

The cover features a photograph of a garden scene. In the foreground, several purple Japanese iris flowers are in bloom, with some buds still closed. They are surrounded by large, rounded green leaves and long, narrow green grass-like foliage. The background is a dense stand of tall, thin bamboo stalks, creating a textured, vertical pattern. The overall lighting is soft, suggesting a natural outdoor setting.

# THE REVIEW

OF THE SOCIETY  
FOR  
JAPANESE IRISES

VOLUME 41  
NUMBER #2  
FALL 2004

## PAYNE MEDAL RUNNERS UP



GEISHA DOLL  
(Ed Matheny III 1995)

FOREIGN INTRIGUE  
(Bob Bauer & John Coble  
1998)



PINK DACE  
(Jill Copeland 1993)



# THE REVIEW OF THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES

**VOLUME 41**

**NUMBER 2**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Officers and Appointments .....	4
Business Items .....	6
Letter from the President - Jill Copeland .....	8
Dues Payment to AIS-Credit Card .....	10
Haiku-Are There Poets Among Us? .....	11
Commercial Garden Directory .....	12
2004 AIS Awards-Japanese Irises .....	14
Iris Gems in the Diamond State by Dennis Hager .....	16
Proposed New SJI Bylaws .....	17
Flower Arranging in Four Easy Steps by Jean Morris .....	28
SJI Popularity Poll 2004 .....	30
Japanese Iris Culture '04 by Terry Aitken .....	32
Show Reports Around The Country .....	34
Maine Iris Society Show Awards by Ted White .....	36
Hybridizing Basics by Jan Sacks .....	39
Minutes-SJI Board Meeting Fresno 2004 .....	44
Nominating Committee Report .....	46
Rettig/Wirtz Japanese Iris Award .....	47
This 'N That .....	48
Editor's Essay - Rita Gormley .....	51
Hybridizers' Robin - Mike Iler .....	52

Photo Credits .....	43
Proposed Bylaws Changes Ballot .....	Insert

Cover Photo: SJI Photo Contest Winner - R. Dennis Hager

Taken at Academy House Garden, Millington, MD with yellow  
grove bamboo and I. ensata 'Sapphire Star'.

# THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES

## Officers

- President** Jill Copeland, 78118 M-40, Lawton, MI 49065  
Tel: (269) 624-1968; <jandjcope@aol.com>
- Vice President** Carol Warner, 16815 Falls Rd., Upperco, MD 21155-9445  
Tel: (410) 374-4788; <draycott@qis.net>
- Secretary** Peter Weixlmann, 280 Seneca Creek Road, West Seneca, NY 14224  
Tel: (716) 674-6289; <Pweixl@aol.com>
- Treasurer** Catherine Button, 70 Sharpless Blvd, Westampton, NJ 08060  
Tel: (609) 835-4218; <cathy@gixxergirl.org>
- Immediate Past President** Terry Aitken, 608 NW 119<sup>th</sup> Street, Vancouver, WA 98685  
Tel: (360) 573-4472; <aitken@flowerfantasy.net>

## Directors at Large

Donald Delmez, 3240 Connecticut Dr., St. Charles, MO 63301  
Tel: (636) 723-2274

Anna Mae Miller, Bronson Place, 1700 Bronson Way #155, Kalamazoo, MI 49009; Tel: (269) 349-5934;  
<irisquilt@aol.com>

Andy Wheeler, 90 Call St., Colrain, MA 01340  
Tel: (413) 624-8800; <andrewwheeler@oeb.harvard.edu>

## Nominating Committee

- Through 2004** Riley Probst, 418 N. Van Buren, Kirkwood, MO 63122  
Tel: (314) 822-2485, <rprobst02@earthlink.net>
- Through 2005** Ellen Gallagher, 1689 Riverside Drive, Berlin, NH 03570  
Tel: (603) 752-5731; <ellengalla@yahoo.com>
- Through 2006** Sharon Hayes Whitney, 1709 Harpswell Neck Road, South Harpswell, ME 04079-3303  
Tel: (207) 833-6905; <ertheart@gwi.net>

**SJI is an affiliate of AIS and all meetings are open to the public.**

## Appointments

Membership Chairman	Catherine Button, 70 Sharpless Blvd, Westampton, NJ 08060; Tel: (609) 835-4218; <cathy@gixxergirl.org>
Slides Chairman Librarian	John Coble, 9823 E. Michigan Ave., Galesburg, MI 49053; Tel: (269) 665-7500; <ensata@aol.com>
Robins Chairman	Cindy Rust, 2016 Meadow Lane., Union, MO 63084; Tel: (636) 583-6355; <srust@fidnet.com>
Hybridizer Robin	Jill Copeland, 78118 M-40 Lawton, MI 49065 Tel: (269) 624-1968; <jandjcope@aol.com>
E-Mail Robin	Dennis Hager, PO Box 390, Millington, MD 21651 Tel: (410) 928-3147; <academyhouse@toad.net>
Popularity Poll	Bruce Filardi, 4244 NE Royal CT., Portland, OR 97213; Tel: (503) 238-1604; <bfilardi@comcast.net>
Display Garden Chair	Phil Cook, PO Box 338, Underhill, VT 05489 Tel: (802) 899-9928; <phgarden@together.net>
Awards & Registrations	Anna Mae Miller, Bronson Place, 1700 Bronson Way #155, Kalamazoo, MI 49009; Tel: (269) 349- 5934; <irisquilt@aol.com>
Editor:	Rita Gormley, 6717 Martha Dr., Cedar Hill, MO 63016; Tel: (636) 274-7435 <GormleyGreenery@aol.com>
Web Master:	Dennis Hager, PO Box 390, Millington, MD 21651 Tel: (410) 928-3147; <academyhouse@toad.net>

**SJI WEBSITE:**

**<http://www.socji.org/>**

Includes information on Awards, Display Gardens,  
Membership, Officers, Commercial Sources and Member  
Services

## Business Items

### DUES:

Single	annual - \$5.00	triennial - \$12.50	<b>Life - \$100.00</b>
Family	annual - \$6.00	triennial - \$15.50	<b>Life - \$125.00</b>
Youth	annual - \$2.00	triennial - \$5.50	

Overseas mailing fee of \$2.00 per year for mailing.

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

Address changes: please notify Membership Chairman

*Please note that all memberships run from Jan 15th to Jan 15th.*

### PLEASE NOTE

**LIFE MEMBERSHIP DUES WILL INCREASE 1-1-05 TO THE ABOVE RATE.  
ANY DUES RECEIVED BY THE MEMBERSHIP CHAIR PRIOR TO 1-1-05  
CAN BE AT THE OLD RATE OF \$75 SINGLE, \$100 FAMILY**

### SALES AND RENTAL ITEMS

The Japanese Iris by Currier McEwen \$24.95

#### **Color Postcards - 2 for 1 Sale**

Set #1 - 16 different W.A. Payne introductions

Set #2 - 18 different Payne Award winners

2 sets (#1, #2, or both) \$5.00

Overseas orders, add \$1.00 per set for airmail

Back issues of The Review - \$1.50 per copy

Volume 1 (1964) consists of 3 issues, All others contain 2 issues each

SJI Slide Set Rental \$5.00

Iris Laevigata - book rental \$5.00

All prices include postage. Send requests to John Coble.

Check payable to SJI. Please allow ample time for scheduling.

### **Deadlines for Submitting Articles and Information**

**Spring - February 15**

**Fall - August 15**

## ADVERTISING

Advertising will be accepted for plants and horticultural-related items.

### Charges effective 7-1-04

FULL PAGE COLOR (4 X 7)	\$60.00	
FULL PAGE B&W (4 X 7)	\$50.00	
HALF PAGE B&W (4 X 3 1/2)	\$30.00	
1/4 PAGE B&W 4 X 1 1/2)	\$20.00	
Commercial Directory (plus web):	\$10.00	Annual charge

Please send original photos (prints or slides) for scanning or high resolution digitals (at least 300 dpi). 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

\*\$5.00 Canada, \$8.00 Overseas air mail – payable in US funds only  
please make checks payable to **SJI**.

This checklist is also available as a WORD document on the SJI website updated with new information yearly by Bob Bauer, current through 2003.

## 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**, to Catherine Button, 70 Sharpless Blvd, Westampton, NJ 08060, Tel (609) 835-4218; cathy@gixxergirl.org



## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Jill Copeland*

I am reluctantly going to be your President for 2 more years. I thank Rita, Terry, the Board, and Committee Chairs for making my job easier. I thank Carol Warner for her years of service as VP. She will be replaced with Dennis Hager. I am looking forward to working with him. My thanks to Peter Weixlmann and Catherine Button for agreeing to serve again. The Nominating Committee will replace Riley Probst with Barbara Aitken.

Thanks to you who voted your Popularity Poll. Again our numbers are up. Good job! Only 20 of you voted in '02, 58 in '03, and 73 in '04. Bruce's goal for '05 is 100.

You will find a revised version of our bylaws in this issue. The Board tried to cover everything we could think of because changing the bylaws is expensive. 1) We have done several things to help with clerical work like a 90-day grace period rather 60-days before delinquent names are deleted from the computer. Also we have separated our membership from AIS so our renewal date doesn't change every time AIS changes theirs. Dues can still be paid through AIS, though. 2) We restored the Directors to a rotation to help with institutional memory. 3) We added 2 new members to the Board—the Editor and the Past-President. 4) We gave the VP more responsibility. 5) We changed the quorum requirements to a majority (five) of the all board members. 6) We changed the term of officers to 3 years from 2 years. The last 2 Presidents took 2 terms (4 years). 7) And we eliminated the Executive Committee, which doesn't seem to have any function. Please, vote on these bylaws.

I hope those of you, who bought the iris at the SJI auction at the AIS convention, are enjoying your plants. If there any problems just let me know.



Those of you who missed the Region 4 spring meeting really missed a good meeting. They had 6+ hours of judging training, 2 public gardens with Japanese iris in bloom. At the arboretum, we got to see a baby eagle. The public was not allowed in the area but it was the area where the Japanese Irises were planted so they let us in a few at a time. Their Iris Show was a highlight. Besides the terrific flower arrangements, Carol Warner brought in Hiroshi Shimizu's seedling pseudatas (*I. pseudacorus* X *I. ensata*.) They are so wonderful. After I got home I went into my garden and made as many crosses for pseudatas as I could. And I got pods!

Plan to go to the SJI Convention next year hosted by the Diamond State Iris Society in Dover, Delaware on June 16-18. This will be a "not to be missed" event. There are hundreds of guest irises from prominent and less well known hybridizers planted in the gardens. Look for more information in this issue.

We had a very strange year with 80 degree days followed by a 24 degree freeze in mid May. It started out like a disaster and TBs didn't do very well. The JIs, however, did very well. They started blooming in mid June (two weeks early) and I still have a couple in bloom (September).

