2017
Chairman Tel. (757) 393-4617

Awards Clarence Mahan, 7311 Churchill Road,
& Regis- McLean, VA 22101
trations Tel. (703) 893-8526

COVER PHOTOS

Front Cover - **BUTTERFLIES IN FLIGHT** (Aitken '91)
Winner of 1998 **Payne Medal** (Photo by T. Aitken)

Photos re. article on page 35, captions on page 37: Back cover,
#1-4; Inside front cover: # 5-7; Inside back cover: #8-10. (All
photos by H. Shimizu)

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Terry Aitken

It is difficult to think in terms of a "fall" newsletter when boxes of irises are still going out the door daily and the arduous task of transplanting acres of irises is just beginning.

There has been nothing normal about the El Nino weather of 1998. First, a "green Christmas" occurred in central Canada - unheard of in my lifetime (-40 F. and snow drifts was a "normal" January where I grew up!). Second, a very early bloom season was reported east of the Great Lakes. An AIS national convention there this year would have been a Japanese iris convention! Third, a scorching heat wave and drought conditions have plagued the south. And fourth, heavy rains fell in California, followed by a soggy than normal Northwest spring.

Chad Harris, Convention Chairman for next year's Japanese Iris Convention in Portland, has pulled together the remaining numbers to come up with a Registration fee for that event.

While we had many losses among the guest irises that came in earlier, the survivors and replacements are picking up momentum. We will have good bloom on the guest plants for next year. Large fields of Japanese irises in all the private collections will be in two and three year clumps as well - both seedlings and named varieties. There will be no lack of Japanese irises to bloom for us.

On to business! A bylaws change is in the proposal stage, primarily to set us up as an incorporated non profit organization. We hope this issue will be clarified by Spring. Since we don't seem to be able to get a quorum at the AIS national convention, the Board will be voting on monetary issues by mail. It seems likely that we will be able to gain a quorum at the Japanese Iris Convention in Portland in 1999. Come, join in the festivities!

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 04258-4413. Deadlines for receiving copy are **February 15** and **August 15**, with earlier receipt desirable. Black and white photographs, colored prints (glossy), and black and white drawings are welcome. **Reprinting** - permission is granted to any other iris society publication to reprint any material in this publication with due acknowledgement.

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

ADDRESS CHANGES: Please notify Membership Chairman.

SALES and RENTAL ITEMS:

THE JAPANESE IRIS by Currier McEwen \$24.95

COLOR POSTCARDS of JAPANESE IRIS

Set #1 16 different W.A. Payne introductions

Set #2 18 different Payne Award winners

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

2 sets (one of each set) 9.00

4 sets or more (designate #s) 4.00 each

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

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

Volume 1 (1964) consists of 3 issues. All other
volumes contain 2 issues each.

SJI Slide Set Rental \$5.00

IRIS LAEVIGATA - book rental \$5.00

All prices include postage. Send your requests for above items to Librarian John Coble. Make check to Society for Japanese Irises. Please order slide sets **early** for scheduling.

ADVERTISING will be accepted for plants and horticultural related items. Charges are:

Full page layout \$18.00

Half page layout 10.00

Short ads, text only 2.00 for up to 5 lines and for each additional 5 lines or fraction thereof.

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

(color separation to be provided by advertiser)

1997 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

\$6.00 Canada \$10.00 Overseas Air

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

Also available on disk, write for details.

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 2 of this issue)

1997 AIS JAPANESE IRIS AWARDS

(Melody Wilhoit)

W.A.PAYNE MEDAL

BUTTERFLIES IN FLIGHT (T. Aitken) 56 votes

Runners-up

Geisha Obi (J. Rich) 26 votes

Pink Dimity (L. Reid) 25 votes

AWARD OF MERIT

ELECTRIC GLOW (T. Aitken) 50 votes

BELLENDER BLUE (Bauer/Coble) 40 votes

Runners-up

Pink Dace (Jill Copeland) 31 votes

Epimetheus (S. Innerst) 21 votes

HONORABLE MENTION

FOREIGN INTRIGUE (Bauer/Coble) 25 votes

GEISHA DOLL (E. Methany III) 22 votes

DIRIGO DEBUTANTE (John White) 21 votes

PINK RINGLETS (T. Aitken) 20 votes

CALAMARI (Jill Copeland) 19 votes

"Japanese Will Shine in '99"

Society for Japanese Irises National Convention

Portland, Oregon - June 24-26, 1999

Sponsored by the Greater Portland Iris Society

CONVENTION HEADQUARTERS

Monarch Hotel **Phone: (503) 652-1515**
12566 South East 93rd Avenue **Fax: (503) 652-7509**
Clackamas, Oregon 97015 **Toll Free: 1-800-492-8700**

Rates: \$88.00 plus 6% Room Tax - Book reservations with Monarch Hotel. State that you are with the Japanese Iris Convention. There is free parking for those that drive to the convention and free bus service to and from the Portland Airport through Monarch Hotel.

The Monarch Hotel is located approximately 20 miles south of Portland International Airport on Interstate 205. Located 1/8 of a mile away is one of Oregon's largest malls, The Clackamas Towne Center Shopping Mall, Also located within one block are several family oriented restaurants.

Convention Registration Fee: \$ 95 -

Postmarked no later than May 1, 1999

Make checks payable to 1999 S.J.I. Convention

Fee includes: Welcome Dinner on June 24th, Two days of bus tours with lunch, and Awards Banquet on June 26th.

Send Registration Fees to: Dale Grams
Convention Registrar
Post Office Box 346
Washougal, WA 98671-0346

**REGISTRATION FORM SJI
NATIONAL CONVENTION
1999 PORTLAND, OREGON**

NAMES _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

COUNTRY _____ **PHONE** _____

REGION _____ **E-MAIL** _____

Registration fee per person: _____ \$95. _____

Total Enclosed _____

Two days of bus tours will include five gardens:

Aitken's Salmon Creek Garden
Terry and Barbara Aitken
Commercial and Hybridizer

Mt. View Iris Farm
The Ludi Family
Commercial Gardens

Laurie's Garden
Lorena Reid
Commercial and Hybridizer

Mt. Pleasant Iris Farm
Chad Harris
Hybridizer

Wildwood Gardens
Will and Tracy Plotner
Commercial Gardens

Questions: **Chad Harris**
 Chairman
 Mt. Pleasant Iris Farm
 Washougal, Washington 98671-0346
 Phone: 1-360-835-1016
 E-Mail: RSJJ98A@Prodigy.com

JILL COPELAND HONORED BY SJI

Clarence Mahan

This past year the Society for Japanese Irises designated Jill Copeland to receive its Honorary Life Membership Award. Jill Copeland's many contributions to the Society and its objectives extend over many years. Her work as a hybridizer is well known, and among her many beautiful introductions is the 1985 Payne Award winner, "Blue Marlin".

