

The background of the cover is a photograph of a garden. In the foreground, there are several clumps of Japanese iris plants with long, green, sword-shaped leaves and several light purple flowers in various stages of bloom. Some flowers are fully open, showing their six petals and yellow centers, while others are still buds. The plants are growing in a bed of dark mulch. In the background, there is a large, grey, textured rock formation and dense green foliage. The overall scene is a lush, natural garden setting.

THE REVIEW

OF THE SOCIETY
FOR
JAPANESE IRISES

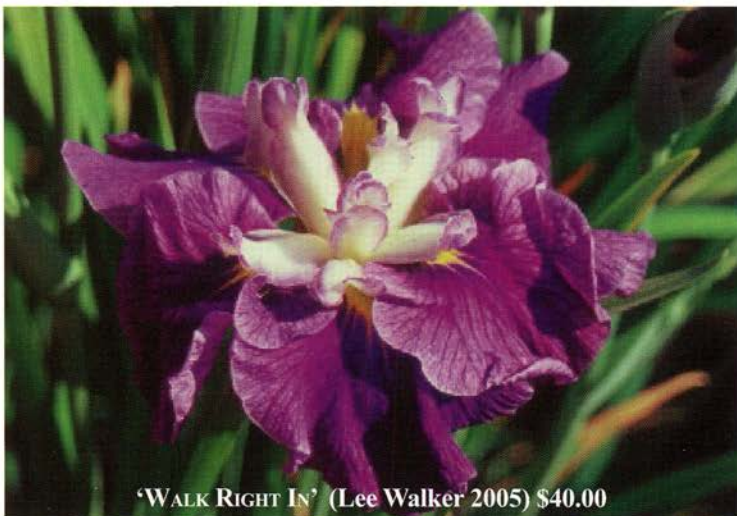
VOLUME 42
NUMBER #1
SPRING 2005

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THE REVIEW OF THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES

VOLUME 42

NUMBER 1

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Cover Photo: 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, Bylaws, Commercial
Sources, Convention, Display Gardens, Membership,
Officers, and Member Services

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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.
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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.

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FULL PAGE COLOR (4.5 X 7.5)	\$60.00
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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:

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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 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

Happy Spring to all,

Welcome to the new Board members- VP Dennis Hager, Terry Aitken, and Rita Gormley. I am very happy to have these additions. They all have worked hard for SJI for a long time.

We will miss Carol Warner on the Board. She has done valued worked for SJI for many, many years. Thanks Carol!

Thanks to you who have voted on the Bylaws. They passed. I think these new Bylaws will help SJI work better.

Speaking of voting, it is time to vote for the Popularity Poll. Last year our numbers were up. Only 20 of you voted in '02, 58 in '03, and 73 in '04. Bruce's goal for this year is 100. Let's all help him. We can do it. If you voted last year, **VOTE** again this year and if you didn't vote last year, we need your help this year.

We have a special article in this issue from Russia by Irina Makarova who is working with the world famous Russian Irisarian Dr. George Rodionenko. They were working with our world famous Dr. Currier McEwen on the "Deep Freeze Project". As I understand it, even though there are wild populations of *I. ensata* (which bloom just fine) in this part of Russia, modern JIs don't do well there. By this international cooperation, they are hoping to develop modern JIs for the Russian public to grow in their gardens.

Also, the world famous irisarian Dr. James Waddick has enlisted a few members to grow and evaluate some *I. ensata* populations from Eastern Russia which were collected by Nina Alexeeva. Watch for these reports in future issues of SJI REVIEW.

Last, but certainly not least, you will want to get your registration in for the JI Convention "Iris Gems in the Diamond State", June 16-18 of this year. This is not to be missed! See more information in this issue or go to the SJI web site <SocJI.org>.

Best Wishes,

Jill

BYLAWS VOTING RESULTS

Voting on the new SJI Bylaws has been completed.

The recent revision to the SJI Bylaws results are as follows:

Total members voting 77

Total Members by post card 49

Total Members voting e mail 28

Total yes votes 77

The Bylaws as printed to the SJI membership in the Fall 2004 SJI REVIEW are effective 1-15-05

THE 2005 SJI ANNUAL MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AS FOLLOWS:

SJI General Membership Meeting & Program

AIS 2005 Convention – St. Louis, Missouri

Wednesday, May 11, 2005 10:30 – 11:30 AM Versailles I Room

SJI Board Meeting

SJI Convention – Dover, Delaware

Thursday, June 16, 2005 3:00-5:00 PM

EVERYONE IS INVITED!!

See AIS 2005 Convention Website <www.ais2005.com> for complete schedule and information.

See SJI 2005 Convention Website <www.socji.org> for complete schedule and information

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INTRODUCING FOR LORENA REID

CHIRPS FROM THE HYBRIDIZER'S ROBIN

By Jill Copeland, Director

Some chirps on looking for early blooming Japanese Irises and 3F/6F genetics.

Don Delmez, St. Charles, MO— This year's seedlings looked very promising. Had a VE (very early) bloom this year one week after the TB show. Just can't quite make the show. Sent a 6F VE to Memphis convention but missed that date by a week, too.

Phil Cook, Underhill, VT— For this round, I'll try to keep my attention focussed on some experiences with the very early flowering cultivars... It is natural to look for a niche in which one can work with a reasonable expectation to turning up something new. However, I must confess that my first crosses were with early flowering cvs [cultivars] simply because I was anxious to try my hand at making pollinations without any real thought as to how such crosses might make a contribution to the JI repertoire. There did seem to be a gap among the very early flowering forms in that 6 fall forms seemed to be absent. This provided a goal in my hybridization, which is still in the forefront. In broadest terms, my approach has been to accumulate VE and VVE flowering cultivars, to cross them and, perhaps, to obtain a VVVE flowering seedling. It is interesting that Lorena's 'Springtime Melody' and 'Springtime Prayer' (VVE) came from VE parents ('Springtime Snow' AND 'Springtime Showers') so there is reason to hope that the bloom season can begin still earlier.

My first crosses were made between 3 fall 'Springtime Snow', 'Hatsu Kagami', 'Hatsukurenai' and 6 fall 'Brocade Blue', 'Sokituyu', and a few other unregistered cvs. Meanwhile, I discovered the very, very early flowering 'Enkaishu' ('Enkaisyuu' in Nicholls catalogue), which opened several days ahead of any others in my collection. It has been used extensively in my crosses.

A few words about 'Enkaishu'. It is a 3 fall red violet type with drooping falls apparently collected in Siberia (The Review, Spring 2000). The early flowering tendency is passed on to its progeny be it the seed parent or the pollen parent. Blocks of seedlings derived from 'Enkaishu' flower well ahead of most other early flowering types. The problem is that there is almost total uniformity with the seedlings inheriting the wild type color of 'Enkaishu' as well. The surprise has been that it also carries the gene for 6 falls. Among a few seedlings of self-pollinated 'Enkaishu', a 6 fall type was found. However, the plant was weak and has not been used any further. However, in some crosses, especially with 'Brocade Blue', 6 fall seedlings were present (albeit with the monotonous red violet color) and one clone in particular has been selected for further breeding (named "Gas Flame" for ease of reference). It has good vigor and branching so I'm looking forward to its progeny in another season or two. Several other seedlings of 'Enkaishu' have also been used in further breeding.

All progeny of 'Springtime Snow' thus far have been 3F so I'm assuming that it lacks the 6 fall gene. Nevertheless, it has yielded some varied and interesting progeny. One seedling in particular from 'Springtime Snow' X 'Hatsukagami' shows promise and I hope to send it to the 2005 convention (although it may have gone by at convention time). I've provisionally named it 'Maiden Aunt'. It is a large 3 fall form with spreading falls and dusky old rose coloring. It flowers earlier than either of its parents and continues to send up new flowering stalks over a relatively long period. This latter character is one which, I hope to incorporate into other crosses. 'Springtime Melody' on the other hand does yield 6 fall offspring.

A problem? of perhaps more general interest is how do people arrive at the characterization of flowering time when they register their seedlings? I'm trying to accumulate all of the cultivars, which have a "VE" or "VVE" designation in their registry. I was disappointed to find that a cultivar, which was presented as VE (and for which I paid good money) flowered well after most other cultivars with that designation

and, indeed, after some which were listed as “Early”. Could there be a selection of cultivars, which could be used as references when describing flowering times? For example, I’m tentatively using ‘Good Omen’ as a representative of “early”, ‘Springtime Snow’ as a representative of “very early” and ‘Springtime Prayer’ as representative of “very very early”. Any comments or suggestions?