Best Wishes,  
Jill

### ***INVITATION TO JOIN SJI***

We are pleased to report that the new *SJI Invitation to Join* has received many favorable comments. We have mailed some to each of the gardens listed in the Commercial Directory (in this issue of the REVIEW) and each Display Garden. This is a great tool to solicit new members for SJI.

If you need more of these brochures for meetings or other JI functions, let Catherine Button know and she will mail them to you.

Rita Gormley, Editor

## **CURRENT AIS MEMBERSHIP OFFICE POLICY CONCERNING ACCEPTING DUES FOR SECTIONS AND COOPERATING SOCIETIES**

The AS Membership Office will accept dues for Sections and Cooperating Societies when tendered by AIS members simultaneously with their AIS dues and paid either by check, money order, or Visa or MasterCard.

All dues collected on behalf of Sections or Cooperating Societies are forwarded by the AIS Membership Office to the appropriate recipients during the first week of the month subsequent to the month in which they were received by the Membership Office.

**As a special gesture of support to the Sections and Cooperating Societies, the AIS Membership Office will accept dues from members of these groups living outside the USA who are not also tendering AIS dues simultaneously, including those who are not AIS members, when those persons pay with either Visa or MasterCard.**

Members of Sections or Cooperating Societies who live within the USA and who are not paying AIS dues simultaneously should always send their check for renewal directly to the membership chairman of the appropriate Section or Cooperating Society.

The AIS Membership Office does not accept charge payments for special contributions to the Sections or Cooperating Societies.

**THESE RULES ARE SUBJECT TO REVISION AND  
CHANGE AT AIS DISCRETION  
MARCH 2002**

## HAIKU: ARE THERE POETS AMONG US?

Haiku is a form of poetry popular in Japan, just as limericks and sonnets are in English. The form of the poem in Japanese is very simple: 3 lines and 17 characters grouped as 5-7-5.

This is difficult to translate into English, but it is generally accepted that the English form is 3 lines and 17 syllables, still in the 5-7-5 meter. Using fewer syllables is acceptable, as long as the message is conveyed.

Iris in the marsh  
Blossoms reaching to the sky  
All is right again

Writing Haiku is not easy, but it can be quite satisfying. It's a great way to convey some of your excitement with irises. For help getting started, there are several websites that discuss some of the considerations in writing Haiku.

Send your iris Haiku to the SJI 2005 convention chair and it will be included in the Convention Handbook. It is a great way to be a part of the convention. If you like, it can be published anonymously and it will be your secret contribution.

Submissions must be received by March 15, 2005. Please mail to: R. Dennis Hager, P.O. Box 390, Millington, MD 21651 or email to [academyhouse@starband.net](mailto:academyhouse@starband.net). By entering your poem, you grant permission to publish it in the Convention Handbook. Please indicate if you would like a byline.



## COMMERCIAL GARDEN DIRECTORY

AITKEN'S SALMON CREEK GARDEN

TERRY & BARBARA AITKEN

608 NW 119TH STREET

VANCOUVER, WA 98685

360-573-4472 [aitken@flowerfantasy.net](mailto:aitken@flowerfantasy.net)

[www.flowerfantasy.net](http://www.flowerfantasy.net)

DONDELMEZ

3240 CONNECTICUT AVE.

ST. CHARLES, MO 63301

636-723-2274

DRAYCOTT GARDENS

CAROL WARNER

16815 FALLS RD.

UPPERCO, MD 21155-9445

Tel. (410) 374-4788

[draycott@qis.net](mailto:draycott@qis.net)

EARTHEART GARDENS

SHARON HAYES WHITNEY

1709 HARPSWELL NECK RD.

HARPSWELL, ME 04079

207-833-6327 [ertheart@ghi.net](mailto:ertheart@ghi.net)

McEwen Japanese Irises

ENSATA GARDENS

BOB BAUER & JOHN COBLE

9823 E. MICHIGAN AVE.

GALESBURG, MI 49053

269-665-7500 [ensata@aol.com](mailto:ensata@aol.com)

[www.ensata.com](http://www.ensata.com)

GREYWOOD FARM

DARLYN WILKINSON

85 RIVER ROAD

TOPSFIELD, MA 01983

978-887-7620 [greywoodma@att.net](mailto:greywoodma@att.net)

[www.greywoodfarm.com](http://www.greywoodfarm.com)

IRIS CITY GARDENS  
GREG & MARCY MC CULLOUGH  
7675 YOUNGER CREEK ROAD  
PRIMM SPRINGS, TN 38476  
800-934-IRIS (4747) [icity@email.msn.com](mailto:icity@email.msn.com)  
<http://www.iriscitygardens.com>

SANS SOUCI NURSERY  
L. BRUCE HORNSTEIN, DVM  
3819 BEATY ROAD  
MONKTON, MD 21111  
410-557-0250 [lbh0251@msn.com](mailto:lbh0251@msn.com)  
[www.irises.com](http://www.irises.com)

THE IRIS GALLERY  
JAY & TERRI HUDSON  
33450 LITTLE VALLEY ROAD  
FORT BRAGG, CA 95437  
800-757-4747 [irishud@mcn.org](mailto:irishud@mcn.org)

THE ROCK GARDEN  
CHRISTY ANN HENSLEER  
952 VIET ROAD  
NEWPORT, WA 99156-9325  
509-447-4143 [hensler@povn.com](mailto:hensler@povn.com)  
[www.povn.com/rock/](http://www.povn.com/rock/)

WILDWOOD GARDENS  
WILLIAM PLOTNER  
P. O. BOX 250  
MOLALLA, OR 97038-0250  
503-829-3102 [gardens@molalla.net](mailto:gardens@molalla.net)  
INTRODUCING FOR LORENA REID

# 2004 AIS AWARDS

## JAPANESE IRISES

### PAYNE MEDAL (JI)

34 EPIMETHEUS (Sterling Innerst)

#### Runners-up:

30 GEISHA DOLL (Ed Matheny III)

25 FOREIGN INTRIGUE

(Bob Bauer & John Coble)

24 PINK DACE (Jill Copeland)

### Award of Merit

29 RASPBERRY CANDY

(Bob Bauer & John Coble)]

29 SING THE BLUES (Lorena Reid)

#### Runners-up:

28 PINKERTON

(Bob Bauer & John Coble)

22 KOSHUI NO ASA (Hiroshi Shimizu)

22 RIVULETS OF WINE (J.T. Aitken)

### Honorable Mention

23 DIRIGO RED ROCKET (John White)

18 RAFFERTY

(Bob Bauer & John Coble)

17 PEAK OF PINK

(Bob Bauer & John Coble)

16 ABOVE AND BEYOND

(Donald Delmez)

15 POOH BAH (Ben Hager)



Runners-up:

- 14 DIRIGO BLUE PLATE (John White)
- 13 ALL IN WHITE (Donald Delmez)
- 13 AVALANCHE EXPRESS  
(Chad Harris)
- 13 BEWITCHING TWILIGHT  
(Chad Harris)
- 13 CRESTED SURF  
(Bob Bauer & John Coble)
- 13 CROWNED IMPERIAL  
(Bob Bauer & John Coble)
- 13 HEAVENLY REFLECTION  
(Donald Delmez)



# **Iris Gems in the Diamond State**

***2005 Convention of the Society for Japanese Irises  
Hosted by the Diamond State Iris Society in Dover, Delaware  
June 16-18, 2005***

It is 6 long years between Japanese iris conventions and the Diamond State Iris Society is working hard to make it worth the wait! We have six guest gardens that are graced with over 200 different seedlings and cultivars submitted by 21 hybridizers. Hybridizers were encouraged to submit as many as 5 plants of each selection, so you will have an opportunity to see most of them growing in different conditions. In addition to Japanese irises, also included in the guest irises are 2 late blooming Siberians, 2 Louisianas, 3 species and 44 species-X, including many of Shimizu's pseudatas. It has been exciting seeing them bloom this year and we are anxious to share the experience with you. The guest gardens are being maintained by experienced irisarians, who have extensive collections of their own. All of them are less than 30 minutes from the hotel, so the tours will be conducted at a leisurely pace. We can promise you more garden time than bus time!

Other activities include judges' training, demonstration of hybridizing techniques for beginners, an official AIS exhibition, floral exhibits and a plant auction!

If your plant interests extend beyond irises, there is an optional trip to Longwood Gardens, one of the Country's premiere public gardens, with over 1000 acres of garden and 4 acres of heated greenhouse!

Registration details will be in the January 2005 *AIS Bulletin* and on the SJI website at <http://www.socji.org/>.

# PROPOSED BYLAWS CHANGES

The proposed bylaws for the Society for Japanese Irises can be found in this document. These changes reflect several important changes. Additions are **bold underline** and deletions are ~~striketthrough~~.

They include (for those of you who don't want to read the whole thing):

1. Allows for Board of Director actions via e-mail.
2. Dissolves the Executive Committee, incorporating its responsibilities with the Board of Directors.
3. Changes the term of office to 3 years, similar to the American Iris Society system.
4. The Editor of the *Review* and the immediate past president are *ex officio* members of the Board of Directors.
5. Quorum for meetings of the board is a simple majority of the Members.
6. Membership grace period extended from 60 to 90 days.
7. SJI members are encouraged not required to be AIS members.

The Board of Directors feels that these changes are needed to assure the smooth working of the organization. The proposed changes will be mailed with the Fall 2004 *Review* and will become effective if two-thirds of the responses received by the cut-off date of 11-15-2004 (at least 30 days after the mailing) are in favor of the changes.

E-mail votes will be accepted by the SJI Secretary at <pweixl@aol.com>. **Be sure** to show Subject as **SJI BYLAWS BALLOT** and include your name and address.

**BYLAWS CHANGE BALLOT**

**INSERT IN THIS ISSUE**

**PLEASE VOTE!!**

**MAIL BY NOVEMBER 1, 2004**



BYLAWS FOR THE REGULATION, EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED BY  
STATUTE OR ITS ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

OF

THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES, INC. REVISED ~~MAY, 1999~~ February, 2005

ARTICLE I - NAME

- Section 1. This corporation shall be known as the Society for Japanese Irises, Inc.
- Section 2. The term Japanese irises shall encompass all forms of *Iris ensata* (formerly known as *Iris kaempferi*), a species of the genus and subgenus *Iris*, section *Spathula*, subsection *Apogon*, series *Laevigatae*.

ARTICLE II - OFFICES

The principal office for the transaction of business of this corporation shall be determined, and may be changed from time to time by the Board of Directors (the "Board").