Although the Society acknowledged Jill's many achievements, it made special mention of her leadership and personal contributions to the project to rewrite the Judge's Handbook standards for Japanese irises. It was through her personal devotion of extensive time and effort to this project that the current standards were developed and approved. It is a tribute to her professionalism that the Japanese iris standards required no revision when the new AIS Judge's Handbook was prepared and published.

Thank you, Jill, for all you have done for our Society and for Japanese irises. Well done!

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
Ladson, SC 29456
Tel, (803) 871-0239

IN MEMORIAM - RICH RANDALL

A letter to Treasurer Bob Bauer from Peter Weixlmann, Chairman WYNIS, contained the following: At the Western New York Iris Society's Winter meeting a Memoriam to honor Rich Randall was approved. Rich was very generous to WNYIS with his assistance and encouragement, as well as gifting us with Louisiana iris to experiment with in our gardens. He visited us several times, provided Judge's Training at our very first Japanese Iris show, and was instrumental in selecting Anna Rettig's iris for introduction. If Rich hadn't gone to her garden, Anna would still have thought her iris not worthy of introduction. The wish of the membership is to send \$100 to the Society for Japanese Irises in Rich's name. I have enclosed the check.

The officers and members of the Society extend their thanks to WYNIS for their thoughtfulness and generosity.

CORRECTION

Sue Pierce (Newsletter Editor of the Group for Beardless Irises of the British Iris Society) reports that the New Zealand Iris Society's Symposium in the year 2000 will be held as originally planned - November 3 - 5, 2000.

Wouldn't it be fun to see irises blooming in November? There will be public and private gardens on tour, including several not devoted to irises. If you can't wait until 2000, consider the New Zealand Iris Society's 1998 Convention to be held in Oamaru November 20 - 24, 1998. For information, write to Brian Harris, 4 Durham Street, Wainate, South Canterbury, New Zealand.

THINKING ABOUT YOUTH

Jean E. Morris

Chairman, AIS Youth Committee

I know, I know. Some of you may be saying to yourselves. "When you're as old as I am, THINKING about youth is all I can muster." Perhaps our title should read "Think About Youth Membership", because the purpose of this article is to encourage AIS Sections and Cooperating Societies to provide incentives for youth membership in their groups.

We realize the Sections and Cooperating Societies face the constant problem of funding. You are expected by your membership to put out your various newsletters filled with specialized iris information, in a timely manner, always battling the increasing cost of paper and rising postage fees. Added to these hurdles is the fact that much of your membership fits into the "fixed-income" category because of retirement -- so balancing your dues schedule with your escalating expenses can be like walking a tightrope.

In spite of these challenges, there are still possible youth membership incentives to be offered. A reduced dues rate, even a slight one, for youth members would be appreciated. Other attractions might include a free collection of your special iris rhizomes, a basic culture booklet or sheet, the opportunity to test seedlings, youth recognition in your publication, and a list of hybridizing goals that might be taken on by a young person.

Perhaps you are saying, "I don't know of a single youth member who is interested in arils, or Siberians, or Japanese, or species or whatever your favorite iris type may be."

Actually, there are quite a few youths interested in specific iris types and some are even dues-paying members of Sections and/or Cooperating Societies. Kevin Gromley, the 1996 Clarke Cosgrove winner, belongs to the Median, Aril, Pacific Coast, and Reblooming groups and is a licensed commercial grower in

the state of Missouri. Stephanie Rust, also of Region 18, belongs to the Dwarf, Median, Japanese, Historic, and Species Sections and is beginning to hybridize. These two were encouraged by a visit from Luella Danielson, who not only taught us about arils but also brought along dozens of blooms from her garden.

Andrew Wheeler, of Region 1, 1994 Clarke Cosgrove winner, graduated to AIS adult membership in 1997. He was, and still is a member of Siberian, Japanese, and Species Sections. Andy completed an iris internship under Kevin Vaughn in 1996 and collects *I. setosa* clones because of their cold-hardiness.

The International Symposium on Iris Species, held in St. Louis in 1995, was attended by Kevin Gormley and Andy Wheeler. This event was an educational experience and also allowed youth members to meet some of the "stars" of irisdom. Calista and Laura Grinstead of Region 9 visited portions of the Symposium. They also participated in the Society for Japanese Irises Convention held in St. Louis in 1996, as did Kevin Gormley, Jessica Braeuner and Nikki Tanksley. All of these events bolster youth interest in Sections and Cooperating Societies.

Joe Shott of Region 9 lives in an isolated area and has no support from a local iris club. Even so, he looks for and has found iris species in the wild. Does he belong to SIGNA? We aren't sure. Another Region 9 youth, Shannon Melliore, brought four of her BB seedlings to an iris show last year. Shannon is the great granddaughter of Myrtle Wolff (who introduced BB, SHANNON in 1975). Perhaps BB hybridizers from the Median Society should be offering some advice here.

Monica Combrink of Region 22 helped host a garden at the "Median Spree in '93." She won the Youth Essay Contest in 1995 with her outstanding essay titled "What is so Great About an Iris?" She explains how there is an iris for every garden area and climate, and how great it is to stretch the season with the various types. Isn't it nice that our favorite flower comes in so

many different forms?

If you are wondering whether or not attracting youth members would be beneficial, the answer is "Yes!". There are many AIS members today who started out in the youth ranks and now belong to, and hybridize irises of, the various AIS Sections and/or Cooperating Societies. If asked, youth members are able to do more than you might imagine. Many exchange iris information and ideas on the Internet and think of computers as a fascinating tool rather than a nebulous mystery, as do some of us. Think about fostering a young irisarian in your favorite AIS Section or Cooperating Society. **THINK ABOUT YOUTH!**

SUMMERVILLE IRIS SOCIETY WEEKEND

Geny Morrison

The Summerville (South Carolina) Iris Society held its annual SIS Weekend on May 29 and 30. Headquarters was the Hampton Inn in Summerville, with Walter Hoover, AIS Judge, giving Judge's Training. The subject was "Exhibition Judging - Japanese Irises". All students were divided into a hands-on three-panel judging of beautiful Japanese irises from the Hoover garden in Saluda, NC. Walter's vast knowledge of Japanese irises, plus his teaching abilities, captured the attention of his 32-member classroom.