‘Pleasant Earlybird’ has been used in the program for getting VVE seedlings. Still too early to evaluate the results; all seem to be 3 fall which is not surprising.

Lorena Reid, Springfield, OR— Both ‘Springtime Showers’ and ‘Springtime Snow’ came from seed sent to me from Japan, so I do not know if they have any double (6F) characteristics though I would guess yes, as ‘Springtime Prayer’ resulted from a cross between them, and tends to throw a double (or worse...partly double) flower occasionally (a fault in a 3F flower!)

‘Picotee Princess’ is the 6F variety which came from 2- 3F parents: ‘Garnet Royalty’ x ‘Summer Splash’, but both these parents came from crossing 6F X 3 F (or vice versa), so a double could be expected.

Regarding E, VE, & VVE.... The varieties, with Good Omen being E, all the Springtime Series are VE....but which variety blooms first among those 4 varies from year to year. Some years ‘Springtime Prayer’ is the VVE (very earliest), but it is sometimes beat by either ‘Springtime Snow’ or ‘Springtime Melody’. ‘Springtime Showers’ is usually the latest of the 4 VEs.... During the few years when I was evaluating the weather was such that the ones I registered VVE WERE earliest.... but it DOES vary from year to year. Nothing like an iris variety to “eventually” call its hybridizer a “fibber” Hmm!

Sharon Whitney, Harpswell, ME— In addition to ‘Enkaishu’, the earliest diploid JI in our gardens are ‘Altay’ (follows ‘Enkaishu’), ‘Dewa Banri’, ‘Springtime Snow’, ‘Vasili Alferof’, ‘Warabe Uta’.

Most of these plants have smaller flowers, multiple stems and are vigorous growers.

Phil—The first flowers of ‘Springtime Prayer’ opened with 6 falls this year, later ones had 3 falls. Have you observed this? Some other cultivars (e.g. ‘Arthur Hazzard’) have shown the same instability in past seasons. My guess is that they are 3F/6F in their genetic makeup. ‘Springtime Prayer’ could have inherited the 6F character from ‘Springtime Showers’?

Chad Harris, Washougal, WA—Three years ago I also made some crosses mixing 3F with 6F, the results were very disappointing. Many of the seedling blooms did not know which way to go, some terminal blooms were 6F or tried, with the last bloom relaxing into a good 3F flower form.

I destroyed all but two or three with the strongest color pattern that I was trying for. I will breed back to a three fall and try to keep the color pattern and strengthen up the flower form to a solid 3 F. I do not think I will try six to three again, too much lost time!

Terry Aitken, Vancouver, WA—One of our red JIs – ‘Asian Warrior’, or ‘Ruby Star’ – starts the season as one type and ends as the “other” – “other” being 6 fall or 3 fall. I think Lorena Reid has had similar experiences.

Lorena—Chad, you ARE right. When you cross a 3 Fall with a 6 Fall, there are lots more culls than most crosses! But good things DO come from them sometimes, if you can stand a little wasted time!

Mike Iler, Coos Bay, OR—Phil, early bloom... [is] not something I personally work with but it’s nonetheless fascinating. Your thoughtful observation that we could designate cultivars as benchmarks for certain characteristics (i.e. bloom timing) may also be applicable to Chad’s topic of vigor (or lack thereof). Would it be useful for us to

choose cultivars that could denote what's very vigorous, moderately vigorous, or vigorous enough? I can't imagine requiring compliance for registration though. As Terry said, it's up to the individual breeder to protect his/her reputation.

Don— Phil, I sent that 6F seedling to the AIS Convention in Memphis it grew very well about 19 blooms per stalk but bloomed about 7 days late. So much for that.

Jill Copeland, Lawton, MI— My experience with crossing singles and doubles is you get many that have one large standard that is trying to become a fall. Lorena, your doubles are so lovely but I would not expect to get them from that kind of cross.

I would think that hybridizers designate VE, E, M etc. relative to peak bloom in their garden. If they have more late varieties then they would think an early JI was VE. Having references might work. I know that in some parts of the Country JIs bloom with TBs. Here in Michigan the peak TB bloom is a month before peak bloom of JIs. I think that JIs are more affected by temperature than they are by day length.

Phil— Despite the one bad day, 33 of a total 59 crosses have produced seed so my work is cut out for me. Most of the crosses involved early flowering seedlings, especially a 6 fall seedling of 'Enkaishu' x 'Brocade Blue'. I've been calling it 'Gas Flame' because of the incandescent blue halo surrounding the signal. It is quite vigorous and has large, broad overlapping falls. Unfortunately it has the wild type red violet color of 'Enkaishu', not especially exciting. Springtime Prayer was also used in several crosses and will, I hope, contribute to my goal of achieving some really nice 6F very very early flowering seedlings. If my assumption that 'Springtime Prayer' has the 6F gene is correct, then 'Springtime Prayer' x "Gas Flame" should yield approx. 50% 6F and a variety of coloration patterns. That particular cross resulted in about 60 healthy seeds but the answer is still 2 seasons away.

My thinking regarding crosses for early flowering... is that phenology (and size) is influenced by several separate genetic factors rather than the relatively simple (?) case of falls and standards. If so, then wide crosses can yield progeny which are earlier (or later) and smaller (or larger) than either of their parents. Thus, if you have suggestions regarding cultivars which might be included in my search for earlier..., I'd appreciate them.

Lorena, I appreciated your info on the background of your Springtime series. So far, the flowering sequences have been consistent from year to year with these and other early cultivars in my garden. However, I'll be on guard for changes. I have found that even minor variations in site can have a marked influence on flowering times with the same cultivar showing a difference of a week or more on my property. Thus, I try to have a couple of beds where cultivars are grown together for phenological comparison.

Jill— Ensata Gardens have a seedling that they plan to introduce soon that is double and blooms very early in their garden. ['First Act' (Bauer/Coble '04).]

Phil— The iris season was late in the northeast, coming in 10 days later by most accounts. The JI season had begun upon my return from Hamilton with a clump of an 'Enkaishu' seedling in full flower. Like its parent, it had the usual wild-type characteristics but since it was a few days earlier (at least this season) than 'Enkaishu', I used it in several crosses as other parents became available. Some of the second generation crosses from 'Enkaishu', "Gas Flame" (a 6 fall 'Enkaishu' seedling), and Lorena's Springtime series flowered for the first time this year and some nice 6 fall seedlings are beginning to appear. All in all, I'm very encouraged by the variety which has been obtained in the early flowering types and now comes the "fine tuning" in getting better flower form, branching, etc.

Don— Incandescent blue that sounds very interesting. I have been trying to get that color for years now. Can't seem to get anything better than their parents.

Some chirps on pollen blending.

Sharon— What are your thoughts on pollen blending?

A few Japanese iris breeders have been talking with Currier and me about pollen blending. They indicate that mixing the pollen with another variety potentiates the possibilities of the cross. I gather that there is new information about this blending and that many who do interspecies crosses find pollen blending to be a useful tool in reaching their breeding goals. Are there hormones or other proteins involved and how do they work together?

Currier and I had talked about this quite a bit. I have gone back to my botany textbooks and done a little research on line. We still come to the conclusion that you end up with a mix of pollen and don't know who the papa is. As I understand it one pollen grain develops a pollen tube. The contents of the pollen grain are discharged into the pollen tube. This pollen tube produces two sperms, which in turn service both the zygote and the endosperm. If you blend pollen, it would seem that you have gained nothing except the negative fact of not knowing who the pollen parent is. I feel confident that I am missing something (probably a lot). I would love to do some reading on this subject if anyone can direct me; I would greatly appreciate it.

Lorena— I listen to the “blended pollen” method of JI crossing with some interest, but find myself unwilling to expend the time and energy necessary just to “hope” that some pollen grains rubbing against some other pollen grains might get squashed and share their genes to “possibly” produce something OUTSTANDING!! What crossing I do, I want to know which varieties to blame for any seedlings, which result...for good or ill! And I will be most happy to give the “blended pollen” folks FULL CREDIT for all the outstanding things they come up with....Fair enough?

Mike— Like you Sharon, I subscribe to the ‘one egg/one sperm’ school of thought. When Lee [Walker] first broached the subject 3 or so years ago, the first thought that came to mind was ‘that’s incredibly

lazy'. Kinda like fishing with dynamite. Some of my most instructive, if not productive, crosses have been of the sib/back variety, which goes out the window with pollen blending. I've since gleaned a little more info on the subject. Apparently the pollen isn't just mixed but actually ground-up slightly (cracked wheat anyone?), which MAY allow for some sort of protein exchange. This has the potential to cause recombination leading to a completely new characteristic, altogether. Not my cup of tea but if anyone can make it work, it would be Lee so I encourage him to keep after it (besides if he's busy doing that I might be able to catch-up to him on the 'crayolas'). Hope that helps a little.

