

THE
REVIEW OF THE SOCIETY
FOR
JAPANESE IRISES



VOLUME 36
NUMBER 2
FALL 1999



Convention Photos: Top – Chad Harris, Lorena Reid, Lee Walker, Terry Aitken; bottom – Shirley Pope, Evelyn White, Terry Aitken.
Photos by Betsy Davis

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

VOLUME 36 NUMBER 2

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----|
| Officers and Appointments | 2 |
| Cover Photos | 3 |
| President's Letter - Terry Aitken | 4 |
| Editor's Review - Evelyn White. | 5 |
| Business Items | 6 |
| Available: 1999 J.I. Checklist / Membership list | 7 |
| 1998 Japanese Iris Awards - Clarence Mahan. | 8 |
| 1999 SJI Convention Reports | 9 |
| Convention Speaker - Currier McEwen. | 15 |
| Convention Awards Presentations | 15 |
| Visit at Lee Walker's - L. Bruce Hornstein | 18 |
| A Japanese Iris Report - Sharon Lipiec (Virginia) | 20 |
| 1999 JI Show Reports | 21 |
| Executive Board Meeting - Carol Warner, Sec.. | 26 |
| 1999 Popularity Poll - Kathy Guest. | 27 |
| Comments from Members | 28 |
| Information on SJI Robins / Membership Reminder. | 29 |
| Nominating Committee Report | 30 |
| Notes. | 31 |
| Advertisement | 32 |

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COVER PHOTOS

Front Cover: **GEISHA OBI** (Rich '88), 1998 Payne Medal winner, Photo by J. Coble;

Back Cover: **SING THE BLUES** (L.Reid '98) 1st Place winner within Region at '99 Convention, Photo by Reid.

Inside Front Cover: 1999 Convention Award Winners.

Inside Back Cover: **DIRIGO PINK MILESTONE** (J.White 2000), top; John White in Seedling Garden, bottom, (Photos by Shirley Pope).

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Terry Aitken)

Looking back on this past year, things have worked out pretty well to keep the wheels of progress turning smoothly. A group of volunteers stepped forward to deal with a review of the Bylaws. I thank Jim and Jill Copeland, Bob Bauer, John Coble and Kathy Guest for their efforts. I am pleased to report that the bylaws changes passed with but one dissenting vote. We can now go back to business as usual, and in harmony with AIS.

In the "new plant" department, we are closing out the century with some truly outstanding progress in Japanese iris breeding. Building on Currier McEwen's earlier work, *Exuberant Chantey* and *Southern Son*, come the Aitken fall rebloomers. From Maine come John White's pink long-blooming plants; in Washington are Chad Harris' long-blooming violet Japanese irises, and in Oregon, Lee Walker's tetraploids, some of which have repeat bloom tendencies. I believe the future expanded popularity of Japanese irises lies with the everblooming irises.

This year's highlight was the Japanese Iris Convention in Oregon and Washington. My thanks to the Greater Portland Iris Society, who seem always to be up for a party. A good judge's training session was led by Jill Copeland. We had interesting guest speakers, Currier McEwen and Lee Walker. Five tour gardens, (Aitken, Harris, Ludi, Plottner and Lorena Reid), provided a variety of bloom times, and a lively auction following the closing banquet will fatten the coffers of the SJI. At the Awards Banquet, Distinguished Service awards were presented to Shirley Pope, a former SJI President, for her service to SJI in many capacities and to Evelyn White for her work on the SJI Review. For an organization that operates virtually by mail, The Review is of paramount importance to the membership.

As an organization, our immediate future need is for a location for a Japanese Convention for the year 2002. As I stated in Portland this June, planning a Section Convention is similar to planning a Region meeting. Are there any clubs out there who

would volunteer to sponsor a Japanese iris party in 2002?
Please let us hear from you!

We grow irises out of fascination with the beauty of the flowers and in wonder at what is possible through breeding. I look forward to the next century and a world of possibilities. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

Terry

EDITOR'S REVIEW

First - I must say "Thank you" to all of our contributors. Some even sent material without it being requested! That's always a nice surprise.

Our SJI Convention in Oregon was a huge success! The rain showers seemed to stop whenever we approached a garden - as if they had been so requested. The gardens were in beautiful shape, even though bloom was not at peak. I would have loved to have made a tour of them again about 10 days later. Thanks to Convention Chairman Chad Harris and all of his helpers. **Now - who's next?** Where will we visit in 2002?

PLEASE: If you have thought about writing something for *The Review*, do it this winter when gardens are put to bed. Also - **Show Chairman** for the year 2000 - please send me information on your show plans, so I may include them in the Spring issue. Remember, the deadline for my receiving material for the Spring issue is **February 15, 2000**. I'll be watching the mail.

Best Wishes to you all.

Evelyn White

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.

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NEW 1999 J. I. CHECKLIST

The 1997 and 1998 registrations and introductions have been added to the "old" 1997 SJI Checklist before we made a necessary reprint. Now, all updates, including awards, can be found in the "new" 1999 JI Checklist.