Afterwards, a delicious banquet was served by members of SIS. Mrs. Shirley Pacquet presented a very comprehensive, as well as entertaining, after-dinner speech entitled "HISTORY OF REGION FIVE". Our prediction is that she will be asked to repeat this speech at other gatherings.

On Saturday all guests were bussed to Cypress Gardens, where they toured the Butterfly House, the Aquarium, and the greenhouse. The highlight of this visit was the dedication of "The John Woods Appreciation Garden". Mr. Woods was honored by SIS for his service and support of AIS and Region

5 in particular. Following the dedication, guests enjoyed a lovely boat ride over the water-lily-filled lake, landing at the Bridal Gardens to see Japanese Irises in bloom. After lunch at Ryan's Steak House guests were bussed to Azalea Park for viewing the judged show. Plants generously furnished by SIS members were on sale at the Park also. A report of the Flower Show follows this report.

The most outstanding thing to SIS President was the cooperation of 25 members who were active in planning, chairing, and producing this event.

1998 JI SHOW REPORTS

Summerville, SC....May 30....Geny Morrison

The Summerville Iris Society held their annual show, entitled "A Walk in a Japanese Garden", on Saturday, May 30 at the Cuthbert Community Center. A Japanese garden prepared by Staging Chairman Leora Moore presented judged iris blooms, companion plants, and 20 Japanese style designs featuring iris blooms. A marvelous Educational Exhibit on Iris was prepared by Claire Honkanen with pertinent handouts for visitors.

Horticultural Awards were as follows: Sweepstakes - Maggie Johnson; Award of Merit - Leora Moore; Award of Merit - Betty Hoats; Best Specimen, Class A- Peggy Beason; Best Specimen, Class F - Maggie Johnson; Best Specimen, Class D- Patricia Brooks; Best in Show - Patricia Brooks; Best Seedling - Maggie Johnson.

Following are awards in Design: Best Design - Betty Black; and Artistic Sweepstakes - Barbara Mitchum.

The Greater St. Louis Iris Society held its annual Beardless Iris Show on June 7 at the Missouri Botanical Garden. There were 12 exhibitors showing 96 entries. CENTER OF ATTENTION, a Japanese iris exhibited by Don Delmez won "Queen of Show". Best Seedling was a Japanese, SBot, a lovely large single blue with orchid standards presented by Don Delmez.

The Silver Medal was awarded to Don with 19 blue ribbons. Nyla Hughes received the Bronze Medal with 10 blue ribbons.

The Seedling class was outstanding this year with 27 entered. Marie Dienstbach and Don Delmez had some really fine seedlings that made it very difficult for the judges to pick one as best.

In our Youth Division we had 2 exhibitors showing 10 entries. Stephanie Rust had Best Specimen with a Japanese iris, JOYCOS COLLOR, a Willy Hublau new introduction by Don Delmez. Stephanie won 6 blue ribbons, while her brother Christopher Rust won 4 blues. They both won blue ribbons on their flower arrangements.

The local Ikebana Society had lovely arrangements using beautiful Japanese irises in their designs. These designs are always a bonus for our show.

Hendersonville, NC....June 18 -19....Jeanne Grundies

The Carolina Mountains Iris Society planned to hold its Annual Japanese Iris Show on the above dates. As many of us know the weather can change our plans. When we found that our bloom was so early there was not enough to hold a show that would meet AIS standards, I sent our very cooperative local paper a letter of explanation. We did not want to disappoint visitors completely, so seven of our members placed in the lobby of Opportunity House a display of 14 individual stalks and 14 single blossoms. We will hold our show a week earlier next year.

The annual Beardless Show of the Chesapeake & Potomac and Frances Scott Key Iris Societies was held on June 20,1998 at Brookside Gardens, Wheaton, Md. The Visitor's Center is a brand new facility that was opened to the public last fall, and it is an excellent place to conduct such an event. The bloom season was ten days - two weeks earlier than usual, so the committee was concerned as to whether to cancel or go forward. A poll was taken of those people who had exhibited in previous years and who might expect to have something to exhibit. The word was "GO".

Exhibitors started to arrive about 8:00 AM, and after all the flurry was ended, 84 stalks of Japanese Irises were placed on the show bench. In addition, 20 seedlings, 5 Siberians, and one Species were displayed. The Show was a rounding success!

We had to post a guard at the door while the judging was in progress. When the doors were opened to the public at 12:15 PM, it resembled a Macy's Bargain Sale. No official head count was taken, but there were at least 75-100 people at any given time until closing at 5:00. Chairman Glenna Costillo and Co-chair Carol Warner were very pleased with the response of the exhibitors and the viewing public.

Awards were as follows:

Best Specimen: ROSE WATER, exhibited by Carol Warner of Upperco, MD.

1st Runner-up: ABSALOM, entered by Ginny Spoon of Cross Junction, VA.

2nd Runner-up: STATELY FLAMINGO, also exhibited by Ginny Spoon.

3rd Runner-up: MAINE CHANCE, entered by Sterling Innerst.

Other blue ribbon winners were: Abraco, Anytus, Enchanting Melody, Frilled Enchantment, Geisha Obi, Jaciva, Oriental Elegance, Peacock Dance, Picotee Princess, Prairie Glory, Scherezade, and Southern Son. The Silver Medal was awarded to Carol Warner, and the Bronze Medal to Ginny Spoon.

Salem, Oregon.....June 20, 1998....Chad Harris

Lancaster Mall in Salem, Oregon hosted the Greater Portland Iris Society's late show. There were 7 exhibitors with 92 entries. Because of our late wet spring we had varieties of iris that normally are shown at earlier shows. Japanese and Spuria were the main focus, but also shown were Miniature Tall bearded, Pacific Coast natives, species, Siberian, and reblooming dwarf bearded.

Best Specimen of Show was LILAC GARDEN, a Japanese exhibited by Lee Walker. Best Seedling, #93-66-15, was also entered by Lee Walker. The Silver Medal for most blue ribbons went to Mt. View Iris Garden, managed by the Ludi Family. Lee Walker earned the Bronze Medal.

A Section Certificate was presented to Will Plotner, who operates Wildwood Gardens. Outstanding Commercial Exhibit Certificates were awarded to Aitken's Salmon Creek Gardens (Terry and Barbara Aitken) and Laurie's Garden, operated by Lorena Reid.

Kalamazoo, MI.....July 4, 1998....John Coble

The Show report is good news and bad news. The bad news is: due to the warm spring and early summer, JI bloom season peaked ten days before the show and we didn't have enough entries (19) or entrants (4) to have an AIS judged show. But we staged a display for the public with the best of the few we had. The other negative we thought we knew ahead of time: July 4 would find few people in the mall to even see the iris.

