



THE REVIEW

OF THE SOCIETY
FOR
JAPANESE IRISES

VOLUME 41
NUMBER #1
SPRING 2004



OHAYO GOZAIMASU (GOOD MORNING)

Dr. William Ackerman 2003

This new introduction is a color breakthrough in lavender & yellow! A tetraploid interspecies cross (Ensata/Pseudacorus) with bloom stalks 22 inches tall and 2 terminal buds that open 5 1/2 inches.

The bloom has 3 lavender falls with a bright yellow signal surrounded by a maroon halo with maroon rays extending into the falls; standards are pale yellow in contrast with the bright yellow stylearms.

At Sans Souci, seed was produced this past season and there were several reblooming stalks in August.

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THE REVIEW OF THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES

VOLUME 41

NUMBER 1

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Officers and Appointments	4
Business Items	6
Letter from the President - Jill Copeland	8
<i>Ensata Extravaganza</i> - June 3-5, 2004	10
Commercial Garden Directory	12
Japanese Iris Stamp by Clarence Mahan	14
A Modest Proposal by Dennis Hager	16
2005 SJI Convention Invitation	19
Enzymatic Reactions and Japanese Iris by Lee Walker	20
2003 Registrations, Introductions & Awards	26
Pseudata Surprise by Carol Warner	30
SJI Report from the Treasurer	33
Hanashobu Display in Japan by Hiroshi Shimizu	34
The Display Garden Program by Phil Cook	42
Kitten Grows Into Lion King by John Coble	48
This 'N That	49
Meet the Hybridizers - Darlyn Wilkinson	50
Photo Contest at <i>Ensata Extravaganza</i>	53
Editor's Essay - Rita Gormley	54
Advertisers	54
Photo Credits	54
Popularity Poll 2004	Insert

Cover Photo: SJI Photo Contest Winner - Bill Smoot
Japanese Garden at The Norfolk Botanical Gardens

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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>
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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	Life - \$75.00
Family	annual - \$6.00	triennial - \$15.50	Life - \$100.00
Youth	annual - \$2.00	triennial - \$5.50	

Dues may be sent either to the AIS Membership Chairman (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.

SALES AND RENTAL ITEMS

The Japanese Iris by Currier McEwen	\$24.95
-------------------------------------	---------

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Set #2 – 18 different Payne Award winners

2 sets (#1, #2, or both)	\$5.00
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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
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Iris Laevigata – book rental	\$5.00
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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
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*\$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 2002.

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

Hi All,

Those of you going to the AIS Convention in Fresno, CA will want to get there on April 20 because our JI meeting & auction starts at 7:30 AM on April 21. If you want a full schedule let me know.

It is time for you to help SJI by **voting** the Popularity Poll. With your help we can let the public know what they should grow. Without your help, the information generated from the poll will be useless.

We have had a request from Brian Doyal, daviddick66@wnonline.net, for help locating WINGED SERPENT a Payne introduction from 1965. If you have or know anyone who has this JI, please, let us know.

Steve Hatch, a writer working on an article for Horticulture magazine on water-garden plants, is using ROSE QUEEN as one of the 6 water-loving plants to be featured. He hopes that his article will appear in the April-May issue. You will want to keep your eye out for this article.

You will want to get a copy of the April issue of Mid West Living magazine. There will be JIs on the cover and there will be a feature article on Ensata Gardens. I saw the pictures and they are wonderful.

When the AIS National Convention was in Indiana, Region 6 (Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana) decided not to have a Spring Regional meeting because irises tend to all bloom at the same time in most areas in this region and there would be too many conflicts.

John Coble and Bob Bauer asked to have the Region do a JI Regional as it would be a month after the AIS Convention. The RVP said 'NO!' We decided to put one on without the Region so that was the start of JI Conventions. Two years ago the Region asked us to do a JI Regional for 2006! If any of you want to send guest plants, let me know. We will be accepting plants from May 1 to October 1 this year.

Keep Warm,

Jill

ATTENTION!

If you are attending the AIS Convention in California, you need to know when the JI meetings are so you can get there on time.

The Board Meeting is on April 20, 2004 at 4:00 PM.

The Society for Japanese Irises Program & AUCTION starts at **7:30 AM** on April 21, 2004.

VOTE!!

**SJI POPULARITY POLL 2004
INSERT IN THIS ISSUE**

**Last year's outcome was very close so EVERY VOTE
COUNTS!! Submit by August 1, 2004.**

Ensata Extravaganza

June 3-5, 2004

Come to Virginia Beach and celebrate the beauty of Japanese Irises with us! The Society for Japanese Irises and AIS, Region 4, have combined forces in an effort to promote Japanese irises.

At the Memphis Society for Japanese Irises Board meeting in May, 2001, SJI President Jill Copeland challenged those present to promote Japanese irises by offering to host a mini convention, or symposium, during alternate years between SJI Conventions. Members of the Hampton Roads Iris Society took her challenge to heart. Since we were already hosting the AIS Region 4 Spring Meeting, we decided to combine our regional meeting with a Japanese Iris Symposium.

Our focus is focused on Japanese irises. *Ensata Extravaganza* will have something to offer beginning as well as the advanced Japanese iris enthusiasts.

❖ **Six Hours of Judges Training**

- < Exhibition Judging of Japanese Irises (2hrs)
- < Garden Judging of Japanese Irises (2hrs)
- < Judging the Design Division (2hrs)

❖ **Japanese Irises for Beginners 101** – a two hour education series of mini-courses covering topics such as JI growth, culture, showing, dividing & planting, color patterns & form, and hybridizing.

❖ **An AIS Beardless Iris Show** with a Federation of Garden Club design division.

❖ **Exhibitions, Demonstrations & Displays** There will be a Sumi-e flower painting demonstration and exhibition, a Ikebana flower arranging display, and our very own Japanese iris Photography Contest.

❖ **A Day of Garden Tours** We will be featuring some interesting visits to unique gardens. We'll visit:

- * The Norfolk Pagoda – a Chinese Garden featuring a two-story pagoda, goldfish & koi ponds, unique plants, and the HRIS display bed of JIs. From the second story you have a great view of the Norfolk waterfront. An interesting side-trip will be an opportunity to go aboard the Battleship Wisconsin, which is berthed adjacent to the garden.
- * Visit 4 unique private gardens, a couple of which have been highlighted in national magazines!
- * Lastly, we'll go to The Norfolk Botanical Gardens, and visit the HRIS display planting of Japanese irises there.

❖ **A Super Plant Auction!**

- ❖ **Pseudata Hybridizing Forum:** Crosses between *I. ensata* and *I. pseudacorus* open up a new avenue of hybridizing history-making to the iris world! These crosses have produced new colors, forms, and color patterns never before seen in irises! They have only recently named "Pseudata". We've invited several noted hybridizers and persons familiar with these new crosses to tell you about them, and to show you some pictures of these exciting new irises. (Hopefully you may actually get to see some in bloom!) Our Hybridizer's Forum will be your first formal introduction to this new group and this is a forum you won't want to miss!

FULL REGISTRATION

This full package consists of 5 Meals (3 Dinners & 2 Lunches), the Saturday Garden Bus Tour, admission to The Norfolk Botanical Gardens.

Cost is \$ 145.00 per person.

PARTIAL REGISTRATION

This package is for those people who are unable to attend the Thursday evening activities. It includes 2 Lunches & 2 Dinners, the Saturday Garden Bus Tour, admission to The Norfolk Botanical Gardens.

Cost is \$ 125.00 per person.

Mail Registration payable to HRIS to: Bill Trotter, 213 Derby Road ,
Portsmouth, VA 23702

REGISTRATION FORM AND COMPLETE SCHEDULE OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON LINE:

www.irisregion4.com/_or_home.earthlink.net/~billsmoot/

Any questions contact Bill Smoot at (757) 393-4617
e-mail: billsmoot@cox.net

HOTEL INFORMATION

Holiday Inn Executive Center, 5655 Greenwich Rd., Virginia Beach, VA 23462
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To book online go to www.holiday-inn.com/vabch-execctr . On the left side of the page will be a box titled "Reserve This Hotel". Complete the requested booking information. You must put EEX in the Group Booking Code box to get our special rate! Flat Rate (up to five in a room): \$105.00 + applicable state and city tax, currently 12.5% , and a \$1.00 per room per night city occupancy tax. Mention *Ensata Extravaganza* or EEX when making reservations to get this rate.

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JAPANESE IRIS STAMP

By Clarence Mahan, McLean, VA

The Japanese government issued a stamp in 2002 to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the reversion of Okinawa to Japan. The United States returned Okinawa to Japan on May 15, 1972 (but still occupies 19 percent of the land for military bases—the source of widespread resentment and against which the people of Okinawa continually demonstrate.) The design of the stamp features an old Okinawa trading ship and irises in the *bingata* style. *Bingata* is the traditional dyeing technique that was used to produce silk-cotton kimonos and other garments for members of the family of the King of Ryukyu and for export.

