

THE REVIEW

OF THE SOCIETY
FOR
JAPANESE IRISES



Japanese Iris
Iris ensata

VOLUME 43
NUMBER #1
SPRING 2006



Beardless



Japanese



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THE REVIEW OF THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES

VOLUME 43

NUMBER 1

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INSERT - SJI POPULARITY POLL 2006

Cover Photo: Jim Teng, St. Louis, Missouri

THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES

Officers

President	Jill Copeland, 78118 M-40, Lawton, MI 49065 Tel: (269) 624-1968; <jandjcope@aol.com>
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2008	Gary White, 701 Old Cheney Rd., Lincoln, NE 68512-116; Tel: (402) 421-6394, <in2iris@yahoo.com>
2009	Phil Cook, PO Box 338, Underhill, VT 05489 Tel: (802) 899-9928; <phgarden@together.net>

Nominating Committee

Through 2006	Sharon Hayes Whitney, 1709 Harpswell Neck Road, South Harpswell, ME 04079-3303 Tel: (207) 833-6905; <info@earthheartgardens.com>
Through 2007	Barbara Aitken, 608 NW 119 th Street, Vancouver, WA 98685 Tel: (360) 573-4472; <aitken@flowerfantasy.net>
Through 2008	John Coble, 9823 E. Michigan Ave., Galesburg, MI 49053; Tel: (269) 665-7500; <ensata@aol.com>

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; <ridingthewind@gmail.com>
Slides Chairman Librarian	John Coble, 9823 E. Michigan Ave., Galesburg, MI 49053; Tel: (269) 665-7500; <ensata@aol.com>
Robins Chairman	Cindy Rust, 2016 Meadow Lane., Union, MO 63084; Tel: (636) 583-6355; <srust@wildblue.net>
Hybridizer Robin	Jill Copeland, 78118 M-40 Lawton, MI 49065 Tel: (269) 624-1968; <jandjcope@aol.com>
E-Mail Robin	Dennis Hager, PO Box 390, Millington, MD 21651 Tel: (410) 928-3147; <hager@aredee.com>
Popularity Poll	Bruce Filardi, 4244 NE Royal CT., Portland, OR 97213; Tel: (503) 2381604; <bfilardi@comcast.net>
Display Garden Chair	Phil Cook, PO Box 338, Underhill, VT 05489 Tel: (802) 899-9928; <phgarden@together.net>
Awards	Anna Mae Miller, Bronson Place, 1700 Bronson Way #155, Kalamazoo, MI 49009; Tel: (269) 349- 5934; <irisquilt@aol.com>
Web Master:	Dennis Hager, PO Box 390, Millington, MD 21651 Tel: (410) 928-3147; <hager@aredee.com>

SJI WEBSITE:

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

Includes information on Awards, Bylaws, Commercial
Sources, Convention, Display Gardens, Membership, Offic-
ers, and Member Services

Business Items

DUES:

Single	annual - \$5.00	triennial - \$12.50	Life - \$100.00
Family	annual - \$6.00	triennial - \$15.50	Life - \$125.00
Youth	annual - \$2.00	triennial - \$5.50	
Overseas including postage : Effective January 15, 2006			
Single	annual - \$10.00	triennial - \$25.00	Life - \$150.00
Family	annual - \$12.00	triennial - \$31.00	Life - \$175.00

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.

PLEASE NOTE

OVERSEAS MEMBERSHIP DUES WILL INCREASE JANUARY 15, 2006 TO THE ABOVE RATE INCLUDING POSTAGE.

SALES AND RENTAL ITEMS

The Japanese Iris by Currier McEwen \$24.95

Color Postcards – 2 for 1 Sale

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

Set #2 – 18 different Payne Award winners

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

Overseas orders, add \$1.00 per set for airmail

Back issues of The Review - \$1.50 per copy

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

SJI Slide Set Rental \$5.00

Iris Laevigata – book rental \$5.00

All prices include postage. Send requests to John Coble.

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

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

ADVERTISING

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

FULL PAGE COLOR (4.5 X 7.5)	\$60.00	
FULL PAGE B&W (4.5 X 7.5)	\$50.00	
HALF PAGE B&W (4 X 3 1/2)	\$30.00	
1/4 PAGE B&W 4 X 1 1/2)	\$20.00	
Commercial Directory (plus web):		
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.

1999 J.I. CHECKLIST

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

To order, Send \$4.00 postpaid* to:

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

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

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

SJI MEMBERSHIP LIST AVAILABLE

A current SJI membership list can be ordered. This will be a computer printout, listing members alphabetically.

Send check for \$3, payable to **SJI**, to Catherine Button, 70 Sharpless Blvd,
Westampton, NJ 08060, Tel (609) 835-4218; <ridingthewind@gmail.com>

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Jill Copeland

Hi All,

We have lots of good news! We have gotten two large donations and we are operating in the black. One donation of \$1100 was from Southwestern Michigan Iris Society (SWMIS), which was the rebate from the bus trip to the Dover Convention. The other, \$3000, was from the Diamond State Iris Society (DSIS) from the Dover Convention auction. Thanks to everyone for your help.

But there is more good news! We can now use PAYPAL to pay dues. See the web site <JISoc.org> for more information. We hope this will make it easier for people to pay their dues especially new visitors to the web site. Thanks to Cathy Button and Dennis Hager for setting this up for us. Those of you, who have no idea what I am talking about, can still pay by check or through AIS (along with AIS dues) by credit card. Check the top right corner of your Review label to see when your dues expire.

Sadly, we did not hit our goal of 100 returned Popularity Poll votes last year. I hope we can this year. If you want to wait until the season is over to vote, please, put the Poll where you can find it and mark your calendar so you send it before the deadline. Remember if we don't all vote the poll doesn't mean much.

