THE REVIEW

OF THE SOCIETY
FOR
JAPANESE TRISES

VOLUME 43 NUMBER #2 FALL 2006

AIS PAYNE MEDAL RUNNERS-UP



GEISHA DOLL (Ed Matheny III) 1995



FOREIGN INTRIGUE (Bauer & Coble) 1995

AIS Award of Merit



DIRIGO RED ROCKET (John White) 2001



RIVULETS OF WINE (J. T. Aitken) 1999

THE REVIEW OF THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES

VOLUME 43

NUMBER 1

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S.JI WEBSITE: http://www.socji.org/

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

Business Items

DUES:

Single annual - \$5.00 triennial - \$12.50 Family annual - \$6.00 triennial - \$15.50 Youth annual - \$2.00 triennial - \$5.50

Overseas including postage: Effective January 15, 2006

Single annual - \$10.00 triennial - \$25.00 Family annual - \$12.00 triennial - \$31.00

Dues may be sent either to the AIS Membership Chairman (see page 12) 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.

JOIN OR RENEW ON-LINE - http://www.socji.org/

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The Japanese Iris - Edited by Currier McEwen for the Society of Japanese Irises. A Brandeis University book. 224 pages. 32 color photos. 7" x 10". Published 1990 at \$29.95. (No longer in print)

\$20.00 including US Postage

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FULL PAGE COLOR (4.5 X 7.5)	\$60.00	
FULLPAGE B&W (4.5 X 7.5)	\$50.00	
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Commercial Directory (plus web):		
Included free annually with any ad or	\$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.

NEW - 2006 J.I. CHECKLIST

The SJI Checklist contains all registrations and introductions through 2005 of Japanese iris and any interspecies crosses involving Japanese iris. The 2006 Checklist is in 8.5" X 11" format. The previous edition was published in 1999

To order, Send \$7.50 postpaid* to:

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

*\$9.00 Canada, \$13.00 Overseas air mail – payable in US funds only please make checks payable to **SJI**.

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; <ri>dingthewind@gmail.com>

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Jill Copeland

Hi,

As I write this letter for the last time after 6 years, I have very mixed emotions. We have had some troubled times but most were good times. I have enjoyed being president but I am happy to turn over the reins to the very capable hands of Dennis Hager.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the Board and Committee Chairs for all the work they have done the last 6 years. I want to give a special thanks to Rita, as editor of The Review and, also, for all her work for SJI!

We had 60 of you vote in the popularity poll. While not the 100 that I was hoping for, I bet we have one of the highest % participation of the Sections or, indeed the Regions. Thanks, Bruce. Thanks to all of you who voted. Good Job!

Better Homes and Garden Perennials magazine will have an article on Ensata Gardens this spring. You will want to watch for the issue. I understand they took a lot of pictures. This will be wonderful publicity for Japanese Irises.

Phil Cook has resigned as Display Garden Chairman. He did a very good job especially with garden reports for the REVIEW. Carol Warner has volunteered to take over the job. I am sure she will, also, do a wonderful job.

The next JI Convention will be in Kalamazoo, Michigan in '08. We had a rehearsal this year at the 'spring' Region 6 convention. Region 6 is noted for its spring meetings, so we had attendees from other Regions and not all of them were JI fans. The convention went extremely well. The weather forecast was for storms every day and we

did get a few sprinkles at the end of the garden judges training on the last day. The most remarkable thing was that both gardens were in peak bloom. In most years, my garden would not be near peak on the Convention dates. Now, what dates do we set for '08? I hope we see all of you in '08 or drop by anytime.

Best Wishes, Jill

FROM SJI TREASURER CATHERINE BUTTON

We invite all existing members to use the new on-line membership form to renew your membership with Paypal or credit card.

Don't forget, if you want to check what your expiration date is, you can use the SJI membership expiration lookup.

Go to SJI website http://www.socji.org/ and go to JOIN THE SOCIETY!

The on-line renew option makes it fast and easy to renew your membership and assures that you will never miss an issue of the REVIEW!

SJI wants to send a big "thank you" to Region 6 for their generous donation to the SJI (\$1200!) as a result of their successful meeting in Kalamazoo!

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

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

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

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

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

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

THESE RULES ARE SUBJECT TO REVISION AND CHANGE AT AIS DISCRETION

MARCH 2002

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@wildblue.net

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: hager@aredee.com; www.socji.org

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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.

VISIT TO MT. PLEASANT IRIS FARM WASHOUGAL WA

CHAD HARRIS - DALE GRAMS

Barbara Sautner, Minneapolis, MN

When I was asked to report about Mt. Pleasant Iris Farm, I set a couple goals to cover. One was to report about the overall presentation of the garden, the other was to see if there was an individual iris that would draw me into the garden. The first was very easy; there was a "Kodak" moment around every corner. The house and patio set high above the gardens invited me to sit and enjoy the surroundings. The first steps out of the enclosed treat area were into a patio complete with a tranquil fern grotto. At this rate, I might need more than the allotted time to savor every sight, sound and smell of the gardens!

After taking the time to inspect and photograph the hillside view, bonsai and grotto; my eyes were drawn to L. columbianum, a stately native lily in bloom. As I headed down the path; I was engulfed by the magnificent upper grounds which showcased many unique varieties of trees and shrubs. The next area to overwhelm my optical senses was the vast beardless iris bed. The iris beds were well marked and weed free-what a treat! This garden appeared to have it all; in addition to the bearded irises, it had an extensive collection of Siberian, Spuria, Japanese, Species and more. I already felt like Alice in Wonderland, asking myself, "Which way should I turn now."

It was now time to accomplish my second goal. I stood on the hillside above the guest beds and patiently waited for an iris to call out for me to come closer. The call came through very quickly; boldly, 'Fashion Queen' beckoned me closer. There it stood, beaten by the rain but still a charming beauty! Now that I had been drawn into the TB bed, I found myself being beckoned from one bloom to another. Two more prizes around the corner were 'Sun Ada Beach' and 'Trade Secret'.