The Kingdom of Ryukyu (Okinawa) was independent until 1609, but paid tribute to the Emperor of China, the King of Korea, and the Lord (*daimyo*) of Satsuma in southern Japan to enable it to trade with these countries. In 1609, the Lord of Satsuma invaded Okinawa to get total control of the trade with China. The Shimizu family, headed by the Lord of Satsuma, then governed Okinawa, but they used the King of Ryukyu as the figurehead ruler. The Chinese government would not have permitted trade with Okinawa to continue if the Japanese had governed Okinawa overtly. This was because the Japanese government would not pay tribute to the Emperor of China, but insisted on the Emperor of Japan being treated as an equal to the Son of Heaven.

After 1609, during the long period of Japanese exclusion of all foreigners except Dutch traders on the island of Deshima, trade conducted by the King of Ryukyu was very important to Japan. It was Japan's major source of goods from China and Korea. The trading ship was very significant in the history of Okinawa, and that is why it is represented on the stamp.

Okinawa has a subtropical climate that is not conducive to growing Japanese irises (*Iris ensata*). When I first saw the stamp I

wondered why a stamp honoring the reversion of Okinawa would feature irises. Then I discovered that there is an iris that grows on Okinawa. It is much loved by the people of Okinawa who call it the *okurareruka* iris.

If you look carefully at the stamp you will see that the iris on the stamp is not a Japanese iris. Notice how narrow the standards on the flowers are, and how low and close to the main stem the lower branches are. The iris on the stamp is a stylized rendition of the *Spuriae* species *Iris orientalis*, which until recently was known as *Iris ochroleuca*. In Okinawa, *Iris ochroleuca* has become the *okurareruka* iris.

The species *Iris orientalis* is not native to Okinawa. But that does not prevent it from growing wildly on the edges of rice fields and irrigation ditches. It blooms in March and April on Okinawa, and the people prize it for use as a cut flower. It is native to Turkey, the eastern Aegean Islands of Samos and Lesbos, and north-eastern Greece. It thrives in saline soils.

I know if you are a Japanese iris enthusiast you might be disappointed that the “Japanese” iris on the stamp is not *Iris ensata*.

Still, you have some useful information to tell your friends who live in Florida. Even if your Florida friends cannot grow Japanese irises, there is a beautiful iris they can grow—the *okurareruka* iris.



A MODEST PROPOSAL

R. Dennis Hager, Millington, MD

“In the future I foresee the conversion of the perennial Japanese iris into a semi-biennial plant. And I could foresee the selling of seeds of Japanese irises as disposable plants, that is, let them bloom once then discard and plant more seeds.”

-Hiroshi Shimizu (The Review 37:2 Fall 2000)

When I read this prediction over 3 years ago, I could see that it has merit, yet within iris circles, it may be considered as heresy. I would like to see Japanese irises so popular that growers would have to propagate from seeds to meet the demand. In fact, this has been done in the United States for many years, not so much because the demand was there, but because nurserymen already know that it is relatively easy to grow Japanese irises from seed. The first Japanese irises I remember were “Higo strains” growing in a contract grower’s production area. They were destined for the mass market mail-order trade.

The heresy is that Japanese irises are part of the awards system of the American Iris Society. In our culture, the competition and the chance of winning is always part of the process. If the big prize was for getting every gardener in the country to grow *Iris ensata*, this proposal would be more plausible.

Another huge consideration is that in the United States, Japanese irises are a garden plant and are considered for pot culture only by aficionados who do not have the requisite moisture and soil pH to support their needs. Although Japanese irises are not a water plant, many cultivars do quite well with their feet wet and could be grown as potted marginals at the edge of water gardens. For this use, disposable seedling plants could be quite useful.

Hybridizers routinely grow Japanese irises from seed, evaluate them for a few years then discard them. Visitors to my garden during iris season find it hard to believe that I will destroy the plants and often beg to take them. Among iris hybridizers, this is generally frowned upon, since those plants with obvious faults

should not be grown. The big difference between Japanese irises and other irises is that they aren't really hybrids. They are all derived by selection from the single species, *I. ensata*. Advances are usually made not by **hybridization**, but by **selection**. The anomalies of hybridization that frequently occur in subsequent generations of other iris classes do not occur with Japanese irises. The likelihood of the cross of two garden-worthy Japanese irises producing garden-worthy offspring is much higher than with other classes of irises.

Juvenile seedling vigor is a phenomenon that all Japanese iris hybridizers have seen. The seedling performs well for a few seasons, and then unless heroic measures are taken, it goes into decline.

Like many other perennials, Japanese irises tend to be short-lived in the garden, going into decline after a few years in the same location. To maintain the juvenile vigor, they must be divided and moved frequently. If they were marketed with the expectation that they should be replaced rather than divided, the net result for the nurseryman would be repeat sales. From a business standpoint, this makes sense.

The next question is whether it would work with Japanese irises. Do the specifics of *Iris ensata* make it a good candidate for this type of marketing? To search for an answer, I would look to the 3 H's: Hostas, Hellebores and Hemerocallis. Each of them has been successfully marketed in this country.

Hostas continue to be very popular in the nursery trade. Very few are propagated from seed and aside from the species types, they are hybrids and do not come true from seed. Most of the plants that we see in the trade (and at practically every garden center) are propagated by tissue culture. Hostas are ideal for tissue culture in that the plants are grown more for their foliage than their flower. Any sports that occur in the culture process are easily detected and culled before the plant gets to the consumer. Unnamed hosta seedlings are generally not available in the marketplace.

Hellebores are on the other extreme. They can grow to sizeable clumps, however they do not divide or transplant easily, and

are usually sold as seedlings. Species, such as *H. foetidus* and *H. purpurascens* do come true from seed, however the common "orientalis" hybrids do not. They are mass marketed without warranty as to color or desirability. Specialty nurseries sell mature potted plants which command very high prices. It is rare to find divisions of named cultivars in the American trade.

In the American market, daylilies (*hemerocallis*) are widely available, both from retail and mail order sources. Unlike iris hybridizers, daylily hybridizers often offer their rejects for landscape use. That is because just like Japanese irises, a high percentage of daylily seedlings are garden worthy. This has helped to satisfy gardeners' demand for these very popular plants, yet has not hurt the lucrative trade in named cultivars.

Unlike hostas, hellebores and *hemerocallis*, Japanese irises are rarely offered in retail nurseries. For the retailer, it is difficult to sell a plant that is not in bloom, or at least demonstrating that it is garden worthy. For the commercial producer, growing a seedling to bloom size using an automated system is less labor intensive and can be done with less skilled labor than growing named and labeled cultivars for the retail market.

One thing that concerns me about developing a trade in Japanese iris seeds and seedlings is the reversion of the species selection that has taken hundreds of years. We know that six-fall form and white color are recessive traits. In my own garden three-fall and species forms are much more likely to be pollinated by bees. Furthermore, flowers with more vertical style arms, which provide clearance so that the stigmatic lip does not scrape the pollinating bee's back, rarely set seeds. Hand pollination would be required to insure that the resultant flowers would be selected for their beauty, rather than their seed producing capabilities.

In summary, I do not think that the entire market for Japanese irises will ever be based on seedling trade that Mr. Shimizu envisioned. However, with so few American gardeners familiar with Japanese irises, such a seedling trade could be used to introduce the gardening public to Japanese irises through the retail market.



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The Diamond State Iris Society presents:
Gems in the Diamond State

June 16-18, 2005 Dover, Delaware

The 2005 Society for Japanese Irises Convention is shaping up nicely. There are over 800 plants representing 220 seedlings and cultivars planted in six private gardens and a master planting at Delaware State University. Although most of the guest plants are Japanese irises, there many interspecies crosses and even a late blooming Siberian. Many of them bloomed in the gardens last year and should be spectacular by next year.

All of the gardens are less than 30 minutes from the hotel, so attendees should be spending more time in the gardens than on a bus. The Diamond State Iris Society is committed to making their first convention a great experience. Updates will be posted on the SJI website at socji.org.

ENZYMATIC REACTIONS AND JAPANESE IRIS

By Lee Walker PhD, Tenmile, OR

For a number of years now there have been discussions and articles about how Japanese Iris can poison the soil and cause lingering effects on other iris planted in the same beds where JIs had previously been grown. In the last year or two this belief has led to unfounded concerns within the iris community about Japanese Iris.

Since Rita contacted me and asked me to write an article, I thought I would contribute my two-cents worth on the subject.

Through my years of work and observation with Japanese Iris, I have come to the conclusion that the major culprit in the toxic soil is an enzymatic reaction within the iris itself. The enzymatic process by which the plant grows is one part of the cause, as are some other factors which I will also discuss.

Of the several reasons for the toxic soil effect the main one is the depletion of the soil nutrients. The loss of elements such as Nitrogen, Magnesium, Iron, Manganese, Copper and Zinc has a direct correlation to the concern that the Japanese Irises add toxins to the soil. Over time the soil that the JIs are grown in becomes depleted, and the plants' intake of these elements is decreased. This in turn affects the enzymatic reactions, which slow, negatively affecting the plant's growth.