Terry—Mike, I understand the need for “desperate means” when making crosses which have a very low success rate. Crossing I. pseudacorus with JIs is such a situation. Can't say that I have the time or patience to try it, but more power to those who can!

Don—Mike, you may not be a cracked wheat person but I would like to hear more on the subject. I tried it this year for the first time I think? It seems to work on Tets not sure about dips. (More input more input).

Jill—Sharon, I wrote to Hiroshi Shimizu about pollen blending. As I understand what he said, is if you have a good pod parent and there is more than one suitable pollen parent and you aren't sure who is fertile you mix the pollen and are more likely to get a pod. You are right that you don't know the papa. This might be good with tetraploids when you want a pod—any pod.

Mike—Don, don't know much more on the subject of pollen blending. Don't think I want to go down that road but it sure would be fun to have a new characteristic to run with.

Don—This year I tried the mixed pollen on my Tet's and some wide crosses, no luck. I even laid the stigma lip back 'til it cracked but that didn't help either. I'll try again next year, slow learner.

Some chirps on pH and flooding

Jill— Sharon, at one time you were keeping pH records. How did that turn out?

Sharon— Jill, the pH work that I did was not comprehensive. It stemmed from wondering why our JI were failing. The year that I studied our water pH we had nice wet spring. It was followed by a drought that extended from summer through fall and into the winter. Since we had watered extensively from our wells during the hot months of the summer and fall, it seemed that we should check the pH of each of the wells. We also checked the pH of the rainwater to see if there was any correlation between hand watering, rainfall and Japanese Iris failing. We also wanted to see if there was a change in the pH of the soil. We discovered that the pH of well water in both Currier's and my wells is higher than our rainwater. Our rainwater is very acid due to air pollution. It is called acid rain. When the sun shines on a flower wet with raindrops, a hole is burned in the falls of the flowers wherever there is a drop of rain.

It became clear that our well water in Harpswell tends to slowly neutralize the soil. When we must water often, the soil pH is sweetened. It also appears that Japanese iris do better with water of any kind than no water.

Don— Jill, at one time, you were growing seedlings in running water in the fish hatchery but I have never heard anything more about it and what pH that water was. I have often wondered about the gardens in Japan that grow them in water or flood them for a long period of time. Sandy soil with a lot of water may be the ideal soil condition to grow JI" in. Some one in this robin may be able to answer that question?

Jill— Don, as you know, we used to live at a State of Michigan fish hatchery. Jim was the manager there and we had to live in the State house. The JI garden was a drained 2-acre pond, which had had many

years of fish production. I tried to grow TBs in it but they froze almost every year. The JIs have enough sense to keep their heads under until it warms up. The ground has a pH of 8 and the spring that makes a creek around the garden and used to fill the pond, has a pH of 7.8. Fish bones and evaporation probably is the reason that the ground has a higher pH than the water. ESPATA survived this garden. I did what I could to lower the pH of the garden but there is nothing that can be done with the spring pH. As I had throwaway seedlings, I would throw them into the creek. Some had enough soil with them that they would survive for a year or rarely 2 years. When we had visitors who wanted to try JIs, we would pull them back out of the creek. They had bloomed and the stalks were left on so when they went dormant part of the plant was above the water. Before they died they turned yellow. I actually got some seedlings that were vigorous but, of course, they didn't have nice flowers. One such seedling was put into one of the small ponds that formed in the creek. This was a backwash at the beginning of the creek so it was quite stagnate. The flowers, when it was in the pond were very nice. I took it back out of the pond and the flowers went back to their sorry sight. Most of my introductions came from this garden and probably some are somewhat tolerant of high pH.

The gardens in Japan (as I understand it) flood their JIs when they are in bloom to make it lovely for visitors. They get many many visitors who pay for the privilege of seeing the bloom. The flooding keeps the visitors out of the actual garden and covers the weeds, which probable die in the process. I don't think they are flooded except during bloom time.

Our son Jimmy got leftover seeds (they were the bee pods) one year which he germinated and planted in a (come to think of it a new) spot in the garden. Just before bloom started he set up a hose (we pumped out of the creek) and let run for 3 days. When it finally dried enough to walk in without sinking to China, the seedlings were yellow though large. He sprayed with Miracid and the next day they were green again. That year we were having a convention and his garden got

all the attention. All of his introductions came from that garden. I guess the bees do know what they are doing at least some of the time.

Terry—Rainwater is dramatically more effective than irrigation water. We use city (well) water and I would guess that it is harder than rainwater. I will check it.

I was shocked to run a soil test on a new field (pasture for 30 years) only to discover that it was pH 5.3! All of our other fields usually test at 5.6 to 5.8. Part of this may be the irrigation water. We do add lime to all our transplant beds (not much) just to nudge them closer to pH 6.0.

Don—Terry, I am going to dig a few old clumps to check their pH to see if they have put something back in the soil! I also was wondering if soil sterilization changes the soil pH and if so which way?

PHOTO CREDITS

Front Cover - Bill Smoot

IFC-Earheart Ad - 'Dirigo Maiden's Blush' - Bob Sawyer

Page 27 - Delmez Display Garden - Riley Probst

Page 27 - Phyllis Burton Garden - Cindy Rust

Page 27-Friendship Garden-article on page 38 - Ira Srole-

Communications Bureau, City of Rochester, NY

Page 55 - Project Deep Freeze-Earheart Garden-Tom Gormley

Page 55-all pictures from article page 50 - I. Makarova

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TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance Dec 31, 2003		\$16,439.63
INCOME		
	Interest	\$47.75
	Dues	\$1,182.00
	Advertising	\$86.00
	JI Book Royalty	\$91.72
	Librarian Income	\$22.00
	Auction	\$543.00
	Donations	\$32.00
	Other	\$33.50
	TOTAL INCOME	\$2,037.97
EXPENSES		
	<i>The Review</i>	-\$2,689.00
	Other print costs/suppl	-\$603.30
	Postage Expense	-\$76.26
	Medal Expense	\$0.00
	Publicity expense	\$0.00
	Slide expenses	-\$39.55
	Other	\$0.00
	TOTAL EXPENSES	-\$3,408.11
Balance Dec 31, 2004		\$15,069.49

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



IRIS GEMS IN THE DIAMOND STATE 2005 CONVENTION OF THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES

It's more than garden tours!

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www.socji.org

hosted by the Diamond State Iris Society

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The convention is more than garden tours. It is a chance to meet other people who know and love Japanese irises. In addition to judges' training, there will be an AIS flower shows and sessions on hybridizing, cultivation, showing and arranging. To keep the Japanese spirit, there will also be an Ikebana exhibit and a Haiku poetry contest. Please submit your Haiku entries now!

We will also have a poster session, where attendees will have the opportunity to exchange ideas in an informal setting. Attendees will have the opportunity to choose the best poster presentation. **The prize for the winner is a refund of his or her registration fee!** For more information on the session, go to www.socji.org.

We are also offering an optional tour of Longwood Gardens, one of the world's premiere horticultural display gardens. Don't miss this opportunity when you are in the area.

Space is limited and there is an early registration discount, if postmarked by **March 31**, so send your registration NOW!

HOTEL INFORMATION

Sheraton Dover
1570 North DuPont Highway
Dover, DE 19901
(302) 678-8500 or (888)-755-1450
sherdov@sheratondover.com

For Room Reservations:

Contact the Dover Sheraton directly at (302) 678-8500 or (888)-755-1450. Room rate is \$99 per night plus 8% state accommodation tax. This rate is for single or double occupancy. Each additional person is \$10 per room night. To ensure receiving this rate, attendees must identify **Diamond State Iris Society** when making reservations. Reservation cannot be made on line. Reservations should be made **before May 25, 2005**.

For more information Contact:

Ruth Barker, Registrar
45 Slashpine Circle
Hockessin, DE 19707
ruthbb@aol.com (302)239-1137

R. Dennis Hager, Convention Chair
P. O. Box 390
Millington, MD 21651
hager@aredee.com(410)928-3147

SEE INSERT FOR REGISTRATION FORM

WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN A POSTER SESSION?

We go to iris conventions to see the flowers, but they are also about sharing ideas, seeing old friends and making new ones. Sometimes the bus tour format, although necessary to get to the gardens, makes it difficult to get around to seeing people that you'd like to see.