Region 6 is having their spring meeting June 30, July 1, and 2, 2006. That is Japanese Iris bloom time! You are all invited!! SWMIS is subsidizing some the cost so the registration is only \$54. For more information see<swmis2006@sbcglobal.net> call Jim Welch (269) 544-2211, or write to Jim Welch, 9087 South 6 th Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49009. We will visit Ensata Gardens, the largest JI growers outside

Japan, our garden and one other garden. We planted 2200 seedlings in '04 and 800 in '05. Most of these should be in bloom. We, also, have guest plants. We can guarantee lots of fun, very good food, and a wonderful auction.

SWMIS will be hosting the 2008 JI convention. See the last issue of the *Review* for how and when to send guest plants for this convention. If you can make it to the Region 6 convention, you will know that you want to come back in 2008. If you can't make it to the Region 6 meeting, then the 2008 convention is a must!

Best Wishes,
Jill

KALAMAZOO REQUESTS GUEST IRIS PLANTS FOR 2008 CONVENTION

Kalamazoo, Michigan is hosting the national JI convention in 2008.

Those hybridizers who are interested in sending plants for the display beds should contact the guest plant chairman Bob Bauer, 9823 E Michigan Ave, Galesburg MI 49053 (269 665-7500), <.

The convention would like two to three rhizomes of each plant, and will accept plants from April (preferred) through September 2006.

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INTRODUCING FOR LORENA REID

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

SJI REVIEW

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

2006 Region 6 Spring Meeting
Kalamazoo, Michigan
June 30th, July 1st and July 2nd
Hosted by the Southwestern Michigan Iris Society
Japanese Iris in Bloom
with Guest Irises from eight popular Hybridizers

Location: Latvian Heritage Center

100 Cherry Hill, Kalamazoo, Michigan

Friday, June 30th -

4:00PM - Registration

6:00PM - Warm-Lite Supper at Latvian Heritage Center

7:00PM - Slide Presentations (bring your slides)

Saturday, July 1st - Meet at the Latvian Heritage Center for:

6:00AM - Registration will continue

7:00AM - Stylish Breakfast Buffet

8:00AM - Load Buses for garden tour

9:00AM - *Kalamazoo Country Club*, A great setting for a garden tour.

10:00AM - *Jim & Jill Copeland's' Garden*. In their Iris Fields there will be at least 3000+ seedlings (most in bloom).

12:00(noon) - *Lunch at the Copeland's* -Jim's Famous Fish Fry!

2:00PM - Tour *Ensata Gardens*, The Largest Commercial Japanese Iris grower. You will see thousands of Japanese Irises in bloom and may discover secrets on how to grow Japanese Irises commercially.

4:00PM - Return to the Latvian Heritage Center

6:00 PM - Get-together Social (with a Wine & Beer cash bar)

7:00PM - Banquet with John Coble, Speaker and the Auction.

Sunday, July 2nd

8:00AM - Judges training with a Continental Breakfast

Registration is \$54.00 per person. Includes: Warm-Lite Supper, both Breakfasts, bus tour, Lunch at The Copeland's, the Banquet and Judges Training.

The Latvian Heritage Center is 5.6 miles from the junction of Route131 and Interstate94 by way of West Main Street. You will find ample parking and easy access via Solon Street and South Kendall. The Heritage Center is only 3 minutes from downtown Kalamazoo and hotels.

Registration Form
for
AIS Region 6 - Summer Meeting
*June 30 (afternoon - registration), July 1st & July 2nd (morning
judges training)*
Hosted by the SouthWest Michigan Iris Society

Name: _____
(as you wish on name tag - please print)

Name: _____
(please print)

Name: _____
(please print)

Address: _____

Phone Number: () _____

your eMail address: _____ @ _____

_____ person at: Full Registration \$ 54.00 per person \$ _____ . 00

_____ persons - if received **after June 1st, 2006** \$ 75.00 per person \$ _____ . 00

Total Enclosed: \$ _____ . 00

Please make checks payable to: SWMIS and mail to:

SWMIS

9087 South 6th Street

Kalamazoo, Michigan 49009

any questions please feel free to call: J. Welch (269) 544 - 2211

or eMail: swmis2006@sbcglobal.net

Please indicate the number -

a) planning to attend: *informal get-together* on Friday evening of June
30th: _____ persons

b) doing *Judges Training* on the morning of July 2nd: _____ persons

c) or needing *Assistance in walking* for the Bus Tour on Saturday:
_____ persons

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.
3. 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



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PORTLAND CONVENTION SJI MEETINGS

SJI BOARD

TUESDAY, MAY 23RD 9:00 TO 10:00 AM

SJI PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24TH 12:30 TO 1:30 PM

All are invited to attend!!

CAN ANY IRIS BE CROSSBRED WITH ANY OTHER KIND OF IRIS?

By Jill Copeland

It looks like all bearded irises will crossbreed with such hybrids as TBs, SDBs, IBs, ABs, etc. and will cross with at least *I. tectorum*, a crested iris. Beardless irises are less explored.

Bees cross *I. virginica* var. *shrevei* and *I. versicolor* to produce *x robustas* along the St. Lawrence River Valley. All LA species crossbreed. The same is true of 28 chromosome Siberians, 40 chromosome Sino-Siberians, and PCIs. In fact, many hybrids have been produced between Siberians and versicolors (*sibcolor*), with *I. setosa* (*sibtosa*), Sino-Siberians and PCIs (*calsib*), *versicolor* and JIs (*versata*), *pseudacorus* and JIs (*pseudata*), for instance. It may be that all beardless irises will crossbreed but there is no rule. So each type of cross will have to be tested.

