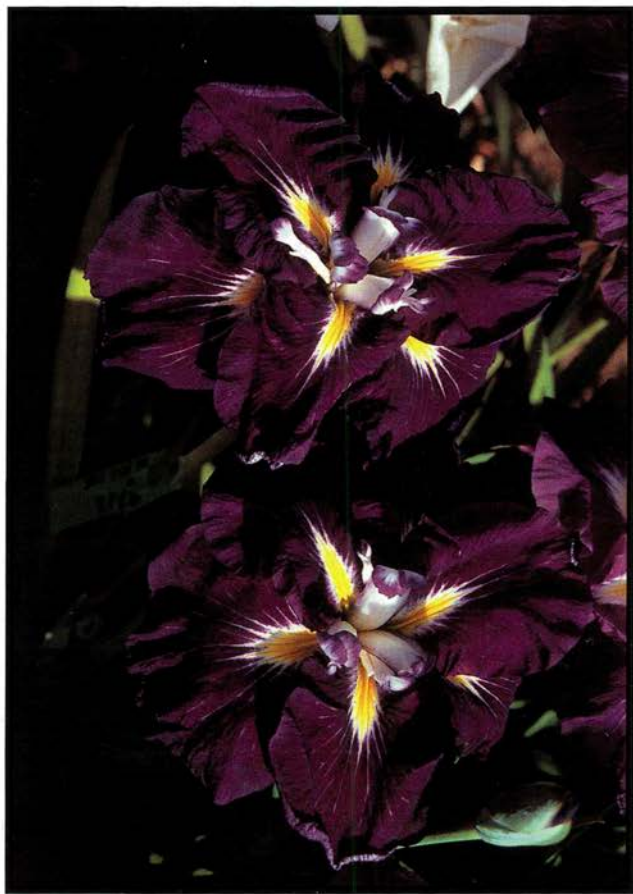


# THE REVIEW

OF THE SOCIETY  
FOR  
JAPANESE IRISES



VOLUME 39  
NUMBER # 1  
SPRING 2002

## WHAT'S NEW!



Early Miniature — 97-J-4 Aitken



Saigyo Zakura

# THE REVIEW OF THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES



VOLUME 39

NUMBER 1

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Officers and Appointments.....	2
Business Items .....	4
Letter from the President – Jill Copeland.....	6
Japanese Iris Yellow Dwarf Disease – Hiroshi Shimizu	8
Show Reports – 2001.....	10
Japanese Iris Display Gardens – Phil Cook.....	11
The Three Scholars of Deshima and the Japanese Iris Clarence Mahan.....	14
Introduction to SJI Officers & Board Members.....	23
Invitation to Hybridizers-2005 Convention.....	25
Hearing from Hybridizers.....	26
2001 Registrations and Introductions.....	28
A Collated Survey of Japanese Iris Culture.....	33
A Place for Open Pollination? -Dennis Hager.....	36
Editor's Essay – Rita Gormley.....	40
Treasurer's Report – Robert Bauer.....	41
Popularity Poll Ballot.....	43

### Cover Photos:

Front Cover: Aitken Seedling 97-J-2 – Photo by J. T. Aitken

Inside Front Cover: What's New!

Aitken Seedling 97-J-4 – Photo by J. T. Aitken

Saigyo Zakura                      Photo by J. T. Aitken

Back Cover: Ji Bog –                      Photo by Cathy Button

Inside Back Cover: What's Old!

Persian Rug (Marx 60)      Photo by Lorena Reid

Wounded Dragon (Payne 63) Photo by Lorena Reid

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SJI is a Section of AIS and all meetings are open to the public.



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## Business Items

The SJI Review is published semi-annually by the Society for Japanese Irises. The editorial office is temporarily located at 78118 M-40, Lawton, MI 49065. Deadlines for receiving copy are February 15<sup>th</sup> and August 15<sup>th</sup>, with earlier receipt desirable. Black and white photographs, slides, 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 - \$5.00 triennial - \$12.50 Life - \$75.00

Family annual - \$6.00 triennial - \$15.50 Life - \$100.00

Youth annual - \$2.00 triennial - \$5.50

Dues may be sent either to the AIS Membership Chairman (Anner Whitehead - see AIS Bulletin for address) or directly to the Membership Chairman, The Society for Japanese Irises.

Address changes: please notify membership chairman

### SALES AND RENTAL ITEMS

The Japanese Iris by Currier McEwen \$24.95

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Please send original photos (prints or slides) for scanning. Advertising copy and payment to SJI should be mailed to the Editor prior to Editorial deadlines.

## 1999 J.I. CHECKLIST

The SJI Checklist contains all registrations and introductions through 1999 of Japanese iris and any interspecies crosses involving Japanese iris. All updates, including awards, can be found in the 1999 edition. The 1999 Checklist is 65 pages of 8.5" X 11" format. The previous edition was published in 1997.

**To order, Send \$4.00 postpaid\* to:**

John Coble, SJI Sales Chairman  
9823 E. Michigan Avenue, Galesburg, MI 49053

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## SJI MEMBERSHIP LIST AVAILABLE

A current SJI membership list can be ordered. This will be a computer printout, listing members alphabetically.  
Send check for \$3, payable to SJI, Bob Bauer, 9823 E. Michigan Avenue Galesburg, MI 49053

# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Jill Copeland

Hi to all,

As I write this (March), my seedlings are germinating. It is almost as much fun and excitement as bloom time. Our congratulations to "Mr. Tetraploid Japanese Irises", Currier McEwen. He was 100 years young on April 1, 2002. Like the Energizer Bunny, he keeps on going and going. I sure hope he has another 100 years.

We have a nice mix of articles in this issue. Among them are Hiroshi Shimizu's article, which will be of interest to commercial growers of Japanese irises. Clarence Mahan's article is of general interest. And the article that I collated from the membership is of special interest to those just starting a Japanese iris garden.

My thanks go to the membership for the many responses to my questionnaire. I didn't send them to the entire membership so if you were not included, I'll try to get you next time. Several of the gardeners, unsolicited, complained about voles. Maybe some of you know what to do about voles and will write and let us know.

A few years ago Kathy Guest and her committee put on a Japanese Iris symposium. I think Kathy's had 6 or 8 speakers. We got together in the fall when we weren't as busy in the garden, and had a wonderful time. It was a great success. I hope some of you would think about doing another symposium. Our next convention is in 2005. Dennis Hager is the chairman and he has a web site for the convention, [www.2005conv.SocJI.org](http://www.2005conv.SocJI.org). That seems a long time away. Maybe we could have a symposium before that. Any volunteers?

Our Robins are in flight again. The General Robin directed by Cindy Rust currently has 8 members. The Hybridizer's Robin now has 9 members. The first 3 people sent it on in record time. If you want to join either of these Robins, the directors and their addresses are listed in the front of this issue under Appointments. Another General JI Robin is an e-mail robin and is directed by Dennis Hager. There are now 62 registered in this Robin. If you would like to join go to: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/JIRobin/>

Good News! Thanks mostly to Bob Bauer and the letter he sent to delinquent members, our membership has almost doubled. Thanks also to Jeannie Plank for putting a temporary Invitation to Join together. There will be some at the



meeting in Memphis. Tom and Rita Gormley are working on a permanent version.

**Good News!!** We have a website. <[www.SocJI.org](http://www.SocJI.org)> Dennis Hager and Bill Smoot have done it. Many thanks, Dennis and Bill! Here is a list of what is planned:

1. Welcome page-index
2. Affiliation-mission statement
3. History
4. Officers
5. Display gardens
6. Meetings/conventions
7. Shows and show reports
8. Sale items/publications
9. Membership information
10. Recent introductions and awards
11. Culture instructions
12. Hybridizing instructions
13. Pictures
14. Links

Go see it. You will enjoy it!

Dennis is also doing a convention website – [www.2005conv.SocJI.org](http://www.2005conv.SocJI.org)

I hope you all have a happy bloom season.

Jill

#### Commercial Directory

Would you like to be listed as a source of Japanese Irises? Would like a link from the new web site? Contact Jill Copeland <[jandjcope@aol.com](mailto:jandjcope@aol.com)> 78118 M-40, Lawton, MI 49065 (616)624-1968.

## Japanese Iris Yellow Dwarf Disease

Hiroshi Shimizu

A scorch-like disease first appeared in a hanashobu garden in Japan's Kanagawa Prefecture in the years 1994 to 1996. The affected plants, *Iris ensata* cultivars, showed several disease symptoms. Central leaves began to wither and die back from the tips. The leaves turned red-brown from the tip to the base within a few days, or in some cases more slowly over a couple of weeks. The rhizome remained firm, but the roots rotted and died.

Dr. Kanehira, an assistant professor at the College of Bioresource Sciences of Nihon University in Kanagawa Prefecture, undertook research of the disease. I provided him a copy of Dr. Currier McEwen's book *The Japanese Iris*, and told him about scorch, MLO (Mycoplasma-like organism), in the USA. This enabled him to decide quickly which analytical method he would use to look for the pathogen. Dr. Kanehira detected the gene of phytoplasma (old name: micoplasma) using primers for 16S rRNA by polymerase chain reaction (PCR). He also found colonies of phytoplasma in phloem sieve elements of affected leaves by electron microscopy. He named the malady the "Japanese Iris Yellow Dwarf" disease.

The report on Dr. Kanehira's research and discovery was published by the Japanese Phyto-Pathological Society in 1996. The abstract has until now not been very useful to most North American and European iris enthusiasts because it is brief and written in Japanese. It is most unfortunate that Dr. Kanehira died in 1998. No further work on this subject has been undertaken in Japan.