ARTICLE III - OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSES

- Section 1. Subject to and in accordance with the purposes set forth in the Articles of Incorporation, the Society for Japanese Irises, Inc. ("SJI") shall be organized and operated exclusively for purposes described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- Section 2. The SJI shall develop the science of horticulture and any activities related to the study, propagation, and culture of the Japanese irises and hybrids involving these irises; to stimulate and foster interest in horticultural pursuits, conservation, and protection of these plants; to cooperate with other organizations, public and private, in the scientific and horticultural education of all those interested in learning any phase of Japanese irises; by any and all means which may be determined from time to time by the Board. These shall include, but are not limited to:
- a. Encouragement and support of scientific research, including that pertaining to the management of pests and diseases related to, but not necessarily exclusive to, the Japanese irises;
  - b. Investigation and conservation of Japanese irises in the wild;
  - c. Collection, compilation, and publication of data concerning the history, classification, breeding, and culture of Japanese irises;
  - d. Education of the public regarding Japanese irises through exhibitions, public display gardens, published standards for judging, and local, area, regional, and

- e. national meetings open to the public; and  
Furtherance of the endeavors of the American Iris Society ("AIS").

#### ARTICLE IV - AFFILIATION WITH THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

- Section 1. The Society for Japanese Irises shall be a Section of the American Iris Society.
- Section 2. No part of these Bylaws shall be interpreted in any manner that will contradict or supersede the published bylaws, rules, and regulations of the American Iris Society.
- Section 3. The Society for Japanese Irises shall represent in dealings with third parties that the American Iris Society is not responsible for obligations of the Society for Japanese Irises. The Society for Japanese Irises shall indemnify and hold harmless the American Iris Society for obligations of the Society for Japanese Irises.
- Section 4 The AIS shall have no power to exercise control over this Society except pursuant to any Section Charter Agreement entered into as a condition of the Charter or as provided in the Articles of Incorporation or bylaws of this Society.

#### ARTICLE V - NONPARTISAN ACTIVITIES

The Society for Japanese Irises has been formed exclusively for the purposes described above, and it shall be, nonprofit and nonpartisan. No substantial part of the activities of SJI shall consist of the publication or dissemination of materials with the purpose of attempting to influence legislation, and SJI shall not participate or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office or for or against any cause or measure being submitted to the people for a vote. SJI shall not, except in an insubstantial degree, engage in any activities or exercise any powers that are not in furtherance of the purposes described above.

#### ARTICLE VI - DEDICATION OF ASSETS

- Section 1. The assets of this nonprofit corporation are irrevocably dedicated to scientific and educational purposes. No part of the net earnings or assets of the Society of Japanese Irises, on dissolution or otherwise, shall inure to the benefit of any private person or individual, or shall be distributed to its members, directors, officers, or other private persons, except that the organization is authorized to pay reasonable compensation for goods and/or services rendered in furtherance of the objectives of the SJI.
- Section 2. On liquidation or dissolution, all assets and obligations shall be distributed and paid over to the AIS or other organization dedicated to similar purposes, as determined by the Board, provided that the organization continues to be dedicated to the exempt purposes as specified in Internal Revenue Code

ARTICLE VII- MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

- Section 1 Membership in AIS. All voting members of the Society for Japanese Irises residing in the United States and Canada shall **be encouraged to be** members of the American Iris Society.
- Section 2. Classes of Members. There shall be the following classes of members: Single, Dual, Youth, Life, and Honorary Life.
- Definitions of Classes. The definitions of Single, Dual, Youth and Life memberships shall be the same as definitions adopted for the same classes of membership in the American Iris Society.
  - Dues Basis. Single, Dual and Youth membership dues may be paid on either an annual or triennial basis.
  - Life Membership Basis. Life membership may be on a Single or Dual basis.
  - Honorary Life. Honorary Life membership, for which no dues shall be required, may be granted by the Board to individuals who have rendered distinguished service in furtherance of the purposes of the Society for Japanese Irises.
- Section 3. Charter Members. All persons who became members of the Society for Japanese Irises during the calendar year 1963 shall be designated as Charter Members.
- Section 4. Dues Expiration. Dues for all classes of members shall be determined by the Board: ~~and shall have the same expiration date as American Iris Society dues.~~ Members whose dues remain unpaid ~~sixty~~ **ninety** (60-90) days after written notice has been given shall be deemed non-active, and their names shall be removed from the membership roll.
- Section 5. Membership Application. Every application for membership, **accompanied by the proper dues** shall be considered **a member and be placed on the membership roll.** ~~by the Membership Committee. Provided proper dues accompany the application it may accept such application and place the name of the applicant on the roll.~~
- Section 6. Termination of Membership. Any member may be dropped from the roll by the Board if such action is deemed in the best interest of the Society for Japanese Irises.
- Section 7. Subscribing Membership. Individuals or organizations may subscribe to the periodical publications of the Society for Japanese Irises by paying an amount equal to the annual or triennial dues. If such individuals or organizations are not members of The American Iris Society they shall be designated "Subscribers" and shall not have voting or other membership privileges.



## ARTICLE VIII – OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS AT LARGE

- Section 1. Enumeration and Qualifications. The officers of the Society for Japanese Irises shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and three Directors at Large, all of whom shall be voting members of the Society for Japanese Irises. The editor of The Review and the immediate past President shall be members of the Board ex-officio and will have voting privileges. All members of the Board must be members of SJI in good standing.
- Section 2. Election and Term, The Directors at Large shall consist of three members, one of whom shall be elected each year to serve for three years. The Directors at Large are elected to bring institutional memory to the board and every effort should be made to represent as many sections of the country as possible, with a view to obtaining adequate regional representation and of extending interest in the Society for Japanese Irises. The other officers shall be elected triennially to serve for three years, shall be elected biennially to serve for two years, and the other officers shall be elected biennially in the years alternating with the election of the Directors at Large, to serve for two years. The terms of all elected officers shall run from January 1<sup>st</sup> of the year following the election except that officers elected to fill vacancies shall begin to serve upon completion of the election. Terms shall continue until successors take office.
- Section 3. President. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Society for Japanese Irises, of the Board of Directors, ~~and of the Executive Committee~~. He shall be a member ex-officio of all committees except the Nominating Committee. He shall exercise the usual functions of a President. He shall serve as a member of the AIS Section Advisory Board of the American Iris Society during the national spring meeting of the AIS.
- Section 4. Vice President. The Vice-President shall, in the absence of the President, exercise the functions of the office of President. The Vice President shall automatically become President upon expiration of the latter's term, barring unforeseen circumstances. The Vice President shall arrange the program for the SJI meetings at the AIS National Conven-

**tions, and schedule the hosts for future SJI conventions.**

- Section 5. Secretary. The Secretary shall keep the minutes and records of the Society for Japanese Irises, of the Board of Directors, ~~and of the Executive Committee~~; and shall serve all notices to members. He shall conduct all correspondence of the Society for Japanese Irises, provided that duties attending correspondence may be delegated to a Corresponding Secretary duly appointed by the Board of Directors.
- Section 6. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall receive, record, deposit and account for all moneys of the Society for Japanese Irises. He shall pay all bills approved by the President or the Board. He shall report on finances at the Annual Meeting and at such other times as the President or the Board may require. **The Treasurer may also be the Membership Committee Chair.**
- Section 7. Other Duties. Each officer shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Board or by these Bylaws.

**ARTICLE IX- BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- Section 1. Enumeration and Powers. The Society for Japanese Irises shall be managed by a Board of Directors consisting of the ~~seven~~ **nine** officers set forth in Article VIII, Section 1, of the Bylaws. The Board shall have the control and management of the affairs, policies and business of the Society for Japanese Irises between meetings of the Society for Japanese Irises.
- Section 2. Meetings. Regular or special meetings of the Board shall be called by the President whenever deemed necessary or whenever called upon to do so by a majority of the Directors or by a majority of the Directors at Large. The Board shall make such rules and regulations covering its meetings as it may deem necessary, **including conducting meetings by mail and/or e-mail.**
- Section 3. Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall consist of the four officers other than Directors at Large, set forth in Article VIII, Section 1 of these Bylaws.
- Section 4. Interim Powers. The Executive Committee shall meet when necessary and, subject to the direction and control of the Board, shall have the power to transact all regular business of the Society for Japanese Irises during the period between meetings of the Board of Directors, with the exception of the following reserved powers:
- a. Removing members from the roll other than for

resignation, non-payment of dues, or lapse of membership in American Iris Society:

- b. Other disciplining of members:
- c. Creating or granting honors and awards:
- d. Filling vacancies in elective offices and Election Committee posts:

Section 5. Special and Regular Meetings. Special or Regular meetings of the Executive Committee shall be called by the President whenever deemed necessary, or whenever called upon to do so by a majority of the Committee. The Executive Committee may make such regulations and rules covering its meetings as it may deem necessary:

Section 6 ~~3~~. Quorum. Five members of the Board, including at least two Directors at Large and at least two members of the Executive Committee; A simple majority of the Board members (5), present in person or by proxy, shall constitute a quorum of the Board for all purposes. ~~Three members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum of such Committee for all purposes:~~

Section 7 ~~4~~. Interim Board Actions. In the intervals between meetings of the Board of Directors ~~and of the Executive Committee~~, the President may refer and submit by mail or telephone or e-mail to all the members of the Board ~~or Committee~~ questions relating to affairs of the Society for Japanese Irises which, in the opinion of the President, require action on the part of such Board ~~or such Committee~~. The result of such referendum, which shall require a majority vote of such Board ~~or such Committee~~, shall constitute valid action by such Board ~~or such Committee~~.

## ARTICLE X- COMMITTEES

Section 1. Enumeration. There shall be the following standing committees: ~~Registration and~~ Awards, Membership, Publicity, Editor, Nominating, Display Gardens, Robins and Slides. The Chairman of the Slides Committee shall also be designated Librarian. The President shall establish such other special committees as deemed necessary, subject to ratification by the Board.

Section 2. Appointment and Approval. Except for the Nominating Committee, all standing and special committees shall be appointed by the President subject to the approval of the Board.

Section 3. Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall consist of three voting members, one of whom shall be elected each year to serve for three years

from the 1<sup>st</sup> of January following his election and until a successor has been elected to replace him. No member of the Board of Directors shall be qualified to serve on the Nominating Committee. An effort shall be made to have the Nominating Committee represent as many sections of the country as possible, with a view to obtaining adequate regional representation and of extending interest in the Society for Japanese Irises. The Chairman of the Nominating Committee shall be **determined by the members of the Committee and usually** the member of that committee having served the longest time.

## ARTICLE XI- DUTIES OF COMMITTEES

### Section 1.

~~Registration and Awards.~~ The Society for Japanese Irises shall participate in the ~~Registration and Awards~~ System of the American Iris Society. The ~~Registration and Awards~~ Committee shall have charge of such participation subject to direction and control of the Board. The Committee shall study the existing Registration and Awards system and submit recommendations from time to time for such changes in, or extensions of, this system as they believe will stimulate the production and breeding of more and better Japanese irises, including any special awards they deem advisable applicable to iris plants within official Test Gardens of the Society for Japanese Irises which will not conflict with the general awards outside such gardens.

### Section 2.

Display Garden Committee. The Display Garden Committee shall maintain a system of official Society for Japanese Irises display gardens and, subject to Board of Director approval, establish rules for same. The Display Garden Committee shall encourage members to participate in the display garden program, publicize the program, and be empowered to designate and withdraw designation as official Society for Japanese Irises display gardens.