Another factor is the soils' pH level. JI's require an acidic condition for optimum growth, 5.8 being ideal. When Japanese Irises are grown on the fringes of acidic condition, i.e., 5.3 or 6.5, their ability to extract essential nutrients from the soil is lessened. The required nutrients, though present in the soil optimally aren't available to the plant at less than ideal pH levels.

It is very important to remember that if the enzymatic reaction is changed for any reason it will have a direct effect within the

plant. This reaction can vary from the plant growing vigorously, to its foliage turning yellow, or to the plant's death.

Temperature is another contributing factor to this problem as enzymatic reactions are directly affected by temperature. As the temperature rises, the enzymatic reaction within the plant speeds up until optimum temperature is reached. At this stage the plant is at peak performance. If the temperature rises above optimum conditions, the enzymatic reaction slows, which results in the plant showing effects of the heat. Most of these effects are not even readily noticeable to the grower. This explains why in hotter climates with low humidity Japanese Irises can be harder to grow and maintain than in climates with lower temperatures.

At lower growing temperatures the enzymatic reactions are slower. This results in more constant and beneficial conditions for growth of the plant.

Another important area to consider is the genetic background of Japanese Irises. It must be remembered that originally the JI came from only one species. There is no outside influence to help strengthen the plant as it evolves. We may very well be dealing with an inherent problem of JI genetics.

In the wild as JI's cycle through the years, they shift growing locations as the seeds are scattered. We interfere with this natural process when we plant and replant over again in the same beds. The migration of the wild plant may reveal the issue of toxic soil production.

Considering the interaction of the plant's genetics with its enzymatic reactions, it becomes evident that hybridizers themselves may have contributed to this issue. We ourselves may have opened Pandora's Box unknowingly. The traits that are most sought after in hybridizing are, as a rule, recessive traits. When these are selected generation after generation in a breeding program combined with in-line breeding, we have likely enhanced this trait within JI's.

Unfortunately, the rules of genetics aren't set in stone as they are in physics. In physics each reaction has an equal and opposite reaction. This is not the case in genetics. When a preferred trait is

chosen in a plant, we could be weakening, or worse yet losing another important trait. The vast majority of these traits are unseen and the effects of these choices may not be noted until much later, if at all. By enhancing the plant's appearance over the years we may have also enhanced the degree of toxic soil production within the irises. Only through time and future generations will we begin to realize the effect of our work on the plants.

I have noticed that some JIs have more tolerance toward enzymatic effects than others. Most of these are older varieties. Perhaps this can be explained by the fact that the majority of the older varieties descended from bee crosses.

An important factor to consider regarding enzymes is the role they perform within the plant. Enzymes are found throughout the entire plant system even within the rhizomes and the roots. Enzymes bring about chemical reactions at lower energy levels, or decreasing the energy of activation within the plant. Enzymes have activators within the soil. These activators are found in the micro nutrients Copper, Manganese and Zinc. All of these trace elements serve to activate the enzymes. As the rhizomes and their roots age and mature the chemical processes of these enzymatic reactions changes the surrounding soil by decreasing the amounts of available trace elements, this has a direct effect on the plant's system and growth.

Another factor that influences these enzymatic processes occurs during the winter months when plants can be in standing water, esp. in the Pacific Northwest. When this standing water covers the rhizomes, they become oxygen deprived. When plants become oxygen deprived, a fermentation process begins to occur within the roots as they decompose. When enzymes and water come into direct contact fermentation occurs. The natural by-product of this fermentation process is alcohol. Alcohol has a toxic effect on bacteria. Bacteria are essential to break the soil down into usable nutrients for the plant.

As old root systems decompose, the alcohol concentration increases to toxic levels and is dispersed into the immediate surrounding soil.

This same process occurs when JIs are allowed to grow in the same area over a period of years. Here the effects develop more slowly, but are just as problematic.

There is a direct correlation between the older parts of the plant clump and the new growth. As the older (three years and older) clumps grow, the newer rhizomes are forced to the soil surface. This, as well as their growing outward from the center is a natural growth pattern for Japanese Iris.

The problem arises when the newer rhizomes build upon the older rhizomes. The older rhizomes and roots are decomposing; the alcohol is dispersed directly beneath the newer growth, thereby affecting the newer rhizomes' development and growth. This may explain why two-year-old clumps in good soil exhibit good growth habits both in plant increases and in flowers. Yet the same clump in one year can be a less vital grower and producer.

The growers hold the key to improving the growth patterns of their irises. Growers need to monitor and maintain the soil's nutrient and pH levels within the necessary parameters for JIs. Working compost or humus into the soil also helps maintain the pH.

If alcohol toxins are allowed to build up unchecked they hinder the new growth's ability to recover nutrients by directly affecting the amount of bacteria present in the soil - that is what the new growth's enzymatic reactions depend upon to occur. If the soil's balance is maintained properly, the new growth will have little, if any difficulty. But if the soil is allowed to be depleted, the newer plants will have an uphill battle.

The productions of alcohol which decreases the available bacteria in the soil can explain slow growth of new plants placed into old beds. If the soil condition is left uncorrected, the newly placed plants will sometimes die. Again, the grower can simply adjust conditions to alter this process.

The spacing of plants within beds can also affect this process. JIs planted too densely in an area can expedite the buildup of the alcohol toxin. From my own work with Japanese Iris seedlings I have learned this the hard way. Japanese Iris must have adequate

space between them. A good rule of thumb is three (3) feet between established clumps. This allows the plant plenty of room for their root systems to grow while decreasing the negative effect of the buildup of an abundance of this alcohol toxin. Seedlings must be at least a foot apart.

Commonly, JIs have been grown in one area of the garden for years. If this is the case, the grower needs to replenish the nutrients in the soil. Adding compost and then allowing the area to remain fallow for a year or longer will allow the soil to recover.

At the time the article was written I have been researching Allelopathy in plants. Allelopathic plants produce toxins that disrupt and kill other plants that are infringing upon their territory. My work in this area is not yet complete - I have yet to find proof that the toxins these plants produce have a direct effect on the host (the allelopathic) plant. At this time I have found nothing that would suggest that JIs have an allelopathic ability. However, this possibility cannot be ruled out at this time. Perhaps this article can inspire additional research and discussion within the JI community.

In closing I would like to reassure the Bearded Iris growers that Japanese Irises aren't toxic to other Irises, grown in the same beds or not.

Bearded Irises have different pH and nutrient requirements than Japanese Irises. Thus, when one sees beds of Bearded irises that show poor growth one really needs to question, is it truly a side effect from growing near Japanese Iris, or is it just poor culture?

As one can see when addressing the interaction between JIs and toxins there are many areas that need to be considered. I have touched on the areas that I think are most important on this subject. More work needs to be done before a complete understanding can be refined and solutions determined. Yet, at this time I feel that by following a few simple steps the grower can significantly reduce the effects of toxic soil:

1. Monitor your soil's pH and nutrients regularly.
2. Replace nutrients as indicated, compost is important in assisting with soil replenishment.
3. When replanting, dig plants at least every three years.

4. Remove the old rhizomes and roots as completely as possible.

5. Avoid replanting right away in the same beds when possible. If this is not possible place a different type of plant or iris in that area.

6. Check pH at least once a year - this includes pH of the soil as well as the pH of the water supply.

7. Be sure plants have adequate space between them.

8. Do not allow the plants to be in standing water during the winter months.

I feel a solution to toxic soil effects is within our grasp. With the exchange of ideas and observations we will develop ways to deal with this issue. In the meanwhile, grow and continue to enjoy your Japanese Iris at every possible moment - whether it is during the bloom season, or from pictures during the winter.