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SJI MEMBERSHIP LIST AVAILABLE

An up-to-date membership list for SJI can be obtained from Membership Chairman Bob Bauer. It will be 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)

1998 AIS JAPANESE IRIS AWARDS

(Clarence Mahan)

W.A.PAYNE MEDAL

GEISHA OBI (J. Rich) 24 votes

Runners-up

Picotee Princess (L. Reid) 22 votes

Joy Peters (W. Ackerman) 16 votes

AWARD OF MERIT

Tie

INK ON ICE (T. Aitken) 22 votes

RASPBERRY GLOW (T. Aitken) 22 votes

Runners-up

CASCADE SPRING DRESS (L. Reid) 19 votes

EPIMETHEUS (S. Innerst) 16 votes

PINK DACE (Jill Copeland) 16 votes

HONORABLE MENTION

ROSE WATER (Bauer/Coble) 25 votes

LION KING (Bauer/Coble) 22 votes

TIDELINE (Bauer/Coble) 13 votes

FROSTED PLUM (J. Rich/Ensata) 11 votes

PERSEPHONE (S. Innerst) 11 votes

PLEASANT EARLYBIRD (C. Harris) 11 votes

SUMMER MOON (J. Rich/Ensata) 11 votes

VARIATION IN PINK (C. McEwen) 11 votes

Runners-up

TROPICAL STORM (Bauer/Coble) 10 votes

RED RINGLET (T. Aitken) 8 votes

1999 CONVENTION REPORTS

June 24, 25, 26, 1999

Portland, Oregon

The 1999 SJI Convention, with headquarters at the Monarch Hotel in Clackamas, opened with a Welcome Dinner on Thursday evening, June 24th. Two days of garden visits followed.

REPORTS OF CONVENTION GARDENS

AITKEN'S SALMON CREEK GARDEN

Terry and Barbara Aitken

(by L. Bruce Hornstein - Maryland)

We had left a beautiful garden in the foothills of Mt. Hood, where it was raining and then suddenly turned so cool that it was reminiscent of a garden in Colorado during last year's national convention when it actually snowed. In contrast the bus now pulled into Salmon Creek Garden, the home of Terry and Barbara Aitken, in brilliant sunshine. Along the path leading to the iris bloom was a wonderful variegated English holly accompanied by roses, dianthus, digitalis, sweet williams, and hostas that added to our feelings of welcome.

Before us were two huge Siberian clumps of Cambridge (Brummit '71, an English Dykes recipient) and Regency Buck (McEwen '84) and lined out medians, including one of my favorites, the SDB Jeweler's Art (Lankow '93). Japanese iris that stood out were Pleasant Sandman (Harris '98) a huge 6F white sanded blue-violet, Dirigo Debutante (John White '94) a white ground with violet sanding and veining-3F. Indigo Delight (Aitken '93), a blue with a white halo, was lined out culminating in a large clump sprinkled with raindrops from a recent shower. These had held up well in the rain, as had Pleasant Starburst (Harris '98), sanded violet with a white ray pattern 6F. Rivulets of Wine (Aitken '99), a 6F white with red veins and a red halo showed wonderful form. Also showing off were an elegant white seedling by Sessyu/Kamo, 92FA3-1, and Joycos Collar (Hublau '96) another spectacular white with a yellow signal and

light yellow rays. There were good representations of McEwen's Japanese Pinwheel, Aitken's Ink on Ice, Jeweled Sea (Payne '69), Knight in Armor (Marx '59) and many others too numerous to mention. Raspberry Glow (Aitken '92) was a singularly attractive well grown clump. Amid all the modern varieties the timeless charm and simple beauty of Rose Queen (Lilly 1915) stood out.

A large bed of Louisianas attested to the diversity and range of iris species in this magnificent garden. The 'piece de resistance' of the entire garden was an area of seedlings enclosed by wooden partitions that gave the appearance of large window boxes. About 6 different cultivar crosses were thus compartmentalized, making an unusual display - sheer genius! Lunch served in the greenhouse, where we were surrounded by blooming orchids, was of "died and gone to heaven" quality. As the bus pulled out of the driveway after a delightful visit, the heavens opened and it poured. Thank you, Terry and Barbara for sharing your unique and lovely garden with us and for ordering such beautiful weather

MT. PLEASANT IRIS FARM

Chad Harris

(by Carol Warner - Maryland)

Mt. Pleasant Iris Farm, the home of Chad Harris and Dale Grams, is Japanese iris heaven! This 75 acre parcel with immaculate beds of irises cut into the hillside had already received eight feet of rain so far this year. A spring at the top of the hill provides water for the house and any irrigation that might be necessary. Some of us had seen Chad and Dale's small garden in Vancouver on a previous convention tour and we knew we were going to be in for a real treat. The garden is located in a scenic area along Route 14, so there were lots of regulations put on the development of the property. The remodeled Northwest farmhouse is painted a dark brown which Chad calls "Gram's Brown". It is a special mix of paint which is heavy in metals and doesn't mold.

All the irises (and other plants) are superbly grown and maintained. There were huge clumps of guest irises, Chad's

personal collection, and huge beds of first, second, and third year seedlings. The seedlings seemed to be blooming earlier than most of the guests and provided a huge display of color. One numbered seedling that drew a lot of attention was 95 JB-3, a three fall purple with a bright blue halo. The 3 standards were quite large and looked like they would like to be falls. Is this a class that could be called "semi double"? 94JA-7 is a ruffled six fall powder blue with white halo and styles. 95JJ-1 was surrounded by many conventioners. It has three white falls with dark blue-violet veins and the standards are pink! Chad says this flower is "not what he was aiming for", but some of us decided that a good name might be "Reconsider This".