### Section 3.

Membership Committee. The Membership Committee, **may be the Treasurer, and** shall canvas for and record all memberships. It shall propose ways and means of increasing membership both in this Society and in the American Iris Society. It shall perform any other duties with respect to membership assigned to it by these Bylaws or by the Board of Directors.



- Section 4.           Publicity Committee. The Publicity Committee shall devise ways and means of educating the general public regarding Japanese irises by recommendations regarding uses, displays, contests, articles in publications, and by any other available means.
- Section 5.           Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall make nominations as directed in these Bylaws.
- Section 6.           Slides Committee and Librarian. The Slides Committee shall maintain a library of slide programs on Japanese irises which shall be made available for use in educating members and others on Japanese irises. The Committee shall establish rules for the Slides Program, subject to Board approval. As librarian, the Slides Committee Chairman shall maintain all literature and photographic materials belonging to the Society for Japanese Irises, and shall maintain an up to date inventory of same. The Librarian shall establish and operate the Society library, making materials therein available to members for such fees as necessary to cover postage. The Librarian shall ensure that the President is at all times informed of all materials in the Society library and their location, and for having a written set of instructions, always current, for transferring Society materials in the event the Librarian cannot fulfill his duties as a result of sickness or death.
- Section 7.           The Editor shall edit and arrange for the publication of The Review of the Society for Japanese Irises, and for the distribution of same.
- Section 8.           Robin Committee. The Robin Committee shall encourage the extensive circulation of robin letters and shall extract from them such information as may be worthy of publication in the Society's publications, but not suited to the AIS Bulletins, with the consent of the writer.

## ARTICLE XII - MEETINGS OF THE MEMBERSHIP

- Section 1.           Annual and Special Meetings, Call, Notice, and Quorum. The Board of Directors may call an Annual meeting of the membership to be held at such time of each year and in such place as the Board may decide. The Board shall call such meeting upon the request in writing of one fifth of the voting membership. Special Meetings of the Society for Japanese Irises may be called by the President or the Board of Directors when it is deemed to the advantage of the Society to do so. Notice of such meetings, whether

- annual or special, shall be mailed to the last known residence or business address of each voting member at least thirty days prior to the date of the meeting.
- Section 2. Member Business Actions. Any business requiring action by the members may be conducted by mail at the discretion of the Board. The procedure for the conduct of such business shall be determined by the Board except as to matters with regard to which the procedure is determined by these Bylaws.

#### ARTICLE XIII - NOMINATIONS, ELECTIONS AND VACANCIES

- Section 1. Nominations by Committee. A report of nominations which the Nominating Committee shall have made for all offices and Committee posts to be filled by election shall be published in the Fall issue of The Review of the Society for Japanese Irises. If no additional nominations are made under the procedure hereinafter set forth, the ballot may be omitted and the persons first nominated considered elected.
- Section 2. Nominations by Petition and Balloting. After such report of the Nominating Committee has been mailed, nominations may be made by eight voting members. Such nominations shall be in writing, signed by the nominating members, and filed with the chairman of the Nominating committee not later than December 1<sup>st</sup> together with a letter of consent to such nomination signed by the person nominated. If additional nominations are made, the Nominating Committee shall prepare a ballot including all nominations and designating which were made by the Nominating Committee. The ballot shall be mailed to all voting members not later than December 15<sup>th</sup> with instructions for voting by mail. Ballots shall be returned to the Chairman of the Nominating Committee not later than December 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Section 3. Tabulation and Results. The Nominating Committee shall tabulate the returns and inform the Secretary of the results of the election. By appropriate means the Secretary shall promptly inform the membership of the results.
- Section 4. Vacancies. In case of a vacancy in any elective office or elective committee post, the Board shall have power to fill such vacancy for the unexpired term. Elections by mail shall be deemed to occur on December 31<sup>st</sup> for the purposes of this Section.

#### ARTICLE XIV - FINANCE

- Section 1. Control of Funds. The Board shall decide the official depository for the funds of the Society for Japanese Irises, and the officers who may sign checks.

- Section 2. Sources of Revenue. Revenue from sources other than dues may be raised as recommended by the Board and used for meeting the expenses of the Society for Japanese Irises.
- Section 3. Power to Incur Debts. Debts shall not be incurred by any officer in the name of the Society for Japanese Irises unless authorized by the Board.
- Section 4. No Personal Liability. There shall be no personal liability of members for obligations of the Society for Japanese Irises.

#### ARTICLE XV - AMENDMENTS OF BYLAWS

- Section 21. Proposed Amendments. The Board of Directors may make proposals for amendments. Twenty-five percent of the voting membership may present to the Society proposed amendments in writing with a request that they be presented for a vote of the membership. In either event the Board shall call and order notice of an Annual Meeting, or of a Special Meeting, or may call a mail poll, of the membership at which the proposals may be presented.
- Section 2. **Amendment by Meeting with Notice. The Board shall call and order notice of an Annual Meeting, or of a Special Meeting of the membership at which the proposals may be presented. Notice of Meeting and the proposed amendments shall be mailed at least 90 days before the Meeting. Voting members of the SJI who are unable to attend the meeting may vote by proxy by assigning their vote to a member who is in attendance at the Meeting. A two-thirds majority of all votes cast at the meeting shall be required for passage of proposed amendments.**
- Section 13. Amendment by Mail Poll with Notice. These Bylaws may also be amended by means of a mail poll of voting members provided such amendment shall have been mailed in writing at least 30 days before the date set for receipt of returned ballots. In any mail poll a two-thirds vote of all returned ballots in favor of such amendment will have the same effect as though the question had been voted upon at a Meeting.

Approved by membership of the Society for Japanese Irises, a Section of the American Iris Society, by ballot May 31, 1999 \_\_\_\_\_.

BYLAWS COMMITTEE



# FLOWER ARRANGING (FOR YOUTH) IN FOUR EASY STEPS

Jean Morris, Ballwin, MO, AIS Youth Chair

While your arrangement will mostly be judged on the "Principles of Design," which are Balance, Proportion, Scale, Rhythm, Dominance, Contrast and Unity, if you use the 4 easy steps below and follow the hints, you will automatically carry out the Principles and create a good looking design.

But first, a word about equipment. If you are using a shallow container, you will need a PIN HOLDER (sometimes called a frog), and a couple inches of STICKUM. Pin holders cost less than \$3 and can be bought at craft stores such as Franks or Michaels. Stickum is a brand name and can be bought by the foot at a florist. It is reusable and is more dependable than florist's clay. Make a "snake" of the Stickum around the bottom edge of the pin holder. Place in dry container; push down and turn slightly. Now add water.

If you are using a deep container, use OASIS, a soft foam-like material which easily soaks up water. You do not want the hard foam used for artificial flower arranging. Oasis can be bought in blocks at the florist if your craft store does not carry it. It is inexpensive. Use a table knife to cut it to fit your container. Add water until soaked. Now for the 4 easy steps to a mass-line (also called a line-mass) arrangement.

## STEP 1 -

Put in 3 pieces of LINE MATERIAL - one tall, one medium and one short. Think of Papa Bear, Mama Bear and Baby Bear. (The "real" terms are sky, man and earth.) Line material is mostly vertical. Use branches, daffodil foliage or iris foliage - anything stiff and vertical. Cut at bottom to the three lengths. Important: Place the 3 pieces close together at the bottom putting Papa Bear in the center.

## STEP 2 -

Repeat the line with 3 irises. Think of Papa Bear, Mama Bear and



Baby Bear but make them shorter than the pieces of line materials. Place each iris right in front of its corresponding line material. Be careful not to break the irises.

#### STEP 3 -

Add 2 or 4 “other” flowers (not irises).

This step is optional. Look for empty spaces and turn a flower or two to the back or side to give your design some depth.

#### STEP 4 -

Place some leafy foliage around the bottom to hide your mechanics - pin holder or oasis. If you soak this foliage in water overnight to “harden” it, this will prevent wilting. Unhardened foliage seems to wilt just as the Judges look at your design. Hosta, magnolia leaves and sedum work well for Step 4.

That’s it!!! You are done!

#### A FEW HINTS:

- Read your Show Schedule and follow the rules. Don’t forget to fill out an entry tag.

- Make sure your container is clean, so your water won’t have floating “things” in it.

- Choose a container in a neutral color or a color that goes with your flowers. Don’t use a clear container as your stems will show. Avoid white containers as your eye goes to the container instead of the design.

- Whatever ribbon you receive, be a good sport. Show visitors often like the “Third Place” design best. Relax and enjoy the fact that you have created something everyone can enjoy.

*Jean Morris, Ballwin, MO  
morrisje1@aol.com*

*Editor’s Note: This article appeared in The Iris Fan, Fall/Winter 2002/2003 and is very applicable to Adult Design Classes also! We’re all Youth-At-Heart, after all.*

## SJI POPULARITY POLL 2004

A big THANK YOU for the fine response to this year's popularity poll. I received ballots from 73 members, more than last year and about four times as many as voted in 2002. Let's aim for 100 ballots in 2005!

We have a new popularity poll winner this year: Lorena Reid's 'Sing The Blues', one of the most beautiful shades of blue in the entire garden. Last year's winner 'Electric Rays' was second. 'Japanese Pinwheel' moved from 8th last year to a tie for 3rd with 'Cascade Crest' (also 3rd last year).

Pink cultivars showed increased popularity, and older JIs continued a strong showing.

'Frosted Intrigue' and 'Royal Game' each received three write-in votes, and eight cultivars received two write-in votes, so those ten new names will appear on next year's ballot.

Complete listing of this poll compared to last year can be found on the SJI Website <[www.socji.org/](http://www.socji.org/)> or write/e-mail the Editor for the list.