By the time I wandered through the iris beds, my senses were on overload so I headed back to the bus. As I approached the bus, I noticed the pond by the storing shed. This was a perfect place to end my visit to Mt. Pleasant Iris Farm. There I met Chad standing by a beautiful blue Japanese iris. Those of you who know me can probably hear me asking about the native lily mentioned earlier in this report. Although the trail around the pond cried out for me to explore more, I could hear the whistle telling me to save it for the next visit. Time to wave good bye.

Thank you, Chad and Dale for sharing your lovely gardens with all of us.



Chad Harris
"singing in the rain"
with Barbara and
John Sautner

Fern grotto



2009 SIBERIAN/SPECIES BEARDLESS CONVENTION

Twin Cities Area - June 2009

Request for iris

Guest iris needed for the 2009 Beardless Iris Convention to be held in Minnesota.

- 1. We will report, on the convention website, the condition of guest iris in the Fall of 2007 and 2008.
- 2. If a plant blooms outside convention time, photos and conditions will be reported at convention time and in a synopsis of all guests on the ISM website the Fall of 2009.
- AIS convention bed guidelines will be followed for display of guests.

Dates for receiving guest iris:

Beginning Spring of 2006 with the latest possible receipt date the Fall of 2007.

The ideal situation is to give beardless iris a full three years of growth.

We will note receipt dates in the Convention catalog.

We will accept either Spring or Fall shipment.

Spring Shipments – until May 15

Spring 2006

Spring 2007

Fall Shipments – until September 15

Fall 2006

Fall 2007

Guest Iris registrar:

Barbara Sautner

2100 W. 106th St.

Bloomington, MN.44431-3418

bjstaxservice@aol.com

952/884-8254

JI AWARDS 2006

PAYNE MEDAL (JI)

(Total votes cast = 116)

37 SING THE BLUES (Lorena Reid)

Runners-up:

26 GEISHA DOLL (Ed Matheny III)

19 FOREIGN INTRIGUE (Robert Bauer & John Coble)

Award of Merit

36 DIRIGO RED ROCKET (John White)

32 RIVULETS OF WINE (J. T. Aitken)

Runners-up:

24 PINKERTON

(Robert Bauer & John Coble)

20 BLUSHING SNOWMAIDEN (Chad Harris)

Honorable Mention

24 BEYOND CHANCE (Donald Delmez)

21 OREGON MARMALADE

(Lee Walker)

20 CROWN IMPERIAL (Robert Bauer & John Coble)

18 ESPATA (Jill Copeland)

Runners-up:

15 HONOUR (Currier McEwen)

13 WONDERFUL DELIGHT (Donald Delmez)

REGIONAL REPORTS

Kalamazoo, Michigan JI Show, July 8, 2006

Our unjudged "display" show was held at Wedel's Garden Center and Nursery. We enjoy the audience of primarily gardeners. We hand each visitor a blue ribbon and ask them to place it in front of their "favorite". We had 50 Japanese iris stalks exhibited, including seedlings. We had just over 100 "votes" cast. A different color or pattern seems to win each year its always a surprise to us. This year 'Raspberry Candy' captured 16 ribbons, and Jill Copeland's seedling "Bud", a 3 fall tetraploid, captured 15 ribbons. "Butterflies In Flight' had 13 ribbons and 'Eileen's Dream' caught 11 votes. All the rest had 5 or less votes, and almost all entries captured at least one vote.

John Coble, Southwestern Michigan Iris Society

Jeff Co Iris Society, Missouri Sponsors JI Judges Training

Don Delmez once again welcomed a large group to his "Country Patch" in St. Charles, MO to attend a two hour Garden Judges Training on Japanese irises June 10, 2006.

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.

Cindy Rust, Union, MO

Region 6 Spring Meeting Winners-Kalamazoo, MI

Voted Best by an In-Region Hybridizer: Tie 'Classical Charm' (Bauer/Coble 2005) and 'Pink Puffer' (Copeland 2006)

Voted Best by an Out-of-Region Hybridizer: 'Sue Jo' (Delmez 2003)

Other top favorites: 'Raspberry Candy', 'Belgian Warrior', 'Christina's Gown', 'Banjo Blues', Copeland seedlings N14 and N11

(Ed. Note: see pictures on inside back cover)



Delmez Garden Judges Training

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Dr. William Ackerman MD Virginia Alexander MD Marsha Alibrandi MA Bernard Balise MA Mary Barrell New Zealand The Group for Beardless Irises England **Dorothy Beatty** AL **Edward Brechtel** NJ Carol Bullard GA CT Phyllis A. Cassella Brid Craddock & Harvey Pessin CT NH John Dickey Deborah & Dwight Diget MI Reba Duke NC Shirley Gay TN M.Jackie Glasscock KY Joyce & Robert Hamilton NH T.Johnson & Kirk Hansen OR Keith Henrie OR George Hildenbrandt & Jennifer Cunningham PA Sandi & Art Jacques RI CA Daniel Jaffe

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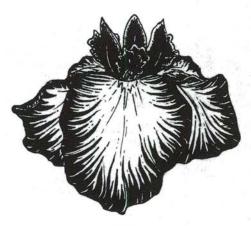
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Catherine Townson AL
Janet Watson DE
Connie Williamson OR

Christine Wilson Canada Ray Yamada TX

Glenn Yonesawa CA



JAPANESE IRISES QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM OUR READERS

"I have been admiring your Japanese iris for some time. Will they thrive in my cold zone 3-4 conditions here in North Dakota?"