Chad had several pink seedlings in his first year seedling area that showed lots of promise. He is particularly interested in good branching and bloom sequence.

Some of the irises which were particularly nice in this garden included: Galatea Marx, Sapphire Star, Springtime Snow, Hatsu Kagami, Ask-Scent Pink, Kyomai, and Isejo No Haru. A very tall clump of Mizu-No-Hikari really displayed a true light blue color, and Momojido was very pink with a beautiful blue halo around the signal.

Other plantings included fruit trees, a formal vegetable garden near the driveway with tomatoes, potatoes, beans, and flowers too. A perennial bed beside the house had huge clumps of hosta including Lakeport Blue, Krossa Regal, Golden Tiara, Blue Cadet, and Ellerbrook. There were also magnificent specimens of Tricertis, tree peonies, ferns, hydrangea, deciduous azaleas, and a 2 foot clump of I. Graminea. (I never knew Graminea grew that tall.) Chad and Dale have taken the natural flow of the stream beside the restored barn and created a pond with Koi and water lilies.

I was fortunate to be able to return to this garden on the 4th of July. The iris bloom was almost at peak, and the sight from Route 14 was just breathtaking. A return visit proved that irises need to be evaluated several times during the bloom season. The seedling that we named "Reconsider This" had much elongated falls and showed other faults in bloom sequence. Other varieties that looked good on first bloom were not impressive and others were incredible. Chad has a couple seedlings that are just

fantastic and were marked as possible introductions; I can hardly wait. Bloom season at Mt. Pleasant may last for at least a month and a half or longer this year, and the rain and cool temperatures continued.

LAURIE'S GARDEN

Lorena Reid

(by Shirley Paquet - South Carolina)

It is always a pleasure to visit Lorena Reid's garden. Set among the evergreens near the McKenzie River, the Japanese, Sino-Sibes, and other inter-species crosses in good bloom beckon to "Come see" as the buses come to a stop.

Entering the garden, you are greeted by a bed of Lorena's award-winning introductions with GEISHA GOWN a mass of bloom. In Lorena's own seedling patch, a row of SING THE BLUES gathered a mass of admirers, along with a sister seedling equally unique. (SING THE BLUES was voted Best Japanes iris from within Region seen on tour.)

Among the guest plantings in good bloom were ALPINE MAJESTY (Aitken), TIDELINE (Bauer/Coble), KOSHUI-NO-ASA (Shimizu), FRACTAL BLUE (Reid), and BLUSHING CRIMSON (Rich). An Innerst seedling, 4631-1, also caught my eye.

Many Sino-Sibes and other species and seedlings attracted attention with their unique forms and colorations. Lorena is a pioneer in this area of hybridizing and has introduced several cultivars of note.

Lunch was served under the trees next to the garden, so we could continue to appreciate the bloom until it was time to board the buses.

Thanks, Lorena, for opening your garden to us!

THE LUDI GARDEN (Riley Probst - Missouri)

Memories are funny things. In my mind I had a memory of being at the Ludi Mountain View Iris Garden in May of 1994 at the great Portland A.I.S. Convention. I remembered how many tall bearded iris were in full bloom, not enough time to see them all. I remembered some of the standouts that caught my camera's eye then, such as RHONDA FLEMING (Mullin, R. '93) and ALIZES (Cayeux '92). I remember taking a picture of Mount Baker in the background. I wondered what the garden would look like this time, five years and one month later, in full bloom of Japanese instead of tall bearded.

Well, Mt. Baker was still there, so they said, but we were unable to see it through the clouds and mist. The old farm machinery was a little bit more rusted, but still gave character to the garden. Many tall bearded iris were still here, but they were mostly finished blooming. The guest Japanese Irises were here along the driveway with their lush green foliage. But, we were too early, or the season was too late, to see very many in bloom.

This cool, misty day my camera caught one Japanese iris in bloom and that was GALATEA MARX (Marx, W. 1961), ruffled blue with white pencil veining. However, since I am an irisarian who appreciates all types of iris, there were others in bloom. The last of the tall bearded iris were still blooming. RASPBERRY FRILLS (Schreiner '84), a heavily laced raspberry purple looked good enough that I was able to take a picture of it. Since the Ludis grow so many different types of irises, it seemed that this day belonged to the spurias. The ones that looked the best to me that day were ILA CRAWFORD (Hager, B. '76), a ruffled white with an orange-yellow signal; CINNAMON STICK (Niswonger, D. '83), maroon and gold; COUNTESS ZEPPELIN (Hager, B. '87), deep mauve with yellow signal; CHOCOLATE FUDGE (Niswonger '88), brown and golden yellow; and COLOR FOCUS (Jenkins, C. '90) with light purple standards, and ivory falls with a purple edge and a

large yellow signal, striking! This one, which is out of ILA CRAWFORD really caught my eye.

Since this was the first garden visit of the morning, the most popular place was the refreshment area under the canopy they had set up. The hot coffee and the delicious warm sausage balls were the best. All of the refreshments were good, but anything warm tasted extra good that day. A big thanks to the Ludis, John and Kay, and also John and Wava. Their hospitality was great. And, I bet they got to enjoy the Japanese guest irises in the peace and quiet of their tranquil mountain view setting a week or two later.