*Bruce Filardi, Portland, Oregon*  
<[bfilardi@comcast.net](mailto:bfilardi@comcast.net)>

2004 Rank	Cultivar	Hybridizer/year
1.	SING THE BLUES	Reid '97
2.	ELECTRIC RAYS	Aitken '90
3 (tie).	CASCADE CREST	Aitken '88
3 (tie).	JAPANESE PINWHEEL	McEwen '88
5.	BELLENDER BLUE	Bauer/Coble '96
6.	CAPRICIAN BUTTERFLY	Marx '85
7 (tie).	DIRIGO PINK MILESTONE	White '00
7 (tie).	FLASHING KOI	Marx '78
7 (tie).	FRILLED ENCHANTMENT	Marx '59
7 (tie).	IAPETUS	Innerst '88
7 (tie).	LION KING	Bauer/Coble '96
12 (tie).	ELECTRIC GLOW	Aitken '92
12 (tie).	LITTLE BOW PINK	Delmez '98
14 (tie).	CRYSTAL HALO	Marx '59
14 (tie).	ORIENTAL EYES	Vogt '84
14 (tie).	RIVULETS OF WINE	Aitken '99
17 (tie).	DIOMEDES	Innerst '92
17 (tie).	JOY PETERS	Ackerman '90
17 (tie).	KOSHUI NO ASA	Shimizu '98
17 (tie).	PICOTEE PRINCESS	Reid '92
17 (tie).	RASPBERRY CANDY	Bauer/Coble '99
17 (tie).	ROSEWATER	Bauer/Coble '96

*Note from the Editor: Pictures of many of these Popularity Poll winners have appeared recently in the SJI REVIEW. Please see previous issues as follows:*

<i>'Sing The Blues'</i>	<i>Fall 2003</i>	<i>Page 30</i>
<i>'Electric Rays'</i>	<i>Fall 2003</i>	<i>Page 56</i>
<i>'Cascade Crest'</i>	<i>Fall 2003</i>	<i>Page 56</i>
<i>'Frilled Enchantment'</i>	<i>Fall 2003</i>	<i>Page 30</i>

# JAPANESE IRIS CULTURE – '04

Terry Aitken, Vancouver, WA

In recent years, we have had much discussion about Japanese irises “poisoning the soil”. I have a problem with this theory. Let me couch my comments by telling you that we have several rows of Japanese seedlings that have been blooming spontaneously (these were planted last spring) all summer, and many more are coming into bud, so that bloom is assured well into September. These plants are growing in the same ground that we used for the last Japanese iris convention in Portland five years ago and those plants had been in place for two more years before that. The growth on these new seedlings is the most luxurious that I have ever seen! “Poison” is not the problem!

Veteran Japanese iris growers do recognize that there is a problem maintaining good culture in Japanese irises in the same area for more than five years. (Actually, growth begins to deteriorate after about four years.) Each year, a new flush of roots grow on top of the old layer so that the new roots end up on the surface of the soil after several years. This is one problem, but not the “worn out soil” problem. Another problem can be nematodes (soil parasites), but since we treat our soils with Nematicur®, at transplant time, that is NOT the “worn out” problem. We have reconditioned worn out soil with alfalfa and applied fertilizer (the following season), and the newly planted Japanese iris have failed to respond so that these “reconditioning” methods are not the solution. However, the addition of horse manure has these latest seedlings jumping for joy!

I have an opportunity to test this last theory. Our “old” Japanese iris patch is being tilled under except for 3 varieties. I will treat a section of this “worn out ground” with Nematicur® and alfalfa. I will then treat one half of the planting area with a heavy layer of horse manure. By planting the three varieties, half in and half out of the manure, I should



be able to photograph this patch next spring to show the difference in growth... Whether it is soil enzymes or *mycorrhizal* fungi, I don't know, but I am convinced that it works. (Ed. note: definition: *mycorrhizal* the symbiotic association of the mycelium of a fungus with the roots of a seed plant )

Meanwhile, as of this writing, we are coming out of the "dog days" of summer with temps up to 103 F. and no measurable rain for a month. I see more buds rising in JI seedlings! Some will be dark blue, coming from our introduction 'Second Wave' for next year. This plant has 3 branches with double sockets and a triple terminal. It also produces sequential stems for an extended season (M, L, VL). Another cross, from 'Dirigo Pink Milestone' x 'Bewitching Twilight', has buds clearing the foliage! Never a dull moment!

*Terry Aitken, Vancouver, WA  
aitken@flowerfantasy.net*

#### **ELECTRONIC WORLD OF IRISES**

**[www.irisregister.com](http://www.irisregister.com)**

The Electronic Services Committee of the AIS has embarked on a project to provide electronic access to registration and Check List data. The long-term goal of this project is to have the complete registration data for every iris registered by the AIS in a database on the internet and to have it searchable with a standard search engine. Currently this includes 1969, 1979, 1989 and 1999.

The Check List data is divided into three segments:

Name, Hybridizer and Year

Seedling number, Type, Height, Season

Parentage, Introduction, and other info

In order to use the search engine you will need a user ID and a password. Follow the instructions at the database website:

<http://www.irisregister.com>

John Jones, Fremont, CA

Chairman, AIS Committee for Electronic Member Services

# SHOW REPORTS

## Region 2 - Western New York Iris Society

June 27, 2004

Best Specimen:	'Snow Bounty' SIB	Judy Tucholski
Best Seedling:	AR020 Anna Rettig	
Horticulture:	Silver Medal:	Judy Tucholski
	Bronze Medal:	Anna Rettig
Artistic:	Best Design:	Marie Nadolny

## Region 3--Diamond State Iris Society

The Diamond State Iris Society held their annual beardless show on June 13 at the Sheraton Hotel in Dover, Delaware. With excitement building as the Club prepares to host the Convention next year, the show was a small taste of what can be expected. There were 13 exhibitors and 139 entries, including 15 seedlings. 99 different named cultivars were on display.

Best specimen was 'Oriental Elegance' exhibited by Gary Slagle. Runners up were 'Sue Jo' and 'Espata' entered by Joyce Corrin, 'Prairie Twilight' by Vince Lewonski and 'Japanese Pinwheel' by Connie Marino. Dennis Hager won the Silver Medal with 14 blue ribbons. Theresa Jewell won the Bronze Medal. The award of the Bronze was decided by number of Second place ribbons, since Theresa and Joyce Corrin both earned 6 blue ribbons.

Best seedling was Tony Huber's 95-179, which is a reensata. In addition, EC's were awarded to Mike Iler's 94J150C, Lee Walker's 94-117-23 and to Dennis Hager's 00-02-06 and 00-02-02.

## Region 3 - York, PA

June 19, 2004 Exhibitors-6; Entries-44; Cultivars-40

Best Specimen:	'Frosted Intrigue' JI	Peter Bury
Horticulture:	Silver Medal:	Harold Griffie
	Bronze Medal:	Jane Bury

#### **Region 4 - Hendersonville, NC**

June 10, 2004 Exhibitors-6; Entries-54; Cultivars-34

Best Specimen: 'Kimie' JI Betty Anne Brown

Horticulture: Silver Medal: Walter Hoover

Bronze Medal: Sherry Hoover

#### **Region 13 - Greater Portland Iris Society**

June 19, 2004 Exhibitors-8, Entries-102, Seedlings-47

Types of Iris Exhibited:

MTB, SIB, SPU, JI, SPEC, Spec-X, LA

Best Specimen: 'Amber Gleam', SPU, by John Ludi

Best Seedling: 02JLT; 6F JI TET by Chad Harris

Horticulture: Silver Medal: Chad Harris

Bronze Medal: Terry Aitken

Artistic: Best Design: Saundra Rossi

Sweepstakes: Kath Collier

Two years running GPIS has been able to use the Rhododendron Society's exhibition hall located at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden in Portland, Oregon. Unique to this space is the outdoor apron area directly in front of the hall. The two panels of judges (horticulture and seedling) on the apron do not move. Four staging persons move each iris (cut to maximum height) two at a time outside to be judged in full sunlight. This is an added bonus for the hybridizers to show off the true colors of their seedlings.

Chad Harris

#### **Region 18 - Greater St. Louis Iris Society**

June 5, 2004 Exhibitors-11 Entries-94, Varieties/Cultivars-78

Types of Iris Exhibited:

SPU, JI, SPEC, LA

Best Specimen: 'Ginger Punch', LA exhibited by Orville & Lu Dickhaut

Best Seedling: L+P-6, JI, Don Delmez exhibited by Phyllis Burton

Horticulture: Silver Medal: Don Delmez

Bronze Medal: Phyllis Burton

Artistic: Best Design: Jean Morris

Sweepstakes: Jean Morris

Show Chair: Riley Probst/Shirley Trio

## JAPANESE IRIS SHOW AND MHS HOSTA CUT LEAF SHOW AWARDS

Auburn Middle School was the scene for the 2004 Maine Iris Society Japanese Iris Show and the Maine Hosta Society's Cut Leaf Show on Saturday, July 17<sup>th</sup>. Once again, this was a most beautiful show with the hosta leaves harmonizing nicely with the Japanese iris display. The show was dedicated to John White, who has many outstanding Japanese and Siberian iris introductions to his credit.

Many awards were won by Maine Iris Society members. The Queen of Show was won by the Whites of Minot with their stalk of the Japanese iris, 'Dirigo Debutante', a lovely JI that is sanded with a light application of blue and red-violet markings. First runner-up to the Best of Show was Paul Dostie's stalk of 'Kalamazoo.' 'Coronation Anthem,' a Siberian iris, finished as second runner-up for Enid McNeally. While it is not unusual for a Siberian iris to appear at this show, it is rare to find one of this quality so late in the bloom season. Bob McNeally's JI stalk of 'Prairie Chief' was third runner-up to the queen, while the Whites' stalk of 'Dirigo Red Rocket' finished fourth runner-up. Andrew Wheeler of Arlington, Massachusetts won 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> runners-up with stalks of Iris tridentata and the JI variety 'Grape Fizz' respectively.

*Best Seedling of the Show* went to John White for his multi-petaled, deep red-violet Japanese seedling, # 99-R8-1. The Whites won the AIS Silver Medal for displaying the most blue ribbon-winning JI stalks, while Bob Sawyer won the AIS Bronze Medal for the second most blue-ribbon winning entries.

The Arrangement Divisions of this JI Show and the MHS Show were nothing short of spectacular. Some of the most beautiful arrangements that you will ever see were presented by members of both societies. The judges from the Federated Garden Clubs of Maine were very impressed with what was presented for them to review. Special thanks go to all our members who made so many wonderful arrangements for the show.



Shanna De Sotle, an MIS member from Arlington, Massachusetts and a graduate of Bates College, won the *Best Design of the Show* and the *Evelyn White Award* with her lovely arrangement in the class, Dirigo Blue Plate. (We should mention that all the classes were named in honor of some of John White's JI introductions.) Shanna was extremely pleased to win the first *Evelyn White Award*, for she and Evelyn had a very close relationship, one Shanna might call grandmother to granddaughter. Surely, Evelyn would have been so pleased Shanna's achievement in the Artistic Division.

Nancy McNeill won the *Artistic Division Sweepstakes* with the most blue ribbon-winning arrangements. Her displays were really wonderfully presented. Kelsey Best won the *Best Design in the Youth Division* in the class, Dirigo Star. This was a very special arrangement that was appreciated by all the judges and the visitors to the show. We should note here that four of our youth members really did a great job in the Artistic Division. Kelsey Best, in addition to her *Best Youth Design* was presented another blue ribbon for her arrangement in the class, Dirigo Blue Plate. Jolene Best won a blue ribbon for her arrangement in the class, Dirigo Red Rocket. Adults winning blue ribbons in the Design Division included Nancy McNeill for the classes, Dirigo Pink Milestone and Dirigo Star, while Andrew Wheeler excelled in the classes, Dirigo Snowflake and Dirigo Old Pewter.