My purpose in writing this article is to inform members of the Society for Japanese Irises of what I have learned about Japanese Iris Yellow Dwarf (JIYD) disease. This disease existed in Japan even before WW II, but its cause was unknown. It is said that the disease can occur at any time during the growing season, but in the Tokyo region I think it occurs primarily in two periods, namely, from April to May and from July to October. I think the disease is of two types: an acute type and an "over-winter" type.

The acute type of JIYD disease appears after the leaves have grown. Suddenly, the tips of the leaves in the center of the clump turn brown. The brown color spreads downward until the leaves are entirely brown. The leaves remain firmly attached to the rhizome and the rhizome is normally firm. When this happens, at first the roots look healthy; however, in a few days the

roots suddenly die. This most often happens in April to May, or in July to October.

The "over-winter" manifestation of the disease appears toward the end of March. When leaves first emerge, they are yellow and dwarf. As other Japanese irises grow into lush clumps, the foliage of the infected plants remains yellow and do not elongate. The plants looked perfectly healthy the previous year, but it may be that they were diseased in October or November and it was not noticed because all the irises were turning brown as winter approached. When the "over-winter" type of JIYD disease is detected, the roots will have already died during winter.

There have been reports of JIYD disease from many regions of Japan. One positive aspect of the disease is that it does not seem to spread to adjacent plants. Dr. Kanehira once told me that tetracycline, 100 ppm to 1000 ppm, might be a useful control for JIYD. Perhaps scorch and JIYD are the same disease.

Photo: by Jim Copeland, 2001 in New Zealand

Hiroshi Shimizu



## 2001 AIS SHOW REPORT - JAPANESE IRIS

AIS Exhibitions Chairman for 2001, E. Roy Epperson, reports that there were nine AIS shows where Japanese Irises were featured. The "Best Specimen of Show" was awarded to Japanese Iris in six of those shows. Our congratulations to the exhibitors and affiliates who sponsored the shows. Show Chairmen - remember to send us news of upcoming shows and results of the ones held. It makes interesting reading in the SJI REVIEW!

Region 1 Shelbourne Falls, MA Best Specimen - STRUT & FLOURISH (JI) - Andy Wheeler

Region 2 Buffalo, NY, Best Specimen - ROYAL ONE (JI) - Sara Marley

Region 3 - Townsend, DE, Best Specimen -ROYAL LOVE (LA) but all entries were LA or JI

Region 4 - Baltimore, MD, Best Specimen - RASPBERRY GLOW-(JI) - Carol Warner

Region 4 - Hendersonville, NC, Best Specimen - FAIRY CARILLON (JI) - Walter Hoover

Region 13 - Portland, OR, Best Specimen - PINK DIMITY (JI) Lynn Frinkel

Region 18 - St. Louis, MO, Best Specimen - CENTER OF ATTENTION (JI) - Phyllis Burton

Region 18 - Washington, MO, Best Specimen - DURAL BUTTERFLY (LA) but many JI exhibited

Region 19 - Medford, NJ, Best Specimen - SUN & SURF (LA) but many JI exhibited



CENTER OF ATTENTION

Best Specimen - GSLIS

Phyllis Burton



## Japanese Iris Display Gardens List 2002

Phil Cook, 49 Bill Cook Rd, Underhill, VT 05489;  
802-899-9928; phgarden@together.net

This revised list of participating display gardens includes a little more information than has been given in the past. The format of the listing is as follows: name; address; telephone; e-mail address (when available); peak bloom, approx. number of JI cultivars (000); hybridizing program, plants for sale; other garden interests. The gardens are listed by zip code. If you plan to visit a garden, please call ahead to ensure that it will be convenient for the owners. If you would like to participate and have your own garden listed, please contact Phil Cook at Poker Hill Gardens (address below).

Willie and Jeannine Hublau; Steenweg Op Borgloon 37A, 3830 Wellen, BELGIUM; 012-74-55-21; mid June-mid July (350); hyb; daffodils, Hosta, day-lilies, peonies, poppies, rock garden plants.

Dick Jarzowski; 17 Chestnut St, West Newbury, MA 01985; 978-363-2282; annejarz@prodigy.net; late June-early July (185); sales; Japanese peonies, daylilies, woody ornamentals.

Hermit Medlars Walk (Bill and Ada Godfrey); 3 Pierce Street (Rte 140), Foxborough, MA 02035; 508-543-2711; hmwalk@mindspring.com; mid-late June (50); hyb, sales; all irises, esp. MDB's and SDB's.

Earthart Gardens (Sharon Whitney); 1709 Harpswell Neck Road, Harpswell, ME 04079-3303; 207-833-6905; ertheart@gwi.net; early-mid July (200); hyb, sales; Siberian irises, all types of plants

John White; 193 Jackson Hill Rd, Minot, ME 04258-4413; 207-345-9532; generaljohn42016@aol.com; late June-July (1000); hyb, sales; Siberian irises, versatas, pacific coast irises.

Poker Hill Gardens (Phil Cook); 49 Bill Cook Rd, Underhill, VT 05489; 802-899-9928; phgarden@together.net; late June-mid July (300); hyb, sales; Siberian and other beardless irises, MDBs, woodland perennials, rock garden

Presby Memorial Iris Gardens; 474 Upper Mountain Ave, Montclair, NJ 07043; 973-783-5974; presbyiris@comcast.net; late June-mid July (40); tall bearded, median, Siberian and Louisiana irises

Rainbow Iris Garden (Walter and Sara Marley); 843 County Rte 3, Hannibal, NY 13074-2356; 315-593-8216; reddigger@alltel.net; mid June-early July (75); sales; bearded and Siberian irises, daylilies

Alice D. Belling; 7414 Raiber Road, Holland, NY 14080; 716-537-2798; July (75); sales; Siberians, MDB's and SDB's, daylilies, Phlox, Hibiscus

Theresa Jewell; 310 Lloyd Guessford Rd, Townsend, DE 19734; 302-378-3523; Tljcjewel@aol.com; June (90); tall bearded and most other types of irises, a variety of other perennials and flowering shrubs

Sans Souci Nursery (Bruce Hornstein); 3819 Beatty Road, Monkton, MD 21111; 410-557-0250; mid-late June; sales; all types of irises.

Draycott Gardens (Carol Warner); 16815 Falls Road, Upperco, MD 21155; 410-374-4788; draycott@qis.net; mid June-early July (300); hyb, sales; Siberian irises, peonies, rhododendrons, daffodils, rock garden plants, general perennials

R. Dennis Hager; 373 Cypress St, PO Box 390, Millington, MD 21651; 410-928-3147; academyhouse@toad.net; mid June (100+); hyb; Siberia, species and bearded irises, daylilies, hostas, bamboos, hellebores, magnolias, azaleas

Nicholls Gardens (Michael and Diana Nicholls); 4724 Angus Drive, Gainesville, VA 22065; 703-754-9623; NichollsGardens@juno.com; mid June (75); hyb, sales; all types of irises, daylilies, woody ornamentals

Bill and Ja Niece Mull; 7112 Fox's Lair Ct, Norfolk, VA 23518-4435; 757-858-8085; BillJanieceMull@aol.com; late May-early June (200); hyb, sales; bearded irises (1700!), daylilies (900!)

Shirley Paquet; 857 Circle H Woods Rd, Prosperity, SC 29127-8998; 803-364-2724; early June (100); sales; species and Louisiana irises

Joe and Janet Watson; 116 Watson Reynolds Rd NE, Milledgeville, GA 31061; 478-452-8916; Joeswatson@AllTel.net; azaleas, camellias, daylilies, crepe myrtle, tall bearded and other irises

Virginia (Ginni) Hill; 1030 Autumn Oaks Circle, Collierville, TN 38017; 901-853-2641; garden64@bellsouth.net; late May-early June (100); all types of irises

Iris City Gardens (Greg and Macey McCullough); 7675 Younger Creek Rd, Primm Springs, TN 38476; 615-799-2179; icity@msn.com; early June (160); sales; all irises, especially beardless

Ensata Gardens (John Coble and Bob Bauer); 9823 E. Michigan Ave., Galesburg, MI 49053; 616-665-7500; ensata@aol.com; late June (450); hyb, sales; Siberian Irises, Hosta collection, daylilies.

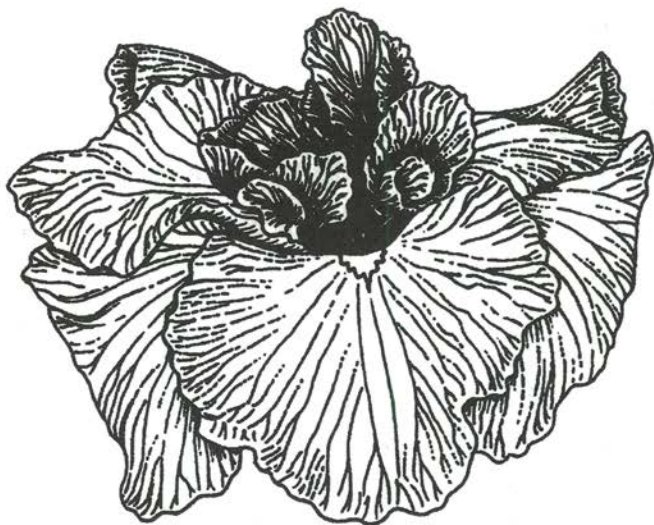
Don and Sue Delmez; 3240 Connecticut Ave., St. Charles, MO 63301; 636-685-5860; early-mid June (250); hyb, sales; general perennials

Vicki Dudley; 17285 Tamara Lane, Watsonville, CA 95076; 831-663-2036; Embercrest@aol.com; early May (50+); all types of irises, roses, orchids

Edwin and Elyse Hill; 4613 Maddocks Rd, Sebastopol, CA 95472-9786; 707-823-1502; May (50); daylilies, fruit trees

Mt. Pleasant Iris Farm (Chad Harris); PO Box 346, Washougal, WA 98671-0346; 360-835-1016; DaleGrams@prodigy.net; mid-late June (100); hyb, sales; Iris species, water gardening.