ELECTRONIC WORLD OF IRISES

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

2003 REGISTRATIONS, INTRODUCTIONS AND AWARDS

Compiled by John A Coble

- ASA-MOYA** (Takahashi, Toshiaki Reg. 2003) Sdlg. (37in 95cm) M (6 - F). Lavender, signals yellow. [Parentage unknown] Takahashi 1995
- BELGIUM CROWN** (Hublau, Willy 2002) *intro by Delmez 2003.*
- BELGIUM SILK** (Hublau, Willy 2002) *intro by Delmez 2003.*
- BELGIUM TREASURE** (Hublau, Willy 2002) *intro by Delmez 2003.*
- BELGIUM WARRIOR** (Hublau, Willy 2002) *intro by Delmez 2003.*
- BLUE SPRITZ** (Delmez, Donald 1996) *HM 2000 AM 2003*
- BLUES REVISITED** (Reid, Lorena 2000) *HM 2003*
- BLUSHING SNOWMAIDEN** (Harris, Chad 1999) *HM 2003*
- CACIGA** (Dudek, Jiri 2000) *intro by Dudek 2003.*
- CANDID PARAGON** (Huber, Tony Reg. 2003) Sdlg. 94-28. (34in 86cm) ML **SPEC-X** (-F). S. violet (RHS 88B) veined darker, aging lighter (88C); style arms lilac, midrib and crests violet; F. violet (88A) aging lighter (88B), signal bright yellow surrounded by white veins; some blooms multipetaled; slight fragrance. [Versata 91-044: (versicolor MR04-09 x purple ensata sdlg) X Oriental Touch]
- DAI-KONGO** (Takahashi, Toshiaki Reg. 2003) Sdlg. (35in 90cm) M (3 -F). S. purple; F. purple, signal yellow. [Parentage unknown] Takahashi 1995
- DAKUSHU-HAI** (Takahashi, Toshiaki Reg. 2003) Sdlg. (33in 85cm) M (6 -F). Deep red violet with white border, signals yellow. [Parentage unknown] Takahashi 1995
- DIRIGO PINK MILESTONE** (White, John 1999) *HM 2003*
- DIRIGO STAR** (White, John 1998) *HM 2003*
- EASTER PASTEL** (McEwen, Currier Reg. 2003) Sdlg. J89/187. (34in 86cm) M (3 -F). S. soft lavender pink (RHS 84C), 1-1/4in wide; style arms 3/4in wide, soft lavender pink, crests soft violet blue; F. 4in rounded form, soft violet blue (94C), yellow signal. [Sei Shonagon X unknown] Eartheart 2003
- FRANCES MAE** (Mull, Bill Reg. 2003) Sdlg. M6-15-97. (38in 97cm) M (3 -F). S. purplish violet (RHS 87A); style arms and F. spectrum violet (82B), faded mustard signal on F.; slight sweet fragrance. [Friendly Victor X Prairie Twilight]
- GALANKA** (Dudek, Jiri 2000) *intro by Dudek 2003.*

GRACEFUL PRESENCE (Huber, Tony Reg. 2003) Sdlg. 96-003. (37in 95cm) EML **SPEC-X** (-F). Versata. S. light rose purple (RHS 75A aging 75B), lined darker; style arms blue, edges lilac, crests white and lilac; F. violet blue (90D), white veins surrounding bright yellow signal; slight fragrance. [Versicolor 400-02: (87 versicolor VF 400 x sdlg) X pink ensata sdlg]

GREYWOODS AMETHYST MIST (Wilkinson, Darlyn Reg. 2003) Sdlg. 96-34. (38in 97cm) EM (6 -F). Amethyst purple with blue grey cast, small white center and shading, signal deep gold; style arms white, violet purple tips. [Midsummer Reverie X 93-18C: (Winged Sprite x Frilled Enchantment)] Greywood Farm 2003

GREYWOODS GYPSY PLUMES (Wilkinson, Darlyn Reg. 2003) Sdlg. 93-15. (34in 86cm) EM (6 -F). Clean white with deep red violet lines radiating from small red violet shading by medium yellow signal; style arms plum red violet, red violet lines at tip. [81-26: (Prairie Sapphire x Chigokesho) X Lavnder Hint] Greywood Farm 2003

GREYWOODS LADY'S FANCY (Wilkinson, Darlyn Reg. 2003) Sdlg. 97-13. (30in 76cm) E (6 -F). Wavy, with large clean white center, wide violet lavender border with white rays; style arms white, faint violet lavender at tips; medium gold signal. [92-27: (Gekkeikan x Caprician Butterfly) X Skyrocket Burst] Greywood Farm 2003

GREYWOODS SOFT EFFECT (Wilkinson, Darlyn Reg. 2003) Sdlg. 97-22. (40in 102cm) EM (6 -F). Pale greyed light lavender with deeper thin veining, yellow gold signal; style arms greyed white to light greyed lavender. [91-2-2: (Strut and Flourish x Caprician Butterfly) X Shirotae] Greywood Farm 2003

ICE CARVING (Hensler, Christy Ann Reg. 2003) Sdlg. 97JS 17C. (41in 104cm) M **SPEC-X** (-F). S. white; style arms cream, light yellow wash; F. white, yellow green signal. [Intaglio X Sea Shadows]

JANICE ANN (Mull, Bill Reg. 2003) Sdlg. M-410-97. (46in 117cm) M (3 -F). White (RHS 155B) self, F. with yellow signal; slight sweet fragrance. [White Chiffon X White Wings]

JEN SE HADEJ (Dudek, Jiri 2000) *intro by* Dudek 2003.

KHOKHLOMA (Mironova, Liudmila Reg. 2003) Sdlg. 2-16-98. (30in 75cm) M (6 -F). Light lilac with broad crimson brushing, small yellow signal surrounded by white halo; style arms dark violet. [Primoriye X Temple Maiden]

LION KING (Bauer/Coble 1996) *HM 1999 AM 2001 PM 2003*

LITTLE BOW PINK (Delmez, Donald 1998) *HM 2003*

- LITTLE SPRITZER** (Delmez, Donald 1998) *HM 2003*
- MURASAKI-NO-TSUKASA** (Takahashi, Toshiaki Reg. 2003) Sdlg. M (3 -F). S. sanded deep wistaria purple, border white; F. sanded wistaria purple, yellow signal. [Parentage unknown] Takahashi 2003
- OHAYO GOZAIMASU *Good Morning*** (Ackerman, William L. Reg. 2003) Sdlg. SXHPM90. (22in 56cm) ML **SPEC-X** (3 -F). Pseudata. S. light yellow (near RHS 4D); style arms deep yellow (Near 1C); F. purple (near 77C), signal yellow (near 12A) with maroon halo, maroon lines extending downward and three stripes extending into halo area. [Sayo-no-Tsuki X Hatsuhō] Sans Souci 2003
- OREGON MARMALADE** (Walker, Lee 2002) *intro by Eartheart 2003.*
- PRAVE TED** (Dudek, Jiri 2000) *intro by Dudek 2003.*
- PROMENADA** (Dudek, Jiri 2001) *intro by Dudek 2003.*
- QUANTUM THEORY** (Hensler, Christy Ann Reg. 2003) Sdlg. 97JS5B. (40in 102cm) EM **SPEC-X** (-F). S. medium violet blue; style arms violet blue, turquoise and light blue highlights; F. violet blue, large cream white signal with violet blue veining; bud sheaths and spathes very dark maroon purple; blooms large. [Adrenaline Rush X 92JS4B: (unknown JI x unknown SIB)]
- QUEBELLE** (Huber, Tony 1998) *intro by Iris City 2003.*
- RAINBOW DARTER** (Copeland, Jill Reg. 2003) Sdlg. 15-K. (30in 76cm) ML (3 -F). S. white (RHS 155D), rimmed violet (88C); style arms white (155B); F. white (155D), sanded blue violet (97A) between veins; yellow (7A) signal. [86-10, unknown, X 84-9, unknown]
- RASPBERRY GLOW** (Aitken, J. T. 1992) *AM 1999 PM 2003*
- REISYUN** (Shimizu, H. by C. Mahan 1994) *HM 2003*
- ROWDEN CALIPH** (Carter, John & Galen Reg. 2003) Sdlg. (30in 76cm) M (3 -F). S. pale greyed violet blue, center base deeper violet, narrow yellow basal midrib, form large, broad and tall, initially upright but soon relaxing to lie over F.; style arms blue purple aging grey; F. pale greyed violet blue heavily veined blue, signal orange yellow. [Parentage unknown] Rowden 2000
- ROWDEN TETRARCH** (Carter, John & Galen Reg. 2003) Sdlg. (36in 91cm) M (3 -F). S. madder red, lower half of midrib white, S. tip curling inward; style arms deep violet, white tip and midrib at base; F. white, crisply veined purple, small primrose yellow signal with dark yellow center; slight fragrance. [Parentage unknown] Rowden 2000
- SANDY'S BLESSING** (Matheny III, Ed 2002) *intro by Ed's Iris 2003.*
- SLUMBERING DRAGON** (Bauer/Coble 1998) *HM 2003*