Paul Dostie deserves our thanks, too, for chairing the JI Show and in particular, designing a first rate show schedule. Russ and Joan Moors were the chairmen for the Hosta Cut Leaf Show and did their usual superb job of displaying more than 300 leaves brought in by members to perfection. Thanks, in particular, to Joan who spent much time entering all the hosta leaves, and to her able assistant Alice Lederhouse. Special thanks go to Donna Primozich, who served a delicious meal for all the judges of the show. The tables were adorned with small floral displays from her garden. This took a lot of time and effort on Donna's part and for that we are all grateful.

*Ted White, Minot, ME  
Region 1*

## **Hybridizing Basics**

### **Jan Sacks, Carlisle, MA**

Barbara Schmieder (ISM's outstanding article procurement officer) asked me to write on the basics of iris hybridizing and I thought I would start at the very beginning.

#### **WHAT IS IRIS HYBRIDIZING?**

When you take pollen from one iris and put it on another iris - that is making a "cross." When a seed pod forms from that cross, you harvest and sow those seeds, grow them into flowering-sized plants, and watch them bloom. Hopefully you will see some feature in one or more of those seedlings that is new or unusual. Then you take pollen from one of those seedlings and put it on another iris and another, and grow the seeds on, and you have started a breeding program. That is hybridizing. So the basic mechanics of hybridizing are

1. Deciding which two irises to cross,
2. Pollinating,
3. Guiding your cross from seeds to blooming seedlings,
4. Evaluating and selecting, and
5. Registering and introducing.

#### **WHAT TO CROSS?**

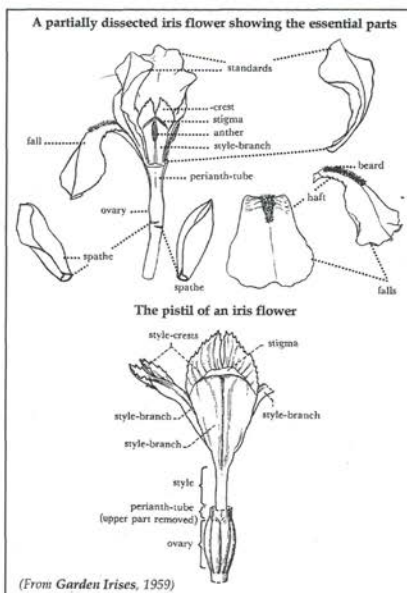
First choose a class of irises to work with. Though there are exceptions, you want to cross similar types of irises. Bearded irises should be crossed with bearded irises - and usually SDBs with SDBs, TBs with TBs, etc., Siberians are crossed with Siberians, Japanese with Japanese. When you are ready for more wide-ranging crosses, there are possibilities. Ask for advice.

Once you have chosen a class, then you have to decide which two individual irises to cross. For me as a beginner, listening to more advanced hybridizers, this always seemed daunting. Don't let it be. You can pick two irises at random just to see what you get. Or you can choose two irises with features that seem compatible, or two irises that each have a feature you would like to see combined together. Or you may have some other reasons. It is not necessary to know genetics. You will learn as you go what combinations work and which ones don't. And at some future time the talk of those advanced hybridizers will start to make more sense, and you might even want to do a little reading.

## HOW TO MAKE A CROSS

The act of pollinating irises is not difficult once you know where the important parts are - they are the anthers and the stigma. [DIAGRAM] The stigma is often described as a shelf or a lip. It is located on the underside of the style arm near the tip of the style. When a flower first opens, the stigma is flat up against the style arm, but by the next day, it folds down to expose the little shelf. If you lift up the style arm you will see the anther underneath. Spend some time observing iris flowers to find these various parts and how they change from one day to the next. If the diagram doesn't make it clear - ask a hybridizer to show you.

The key to making a good pollination is to use two flowers which have not been visited by bees or other insects. You want your pollen to be there first. For the pollen parent select a new flower that is just starting to unfurl - and take out an anther. A tweezer is very helpful - especially a "reverse-action" tweezer which usually has good pointed tips. Use the tweezer or a toothpick or other tool to push (or ream) the pollen out of one of the four chambers of the anther. Take it to another flower which is just unfurling and dab or gently rub the pollen on the stigma of that flower. Since the flower is newly opening, the shelf will still be flat up against the style, but you can put the pollen on the shelf anyway. When the stigma does curl down the next day, your pollen will be there ready to travel down to the





ovary. Some hybridizers only put pollen on one of the three stigmas while others prefer to put it on all three stigmas, hoping to get better seed set.

The process described above only works if you make your crosses early in the day before or as the flowers open. If you want to make crosses in the evening, you might want to tie up some flowers the day before. Some hybridizers go around the garden looking for flowers they plan to cross with later that day or the next day. They tie them closed with a string or strip of iris foliage so that they can't open and the bees can't get in. Then you can use the flower whenever you are ready (though the window of opportunity is only a day or two). Some hybridizers of TBs do not feel they have to tie up or protect flowers because the distance between the stigma and fall is so large that the bees will not deposit any pollen on the stigma when they come in to get nectar.

There are a few other hints about making crosses. Unless it is a cool day, it is probably best to make crosses in the morning or evening because heat can interfere with a successful pollination. Rain will usually ruin any crosses made within a few hours. Not all pollinations are successful. Depending on the weather and type of iris the rate of "takes" (successful seed pods made) can be as low as 20 - 30% or as high as 80%. It is a good idea to make many more crosses than you really want to end up with.

## **FROM CROSS TO SEEDS TO SEEDLINGS**

Labeling - It is important to label every cross. There are as many types of labels as there are hybridizers. Some use small paper tags on string, and some use the plastic closures on bags of bread. Some use plastic nursery tags. Choose something that will last out in the weather for several months and use a pen or pencil that will stand up to rain. Be especially careful about using pens. They must be waterproof and sun proof. On the tag write the name or number of the iris you are hanging it on (the POD PARENT - the stigma parent - the female parent) and then a large "X" followed by the name or number of the iris whose pollen you used (the POLLEN PARENT - the male parent). Hang the tag below the flower you pollinated. Be careful not to break the flower off the stem. At the same time, be sure to hang it on just the one - there may be more buds coming from that socket and you want to mark only the one you actually pollinated.

Collecting the Seeds - Watch as your seed pods develop. Six to eight weeks after pollination they will start changing color from green to a bit of brown. Now check them more often. You could wait until they are completely brown and splitting, but you might lose some seeds. You could make a mesh bag and tie it around the pod so that the seeds fall into it.



However, you can also harvest the pods before they get as far as splitting open. When the top of the seed pod begins to crack, they are ready to harvest. Cut or break off the pod with its tag. Open the pod and remove the seeds. If they are still moist, put them in a paper plate or cup, in a mesh bag, or even in a paper envelope to continue drying out. Always keep the tag with them. Never put your seeds in anything plastic - it may cause them to rot. This is also a good time to make a list of your crosses and create a numbering system - one number or letter for each cross (for example, 1,2,3,4 or A,B,C,D). Some hybridizers also include the year with each cross number (for example 03-1, 03-2, 03-3 or 03-A, 03-B or 1-03, 2-03, or A-03....etc). Some use the year the cross and seed were made, some use the year they are planted out, some use the year they are expected to bloom. Other hybridizers use the initials of the parents' names to designate their crosses (for example 'Zing Me' X 'Starship Enterprise' would be ZMSE). This can get cumbersome once you start crossing with seedlings.

Sowing the Seeds - Most iris seeds need a lengthy cold/moist period followed by a warm period before they will sprout. In a natural setting this is done by winter and spring. Some people try to hurry up the process by planting their seeds in pots, putting them in the refrigerator for two months, and then putting them under lights in the warm house. The easiest way to germinate iris seeds, however, is to let winter and spring do the work. For this method, iris seeds should be planted in October to November in your favorite soil mix. A soil less mix like pro-mix works fine. They need to be covered with soil and watered well. Leave them outside for the winter and they will sprout in May. They will come up looking like little blades of grass. Some seeds are reluctant to sprout and may not come up until the following year. If you can, save your seed trays for at least two years.

Planting Seedlings - When the seedlings are large enough, about 3 or 4 inches tall, plant them in the ground in a prepared bed. Large weeds should be removed, the soil should be loosened and mild amendments should be added like compost and alfalfa meal. Add lime if needed for your class of iris. How close you plant your seedlings depends on how much space you have available. Some hybridizers plant their seedlings very close together which creates difficulty when it comes time to dig them out. Five to six inches apart seems a minimum for most classes though some might need as much as twelve inches. If you have the room - use more. The seedlings will start growing soon after planting in the ground. Make sure to keep them labeled, weeded, and watered until they are growing actively. A slow-release fertilizer can be added. Mulch if appropriate. At the end of

the first summer, each seedling will probably have a few increases. If a rough winter kills some of the seedlings, it is not the worst thing that can happen. You want your plants to be able to survive all sorts of weather conditions. Some of your seedlings may bloom the next spring giving you a peek into what they will look like. You will want to keep the seedlings weeded and lightly fertilized over the next growing season. By the end of that summer they will be husky plants ready to flower the next spring.

## **EVALUATING AND SELECTING SEEDLINGS**

Once your seedlings bloom, the next stage of hybridizing is evaluation. This is probably the hardest part, but it is also the most fun. Initially you should put your seedlings in two categories - keepers and tossers. These decisions should be done over time. If you are lucky, you may get a few seedlings that are beautiful and look like they might be good enough to introduce. These should be marked with their own individual number as well as the cross number (for example, 01-A-1 or 01-1-1 or ZMSE-1 or any other method you choose). You will need to watch these seedlings for a few years to see if they keep their good qualities. This feature may be a color or pattern, or form, or a structure, or vigor or other growth habit. These seedlings should also be given individual seedling numbers. There may be some seedlings you just aren't sure about. These can be numbered individually or just left for a decision in the future.

There is some record keeping that will help in the process of evaluation and selection. Start a "studbook" - a list of your crosses and the results from those crosses. This can be simple or detailed depending on your time and interest. You will want to take very careful notes on any iris you may want to introduce including its bloom period, height, bud count, color description, form description, etc. You can just make notes or create an evaluation form that reminds you of all the things you want information on. Photography is also very helpful. Take pictures of your numbered seedlings so you can spend time thinking about them when they are not in bloom - and show your "children" to other hybridizers and iris fanciers for feedback.

## **REGISTRATION AND INTRODUCTION**

These are two different things - often confused. When you decide you have an iris to introduce you must choose a name and register it with the American Iris Society. Then when it is offered for sale for the first time - that is called introduction. These are technical terms that affect many things including the timing for an iris to enter the AIS awards system.

In order to register an iris you have to write to the AIS registrar (currently Mike Lowe) with a proposed name and a \$7.50 registration fee

per iris. There are also some rules that you have to follow when naming an iris. One of the most restrictive is that the name can't contain more than three words. Selecting a name is not easy - you want it to be good, but it must also be available - that is - never have been used before. There are a few ways to check what names are available. Once the iris is registered, it can be offered for sale at any time you choose, immediately or at some future time.