The good news: mall traffic was heavier than expected and many attended the show due to publicity. The really good news: the public viewed the iris without the prejudice of judged ribbons. So we handed each slightly-interested attender a blue ribbon and asked them to place it in front of their favorite iris. We had a popularity poll that was more successful than we had

imagined. It gave hospitality members contact with all of the viewers. They accepted the ribbons with smiles and took our request much more seriously than we had expected, walking back and forth with ribbon in hand and really examining the show stalks with much more appreciation than the normal casual overview. More than the usual number returned to the hospitality table for any handout material about this flower that many of them were seeing for the first time.

At the end of the show, 151 blue ribbons had been placed in front of favorite stalks. The favorite JI was TIDELINE with 32 ribbons, second was Bauer-Coble seedling J95YY-1 (a 12 petal blossom of plum-purple central veins with white petal edges) with 26 ribbons, third place was FASHION MODEL with 22 ribbons, fourth was WOUNDED DRAGON with 15 ribbons, and fifth was LILAC GARDEN with 13 ribbons.

Auburn, ME.....July 11,1998.....Evelyn White

The Maine Iris Society held its Japanese Iris Show in the Music Room of the Auburn Middle School. This room has three levels carpeted in green and provides a setting well suited to a Japanese Show. A cut leaf Hosta display arranged by Russ and Joan Moors added another sphere of interest.

We had 10 exhibitors with 96 iris stalks entered. There were 92 cultivars represented. Paul Dostie swept the Honors table with all 4 places: Queen of Show was TRANCE; 1st Runner-up, SPARKLING SAPPHIRE; 2nd Runner-up, SEA OF AMETHYST; and 3rd Runner-up, SCHEHERAZADE. John White's Japanese seedling 95JI-W17-2 was judged Best Seedling. Six other seedlings of John's also won blue ribbons.

There were 16 entries in the Design Division, "Floral Fantasies". Jolene Best had the Best Youth Design. Evelyn White's design in the class "Reflections of Peace" was judged Best Design. Evelyn also won the Artistic Sweepstakes.

A TREK TO LEE WALKER'S GARDEN ROSEBURG, OREGON

Terry Aitken

This spring, rumors were flying around the Northwest about a fabulous Japanese iris garden in southern Oregon. We knew Lee Walker was down there, about 180 miles south of Portland and just far enough that it was an all day round trip. Lee got up to Salem (50 miles south of Portland) for our 1998 late season show, which is predominantly (although not exclusively) Japanese irises. We got to see some impressive seedlings and got to talk about his "Crayola" line. This is a variation on the splash patterns common to Japanese irises, only these plants had spontaneous splashes of a darker color with a waxy sheen on the splashes. He also mentioned that he had a large planting (hundreds!) of tetraploid Japanese seedlings (1996 series).

That did it! I decided that a trip to Lee's garden was top priority on my '98 spring travel plans. Late in our June bloom season, I found a "window of opportunity" and headed south, picking up Keith Keppel along the way. As we headed south through rain squalls, we stopped off at Lorena Reid's garden in Eugene. This is a "must see" stop on any trip south of Portland. Many plants were in bloom and we got a lucky sun break for photo opportunities. Lots of Japanese irises were looking good, but the outstanding flower of the day was her own '98 introduction, CONFETTI SHOWERS. It is a very refreshing billowy white 6 fall type with a delicate sprinkling of raspberry spatters over all petals. This plant does have a tendency to throw a dark streak (reverse pattern) every once in a while, and I am sure it will keep many a judge nervous or uncertain of himself in the years ahead. I happen to like these spontaneous patterns.

Back on the road again, Keith and I headed south to Roseburg. The weather improved and we had no difficulty finding Lee's place about ten miles west of Roseburg, off the freeway. Lee lives in a valley on the dry side of the coastal mountain range.

It is a serious challenge to grow Japanese irises there because the micro climate is very dry and the ground water, in a layer of shale, is pH-10, more or less! Lee has a water tank mounted on a truck and he hauls irrigation water from a nearby lake. (Lee also grows vast quantities of *Spurias*.)

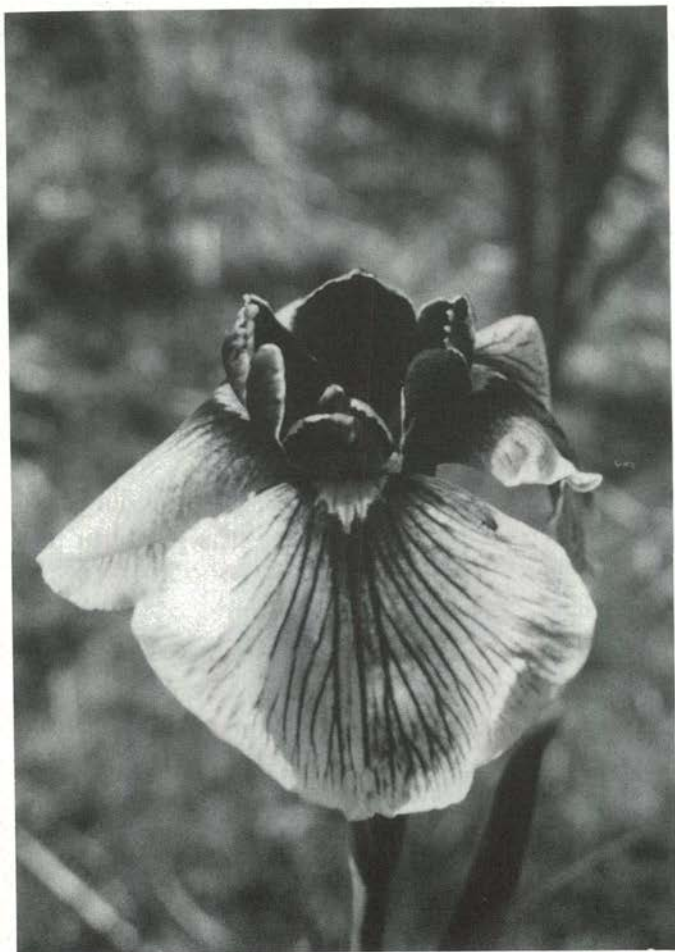
Lee's seedling patch of Japanese irises was the largest that I have ever seen, with thousands of seedlings from each of the past three years. In a separate bed stood the fabled tetraploids. Hundreds of them, row on row! (For the uninitiated, breeding tetraploids on the west coast has been a serious challenge. Seed pods are sparse; seed counts are low (2 or 3 per pod) and germination is timid. For me, that is about ten plants in ten years!) The late bloom season was impressive with color variations that I had not seen before and of a quality that promised future introduction.