So how do you go about making interspecies hybrids? I will go through how to make a *pseudata*, which applies to any interspecies cross. First, you make sure that you can make a protected cross. If a bee or any other pollinator can get to your cross, then your cross can be contaminated. You will know that you failed to protect your cross when you have a field full of hard to dig *pseudacorus* instead of a field of *pseudatas*. If the resulting seedlings look like the pod parent (The pod parent's pollen is the most likely the source of contamination), your cross was not protected well enough. You will have to protect the parents before the flowers open. So protect 5-10 flowers on a cultivar that usually makes "bee pods". Don't pollinate them and see if you have prevented the pods from forming. If you have, you are good to go. I have had a pod that contained 1 *pseudata* and 2 *pseudacorus*'. So my method isn't always fool proof. You need to protect the pollen, too. To do that, open the loose bud and take the anthers into the house where nothing can contaminate them.

Second, you need to select the parents you want to use. The rule I follow is to use the smaller flower as the pod parent. The theory is that the pollen from the smaller flower (pseudacorus) probably won't be able to grow long enough to pollinate the bigger flower (JI). Of course, I try the other way now and then just in case and it tests the protection method. It turns out that not all pseudacorus (the smaller flower compared to JIs) cultivars are able to make pseudatas. So collect as many cultivars of I. pseudacorus as you can or get a cultivar that has worked for someone else. The pollen parent, a JI in this case, needs to be pollen fertile.

Next, make the cross. Expect to do numerous crosses because not all crosses will take. In '04 I made 90 crosses for pseudatas and got 12 pods. When you get a pod, take all pods that you didn't cross off the pod parent. You should always take the pods off pseudacorus that you don't want because they can become hard to remove weeds. Expect the hybrid pods to be much smaller than normal pseudacorus pods and to contain only a few seeds. You can expect the seeds to be different from normal. Often with pseudatas, the seeds are smaller and rounder than pseudacorus seeds.

Often seeds from interspecies crosses are difficult to germinate. I give my seeds 3 years to germinate before I give up. Usually, they need 2-3 months of cold. If the seedling is yellow-green, it is a pseudata. Recently, Hiroshi Shimizu has developed a pseudacorus, GUBIJIN, which produces pseudatas with green foliage. GUBIJIN can be purchased from Draycott Gardens (see Commercial garden directory in this issue).

I have tried for many years to cross JIs and LAs. Since both flowers are large I have made the cross both ways. I have produced 3 seeds with LAs as the pod parent and they never germinated. I had a pod on a JI seedling with many (there's a hint) seeds. They germinated (another hint) easily and they were 100% JIs. I will keep trying because I may have just not found the right parents. I was hoping to get the colors of the LAs and the hardiness of the JIs.

SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE AWARDS

by Anna Mae Miller – SJI Awards Committee Chair

The Payne Medal (named for W. Arlie Payne) is the highest award given by the American Iris Society that a Japanese iris can receive in its class. Payne Medal winners are then eligible to win the Dykes Medal, which is the highest award an iris can receive from The American Iris Society. Prior to 1992 the highest award a Japanese Iris could receive was the Payne Award. This award has now been elevated to a medal status. A list of the Payne winners over the years can be found on the SJI website (www.socji.org/awards.htm).

In addition, over the years, SJI has presented special awards to outstanding contributors to the SJI organization. Special people who have received these awards in the past are;

1990: Currier McEwen, Lee Welsh, Adolph Vogt

1991: Virginia Burton

1992: Florence Stout

1993: George C. Bush, Ben Hager, Lorena Reid

1994: Bee Warburton, Carol Warner, Clarence Mahan

1996: Dr. Tsutomu Yabuya

1997: John Coble, Robert Bauer

1998: Jill Copeland

1999: Evelyn White, Shirley Pope

2000: Toyokazu Ichie, Hiroshi Shimizu, Mototeru Kamo

2004: William Ackerman

Nominations for special awards can be submitted to Anna Mae Miller, Bronson Place, 1700 Bronson Way #155, Kalamazoo, MI 49009-1074, Irisquilt@aol.com

Any additions or corrections to this historical list can also be sent to Anna Mae.

EDITOR'S ESSAY

We all have the "Fever" this time of year! Cabin Fever, then Spring Fever! And, best of all comes "Iris Fever"-first from catalogs full of great pictures and then having our own gardens in bloom! Spring is always full of hope and renewal. Enjoy and share with your friends and family!

Anna Mae Miller has been working on a monumental project for the SJI REVIEW and we're going to give you just a taste of it in this issue. She calls it "Forty-two Years Growing Japanese Iris" but it is really in three separate parts – SJI History, Memorable Conventions and her experiences. She (and others) have also provided historic pictures of many people you will recognize (albeit MUCH younger) and wonderful pictures of those whom you all miss. I encourage ALL of you to go through your pictures and send me "people shots" – any form, as our favorite graphics person has a great new scanner-prints, slides, negatives or digital. This has turned into a relatively long term project but will provide a detailed, permanent record for SJI.

I would like to introduce you to our "Guest Photographer", Jim Teng of St. Louis. He is a retired scientist (Chemistry PhD) whose passion is photography and combines traditional photography with the new digital technique to produce a wide variety of botanical illustrations. His work has been exhibited in the Missouri Botanical Garden. Jim was also a volunteer at that garden for many years and has taken many pictures of the Japanese irises there. He graciously donated one of his pictures for the AIS Silent Auction and provided Tom with four beautiful art pictures of JI gratis. There is an opportunity on page 23 for you to order these prints should you so desire.

We hope to see many of you in Portland and/or in Kalamazoo this year. Hope you have a phenomenal bloom season!