You don't have to be an expert to present at the poster session. It is about learning and sharing. You could learn as much by presenting as you do by attending. Some people who attend conventions are novices. Remember that we all had to start somewhere. If you have something to say, there is a good chance that you could say it with a poster presentation.

What topic should you choose for your presentation? Use your imagination, but keep it simple. A person who comes to your station should be able to get the gist of your presentation very rapidly. Here are a few ideas.

- Grooming for Show
- Flower Design with Japanese Irises
- Factors Influencing Bee Pollination
- Predicting Genetic Traits
- Putting on a Show
- How to become a Judge
- The Award System
- Collecting, storing and germinating iris seed
- Using a database program
- Tips for photographing irises

Remember, each person brings a unique set of knowledge and experience with them to the convention. This is your opportunity to share it! Visit the convention website at www.socji.org or contact Dennis Hager, phone (410) 928-3147, email <hager@aredee.com> for more information.



Aitken's Salmon Creek Garden

Terry & Barbara Aitken, 608 NW 119th Street, Vancouver, WA 98685-3802

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Very early to midseason,
38", 5 to 7 buds.
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Large divisions with potential for 2 months of bloom. April or summer shipping.

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Email aitken@flowerfantasy.net



Delmez DisplayGarden (from pg. 36)



**Phyllis Burton Garden
'Chigosuata'**

from **Friendship Grows in a Garden (pg. 38)**



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Rochester, New York, USA



Future Japanese IrisGarden



Deputy Mayor Miyamoto



Peter Weixlmann SJI Treasurer & Edna Claunch

Bea dless



Japanese



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SJI DISPLAY GARDENS

By Phil Cook

One of the best ways to learn more about Japanese irises is to visit gardens which have a good assortment of cultivars. The Society of Japanese Irises has a network of display gardens whose owners are willing to have them open to the public during the bloom season. Most owners are also willing to explain how to grow them well and a few may even show you some of their hybrids which are being evaluated for introduction. When visiting a display garden it is important to remember that you are a guest and that you should be considerate and follow the guidelines below.

(1) Always make advance arrangements for your visit via letter, phone or e-mail.

(2) Keep to your arrangement or, if not possible, let the owner of your change in plans.

(3) Use public facilities before you arrive at the garden. It is the garden which is on display, not the owner's private home.

(4) Small children and pets are not encouraged; if it is necessary to bring them along, be sure to keep them under control at all times.

(5) Do not pick flowers, even those which have gone by (they might represent a desired cross); also, resist the temptation to pull "weeds".

(6) Most hosts will welcome your questions but remember that their time may be limited so don't prolong conversation if they start to fidget.

California

Vicki Dudley
17285 Tamara Lane
Watsonville, CA 95076
831-663-2036

Embercrest@aol.com

early May (50+); all types of irises, roses, orchids

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

Delaware

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

Georgia

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

Maine

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

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

Maryland

Sans Souci Nursery (Bruce Hornstein)
3819 Beatty Road
Monkton, MD 21111
410-557-0250
lbh0251@msn.com
mid-late June; sales; all types of irises.

Draycott Gardens (Carol Warner)
16815 Falls Road
Upperco, MD 21155
410-374-4788

draycott@qis.net

mid June-early July (300); hyb, sales; Siberian irises, peonies, rhododendrons, daffodils, rock garden plants, general perennials

R. Dennis Hager
373 Cypress St, PO Box 390
Millington, MD 21651
410-928-3147

hager@aredee.com

mid June (100+); hyb; Siberian, species and bearded irises, daylilies, hostas, bamboos, hellebores, magnolias, azaleas

Massachusetts

Greywood Farm (Darlyn Wilkinson)
85 River Road
Topsfield, MA 01983
Fax: 978-887-7625

July 1-July 18 (200+, many seedlings); hyb; sales; daylilies (hybridizing program), hostas

Michigan

Ensata Gardens (John Coble and Bob Bauer)
9823 E. Michigan Ave.
Galesburg, MI 49053
269-665-7500

ensata@aol.com

late June (450); hyb, sales; Siberian Irises, Hosta collection, daylilies.

Jim and Jill Copeland
78118 M-40
Lawton, MI 49065
269-624-1968

jandjcope@aol.com

late June-July (200); hyb; heaths, heathers, trees

Missouri

Don and Sue Delmez
3240 Connecticut Ave.
St. Charles, MO 63301
636-722-2274

early-mid June (250)hyb, sales; general perennials

New Jersey

Presby Memorial Iris Garden

474 Upper Mountain Ave

Montclair, NJ 07043; 973-783-5974

presbyiris@comcast.net

late June-mid July (40); tall bearded, median, Siberian and Louisiana irises

New York

Alice D. Belling

7414 Raiber Road

Holland, NY 14080

716-537-2798

July (75); sales; Siberians, MDB's and SDB's, daylilies, Phlox, Hibiscus

Oregon

Gail Austin Garden Perennials

8445 SW 80th Ave

Portland, OR 97223

mid June-July 1 (260+); hyb; sales

South Carolina

Shirley Paquet

857 Circle H Woods Rd

Prosperity, SC 29127-8998

803-364-2724

early June (100); sales; species and Louisiana irises

Paul Smith

711 Santa Fe Trail

Sumter, SC 29154 803-494-8442

wpsmith711@earthlink.net

May 15-June 15 (25 named, many unnamed seedlings);

Tennessee

Iris City Gardens (Greg and Macey McCullough)

7675 Younger Creek Rd

Primm Springs, TN 38476; 615-799-2179

icity@msn.com

early June (160); sales; all irises, especially beardless

Vermont

Poker Hill Gardens (Phil Cook)

49 Bill Cook Rd

Underhill, VT 05489

802-899-9928

phgarden@together.net

late June-mid July (300); hyb, sales; Siberian and other beardless irises,

MDBs, woodland perennials, rock garden

Virginia

Nicholls Gardens (Michael and Diana Nicholls)

4724 Angus Drive

Gainesville, VA 22065

703-754-9623

NichollsGardens@juno.com

mid June (75); hyb, sales; all types of irises, daylilies, woody ornamentals

Bill Mull

7112 Fox's Lair Ct

Norfolk, VA 23518-4435

757-858-8085

BillJanieceMull@aol.com

late May-early June (200); hyb, sales; bearded irises (1700!), daylilies (900!)

Washington

Mt. Pleasant Iris Farm (Chad Harris)

PO Box 346

Washougal, WA 98671-0346

360-835-1016

DaleGrams@prodigy.net

mid-late June (100); hyb, sales; Iris species, water gardening.

Aitken's Salmon Creek Garden (Terry and Barbara Aitken)

608 NW 119th St

Vancouver, WA, 98685-3802

360-573-4472

aitken@flowerfantasy.net

mid-late June (200); hyb, sales; all types of irises, orchids

Belgium

Willie and Jeannine Hublau

Steenweg Op Borgloon 37A

3830 Wellen

BELGIUM; 012-74-55-21

mid June-mid July (350); hyb; daffodils, Hosta, daylilies, peonies, poppies,
rock garden plants.

DELMEZ DISPLAY GARDEN

St. Charles, Missouri

When in the St. Louis, Missouri area, THE “must see” Japanese Iris garden is the Don and Sue Delmez spectacular showplace of JIs. Their home garden is a gem of suburban perfection, from the delightful tricolor beech tree to the wide array of intriguing plants, all behaving perfectly in both perennial and iris beds. Specimen plants highlight every view, each one displaying its best in weedless serenity. The Delmez Country Patch Garden, a short drive away, consists of old and new named varieties and many seedlings in his JI hybridizing program. The iris lovers in the St. Louis area are treated to a Judges Training morning each June sponsored by the JeffCo Iris Society and comments about Don and his garden are enthusiastic. *(Picture page 27)*

Cindy Rust, Union, Missouri:

We have been coming to Don’s garden for many years now for JT in June. Don’s garden is in a lovely spot with huge shade trees across from the lined out rows.

What do we like best about his garden? Probably getting to visit with Don, his wife Sue and our iris buddies. It is friendly, leisurely and we still learn a lot each year. Don is Region 18’s leading authority on Japanese Irises. His garden is large and up to date. He grows all types of JIs and the work he puts into them is obvious. He turns in copious amounts of compost and alfalfa hay and his soil is wonderful. I don’t know how he weeds everything, but it is always beautiful and serene.