Aitken's Salmon Creek Garden (Terry and Barbara Aitken); 608 NW 119th St, Vancouver, WA, 98685-3802; 360-573-4472; aitken@flowerfantasy.net; mid-late June (200); hyb, sales; all types of irises, orchids





# The Three Scholars of Deshima and the Japanese Iris

Clarence Mahan

Taxonomists, our parents and many of us used to call the Japanese iris *I. kaempferi*. We now call it *Iris ensata*. Arriving at the correct botanical name of the Japanese iris took a long time, and the Society for Japanese Irises played a significant role.

Taxonomic controversies over the correct botanical name of a plant are commonplace and seldom attract the attention of gardeners. The history of the naming and renaming of the Japanese iris is exceptional in this respect. It is also the story of three men, two Germans and a Swede, who are known in Japan as the "three scholars of Deshima." The two Germans were Englebert Kaempfer (1651-1716) and Phillip Franz von Siebold (1796-1866). The Swede was Carl Peter Thunberg (1743-1828).

A man of great charisma, Englebert Kaempfer was born in the old Hanseatic city of Lemgo, where his father, Johannes Kaempfer, was pastor of the Lutheran church of St. Nicholas. He was a brilliant student. He earned the degree of Doctor of Philosophy at the University of Krakow and then studied medical sciences and natural history at the University of Konigsberg. He went to Sweden in 1681, to study at the University of Uppsala.

The Swedish king, Charles XI, was so impressed with Kaempfer's learning and talent that he offered him a number of enticements to remain in Sweden. Kaempfer, who was looking for an opportunity to travel, declined all offers until the king asked him to act as secretary and physician to a legation being sent to the court of the Persian shah. He accepted the appointment and departed Stockholm in 1683. Ludwig Fabritius, the Ambassador, joined the party in Narva, Estonia, and the embassy set out overland, through Russia. After more than a year, the legation arrived in Isfahan in March 1684. Along the way, Kaempfer collected books, local medical lore, handicrafts and plants.

When the embassy left Persia in 1685, Kaempfer did not go with it. He obtained employment as a physician with the Dutch East India Company. He worked at the Persian port of Bandar Abbas and on board ships traveling between various Indian ports. He arrived in Java in 1689. The Dutch East India Company then appointed him to the post of physician at its factory in Japan. He arrived at Deshima in 1690. He continued to collect plants everywhere he went.

Deshima was a small, fan-shaped, artificially constructed island in the port of Nagasaki. The government of the Shogun had originally ordered the island to



be built for the Portuguese. After the Portuguese were expelled from Japan in 1639, it was transferred to the Dutch East India Company. A bridge connected the small island to the city, but the Dutch were normally required to stay on the island. Once each year Dutch East India Company officials, along with Japanese interpreters and workers, went to Edo, the old name for Tokyo, to take gifts and pay respect to the shogun. The roundtrip always began in March and ended in May.

One aspect of the Deshima trading post, begun four decades before Kaempfer's arrival, was the practice of the company physician-in-residence teaching western medicine and surgery to the interpreters assigned by the Japanese government. The government of the shogun approved of this activity. The Dutch used the medical school to learn about Japan and Japanese political developments. It was, in other words, a clever way to spy on the Japanese.

Englebert Kaempfer lived on Deshima and taught Japanese medical students for two years. Twice he accompanied the trade delegation on its annual trip to Edo. Despite the Japanese government's ban on providing foreigners information about Japan, Kaempfer was able to collect books and maps. He also collected many plants. He later attributed much of his collecting success to the efforts of his personal interpreter, a remarkable young man named Gen'emon Eisei Imamura. Kaempfer left Japan in 1692.

Arriving in the Netherlands in 1693, Kaempfer underwent an oral examination at the University of Leiden. The university awarded him a doctoral degree in medical science. His doctoral dissertation, *Medica Inauguralis Exhibens Decadem Observationum Exoticarum*, was published in 1694. One of the subjects of the dissertation was the use of acupuncture by the Japanese. Kaempfer then returned to his native Lemgo where he practiced medicine. Frederick Adolf, Count of Lippe, appointed him his official court physician.

Kaempfer's popularity as a physician interfered with his writing. Finally, in 1712, four years before his death, his *Amoenitatum Exoticarum* was published. The fifth section of this work is devoted to plants. The impact of this book on botanical science would be difficult to overstate. It contains descriptions and illustrations of plants previously unknown in Europe: hosta, skimmia, azaleas, many varieties of camellia, hydrangea, the soybean, *lilium speciosum*, and *lilium tigrinum*, to name just a few.

Kaempfer's best-known work was not published until eleven years after his death. Although he had delivered his German manuscript for *History of Japan* to the printer several years before he died, for some reason it never was printed. It might have been lost forever had not Sir Hans Sloane, that great English physician, scientist and collector of manuscripts (and man who intro-

duced chocolate to Europe), set out to save Kaempfer's notes and papers. Sloane purchased Kaempfer's literary remains from Kaempfer's nephew. He then hired a translator to render *History of Japan* into English. Sloane had it published in 1727, and subsequently it was translated into French and Russian.

Englebert Kaempfer's *History of Japan* was a major source of knowledge about Japanese society and history for Europeans and Americans until Commodore Perry sailed into Shimoda Bay in 1853, and the Japanese signed the Treaty of Kanagawa in 1854.<sup>1</sup>

Carl Peter Thunberg was a protégée of the great Linnaeus at the University of Uppsala. The Dutch East India Company, acting on the recommendation of Linnaeus, employed him as a ship surgeon in 1772. He had sought this position so he could travel and collect plants in the Dutch colonies. While he was stationed in Cape Town, the University of Uppsala awarded him the degree of Doctor of Medicine. Just as Kaempfer had done before him, he collected plants everywhere he went. He went to Java in 1775, and then sailed to Deshima to assume the duties of company physician.

Thunberg's knowledge and his ability as a teacher gained him much respect among the Japanese. His fame as a scholar prompted the shogun's government to grant him permission to explore and collect plants in the environs of Nagasaki. He was even permitted to visit a Japanese nursery where he spent a vast sum of money on plants. Looking for new plant species, he went so far as to sift through the hay that the Japanese brought to Deshima to feed the livestock.

He accompanied the other members of the trading company on their annual trek to Edo in 1776. This journey, partially overland and partially by sea, offered him opportunities to collect more diverse Japanese plants. Thunberg also used his contacts with Japanese physicians to obtain plants from the interior of Japan. He left Japan in November 1776, stopping at Java and Ceylon (Sri Lanka). He arrived in Amsterdam in October 1778, and before returning to Sweden visited London where he examined Kaempfer's manuscripts and notes.

Thunberg spent the remainder of his life writing and teaching at Uppsala. His most important work was *Flora Japonica*, published in 1784. He donated all his collected material to Uppsala University where it is still maintained today. The Japanese iris specimen collected by Thunberg is labeled "Iris ensata" in Thunberg's own handwriting.

Philipp Franz von Siebold was born into a family of physicians and teachers.



His father, grandfather and two of his uncles were professors of medicine at the University of Würzburg. Emperor Francis II elevated the family to the ranks of the hereditary nobility to reward his grandfather's outstanding surgical service during the French Siege of Würzburg in 1800.

Von Siebold passed his medical examination at the University of Würzburg in 1820. He was awarded a doctoral degree in medicine, surgery and obstetrics after an oral examination in which he had to defend thirty-five theses and 3 terms of study in Latin. He entered the service of the Dutch East Indian army as surgeon-major and was posted to Java in 1822. The company then assigned him to Japan.

Von Siebold arrived in Deshima in 1823.<sup>2</sup> He brought with him a large store of medical instruments. His fame as a physician and teacher spread rapidly among the Japanese. One of his specialties was cataract surgery. In 1824, he was given permission by the Japanese government to open a private school and clinic in the village of Narutaki, now part of Nagasaki. He gave courses in clinical medicine and treated Japanese patients. The shogunate was by this time encouraging Japanese scholars to acquire "Dutch learning." Japanese doctors and scientists went to Narutaki to attend von Siebold's school. The site of that school is now the Nagasaki Municipal Siebold Memorial Hall.

Perhaps no one before or since was such an avid collector in Japan as von Siebold. He collected books, maps, art and artifacts, and plants. He made a serious misstep, however, during the annual trip to Edo. He used his friendship with a member of the shogun's court to obtain various maps of Japan and surrounding islands and lands. Other court officials learned of this violation of law, and von Siebold was arrested in 1828. He remained under house arrest for more than a year. Several of his Japanese pupils were also arrested. The Japanese government expelled him in 1829, with the explicit order that he should never return. He left on January 2, 1830, and arrived in the Antwerp later that year.

Shortly after von Siebold arrived in Antwerp, war broke out between Belgium and Holland. Some of the live plants he had collected were in the care of the Duke of Ursal, one of his patrons. When the duke fled to Ghent because of the war, Antwerp authorities confiscated the duke's property, including many of von Siebold's plants. These were given to local nurserymen. Later von Siebold sued for the return of his plants, but ended up with only about eighty of the two hundred-sixty plants that he had brought back to Europe.

Von Siebold never practiced medicine again. The Dutch king, William II, granted him a patent of nobility and bestowed many other honors on him. He was granted a patent to establish a "Royal Society for the Encouragement of

Horticulture." He established that organization and became its first president. He bought a house in Leiden, near the botanical garden, and here he displayed his incomparable Japanese natural history collection. The Siebold collection later became one of the core collections of the National Museum of Ethnology in Leiden. He wrote a number of books on Japan, including the beautifully illustrated two-volume *Flora Japonica*. He also established a large nursery in Leiden under the name Siebold and Company.