Rita

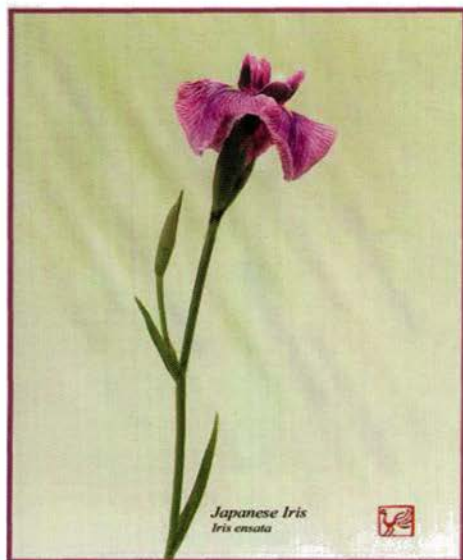
JAPANESE IRISES IN NEW ZEALAND

Jill Copeland, Lawton, Michigan

We went to the New Zealand Iris Society's Convention at the Lake Tapeko Community Center in the South Island in December 2005. We also went to New Zealand in 2000 for the Species Iris Symposium, which was held on the North Island and was a month earlier in Oct/Nov. There were 8 Americans this time and we all went on a pre-convention tour. It was wonderful!! We saw a Northern Royal Albatross colony, Yellow Eyed Penguins, had a chance to walk on Fox Glacier, a jet boat ride on the Dart River to where Lord of the Rings was filmed, and we saw three spectacular private iris gardens. It was TB and Siberian bloom time. I was very impressed with some tetraploid cal-sibs that Gwenda Harris grew from seed provided by Tomas Tamberg. They had many colorful patterns.

The Convention had very noted speakers: Tony Hall from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, UK, Fanie Venter formerly from South Africa, and Robyn Rohrlach from Victoria, Australia. We had two of our own experts, Carla Lankow from Washington and Carol Warner from Maryland presenting along with many New Zealand experts. We had workshops, slide presentations, judges training, food, and beautiful scenery. In all, it was a perfect four days.

After the convention, Carol Warner, David Bollinger, Jim and I rented a car to see some of the North Island. Of course, going north in the Southern Hemisphere is going towards the equator so it is getting later in the growing season. We were invited to visit Eddie Johns' garden, Otara Birch. In 2000 we visited this garden and it was full of TBs and Siberians. Shortly after we were there, Eddie suffered a death in the family and health problems so his garden has not had anything done to it for 5 years. That means no weeding, no fertilizer, and no extra water. There were a great many JIs in full bloom. Besides all the named variety survivors, he also had seedlings that we would like to see more of.



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ANGELIC CHOIR

(Chad Harris '06) JI, 42".

6 Falls, 1 branch, 3 buds.

From a population of about 1000 colorful seedlings, this one stood out as 'angelic', clothed in pure white, without visible pigmentation.

Perhaps this will be a useful trait in hybridizing? (The cross was made to produce "blues".) Extended bloom occurs from mid June until early July in the Pacific Northwest.

\$35.00



LADY IN PINK (Aitken

'06) JI, 3 Fall, 44". 2

branches with double sockets and a triple terminal. We have seen plenty of nice 3 fall pink

Japanese, but something struck me about the elegance of this particular flower. Heavy substance allows the generously overlapping falls to flare out with softly rolling ruffles.

\$35.00

Academy House Gardens

These plants were selected for their vigorous growth in our Mid-Atlantic garden. Both of these 3-fall Japanese irises are well branched and bloom over an extended season for us. We hope they will do the same for you.



'Simply Stated' (Hager, RD 2006) With distinctly upright habit, this Edo-type iris grows tall and stately, with a tidy garden appearance. \$30



'Gingham Geisha' (Hager, RD 2006) Vigorous and floriferous. \$30

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Kool Craola Ice
Walker'06



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Blue Twilight Moon
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If you are ordering from this advertisement, the plants are \$35.00 each or take all three for \$90.00 or send \$125 and also get Lee Walker's 2005 introductions 'Craola Kiss' and 'First Strike Craola'. Don't forget to add \$10.00 for shipping and handling for your order.

2005 Registrations, Introductions and Awards

Compiled by John A Coble

ALDRIDGE SNOW MAIDEN (Allery, Phillip E. 1999) *intro* by British Iris Society 2005.

ALDRIDGE VISITOR (McEwen, C. by Allery, P. 1999) *intro* by British Iris Society 2005.

ALL IN WHITE (Delmez, Donald 1995) *HM 2005*

ANGEL MOUNTAIN (Bauer/Coble 2000) *HM 2005*

ANGELIC CHOIR (Harris, Chad Reg. 2005) Sdlg. 98JB2. (42in 107cm) M (6 -F). Style arms white, upright, multiple; F. white, signal lemon yellow. [Electric Rays X Peacock Strut]

BANJO BLUES (Bauer/Coble Reg. 2005) Sdlg. J99A-5. (34in 86cm) M (6 -F). Style arms very blue, light blue crests veined blue, multiple, upright; F. wide white veined blue, yellow signal. [Crested Surf X Sing the Blues] Ensata Gardens 2005

BEWITCHING TWILIGHT (Harris, Chad 1999) *HM 2005*

BLUE LINE DANCE (Walker, Lee Reg. 2005) Sdlg. 94-101-16. (37in 94cm) ML (6 -F). Red violet petaloids; style arms red violet; F. grey, light red-violet edge, blue halo, blue veins becoming violet; ruffled. [Dancing Waves X Woodland Brook]

BLUE SPRITZ (Delmez, Donald 1996) *HM 2000, AM 2003, PM 2005*

BLUE TWILIGHT MOON (Walker, Lee Reg. 2005) Sdlg. 96-56-1. (25in 64cm) M (6 -F). Style arms medium red-violet; F. red violet veined dark red-violet, blue halo. [Marx unknown sdlg X Iapetus]

BYAKUYANO KUMI (Shimizu, H. by C. Warner Reg. 2005) Sdlg. . (37in 94cm) EM SPEC-X (3 -F). (psudata) S. creamy white, very small; style arms yellow; F. creamy white, signals bright yellow, deep purple eyelash pattern. [Gubijin X unknown] Draycott Gardens 2005

CHET (Copeland, James, Jr Reg. 2005) Sdlg. ch3t. (22in 56cm) ML (6 -F). Style arms and F. uneven violet-purple (RHS 77A), veined purple (72A), white (155A) around canary yellow (9A) signal. [unknown parentage]

CLASSICAL CHARM (Bauer/Coble Reg. 2005) Sdlg. J99B-1. (38in 97cm) EM (3 -F). S. dark violet, near white rims; style arms white, large white crests dusted violet; F. white, hint of blue vein coming from yellow signal. [Imperial Magic X Popular Acclaim] Ensata Gardens 2005

COHO (Harris, Chad 2004) *intro* by Aitken 2005.