John wrote back: Thrive? Probably not. Survive? Probably yes. But your cold is not the limiting factor. They are cold hardy in zone 4 for sure. But, your alkaline soil and water will not let them thrive (they will turn yellow in alkaline soil) unless you use large amounts of manure in the soil and add sulfur to help keep the soil on the acid side (and only use high nitrogen fertilizer). But, the most detrimental effect of your climate is the lack of water, rain. Japanese iris want to stay damp all year (not wet) including the winters when they can freeze dry. Lots of organic matter in the soil will help hold moisture and mulching will help hold moisture in the soil during the winters and summers.

John Coble at Ensata Gardens

Several years ago I became interested in the scorch disease infection on JI or other Irises. I did many tests to cure scorch in the last six years. To complete my study, I have a few questions.

Do you see many infected plants in your collection?

What is the name of the infected plant?

Have you lost plants by scorch?

Do you have a helpful treatment?

What kind of fertilizer have you given on the Iris?

Many Thanks, Willy Hublau, Belgium willy.hublau@scarlet.be

Willy,

It is great to hear from you. Scorch may be a problem with JI's in some gardens, however I am not certain that the disease has been properly identified. Scorch is common with bearded irises.

I grow hundreds of seedlings and have had only two diseased plants that may have been scorch. They were second year clumps with more than 20 fans. They grew to about 18 inches (0.4 meter) in the spring, then the foliage started to die. The plants were adjacent in the

row. Not knowing what the problem was, I dug and destroyed both of them. As I recall, the roots appeared fairly healthy, but there was more red on the new white roots than I would expect to see at that time of the year. That was three years ago and I have not had similar problems since.

I have not observed similar behavior in any of my named cultivars.

Dennis Hager, Millington, MD, hager@aredee.com

(Editor's Note: Willy would like more information on scorch from the SJI members! Please respond to him at his e-mail address shown with a copy to me gormleygreenery@aol.com so we can share the information. If you don't have e-mail, put your thoughts and experience on paper and mail to me at 6717 Martha Drive, Cedar Hill, MO 63016. This looks like a valuable topic of discussion!)

.II that Loves the Heat??

Just a quick note about a Japanese Iris that has put up late bloom stalks well after the main bloom period. 'Dirigo Debutante' by John White (1994) has had significant repeat bloom in past years here in Lincoln Nebraska, but this year it outdid itself. On the hottest day of the year, July 27th, when the temperature in Lincoln was a sweltering 107 degrees, 'Dirigo Debutante' opened the first of several flowers on two new bloom stalks. This was about six weeks after this iris bloomed at its usual time in mid-June. And, with plenty of watering, the flowers actually looked pretty respectable, considering the circumstances in which it was showing off.

Gary White, Lincoln, Nebraska

Glad to get the message about the repeat bloom of it I have seen a little repeat bloom here. At the J I convention '05 a man from Virginia told me it rebloomed for him. Apparently the plant likes hot weather at least hotter than we get in Maine. One of its parents was 'Continuing Pleasure' which has a very long bloom period.

I have crossed it 'Ogi no Mato' and have seedlings which should bloom next year. Ogi has repeat bloom also.

Regards, John White

JI QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - CONTINUED

I have a some plants that everyone says like somewhat acidic soil growing on the shaded side of the porch in the same soil.

Do JI need more acidic soil than Mayapples, Solomon's Seal, Goldenseal, Trillium, wild Ginger, and Jack-In-The-Pulpits? All of these have been there for about 8-10 yrs and are growing and expanding very well. If I have to use the sulfur, how far out will it go into the surrounding soil? My Solomon's Seal is just a couple feet around the corner. Will it hurt it?

David in Indiana z5b

Responses:

David, Japanese irises need more sun (at least half a day) than any of the woodland plants you list. I think a better indicator would be acid-loving plants growing in more sun, perhaps rhododendron or azalea.

Did you have to amend your soil to grow the woodland plants? If not--and they are extremely happy, you probably do not need to add sulfur. However, a little pH test of the soil is never a bad idea. The pH should be below 6.5 and 6 is even better.

If you do need to amend the soil, I don't think it should affect the Solomon's Seal. Once again, I'd be more concerned that the Japanese iris will get enough sun.

Dennis Hager on Delmarva

I grow all of these plants except Golden Seal in small, accent amounts. The acid requirements are all pretty much equal to that of JI's, or at least they do well in the acid soil preferred by the JIs.

That bein' said, the big difference with the plants I grow and JIs are in their light preferences. Mayapples, Soloman's Seal, Trillium and Jack In The Pulpit do better with much more shade (near full shade) than the JI's in my Southern climate. Still the JI's are remarkably shade tolerant here.

Smiles, Bill Burleson, North East Mississippi

PHOTO CREDITS

Cover Photo:

'Sing The Blues' - Lorena Reid 1997, Payne Medal winner 2006 Photo by Lorena Reid

IFC: Geisha Doll - SJI Slide Collection Foreign Intrigue - Bauer-Coble Dirigo Red Rocket - Gormley Rivulets of Wine - Lorena Reid

Page 15 Chad Harris-Barbara & John Sautner

Page 32 Collage of Region 6 Tour People-Jill Copeland by Dennis Hager, rest-Gormley

Page 33 Collage of Region 6 Tour-People-Bob Hollingworth, rest-Gormley

Page 35 Mike Iler-Dennis Hager

Page 41 Display Garden-Ensata-Gormley

Page 43 Iris Art - Sue Delmez

IBC Classical Charm -Gormley Pink Puffer- Gormley

Sue Jo - Gormley

BC Dirigo Pink Milestone - Gormley
Frilled Enchantment- Lorena Reid
Japanese Pinwheel- SJI Slide Collection

Editor's Thanks to all who regularly, and at times responding to RUSH requests, provide the many pictures for the SJI REVIEW. Special thanks to Lorena Reid who years ago in Memphis generously handed us the CD of every JI picture she had taken and to "Tom the Graphics Man" for taking pictures of every JI he sees and then puts them into cohesive order in the REVIEW!!

I think "People Pictures" are especially important and I try to include them in the most cost-effective way by using black & white collages. Do send me your "people" pictures as well as high resolution color digitals of your JI pictures!