WILDWOOD GARDENS

Will and Tracy Plottner

(Andrew Wheeler - Massachusetts)

The Japanese irises in the Plottner garden had not reached peak when we were there, but a number of the earlier irises were putting on a pretty good show. The most striking of the JI's was OBA, a double pink with fine darker sanding; that is certainly something my garden needs. VARIATION IN PINK (McEwen '96) was also one of the few that were showing off in the garden. I was struck by the minimal amount of lavender in it, which permitted the pink to really show through.

The Plottners seem to be well on their way to recovery from a gardener's worst nightmare. My mother had told me to look for the Hosta garden at Plottner's; this had been beautiful at the AIS Convention a few years ago. But the next year flooding took that and much of their low-lying field garden away. Will and Tracy Plottner are dedicated gardeners and have plans to reconstruct their Hosta garden next year. Best wishes to them!

The Japanese iris were on their way though, in an area not affected, and the plantings looked quite nice, with Hemerocallis and Bearded iris furnishing color in the opposing row.

Dr. Currier McEwen - Convention Guest Speaker

As part of the program at the SJI Convention in Portland, Oregon, Dr. McEwen spoke of his opportunity to work with flowers in the early 50's. By mistake, a Schreiner's catalog was delivered to his address in New York, his residence at the time. (This is an example of what he calls "McEwen Luck".) He ordered some bearded irises and made a few crosses.

In 1960, while attending a medical meeting in Chicago, Currier met Orville Faye and learned of Faye's work with daylily seedlings, using colchicine to double the number of chromosomes. (Before this, Dr. McEwen knew colchicine mainly as a treatment for gout.) The tetraploids resulting from the colchicine use were larger, and the blooms more striking. Currier decided to try this method with beardless irises.

In tall bearded irises, chromosomes have become doubled naturally. By using colchicine, Currier says that it may take 3 or 4 years of checking the pollen in the Siberian and Japanese blooms to be certain that tetraploidy has been achieved. 50% or more of diploid seeds will germinate. With tetraploids it is necessary to make more crosses because, in general, tetraploid pods produce fewer seeds.

Dr. McEwen's success with colchicine is evident in both his Siberian and Japanese introductions. At the end of his presentation, he graciously responded to audience questions and received hearty applause.

AWARDS PRESENTATIONS

At the Awards Banquet on Saturday evening, the results of the ballots voted by the convention-goers were announced. They are:

Within Region 13

Best Japanese Iris

1. SING THE BLUES (Lorena Reid)
2. ALPINE MAJESTY (Terry Aitken)

Best Seedling

1. 93-68-2 (Lee Walker)
2. 9J-55-10 (Lorena Reid)

OUTSIDE OF REGION 13

Best Japanese Iris

1. KOSHUI NO ASA (Shimizu)
2. VARIATION IN PINK (Currier McEwen)

Best Seedling

1. SW-SPB-BST (Donald Delmez)
2. J92-HH-2 (Bauer/Coble)

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE HONORS

(Clarence Mahan)

The Board of Directors of the Society for Japanese Irises has elected to recognize the distinguished service of Shirley Pope and Evelyn White with its special award of Honorary Life Membership. Our President, Terry Aitken, presented Honorary Life Membership plaques to Shirley and Evelyn at this year's SJI convention in Portland, Oregon.

Shirley Pope has served our society for many years in several capacities and always with great dedication, integrity and managerial excellence. Our society had significant growth in membership and finances during her tenure as president. Shirley lives in Gorham, Maine with her husband Maurice. Of course gardeners know both 'Shirley Pope' and 'Maurice Pope' as beautiful Siberian irises named in their honor by Currier McEwen and John White, respectively.

Shirley, who is currently a Director of AIS and the AIS Chairman for Affiliates, has also served as President of the

Maine Iris Society and Regional Vice President for Region 1. When I asked Shirley what her favorite Japanese iris is, she replied: "JAPANESE PINWHEEL without question!" JAPANESE PINWHEEL (McEwen '88) is a past winner of the Payne Medal, so we know it is highly regarded by a lot of judges.

Evelyn Jones White, who lives in Minot, Maine, has been editor of *The Review* of the Society for Japanese Irises since 1992. Evelyn was born in Camden, Maine and is a graduate of Bates College. She taught Latin, Math and English in earlier years, and with her husband John, reared four sons and a daughter. Evelyn and John have six grandsons and six granddaughters. Their children and grandchildren all live in Maine. Our society has been fortunate, indeed, to have such a talented editor. Even when she was suffering from serious illness Evelyn made certain that *The Review* went out on time.

You might be interested in knowing that Evelyn told me, after much prodding, that her favorite Japanese iris is DIRIGO PINK MILESTONE (White R.'99) which has not yet been introduced. She said she realized she might be prejudiced considering this iris was hybridized by her husband, but she really likes the purity of its true pink color. Prejudiced, Evelyn? Never! (In case you did not know, the Latin word "dirigo", which means "I lead", is the motto of the State of Maine.)

Evelyn also told me that if she could name a second favorite, Lorena Reid's SING THE BLUES (1997) is just terrific. Shirley Pope really likes SING THE BLUES, too. When two women from Maine praise the same iris, you know it must be a winner.