CRAOLA KISS (Walker, Lee 2004) *intro by* Wildwood Gardens 2005.

DIRIGO MAIDEN'S BLUSH (White, John 2004) *intro by* Earthheart 2005.

DIRIGO PINK MILESTONE (White, John 1999) *HM 2003, AM 2005*

DREAMS FULFILLED (Delmez, Donald Reg. 2005) Sdlg. DDKB. (32in 81cm) M (6 -F). Dark blue self, style arms white with large blue tips; large light yellow signal. [Azure Ruffles X Hekito] Delmez 2005

EYE OF HEAVEN (Delmez, Donald 2000) *HM 2005*

FIRST STRIKE CRAOLA (Walker, Lee 2004) *intro by* Wildwood Gardens 2005.

FRECKLED PEACOCK (Harris, Chad 2001) *HM 2005*

GREYWOODS CONTESSA (Wilkinson, Darlyn Reg. 2005) Sdlg. 96-60. (36in 91cm) M (6 -F). Style arms white trimmed fuchsia violet; F. fuchsia violet, center white lines radiating out to edges; signal yellow, dark yellow lines. [Greywoods Amethyst Mist X Skyrocket Burst] Greywood Farm 2005

GREYWOODS EVENING ATTIRE (Wilkinson, Darlyn Reg. 2005) Sdlg. 00-2. (32in 81cm) M (6 -F). Style arms velvety plum-purple; F. hazy white ground infused with deep purple-plum lines darkening around signal; signals bright yellow lined yellow-green; wavy. [Greywoods Lady Luck X Sapphire Crown] Greywood Farm 2005

GREYWOODS RASPBERRY SHADOWS (Wilkinson, Darlyn Reg. 2005) Sdlg. 95-52. (38in 97cm) M (6 -F). Style arms hazy white-lavender centers, flecked and lined fuchsia violet; F. light hazy lavender-white, irregularly flecked and marbled fuchsia and violet, fuchsia violet thin lines; signal deep yellow, lined darker. [Sorcerer's Triumph X Harlequinesque] Greywood Farm 2005

GREYWOODS ROYALANTICS (Wilkinson, Darlyn Reg. 2005) Sdlg. 02-32. (37in 94cm) M (6 -F). Style arms deep blue-violet, hint of white on tips; F. bright white stitched and flecked blue violet, heavier at edges, blue violet lines; signal bright yellow, lined darker yellow. [Greywoods Social Butterfly X Sapphire Crown] Greywood Farm 2005

GUBIJIN (Shimizu, H. by C. Warner 1999) *intro by* Draycott 2005.

KHIROMANTIYA (Kaulen, Mariya Reg. 2005) Sdlg. 5/11. (30in 75cm) EM (6-9 -F). Style arms blue violet; F. white, blue violet to red violet veination; blue violet area around bright yellow signal. [Ozhidaniye X Pervy Bal]

KOOL CRAOLA ICE (Walker, Lee Reg. 2005) Sdlg. C-96-33-27. (29in 74cm) M (3 -F). S. grey ground overlaid and veined dark red-violet; style arms dark red-violet; F. grey, medium red-violet edge, dark violet-blue halo and veining. [C-93-75-18 X Marx sdlg.: (Marx sdlg x Fuji)]

LAURENTIAN SUNSET (Huber, Tony 1998) *intro by* Iris City 2005.

LAVENDER BLEACH (Huber, Tony 1999) *intro by* Iris City 2005.

LAVENDER BLUE SKIES (Walker, Lee Reg. 2005) Sdlg. 96-63-5. (32in 83cm) M (6 -F). Petaloids medium lavender-violet; style arms lavender violet; F. lavender pink, bright blue-lavender halo and veining. [Jocasta X C-93-75-6: (Marx sdlg x Fuji)]