His seedlings are our favorite part of the garden. Don has definite ideas about what he will introduce and he will not compromise! He wants earlier bloom, something that will bloom with at least the end of the TB season. Most of us enjoy the later JI bloom season, having something to look forward to after the crush of the TBs. Don absolutely will not tolerate any imperfections in plant or flower in something he introduces and he sees flaws nobody else sees. If a plant disappoints him one time, he seems not to forget or forgive it! The seedlings he throws away are many times superior to named varieties in the rest of our gardens.

Don is very patient in explaining patterns, forms, hybridizing methods or anything else you might want to know about Japanese Irises. Going to his garden is a highlight of our iris year and we look forward to it with pleasure.

Bob Skaggs, House Springs, Missouri:

Early on a Saturday morning in mid-June, Don opens the garden for a couple of hours of viewing and then conducts the training. Most students gather around 8:00 to walk through Don's seedlings, looking for that special iris. Don says, we are helping him evaluate his seedlings, but to most of us one seedling is more beautiful than the next.

The day of our 2004 judges training, Don's Garden had some great bloom. We were treated to 'Blue Spritz', Don's 96 intro that won an Award of Merit in 2003. Also in bloom were Don's 'Little Bow Pink' and 'Graceful Dancer', and his 2003 intro 'Sue Jo' (named for his wife). One of Don's tetraploid seedlings, SRVO tet, received extra attention.

Jim Morris, Ballwin, Missouri:

For several years now, Don Delmez has conducted garden judging classes of Japanese Irises in his St. Charles, Missouri country garden. His garden consists of old and new named varieties and many seedlings in his JI hybridizing program. Arguably, he has the largest JI planting in the Midwest.

When one becomes a judge of the American Iris Society, one accepts an important responsibility to give of your time and money to become informed and qualified to fulfill your judges' duties. A thorough knowledge of irises is required and this includes all classifications of bearded and beardless irises. Voting the AIS ballot may very well be your most important duty, but the truism, "To know an Iris is to grow an Iris," is equally sound and important. And yet we know we can't grow them all. So the next thing judges are required to do is to visit other people's gardens. And especially your local hybridizers' gardens.

Non-judges or people in training should follow this example as well. So plan ahead you to visit some local gardens in your area (including official display gardens), attend some of the judges' training classes and meet some interesting folks with kindred interests. Just do it!

FRIENDSHIP GROWS IN A GARDEN

*Edna Claunch, Project Leader Pacific Flora/
Iris Friendship Garden and Ayame Garden*

Walking across the yatsubashi bridge in Hamamatsu, Japan's Flower Park for the first time in June 1996, I suddenly realized that I could see only the beautiful Japanese irises below me, the sky above and mountains in the distance. I felt suspended between heaven and earth. Viewing the three acres of Japanese irises in full bloom from the yatsubashi bridge, a zig-zag eight plank bridge, was a profound experience. In October 1996 at the signing of the Hamamatsu, Japan/Rochester, New York Sister Cities agreement in Rochester, the Hamamatsu Director of Cultural Affairs asked me to see that Rochester had a presence at the Pacific Flora International Horticulture Exposition to be held in Hamamatsu in 2004. During the process of deciding what form the Rochester presence would take, I remembered the walk on the yatsubashi bridge and determined that irises should be included in Rochester's exhibit for our Japanese friends and the international visitors to Pacific Flora. Because the iris is identified as flower of the rainbow thus symbolizing hope, the iris seemed appropriate as a sign of hope between sister cities.

Hamamatsu, Japan enjoys a location on the Pacific Ocean to the south and Lake Hamana to the west. Located in the Shizuoka Prefecture half way between Tokyo and Kyoto, Hamamatsu City has a population of over 700,000 and is home to Honda Motors, Yamaha, Kawai, and Kawasaki. Rochester, New York is located on Lake Ontario and is identified as the Flower City because of its horticultural history. Rochester is home to the University of Rochester and Rochester Institute of Technology, Eastman Kodak, Xerox, Bausch & Lomb and numerous high tech companies. Rochester and Hamamatsu citizens share a love of music and horticulture.

The 118 acre Lake Hamana Garden Park was created to host the 5 million plants and the 6.5 million visitors over the 187 days of Pacific

Flora. The City of Hamamatsu's Department of Parks and Greenery provided intensive care over a two year period for the nine new cultivars of Louisiana irises. Rochester Week at Pacific Flora was May 9 through 16 with Rochester Day featured on May 13, 2004. The Louisiana irises showed to great acclaim. At the ceremonies honoring the fifteen member Rochester delegation Hamamatsu Mayor Kitawaki announced that the new cultivars of Louisiana irises would become a featured garden in a permanent collection in the city's Flower Park, the original inspiration for Rochester's exhibit at Pacific Flora.

IRIS FRIENDSHIP GARDEN. The historic Frederick Law Olmsted designed Highland Park was chosen. Highland Park was dedicated in 1888 as the City of Rochester's first public park. The original 20 acres of the 150 acre National Arboretum was donated by Ellwanger and Barry, the largest nursery in the United States in the mid-1800's. The original site includes a magnolia collection that lies at the base of Rochester's first reservoir of pure water for the city's water supply. Stuart MacKenzie, a landscape architect noted for restoration of Frederick Law Olmsted parks, donated his services to design the garden.

The Iris Friendship Garden includes five beds that adhere to the contour of the land with the 635 feet elevation of the Highland Park Reservoir as the backdrop. The beds nestle under the magnolia trees that seem particularly appropriate for the new home of the Louisiana irises. Tom Pollock installed an irrigation system that assures that the iris beds receive the water they need to flourish. One bed is devoted to the five recognized species of the Louisiana iris. Another is identified as the Founders' Bed and includes the nine new cultivars created for Pacific Flora. Thanks to the generosity of the members of the Society for Louisiana Irises and members of the American Iris Society over 1,000 Louisiana irises that include 89 cultivars were donated to the Iris Friendship Garden. These irises were in full bloom for the dedication of the garden in Rochester on June 24, 2004.

AYAME GARDEN. The University of Rochester River Campus has been registered as a National Arboretum. The rich heritage of Rochester's horticultural history is documented in the university's Department of Rare Books and Special Collections. The student population includes a large number of Asian students. To further the understanding of Asian culture and the heritage of the U. S. students, the university and city officials are planning a garden in the City of Rochester Bausch & Lomb Park that borders the Genesee River and the university campus. The garden will feature Japanese irises, Louisiana irises, an Asian Plant Collection and a Japanese Maple Collection.

Ayame is a Japanese word for a variety of iris. In Japan the ayame iris is the Boy's Day Flower; therefore, the Japanese have a great fondness for the ayame. The name for the garden combines the Japanese and English words, literally iris garden, to reflect the main features of the garden and to celebrate the diversity of students who attend the university.

At the June 24, 2004 announcement of the construction of the Ayame Garden, Hamamatsu Deputy Mayor Miyamoto presented a yukimi, snow viewing, lantern to the University of Rochester and the City of Rochester for the new garden. A peninsula that projects into the Genesee River will feature the yukimi lantern on the point. The Japanese irises will be planted exclusively on the peninsula with other Japanese plantings. The Society for Japanese Irises was represented at the announcement ceremony by Secretary Peter Weixlmann.

A yatsubashi bridge will be built through the bog area along the river's edge. This bog area will feature the Louisiana irises. Some Louisiana irises were planted in this section of the garden in 2003 and were blooming for the announcement in 2004. Nyla Hughes of St. Louis contributed over 400 irises as the first contribution for the garden. The planners anticipate that the Japanese irises and the Louisiana irises will be donated for the garden.

The Ayame Garden design calls for an open-air Tea House viewing platform. The roof line of the Tea House will be repeated in a Boat House at a river docking area. These two structures will provide strong structural identification for the garden as it is viewed from across the river. The anticipated dedication of the garden is June 2006, the tenth anniversary of the Hamamatsu/Rochester Sister Cities relationship.

SUMMARY. Structural forms in a garden enhance the beauty of the garden and knowledge of the cultural significance of such forms add to the appreciation of a garden. Both the yatsubashi bridge and the yukimi lantern are integral to the garden design of the Flower Park in Hamamatsu. Both are to be included in the Ayame Garden for Rochester. Outstanding examples of the yatsubashi bridge and the yukimi lantern can be found in the Missouri Botanical Garden and the Japanese Garden in Portland, Oregon.

The author reflects on her first walk on the yatsubashi bridge in Hamamatsu and the power of beauty and friendship. That walk inspired the cultivars of Louisiana irises that are now planted in the display garden in Hamamatsu's Flower Park and the Iris Friendship Garden in Highland Park. The plans for the Ayame Garden promise beauty of the Japanese and Louisiana irises blooming. The first walk on the yatsubashi bridge with the view of Louisiana irises, the Boat House, the Tea House, and yukimi lantern on the point of the peninsula across the inlet of the Genesee River when the Japanese irises bloom will recall that earlier walk in Japan. Friendships grow in a garden and passing seasons add memories that increase the pleasure of viewing the new bloom season; and one appreciates the gift of gardens and friendship.