Knowing that Evelyn's modesty might pose a problem, she has been given firm instructions that she is not to "edit" this article. Maine is not a large state, but it sure produces talented people. Congratulations, Evelyn. Congratulations, Shirley.

A Pilgrimage to see the "Wunderkind" of Japanese hybridizing"

**L. Bruce Hornstein
Monkton,MD**

I heard Lee Walker, an energetic young man with a Phd in genetics, speak at the national convention in Oklahoma on his new line of Japanese seedlings. Then he showed slides of his new "Craola" hybrids and "WOW"!! If they were a fraction as color intense as portrayed in his slides, then they were certainly worth looking into. I later spoke to Lee about the possibility of visiting his garden at the time of the JI Nat'l convention in Portland, Oregon, and he graciously invited me. He also casually mentioned that he was a good distance from Portland.

The day prior to the JI Convention we left the Monarch Hotel for a 3 hour drive (each way) to visit Lee's garden in Ten Mile, Oregon. We departed under cloudy skies with a weather prediction of day-long, intermittent showers.

The first thing that caught our eyes on arrival were large plantings of Spurias with some remaining bloomstalks. Our host warmly greeted us and immediately began showing his Spurias, some 4,000 to 5,000 seedlings, and briefly told about his hybridizing efforts with this species.

Then we were guided through extensive beds of some 3500 well-grown Japanese seedlings. Lee explained that it hadn't rained in over 7 weeks and that temperatures had dropped below freezing about the second week in May. Water for irrigation had been hauled in daily from several miles away, as the well had a ph of 9.

Despite these hardships, the garden showed little, if any, signs of stress. The blooms were magnificent. Especially impressive were the luminescent blues which appeared to have depth that was almost 3 dimensional. Lee explained that he used certain

techniques to eliminate gray to produce greater luminescence in his "Craolas". Even with the overcast skies, the garden was illuminated with color.

The best was yet to come in the tetraploid seedlings. These were an assortment of vigorous, colorful well-grown 2 year plants that evoked immediate feelings of envy. Lee demonstrated his technique for hand pollinating, using mature pollen held for anywhere from 4 hours to several days prior to pollination. This was done without refrigeration. He felt that presence of moisture in the style was directly proportional to successful results.

Lee's entire being and speech reflected his passion in hybridizing, and I found his enthusiasm to be infectious. The following evening, he showed slides of his seedlings and made an impassioned plea to the general convention audience to grow tetraploids and reblooming JI's. Hopefully, we shall be equally inspired.



Lee Walker seedlings: Top row (l.to r.): 93-75-19; 96-37-5; bottom row (l. to r.):96-61-24; 96-18-45. Photos by Walker

JAPANESE IRIS REPORT 1999
(Sharon Lipiec - Fredericksburg, Virginia)

In the 12th month of severe drought and seemingly never-ending 100 temperatures, there was not much hope for JI bloom in my garden. Grown in tubs on a slope, a total of 8 were lost to a mild winter. Once more I vowed to give up on these temperamental beauties!

Those I had nurtured in drifts in the front yard beds and watered from stock tanks, when readily available, tried but came up short. In a one week stretch of 70 weather the drift of UZI NO UMI had lush plants and put up many blooms to contrast with a misnamed 3-fall burgundy and one clump of BELLENDER BLUE. These were first-year plantings.

In two narrow plastic-lined beds, a first year planting of CHIRO NO HARU was superb. But, it had also been a good-sized starter clump. THE GREAT MOGUL did valiantly from a small start, not reaching its usual height. OL' MAN RIVER and ROYAL GAME, as late bloomers, were seared by the extreme heat. PEACOCK DANCE, no matter where grown over the past 4 years, continues to have stunted foliage though, in a plastic-lined bed, it threw several stalks. The one in-ground did not bloom. My second try of KALAMAZOO continues to be very slow to increase.

Despite the extreme adverse conditions, I, and visitors, were stunned by 36" - 48" stalks on DEWA NO AKEBONO, KOKKYO NO HARU, DARK ENCHANTMENT and GOOD OMEN growing in tubs. Blooming at different times, each was applauded on its own. Also in tubs, HAGOROMO, IKE NO SAZANAMI and ROSE QUEEN bravely bloomed to carry the season. While KATY MENDEZ threw up a lot of stalks, they dried up before blooming. PINK MYSTERY continues with one fan through its first year.

All they need do is bloom, and once more I continue to nurture these Queens of the iris world rather than selling them off!

1999 JI SHOW REPORTS

Visalia, California---May 22---Ed Matheny III

The Sequoia Iris Society held its May Iris Festival at the Visalia Mall on Tuesday, May 22nd. Horticultural awards were, as follows:

| Horticultural Awards: | Variety | Award Winner |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Best Specimen of Show | Chief Sequoia | John Weiler |
| Visalia Mall Manager's Choice | Dark Enchantment-Ed Matheny | |
| President's Choice | Evelyn Hayes | " |
| Best Japanese Single | Returning Tide | " |
| Best Japanese Double | Gay Gallant | " |
| Best Louisiana | Sea Consul | Joe Nunes |
| Best Median Bearded | Gnureyz | George Sutton |
| Best Other Median | Fedishimz | Joe Nunes |
| Best Spuria | Look Lively | George Sutton |
| Best Tall Bearded | Queen of Angels | " |
| Best Seedling | SPR3 | " |