REGION 6 SPRING TOUR 2006

Rita Gormley, Cedar Hill, MO

AIS Region 6 consists of Ohio, Indiana and Michigan and has many outstanding gardens but what a treat for all the Japanese Iris lovers that they chose to do a "late" tour to showcase two of the most outstanding JI gardens in their region.

The Latvian Heritage Center was a wonderful venue for the festivities to start! The dinners and breakfast were the best-ever convention meals with everything homemade and delightful (no rubber-chicken in sight!). Our sincere thanks to the organizers who decided on this location and the great cooks and volunteers at the Latvian Center!

Slide presentations in the evening from Region 6 hybridizers (Bunnell, Ensata, Hollingworth, Willott, Copeland, and Miller) and those from out-of-Region (Delmez, Hager, Simon) showcased not only Japanese irises but also many Median, Siberians and other varieties. It is always so interesting to see what hybridizers are working on and we seldom get to see such a variety of new work.

After viewing many gardens for the AIS and Region 18 tours this spring full of beautiful Tall Bearded irises (and some Medians!), we greatly anticipated seeing, for the first time, the well known gardens of Jim and Jill Copeland and Ensata Gardens of Bob Bauer and John Coble. Bloom was just hitting peak and both gardens were a glorious mass of color and the weather was sunny and perfect.

Ensata Gardens have the largest collection of Japanese iris varieties outside of Japan, and ship all over the world. Aside from the gorgeous fields of JIs, the grounds are beautifully landscaped with many "hidden gardens' loaded with hostas, interesting garden art and water features. The oft-used phrase, "there just wasn't enough time to see it all" was especially appropriate in this garden.

John Coble told us: "The house was built in 1858 with brick that they made on the farm. We bought the farm (80 acres) in 1975 and moved our stained glass business here (Bauer-Coble Studios). We "discovered" Japanese iris about 1980. Our first mimeographed price sheet was mailed out in the fall of 1985 (the same year that Kalamazoo hosted the first "JI Weekend", now known as the SJI National Convention). By 1995, the nursery became our primary business and the stained glass was only done during the winter months. Since 2002, we have not done any stained glass work, but last winter we designed a "Koi" window that we want to make for a remodeled bathroom! There will be more to see at the next convention!" (2008)

The Guest Iris bed was a rare opportunity for us to photograph and evaluate the scores of seedlings and new introductions from across the country and overseas. Then there were the seedling and commercial beds! Talk about kids in a candy store!! Now we have lots of pictures stockpiled for future REVIEWs!

Lunch at Copeland's featured the very famous "Jim Copeland Fish Fry" and it was everything it was cracked up to be!!! Even the "Not A Fish Lover" husband Tom really relished the fresh caught, special-batter fried fish and I thought my favorite salmon had NEVER tasted better! Then the dessert topped it all off big-time with lots of "seconds" encouraged! Jim was covered from waist down with batter by the time everything was over but it didn't faze him a bit. Great job and we all appreciated how much work and planning went into such a spectacular lunch! No wonder we have heard about it for years.

The Copeland acreage was a delight to view with Guest irises in the front, inviting shade gardens with benches on the side, orchard with many unusual fruit and other trees going up the slope and THEN, a startling field covered in JI and Species-X irises!

I need to remind you that as Editor, I came into this job not knowing the "head of a pin" information about Japanese irises and just

knew how to do publishing programs! The delightful reward of this job (next to meeting some really great people) is that I have been able to see the most astounding displays of JIs which I really didn't know existed. We now grow some (even in our heavily limestone soil) thanks to the persistence of friends like Don and Sue Delmez and the excitement of seeing all these beautiful specimens at other gardens.

We knew that Sunday's program was going to be a Judges
Training in the Copeland field so we tried very hard to see and photograph everything (Yeah right!) and chat with people we only knew from
e-mails and infrequent meetings at other tours. After five years of e-mail
conversations (especially about medians), we got to meet Brian and
Anita Wendel - that was a Real treat!

The evening program at the Latvian Center (did I say the meal was SPECTACULAR??) featured an incredible auction, not only the best in JIs but where else can you get home-canned goods from the Copeland garden-preserves and relishes?? We heard many a story about Dorothy Stahly getting a corner on the jam market in the past! John Coble did a wonderful informative program on the Ensata Gardens news and ran a most successful auction (see "thank you" from the SJI Treasurer page 9).

Sunday was chilly and cloudy for the Judges Training but it was, without a doubt, the most informative garden judging program I have ever attended! Done with two teams of trainers and breaking the group into two sections, there was both JI and Spec sections using the actual rows of plants in the Copeland Garden. Jim and Jill, Bob and John had scoped out the cultivars to use (3 each set) the night before and those cultivars represented all the important points they wanted to make concerning garden judging.

We are looking forward to the 2008 SJI Convention and, perhaps, some the seedlings as introduced varieties. This will be a tour for not only JI lovers but anyone who admires the finest of a variety grown in the finest of conditions!

EPILOG TO REGION 6 SPRING TOUR

Jill Copeland, Lawton, MI

Well, the Region 6 'Spring' Convention is over for this year. Looking at the guest iris bed, some of the guests are in bloom now that were not in bloom on the convention day. Some of them are worth seeing.

I was very interested to see John White's 'Dirigo Star' ('99) with its 6 purple falls. The bright yellow signals with light rays radiating out to the center of the falls does give a star effect. This 2-year clump had 8 branched stalks with 7 inch flowers.

Lee Walker's seedling 93-101-10 has 6 light violet falls with darker violet veins darkest around the yellow signal. The very dark style arms form a topknot, which is held upright. The 7" flowers have very heavy substance. The 2-year clump had 6 stalks.

Lee's seedling 93-81-25 is a 6-fall flower. It is violet with darker veins starting from the yellow signal to $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the edge of the falls. All the falls have a tiny white edge. The style arms match the veins and are held upright.