Pictures on page 27

2004 Registrations, Introductions and Awards

Compiled by John A Coble

ABOVE AND BEYOND (Delmez, Donald 2000) *HM 2004*

COHO (Harris, Chad Reg. 2004) Sdlg. 96JG2. (38in 97cm) VE (3 -F). S. pink (RHS 75C), medium size, prostrate; style arms off-white, edged pink (75B), style crests pink; F. dark pink (75A), blue cast around signal evenly blending to soft pink (75D) at F. edge; signal yellow (6B) in sunburst pattern; semi-flaring. [Joy Peters X Hatsu Kagami]

CRAOLA KISS (Walker, Lee Reg. 2004) Sdlg. C-96-18-53. (33in 84cm) M (6 -F). Red violet veining and halo overlaying white ground, dark red-violet edge, medium yellow signal; style arms dark red-violet tipped grey, red violet veining. [93-75-6: (Marx sdlg x Fuji) X 93-68-37: (Cascade Crest x Marx sdlg)]

DIRIGO MAIDEN'S BLUSH (White, John Reg. 2004) Sdlg. 97JI-W17-14. (40in 102cm) ML (6 -F). S. white, pinkish edge; style arms white, pinkish at top edge; F. white, pink blush on shoulders, narrow pink edge, yellow signal, green at base. [Dirigo Pink Milestone X Dirigo Old Hundred]

DIRIGO PINWHEEL (White, John Reg. 2004) Sdlg. 99J-MW24-5. (34in 86cm) M Tet (3 -F). Dark red self, 1/8" white edge on S., tip of style arms and F., small yellow signal. [Japanese Pinwheel X 87/14-3 (McEwen sdlg)]

DIRIGO RED ROCKET (White, John 2000) *HM 2004*

EPIMETHEUS (Innerst, Sterling 1991) *HM 1996, AM 2000, PM 2004*

EURASIA-LOVE (Huber, Tony 1999) *intro by Iris City Garden 2004.*

EVELYN WHITE (White, John Reg. 2004) Sdlg. 00-W26-29. (38in 97cm) M (6 -F). S. white, 1/2" red-violet border; style arms white tipped red violet; F. white with 1/2" red-violet border; golden yellow signal. [92E-A3-12: (Dirigo Fancy x Dirigo Delight) X self]

FIRST ACT (Bauer/Coble Reg. 2004) Sdlg. J95E-1. (34in 86cm) VE (6 -F). Red wine self; style arms near white with red violet edges and crests; yellow signal. [J90EC-1: (World's Delight x Bellender Blue) X self] Ensata Gardens 2004

FIRST STRIKE CRAOLA (Walker, Lee Reg. 2004) Sdlg. C-93-75-18. (29in 74cm) M (3 -F). S. gray overlaid red violet, grey midrib; style arms grey tipped and rimmed red violet; F. grey overlaid blue violet, blue violet veining, 3/4" red violet rim; signal medium yellow, rayed. [Marx sdlg X Fuji]

GANSYO (Shimizu, H. by C. Warner Reg. 2004) Sdlg. (32in 81cm) M (6 -F). F. deep purple ground with crisp white splattered markings; golden yellow signal. [Saigyozakura X "Myogisan"] Draycott Gardens 2004

- GINGHAM GEISHA** (Hager, Dennis Reg. 2004) Sdlg. 00-02-02. (46in 117cm) M (3 -F). S. purple violet (near RHS 81A); style arms pale violet (83A); F. pale violet (85C) veined purple violet (81A); yellow signal (12A). [Prairie Glory X unknown]
- GOTENBINA** (Shimizu, H. by C. Warner Reg. 2004) Sdlg. (28in 71cm) M (9 -F). Multiple style arms held at 45 degree angle to F.; F. nearly white in center blending to deep pink at edge; signal yellow, deeper in center. [((Renjo-No-Tama x "Kumoi-No-Kari") X Chigo-No-Kanzashi) F2] Draycott Gardens 2004
- GREYWOODS ANTIQUE BLUSH** (Wilkinson, Darlyn Reg. 2004) Sdlg. 98-6SIB. (32in 81cm) EM (6 -F). Soft clean pink blending into white centers, pink ages to pink blush; signals yellow gold; style arms white blushed light pink on tips. [95-46: (Shirotae x Agrippinella) X Worley Pink] Greywood Farm 2004
- GREYWOODS IRISH MYST** (Wilkinson, Darlyn Reg. 2004) Sdlg. 97-7. (36in 91cm) EM (6 -F). White ground, wide medium-amethyst border, stippled; deep greenish-yellow signal; style arms white with medium amethyst-purple edges, frilled. [93-18A: (Winged Sprite x Midsummer Reverie) X Frilled Enchantment] Greywood Farm 2004
- GREYWOODS MUSICAL DREAMS** (Wilkinson, Darlyn Reg. 2004) Sdlg. 98-4. (34in 86cm) M (6 -F). Blue-grey-lavender, wavy; signals vivid yellow-gold with a white surround; style arms white blushed with blue-grey-lavender edges. [Greywoods Flowing Waters X Pink Ringlets] Greywood Farm 2004
- GREYWOODS ROSY-OLLA** (Wilkinson, Darlyn Reg. 2004) Sdlg. 97-5. (32in 81cm) M (6 -F). Medium rose-mauve-lavender with deeper mauve-violet veins, wavy; signals gold, veined green-gold; style arms white, widely bordered rose mauve, ruffled. [Greywoods Flowing Waters X Ack-Scent Pink] Greywood Farm 2004
- HIMENO** (Shimizu, H. by C. Warner Reg. 2004) Sdlg. (33in 84cm) VE (3 -F). S. pink; style arms white rimmed pink; F. pink; signal yellow surrounded by deep pink eyelash halo. [Momogasumi X pink sdlg] Draycott Gardens 2004
- HYOJYO NO MAI** (Shimizu, H. by C. Warner Reg. 2004) Sdlg. (38in 97cm) ML (6 -F). Style arms white edged rose pink; F. same; yellow signal; cupped form. [Renjo-No-Tama X ("Kumoi-No-Kari") F2] Draycott Gardens 2004
- ICE CARVING** (Hensler, Christy Ann 2003) *intro* by Rock Garden 2004.
- LADYSMITH** (Nicholls, Diana Reg. 2004) Sdlg. JI 495-A. (36in 91cm) ML (6 -F). Style arms light pink (RHS 75B) edged darker (75A); F. open tinted light-medium pink (75A), veined same, ages to light pastel pink (75D); signal medium yellow (6A). [unknown parentage]
- LAKE EFFECT** (Bauer/Coble Reg. 2004) Sdlg. J99A-1. (36in 91cm) M (6 -F). Light medium blue centers and veins with pale blue to near white petal edges; style arms light blue, medium blue crests with light blue feathered tips. [Crested Surf X Sing the Blues] Ensata Gardens 2004