Artistic Awards:

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Best Design | Joe Nunes |
| Best Japanese Shin Nagerie Style | " |
| Best Japanese Ikebana Style | Ed Matheny |
| Best Ups | Sharon Meisenheimer |
| Best Down | Joe Nunes |
| Best Round | " |
| Best "Oriental Dream" | " |

St. Louis Missouri...June 6... Sue Delmez

The Grater St. Louis Iris Society held its annual Beardless Iris Show on June 6 at the Missouri Botanical Garden. There were 11 exhibitors showing 137 entries, Blue Spritz, a Japanese iris exhibited by Nyla Hughes won "Queen of Show". Again this year we had many beautiful seedlings, making it difficult to choose from. Don Delmez's SP-PHST, a lovely pink 3 fall JI with peach standards won out.

The Silver medal was awarded to Orville and Lu Dickhaut with 16 blue ribbons. Nyla Hughes won the Bronze medal with 11.

In the Youth Division we had 2 exhibitors showing 12 entries. Best Specimen was a J.I., Agrippine, shown by Stephanie Rust. Stephanie also won the Silver medal with 9 blues, and Christopher Rust won the Bronze medal with 3 blues. Best Design - Christopher Rust. Best Educational Exhibit - Stephanie Rust.

The local Ikebana Society graced our show again with their lovely arrangements.

Hendersonville, North Carolina...June 10-11...Walter Hoover

The Carolina Mountains Iris Society held its Eighth Annual North Carolina All-Japanese Iris Show on June 10 and 11 at the Opportunity House in Hendersonville. With 11 exhibitors, 97 entries, and 82 varieties represented, the well publicized show drew much public interest.

PRAIRIE INDIGO, exhibited by Walter Hoover, won Queen of Show. Best Seedling, IBC-3, was exhibited by Pat and Randal Bowen. The silver medal was awarded to Walter Hoover and the bronze medal to June Middleton.

CMIS has set next June 15 and 16, a week later than this year's dates, as the show dates for the year 2000 in an effort to have growers living at our higher elevations better represented in this annual All-Japanese Iris Show.

Townsend, Delaware---June 13---Theresa Jewell

The Diamond State Iris Society's Beardless (Japanese) Show was held at Willey's Farm Market in Townsend, DE on June 13th. The show was placed directly at the entrance to the garden center. We had a late bloom season, which left me (the show chairman) running from one person's garden to another to see if we had anything for a show. The day before the show, I

thought we would be lucky to have 20 show stalks. I refused to cancel the judges because I feel each show should be judged, and you just never know. I spoke with everyone on the phone and asked him or her to bring everything they had, even if it was not show quality.

As it turned out, we had over 80 entries, with 2 Siberians, 6 Louisiana's, 2 versatas, 2 versicolors and 5 collections. SNOWY HILLS, exhibited by June Roop, won Queen of Show, closely followed by JAPANESE PINWHEEL, exhibited by Connie Marino. The other runners-up were IAPETUS and SCHERAZADE, presented by Dennis Hager and MIDNIGHT STARS shown by June Roop. There were 8 exhibitors, 2 of whom were youth. We also had one member bring in lots of plant material, along with iris not used in benching. She created Ikebana arrangements that were outstanding! The public loved them. Next year we will have an arrangement category added to our schedule.

This was the first year of displaying the iris on tables which were 14" tall, made of polyurethane coated birch with legs and trim painted a glossy black. Quite a presentation! This display generated a great deal of interest with the public. I have never witnessed this amount of public enthusiasm at any other iris show, bearded or beardless. Thanks to all!

Beltsville, Maryland---June 19--- Sylvia Smith

The Francis Scott Key and the Chesapeake & Potomac Chapters of the American Iris Society held a joint Beardless Iris Show at Behne's Nursery in Beltsville, MD on June 19th. There were 11 exhibitors. 108 entries consisted of 71 varieties and 19 seedlings. The predominant type of iris entered was Japanese.

The Best Specimen was MAINE CHANCE, a Japanese iris exhibited by Carol Warner. The Silver Medal for Most Blue Ribbons was won by Carol Warner with 12 blue ribbons. The Bronze Medal was awarded to Sara and Walter Marley. They had two blue ribbons and four reds.

The judges were:

Ms. Frances Thrash, 2109 Cocoa Circle, Virginia Beach, VA

Mr. Bill Smoot, 213 Derby Road, Portsmouth, VA

Mr. E. A. (Bud) Maltman, 206 Miltown Rd., Wilmington, DE

Kalamazoo, Michigan...July 3...John Coble

The Southwestern Michigan Iris Society, for the second year, held a display rather than an AIS judged show at Maple Hill Mall in Kalamazoo. Everyone that approached any of the five tables of Japanese Iris was handed a blue ribbon and was asked to place it on the table in front of their favorite bloom. 194 ribbons were placed around the tables during the show.