Walker seedling 93-81-26 has the same coloring as 93-81-25 but the style arms are not held upright giving it a flatter appearance. The darker veining goes to the edge of the fall with little white edges.

Lee's 93-101-10 is a blue 6-fall with purple veins. The style arms look black and have nice yellow signals. This seedling had 3 buds in the terminal. And his 93-81-5 is like 93-81-26 but slightly less blue and more floriferous.

Willy Hublau's seedling D-35 is a 6 fall white flower with a wide red-violet edge. The style arms are the same red-violet and the anthers

Epilog - Continued

have flounces, which looks like this seedling could be a 9-Fall if it had been grown better. It has carrying power!

Willy's seedling E5-1 is a 6 fall ruffled white with a 1" red-violet edge. The white style arms are edged with the red-violet, too.

'Belgium Warrior' (Hublau '03) is a deep velvety red-purple 6-fall beauty. There is a blue-violet area around the deep yellow signal, lighter style arms, and the anthers are flounced. This 2-year clump had 10 stalks.

'Dirigo Red Rocket' (White '01) has 3 red-violet falls with white rays from a white area around the yellow signal to $\frac{3}{4}$ " from the fall edges. This clump had 7 stalks.

Willy's F25-1 is a jewel-like velvety red-violet with a small blueviolet area around the yellow signal and has dark style arms. It is a treasure.

These are the iris you didn't see in my garden. You may have seen them at Ensata Gardens. There were some small flowered irises you may not have appreciated.

Phil Cook's seedling 9512.1205 bloomed EML. With red-violet standards with wire rims of white, falls blue veined blue-violet, this clump had 8 stalks each with 2 branches and 5-6 buds! His 9836.6405 had 15 stalks.

Christy Hensler's 'Ice Carvings' ('04), a white 3-fall with 3 buds but with 16 stalks; 97JS-032C, a lavender 3-F with a darker area around the prominent yellow signal; 92JS-33A, a violet 3-F with a tiny white edge, red-violet standards with white edges, and style arms darker with white edge; 92JS-6A F1, violet standards with white edges and light blue-violet falls with lots of fine violet veins.

All of these bloomed EML because they had lots of stalks, which didn't all bloom at once.

I think this is a very good trait. Unfortunately, one visit to the garden doesn't allow judges to appreciate the garden effect.

AFTER THE BALL IS OVER!

On July 5, two days after the Regional, Better Homes and Garden was here for a full day of photographing! The article will be in their PERENNIALS MAGAZINE next spring. We are hoping for a photo of Japanese iris on the cover, again! The editor likes the photos very much, so I think we have a good chance for the cover (well, we're too old for the centerfold!).

John Coble and Bob Bauer-Ensata Gardens

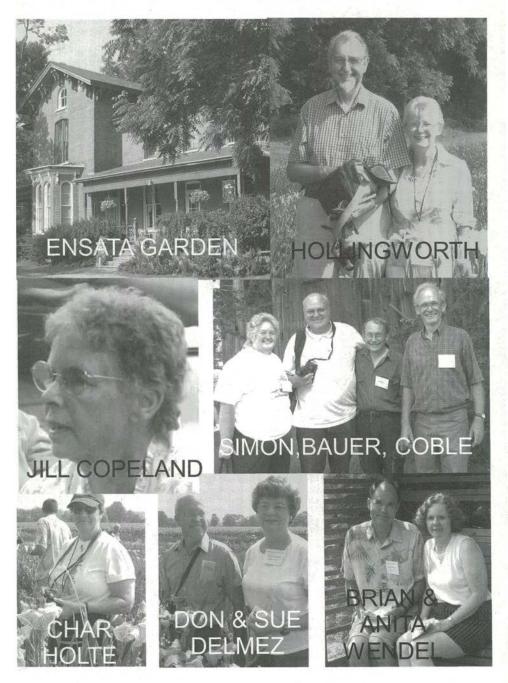
DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT JAPANESE IRISES?

GO TO THE SJI WEBSITE AND ASK YOUR QUESTIONS!

The JIRobin is a group of people who share one common interest: Japanese irises. Some are truly experts, while others are novices. Most of the members just happen to be very fond of Japanese irises. You are invited to join the JIRobin and share in this great exchange.

HTTP://WWW.SOCJI.ORG/ JIROBIN.HTM

REGION 6 SPRING TOUR



REGION 6 SPRING TOUR



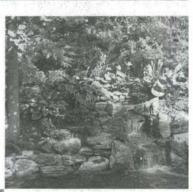
Judy Hollingworth, Bob Bauer, Dorothy & Hal Stahly



Bauer-Coble stained glass



There is more to a garden than just irises!







"Rocky" is a replica of an Inukshuk

VISITING MIKE ILER

R. Dennis Hager, Millington, MD

"Some hybridizers go to conventions and tell you how wonderful their plants are--there are others who stay home and make beautiful babies." --Peg Jeffcoat, Singing Oakes Garden, Blythewood, SC www.singingoakesgarden.com

Peg made that statement to me in her garden many years ago. She was talking about daylilies. I had never been to a plant convention, much less hosted one, but it was one of those little tidbits that I could not forget. I started going to AIS conventions and always looked for those beautiful babies of stay-at-home hybridizers. When our local club hosted the SJI Convention and we had the opportunity to grow Mike Iler's seedlings, I knew that he was one of those hybridizers who stays home and makes beautiful babies. His 'Tessatura' was one of the most beautiful flowers at the convention.

Lee Walker had told me about Mike's work with tetraploid conversion with Surflan and when we received his plants, I called him to discuss his work. Over the next 2 years, we spoke on many occasions. I tried to convince him to come to the Delaware convention, but he would not budge. He was staying in Oregon so I pledged to visit him.