What I saw were predominantly 3 fall types, but Lee assures me that there were many 6 fall types in the earlier part of the bloom season. Lee also claims that he is getting repeat bloom on some of these seedlings in September.

We moved on to see the diploid Japanese iris seedlings blocks, also growing by the thousands. There was plenty of promise here also.

The most striking plants, in my opinion, were the "blue freckles". The freckle pattern has been one of Lorena Reid's breeding lines for many years, culminating in her now famous Payne Award winning FRECKLED GEISHA ('81). These are best described as white ground color with a delicate sprinkling of raspberry/rose speckles and a matching wire rim of raspberry/rose. Now, Lee is doing a similar thing only in rich blue speckles and rims. Keith and I kept Lee running and tagging reselects as we worked our way down the rows. We got into a shady area in late afternoon and the blues took on the mystical iridescence that occurs with indirect light. The flowers were magnificent!

The trip down to Lee Walker's was well worth the time. For those of you coming to the Northwest in late June next year for the Japanese Iris Convention, I would highly recommend planning one or two days extra for visits. Get a bunch of people together and car pool down to Roseburg. Another new Japanese iris hybridizer is in the same general area of southern Oregon. Rumor has it that Mike Iler also has thousands of Japanese iris seedlings awaiting the judges perusal! Let's make a party out of this trip!



Lee Walker Seedling
#96-56-20 Tet
Photo by Terry Aitken

1998 JAPANESE IRIS POPULARITY POLL

(Kathy Guest - New York)

This year I received 48 ballots from 19 states and two countries, Maine submitted the most ballots at 5. CASCADE CREST received one more ballot than last year and remained at No. 1. ROSEWATER has advanced to No. 2. JOCASTA has dropped to No. 3, receiving 3 fewer votes. JAPANESE PINWHEEL continues to share the No. 3 spot, but FRECKLED GEISHA received only one lonely vote this year. Following are the poll results:

RANK	NO. VOTES	CULTIVAR
1.	16	Cascade Crest
2.	09	Rosewater
3.	08	Electric Rays Japanese Pinwheel Jocasta Kalamazoo Lion King Rose Adagio
4.	07	Center Of Attention Crystal Halo Dancing Waves Picotee Princess Prairie Twilight
5.	06	Caprician Butterfly Diomedes
6.	05	Bellender Blue Butterflies In Flight Geisha Obi Niagara Power Peacock Dance

6. 05 Tideline

7. 04

Abraco, Blue Spritz, Chief Red Jacket, Frilled Enchantment, Joy Peters, Maine Chance, Raspberry Glow, Rose Queen, Stella Niagara, The Great Mogul, Wine Ruffles

8. 03

Anna Angelwings, Anytus, Asian Warrior, Dirigo Cloud Nine, Gusto, Izu-No-Umi, Katy Mendez, Michio, Midnight Stars, Oriental Classic, Oriental Eyes, Pink Ringlets, Royal Game, Royal One, Sapphire Crown, Silent Thunder, Star at Midnight, Stately Flamingo, Strut and Flourish, Summer Moon, Ton Ton Bana, Tuptim

9. 02

Ack-Countable, Agrippine, Blueberry Rimmed, Blushing Crimson, Chigokesho, Chiyo-no-Haru, Dino, Dirigo Debutante, Double First, Flanders Lion, Foreign Intrigue, Geisha Gown, Geishunka, Grand Island, Grape Fizz, Hegira, Indigo Magic, Ink on Ice, Joycos Collor Kaleidoshow, Knight in Armour, Little Bow Pink, Little Spritzer, Memorial Tribute, Midsummer Happiness, Miss Buffalo, Nari Hira, Night Angel, Ocean Mist, Patterns in Space, Pink Dimity, Pink Mystery, Prairie Glory, Reisyun, Returning Tide, Rose Frappe, Rose Prelude, Rose World, Ruby Star, Samurai Chest, Sapphire Crown, Shingo, Silverband, Swirling Waves. Total Image, Trance, Tropical Storm, Vintage Festival, Warai-Hotei



COMMENTS from MEMBERS

From Eddie Johns - New Zealand

Well, the weather has been kind to us for our JI flowering. El Nino had an amazing effect on bloom times this year. Our spring was 4 weeks earlier than normal, but a severe cold snap came across the Tasman Sea and put everything on hold, so flowering times were put back 6 weeks.

Our flowering was good with excellent quality blooms. We had to irrigate the JI beds this year because of lack of seasonal rains. Our flowering was late and we had Christmas dinner in the middle of the JI patch. What an incredible day with thousands of plants at peak bloom!

We have been doing work on developing a new area for our JI's, which involves a 5 acre area. A large manmade pond has been created with 3/4 acre of sunken garden around one edge for a rice paddy effect planted with JI's en masse for colour. The excess soil has been used to create a walkway around three sides of the pond and has been formed into terraces of planting areas for JI's and a high hill for an overlook. The garden should be ready by 2001.

P.S. YAE GOSAN that we imported from Ensata last year was tops! We finally had to remove the flower stalks as everyone wanted one and we had imported only one plant. It was 16" high with 8-10 falls, a clean white center with rosy red edges and small red standards! Lasts well in a vase.

From Don Delmez - Missouri

This has been a very good year for our JI's. No late freezes, lots of rain. Our first bloom was on May 17th and there were still blooms on June 22nd. There seems to be repeat bloom for the first time in St. Louis. My LITTLE BOW PINK bloomed for over a month and all varieties seem to have better branching this year.

From Ellen Gallagher - New Hampshire

BELLENDER BLUE is still blooming as I cast this ballot on July 29th. It started blooming on July 8th and my 2 clumps are both in full bloom today.

From Stephanie Rust - Missouri

CRY OF REJOICE: My grandmother won a second place with a first year plant, It was *very* tall, but beat up a little by heavy winds.

CHIGOSUGATA: My very favorite Japanese Iris.

JOYC0S COLLOR: I won Best of Youth with this one at the St. Louis Late Show this year.

All of them: They are all exceptional growers and wondrous beauties.

From Ed Matheny III - California

We had our first Late Show, specifically to show the public the Japanese iris. It was very successfu! STRANGER IN PARADISE won Best Specimen.

From Willy Hublau - Belgium

We had very bad weather during bloom time; but my crosses flowered like never before. It isn't easy to vote for only 10 when you have so many to choose from.