30 cultivars were on exhibit, plus 7 unknowns (lost labels), and 6 seedlings (2 named but not introduced *). This year's public vote tallied:

HEGIRA (Innerst '86) - 29 ribbons

JAPANESE PINWHEEL (McEwen '88) - 11 ribbons

LION KING (Bauer/Coble '96) - 11 ribbons

EILEEN'S DREAM* (Bauer/Coble '00) - 11 ribbons

TIDELINE (Bauer/Coble '95) - 8 ribbons

CRESTED SURF* (Bauer/Coble '00) - 8 ribbons

CROWNING MOMENT (Bauer/Coble '97) - 8 ribbons

Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts---July 5---Marion Stafford

Western New England Iris Society hosted the Region 1 Japanese Iris Seedling Show on July 5 at the Buckland Shelburne Community Center in Shelburne Falls, MA. As usual, there was a great deal of interest and good attendance by the general public

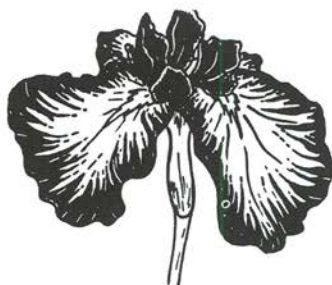
Sixty three seedlings were exhibited by four hybridizers. Award for Best Seedling of show went to John White of Minot, ME for #95JF-W16-3, a beautiful pink, three branched ensata. He also

won the Silver Medal with 13 blue ribbons. Carol Blais of Ludlow, MA won the Bronze Medal with 6 blue ribbons. The AIS judge commented on the superior quality of the seedlings and felt that several warranted introduction.

To stimulate continuing interest of the public in general, we also exhibited named varieties and gave ballots to everyone visiting the show to vote for their favorite iris. TIDE LINE received the most votes. There were 47 named varieties to choose from. Andrew Wheeler exhibited TIDE LINE and most of the other named varieties, as his was the only local garden still in peak bloom.

The public also wrote a number on their ballot and there was a drawing from these at the end of the show. The prize was a named variety of *Iris ensata*. There were 4 classes in the Design Division. Best Design was awarded to Evelyn White for her entry in the "Quiet Corner" class.

We feel that allowing the public to participate in our show in some way has been very rewarding, as Western New England Iris Society has gained 27 new members since our first iris show on May 30 of this year. Also there has been an interest in growing varied types and species of irises in an area that formerly grew mostly tall-bearded.



The Society for Japanese Irises
Executive Board Meeting
June 25, 1999 Portland, Oregon

The executive board meeting of the Society for Japanese Irises was called to order by the President, Terry Aitken, at 6:45 p.m. Friday, June 25, 1999 at the Monarch Hotel in Portland, Oregon. Officers present were Jill Copeland, V.P.; Carol Warner, Secretary; Robert Bauer, Treasurer; John Coble, immediate past president; and directors Bruce Hornstein and Lorena Reid. Sixteen other members signed the attendance sheet.

President Aitken's first item of business was the announcement of the results of the vote on the bylaw revision. The revised bylaws were overwhelmingly passed with only one dissenting vote.

Chad Harris brought up the issue of who will pay for the shipping of the auction irises. Discussion followed on procedures followed at previous conventions where shipping of auction irises was covered out of the auction money collected. This expense is incurred "because of" the auction. Ideas expressed included: the convention should pay for itself through registrations, funds should be used at the discretion of the hosting club, SJI should not dictate to the local host clubs, and postage for irises returned to the contributing hybridizers should be covered by the convention funds. An announcement will be made before the auction that prices paid include postage. There is a need for some kind of policy. Two ideas were presented; one for auction funds to cover any expenses not covered by registration, and one to cover only auction postage expenses.

This is the last scheduled SJI convention, so president Aitken asked for volunteers to host future meetings. Dennis Hager of Millington, Maryland and the Diamond State Iris Society said there was a possibility that regions 3, 4 and 19 might combine to host the 2005 meeting in the Wilmington, DE area. A suggestion was also made that Shirley Pope ask Steve Smith

from Massachusetts to see if there would be interest there to host in 2002. The conventions need to stay on a 3 year rotation to avoid conflict with the other section conventions.

Gigi Hall raised a question about the new Cumulative Checklist which has the obsolete names omitted. Those obsolete names are still in the data base and Bob Bauer can print the entire thing if anyone would like a copy. He can also supply the checklist on disc or he can export it from Microsoft Access. Anyone wanting these services should contact Bob.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Carol Warner, Secretary

1999 JAPANESE IRIS POPULARITY POLL

(Kathy Guest - New York)

This year I received 53 ballots from 19 states and 2 countries. New York submitted the most ballots at 6. This year I got 7 ballots by e-mail, which I encourage. The earliest ballot was submitted by Sharon Lipiec of Virginia.

| | |
|----------|---|
| 17 VOTES | Japanese Pinwheel |
| 13 " | Cascade Crest & Sing The Blues |
| 9 | Frilled Enchantment, Koshui-No-Asa, & Lion King |
| 8 | Alpine Majesty & Iapetus |
| 6 | Center of Attention, Electric Rays, Frosted Pyramid, Jocasta |
| 5 | Chidori, Diomedes, Izu-no-Umi, Picotee Princess, Rose Adagio, Rose World, Rosewater, Tropical Storm |
| 4 | Caprician Butterfly, Crystal Halo, Electric Glow, Joy Peters, Kalamazoo, Niagara Power, Oriental Eyes, Pinkerton, Reign of Glory, Royal Game, Southern Son, Tideline |

Receiving 3 votes each were Abraco, Anna Angelwings, Bellender Blue, Flying Tiger, Fractal Blue, Freckled Geisha, Katy Mendez, Mai Ogi, Maine Chance, Milady's Fan, Patterns in Space, Peacock Dance, Pleasant Starburst, Prairie Twilight, Purple Parasol, Raspberry Glow, Rivulets of Wine, Rolling Seas, Ruffled Dimity, Silent Thunder, Star at Midnight, Stella Niagara, Summer Storm, Thoroughbred.