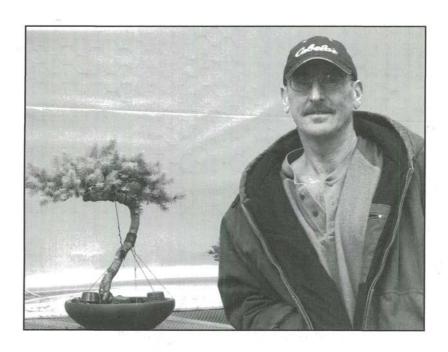
With the AIS Convention in Portland this year, the opportunity arose. After 2 days of meetings, buses were loading so that attendees could traipse through gardens of bearded irises in the rain, while Tim and I slipped away in a rented car for 4 hour drive to Coos Bay. It was the right choice.

Unfortunately, we didn't get to visit during Japanese iris bloom. From the first moment I saw his garden, it was clear that this man understands and loves plants. There were rhododendrons that I can only dream about growing here on the east coast. There were rows of dahlias, all carefully labeled. Siberian iris and versicolor seedlings were

in bloom. He has a collection of bonsai that he has nurtured for years. However, as we visited and enjoyed all the other things in the garden, it was clear that this is still a garden for Japanese irises.

Mike's approach to Japanese iris breeding is methodical. He plans his projects carefully and wastes no space or effort as he executes his plan. He is hypercritical of his own results, weeding out all but the absolute finest. Then he continues to evaluate his plants year after year to make sure that they are garden-worthy.

As plant lovers--as Japanese iris lovers, we are lucky to have people like Mike Iler out there--staying home and making beautiful babies.



SWAN LAKE IRIS GARDEN SUMTER, SOUTH CAROLINA

A Floral Wonderland

The beautiful black waters of Swan Lake form the setting for the spectacular Iris Gardens. The lake is dotted with colorful islands, and wildlife is abundant. The only public park in the United States to feature all eight swan species, Swan Lake-Iris Gardens is also home to some of the nation's most intensive plantings of Japanese iris, which bloom yearly in mid to late May and last until the beginning of June. The garden also boasts many other floral attractions, including colorful camellias, azaleas, day lilies, and Japanese magnolias. A Braille Trail enables the sight-impaired to enjoy the scents and sensations of the gardens. The gardens come alive with color during the Christmas season with the nighttime Fantasy of Lights display, featuring more than 1,000,000 varicolored sparkling lights in an array of colors and shapes.

Swan Lake-Iris Gardens began in 1927 as a private fishing retreat for Hamilton Carr Bland, a local businessman. At the same time he was developing the 30 acres of swamp on what is now West Liberty Street, he was landscaping the grounds of his home with Japanese iris. They failed miserably, and after consulting expert horticulturists from as far away as New York, he ordered his gardener to dig up the bulbs and dump them at the swamp. The following spring, they burst into bloom. The accidental garden, referred to by Southern Living magazine a "lovely mistake," has since been developed into one of the finest botanical gardens in the United States.

Following Bland's lead, in 1938 Mr. A.T. Heath, Sr., deeded the additional acreage on the other side of Liberty Street to the city with the stipulation that Mr. Bland develop this part of the gardens. Today, the Heath Gardens encompass most of the park's 120 acres. Mr. Bland deeded the Bland Gardens to the city in 1949. The two gardens are

joined by the McDuffie Overpass, a gift to the city from the McDuffie family in 1994. The most recent addition is the Heath Pavilion, opened in 2002 at the rear of the Heath Gardens on property given to the city by the Heath family in 1998.

The magnificent swans are gathered from all over the world, representing Australia, North America, South America, Europe and Asia. Originally imported by Mr. Bland in the late 1920's, the Australian Black swans have been in residence the longest, and some of the birds living in the garden at present are their descendants. Other species were added over the years, with the donation of Bewick swans in 1997 by Yuasa-Exide Corporation completing the collection. Visitors are permitted to bring bread and crackers for feeding the swans, who are usually friendly except during the early spring mating season, when reasonable caution should be exercised as they become quite territorial at this time. Canada geese, mallards, egrets, herons and anhingas also call the gardens home.

Swan Lake-Iris Gardens contains the open-air Garden Street picnic shelter, the covered Heath Pavilion with seating for 200, and the enclosed Visitor's Center with conference or reception space for 125. Picnic tables are located throughout the grounds, and a large playground features an antique fire engine perfect for climbing. The Bland Gardens also feature a boardwalk, on which visitors may meander through a cypress swamp, and a gazebo that is popular for spring weddings.

The Heath Pavilion, Garden Street Shelter, Visitor's Center and gazebo are available for special events by reservation. Please contact the Visitor's Center at tourism@sumter-sc.com for more information. The gardens are handicap accessible.

http://www.sumter-sc.com/VisitingUs/SwanLake.aspx

NOMINATION COMMITTEE REPORT

SARON HAYES WHITNEY, BARBARA AITKEN, JOHN COBLE

The slate is:
Dennis Hager -President
Sterling Innerst -VP
Secretary-Peter Weixlmann
Treasurer- Catherine Button
Director at Large- Anna Mae Miller
Nominating Committee- Carol Warner (expiration 2009)

As set forth in the

BY LAWS FOR THE REGULATION, EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED BY STATUTE OR ITS ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES, INC. REVISED February, 2005

ARTICLE XIII - NOMINATIONS, ELECTIONS AND VACANCIES

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

Section 2. Nominations by Petition and Balloting. After such report of the Nominating Committee has been mailed, nominations may be made by eight voting members. Such nominations shall be in writing, signed by the nominating members, and filed with the chairman of the Nominating committee not later than December 1st together with a letter of consent to such nomination signed by the person nominated. If additional nominations are made, the Nominating Committee shall prepare a ballot including all nominations and designating which were made by the Nominating Committee. The ballot shall be mailed to all voting members not later than December 15th with instructions for voting by mail. Ballots shall be returned to the Chairman of the Nominating Committee not later than December 31st.

Section 3. Tabulation and Results. The Nominating Committee shall tabulate the returns and inform the Secretary of the results of the election. By appropriate means the Secretary shall promptly inform the membership of the results.