Phil Cook's annotated ballot - Vermont

KOSHUI-NO-ASA - absolutely gorgeous with ruffles and sky blue color

TESSA DARK EYES - statuesque

ABRACO - great form and size

RETURNING TIDE : The best I've seen it; simple and charming.

MIDSUMMER HAPPINESS - lovely color and one of the few to flower in late July

PRAIRIE TWILIGHT - beautiful form and silvery sheen

IMPERIAL MAGIC - humongous! Could be seen from a hundred yards!

SWEET MURMUR - the contrast of white with the violet margin is striking

CHIGOKESHO - like a blushing maiden

ELECTRIC RAYS - prolific flowering this year; a favorite with visitors

From Kathy Guest - New York

As others have reported, El Nino was very good to us for JI bloom. We've had two years of ample spring rainfall and the JI's show it.

STATELY FLAMINGO was a favorite in my garden....A wonderful raspberries with cream color and crowded with blossoms. But the best part was that it looked you right in the eye! Enormous.

NIAGARA POWER, a perennial charmer in the Guest Garden, was also crowded with bloom. This is a silvery lavender with red standards and veining. Very unique.

Our season was earlier too, as many have reported. Peak bloom here is generally Independence Day, but we were on the downside then. But even so, thanks to the quality of the bloom season in general, we were able to pull off our Fourth of July weekend exhibit in grand form.



VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA - 1997 FALL &
WINTER BLOOM
(Joy Flint)

In response to Clarence Mahan's report, "It's Rebloom in England", which appeared in the Spring 1998 *SJI Review*, I thought it may be of interest to know that Vancouver Island has had similar woes. Today (April 30, 1998) it's hot and dry. My TB's started blooming April 10, and I now have 7 JI's in bud.

However, our weather in Spring 1997 was cold with overcast skies and much torrential rain and gale force winds. Only my old "border" Irises from Japan put out bloom - almost as if they had an internal clock not totally dependent upon external forces.

My hybrids cowered and made no attempt to bloom. We had no Spring but Summer was hot and the JI's woke up and proceeded to bloom copiously in September. On Christmas Day a one (1) year seedling bloomed with four (4) stalks. Two (2) days later snow put an end to that. I had cut the poor things down at the end of November and still they persisted.

Rebloom in 1997 did not occur in my garden, but I visited John Montgomery's Garden in Vernon, BC on August 31 and his rebloom was phenomenal.

This Spring (1998) everything was early with El Nino off our coast. Tall Bearded started April 10, and the JI's, in early May. Then they bloomed for seven (7) weeks. Everything bloomed prolifically. (What will 1999 bring? If conditions in your area are unusual, send us a report for a later issue. Ed.)



REBLOOMING JAPANESE IRISES ARE ON THE WAY

Terry Aitken

As the heat waves of mid summer subside and the cooler nights of autumn ease our soil temperatures into gentler ranges, I see a seedling patch bristling with the promise of rebloom. Two years ago I decided to focus on Japanese rebloom. Using the best material available, I picked SOUTHERN SON and EXUBERANT CHANTEY (both McEwen '90) as the common denominators, the plants which gave us the most rebloom from among the named varieties. Since both are good blues, I mated them with our best blue, ROLLING SEAS. We crossed the plants both ways (pod and pollen), collected several hundred seeds and got good germination. With IZO-NOPUMI (a good 3 fall blue) as a grandparent behind ROLLING SEAS, it was reasonably predictable that we would get a block of blues and that the color range would go the full gambit from light to dark blue. What we have not seen before was Japanese stems with four or five branches on fall bloom. This is a fairly common observation in bearded irises - to see an increase in bud count and branching on fall bloom, and apparently this phenomenon is going to occur in Japanese irises as well.

The next step is to make crosses between these fall blooming seedlings to reinforce the rebloom tendency (line breeding). I'm a bit skeptical that I can set pods in September and ripen them off before the plants go dormant for the winter (late October here), but will give it a try. Back-crossing to the rebloom plants, SOUTHERN SON and EXUBERANT CHANTEY, will have to wait for spring anyway.

Rebloom is not unique to the iris world. Bearded iris hybridizers have been struggling with rebloom for forty years. The big problem has been public acceptance, as the flower quality has been significantly inferior to spring blooming types. This gap has been closing significantly and dramatically in the last five years. With the Japanese irises it appears that we will have introduction quality and possibly even award quality almost

immediately.

In addition to Dr. McEwen, other hybridizers are hard at work with rebloom. John White reports from the east coast that he is getting outstanding pinks that bloom all summer. Chad Harris has been at work with the wine colors, using TAFFETA & VELVET (Ackerman '84). Our first dramatic evidence of his success was when he showed up at the Greater Portland Iris Society summer auction last year in August with a huge bouquet of truly spectacular Japanese irises. These had great substance and great form, with much promise for future introduction. As mentioned elsewhere, Lee Walker claims to be getting rebloom on many of his plants.

Rebloom plants do present a new set of potential problems for commercial growers. There is some evidence that "bloomouts" may occur if the plants are not vigorous increasers. Obviously, sequential bloom is the ideal answer, and only some plants may have that characteristic. The other problem is how to divide and ship rebloomers after they have finished summer bloom during shipping season. Many bearded iris growers simply ship the plants with the spent bloomshoots, and with good side increases. Japanese iris growers may have to do the same thing.

If others "out there" are working on rebloom, please get in touch. This is not an exclusive club, and, in my opinion, the more hybridizers working on rebloom, the merrier. In an article about ten years ago, Dr. Ackerman documented statistics which indicated that it took five generations of line breeding to lock in a specific characteristic, such as rebloom. We sure could use some help!

MORE NEWS ON REBLOOMING

Bruce Hornstein
(Monkton, Maryland)

This was an El Nino year for my iris garden. After an exceptionally mild winter, even dahlias and cannas left in the ground survived the winter. Then we had torrential rains and everything was lush and green.

The Francis Scott Key Iris Society hosted the Region 4 spring convention and busloads of irisarians arrived at our garden on May 22 to find peak bloom of TB's, MTB's and Siberians. Not to be outdone, there were Louisianas and lots of early Japanese irises, i.e. Kirigamine, Hatsu Kagamine, Sakae Muraski, Pleasant Earlybird, Wase Katsume, and the Springtime's: Snow, Prayer, Dress, and Melody. My spurias began blooming a week later.