- SUE JO** (Delmez, Donald Reg. 2003) Sdlg. DWBVPUST. (39IN 99CM) M (6 -F). Ruffled and flared white, heavily veined blue, signal yellow; style arms dark blue purple, midrib lighter, multiple. [Blue Spritz X WTGSN-2] Delmez 2003
- TIDELINE** (Bauer/Coble 1995) *HM 1999 AM 2003*
- TORII** (Matheny III, Ed 2002) *intro by Ed's Iris 2003.*
- TULE CRANE** (Matheny III, Ed 2002) *intro by Ed's Iris 2003.*
- TULE DANCE** (Matheny III, Ed 2002) *intro by Ed's Iris 2003.*
- TULE GOWN** (Matheny III, Ed Reg. 2003) Sdlg. J:14-01-98. (39in 99cm) M (6 -F). White, veined purple, signal yellow; style arms purple edged white, crests purple tipped white. [J:00-04-94 X unknown]
- TULE RIVER** (Matheny III, Ed 2002) *intro by Ed's Iris 2003.*
- TULE SCARF** (Matheny III, Ed Reg. 2003) Sdlg. J:05-07-97. (36in 91cm) L (3 -F). S. lavender, violet rim; style arms white, crests lavender; F. lavender, yellow signal. [Returning Tide X unknown]
- TULE SKIRT** (Matheny III, Ed Reg. 2003) Sdlg. J:21-02-98. (41in 104cm) M (3 -F). S. violet, edged white; style arms and crests white brushed purple; F. white, veined purple, signal yellow. [J:04-04-94 X unknown]
- TULE TIDE** (Matheny III, Ed 2002) *intro by Ed's Iris 2003.*
- TULE TRIBUTARIES** (Matheny III, Ed 2002) *intro by Ed's Iris 2003.*
- UNION MADE** (Bauer/Coble Reg. 2003) Sdlg. SX95A-1. (15in 38cm) M (3 -F). Pseudata. S. white; style arms cream white, crests white; F. white, yellow signal with distinct violet halo; foliage yellow green. [White I. pseudacorus sdlg. X Otome Kagami] Ensata Gardens 2003
- VINOVA BASTA** (Dudek, Jiri 2001) *intro by Dudek 2003.*
- WHITE BLEACH** (Huber, Tony 1998) *intro by Iris City 2003.*
- WONDERFUL DELIGHT** (Delmez, Donald Reg. 2003) Sdlg. SRVO. (38in 97cm) EM (3 -F). S. white, tipped red violet; style arms white, tipped violet; F. light violet, blue infusion around white halo and radiating lines surrounding yellow signal; ruffled; F. flared. [(Japanese Pinwheel x Graceful Dancer) X Pink Mystery] Delmez 2003
- YASASHII NAMI** (Matheny III, Ed 2002) *intro by Ed's Iris 2003.*

PSEUDATA SURPRISE

by Carol Warner, Upperco, MD

Crosses between *I. pseudacorus* and *I. enasta* have been known for some time. I have grown the two celebrated fertile crosses, 'Hatsuho' and 'Sayo No Tsuki' for several years now. They are hybridizer's irises; they bloom only sparsely, usually only have two flowers per stalk, and are very short. These two have little landscape or garden value except for their persistently yellow foliage which may add some color to a border.

My impressions were in for a change beginning in March of 2001, when I received a package of ten small rhizomes. These came from the Japanese hybridizer Hiroshi Shimizu, whose irises I am very pleased to register and introduce in the United States. There was one pseudacorus, 'Gubijin', and nine other rhizomes which were labeled "pseudatas". These were potted up and kept indoors until their pots could be placed outside. My garden was on the AIS national convention tour that year, and the pots were simply set out in a tray and almost ignored. Convention guests came and I worried a little about the pots, but there were 260 bearded iris guests to be tended daily. One little short unusual flower came and went on one of the crosses, but the pots still sat waiting for the bearded irises to be sent home, which would allow garden space for some new things. The potted irises were planted late but thrived anyway. In 2002 some of the varieties bloomed and were quite interesting, and the foliage was a nice healthy-looking yellow-green. The stalks, however, were still fairly short even though the plants were increasing well. We were in the midst of our worst drought at the time, and I do not water my plants. Eventually the watering ban made sure that no one watered anything.

Last year the plants came up early and the pseudacorus, 'Gubijin' (Hiroshi Shimizu, R. 1999), started to bloom. It is a

rich yellow with a deep red halo. Stalks were tall and beautifully branched. They seemed to just keep building buds and more and more flowers, producing a very long bloom season. The foliage was deep green and quite vigorous.

The real surprise came when the pseudatas began to bloom. They started blooming with the very earliest of the Japanese and the late Siberians. Stalks were branched and had quite a lot of blooms. As we got further into the season I had to get out the four-foot measuring stick and begin to document these plants. Stalk heights were measured at 44", 37" 35" and two seemed shorter at 25 and 23 inches. The flowers were shaped similar to the pseudacorus parent but were in a range of colors from bright rose, light lavender, peach (which on close inspection seems to be a rose over a yellow background giving a peach appearance from a distance), lemon yellow, bright yellow, cream and white. All had the wonderful deep halo pattern of the parent pseudacorus, but this time I described the "eyelashes" as purple, deep wine, or magenta.

The January 2002 **BULLETIN** of the American Iris Society has an article on page 20 written by Mr. Shimizu. He describes how he has created this whole new group of irises and there are wonderful color pictures on pages 62 and 63. I am growing five of the varieties pictured, 'Hagi No Tsuki', 'Ryujin', 'Shinrinyoku', 'Tsukiyono', and 'Kikumakura'.

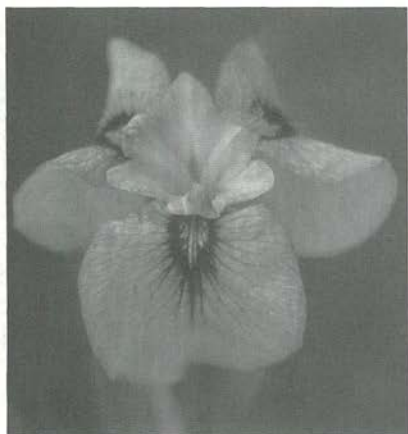
I was able to enter stalks from eight of the pseudata varieties plus stalks from Mr. Shimizu's early pink Japanese varieties in the seedling class of the Francis Scott Key Iris Society beardless show in last June. The two judges almost lost their minds! All we heard was lots of complaints about there was no way they could pick a best seedling but the decision finally went to a yellow pseudatas, 'Kouryu'. One judge noted the fact that some of the pseudatas had triple-socketed terminals. As I watched the season progress I found that he had underestimated. Some of the varieties continued to

produce buds and had four blooms in the terminal and often three in side branches. Unfortunately, I lost count of how many flowers these plants produced but the bloom season went on for at least three weeks. In all fairness, we did have rain almost every day, which gave the best enstata bloom this year I've ever seen. Many of these plants produced eight to ten stalks and increase has been quite good. My personal favorites last year were the peach one, 'Kinshikou', and a white with a deep purple halo and veins named 'Soushu'. This one is very vigorous, 44 inches tall and is a bit later than the others. These are going to be wonderful landscape plants as well as giving us a whole new breed of iris.

These wonderful plants were lined out last fall and are increasing nicely. Some were sent as guest plants for the 2005 convention in Delaware.

The best surprise of all is that I received another package of pseudatas from Mr. Shimizu again last March. One bloomed on a very short stalk and had no increase but has since produced two nice little fans on the side of the bloomstalk. Thank goodness Japanese irises will do that and do not usually bloom out. The others look very healthy, and so I am looking forward to seeing more of his incredible babies this year.

'Kinshikou'



'Soushu'



TREASURER'S REPORT 12-31-03

Catherine Button

Balance Dec 31, 2002	\$18,343.56
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INCOME

Interest	\$495.86 (\$451 from maturing CD)
Dues	\$1,208.00
Advertising	\$66.00
JI Book Royalty	\$111.96
Librarian Income	
Auction	\$535.00
Donations	\$245.00
Other	\$53.00 (member list, checklist)

TOTAL INCOME	\$2,714.82
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EXPENSES

The Review	-\$4,063.00
(and ITJ print costs)	
Postage Expense	-\$213.48
Medal Expense	-\$45.00
Publicity expense	-\$73.00
Review Photo Contest	-\$128.00
Other	-\$96.27 (slide copies, check cost)

TOTAL EXPENSES	-\$4,618.75
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Balance 12/31/2003	\$16,439.63	\$16,439.63
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Current Checking Balance	1,394.77
Current Money Market	15,044.86

HANASHOBU DISPLAY IN JAPAN

By Hiroshi Shimizu

Improvement of *hanashobu*, which in the West is called the Japanese Iris, was first undertaken in Japan, and there are now more than two thousand named cultivars in my country. The development of *hanashobu* has been directly related to its display. To understand the development of *hanashobu* it is necessary to understand this relationship, which I shall explain.

Garden Display

When Japanese people want to appreciate the beauty of *hanashobu* they usually visit *hanashobu* gardens when the irises are in bloom. There are presently more than two hundred *hanashobu* display gardens spread over the Japanese archipelago. More than two million people visit these gardens each year.

Early in the 19th century several gardens at Horikiri, located about six miles east of the center of Tokyo, became famous for *hanashobu* displays. George M. Reed of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden visited these gardens in 1930, and wrote a very good article describing them: "The Iris of Japan" which appeared in the *Bulletin of The American Iris Society*, No. 40.

The most famous of the *hanashobu* gardens at Horikiri was Kotaka-en. Hiroshige, the great *ukiyo-e* (a painter), executed a beautiful woodblock print showing the *hanashobu* on display in this garden. Three viewing pavilions and a well-developed, trained pine tree are in the center of the picture, and an artificial hill is on the left. From the elevation of this hill, visitors could get a good view of the *hanashobu* just below.