- MIHARU** (Shimizu, H. by C. Warner Reg. 2004) Sdlg. (27in 69cm) M (6 -F). Style arms white with pink edge, very frilled; F. pink, slightly deeper at edges, wide, ruffled, overlapping; yellow signal. ["Yoshino-No-Asto" X "Sakura-No-Sei"] Draycott Gardens 2004
- NEATEH** (Mull, Bill Reg. 2004) Sdlg. 01-712-A. (37in 94cm) ML (3 -F). S. and style arms white (RHS 155B), striped and splotched purple (87A to 87D); F. white (155B) faintly veined (87D); faded mustard (22A) signal on falls; slight fragrance. [JaNiece Ann X Frances Mae]
- O KIMI SAN** (Scoped, Nora Reg. 2004) Sdlg. 611. (30-35in 76-91cm) M (-F). White self, flat horizontal F., yellow signal. [unknown parentage]
- PEAK OF PINK** (Bauer/Coble 1998) *HM 2004*
- PETALOID CITY** (Hager, Dennis Reg. 2004) Sdlg. (33in 84cm) L (6 -F). S. absent; style arms and petaloids violet (RHS 86A); F. pale violet (84D) with veining, violet (86A) sanded halo, veining in halo (86A) fading to lighter violet-purple (near 81A); signal yellow (12A); bud and underside of F. very dark; many petaloids. [unknown parentage]
- POOH BAH** (Hager, Ben 1999) *HM 2004*
- QUANTUM THEORY** (Hensler, Christy Ann 2003) *intro* by Rock Garden 2004.
- RAFFERTY** (Bauer/Coble 2000) *HM 2004*
- RASPBERRY CANDY** (Bauer/Coble 1999) *HM 2002, AM 2004*
- SIMPLY STATED** (Hager, Dennis Reg. 2004) Sdlg. 00-02-06. (48in 122cm) ML (3 -F). S. purple (RHS 77A), white edge; style arms violet (83A); F. veined violet (83A) fading to purple (77A) background; signal yellow (12A). [Prairie Glory X unknown]
- SING THE BLUES** (Reid, Lorena 1997) *HM 2000, AM 2004*
- SNOOK** (Copeland, Jill Reg. 2004) Sdlg. 6-1. (28in 71cm) M (6 -F). Pink violet (RHS 81A) shading to rose purple (75B) on edges, veins purple violet (80A); signal dark yellow (5A) with yellow green (151A) veins; style arms pink violet (81A). [unknown parentage] Ensata Gardens 2004
- TRIED AND TRUE** (Delmez, Donald Reg. 2004) Sdlg. DSPBBST. (30in 76cm) M (6 -F). White, veined and splashed blue; yellow signal; style arms blue veined and splashed, white midrib, ruffled. [Cascade Crest X Chitose Hime]
- TWILIGHT BURST** (Walker, Lee Reg. 2004) Sdlg. 96-79-30. (35in 89cm) ML (6 -F). Dark red-violet halo and veining on gray ground, fine red-violet rim; dark yellow signal edged cream yellow; style arms and petaloids red violet tipped white. [Dancing Waves X 93-81-27: (Dancing Waves x Iapetus)]
- WALK RIGHT IN** (Walker, Lee Reg. 2004) Sdlg. 94-94-58. (33in 85cm) M (6 -F). Blue grey ground, dark red-violet veining overall fading to blue grey edge, red violet halo edged light violet; medium yellow signal; style arms grey, violet grey edge, violet tip; petaloids grey tipped violet. [Let Me See X Yukichidori]
- WISPY CLOUDS** (Bauer/Coble Reg. 2004) Sdlg. J99A-3. (36" 91cm) M (6 -F). A very pale blue changing to near white the second day; multiple (4-6) style arms ivory with pale blue crests; ruffled. [Crested Surf X Sing the Blues] Ensata Gardens 2004

BALLOT:

SJI POPULARITY POLL 2005

Included with this issue is your ballot for the 2005 Popularity Poll. Please choose your ten favorite cultivars. Write-in votes are welcome, but please remember that write-ins count toward your total of ten votes. All cultivars that receive more than one write-in vote will automatically appear on next year's ballot.

The names on the ballot represent all JIs which received votes on the 2004 Popularity Poll. Only 9 names were removed from last year's list due to failure to receive at least one vote; 10 names were added due to receipt of two or more write-in votes, plus those that received the Payne Medal, AM, or HM in 2003 and were not previously on the list.

Please mark your choices with an X. If there is a second SJI member in the household, that second member's choices should be marked with some other symbol, such as a 2.

Send the ballot by August 1st to:

Bruce Filardi
SJI Popularity Poll
4244 NE Royal Court
Portland, OR 97213-1668

Or you may e-mail your top ten to <bfilardi@comcast.net>.

Please provide the following information:

Member #1:

Name, State, Zone (if known):

Member #2:

Name, State, Zone (if known):

ENSATA EXTRAVAGANZA

E. Roy Epperson, High Point, NC

Ensata Extravaganza was a new experience for Region 4. The Hampton Roads Iris Society as host for the 2004 spring regional meeting chose to focus on Japanese iris. Many of the iris gardeners in this chapter grow JIs and there is a large planting at the Norfolk Botanical Gardens and there are JI plantings in the Oriental Garden of the Norfolk Pagoda on the waterfront.

Judges' training classes were presented by Frances Thrash on "Judging the Design Division" (Frances uses the wonderful technique of preparing designs that have faults, both obvious and sneaky!) and by Jill Copeland, Bill Smoot, and E. Roy Epperson on "Exhibition Judging of Japanese Irises" (of especial interest was the opportunity to hear about pseudatas.)

The accredited beardless show presented the opportunity to see many excellent stalks of JIs as well as pseudatas and other beardless. The Best Specimen of Show was presented to 'Dirigo Pink Milestone' exhibited by R. Dennis Hager. This was a magnificently grown and exhibited stalk. The seedling division was very interesting as Carol Warner exhibited several pseudata seedlings of Hiroshi Shimizu. Watch for these beauties to be introduced through Carol's Draycott Gardens. Of course, Jill Copeland has already introduced the award-winning pseudata 'Pixie Won'. While the show was being judged, Bill Smoot presented a 2-hour session on "Japanese Irises for Beginners."

Saturday was devoted to garden tours. Unfortunately, heavy rains on Friday night left many blooms in a bedraggled state. JIs were prominent in the Marini Garden and the Frank Lloyd Wright styled house was alive with JI floral designs that complemented the interior design and color scheme of the house. The Bill Smoot/Bill Trotter Garden is a small urban garden that has been developing over the past

29 years. It is packed with unusual plants and artifacts and cats! The Bills collect any and all feral cats that appear.

Bill and Linda Pinkham are garden designers and until recently owners of a major nursery operation. This garden is one to drool over and lust for the many, many unusual plants that you find here. Lots of daylilies and JIs in bloom. Many, many unusual plants such as an excellent collection of ligularias!

In 1989, Taiwan presented the Marine Observation Tower (Pagoda) to the Commonwealth of Virginia to be located in the City of Norfolk. The Tower overlooks the harbor of Hampton Roads and serves as a focal point for visitors. The Observation Tower (Pagoda) stands two stories high and is decorated with Chinese ornamentation and detail. The Pagoda is the center piece of a surrounding Asian garden! A wide selection of plants of Asian origin provides variety in texture, form, seasonal color and interest. Plant markers present botanical information in English and Chinese. The Hampton Roads Iris Society maintains JI plantings here. Carol Warner and Bruce Hornstein presented training on garden judging of JI.

The Hampton Roads Iris Society Japanese Iris Display Beds are at the Norfolk Botanical Gardens. There was excellent bloom here (although rain drenched). This area was cordoned off from visitation by casual visitors as there was a bald eagle nesting nearby with eaglets. These could be seen in the nesting tree. There is also a beautiful Japanese garden as one of the Botanical Gardens.



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NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Report from the SJI Nominating Committee:

Ellen Gallagher, Sharon Whitney, Barbara Aitken

In accordance with the new SJI Bylaws, effective 1-15-05, the
following positions are nominated to become effective 12-31-05:

NOMINATION COMMITTEE:

John Coble, Michigan - 3 yr. term (joins Sharon Whitney from Maine,
and Barbara Aitken from Washington State)

DIRECTORS AT LARGE:

Anna Mae Miller, Michigan - 1 yr. term (present term extended), new
term ends in 2007

Gary White, Nebraska - 2 yr. term ends in 2008

Phil Cook, Vermont - 3 yr. term ends in 2009

EDITOR'S ESSAY

Rita Gormley

Hooray!! Spring is here, at least in Missouri, with daffodils beginning bloom and lots of green shoots of irises coming up all over.

SJI members have many fun and interesting events planned for the coming year including a spectacular SJI Convention in Dover, Delaware—there is lots of information in this issue and on the SJI Website www.socji.org These conventions only happen every three years and you will see Japanese Irises and Species crosses that you have never seen before. Be sure to plan on going!

Wherever you see JIs this year, be sure to take lots of pictures!! Many readers have submitted their favorites this year and everyone is interested in seeing what JIs do for landscaping. You can send them to me in slides, prints or high resolution digitals.

The extra pages of color in this issue are provided courtesy of our advertisers and give you an opportunity to see the newest introductions of Japanese Irises. Be sure to patronize those advertisers and visit any and all of the Display Gardens close to you.

Hope to see you all in Dover, DE June 16-18th.

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

JAPANESE IRISES IN ST. PETERSBURG

I. Makarova, Russia

(Translated by I. Sokolova)

Since 1997, under supervision of Dr. Rodionenko, I have been participating in the project of Dr. C. McEwen "Deep Freeze Project". Long-term tests carried out by Dr. Rodionenko have demonstrated the cultivars of Japanese irises from abroad to be unsuitable for planting in our severe conditions. There is a reason for calling the Russian North-West a zone of unsafe agriculture. Our short and cool northern summer does not allow southern plants to prepare for winter. Immature rhizomes overwinter badly, and the plants die after a while. Only by means of breeding Japanese cultivars to the northern population of *I. ensata* (from Vladivostok vicinity) has Dr. Rodionenko succeeded in obtaining 3 cultivars resistant to our conditions: 'Altay', 'Dersu Uzala' and 'Vasili Alfiorov'. But they all have a color of the wild *I. ensata*. That is why we set great hopes on the hybrid seeds sent by Dr. McEwen.