The JI's continued to bloom into June and July with repeat stalks on Springtime Prayer, Mizu No Hikari, Kirigamine, Hatsu Kagami, Springtime Snow, Sakae Muraski, Let Me See, Diomedes, Continuing Pleasure, and all of Bill Ackerman's new introductions (Ashton series). The Ashton series did extremely well this year. Not only were they vigorous growers, but all had double branching and high bud count (5-9 buds). Ashton Pride and Ashton Velvet remained in bloom over 7 weeks.

At the Region 4 show in Baltimore this spring a John White versicolor seedling, Jw-95-02, won a CE. It was a floriferous stalk (10 buds) of delicate white blossoms with red and pink veining. Rumor has it that it will be introduced in 1999.

John White
(Minot, Maine)

One of my goals has been to create a true pink Japanese iris - one without a lavender cast. My best pink seedling to date is 95JI-W17-14, a 3 fall bloom of rosy pink, about 9" across; falls overlap and have a narrow white edge. This plant bloomed continuously from June 30 to August 23, 1998. Blossoms held up well for nearly 4 days.

I made 5 crosses on this plant. The seed pods are bigger than walnuts. It appears to be a good pod and pollen parent.

Several other nice pinks came from the same cross (a J. White seedling X Hana-No-Yoi). One of these, a 6 fall bloom, was judged Best Seedling at the Maine Iris Society's 1998 Japanese Iris Show.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominating Committee is happy to offer the names of the following members to serve as Officers of the Society for Japanese Irises, starting January 1, 1999:

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

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

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

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

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

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

Dr. L. Bruce Hornstein, 3819 Beatty Rd., Monkton, MD 21111
Tel. (410) 557-0250

Lorena Reid, 41886 McKenzie Hwy., Springfield, OR 97478
Tel. (541) 806-3756

NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBER (Serving through
2001): Donald Delmez, 3240 Connecticut Dr., St. Charles, MO
63301 Tel. (314) 724-4274

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

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Colburn, Chairman
Chad Harris
James Burke

MINUTES - SJI BOARD MEETING
DENVER, CO JUNE 2, 1998

Carol Warner

The board meeting was called to order at 5:10 p.m. by the President, Terry Aitken. Members present were Jim and Jill Copeland, Glenna Costilio, Kathy Guest, Chad Harris, Sara Marley, Anna Mae and Ron Miller, Bill Smoot, and Carol Warner. It was determined that a quorum was not present so the meeting proceeded with open discussion.

The first topic of discussion was the need for our section to become incorporated. There is not blanket coverage from AIS for incorporation and we need it for status as a non-profit organization. Incorporation protects the officers of the group, relieves us of paying taxes on the sales of checklists, etc., and auction purchases and donations could be a tax deductible contribution. Sara suggested that we approach Sterling Innerst to act as our intercery in the state of Pennsylvania. A committee of John Coble, Jill and Jim Copeland and Kathy Guest was appointed to put together a recommendation due by December 31, 1998 and to be published in the Spring issue of *The Review*.

Terry reminded us of the tragic death of our Display Garden Chairman, Rich Randall. Bill Smoot was appointed to fill this position and he will be in touch with Caryll Randall to get the information and data to get the program up and running again.

Discussion turned to how we are promoting Japanese irises to the public. A new Membership application is being prepared by Bob Bauer and should be an attractive color brochure which could be used to attract interest to our group. Kathy Guest reported that the returns for the Popularity Poll are generally poor. She would be willing to send out a postcard as a reminder. Due to the lack of a quorum, a proxy vote would have to be mailed out to the officers and directors to fund this. Bill Smoot has a web page almost done and will try to have a sample to be reviewed by the officers who have an internet

connection. Kathy Guest also suggested that we also have a proxy vote to fund the cost of a web page.

Terry Aitken suggested that we put an ad in the AIS *Bulletin* for the upcoming convention in Portland, Oregon in 1999. Carol Warner proposed that SJI pay for a color promotion for the convention. Bill Smoot suggested making a button for an advertisement.

Jill Copeland suggested that there be some kind of study on weather conditions and how they affect the pollination of tetraploid Japanese irises. Lee Walker of southern Oregon has a procedure for surgically transferring pollen which seems to be successful. There is also a need for a list of varieties which might be better for growing in warmer climates.

There are no plans for a Society of Japanese Irises Convention after the one in 1999. Jill suggested that we publish the suggested year that would be best to schedule our convention and see if one of the groups would be interested in hosting a convention. If the three year rotation works out, it would be best to have a Japanese convention in 2002 and again in 2005. Anyone interested ???

Terry announced that he and Lorena Reid and Chad Harris would be showing slides at the SJI Section Program.

Bill Smoot proposed that SJI make a contribution of \$100.00 to the AIS Unrestricted Fund in memory of Rich Randall. A proxy vote will have to be mailed.

Chad Harris announced the dates of the SJI Convention. The Welcome Banquet will be June 24 and garden tours will be on June 25 and 26, 1999. All present were looking forward to attending.

The meeting adjourned early to allow members to get some dinner before their next meetings.

Carol Warner, Secretary

NAGAI TYPE OF JAPANESE IRIS

Hiroshi Shimizu (Japan)

The Nagai type of Japanese iris is older than the other three types, i.e. Edo, Ise and Higo. Last year I visited the city of Nagai in Yamagata Prefecture for the first time. My purpose was to investigate the Nagai varieties. The Nagai district is a very important place for Japanese iris lovers, especially for those who are interested in the origin of garden cultivars. That is because the Nagai type is very old and cultivated only in the Nagai district.

Mr. Toshihiro Nagata, who grows Japanese irises for Kamo nursery, and I visited Nagai city in June 1997. Nagai is located in northwestern Honshu. We went by train and were welcomed at Nagai station by Mr. Kakima, who was a key person for our planned investigation. Mr. Kakima is an enthusiast of Nagai varieties and has tended them as a volunteer at the Nagai Ayame Garden for a long time.

We first went by car to Hagyu village on Nagai plain. It is a quiet farming village where there are many rice paddy fields. Upon taking a short walk, we found many flowers of wild *Iris ensata* growing along the dikes of the rice fields. These irises were not cultivated forms that had been naturalized, but truly wild plants. This was evident by their simple flower form with three narrow falls and almost no color variation. {Picture 1}

After resting, we followed Mr. Kakima to a stream on a hill near the border of the Ide mountain range and the Nagai plain. We found many of the wild species in bloom in a meadow on the hill. We felt fortunate to find two plants of the white species. {Picture 2} Mr. Nagata and I were excited at this finding but Mr. Kakima remained calm. He told us that there were many mutant forms of the wild species in the meadows of the Ide mountains. I concluded that this particular meadow and the dikes of the rice paddies must be secondary habitats of the wild species. The meadows near the top of the mountains must be the primary habitat of the wild irises. Perhaps using this area for

agriculture expanded the habitats.