Section 4. Vacancies. In case of a vacancy in any elective office or elective committee post, the Board shall have power to fill such vacancy for the unexpired term. Elections by mail shall be deemed to occur on December 31st for the purposes of this Section.

EDITOR'S ESSAY

This was a glorious year for garden tours! Region 18 Spring Tour started off the round of visits in Hutchinson, KS, followed the next week by the glory that was Portland! SPCNI hosted a lovely trek "hunting the wild I. tenax", then three days of a dazzling array of large and small gardens and capped off with a star-studded Species-Siberian tour of the Abrego and Reid gardens!

There was barely time to admire our own garden (and beat back the Missouri wildflowers that grew shoulder height while we were off gawking at other gardens), when Don Delmez held his annual Judges Training on Japanese Irises in his "country patch". Region 6 hosted their Spring Tour in Kalamazoo, MI featuring the stunning JI gardens of Ensata and Copeland, giving us a "preview of coming attractions" for the 2008 SJI Convention.

It seems I have done little since then other than labeling the hundreds upon hundreds of pictures taken those packed weeks and thinking about (but not doing!) how to best present this overload of information for the publications that I edit. Pictures of the Japanese Irises alone could take all the space in the REVIEW to say nothing of all the interesting and interested admirers of JI from all over the world!

Rita

SJI ENCOURAGES HYBRIDIZERS TO SUBMIT IMAGE (DIGITAL, SLIDE) TO SJI LIBRARIAN JOHN COBLE WITH EACH NEW JI REGISTRATION.

John Coble 9823 E. Michigan Ave., Galesburg, MI 49053 Tel: (269) 665-7500; <ensata@aol.com>

ADVERTISERS

Many thanks to our advertisers, Their support makes having color pages available in order for all to see the newest cultivars on the market. Commercial Directory (plus web) Included free annually with any ad or annual charge

HELP WANTED!! LOW (NO) PAY, GREAT WORKING CONDITIONS, LOT OF PRAISE!!

The Editor has completed the REVIEW Index back to Spring 1996 and the last time there was a complete Index done was through 1989. Help is needed to complete the indexing for the 12 issues that I have not completed. It is just a matter of filling in the Excel spread sheet but it does take time that I have not been able to find (is there a life outside of irises???). Please e-mail GormleyGreenery@aol.com or drop the Editor a note if you can find tome this winter to work on this with me.

The Editor is pleased to report that Jody Nolin, Editor of SPCNI and an old hand at working on index projects, has stepped up to the plate. If she has another hand or four, the project can probably be whipped out in record time for the Spring 2007 REVIEW! Thanks to Jody and any other helpers!

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

SJI DISPLAY GARDENS

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.

Though Japanese irises have been grown in American gardens for most of the 20th Century, very few people have ever seen them in bloom. Would you like to share the beauty of the Japanese irises growing in your garden? Even if you have only a few cultivars, inviting plant lovers to see them in bloom is very satisfying. If you would like to have your garden listed as a Japanese Iris Display Garden, both here and in the Review of the Society for Japanese Irises, please see the SJI Website http://www.socji.org/displayrequest.htm or contact Carol Warner draycott@qis.net or by mail to:

CAROL WARNER 16815 FALLS RD UPPERCO MD 21155-9445

DISPLAY GARDEN IN BLOOM



Society for the Japanese Iris Board Meeting

Minutes, Portland, Oregon, May 23, 2006

Attendance:

Jill Copeland, Jim Copeland, Peter Weixlmann, Dennis Hager, Chad Harris, Rita Gormley, Nyla Hughes, Gary White, Lorena Reid, Anna Mae Miller, Terry Aitken, Carol Coleman, Kenneth Coleman

Agenda

Minutes of previous BOD Meeting: Motion: Approved as printed. AM Miller, Second: R Gormley, Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report: Catherine Button

 $\,$ SJI received \$3,000.00 donations from previous mini-convention in Delaware.

Region 6 (Kalamazoo, MI voted proceeds from their auction during the JI season Regional, June 30 - July 2, 2006 will go to the SJI.

Paypal: the SJI BOD approved via on-line vote to establish a Paypal account for the convenience of the membership. Set up for the SJI Paypal account is complete.

Membership Report: Catherine Button: requests removal of the life membership, discussion of financial concerns funding the life members have led to this request. Motion: to remove life membership, effective immediately. R Gormley, Second: T Aitken, Motion approved. Removal of family and dual membership: tabled.

Slide Chair: John Coble: nothing to report

Librarian: John Coble: nothing to report

Robin's Chair: Cindy Rust: nothing to report for general JI robin.

Hybridizer's Robin: Jill Copeland: active and generating information for the journal.

E-mail Robin: Dennis Hager: currently 98 members and has been slow and manageable.

Popularity Poll: Bruce Filardi: will be printed in REVIEW, and the goal is for 100 responders.

Display Garden Chair: Phil Cook: no changes to report.

Awards: Anna Mae Miller: report of honorees in Spring issue of the REVIEW.

REVIEW Editor: Rita Gormley: reports status quo and requests new index which was last done in 1989. She is seeking volunteers to update the index which she has completed herself to 1996.

Ad Rates: they are currently covering the cost of ads and recommend no change at this time.

Website: Dennis Hager: reports a digital format and; Motion that selected articles from the journal be placed on the website with a 6 month delay from publication. Second: R Gormley, Motion carried.

New Checklist: 2006 Cumulative for JI- 100 printed. Motion: to sell during this convention \$5 and after \$7 by mail. R Gormley, Second: AM Miller, Motion carried.

Conventions:

Dennis Hager: Dover 2005 was very successful.

2008 Kalamazoo has guest plants arriving.

2011 Portland is interested and wishes to apply. Motion to accept offer: R Gormley, Second: AM Miller, Motion approved.

E-memberships: AIS is establishing e-memberships and SJI will provide articles for this venue.