An interesting aside on von Siebold's life in Japan was his marriage to a young Japanese woman named Taki Kusumoto. He called her "Otaki san," and expressed his love for her when he chose the name for a beautiful hydrangea, which is now called *Hydrangea macrophylla* var. "Otaksa." The Japanese call it "otakusa." It has been the official city flower of Nagasaki since 1968.

Taki Kusumoto bore von Siebold a daughter named Ine. After Siebold was expelled from Japan, Keisaku Ninomiya, one of his pupils, cared for his Japanese wife and daughter. Under Ninomiya's instruction, Ine Kusumoto became the first woman obstetrician and gynecologist to specialize in western medicine in Japan. The Meiji Emperor appointed her court obstetrician in Japan's Imperial Household Agency.

After Commodore Perry forced the Japanese to open their country, the Japanese government lifted the ban on von Siebold's return. He returned to Japan in 1859, and was welcomed by his many friends and former students. During this second residence in Japan, he was appointed to advise the Japanese government during its negotiations with various foreign governments. The Dutch government did not look favorably on his political endeavors, and pressured the Japanese to expel him a second time. Although the Japanese refused to do this, von Siebold was pressured to leave, which he did in 1862. He brought a number of plants with him when he returned to Europe, including *Prunus sieboldii*, *Hydrangea paniculata*, and *Malus floribunda*. He died in Munich in 1866. He is today greatly revered in Japan.

The confusion over the Latin name of the Japanese iris began when Thunberg described the specimen he had collected and designated it *I. graminea* in his *Flora Japonica*. Thunberg then recognized this Japanese native was not the European species that Linnaeus had named *I. graminea*. He corrected his error in his "Botanical Observations on the Flora Japonica" in Volume 2 of the *Transactions of the Linnean Society*, published in 1794. He gave the Japanese iris the name *I. ensata*.

John Bellenden Ker-Gawler, in his *Iridearum Genera*, published in 1827, recognized *I. ensata* Thunberg to be a valid species, and he did not confuse it



with *I. biglumis* Valh, which he listed separately. The published works of at least two botanists before Ger-Kawler had distinguished between *I. ensata* Thunberg and *I. biglumis* Vahl, namely, Martin Vahl and A. Sprengel.

One of the handicaps that early 19<sup>th</sup> century botanists confronted was that none of them except Thunberg had actually seen living plants of the Japanese iris. The first live plants of the Japanese iris were not brought to Europe until the 1850s. Von Siebold was the first to obtain live plants. They flowered in Europe for the first time in the Verschaffelt garden in Ghent in 1857.

Perhaps von Siebold was unaware of Thunberg's description and name *I. ensata*. Perhaps he did not recognize Thunberg's brief description as pertaining to the iris he had imported. Or maybe von Siebold simply ignored Thunberg. Whatever the facts may be, von Siebold wrote a botanical description of the iris he had imported and gave it the name *I. kaempferi* to honor his German predecessor at Deshima. Charles Lamaire published the description and name, together with a beautiful picture of the iris, in *L'Illustration horticole* in 1858.

Rules for assigning scientific names by taxonomists are codified to ensure that names are internationally unambiguous and understandable. The rule of priority requires that the oldest valid name is the one that gets used. An exception to this rule is sometimes permissible if a more recent name has come into common use before the original name is recognized.

John Gilbert Baker, Keeper of the Herbarium at Kew, published his comprehensive *Handbook of the Iridaceae* in 1892. He mistakenly identified *I. kaempferi* Siebold as a synonym of *I. laevigata* Fischer. He also incorrectly designated *I. biglumis* Vahl to be a synonym of *I. ensata* Thunberg. Baker made some significant contributions to plant knowledge, but the muddle he made with these iris species was not one of them. The creator of Peter Rabbit, Beatrix Potter, was, however, more than a little unkind when she wrote that he had the "appearance of having been dried in blotting paper under a press."<sup>3</sup>

William Rickatson Dykes, in *The Genus Iris*, corrected one of Baker's mistakes when he recognized that *I. kaempferi* Siebold and *I. laevigata* Fischer were two distinct species. But he sanctioned Baker's erroneous identification of *I. ensata* Thunberg with Vahl's *I. biglumis*.

Japanese botanists were convinced that Europeans were mistaken in identifying *I. ensata* Thunberg with an iris species that is not native to Japan. The highly respected botanist, Prof. Gen'ichi Koidzumi, examined the herbarium specimen of the iris preserved at Uppsala. He expressed the opinion that Thunberg's *I. ensata* was in reality the Japanese iris in the *Botanical Magazine*, Vol. XXXIX, 1925. The decisive voice was that of Dr. Bungo Miyazawa. He also went to Uppsala, examined Thunberg's specimen, and wrote

"Observations on the Botanical Name of the Japanese Iris and its Horticultural History," which was published in 1929. He concluded: "...it is safely said that the name *Iris ensata* should be applied to the Japanese iris."

After Miyazawa's article was published, Japanese botanists began using the name *I. ensata* Thunberg to designate the Japanese iris, but for the next fifty years European and American taxonomists, writers and plant nurseries continued to use the name *I. kaempferi* Siebold.

Western botanists should have been aware of the findings of Koidzumi and Miyazawa because George M. Reed reported them in his magnificent monograph "The Iris of Japan" in American Iris Society *Bulletin* No. 40, July 1931. The monograph was also published as "Contributions No. 60" by the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. In a 1948 issue of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden *Plants and Gardens*, Reed wrote: "The Japanese irises rank very high as garden plants. They have been developed from the wild *Iris ensata* (*Iris kaempferi*) which grows in eastern Asia and is widely distributed in Japan."

George H. M. Lawrence and L. F. Randolph, in the American Iris Society's *Garden Irises* (St. Louis, 1959), did not recognize the reports of the Japanese botanists or the conclusions of George Reed. The Japanese iris remained *I. kaempferi* Siebold and the iris that is now designated *I. lactea* (Pallas) (syn. *I. biglumis* Vahl) remained *I. ensata* Thunberg.

How the Japanese iris finally received its proper name from the botanical establishment is the story of how in one instance a plant society caused some taxonomists to pay attention. The plant society was the Society for Japanese Irises. William Ouweneel was the editor of *The Review*, and in its issue for October 1968, he wrote and published a survey on the subject of the correct Latin name for the Japanese iris. He included a letter from Dr. Koji Tomino that explained why Japanese botanists were convinced that the proper name for the Japanese iris was *I. ensata* Thunberg.

Russian botanist V. Grubov deserves considerable credit for correcting the taxonomic designation of the Japanese iris. He asserted that the name *I. ensata* Thunberg had priority over *I. kaempferi* Siebold in a scholarly article "*Not. Criticae ad taxonomiam et nomenclaturum specierum nonularum generis iris florum U.R.S.S.*," published in 1969.

G. I. Rodionenko reported Grubov's conclusion in "Irises---Some History, the Present and the Future" in the 1972 issue of the British Iris Society *Year Book*. Although Rodionenko acknowledged that Grubov was correct, he asserted that: "...in practice, such an alteration of a name firmly established in the minds of iris growers is highly undesirable."



When the American Iris Society published *The World of Irises* in 1978, the Japanese iris was identified as *I. ensata* Thunberg. The species that taxonomists had been calling that name was designated *I. biglumis* Vahl. Finally, when Brian Mathew wrote his authoritative work *The Iris* (NY, 1981), a qualified western taxonomist decisively applied the name *I. ensata* Thunberg to the Japanese iris. The name *I. kaempferi* Siebold became a synonym. Mathew corrected the name of the iris previously known as *I. ensata* and *I. biglumis* by identifying it as *I. lactea* Pallas. It had only taken the better part of two centuries to get it right.

It seems a bit sad to me that Kaempfer's name cannot be properly attached to the Japanese iris except as a synonym. Still, there is an entire genus with about fifty species, sometimes called false gingers, named *Kaempferia*. Kaempfer's name lives on in the botanic names of a number of species, such as *Larix kaempferi*, *Pseudolarix kaempferi*, and *Rhododendron kaempferi*. There is even a cicada with the Latin name *Platypleura kaempferi*. Thunberg and von Siebold also have their Latinized names attached to many species, and well they should.

There is a romantic quality to the story of the three scholars of Deshima, but the dangers and hardships they faced are almost unimaginable to modern generations. They were men of great courage who sought adventure and knowledge. They were scientists, physicians and scholars. They were men of letters whose writings added immensely to western knowledge. They were plant collectors whose efforts enrich our gardens to this day.

1 Kaempfer mentioned the Japanese iris in *Amoenitatum Exoticarum* but provided no botanical name. He also mentioned irises in *History of Japan*, but did not describe them. See Kaempfer, Englebert. Pfer's Japan (Honolulu, 1999), p. 66. This excellent modern edition of Kaempfer's *History of Japan* was edited, translated and annotated by Beatrice M. Bodart-Bailey.

2 The dates of von Siebold's activities in Japan are often incorrect in that otherwise excellent work. *The Plant Hunters* (London, 1969) by Alice M Coats. Coats puts his arrival at Deshima in 1826, and this error is repeated in B. J. Healey, *The Plant Hunters* (NY, 1975). See s. Hiki and Y. Hiki, "Siebold as a Surgeon, Physician and Medical Teacher in Japan" in A. Thiede, Y Hiki and G. Keil (Eds.), *Philipp Franz von Siebold and His Era* (Berlin-Heidelberg-New York, 2000).

3 Potter, Beatrix. *The Journal of Beatrix Potter, 1881-1897* (London, 1989), p. 434. Potter's cavalier treatment by the botanical establishment of the day gave her some justification to view its members with hostility. She had extensive knowledge of lichens, but the scientific establishment did not take her views, now known to be correct, seriously. She was reminded that she lacked a university education, and was, after all, only a woman. Her description of Baker is mild compared to some of the epithets she bestowed on others. She called Sir William Turner Thiselton-Dyer, the director of Kew, "the pompous 'botanical pope.'"