Nagai district has rich soil and a diversity of native flora, birds, animals, and insects. Here many natural variants of *Iris ensata* have survived. The people who live in northern Honshu, and especially in Nagai district, protect nature. So wild species have great potential for developing cultivars in the future.

We visited Nagai Ayame Garden the next day. {Picture 3} This garden has cultivars of Ise, Higo, Edo, American and Nagai types of Japanese irises. We concentrated on the Nagai varieties. I made a number of observations about these irises:

1. About half of the cultivars had simple forms with narrow falls and standards, but they showed a very wide range of color and pattern variation. {Pictures 4, 5, & 6}

2. The other half of the cultivars had color and patterns similar to old Edo cultivars, but flower shapes and sizes were intermediate between the wild species and the old Edo varieties. {Pictures 7, 8, & 9}

3. Some of the Nagai cultivars had flowers with a form different from any other type. {Picture 10}

The old records of this garden reveal that it was established in 1919, by collecting Japanese iris plants from many private gardens in Nagai and Hagyu villages. These varied widely in colors and patterns. Mr. Kakima explained that Hagyu villagers had collected many mutant forms from the nearby mountains and plains for their gardens. They enjoyed the blooms, and often drank sake while viewing them. The bloom season coincided with a time when villagers took a vacation from their agricultural work.

Hagyu village was a castle town in olden times, and very crowded. It had long been the home of cultured people who enjoyed collecting, growing and appreciating clones of *Iris ensata*. This activity at Hagyu might be called "the birth of Japanese iris cultivars". I believe that the following factors were necessary for this "birth":

1. Gene pool: Many mutants were brought into a limited area

from the wild.

2. Open pollination by bees. The resultant seeds increased the flower's variation.

3. Devotees: Many people enjoyed the flowers, selected the most beautiful forms, and possibly they exchanged the best flowers.

The iris breeding activity of Japanese gardeners has always differed from that practiced in the West. European and American gardeners obtain new cultivars by crossing different species, but the Japanese gardener pursues variation by gathering mutants from the countryside.

As an aside, I believe that the addition to the gene pool of white forms was probably critical to development of a wide variety of colors in cultivars of *Iris ensata*. The wide range of color and patterns would not be possible without genes for the white color. If there were not a pool of recessive genes for white, other mutant color variations would be masked with purple or violet, which are the dominant genes in the species. There is no sign of any species other than *Iris ensata* having played a role in the development of the Japanese iris. All cultivars and wild forms of the Japanese iris have the same chromosome count ($2n=24$). The only exceptions are aneuploids of Ise varieties ($2n=25$), and these cross readily with natural diploids. Therefore they are regarded botanically as belonging to a single species. The Nagai type is the oldest of all the Japanese iris groups which survive today. Its existence gives us hints as to how the modern cultivar was born, and provides material for future hybridizing.

CAPTION FOR PICTURES

Picture 1: *Iris ensata* growing along rice paddies near Hagyu

Picture 2: White form of *Iris ensata* near Ide mountain range

Picture 3: Nagai Ayame Garden

Picture 4. White Nagai type iris with violet tipped standards

Picture 5: Violet Nagai type with white stripes and stylearms.

Picture 6: White Nagai type iris with violet veins.

Pictures 7 - 9: Nagai irises like old Edos but smaller flowers

Picture 10: Nagai type iris with unique form

POPE'S PERENNIALS

1999 INTRODUCTIONS by John White

SIBERIAN IRIS

DIRIGO BLACK VELVET (Tet) - This is the "nearest to black" Siberian that we have seen. Upon opening, it has a velvety black sheen overlaying a dark purple flower with a prominent gold signal. A vigorous grower! 40-44" tall. Its parents are **GOLDEN EDGE** (McEwen) and **OVER IN GLORYLAND** (Hollingworth). Judges awarded it an EC in 1995 and 1996, and an HC in '96.....**\$35.**

JAPANESE IRISES

DIRIGO BLUE PLATE - a 3 fall JI -white ground with a 1/2 to 5/8 " deep blue edge. A crisp flower - opens flat like a plate. 36" tall - early to midseason - one branch. Truly a "Blue Plate Special"!.....**\$30.**

DIRIGO STAR - a striking deep purple Japanese iris! Its 6 falls are marked with a white blaze. This and white styles give a star-like effect. It was a hit with the Japanese iris lovers at the 1997 JI Symposium in Canada. Height - 40" - branching - long bloom season..... **\$30.**

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**

SANS SOUCI NURSERY
L. Bruce Hornstein DVM

INTRODUCTIONS by DR. WILLIAM ACKERMAN



ASHTON SNOW - Sdlg. B5-5 JI (3F.), 30" (76cm), M. S. chalk white, narrow purple rim; style arms white, lips blushed pale purple; F. chalk white, aureolin yellow signal. M91-55: (Double Cream x Enduring Pink Frost) X Double Cream. \$35.



ASHTON DREAM - Sdlg. A4-4-86. JI (3F.), 33" (84cm.), E. S. pale lobelia blue, edged dark hyacinth blue; style arms white with violet blue lips, broad; F. pale lobelia blue, shading to white around golden yellow signal; margins crinkled. Gosho Asobi X self. \$35.00

SANS SOUCI NURSERY
L. Bruce Hornstein DVM



ASHTON PRIDE - Sdlg. AW2-6. JI (6F.), 36" (91 cm), EM
F. violet blue veins on lighter ground; style arms near white
midrib, pale violet blue lips and edge. A3-6-177: (F-7 x P-19)
X Goshō Asobi. \$35.00



ASHTON VELVET - Sdlg. B1-14. JI (3F.), 28" (71 cm), M.
S. Deep pansy violet with narrow white margin; style arms
pansy violet rimmed white; F. veined deep violet, heaviest near
aureolin yellow signal, paler methyl violet to sea lavender violet
ground. M91-62: (D5 (11-33) irradiated seed x self) X Taffeta
and Velvet \$50.00

SPECIAL OFFER - BUY ALL FOUR FOR \$140.00
FALL DELIVERY ONLY

Sans Souci Nursery, 3819 Beatty Road, Monkton, MD
21111 Tel. 410-557-0250



Tsumugi Otome



Nagai Jyamonegasa

Mifuchi No Nami





Hagyu Village with wild species of I. Ensata



Tsumabeni



Mr. Nagata with white colored mutant

NAGAI TYPE JAPANESE IRIS



Nagai Ayame Garden