There were 51 varieties that received 2 votes each, and over 100 that received one vote apiece. (There are certainly many favorites among our membership! Ed.)

Kathy received these comments along with the ballots.

From Rima Walker in Upstate New York: My best is Oriental Fantasy, delicate and very tall. The flowers are 8" across.

From Marty Schafer of Massachusetts: I saw an absolutely beautiful stalk of Picotee Princess at the WNEIS show this summer. It was grown by Steve Smith to perfection.

From Willy Hublau of Belgium: Here in Belgium we had a wet, but mild winter. In my garden bloom came 15 days earlier than normal, starting at the beginning of June with Springtime Snow, Good Omen, and Bellender Blue. Peak bloom was June 22nd with 400 registered varieties and many more seedlings in bloom. Closest to blue in my garden are Diomedes, Southern Son, and Dirigo Old Pewter - real beauties. For the peony types, I liked the form and color pattern of Kosshu-No-Asa (lovely light blue), Tropical Storm and Hagoromo were both splendid. For late bloomers, I liked Summer Storm and Fashion Model - a lovely dark purple.

I was disappointed to not be able to attend the Portland Convention, and it's hard to wait for the next one.

From Don Delmez in Missouri: This was one of those dry springs and the bloom was on the short side. But, all in all, it's been a good year in St. Louis. I've found one more reason to divide JTs in 2 or 3 years - the 1-year plantings do much better.

From Helen Kennedy (British Columbia): I hope you were able to attend the JI Convention in Oregon this year; we both really enjoyed it. Things were really delayed this year - about three weeks - as evidenced by the early JI's out at Aitken's. For example: Ruby Star bloomed June 4th in 1998 - but July 5th in 1999.

From Kathy Guest (New York): As with much of the east coast, we suffered drought this year. We kept water on the JI's, but most did not reach their usual height. Our club puts on an exhibit during Fourth of July weekend along with the Hosta and Daylily Society, and even with the water problem, we had tables full and crowds to ooh and aah over them. And, as usual, Anna Rettig, hybridizer of Niagara Power stole the show.

SJI ROBINS INFORMATION

There are still two SJI Robins flying about the country. If you would like to join either one, please contact Pat Brooks, Robins Chairman. Her address is in the front of this issue. One of the Robins has members who are mostly hybridizers, and the other is for anyone interested in Japanese Irises. Please specify which you prefer.

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER: Please check your label to see when your dues expire. Renewal bills are not sent out, only overdue notices, so please send in your dues before they expire. Send to Robert Bauer, Membership Chairman, (Address p. 2)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominating Committee is pleased to offer the names of the following members to serve as Officers of the Society for Japanese Irises, starting January 1, 2000.

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

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

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

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

Lorena Reid, 41886 McKenzie Hwy., Springfield, OR 97478
Tel. (541) 896-3756

Chad Harris, 12 Marble Road, Washougal, WA 98671
Tel. (360) 835-1016

NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBER (Serving through
2002): Virginia (Jinni) Hill, 1030 Autumn Oak Circle,
Collierville, TN 38017 Tel. (901) 853-2641

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

Respectfully submitted,

Chad Harris, Chairman

James Burke

Donald Delmez

NOTES

POPE'S PERENNIALS
39 Highland Ave.
Gorham, ME 04038-1701

Year 2000 Introduction by John White
Japanese Iris : DIRIGO PINK MILESTONE

This is the most exciting of John's seedlings at present. It is a large rosy-cheeked pink with white edges and a white flash around the signal. There is no trace of lavender - pure pink! Also impressive is the fact that this sturdy plant, with 1-2 branches per stalk, bloomed continuously for 58 days. Order early for Spring delivery. Quantities are limited!.....\$50. See photo on opposite page.

Previous J.I. Introductions by John White

DIRIGO STAR '99 - A striking 6 fall deep purple with white styles and a white blaze, creating a star-like effect.....\$20.
DIRIGO BLUE PLATE '99 - A crisp 3F white with a deep blue border - opens flat, like a plate.....\$20.
DIRIGO CLOUD NINE '98 - Soft sky blue with white center. 6 falls. Vigorous grower!.....\$10.
DIRIGO SNOWFLAKE '98 - Large 6F white, veined light green, floats above foliage - Repeat bloomer.....\$10.
DIRIGO OLD PEWTER '97 - a 6-fall gray/blue-violet with fine veins slightly darker. Unusual color!.....\$5.
DIRIGO DELIGHT '95 - 6 fall, white ground with multi-colored band. Rainbow effect!\$10.
DIRIGO DEBUTANTE '94 - Light violet sanding on white ground/standards red-violet. 3 falls. Weather resistant!.....\$5.

For a complete listing and description of Japanese and Siberian introductions send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Shirley Pope at above address. Indicate Spring or Fall delivery. Please include \$4. for shipping and handling. For Overseas and Canadian orders include \$25 per package for State of Maine Phytosanitary Certificate.