In the “sunken” garden about fifty different varieties of *hanashobu* were grown. They were grown in rows of variable length, and usually only one kind to a row. But each variety was repeated at several different places in the garden. The visitors were admitted to the garden upon the payment of a small fee, and they sat in one of the viewing pavilions to enjoy the flowers.

The *hanashobu* plantings were surrounded by elevated banks or levees, and the visitor walked on the banks, which held water in the beds, to appreciate the flowers. The design of this garden leads the visitors to see the irises only from above. There are two reasons the Kotaka-en Garden was designed in this manner. The first reason was to protect the owner’s house and family from floods; flood disasters occurred often in the Horikiri area. The second reason for the Kotaka-en design is that Japanese people appreciate natural scenic beauty. The open vista seen from the top of the hill and from the pavilions was lovely. Japanese garden design principles call for the surrounding wood, river, and mountain (*Shukkei*) to be incorporated into the overall scenic view.

The appreciation of *hanashobu* in the open vista, looking down upon the flowers, gave impetus to the development of a new flower form, the “horizontal form”, in the Tokyo region. Varieties in this form are very strong and resistant to wind and rain. We call these types of *hanashobu* the “Edo types” after the old name for Tokyo.

Edo type



Indoor Display

There are three quite distinct types of traditional indoor display for hanashobu in Japan: Kumamoto, which gave rise to the Higo type of plant; Tokyo dwarf plant display, which shows the influence of bonsai; and the Ise-area display tradition, which gave rise to the Ise type of plant.

The first I will describe is Kumamoto indoor display, which is practiced by the Kumamoto Mangetu Kai. Kumamoto is the name of a region in southeastern Japan on the island of Kyushu. The Mangetu Kai, which means "Full Moon Society", was organized for the development and appreciation of hanashobu, and its annual meeting was held at the time of the full moon in June.

The unique method of display in Kumamoto entails showing the irises in pots. The hanashobu bloom season in Kumamoto is frequently beset with heavy rains, which led to growing the irises in pots. Gradually, too, rules were developed for the display for irises inside the house. Pots were about 24 cm in diameter, and flower stalks were about 90 cm in height. Seven to nine plants were arranged along the wall side of the main room. One or two irises were displayed in the tokonoma, a special alcove designed for displaying objets d'art, paintings, and plants appropriate to the season. The irises displayed in the tokonoma had shorter flower stalks than those on display along the wall. To the Kumamoto Mangetsu Kai, the inner spirit was more important than the form in the display. The heart of the display lay in the "selfless manner" in which the host served the guests. Therefore, the host did not put stalks of his own new varieties in the tokonoma, a place of great ritual importance in Japan; instead, when the host arranged the potted irises along the wall of the room, he put his guest's varieties in the center of the row.

While the guests first appreciated the irises, they sat upright and bowed to them. This marked their respect for the flower. Next, the guests stood up and examined the shape and size of the style arms. They liked large and strongly formed style arms, and very much disliked small or poorly formed style arms. They believed that the flower's "mind" is in the style arms, being in the center of the flower; the style arms must be large and "right" as the heart of a human being should be.

After appreciating the irises on display, guests talked with the host about cultivation and the shape and color of irises on display, but there was no "flower contest." Believing that each variety has its own personality and virtue, the individual characteristics must be respected; competition would be disrespectful.

These Kumamoto devotees liked the arched flower form, which resembles the shape of Mount Fuji. This was because they viewed the iris from the side, rather than from the top. Improvement of their varieties was directed to the creation of varieties suitable for display in a Japanese style room. We call their irises the "Higo type" after the old name of Kumamoto. Varieties of the Higo type are especially well liked by many Japanese hybridizers.

Higo type



The second type of indoor display I will address is the Tokyo dwarf plant indoor display. This is a method of pot culture and display devised by Mr. Ichikawa about 1930. He used a flat pot about 30 cm in diameter and 3 cm deep to cultivate and display

hanashobu. Usually ten to twenty rhizomes are planted in the pot during bloom season. The following year these plants will bloom seven to fifteen flowers.

The essence of the art of this unique method of cultivation is in skillfully controlling growth. The amount of fertilizer and water are carefully regulated, and the pot is moved in response to seasonal and weather changes. Care is taken to protect against disease and insect pests.

The totality of flowers, leaves, and pot produces a natural elegance of form pleasing to the eye. The ability to succeed with this method can be said to spring from the resourcefulness of Mr. Ichikawa who, in his love of nature's beauty, tried to bring it closer to his life.

The suitable varieties for this method of display are not miniature types with smaller flowers, but rather smaller growing Edo and Ise cultivars. Undoubtedly this form of display shows the influence of bonsai.

A unique type of hanashobu originated in Ise, and this is the third type of indoor iris display I will discuss. Ise is the district in central Honshu where the Grand Shrines dedicated to the ancestors of the imperial family are located, and which has close ties to Kyoto.

At the beginning of the 20th century, cultivation of irises for use in the unique Ise display was rather widespread in the Ise district. Popularity of this display style declined, however, and it seems that it is no longer practiced in Japan. As a result, many details of the Ise display remain unclear.

In the Ise style, potted flowers were displayed in front of a folding screen or a curtain in a Japanese style room. Twenty-seven

plants were arranged in three rows, nine plants in each row. The person making this display gave great care to flower color, and the height of the flower stalks and leaves had to be about the same. A low screen in front of the first row was used to hide the pots in which the irises were growing.

Upon viewing and appreciating an Ise display, a guest would say to the host: "All the falls are sufficiently drooping downward." These words were the highest form of praise one could give to an iris display in Ise.

The unique "Ise type" of Japanese iris was developed for this display. All Ise irises are single, the height of the flower stalks and leaves are about the same, and the falls droop downward. I think that the characteristics of Ise varieties, even more than those of Higo varieties, were influenced by the fact they were developed for indoor appreciation. Consequently, Ise varieties have shorter flower stalks than Higo varieties. Usually they are 70 to 90 centimeters in height. The shortness of stalk was one of the reasons the potted plants needed to be put on a flower stand for display.

Ise type



The Japanese Mind and Hanashobu

Several years ago I contributed an article to the Bulletin of The American Iris Society and the British Iris Society Year Book entitled "Iris Hybridizers in Japan." Referring to the Japanese people, I wrote: "When we look at flowers, we see the beauty of nature through the flowers." The spirit of Nature is suggested by

the Tokyo dwarf plant indoor display, with its bonsai influence. The flower, green leaves, and soil in the flat pot symbolize or reflect the forms and features of a hanashobu garden landscape. When a Japanese person looks at it, his mind visits a large hanashobu garden and "takes a rest" there.

On the other hand, the spirit of Kumamoto ("each flower has its own personality") is also important to the Japanese. Japanese naturalistic religion, Shinto, grew out of the everyday life of the Japanese people in primitive times. All natural objects and phenomena were considered as having their own gods (*kami*). Today the majority of Japanese people have no interest in the tenets of Shintoism, but they nonetheless often sense that natural objects have distinct personalities. This Japanese characteristic has contributed to the various flower forms developed through iris hybridizing.

Reverence for Nature is an emotional and nonrational influence on the Japanese mind. At the same time, Japanese thought is marked with an insular prejudice, stemming from the relative isolation and freedom from foreign invasion our nation experienced for many generations. This insular prejudice has prevented the Japanese from developing universal concepts so useful for international cooperation. The insularity of Japanese thought has directed the Japanese mind toward the inner spirit rather than toward universal precepts. It is this inner direction of the Japanese mind that is reflected in the elegant ritual of tea ceremony and in the Kumamoto indoor display of hanashobu.

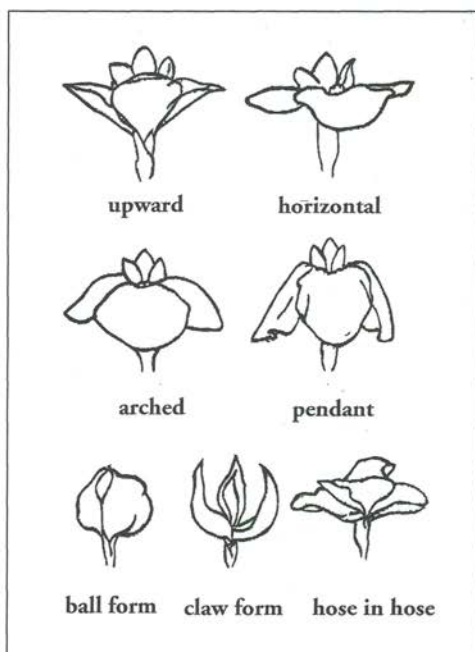
The development of the unique characteristics of Edo, Higo and Ise *hanashobu* varieties and the different display method associated with these three distinct *hanashobu* types are creative art forms which attempt to express the unique aesthetic sense of the three Japanese regions.