- LEXICON** (Hensler, Christy Ann Reg. 2005) Sdlg. 01JS3B. (38in 97cm) EML SPEC-X (-F). S. light violet-blue shading to purple and black at base; style arms light purple, blue rib and crest; F. medium blue-violet, signal diffuse white, pronounced rib. [97JS3B: (Adrenaline Rush x self) X 97JS3B]
- LITTLE BOW PINK** (Delmez, Donald 1998) *HM 2003, AM 2005*
- NATURE'S BOUNTY** (Delmez, Donald Reg. 2005) Sdlg. SWBVPUST. (40in 102cm) E (3 -F). S. purple, white tips; style arms purple, smaller white tips; F. white veined blue; yellow signal. [Above and Beyond X (All in White x unknown)] Delmez 2005
- NIGHT FLASH** (Huber, Tony 1998) *intro by Iris City 2005.*
- PERVY BAL** (Kaulen, Mariya Reg. 2005) Sdlg. J 1/12. (31in 80cm) M (6 -F). Style arms very dark violet; F. pale blue, dark violet veination and indistinct spot; signal bright yellow. [unknown parentage]
- RAINBOW DARTER** (Copeland, Jill 2003) *intro by Ensata 2005.*
- RANNIY SNEG** (Kaulen, Mariya Reg. 2005) Sdlg. J 2/30. (33in 85cm) M (6 -F). White self; signal bright yellow. [1/53 X 1/18]
- RICH RANDALL** (Hublau, Willy 2002) *intro by Delmez 2005.*
- SECOND WAVE** (Aitken, J. T. Reg. 2005) Sdlg. 96J6A. (44in 112cm) ML-VL (6 -F). Deep blue self; yellow signal. [Rolling Seas X Exuberant Chantey] Aitken 2005
- SILESIAN SKY** (Seidl, Zdenek Reg. 2005) Sdlg. 99-CBPA/5. (31in 80cm) ML (6 -F). Style arms light blue; F. white veined light blue. [Caprician Butterfly X "Port Art"]
- SIT RIGHT DOWN** (Walker, Lee Reg. 2005) Sdlg. 94-94-52. (34in 86cm) M (6 -F). Petaloids white tipped violet; style arms white, red violet tip, dark red-violet veining; F. grey base and underside, medium red-violet center becoming light red-violet, grey edge, small blue-violet halo veined grey in center; ruffled. [Let Me See X Yukichidori]
- TESSATURA** (Iler, Michael Reg. 2005) Sdlg. 94J91B. (37in 94cm) M (6 -F). Style arms blackish seville (darker than RHS 89A) tipped wisteria (94C), crested; F. heavily zoned and veined seville (89B) over wisteria (94C), lighter edge; ruffled, flared; signal chrome yellow (9A). [Ebb and Flow X Kontaki-On]
- TRIED AND TRUE** (Delmez, Donald 2004) *intro by Delmez 2005.*
- TSUKIYONO** (Shimizu, H. by C. Warner Reg. 2005) Sdlg. . (44in 112cm) M SPEC-X (3 -F). S. creamy white, slight lavender edge, very small; style arms creamy light yellow; F. lavender veined and netted deeper lavender, narrow purple edge; signal bright lemon yellow, very dark purple eyelash pattern. [Gubijin X unknown] Draycott 2005
- WALK RIGHT IN** (Walker, Lee 2004) *intro by Eartheart 2005.*
- WINGS OF FREEDOM** (Copeland, Jill Reg. 2005) Sdlg. F-16. (30in 76cm) L (3 -F). S. purple violet (RHS 80A), darker at center, edged white (155B); style arms violet (87B); F. white (155B) veined violet (78B) to spectrum violet (82B, blue (93A) near signal; signal yellow (7A); may produce second set of F. from center. [unknown parentage]

SJI TREASURER REPORT

Balance Dec 31, 2004 \$15,070.49

INCOME

Interest	\$23.26 (see note 1)
Dues	\$956.50
Advertising	\$300.00
JI Book Royalty	\$0.00
Librarian Income	\$134.45
Auction	\$0.00
Donations	\$1,100.00
Other	\$0.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$2,514.21

EXPENSES

The Review	(\$3,143.00)
Other print costs/supplies	(\$149.85)
Postage Expense	(\$88.92)
Medal Expense	(\$152.90)
Publicity expense	\$0.00
Slide expenses	(\$39.34)
Other	\$0.00
AIS Insurance Expense	(\$100.00)
TOTAL EXPENSES	(\$3,674.01) (\$1,159.80)

Balance Dec 31, 2005 \$13,910.69

Current Checking Balance	\$3,910.69
Current Money Market	\$0.00
CD to Jan2006	\$5,000.00
CD to Jul2006	\$5,000.00

1 Interest low because funds were moved to long term CD.

BIG THANK YOU!!

Diamond State Iris Society did a stellar job of hosting the 2005 SJI Convention. Convention Chairman, Dennis Hager, Host Gardens and all the members worked very hard to make that Convention successful! To top things off, subsequent to the Treasurer's End Of Year Report (on the facing page), Diamond State Iris Society donated \$3,000 to SJI, giving a very welcome boost to our coffers!

Southwestern Michigan Iris Society (SWMIS), sent SJI \$1,100 which was the rebate from the bus trip to the Dover Convention. SWMIS paid for their members to hire a bus from Michigan to Dover and participated in the tour. and when the Convention reimbursed them, they in turn donated the money to SJI.

Thanks Diamond State Iris Society & Southwestern Michigan Iris Society - you are our heros!!!

NOTE FROM THE SJI TREASURER CATHERINE BUTTON

SJI has some really exciting and good news!

You can now become a member of the SJI **ONLINE** and pay thru Paypal! Ditto for renewing your membership on the official SJI website www.socji.org. SJI is the first AIS related group to do this!

Please visit our web site and click on the link to Join the Society.

Please take a look at the pages. There's one you can't see unless you actually successfully go thru the paypal payment process, but when you get thru it, it brings you back to a thank you page that will give you a welcome letter and culture sheet. Pretty nifty, eh?

I hope you are half as excited about this as I am. I am thinking we may have a chance to attract more new members and perhaps increase our appeal to potential younger members.

Chirps from the Japanese Iris Hybridizers' Robin

Jill Copeland Reporter

Currier and Sharon's Experiment:

Sharon Whitney, Harpswell, ME—Sharon writes: Japanese irises seem to begin to fail after growing in the same soil for 3-5 years. In an attempt to determine the reason for their gradual failure, we have designed an experiment. We are using two Kamo Japanese iris varieties for the study: Dewa Banri and Warabe Uta. They were selected because we had two 20'-30' rows of each which had been growing in the same spot for over 4 years and were failing.

The experiment involves:

1) 1 row of each variety planted in "new" soil. We define "new" soil: soil that has never grown Japanese Irises.

2) Four separate clumps of each variety growing in "tired" soil. For the purpose of this study we are using the expression "tired" soil to describe the soil in which failing irises are growing. It may be depleted soil or soil with exudate or the soil may have an unidentified problem. We hope that this study will help us to identify the problem.

A. Clump #1 receives 15 gal of water 1/week (to mimic the action of a stream by rinsing the soil)

B. Clump #2 receives 1 tablespoon of micro nutrients dissolved in 5 gal water 1/week (to replace any missing micronutrient)

C. Clump #3 receives 5-gal alfalfa-pellet water 1/wk. We make this concoction by placing 1 gal of alfalfa pellets into an old stocking and suspending the stocking in a 5 gal container of water. Some Japanese iris growers have reported that alfalfa pellets give "failing" Japanese irises the boost they need to keep living.