Among plantings of the first lot of the seeds, we managed to select several seedlings to make a base of a subsequent breeding work. The most resistant of them were used as maternal plants. First of all, there were seedlings containing "blood" of cv. 'Vasili Alfiorov': 'Diadia Stiopa' ('Vasili Alfiorov' x 'Sari-no-Kasumi') and 'Dvoinik'. 'Mogolik' ('Katy Mendez' x unknown) has also approved itself well. The rest of the seedlings are less resistant and may be used only as fatherly plants. After having nearly ruined one seedling (it is still more than half dead), I learned by experience, how much seed production does weaken a plant. The most steadfast of the second group proved to be 'Dobrynya' (Fig. C) ('Shium-no-mine' x unknown). It weakly proliferates, but blossoms almost every year. Just in case, I remove a part of flowering stems. It came to blossom for the first time in 2001. 'Shamakhanskaya Tsaritsa' is fastidious, flowers poorly and not every year. 'Ladoga' ('Southern

Son' x 'Hekium') is a late-flowering iris, our conditions being severe for it. Its genes are difficult to use in hybridization, since parental plants blossom much earlier. 'Brigantina' (came to blossom in 2002), 'Suomi' and 'Khan Baty' are very beautiful, but because of last two very unfavorable seasons they are under resuscitation now. There are 2 plants, which have never blossomed since 1997, and, probably, will never do – they are short in warmth to lay flower buds.

We are very lucky, that owing to several favorable seasons, we succeeded in planting seedlings and also to get hybrid seeds from them in 2001 and 2002. From the second lot of the seeds sent by Dr. McEwen in 1999, 25 seedlings were grown, which gradually died off one after another, and never delighted us with their blossom. A hope remained for the last two large plants, but a very cold winter of 2002/03 destroyed them as well.

After breedings of 2001 and 2002, I have not been hybridizing any more, as it is necessary to determine, which breedings were successful and which not. In our conditions, this process is very long-drawn. In addition, I am limited by size of my small garden, where I also test cultivars of Siberian irises and also species and hybrids of other moisture-loving irises. The garden is located 40 km north-west of St. Petersburg. There are more severe conditions there, than in the southern suburbs or in the Botanical Garden located in the center of the city. The beginning of vegetation and blossom are 7 and more days later, and winter is with severe frosts.

I do not aim to surpass the cultivars created in the USA and Japan. My task is to select nice hybrids which would be more or less resistant to decorate our gardens. And our amateurs have a great interest to Japanese irises.

The winter 2002/03 gave a death-blow to the euphoria of the first years of planting the seedlings. More than a half of my hybrids died. The cold winter followed by cool May and June (usually our June is warm

not got the necessary warmth [to mature them for winter]. So, the winter 2003/04, though it was not severe, led again to a serious loss. But the weather has not stopped there. I do not remember so cold and impenetrably rainy May and June as in 2004. The vegetation begins in early May in our place. This year, several unusually hot days (up to 25°C/77°F) in the early May provoked a premature growth of iris leaves. And then tender young leaves were exposed to colds and night frosts (the night temperature fell below 0°C/32°F). For several days running the frosts (13 May down to -5°C/22°F) tortured the plants. I made an improvised shelter for a part of my plants, but the whole garden is impossible to cover.. Despite the shelter, there were frozen some *Astilbe*, ferns, *Rodgersia* and others. *Rhododendron luteum* already started to send out the leaves, and was ahead of *Rh. japonicum*. I sheltered it with my warm gown and polyethylene film. It did not help. All the leaves and flower buds froze. This *rhododendron* survives our winters, but I do not succeed in protecting it from May frosts to admire its blossom. It flowers in the park of the Botanical Garden; there are no such frosts there. The most resistant proved to be *Fritillaria imperialis*, flowering at that time. The later night frosts (up to 11 June) are possible in our place. But the plants, improved by that time, survive them easier; though the potato vine and strawberry flowers are affected.

But let us go back to Japanese irises. Some plants, even though safely overwintered, when got into such conditions, became ill. Anthracnose is a very widespread disease in our wet climate. For thermophilous Japanese irises it became the deadly disease. No spraying and no dressing helped – the plants continued decaying. Weak were ‘Suomi’ and even several plants of ‘Diadia Stiopa’. I am forced to dig them up and throw away the weak plants, and retain a healthy bit, if available.

So, in a permanent trouble about the weather, May and June passed, and only in July the summer came... for the whole week. How lively became the irises, when got, at long last, warmth and sunlight! There were about 10–15 days of summer weather in August as well. At

the rest time, it was cool and raining hard. The irises were gathering strength for such a long time, that some plants could not come to blossom until late August, and one in late September. There were very attractive hybrids among those which flowered for the first time, but it is impossible to predict which of them will attain the next blossom.

For winter, I shelter the most valuable irises with oak leaves gathered in the city park, and with spruce branches. I know, that in the USA use straw for the winter shelter, but it is not available here. Our main hope is for snow. Therefore, there isn't any rest neither in autumn nor in winter: I worry, lest frosts come before snowfalls, as it happened in 1993.

Because [we have such] a short vegetation period (snow may fall as early as in mid October), most Japanese irises do not have enough time to prepare for winter. I have to cut green leaves. As an experiment, I will try to leave them uncut on one garden-bed. Probably, this will promote better overwintering.

But, in spite of all disappointments and still very modest results, I do hope, that we will select relatively resistant hybrids and gratify our amateurs. And we will never forget, that it would be impossible without help from the remarkable irisarian and a very kind person, Currier McEwen.

See pictures page 55

PROJECT DEEP FREEZE

By Sharon Whitney, Maine

Over the last few years our JI hybridizing efforts at Eartheart Gardens have been focused on the Deep Freeze project. Plant hardiness and vigor are as important as beauty. In 1998 Dr. Rodionenko sent us seed from some of his species type crosses. We grew this seed on in our gardens (1999) and eventually made some plant selections. In 2001 we used pollen from Rod 99/3 (5), a repeating species type seedling with 3-4 branches with 'Kamiji no Homare', 'Variation in Pink' and 'Katy Mendez'. In 2004 we made some F2 crosses between the F1 group. In 2004 we made additional F1 crosses involving the same selected Rodionenko seedling X 'Yuzen', 'Sessyu', 'Easter Pastel' and 'Variation in Pink'. The crosses yielded some seed which we will start in the plant room early in the spring of 2005. 2004 was also the year of initial evaluations of the year 2001 seedlings. Some plants were discarded.

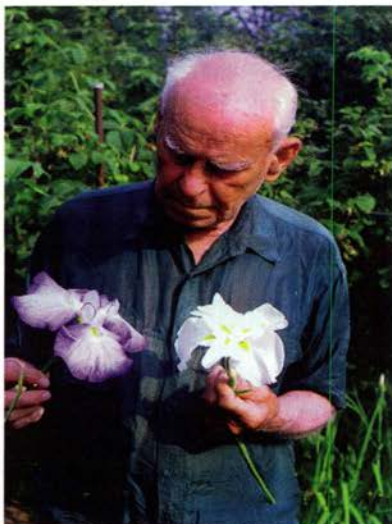
In 2005 we plan to make additional F2 crosses. Dennis Hagar, show chair for the 2005 JI convention in Delaware, generously invited us to offer a poster session about the Deep Freeze project.

While researching the Deep Freeze project for the Poster Session, I discovered that we had lost contact with a number of people who had been interested in the project. My focus for years was helping Currier with his garden work. I did not keep up with people. He was so good at that it hardly seemed necessary. Now I need to reestablish this connection with JI people who are interested in cold tolerance. In some instances I need to make initial contact.

I think that some of the original members of the group may have done some interesting work. Hopefully the convention and the poster session will enable us to connect with JI folks who are interested in cold hardiness and get working together again.



Project Deep Freeze Seedlings



**Dr. Rodionenko w/
'Brigantina' & 'Suomi'**



**All the leaves of this plant emerging from
underground are already damaged by
anthracnose**



**Plant infected by anthracnose after the cold May
& June. Damaged are only young central leaves.**



'Altay'



My efforts to protect some plants from frost 2004



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