Dr. Shuichi Hirao, in his book *The Japanese Iris*, observed that the characteristics of Edo *hanashobu* may be likened in their smart, sophisticated air to the merchant culture which dominated Tokyo for so long. The Higo *hanashobu* have the solemn dignity of the *daimyo*, the feudal lords of pre-modern Japan. Ise *hanashobu* have the gentle grace of young women of noble birth.

I think that the breeding of plants and the manner in which plants are displayed reflect the culture in which the plantsman lives. Unique cultural characteristics have their origin in centuries past.

[Editor's Note: This article appears in slightly different form on the website of The Japan Iris Society <http://www.kamoltd.co.jp/kyokai/English/display.html>, and is reprinted with the author's kind permission.]

Japanese Iris Forms



SOME THOUGHTS ON THE DISPLAY GARDEN PROGRAM

By Phil Cook, Underhill, VT

When I assumed the position of Display Garden Chairperson, I sent a questionnaire to all of the participants on the then-current list of display gardens. While many returned the questionnaire and indicated that they wished to continue in the program, many requested that they be dropped from the list for various reasons and there were quite a few who didn't respond. The result has been a smaller list. I have been giving some thought to the function(s) of the program and how to solicit new participants. Here are some of my ideas and I'd like to hear from any SJI members who have additional suggestions or, better yet, who would like to be added to the program.

1. The Display Garden Program should introduce and promote Japanese irises to the general gardening public.

Japanese irises need to be seen to be believed and appreciated. Unfortunately, most gardeners don't read the SJI Review nor are they apt to run across the SJI web page. They are probably unaware that display gardens exist. Therefore, it is important that DGP participants actively draw public attention to their gardens when Japanese irises are in flower. One doesn't need a huge collection to stimulate interest; a dozen or so cultivars should suffice. Individuals can "advertise" their garden and irises in a number of ways. Notices can be posted in local papers, on post office bulletin boards, at garden centers, etc. Keep in mind that a two week lead time is required for some publications. Cut flowers can be distributed to churches, hospitals, your doctor's or dentist's office and any other venue where they may be seen and appreciated. Leave information on where they came from and where more can be seen. My local postmistress has allowed vases of Siberian and Japanese irises in the lobby; the flowers can be changed frequently

as I go to the PO nearly every day. I've had several visitors to my garden as a result. Divisions may be donated to plant sales with instructions on the proper care and cultivation. If you've got a snapshot to spare, so much the better. Invite local garden clubs to tour your garden. Getting ready for "company" does cause a certain angst but extraordinary efforts at weeding, mowing, etc. really aren't necessary. If visitors are interested in plants, they will overlook (or at least forgive) some degree of unkemptness. My attitude is that as long as people learn something new about Japanese irises and other plants in my garden their visit has been worthwhile. My casual approach to weeding probably leaves visitors feeling better about their own gardens. Whatever the method, **outreach** is the most important function of a display garden and it is possible for nearly all SJI members to contribute in some way.

2. The Display Garden Program should aid SJI members and AIS judges to become familiar with new introductions.

Most SJI members don't have the resources to maintain an extensive collection of the newest introductions. However, we do like to be up-to-date on what the hybridizers are doing. AIS judges are expected to be thoroughly familiar with new cultivars. It is very expensive to acquire them all for one's own garden or to travel to distant gardens to observe them. Unfortunately, the AIS general convention is almost always at the time of peak bloom for tall bearded irises, which makes familiarity with new Japanese irises much more difficult. I have no illusions that an AIS convention would ever be scheduled during the peak bloom of Japanese irises. A network of regional centers where guest irises could be evaluated at the appropriate time would be an asset to the judging program and a resource for the general membership. Is this something that is worth working toward?

3. The Display Garden Program should encourage the development and maintenance of specialized collections of Japanese irises.

Some of us are collectors at heart. I began with postage stamps and am now collecting irises. In a few years, I'll probably be back to postage stamps as an aging body begins to protest the rigors of gardening. What I'd like to suggest is that each of you select some specialized area of Japanese irises, develop a focus on building a collection within that area, and be willing to share the fruits of your collection with other JI aficionados. As I gradually became familiar with Japanese irises, I was impressed with the merits of many of the older cultivars. These cultivars are often overshadowed by newer, and not necessarily superior, introductions. Breeders such as Marx, Payne, Hazzard, etc. have given us a great legacy of cultivars which should be given a chance to compete with the introductions of the 21st century. I would like to see a cooperative effort to preserve this heritage. Individual members could develop a worthwhile collection even with limited space and resources. For example, a collection of the last (1969) introductions of Payne would provide a very good representation of JI variation while the cultivars of Louise Marx would make for a small but interesting collection.

Collections centered around the contributions of specific breeders is but one approach. Another would be to assemble cultivars for comparative purposes. It is very difficult to identify many Japanese irises without a label. Descriptions in the registrations do not often specify characteristics which might be useful in separating similar cultivars. A collection of similar cultivars (e.g. 6 falls, dark violet veining on white background) grown under nearly identical conditions might enable the grower to detect and verbalize subtle but consistent differences in structure or behavior. Such a collection would also be useful for hybridizers who are evaluating the distinctiveness of their seedlings. Comparative collections

are not for everyone but do offer an opportunity to expand and refine descriptions so that cultivars are more easily distinguished.

4. The Display Garden Program needs more participation by the membership.

The outreach aspect of the DGP is, to my mind, the most important and it is also the one to which most members can easily contribute. Even if there is already a display garden in your area, you could still be a resource since every garden is different in scope, design, and interest. If there isn't a display garden in your area, you have an opportunity to be the local spokesperson for Japanese irises. Remember, you don't need a huge collection or a manicured estate. You only need to be willing to actively promote one of your favorite plants—Japanese irises.

The specialized collection, whether it be of a hybridizer or some other category, can be developed with modest effort and resources. This approach provides an educational experience quite apart from garden cultivation. One becomes familiar with different growers, with the background of hybridizers, the history of JI in the US, etc.

A regional display garden emphasizing seedlings and recent introductions will require coordination and support from the AIS and SJI organizations as well as hybridizers. Individuals, however, can make this a topic of conversation at regional meetings with other irisarians.

Participation can also be in the form of feedback. I need to know how members regard the Display Garden Program and how it might be improved. Let me hear from you!

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2004 JAPANESE IRIS INTRODUCTION

GREYWOODS ANTIQUE BLUSH (Wilkinson 04) 6F EM 30.00*

Beautiful and feminine, at 32" h, this JI is a clear light pink blending into white centers. By afternoon the pink fades to a soft blush. Vivid yellow gold signals and white blushed pink stylearms. A lovely delicate appearance. [Sdlg (SHIROTAI X AGRIPPANELLA) X WORLEY PINK] **Limited August Delivery*

GREYWOODS IRISH MYST (Wilkinson 04) 6F EM-M 36" 30.00

This color pattern caught my eye from day one. A large white center fades into stippled amethyst purple wide borders. Amethyst purple stylearms shade into white. Chartreuse veined signals. A wonderful color and graceful in the garden. [Sdlg (WINGED SPRITE X MIDSUMMER REVERIE) X FRILLED ENCHANTMENT]

GREYWOODS MUSICAL DREAMS (Wilkinson 04) 6F E 34" 25.00

This wide, flaring bloom is an unusual shade of blue-grayed lavender. Signals are vivid yellow gold with a white surround. White stylearms are blushed greyed lavender. A good parent for interesting color breaks. (GREYWOODS FLOWING WATERS X PINK RINGLET)

GREYWOODS ROSYOLLA (Wilkinson 04) 6F M 32" 25.00*

I like Victorian colors, and ROSYOLLA takes me back to that era. Best said, it's a medium lavender rose mauve, set off by deeper shaded veins. White stylearms are tipped lavender mauve and signals are gold. Most appealing and lovely set against white daisies and lavendula. (GREYWOODS FLOWING WATERS X ACK-SCENT PINK)

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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

KITTEN GROWS INTO LION KING

By John Coble, Ensata Gardens

'Lion King' (Bauer/Coble 96) tied for the 2003 W.A. Payne Medal with 'Raspberry Glow' (Aitken 92). 'Lion King' was the selected seedling from a cross of 'Frosted Pyramid' X 'Frisled Enchantment'. We were hybridizing for 6 Fall JI with the narrowest picotee edge of color on white petals. We had succeeded in getting a blue-violet rim on a 6F white JI with 'Tideline': 6F white sdgl X 'Light At Dawn'. The next line to cross was to get a white with a narrow red-violet rim. We knew from previous hybridizing that 'Frosted Pyramid' was a genetically pure white. So if we crossed a white with a red edge onto it, we should get a variety of red rims on white and all we would have to do is pick out the narrowest. Plus we dreamed of the possibilities we could get with 'Frosted Pyramid' having 12+ petals! Imagine, 12 white ruffled petals each with a sharp red hairline picotee! Oh, we hybridizers DO dream during the winter!