D. Clump #4 -Control—receives nothing other than what Mother Nature provides

3) We put up 1 division in a container of pro mix and placed it in a wading pool. This is the treatment we traditionally use with plants that are not growing well.

4) In order to test the role that juvenile vigor may play in this process. We used species JI seedlings.

A. planted 1 row in "new" soil

B. planted a second row in "tired" soil

Lorena Reid, Springfield, OR—Lorena writes: Sharon, I will be most interested in hearing whether your experiment answers any of your (our) questions on JIs.

Jill Copeland, Lawton, MI—Jill writes: Sharon, I really like your experiments. This should help us know what is happening. I hope you have an easy way to transport the gallons of water to the plants. The key is the controls so we don't have to say "...but the weather was strange this year."

Phil Cook, Underhill, VT—Phil writes: Sharon, it is nice to see your systematic approach to JI decline. See my note to Terry, I will be interested in the results.

Terry, I'm a little confused by your reference to "enzymes"—did you mean mycorrhizae, chelators? I have also found horse manure to be a good additive and this suggests the possibility of chelators. These are a variety of organic materials which bind to microelements including iron. There are "good" chelators and "bad" chelators. The good ones which are often added to fertilizers (and, perhaps, found in horse manure) make micronutrients so strongly that they create a deficiency for the plants. JI roots do not decompose very readily and I've wondered if the dead roots might serve as a nutrient sink due to some chelating ability. The plants would then eventually starve themselves for micronutrients such as iron. Maybe Sharon's experiments will shed some light.

Sharon writes: The JI decline project will continue this season. After reading the discussion in this robin, I have decided to add a "horse Manure" row to the project. Is there a magic ingredient in horse manure or is it more along the philosophy of organic gardening: good soil fertility and lots of cation exchange capacity.

Mike Iler, Coos Bay, OR—Mike writes: Sharon, regarding JI decline; in my opinion the main culprit is mechanical in nature. Simply put, too many roots- old and new- that refuse to decompose in a reasonable amount of time all trying to occupy the same space. Not very conducive to new growth. As the mass becomes denser the plant becomes weaker. If JIs had more of a spreading growth habit—I. tectorum and Roy Davidson are extreme examples—the problem would go away. The new roots would initiate at the outer edge of the clump into unoccupied soil. I suppose then we'd be wringing our hands over the open-centered clumps! Have you ever noticed that the JI varieties that are genetically not too distant from the true species do tend toward spreading? My theory is that because "back in the days the Japanese grew in containers, they tended to select for restricted horizontal growth. It is difficult to maintain anything in a container if it's constantly racing for the edge. I once had Roy D. climb out of a 15 gallon pot, grow 8" down into the water of a shallow pond, and continue growing as if it were normal procedure.

Having said all that, to define a problem is not to solve it. I don't want to oversimplify the situation but it could come down to 'dig, divide, and replant every third year. If this is done by disposing of all the old roots along with what is masquerading as soil clinging to them, I believe it goes a long way towards solving the problem. Needless to say if you grow many plants this necessitates importing root media of some sort. We've been using rotted horse manure and alfalfa (the hay, not the pellets) and are satisfied with the results. Also, I think some growers that have issues with soil pathogens and/or nutrient imbalances tend to blame that handy catchall 'JI decline'. To me decline is when a healthy, vigorous JI becomes less so from year three on. If the 'root-ball density/soil depletion theory' is correct, I look at it this way; compared to Dahlias that need to be divided every year, replanting JIs every third year is not so bad.

Seedling Vigor:

Mike writes: It's probably safe to say we all enjoy raising seedlings. There's nothing quite like the first blooming of a cross. As time goes by it gets rewarding. The improvements are obvious and gratifying. At this point I can't imagine not continuing but I've also come to notice that there is a price to pay for all this fun. Can we call it loss of innocence?

When first starting to grow JIs I thought most named varieties were spectacular. At one point we had over 270. Some were bought from catalog description but most were seen growing at least once. Now I ask myself "What was I thinking?". Seems once you've bloomed 5-10,000 seedlings you've got a pretty good idea of what's easy to get and conversely what's much more difficult. Faults are painfully obvious but when you turn around and apply the same criteria to named varieties many if not most of them simply don't hold up. Blown centers, poor substance, weak stems, muddy washed out coloring, etc. True, many grow well and are relatively floriferous but so what? If a plant produces mediocre flowers (or worse), I don't care if it produces a lot of them. Four years ago I started marking named JIs that I had serious issues with. The following year we sold 150. Some that were kept we hadn't grown long enough to properly judge and some because we had seedlings in the pipeline. Since then 45 more have been marked for disposal. I can live with the 75 that will remain (for now). I'm not suggesting that the faulty named varieties be banned from commerce. I'm not the iris police. Somebody must like them. I'm also not complaining about the whole adventure. It was a good education and I found a few that while average, are outstanding parents. It's just to breed for excellence one has to be able to live with becoming hyper-critical. Guess that's alright. I'm not worried about it. It used to hit home when non-hybridizing gardening friends would express admiration for a mediocre cultivar. Like an idiot I'd expound on how, no, this was in fact an inferior ornamental plant. The conversation would usually go some thing like this: She (wide-eyed)-"Ooooooh I like that one. What's its

name?”. He- “Oh that? That’s ‘Glorious Blue Perfection’. It’s okay I guess”. She- “Just okay? What’s wrong with it?”. He (Sniffing)- “You mean besides the washed-out magenta coloring, the sloppy form, the fact you can see through it, it melts in the sun, falls over in the rain, and blooms 6” down in the foliage?”. (Awkward silence) He (continuing)- “It’s not all bad though. The good news is it’s a shy bloomer.....and sterile.” (more silence)....Has anyone else had that conversation? Anyway, life’s easier since we cleaned house and I learned to keep my yap shut.