## INTRODUCTION TO SJI OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

We would like you to become acquainted with the Officers and Board Members of The Society For Japanese Irises. So you get to know them better, these are informal bios in their own words.

### JILL COPELAND – PRESIDENT

I was fortunate to move to southwestern Michigan while Arthur Hazzard was still hybridizing. Because of him, we had the first Japanese Iris show in the nation. So in 1976 when we were part of the AIS Convention, we were already growing some JIs and forced a few in bloom for the day we were on the tour. We had a traumatic time with the TBs for this convention because we had 4 20-degree freezes a week apart in May. I took 300 pounds of freeze damage out of the garden before our tour day. Fortunately for the Convention, we were the only garden that froze. The JIs we had in the ground were in a lower and colder spot but they were smart enough to stay under ground until the weather settled down and only suffered brown tips to their leaves. They bloomed beautifully.

We have since moved to a new place. We use about 5 of the 36 acres for gardens and lawn and among other things, we grow several hundred JI cultivars and seedlings. We are only 30 miles from Ensata Gardens, which is the largest JI garden outside of Japan. We are also close to Anna Mae Miller who hybridized JIs and SIBs. We had the first JI Convention in 1985.

I have been hybridizing JIs since 1970. I hybridize everything. It is what I do. I started to treat JI seedlings to convert to tetraploidy in about 1975. I wasn't very successful and I only introduced WHITING and KINA. Neither grew very well and Kina no longer exists. I did succeed better with diploids. BLUE MARLIN (Copeland '81) won the Payne Award in 1985, PINK DACE (Copeland '93) won an AM in 2000, and several others won HMs. PIXIE WON (Copeland '97) is the first *I. pseudacorus* X *I. ensata* introduced from a US hybridizer. I am currently hybridizing for 3-fall JIs, which are jaunty, tetraploids, interspecies, and continuous bloomers. That might seem like lack of focus but tetraploids and interspecies are very slow fields. I am the director of the Hybridizers Robin.

I would like to see research done on what causes JIs to need a fresh site every 3-4 years. I would like JIs in the future to grow everywhere on all soils and bloom all summer. I would also like to see yellow JIs.



## **PETER WEIXLMANN – SECRETARY**

I am completely thrilled and excited to be the new Secretary of SJI. I have been a life long resident of Western New York and have served as WNY Iris Society President for 4 and a half years prior to becoming RVP. I have been Show chair for a number of years and have helped organize the first International Japanese Iris Symposium that was held at the Royal Botanical Gardens a few years ago and am currently working with the enthusiastic Canadian Iris Society members on the Siberian Iris Convention for 2003.

I have a Bachelor's Degree in Biology and an Associates Degree in Radiologic Technology. I am currently employed as a Certified Nuclear Medicine Technologist at a large hospital in Buffalo, New York.

## **ANDY WHEELER – NEWEST BOARD MEMBER**

I have been growing iris for about 13 years and hybridizing for about as long. I grow Japanese Iris as well as Siberian Iris and a wide range of odds and ends species Iris. I basically have a couple of any beardless irises that grow here in western Massachusetts, such as spurias, and louisianas. I graduated last spring from Bates College, (as did Evelyn and John White). I intend to continue on with school, although I don't have the details worked out yet.

(Editor's note:)

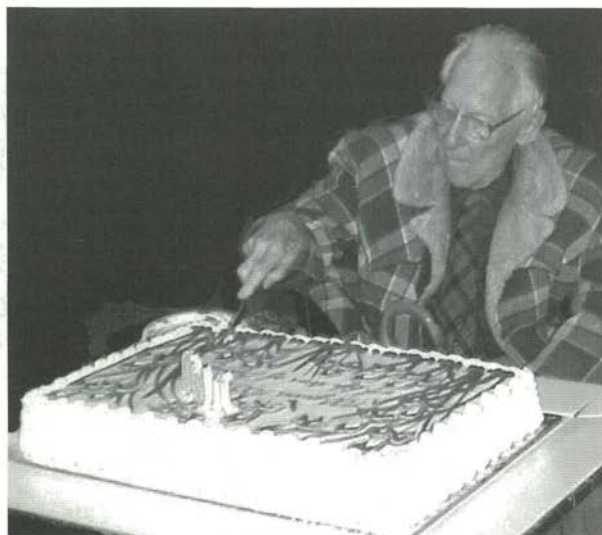
Andy is very modest about his accomplishments and experience. He was the recipient of the AIS Clarke Cosgrove Youth Achievement Award in 1994 and spent some time working with Dr. Kevin Vaughn who says: "He spent several weeks here as a high school student investigating the origins of the Holden Clough family using biochemical and structural markers. From these studies he showed that neither Holden Clough or any of its hybrids contained features from *I. foetidissima* but did contain those from *I. pseudacorus*. Andrew's breeding program in SIB's, JI's and SPEC crosses is already showing a lot of promise and I expect great things from it in the near future."

# Happy Birthday Currier



Photos by Bob  
Sawyer

Dr. & Mrs. McEwen and the AIS Gold Medal 2000



Dr. McEwen cutting his 100th Birthday cake.

## 2005 – INVITATION TO HYBRIDIZERS

The Diamond State Iris Society will host the Society for Japanese Iris Convention in Dover, Delaware, June 2005. Hybridizers are invited to send guest Japanese irises of recent introductions or seedlings under serious consideration.

Shipments will be accepted:  
September 1 to October 15, 2002  
April 1 to May 15, 2003  
September 1 to October 15, 2003

Send guest plants to:

Theresa Jewell  
310 Lloyd Guessford Road  
Townsend, DE 19734-9544  
Email: tljcjewell@aol.com  
(302) 378-3523

**Photographs:** We are requesting that hybridizers send a 35mm color slide of each of their submissions. Please mark them clearly with the name or seedling number of the iris. These slides will be shown at the convention.

**Guidelines:** Three to five divisions of each variety may be submitted. The name of the variety of seedling number must be clearly marked on each division. In addition, a packing list with the following information must be enclosed:

Hybridizer name and address  
Email, if available  
Name or seedling number of variety  
Description, distinguishing characteristics and bloom season (E, M, L)  
Year of introduction, if applicable

If a guest seedling is named subsequent to shipping to the convention, it is the responsibility of the hybridizer to notify the Guest Iris Chairman no later than January 1, 2005.

A receipt will be sent to all contributors. Two months before the convention, contributors will be asked for instructions regarding disposition of guest plants. Options are destruction, donation to the SJI for auction at the convention, or return. Returns will be shipped post paid, except to foreign addresses. The convention committee and the owners of tour gardens will follow the code of ethics as printed in the AIS Convention Handbook. Only officially submitted guest iris will appear in the convention booklet.



## HEARING FROM HYBRIDIZERS

**TERRY AITKEN, Vancouver, WA**

We have not introduced any JI's for 2 years and we probably won't for another 2 years. All of our reselects are in 3 or 4 year clumps. They need to be broken down and regrown for another 2 years. As for new seedlings, last years planting was a pretty good size and this year's crop, now in pots, is huge. The photos represent some of the reselects. Several people, including members of the New Zealand Iris Society, have strongly recommended that we go to work on miniature JI's. Here is the first round <sup>1</sup>. The main purpose would be for flower arranging with good proportions. The strategy would be to breed the smallest clones in the garden to get even smaller plants. Great theory, but I don't have any idea how we got a small plant out of Pleasant Earlybird! (Will check parentage!) Using PINK RINGLETS and HATSU KAGAMI was a natural (both are short ) and it worked. Bloom during TB season is a plus!

Going after stronger colors is a frequent indulgence. We picked our 2 best reds, ASIAN WARRIOR and RUBY STAR, the result was a deeper red. I'm not sure that 'dark' is what we want but rich is what we got. <sup>2</sup> We are trying sib crosses with this bunch just to see where it goes. Some pinks should show up as byproducts. Our main focus is on rebloom and we are into the third generation. I am very pleased with the flower quality of a 6F white with form and good branching and clump vigor. Another is the brightest blue I've seen, again with form and branching. These appear to be very late blooming in springtime so we need to save pollen to use with them. (They bloom in July!) We are working John White's rebloomers into our lines also so we don't get too deep into line breeding. SAIGYO ZAKURA is the brightest pink that we grow. <sup>3</sup> It is quite miserly with it's seeds but we will take what we can get.

There are an infinite number of potential projects out there. Pick one and go for it!!!!

See Terry's Pictures on the Front and Inside Front Cover

1. Seedling 97-J-4 – Inside Front Cover
2. Seedling 97-J-2 – Front Cover
3. Saigyo Zakurai – Inside Front Cover

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**2005 JI Convention** – The Diamond State Iris Society will host the Society for Japanese Iris Convention in Dover, Delaware, June 2005. Hybridizers are invited to send guest Japanese irises of recent introductions or seedlings under serious consideration. See article on Page 25 for rules.