Overseas Postage: AIS would like simple way to post in bulletin. Jill will represent SJI and bring results back to the BOD.

New ITJ: Rita and Cathy will research and will come up with need and numbers for viability and necessity for new ITJ.

Adjournment: Motion R Gormley, Second: D Hager, Motion approved.

Submitted by P. Weixlmann, Secretary SJI



HOLIDAY BOOK SPECIAL THE JAPANESE IRIS

PERFECT GIFT FOR ALL PLANT LOVERS!

Edited by Currier McEwen for the Society of Japanese Irises. A Brandeis University book. 224 pages. 32 color photos. 7" x 10". Published 1990 at \$29.95. (No longer in print)

The first definitive book in English on history and cultivation, The Japanese Iris incorporates the 300 year history of breeding in Japan and the experience of US hybridizers from East to West coasts. Contents include history, current hybridizing, color photos, and drawings of flower parts in detail; also soil preparation, watering, mulching, and pest control; display gardens, nurseries, and hybridizers.

Available through the Society for Japanese Irises at \$20.00 including US shipping or, for a limited time, two or more at \$15.00 Each.

Contact - John Coble, SJI Sales Chairman, 9823 E. Michigan Avenue, Galesburg, MI 49053 e-mail-ensata@aol.com

Deadlines for Submitting Articles and Information Spring - February 15 Fall - August 15

AND THE WINNERS ARE...... JI SHOW WINNERS!

Of the approximately 157 AIS shows this year, 28 winners were beardless irises and 8 of those were JIs!

Greater Portland Iris Society OR 6/22/2006

Avalanche Express JI Chad Harris

Francis Scott Key Iris Society MD 6/24/2006

Popular Demand JI Franchis Goethals

Central NY Iris Society NY 7/1/2006

Galatea Marx JI Donna James

Diamond State Iris Society DE 6/18/2006

Sue Jo JI Joyce Corrin

O'Fallon Iris Society MO 6/11/2006

Kyomai JI Don Delmez

Maine Iris Society ME 7/15/2006

Double First JI Robert Sawyer

Susquehanna Iris Society NY 6/24/2006

Rose Adagio JI Jane Bury

Western New York Iris Society NY 7/2/2006

Miss Buffalo JI Marle Gerbracht

Congrats to JI EC winners:

Don Delmez DB-2

Don Delmez DDKPRU

Don Delmez DDKVO

Chad Harris 02JD2

Chad Harris 02-J-E1

Ron James 7310

Hiroshi Shimizu Okaghmi

Anna Rettig AR 027

Lee Walker T96-56-14

Lee Walker 02-98-7

Lee Walker 98-41-32

Sharon Whitney 02/37 (1)

(Thanks to Jim and Janet Giles, AIS Exhibition Chairs)

SJI POPULARITY POLL FOR 2006

Bruce Filardi, Oregon

Thank you to all members who returned their ballots for this year's popularity poll. I received 50 ballots (representing 60 members), a slightly better "turnout" than last year.

We have a repeat winner of the SJI popularity poll for the first time since I've been tallying the votes: John White's 'Dirigo Pink Milestone', with three more votes than runner-up 'Sing The Blues'. There was a tie for third place between old favorite 'Frilled Enchantment' and 'Japanese Pinwheel', while fifth place was shared by 'Kalamazoo', 'Little Bow Pink', and 'Sue Jo'.

Newcomers to the top ten this year were 'Kalamazoo' and 'Sue Jo' in 5th place, and 'Koshui No Asa' and 'Oregon Marmalade' in 10th place.

'Craola Kiss', 'Maiko-No-Hama', 'Second Wave', 'Simply Stated', 'The Great Mogul', and 'Walk Right In' received two write-ins apiece, so those six new (or returning) names will appear on next year's ballot.

	06	05	04	03	cultivar (hybridizer/year)
	1	1	7	-	DIRIGO PINK MILESTONE (White '00)
	2	4	1	3	SING THE BLUES (Reid '97)
	3	10	7	4	FRILLED ENCHANTMENT (Marx '59)
	3	4	3	8	JAPANESE PINWHEEL (McEwen '88)
	5		-	-	KALAMAZOO (Hazzard '89)
	5	3	12	19	LITTLE BOW PINK (Delmez '98)
	5		-	-	SUE JO (Delmez '03)
	8	4	7	4	LION KING (Bauer/Coble '96)
	9	2	3	2	CASCADE CREST (Aitken '90)
	10	12	-	4	BLUE SPRITZ (Delmez '96)
	10	7	6	8	CAPRICIAN BUTTERFLY (Marx '85)
	10		2	1	ELECTRIC RAYS (Aitken '90)
	10	18	17	15	KOSHUI NO ASA (Shimizu '98)
	10		-	_	OREGON MARMALADE (Walker '03)
	10	18	14	-	ORIENTAL EYES (Vogt '84)
	10	10	17	11	ROSEWATER (Bauer/Coble '99)
	17	12	_	_	ALL IN WHITE (Delmez '00)
	17		<u> </u>	_	CENTER OF ATTENTION (Rich '86)
	17		-	_	DIRIGO RED ROCKET (White '01)
	17	7	14	15	RIVULETS OF WINE (Aitken '99)
	17		17	-	RASPBERRY CANDY (Bauer/Coble '99)

REGION 6 SPRING MEETING WINNERS

VOTED BEST BY AN IN-REGION HYBRIDIZER: TIE 'CLASSICAL CHARM' (BAUER/COBLE 2005) AND 'PINK PUFFER' (COPELAND 2006)





VOTED BEST BY AN OUT-OF-REGION HYBRIDIZER: 'SUE JO' (DELMEZ 2003)



2006 JI SYMPOSIUM WINNERS



DIRIGO PINK MILESTONE (White '00)

FRILLED ENCHANTMENT (Marx '59)





JAPANESE PINWHEEL (McEwen '88)