## FINAL THOUGHTS.

This is hybridizing in a very small nutshell. I'm sure most of the hybridizers reading this will have many variations on the suggestions contained in this article. Most of us are self taught. This is only intended to get you started - trial and error is the best approach. Never hesitate to ask for advice — but never forget to follow your own council and dreams.

*Jan Sacks, Carlisle, MA  
Jpwflowers@aol.com*

With Author's permission from Publication - IRID-ISM, Vol. 23, No. 1, Spring 2003

*Ed. Note: For more pictures of pollination techniques, see SJI Website [www.socji.org](http://www.socji.org) Links, "Hand Pollination Japanese Irises".*

## ADVERTISERS

Commercial Directory ..... 12

## PHOTOCREDITS

**Front Cover** - SJI Photo Contest - Slide First Prize Winner, R. Dennis Hager  
**Inside FC** - 'Geisha Doll' - SJI Slides - E. Matheny; 'Foreign Intrigue' - SJI Slides - J. Coble; 'Pink Dace' - Jill Copeland  
**Page 15** - Iris Art - Christy Hensler  
**Page 40** - Iris Dissection - *Garden Irises 1959*  
**Page 51** - Japanese Bridge, Missouri Botanical Garden - Tom Gormley  
**Inside Back Cover** - 'Japanese Pinwheel' - SJI Slides - J. Coble; 'Bellender Blue' - Lorena Reid; 'Caprician Butterfly Clump' - Lorena Reid  
**Back Cover** - 'Epimetheus' - J. T. Aitken



## SJI Board Meeting 4-19-04 Fresno, CA

### No quorum present

#### 1) Committee Reports:

- a) Awards—Anna Mae Miller-Received nomination of Bill Ackerman for Honorary Life Member Award. Motion made by Carol Warner to present the traditional type of award, if possible to Bill Ackerman. Seconded and passed but needs approval of second director (received from A. Wheeler on 5-4-04)
- b) Display Gardens – Phil Cook wrote a very good Display Garden article in the most recent SJI REVIEW. President Jill Copeland expressed appreciation of the job he has done and called attention to some good new ideas in his article.
- c) Robins—Hybridizers' Robin is going well. E-mail Robin is back up and running smoothly. Dennis Hager will prepare an article for the REVIEW.

#### 2) Treasury Report    2003 Fiscal year end Treasurer's Report printed in Spring 2004 SJI REVIEW – Balance 12-31-03 \$16,439.63.

- a) Fundraising ideas- Donated Plant Auction will be held at General Meeting in Fresno. Auction also be held at the Ensata Extravaganza in Region 4.
- b) Cost saving-SJI REVIEW mailing labels now transmitted to printer electronically, ZIP plus 4 bar coded, saving \$32.00 in postage.

#### 3) Bylaws Changes:    Current Bylaws passed out to all attending. Suggested changes:

- a) Editor and past President added to Board
- b) Elimination of the necessity for SJI members to be also AIS members
- c) Quorum requirements
- d) Election timing for Directors at Large
- e) Eliminate Executive Committee

Discussion ensued from all participating. Additional changes proposed:

- f) Membership grace period be increased from 60 days to 90 days before member is dropped.



g) Officer term be increased from 2 to 3 years.

Dennis Hager will prepare Bylaws with additions/deletions/changes to Board for approval, as well as that of Bob Plank, AIS legal counsel due to 501 ( c ) (3) approval, before including in a ballot to go with the Fall 2004 SJI REVIEW. Ballots will be sent to Secretary (Peter Weixlmann) for counting of a majority vote of SJI members voting.

- 4) Announced action taken by Board by e-mail and phone with all Board members (except one unavailable) voting to:

**Raise Advertising fees in the REVIEW effective 7-1-04.**

The changes will be printed in the Spring 2004 SJI REVIEW, to be confirmed at the Board Meeting and read at the Spring General Membership meeting to be effective as of 7-1-04.

**REVIEW ad fee changes ( to more closely reflect actual costs but still subsidized)**

FULL PAGE COLOR (4 X 7) \$60.00

FULL PAGE B&W (4 X 7) \$50.00

HALF PAGE B&W (4 X 3 1/2) \$30.00

1/4 PAGE B&W 4 X 1 1/2) \$20.00

Commercial Directory (plus web): \$10

**Increase fees for overseas members (to offset high postage costs)**

Add a \$2.00 per year postage fee per member

**Increase dues for life members (publicize change date of 1-1-2005 heavily to attract new life members)**

Raise the life membership to \$100/\$125

No other dues/fees adjustments are recommended at this time in the hopes that the continued low rates would aid all other efforts to increase membership.

- 5) We will also place a 3 inch ad in the Shopping Section of the AIS Bulletin for \$73.00 to encourage AIS members to become SJI members.

We will continue to encourage regular SJI Conventions to both increase membership and donations to SJI from the auctions. We encourage the Auction at the annual meeting as this is a valuable source of income.

- 6) Terry's idea, from the current President's message, to have one sectional meeting at the AIS National spring meeting instead of the 2 that we have now.
- 7) Printing of more ITJs. Motion to pay \$530 for 2,000 made, seconded and passed but needs approval of second director (received from A. Wheeler on 5-4-04)

Respectfully submitted, Rita Gormley, Acting Secretary

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

### ARTICLE XIII NOMINATIONS, ELECTIONS AND VACANCIES

*Section 1. Nominations by Committee. A report of nominations which the Nominating Committee shall have made for all offices and Committee posts to be filled by election shall be published in the Fall issue of The Review of the Society for Japanese Irises. If no additional nominations are made under the procedure hereinafter set forth, the ballot may be omitted and the persons first nominated considered elected.*

The slate is:

Jill Copeland-President  
Dennis Hager-Vice President  
Peter Weixlmann-Secretary  
Catherine Button-Treasurer  
Barbara Aitken-Nominating Committee

Submitted September 2004 by the Nominating Committee  
Riley Probst, Ellen Gallagher, Sharon Whitney

## **ANNA RETTIG/ALFRED R. WIRTZ Japanese Iris Award**

This award was established by the Western New York Iris Society in 1998 to recognize the contributions of Alfred R. Wirtz and Anna Rettig as growers of Japanese Iris in Region 2. Both have fostered knowledge for the successful growing of Japanese Iris and both have hybridized fine specimens for the enjoyment of all.

Al Wirtz became a member of AIS and Region 2 by joining the Niagara South West Iris Society (now known as the Western New York Iris Society) in January of 1965. Al's interest in Japanese Irises was influenced by Robert B. Milner, the founding president of Niagara South West Iris Society. Milner, a botanist, had worked as a hybridizer for Walter Marx and later for Wayside Gardens in Ohio. In a Fall 1981 article of the ESIS NEWSLETTER, Al wrote about his Japanese iris growing project with eight varieties bought from Wayside Gardens followed by several more purchased from a Walter Marx catalog which gave clear instructions about growing Japanese Iris. As he became more successful at growing these beauties in his small Kenmore, New York garden, Al began hybridizing Japanese Irises. Three of his introductions are listed in the Japanese Irises Checklist published in 1997. The irises listed are: 'Prince Theodor,' 'Imbertus Rex,' and 'Cartesan.'

Al encouraged Anna Rettig to grow Japanese Iris by giving her seedpods to grow. Having success with Al's seedpods, she began her own crosses. Numerous crossings and seedlings later Anna is now an internationally known hybridizer of Japanese Irises. In 1992 she was encouraged to send her introductions to the guest gardens for the Japanese Iris Convention in Maryland. She was pleasantly surprised to have her introductions of 'Niagara Power' and 'Stella Niagara' tie for second place among the guest irises.

Anna has given many presentations to the Western New York Iris Society on the cultural requirements of the Japanese Iris. She is always willing to share her tips and suggestions based on her knowledge of the Japanese Iris. Stop in at her garden (everyone does) and she'll show you her large pure white iris with gold signals (a beauty), 'Grand Island' or her favorite 'Anna Angelwings.' Anna encourages everyone to try their hand at making crosses. Just ask and she will give the most direct, explicit demonstrations on pollination.

The Western New York Iris Society was blessed to have known Al Wirtz and are still fortunate to be able to enjoy time with our Anna Rettig. Even in her 80's, Anna still gardens, hybridizes, and enjoys sharing her knowledge. Both Al and Anna have given us beautiful Japanese Iris to grow. Each well deserves to have this award carry their names.

*Judy Tucholski. President  
Western New York Iris Society  
AIS Region 2*



## THIS 'N THAT

A new committee chair position is being discussed by several iris groups. It is the position of recorder/photo archivist. A recorder is the person who would act as historian of current information concerning recent registrations and introductions. The position originally started, out of discussions with Keith Keppel and now Mike Lowe. They noted that although the International Code for Horticultural plants strongly suggests that pictures be included with a registration, they have been unable to do this because of the volume of registrations. It was suggested that each section would be able to accumulate this information since the number of introductions within a particular group is a manageable number for a person (the recorder) to deal with.

Various individuals have suggested that the AIS registration information is rather bare bones and lots of other information could and should be included. Such things as; branching, bud count, color of reverse side of standards and falls, beard coloration changes from tips to throat, color changes as flowers mature, etc. etc. The recorders from each section could develop forms that a hybridizer could check off various characters that may be more complete than the official registration forms. Individuals such as display garden owners might be able to contribute pictures and comments also. An important part of the equation is that information be obtained at or near the time of registration or introduction such that the chances of confusion with another plant be minimized.

The recorder becomes a resource of information for the particular society. Accumulated information would need to be published periodically, either as updates to checklists, articles in newsletters or as separate supplements. Years ago the Aril Society International had a recorder. Unfortunately the position came to an end when the individual lost most of the records. This underscores the need for periodic reports publishing information.



As we speak several Iris groups are working on illustrated checklists. Francesca Thoolan with help from Betsy Higgins is doing one for the Aril Society, Harry Wolford is creating one for the Louisiana Society, Bob Pries is working on one for the Spuria Society, the Median Society and the Illustrated Encyclopedia of Irises for SIGNA. Checklist committees have their hands full finding pictures from the past. The position of recorder would aid them in gathering pictures and information on currently registered plants ensuring that their ultimate products will be as up to date as possible.

There are several requirements needed for the post of recorder. Without a computer and e-mail the work would be impossible. The person would need a photo program and a writable CD so that digital pictures could be stored. Since CDs created on a home machine generally have a shelf life of under 10 years, sometimes as little as 5 years, it should be realized that Information will also have to be stored in hardcopy.

The hardest part of the recorder position is communicating with people and asking them questions in ways that are not perceived as offensive or nosey. But the individual needs to have a natural curiosity and interest in learning more. In essence they are the society's journalist recording the information that will create a history of the plants of the people of the society.

When necessary, positions such as Slide chairman, Checklist chairman, Newsletter editor or Corresponding secretary might fulfill the job of recorder/photo archivist. But surely the job would be better accomplished if a separate person could accept this call. They would undoubtedly work closely with all of those people.