See the website at [www.2005conv.SocJI.org](http://www.2005conv.SocJI.org)



# 2001 Registrations, Introductions and Awards

*Compiled by John A Coble*

**ADRENALINE RUSH** (Hensler, Christy Ann Reg. 2000) Rock Garden 2001

**ALTAY** (Rodionenko, Georgi Reg. 2001) Sdlg. 1672K-1. (32-47in 80-120cm) EM (3 -F). Dark purple violet, F. with bright golden eye signal. [I. ensata from Primorski Kray, Russia X Oku-Banri] Rodionenko 1970 (Available)

**ASHTON'S DARK MUSIC** (Ackerman, William L. Reg. 2001) Sdlg. A4-4-123. (30in 76cm) M (6 -F). Pale lavender ground darker at margins, with dark violet (RHS 86B/C) lines and mosaic; signal greenish yellow; style arms pale violet, lips dark violet (86A); some anthers petaloid. [Dark Enchantment X A-2(1-139): P7-235584 Seiko-en Nursery x Iso-no-Asakaze] ()

**ASHTON'S DAWN** (Ackerman, William L. Reg. 2001) Sdlg. B6a-4. (48in 12cm) M (3 -F). S. light phlox purple (RHS 75C); style arms white, lips ruffled; F. violet purple (77A/B) near the deep yellow signal, shading to lighter rose purple to phlox purple (75B/C). [Miyoshino X M91-62: irradiated seed -- (D5(11-33) Seiko-en Nursery x self)] ()

**ASHTON'S HIGH RIDER** (Ackerman, William L. Reg. 2001) Sdlg. B7a-9. (54in 137cm) ML (3 -F). S. pinkish violet (RHS 87B/C), small; style arms violet to white, deep violet (86A) lips; F. violet (85A), deeper violet (86B) veining; deep yellow signal. [M91-55: (Double Cream x Enduring Pink Frost) X Kongojyo] ()

**ASHTON'S MAUVE** (Ackerman, William L. Reg. 2001) Sdlg. . (26in 66cm) M (3 -F). S. white at base, blending to mauve purple margins, rounded; style arms white, greyed mauve purple (RHS 77B) lips; F. greyed mauve purple blending to white around golden yellow signal; white veining; rounded and arched. [Gosho-Asobi X D5-12-115: (D5-7-130: (F-19 x P-20, seedlings from Seiko-en Nursery) x self)] ()

**ASIAN FESTIVAL** (Harris, Chad Reg. 2001) Sdlg. 96JM3. (54in 137cm) M (3 -F). S. mulberry (RHS 82A); style arms near white and held at 45 degrees, flared crests blue violet (89D); F. red violet undertoned blue (88A), white blaze with matching speckles surrounding dresden yellow (5A) signal. [Summer Splash X Peacock Strut] ()



**ASIAN TAPESTRY** (Aitken, J. T. Reg. 2001) Sdlg. . (42in 107cm) ML (6 - F). Velvety deep red with varying shades of lighter red to white in broken pattern; gold signal with irregular profile breaking into petal color; style arms deep red, upright. [Probably -- Grape Fizz X Ruby Star] Aitken 2001 (Available)

**BEYOND CHANCE** (Delmez, Donald Reg. 2000) Delmez 2001

**BEYOND WORDS** (Delmez, Donald Reg. 2001) Sdlg. 100-1. (32in 81cm) (6 -F). Heavily ruffled orchid self, signals yellow. [Saigyozakura X Sakura-no-Sono] Delmez 2001 (Available)

**CENTENARY** (McEwen, Currier Reg. 2001) Sdlg. T(6)J89/ 65(3). (29in 74cm) ML Tet (3 -F). S. red purple (redder than RHS 83B, darker than 77A); style arms same, less velvety; F. vivid red purple, more velvety, small yellow signal. [T(5)J83/99(3):(T(4)J80/63(4): (inv. Garden Caprice and seed from Dr. Shu x Pink Triumph) x T(4)J80/97(2): ((inv. Garden Caprice, Frostbound) x (inv. "Ogena", "Shinkino", and Hirao seed))) X T(1)J85/110B: (J82/reddest, unknown, x Muffled Drums).] ()

**CHAYKA** (Rodionenko, Georgi Reg. 2001) Sdlg. 4210K-1. (20-28in 50-70cm) L (3 -F). S. white, narrow red violet rim; style arms white; F. white, wide red violet border, light golden signal. [seed from Japan] Rodionenko 1975 (Available)

**CHESIERES FIRST EDITION** (Hirsbrunner, Lisolette Reg. 2000) Jardin L'Imprevu 2001

**COMMON DENOMINATOR** (Hensler, Christy Ann Reg. 2000) Rock Garden 2001

**CROWN IMPERIAL** (Bauer/Coble Reg. 2001) Sdlg. J95N-1. (36in 91cm) M (6 -F). F. very light (near white) ground, fine blue veins extending from narrow blue halo surrounding yellow signal; style arms deep blue, tipped lighter blue; ruffled. [J92LL-1: (J89F-3; ((Lace Ruff x Peloponnesus) x Hagaromo) x Foreign Intrigue) X J92V-2: (Seafury x J89W-1: ((J80A-9, unknown, x J82A-7: (Prairie Chief x unknown)) x Hagaromo))] Ensata Gardens 2001 (Available)

**DARK LIGHTNING** (Bauer/Coble Reg. 2001) Sdlg. J92O-2. (34in 86cm) M (6 -F). Ruffled deep blue violet, yellow signal with white halo extending as white rays halfway to edge; white style arms with dark blue violet crests. [Dochusugoroku X Frosted Pyramid] Ensata Gardens 2001 (Available)

**DERSU UZALA** (Rodionenko, Georgi Reg. 2001) Sdlg. . (03-34in 75-85cm) EM (3 -F). Dark purple violet self, F. with golden signal, horizontal. [I. ensata from Primorski Kray, Russia X Oku-Banri] Rodionenko 1973 (Available)

**DIADIA STIOPA** (Rodionenko, Georgi/Irina Makarova Reg. 2001) Sdlg. 96/2-1. (51-59in 130-150cm) EM (3 -F). Light purple violet self, F. with yellow eye signal. [Vasili Alfiorov X "Sanri-no-Kasumi"] Rodionenko 2000 (Available)

**DIRIGO RED ROCKET** (White, John Reg. 2000) Pope's Perennials 2001

**ESPATA** (Copeland, Jill Reg. 2001) Sdlg. 83-005. (39in 99cm) ML (6 -F). Pansy (RHS 83A) to bishops violet (81B, blue (89B) halo, aureolin yellow (12A) signal; style arms pansy; lightly ruffled. [Parentage unknown] Ensata Gardens 2001 (Available)

**FRECKLED PEACOCK** (Harris, Chad Reg. 2001) Sdlg. 96JM4. (54in 137cm) M (3 -F). S. white, red violet (RHS 82A) wire edge; style arms white and held at 45 degrees, large crests brushed pale gentian blue (94D); F. white ground heavily freckled spectrum violet (82B), dresden yellow (5A) signal. [Summer Splash X Peacock Strut] ()

**HARBOUR SENTINEL** (Marshall, Nerissa Reg. 2001) Sdlg. . (30in 75cm) M (3 -F). S. white (RHS 155D) at base graduating to violet (86A); style arms white, tipped violet; F. violet, canary yellow (9A) signal with white rayed halo extending into violet. [Returning Tide X unknown] ()

**HONOUR** (McEwen, Currier Reg. 2000) Earthheart 2001

**INTAGLIO** (Hensler, Christy Ann Reg. 2000) Rock Garden 2001

**KINDRED SOUL** (Marshall, Nerissa Reg. 2001) Sdlg. . (30in 75cm) M (3+ -F). White self, with throat and small rays flushed violet (RHS 82B), F. with insignificant canary yellow (9A) signal flushed agathia green (142B). [Sakura-no-Miya X unknown] ()

**KOSHUI NO ASA** (Shimizu, H. by C. Warner Reg. 1998) HM 2001

**LION KING** (Bauer/Coble Reg. 1996) HM 1999 AM 2001

**LONDON GIRL** (Bailey, A. R. J. Reg. 2001) Sdlg. 96/AW-L-MW2. (30in 76cm) L (6 -F). White (RHS 155A) overlaid wistaria blue (92A), light wistaria blue veining, aureolin yellow (12A) signal; style arms white, yellow

midrib. [Alize Wings X 'Moonlight Waves'] ()

**MAINE CHARM** (McEwen Reg. 1994) Eartheart 2001.

**MYSTICISM** (Marshall, Nerissa Reg. 2001) Sdlg. . (30in 75cm) M (6 -F). Violet (RHS 86B), veined blue violet (89B), canary yellow (9A) signal narrowly edged white (155D). [Parentage unknown] ()

**NIGHT STAR** (Ackerman, William L. Reg. 2001) Sdlg. GB62-1. (58in 147cm) VL (3 -F). S. violet (RHS 86A); style arms near white, margin and lips violet (86B); F. violet (88B shading to 86B), violet (89C) at greenish yellow signal, scattered lighter veining. [Taffeta and Velvet X Let Me See] ()

**PALACE OF DREAMS** (Marshall, Nerissa Reg. 2001) Sdlg. . (20in 50cm) M (6 -F). Crystalline white self, small agathia green (RHS 142A) signal maturing to show small chartreuse green (154B) outer area. [Parentage unknown] ()

**PICOTEE PRINCESS** (Reid, Lorena Reg. 1991) HM 1995 AM 1997 PM 2001

**PIN-SPARKLER** (Rebert, J. Owings Reg. 2001) Sdlg. JA 96-01. (27in 69cm) M (3 -F). Violet grape self, flecked grey; style arms white. [Pin Stripe X unknown] ()

**PLEASANT EARLYBIRD** (Harris, Chad Reg. 1995) HM 1999 AM 2001

**PLEASANT STARBURST** (Harris, Chad Reg. 1997) HM 2001

**PROMENADA** (Dudek, Jiri Reg. 2001) Sdlg. JI 36/PA. (32in 80cm) M (3 -F). S. medium blue violet; F. medium blue violet, velvety and veined; signal yellow. [Parentage unknown] ()