You have seen the flower or pictures of 'Lion King'. It is a 9 fall white center with rose-red edges. It was the best of the seedlings; several were 9 fall, the rest were 6 fall. All seedlings had wider red violet edges than 'Frisled Enchantment'. So, we learned that 'Frosted Pyramid' may be pure white but has dominant genes for a 1" edge, not the 1/8" rim we were seeking.

As we speak, seeds are germinating in the basement of 'Frosted Pyramid' X 'Pinkerton'. Our dreams are up there in pink "cloud nine". Maybe there will be a 'Pink Panther' chasing 'Lion King' across the garden!

THIS 'N THAT

Name Printing Convention

The ICNCP (International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants, a publication of the International Society for Horticultural Science) recommends international standards for form and typography of cultivar names and rejects a wealth of inconsistent variants used by individuals, organizations and publications. Just as the ICBN (International Code for Botanical Nomenclature) stresses that consistency is very important just as the use of Latin and Latinized Greek help keep scientific names more stable. This International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants is generally followed world wide.

Cultivars (as defined by the ICNCP) should be printed as follows: *Iris cristata* 'Powder Blue Giant'. This includes the botanical name in italics (a rule of English grammar for foreign language use) followed by the cultivar name enclosed by single quotes with each name beginning with a capital letter.

This seems a simple act-even obligation- to fit in with the world community in regard to handling of all names correctly.

Dr. James W. Waddick
Kansas City, Missouri

I was referred to you for assistance in finding the Iris - Winged Serpent. It was introduced in 1965, by Payne.

Do you or can you direct me to anyone who has this Iris for sale? This is a very vigorous Iris that grows up to 54" tall.

I would appreciate anything you can do to assist me.

Brian Doyal daviddick66@wnonline.net

MEET THE HYBRIDIZERS

DARLYN WILKINSON

TOPSFIELD, MA

Greywood Farm is a small specialty nursery located in semi-rural Topsfield, on a historic 1670s property, about 40 miles north of Boston. MA. Our weather zone here is listed as 6A. However, because we are on a south facing, wind swept hill, the fall and spring freezes and thaws sometimes feel like a Zone 4, minus the snow cover.

The Nursery is owned and operated by myself, Darlyn Wilkinson, and is tolerated by a good natured spouse and several hunt horses. I grew up on a farm in northern Ohio, and learned all there was to know about gardening from my dad, who grew tomatoes as large as melons, corn no raccoon would dare to touch, and harvested the best hay in all of Ohio.

I started to garden seriously in the early 1980's, during a career in commercial architecture in NYC. After various moves to N.C, N.H and Georgetown, MA, we currently settled in Topsfield 6 years ago – moving thousands of plants from Georgetown in horse trailers. (But, that's another article). I began hybridizing daylilies in 1990, and started working with Japanese Irises one year later, in 1991. That was 13 years ago, and I haven't looked back since!

I suppose my biggest mentor in the field of Japanese Irises was Currier McEwen, and I traveled many times to his glorious place in Harpswell, ME with my daylily gurus, Al and Irene Melin. I recall the feeling of awe standing among his creations and listening to him enthusiastically speak on hybridizing. His knowledge was invaluable and his generous sharing of pollen was the beginning of my blue lines today.

My Japanese Iris hybridizing program continues to run full speed ahead. We plant outside roughly 2,000 to 4,000 seeds yearly,

after a brief period in the winter greenhouse. I proceed to work towards certain goals. Blue is a primary focus, along with unique patterns and unusual colors. I'm forever seeking those attributes, along with hardiness and the abilities of each plant to withstand the neglect they often receive here. Mostly we don't water, and care is limited to horse manure and a handful of mulch at planting time. Hybridizing guidelines are strict and just a pretty face doesn't make the cut. Needless to say, from the view of a designer, many seedlings don't.

The seedling beds seem to hopelessly expand every year, yet I doubt I'll be allowed to consume horse space. It has been a challenge to select the best seedlings for introduction, and I look forward to that task again this year. After all, I have the vision of Currier's iris fields in my mind's eye and my dad's gardening spirit still within me today.



'Greywoods Catrina'
(Wilkinson, D. 2002)



Darlyn Wilkinson & Greyson

SJI REVIEW

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Deadlines for receiving copy are February 15th and August 15th, 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:

JI General Interest Robin: Cindy Rust, director, 2016 Meadow Lane, Union, MO 63084; 636-583-2745; E-mail: srust@fidnet.com

JI Hybridizer's Robin: Jill Copeland, director, 78118 M-40, Lawton, MI 49065; 269-624-1968; E-mail: jandjcope@aol.com

JI E-mail Robin: Dennis Hager, director, E-mail: academyhouse@toad.net; www.socji.org

PHOTO CONTEST AT ENSATA EXTRAVAGANZA

Ensata Extravaganza is having a photography contest at the combination 2004 Region 4 Spring Regional Meeting and Society for Japanese Irises Symposium to be held in June 3-5, 2004 in Norfolk, VA. Since the purpose of *Ensata Extravaganza* is to feature Japanese Irises - our contest is limited to photographs of Japanese irises! Here's your opportunity to display your photographic talent and win a cash prize at the same time.

CLASSES

1. Individual Flower.- Photo features Japanese irises or one of its species crosses and can be either single, double, or peony flower form.
2. Ensata Clump.- Photo features a clump of Japanese irises, or one of its species crosses.
3. Artistic Landscape.- Photo of Japanese irises or one of its species crosses in a landscape scene.
4. Photographer's Choice.- Photographer has complete control of composition of photo, but must have Iris Ensata, or one of its species crosses as a featured element in the photograph.

RULES

1. Entries must be in either print or digital format. Upon receipt, the entries will be enlarged to 8" x 11" size and will be displayed in a black matted frame (no glass) for judging.
2. A maximum of three (3) photos per class may be entered. Photos entered must have been taken in 2003 iris season.
3. By entering the contest, photographer grants SJI permission and all rights for future use of the photographs in any manner they choose.
4. Judges, or members of their families, may not enter.
5. Entries will be judged and exhibited at "Iris Extravaganza" in Norfolk, VA on June 4th, 2004. **All entries must be received by 15 May, 2004.** Mail or e-mail entries to: Bill Smoot, Derby Road, Portsmouth, VA 23702 <billsmoot@cox.net>
6. The following information should be included with each entry: Name, Address, Phone Number and/or e-mail address of entrant, Cultivar name(s) if known.

PRIZES

1. A first, second, third place, or honorable mention ribbon will be awarded at the judges discretion.
2. A \$25.00 cash prize will be awarded to each First Place class winner.
3. A "Best In Show" ribbon and an additional \$25.00 cash prize will be awarded to the best in show entry. All judging decisions will be final!

EDITOR'S ESSAY

Rita Gormley

This will be short and sweet because we have so many great articles that my room is all used up! Thanks to all the writers and advertisers for making my job such a pleasure!

There are several "hold-over" articles and Robin information that will be used next issue. BE SURE to vote the Popularity Poll!

You will note that we are changing over to the International Naming Convention (see page 49) for articles but not for the AIS Check list information. If you have opinions, one way or the other, be sure to write a "Letter to the Editor"!

One of our readers was wondering if anybody has had experience in forcing JIs to bloom early. This is a topic that interests many of our members. Please write and let me know if you have experiences with "blooming pots".

Enjoy the Spring - best wishes for a great bloom season!

Rita Gormley

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Commercial Directory	12
Draycott Gardens	55
Greywood Farms	46
Iris City Gardens	19
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PHOTO CREDITS

Front Cover - SJI Photo Contest -Digital First Prize Winner

Bill Smoot - Japanese Garden at The Norfolk Botanical Gardens
Picture was taken at the end of the stone bridge in the Japanese Garden-Norfolk Botanical Gardens. Cultivar- 'Sylvia's Masquerade' (Sylvia Eddy by Anna Mae Miller 1990)

Back Cover - All Historic JI photos courtesy of Lorena Reid.



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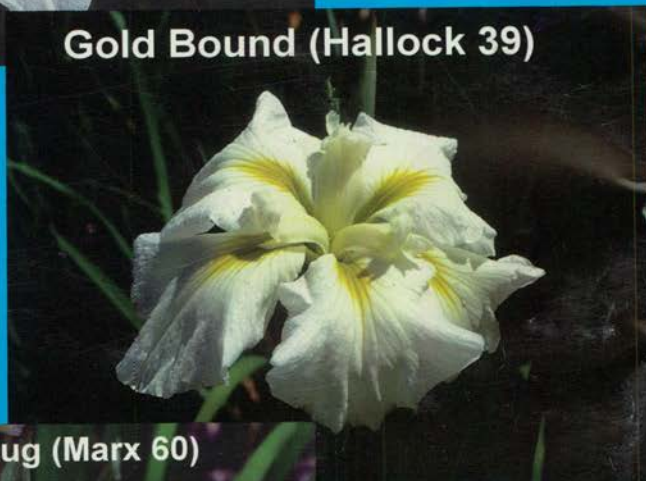
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