*Bob Pries, High Ridge, Missouri  
rpries@sbcglobal.net*

## **SJI REVIEW**

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.

The REVIEW is issued twice a year by the Society for Japanese Irises, Inc. which is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, and is a Section of the American Iris Society, which is a non-profit organization incorporated February 2, 1927, in the County of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania. Subscription is free to SJI members. All rights reserved.

Reproduction in whole or in part of the publication without the written permission of the editor is prohibited. Such permission is hereby granted to the Bulletin of the American Iris Society, to the Journals of the other AIS Sections and to the Journals of the AIS Regions.

Views expressed herein are those of the authors and contributors and do not necessarily represent those of the Society for Japanese Irises, Inc. nor the American Iris Society, its officers and members. The mention of any equipment, product, plants, companies or organization in this publication does not constitute an endorsement by the Society for Japanese Irises, Inc., nor the American Iris Society.

Return postage must accompany all manuscripts, drawings, and photographs submitted if they are to be returned, and no responsibility can be assumed for unsolicited materials. All rights in letters sent to The REVIEW or its agents acting as officers of the Society for Japanese Irises, Inc. will be treated as unconditionally assigned for publication and copyright purposes and as subject to The REVIEW's unrestricted right to edit and to comment editorially. Society for Japanese Irises, Inc.

Deadlines for receiving copy are February 15<sup>th</sup> and August 15<sup>th</sup>, with earlier receipt desirable. Black and white photographs, colored prints (glossy), slides and black and white drawings are welcome.

## **ROBINS FLYING AGAIN!**

We are pleased to report that the Robins are up and going again. If you are interested in any of the Robins, please contact:

Jl General Interest Robin: Cindy Rust, director, 2016 Meadow Lane, Union, MO 63084; 636-583-2745; E-mail: [srust@fidnet.com](mailto:srust@fidnet.com)

Jl Hybridizer's Robin: Jill Copeland, director, 78118 M-40, Lawton, MI 49065; 269-624-1968; E-mail: [jandjcope@aol.com](mailto:jandjcope@aol.com)

Jl E-mail Robin: Dennis Hager, director, E-mail: [academyhouse@toad.net](mailto:academyhouse@toad.net); [www.socji.org](http://www.socji.org)

## EDITOR'S ESSAY

*Rita Gormley*

Sometime we just HAVE to "take care of business"! So it is in this issue where many pages are taken up with the printing of the proposed new SJI Bylaws . We considered printing them separately but did not for two reasons: (1) the added expense of a large insert and (2) the probability that they could not be easily located for future reference. Please do mail your ballot promptly to Secretary Peter Weixlmann.

My sincere appreciation goes to all who helped with this issue in the form of reports, articles , proofreading and pictures and especially to Dennis Hager and Jill Copeland who looked over scores of versions of the Bylaws before the printing. SJI is a fine group to work with and I am pleased to be part of this team.

Ideas for future articles will be greatly welcomed, especially during the quieter winter months. Remember, if you don't call me, I'll probably call YOU! Your input is vital for a dynamic publication.

Best wishes for a productive Fall and very calm Winter!

*Rita Gormley, Cedar Hill, MO*  
*GormleyGreenery@aol.com*



JAPANESE BRIDGE, MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN



## HYBRIDIZERS'S ROBIN

Hello everyone!! Winter 2003 is settling in. So far it looks-like another wet one here in paradise. I'm devoting this round to describing work done here on tetraploid JIs. I wrote an article on it in 2001 but for whatever reason it didn't make it to publication. It's a long story so for now we'll just hit the highlights. Notes to follow.

'97-At peak bloom I drove over and met Lee Walker for the first time. Along with other interesting things there were his tet JI seedlings. A few hundred of them: Lee was kind enough to share with me the methods he had developed to get takes on tets. (1) At that point I only had five McEwen varieties, 'Pink Mystery', and six seedlings from the few seeds I had managed to produce since '92 (2) but for the rest of the season every tet in the garden got used. Come fall there were several huge pods. Exciting stuff!

'98-I had been toying with the idea of launching a conversion program since '95 after hearing of someone successfully converting diploid lily scales to tetraploid using Surflan. (3) Seeing the '97 tet seedlings germinate (4) pushed me over the edge. Converting not only seemed worth while, it became imperative. Several diploid crosses were made for that purpose (5). Kept up work on the tet crosses and ordered in whatever else was available (not much).

'99-Began germinating and treating diploid seeds with Surflan. Used the same method and dilution rate described in McEwen's The Japanese Iris (pg.133). Wasted quite a few seedlings playing around with different soak times but after awhile (6) several appeared significantly altered. Stubby little things with blackish-green sickle shaped leaflets. Continued intercrossing known tets and making diploid crosses for next years conversion work.

'00- Of last year's conversion seedlings 38 were still alive and pushing growth. Most still had the tet look so we kept after the program as if we knew it had worked. Clearly something was different about these seedlings (98JC). A more concerted effort was made to refine the conversion process tending to error on the side of overdose. I preferred the idea of killing seedlings to raising a ton of redundant diploids. Survival of last year's potential conversions 99JC was good.

'01-Of the original 38 'altered' seedlings 98JC exactly half bloomed. No show stoppers and some were downright hideous (7) but still even in bloom most had the tet look. It was time to test them out but it wasn't as straight forward as one would expect. Some had multiple styles and no pollen and some were deemed not strong enough to set a pod on without risking survival so testing both ways wasn't always an option. We attempted 32 test crosses and ended up with 10 takes. It worked! Survival of last year's potential conversions (OOJC) was very good.



'02-Germination of last years test crosses was spotty .Some good, some low, and 1 or 2 not at all (8). The remaining unbloomed from the original 38 (98JC) bloomed and two of these I considered outstanding; (98JC26 & 98JC35). We continued with test crossing. Very few 99JCs bloomed his year probably as a result that I was now taking care of too many seed and apparently not doing a great job. Conversion work continue (9) but instead of Making diploid crosses specifically for conversion I decided to take my usual diploid line crosses and use them (10).

'03-Big year for conversion bloom. Lots of it. Some really good stuff that set seed in the test crosses. It makes all the work worthwhile. This being a JI robin I won't get into Surflan conversion work done with other species (28 + 40 chrom. Siberians, laevigatas, macckii, mzcnetica) except to say it seems to work even better. Also this year I was able to confirm my first reversion.

In April I sent some JIs to Delaware for the 2005 convention. Included were the two best from the original conversions (98JC26 & 98JC35). When the part of 98JC26 saved here pushed bloom stalks something was amiss. They were too thin compared to slides taken earlier and on closer inspection the foliage had lost that tet look. When it bloomed I crossed it both ways with diploids and guess what? It's now diploid. Fortunately seedlings are coming along from the test crosses but it points to the need to cross your best conversions ASAP. Anyway, 98JC26 is still a nice flower and may still produce some tet pollen but there is an indication that the stalks may have a tough time holding up the somewhat heavy blooms. If you see it laying on the ground at the convention you'll know the story. Guess that's enough for now folks. Take good care.

#### NOTES:

1)-Lee's method definitely works but some modification may be necessary based on your climate and growing conditions. As an example, at JI time Lee's garden routinely reaches the upper 90s and above while it averages 70' here on the west side of the Coast Range a mere 50 miles away. Also, Lee would 'be the first to admit that his plants do not get enough water. All this stuff makes a difference. For instance I never break the styles. Just bend them enough so I can load up the 'throat' with pollen. The main thing is to keep after it. It's doable. Most tet JI crosses should take at a 40o rate.

2)-Before I saw Lee's tet seedlings I had bought in to the 'limited fertility' theory that still seems to be popular so I wasn't trying very hard. Don't believe it.

3)-Sold as a weed suppressant Surflan's active ingredient is oryzalin.3, 5-dinitro-N4, N4-dipropylsulfanilamide. At recommended strength it works by interrupting cell division on germinating seedlings causing collapse.

4)-Tet JI germination remains a problem. Especially selfs. It took 535 seeds from 17 pods of ('Japanese Pinwheel' X self) to produce 72 seed named varieties go 'Four Fold Pink' seedlings (both ways with most mates) seem to be the best

for germination (80-90%). 'Japanese Pinwheel' is a close second (70-80%).

5)-Most crosses were made with an eye towards what seemed to be lacking in the tet gene pool. Also I doubled up on some of the planned diploid crosses so all together 35 pods were available for that first conversion run.

6)-Generally converted seedlings will show themselves six weeks after treatment. Most of those 'cooked' by the process will be dead by then and unconverted ones will tower over the converted. It must be noted that quite a few that at first seem to look converted will grow out of it and return to the diploid state. Close but no cigar.

7)-I've since learned to be patient with those conversions that first bloom with contorted and/or fused flower parts. Most will settle down in the second or third year of bloom.

8)-I've since learned not to count chickens. Occasionally a test cross will produce plenty of seed but none germinate. I'm not sure what's going on there but clearly that circumstance eliminates confirmation of conversion. On the other hand it needs to be said that given the difficulty many are having making tet crosses, several attempts may be need to made to confirm a conversion. It might seem reasonable to simply cross with a diploid and, with a take, assume the seedling in question is also diploid. The problem is it may still be a partial conversion (4/2/2) and still able to produce tet pollen.

9)-The process has evolved since '99. It was necessary to streamline to accommodate treating 75-100 pods a year. The McEwen or Hollingworth methods will get the job done and remain excellent starting points. I've found that for JIs the following formula works best; germinated seedlings with the first true leaf are soaked in a .06-.08% solution 72' for 24 hours.

10)-Only time will tell if this approach will work out. Theoretically one could eventually convert all the diploid lines over to tet but I don't think I want to go there. It's true that tet breeding will lead to bigger and better things but predictability pretty much goes out the window. Mostly in breeding we're working with recessive traits, some of which need to be homozygously present at two loci. If you work with a punnet grid to assess probability of recovery it quickly becomes apparent that tet breeding is pretty much a crap shoot. The joy of diploid breeding is that if you do 'A' and 'B' you usually end up with 'C'. Also, some of the dips are showing a refinement that may be a long time coming for the tets.

Anyway, this new approach should keep things manageable as far as the number of seedlings to care for. When the processed seedlings bloom they will be evaluated as usual and only the very best will be tested for tetraploidy. That way if they flunk they will still be good enough to bring in on the diploid side.

*Mike Iler, Coos Bay, Oregon*

## POPULARITY POLL 2004



**THIRD PLACE (TIE)**  
**JAPANESE PINWHEEL**  
McEwen '88

**FIFTH PLACE**  
**CAPRICIAN BUTTERFLY**  
Marx '85



**FIFTH PLACE**  
**BELLENDER BLUE**  
Bauer/Coble '96



# **PAYNE MEDAL WINNER**



**EPIMETHEUS**  
**(Innerst 1992)**