**ROWDEN BEGUM** (Carter, John Reg. 1999) Rowden 2001

**ROWDEN NUNCIO** (Carter, John & Galen Reg. 2000) Rowden 2001

**ROWDEN PRINCE** (Carter, John Reg. 1999) Rowden 2001

**ROWDEN QUEEN** (Carter, John & Galen Reg. 2000) Rowden 2001

**SHAMAKHANSKAYA TSARITSA** (Rodionenko, Georgi/Irina Makarova Reg. 2001) Sdlg. 96/3. (39-43in 100-110cm) EM (3 -F). S. lilac; style arms lilac, midrib lighter; F. light lilac ground heavily veined dark lilac, yellow eye



signal bordered lighter. [Vasili Alfiorov X Immaculate White] Rodionenko 2000 (Available)

**SHESTIGLAZKA** (Rodionenko, Georgi Reg. 2001) Sdlg. 12062. (18-20in 45-50cm) M (6 -F). Light purple violet, golden yellow signal with lighter border. [Parentage unknown] Rodionenko 1996 (Available)

**SHINTO RINGS** (Hirao, S. by Ensata Gardens Reg. 2001) Sdlg. BH11. (34in 86cm) M (6 -F). White, extending as rays into 1/2" red violet border; signal bright yellow; style arms white, tipped red violet; ruffled. [Parentage unknown] Ensata Gardens 2001 (Available)

**TEUTONIC KNIGHT** (Marshall, Nerissa Reg. 2001) Sdlg. . (30in 75cm) M (3 -F). Violet purple (RHS 79B) self flushed violet (83B), F. with canary yellow (9A) signal. [Wounded Dragon X unknown] ()

**TULE PRINCE** (Matheny III, Ed Reg. 2000) Ed's Iris 2001

**UNTIL AGAIN** (Marshall, Nerissa Reg. 2001) Sdlg. . (30in 75cm) M (3 -F). S. mauve violet (RHS 85A) veined violet (84A); style arms white, stained mauve violet; F. crystalline white, veined violet blue (90A), canary yellow (9A) signal. [Wounded Dragon X Sakura-no-Miya] ()

**VASILI ALFIOROV** (Rodionenko, Georgi Reg. 2001) Sdlg. 963A. (28-39in 70-100cm) EM (3 -F). Dark purple violet, F. with bright golden eye signal. [Sano-Wataschi X I. ensata from Primorski Kray, Russia] Rodionenko 1968 (Available)

**VINOVA BASTA** (Dudek, Jiri Reg. 2001) Sdlg. JI 75/PA. (32in 80cm) M (3 -F). S. burgundy purple; F. burgundy purple, velvety, veined deeper, signal yellow. [Parentage unknown] ()

**VOODOO MISCHIEF** (Marshall, Nerissa Reg. 2001) Sdlg. . (30in 75cm) M (3 -F). S. violet (RHS 83A), lined, marbled and edged white (155B); style arms white, stained violet; F. white, fine lines and faintly flushed edge of violet, canary yellow (9A) signal. [Peacock Dance X Sakura-no-Miya] ()

**WISLEY VELVET** (Rawdon, David O. Reg. 2001) Sdlg. . (44in 110cm) EM (6 -F). Vivid purple (RHS 82A) overlaid bishops purple (81A), slightly darker toward signal; signal yellow (14A) turning yellow green (154A); style arms medium violet (86A). [Parentage unknown -- possibly inv. Apollo] ()

**WIZARD'S MAGIC** (Ackerman, William L. Reg. 2000) Nicholls Gardens 2001

## **A Collated Survey of Japanese Iris Culture across the U.S.**

By the membership  
Collated by Jill Copeland

Twenty wonderful members of SJI from 14 different States (from coast to coast) sent information to make this article happen. They ranged from USDA zone 3 to zone 8. By far, most of the gardens were slightly acid or acid clay. Two were neutral and some gardens were loam or sand. None was alkaline. I have grown JIs in alkaline soil and it is not easy but I did it for 20 years. All but 2 of the gardeners mulched. The mulch range through pine needles, wood chips, anything that is available at the time, to snow. Snow is my favorite mulch for the winter. It is easy. It puts itself on and takes itself off. But it is not reliable and hides voles, which eat iris when there is lots of snow cover. Most of the gardeners kept their mulch on their gardens all year round for winter protection, water conservation and weed control.

**Jane & Frank Johnson**, Easley, SC: For mulch we use pine straw, 3" year around. This is pulled back to allow trimming and fertilizing with 10-10-10 in late February, when shoots first show, then replenish as needed. After bloom stalks are removed, we dress with alfalfa pellets, well watered in. Soil is amended with compost and alfalfa prior to planting. Mulch is renewed in October, when pine straw falls.

Everyone uses different fertilizer regimes. Here are some of them:

**Louis and Alice Belling**, Holland, NY: I just divided and transplanted all JIs in September into four new 4x8 raised beds consisting of a base of well rotted chipped tree limbs, grass clippings, chopped fruit and vegetable peelings...then topped with a composted manure mix from a near by nursery. Before the manure mix was put on the beds, the other materials were left to marinate from early spring throughout summer. I anxiously await seeing how the JIs will do in their new super charged vitamin beds.

**Sandy Kaznica**, Newark, DE: [uses] Peters 20-20-20 Garden Special & Iron here & there [in] spring as ground is poor in iron. I do not put iron near iris.

**Stephen Smith**, Orange, MA: [uses] Lots: organic, granular & alfalfa meal [in] spring & fall especially heavy when building new beds, also [he uses] lots of manure (horse & cow) [and] Miracid every 10-14 days during [the] growing season.

**Betsy Higgins**, Hendersonville, NC: [uses] 5-10-10 or 10-10-10 broadcast in February & monthly thereafter until August. [JIs are] given a boost of soluble 20-20-20 when needed before bloom.

**Ellen Gallagher**, Berlin, NH: [uses] no fertilizer except when amending a new bed & planting. [I] use dried manure & peat moss. (I think the pine needles feed the JI's). [She uses pine needles for mulch].

Most everyone agrees that JIs need to be watered enough to be sure they don't dry out. Some give 1" to 1 ½" per week.

**Sharon Whitney and Currier McEwen**, Harpswell, Maine: We try to get 2" of water weekly on the Japanese.

**Riley Probst**, Kirkwood, MO: says Water, water and more water from April through June.

**Sandy Kaznica**, Newark, DE: Rainfall has not been what it should be here since 1994 when we started a drought. I water once a week thoroughly if we do not get an inch of rain that week.

I asked what cultural practices brought the best results in growing JIs. As you would expect, I got many good answers. Here are a few:

**Fredrick Held**, Scio, OR: For good results, I must transplant when they decline [in] 3-4 yrs. Some are on [the] same spot longer in 2 ft to 3 ft rows.

**Stephen Smith**, Orange, MA: Seems to be very important to divide no later than 4 years and seems best to move [them] to new location & let old garden go fallow for a couple years.

**Jeanne Grundies**, Hendersonville, NC: I keep my bed clean of weeds. When planting, plant deeper so they have a basin to hold water around each plant.

**Cindy Rust**, Union, MO: [says] never let the iris dry out, feed them a lot. Jim Loveland told us to do this & it works for us.

**Libby Scott**, Chinquapin, NC: Cut foliage in winter. Plant 1-2 in. deep. You can always add more soil. Don't fertilize 'til established. Water before they get too dry [and give them] 5 hrs. of sun a day.

The best part is what the membership recommends for the beginning Japanese iris growers.



**Sharon Whitney and Currier McEwen, Harpswell, Maine:** A beginner's first Japanese iris should be an older variety, which has proven to be a hardy, good grower. The iris purchased should have a large root so that bloom will be enjoyed the first season. Bloom is the best encouragement. Care should be taken with soil preparation and ample water provided. Beginners need to meet other plant people through their local iris society, garden club, nursery and friendly neighborhood plant persons. Plants and people go together.

**Jeanne Grundies, Hendersonville, NC:** Japanese Iris are heavy feeders. Keep mulch on them and water well.

**Dennis Hager, Milling, MD:** Be patient, water heavily. Allow space for the plants to grow. If you grow them in the mixed border, be sure that they don't get crowded out before they are well established. Don't be afraid to fertilize.

**Miriam Emerson, Vicksburg, MS:** Plant them! Water good once a week. Great perennial if you don't want to "re-plant".

**Tom Dillard, Little Rock, AR:** Look for varieties that are good growers (such as 'Strut & Flourish'). Also, transplant every 3 years.

**Iris City Gardens, Primm Springs, TN:** Mulch, mulch, mulch.

**Stephen Smith, Orange, MA:** Don't be afraid to FERTILIZE and never let the garden dry out.

**Barry & Ella May Wulff, Philomath, OR:** Spend some time with Chad Harris!

The first reply to arrive came without a return address so I don't know who to give credit to but it came from Portland, OR. Who ever it is gave good advice to beginners. "Get advice from people like Chad Harris [&] Terry Aitken. Ask people in his/her area who have been growing JI's successfully for some time. Don't be afraid to ask questions! Gardeners are always happy to share advice & experience." It looks like Chad and Terry are doing a good job.

## A Place for Open Pollination?

By R. Dennis Hager  
Millington, MD

We have all been cautioned to carefully deadhead so that errant seedlings don't pop up in the garden. Most of us dutifully carry out this job, in the process destroying the next generation of genetic material that could potentially produce an award-winning iris.

For many of us, *hybridizer* evokes images of a gardener "playing bee", busily moving pollen from one flower to another, but a quick search of the 2000 *Cumulative Check List of Japanese Irises* (available on disk) shows that this is not always the case. Of the 1700 registered Japanese iris cultivars, there are over 80 available introductions that list *X unknown* in their parentage. Of those, two introductions with unknown pollen parents in the last cross of the parentage have gone on to win the Payne Award or Medal. Two more Payne winners list unknown parentage further back in their parentage. It should not be implied that open pollination is the best way to hybridize, but with Japanese irises, letting the bees do that part of the work can still result in some impressive results.

Japanese irises are unique among the modern irises because they are selected from the single species *Iris ensata* yet display incredible variation in form, but in a somewhat limited color palate. Seedlings from a single cross are frequently distinctively variable, both in color and form. This can be frustrating for the hybridizer who sets narrow goals and tries to achieve them using conventional genetic models. On the other hand, it can be quite rewarding for the gardener who simply saves a few open pollinated seedpods, then grows and enjoys the resulting flowers.

Though most Japanese iris cultivars are fertile, relying on bee pollination does limit the degree of variation that you can expect in your seedlings. The species type flower is best suited for bee pollination and some desirable and recessive traits are rarely passed along by bee pollination. Because of their flower structure, 3-fall forms are more likely to be the pollen parent, as well as the pod parent in bee crosses. Since multipetal form is a recessive trait, most bee-pollinated progeny will be 3-fall. Many multipetal forms rarely set seed by bee pollination.

Which seed should you save? Learn to trust your own instincts. If you really like a certain cultivar, there is a good chance that you will like one of its progeny. This bloom season, look at your flowers with a different perspective. Imagine what the next generation could be like, and then resist the urge to remove that spent flower and the ovary where its next best hope is stored. Who knows? You may just be saving a future Payne Medal winner.

Germinating seed is something that more and more home gardeners relegate to the commercial growers. It's sad that so many gardeners never get around to this exciting and most rewarding aspect of gardening. Japanese irises are so easy to germinate, that even if you've never grown a single plant from seed, you should be able to grow these.

Here in Zone 6-7, seed may be collected in late fall and immediately sown in the garden. They will slowly germinate the following spring. Alternatively, they can be stored either moistened or dry in the refrigerator, then sown in the late winter or early spring, either indoors or out. If they are stored dry, there is less chance of mold growth, but if they are stored moist, they tend to germinate more readily. The advantage to starting the seeds indoors is that if they are grown aggressively, most of them will bloom the following year. Though direct sowing is easier, they usually take two years to reach bloom size.

If you are not comfortable with the process of starting seed, the best method to use is the direct sowing

If you have no experience in growing irises from seed, there are a few pointers that may make it easier.

1. When you collect the seedpods in the fall, remove the seed and store them in the refrigerator in a tightly sealed plastic bag. Add a few drops of water to make sure that they do not dry out completely.
2. When you sow the seed, use a good quality starting mix with lots of peat. Barely cover the seeds with soil. Keep the soil surface wet to the touch, but do not cover..
3. If the entire pot or flat of seeds does not show growth in 3-4 weeks, water well, cover and place in the refrigerator for 2 weeks, then bring them out to room temperature again. If the weather is mild, I sometimes set the pots out doors in a protected spot, rather than taking up refrigerator space.
4. Do not give up too soon. If germination does not occur within 2 months, they may not be viable, but there is a good chance that they are just slow to germinate. Set the pot in a shady spot outside where you will remember to water it. You may be surprised to see plants emerging after several months.



Seedlings that are started in the early spring can be safely lined out in the garden as soon as they have formed a good root ball, usually when the foliage is about 8 inches tall. However, better growth may be obtained by transplanting them first into a larger pot, (I use a 4 inch pot) which is kept in a shallow pan of water. They should be given a weekly dose of water-soluble acid fertilizer. By mid-summer, they will have multiple fans and are definitely ready to be lined out in the garden, where they should be watered and fertilized regularly.

In a mild wet winter, many of my first year seedlings do not go completely dormant. If they do, they usually emerge earlier than established plants or new transplants in the spring. They would appreciate mulch. I generally use pine straw, if it is available.

If well grown, most seedlings that are started early will bloom here after their first winter in the garden. The first bloom is rarely more than one bloom stalk and generally, they bloom shorter and smaller the first year, though branching habit is usually demonstrated. Additionally, the bloom is a few days earlier than that of the mature plant.

Once you have grown Japanese irises from seed and see how rewarding it can be, you may just decide that it's time to try your hand at hybridizing, because you will have experience in one of the essential steps in the process.



Seed pod developing. Photo by Sharon Hayes Whitney

## AIS CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

The annual AIS Convention was held April 24 – 29, 2002 in Memphis, TN. It was a busy time for the participants: attending meetings, visiting beautiful gardens, catching up with old friends and meeting new ones.

Many extracurricular events were planned by the Convention Committee but probably none so popular as the pair of Canadian geese who built their nest in a planter right outside the glassed in meeting room hallway.

We all watched the three eggs being turned each day, reported the geese-activities to everyone we saw in elevators and meals and finally, on the last day of the convention, got to watch the goslings hatch and join the world. Surely the most exciting continuous show of the Convention!

Photo by Rita Gormley



## EDITOR'S ESSAY

Rita Gormley

It has been a bit hectic getting the SJI REVIEW back on schedule time-wise but we hope the membership enjoys the varied articles and magnificent pictures. We have returned to AG PRESS in Manhattan, KS as our printer and feel they produce a quality publication.

Many thanks to Jill Copeland and Bob Bauer for their outstanding and timely assistance and prompt answers to my many, many e-mails. They have made my job much easier. Thanks also to all those members who contributed fine, informative articles on such varied topics as contained in this issue. We truly want this publication to have "something for everyone", beginner or seasoned hybridizer.

We know this is your busy time of year – admiring the iris, taking pictures, hybridizing your favorites and enjoying the season. Be thinking as you wander through your iris of possible article topics to share with the rest of the SJI World! The deadline for the Fall Issue is August 15th and we encourage you to send articles, photos and your suggestions for material.

Please also send us reports on your local shows with Japanese Iris as winners or entries. We appreciate the work Dr. Epperson did giving us the information from the 2001 shows from the final show reports but hearing about YOUR local show, how many participants, which cultivar caught your eye and pictures of the winners (iris or people) is wonderful information to share.

For the next issue, we hope to publish an index of past articles to make your searching for an answer to any question easier. Anything else you would like to see? Send me a note: [GormleyGreenery@aol.com](mailto:GormleyGreenery@aol.com)

Not to sound like the Academy Awards presentation ceremony, but thanks also to my resident graphics expert, Tom, for his many talents in cropping and rearranging and resident-cat, Hamilton, for sitting on the computer whenever I am REALLY busy.

Happy Gardening!



TREASURER'S REPORT  
ROBERT BAUER

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

SJI

March 1, 2002

**BALANCE JAN 1, 2001** **20,355.11**

**INCOME**

Interest	876.24
Dues	922.50
Review Advertising	154.00
JI Book Royalty	77.71
Librarian Income	242.95
Checklists	76.00
Books	24.95
PCards	113.00
Slide Rent	15.00
Review back is	11.00
Member List	3.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>2273.40</b>

**EXPENSES**

<i>The Review</i> (Fall 2000)	1691.44
Service Awards	0.00
Payne Medal	45.00
President's Letter	97.02
Membership Chairman	36.35
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>1869.81</b>

**BALANCE DEC 31, 2001** **20,758.70**

4051.31 is in Checking  
6.21 is in Savings (required for Checking)  
16,701.18 is in a CD at 4.05%, maturity 3-11-02.

# THIS 'N THAT

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Many letters and e-mails are received with questions that can be answered by the Readers. Please send your questions and answers to the Editor at GormleyGreenery@aol.com or reply to the person asking. Thanks.

From: Bill Smoot, billsmoot@earthlink.net (SJI Webmaster), Portsmouth, VA

There will be a mini-convention held in Norfolk, VA on the first weekend of June 2004. This will be a combo AIS Region 4 and SJI event. We would like to showcase the hybridizing efforts of Dr. Bill Ackerman at the mini convention. I'd be interested in planting a display bed of all of his JI introductions and would appreciate any help you can give me in locating some of his early introductions.

At the AIS convention I heard that an iris was being named Rich Randall. That's all I know. Can any of you give me additional information on this? Rich was my best friend.

From: Nyla Hughes, St. Louis, MO (in response to Questionnaire)

Visitors to my garden are stunned by the variety of beautiful flowers and patterns displayed by the Japanese, and I've given away lots of starts to visitors, as door prizes at various garden clubs, etc. But reports indicate that most local gardeners who try them become discouraged by the constant amount of feeding and watering they require, and the regularity and difficulty of division necessary. They'll go to that much trouble for roses, which are continuous blooming, or annuals which bloom all summer, but for three weeks of glory, it's a lot of work. Most of the people in our local iris societies who have tried JIs have also decided after a few years to devote their time and space to easier (better adapted?) species. I would like to see Research to find out why it is so difficult to grow Japanese in the same spot for several years, and how to overcome that problem. I'd like to also see precise directions on watering and fertilizing programs/schedules. I'd like to see more work done in making JI plants more tolerant to a variety of growing situations, rather than becoming increasingly delicate and specialized, as they seem to have done over the years. I'd like to see more variety in form—some of the forms seen in Japan don't seem to be available here. The breeders are doing wonderful things with color—clear pinks and blues—but I hope to someday see yellows that match those in quality. And it would be great to get red into JIs. Tony Huber's work with interspecies crosses has both extended the season, added stupendous bud counts, and provided plants that really want to grow, in a very exciting range of work that may have particular application in the North and Midwest. I'm grateful to all those growers and hybridizers who've made current JIs so lovely and varied

## 2002 POPULARITY POLL BALLOT

Vote your 10 Favorite Japanese irises as seen in gardens this year. They do not need to be listed in any particular order. This form is to be used by both members of a family membership. Place comments on the reverse side. Mail or e-mail the ballot **postmarked no later than August 10th** to:

Bruce Filardi  
4244 NE Royal Ct.  
Portland, OR 97213-1668  
brucefil@prodigy.net

Member #1 Name \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_
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Member #2 Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Region \_\_\_\_\_





WHAT'S OLD!!

**Persian Rug (Marx 60)**



**Wounded Dragon (Payne 63)**



Hard to believe these were introduced so many years ago!