Jill writes: Seedlings always bloom better in their home garden then do introduced things from other gardens. That is why it is good to guest seedlings out before introducing them. I have regretted some of the things that I introduced. Vigor in one garden doesn’t always translate to vigor in other gardens. Even the shape of the flower can change. Our son’s introduction, ENGELTJE (I know it is a hard name but is the nickname of his wife, Angie, and in Dutch means Little Angle.), which always has cute small upright standards with small violet halos in our gardens, in Laurie’s garden had it had huge standards that flop. I had some cute little seedlings about 15” tall and flowers about 2.5” across. I sent them to Currier and they turned into awkward unattractive teenagers about 25” tall.

Sharon writes: Mike, one of the things I enjoy about raising seedlings is the juvenile vigor of young plants. Two years ago we started giving a seedling to everyone who comes to our open garden day. People love to be part of the process and often remark how well THEIR seedling grows. They are proud parents.

Sequential & Continuous Blooming:

Terry writes: We are pursuing the REBLOOM/EVERBLOOM concept as a top priority. The first reselect to reach introduction will be a very nice dark blue 6 fall with 2 double socket branches and a triple terminal. More importantly, it puts up sequential stems for a very long bloom season. It was originally selected for its September bloom, but

since I just transplanted it, it did not rebloom this September. Meanwhile, it is being bred with other blue rebloomers. Several pieces were sent to the next [05] JI convention.

Mike writes: Terry, sequential stalks with seven buds? Wow! I hope that's one extreme trait that carries over to the progeny. Instant breeder.

Lorena writes: Oh yes, Dramatic Moment is presently blooming in the garden. I noticed it when weeding this morning. The blooms are not so large or fully double as in the spring, but hey, it IS in bloom at the end of Oct!

Chad, Washougal, WA—Chad writes: Terry and I are looking for any JIs that have any rebloom on a regular bases. I'll start the list! Can you add others?

Taffeta and Velvet (Ackerman '90). I've tried to grow it 3xs. It blooms so much in the summer that there are no increase for the next year—Bloom Out! Do have forth generation from it that bloom almost all summer. Color in the field now Oct 16. Need to get other JIs to increase the bloodlines.

Terry writes: I would be happy to trade a sequential bloomer.

Jill writes: Chad, the registered cultivar that reblooms for me is ALPINE MAJESTY. I have some seedlings that do too. My seedlings are germinating now and many have rebloom potential. Of course, they are germinating inside as we have 2 feet of snow on the garden. They will be two-year clumps in 2006. ALPINE MAJESTY has 3-4 branches, repeat stalks, and vigor here. It does have more than one bloom open (sometimes 3-4!) at a time but it has so many buds that it still in bloom a long time.

Sharon writes: Chad, since 1997 we have recorded our bloom sequence in a Gardeners Journal. The book is without dates and is organized by months and the weeks within the months. At peak bloom we get swept up with visitors, making crosses and photographing, etc. and our record keeping gets a bit slack. During repeat bloom, there is less demand and we have pretty good records for that period of bloom. I looked in Currier's studbooks (1987-1997) for the varieties he used in late season crosses. A high percentage of these crosses were made with his seedlings under number. He was breeding for repeat bloom. Proven continuing bloomers were used in hybridizing for repeat bloom. Occasionally plants rebloom due to environmental stress (drought, heat) or age of the clump (last gasp phenomena). John White has successfully worked with the continuing and repeating JI.

REPEATERS: Dramatic Moment, Eternal Feminine, Exuberant Chantey, Returning Tide, Triple Threat, Kamo Nurseries' Ogi-no-Mato

CONTINUING BLOOMERS: Continuing Pleasure, Ol' Man River,

OFTEN REPEATING: Katy Mendez, Japanese Pinwheel, Variation in Pink, Kamo Nurseries' Kamiji-no-Homare

It would be interesting to hear how these varieties perform in other areas of the country.

I cannot comment on Taffeta and Velvet because we do not grow it. Where can it be purchased?

Jill writes: Sharon, none of the repeaters that you listed (that I have) repeat for me. Terry, this was a very strange year here but JIs loved it and many of my seedlings repeat bloomed. One seedling which I call 'Sharky' because it has shark tooth edges on the style arms bloomed all summer. There were still 3 stalks with buds when we had a killing freeze in October. This was the third year it bloomed but the first 2 years it only sent up one repeat bloom stalk. A year ago September this seedling was divided into 4 clumps and planted in a fresh bed. Its first bloom stalk was late but between the 4 clumps it sent up bloom stalks all the rest of the summer. 'Sharky' is not registered and won't be because it is very spacey and it can't hold its flowers up. Sometimes it

can't even hold its buds up. I have crossed it with a repeat blooming white double with excellent form and strength so maybe in 2006 I'll have a good 'Sharky'. 'Sharky' is a reddish red-violet double so the seedlings will probably be blue. If not the white double seedling will be even more valuable.

Chad writes: I did notice that the reblooming (hopefully even continuous bloom) seed planted last fall germinated a good 3 weeks before any other, including VE crosses. Been working on this line for 10 years with the help of Terry Aitken and John White. Two germinations ago I had a plant that stayed in bloom for 200 days and with the ugliest flower even seen. This last field of seedlings the flower has been cleaned up but the plants (10 of 75) are back to two months of bloom. I think it's time to cross back to its Great-Great grandparent TAFFETA AND VELVET. (I've never been able to keep it longer than three years - it blooms its self to death with rebloom and no increase).

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

John Coble
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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 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 this winter to work on this with me.



THE SJI IS ONLINE!

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(More information is online. Don't forget to check out the member services and photos while you are there!)

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 POPULARITY POLL

Bruce Filardi, Portland, Oregon

<bfilardi@comcast.net>

Included with this issue is your ballot for the 2006 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 2005 Popularity Poll. 18 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 2005 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

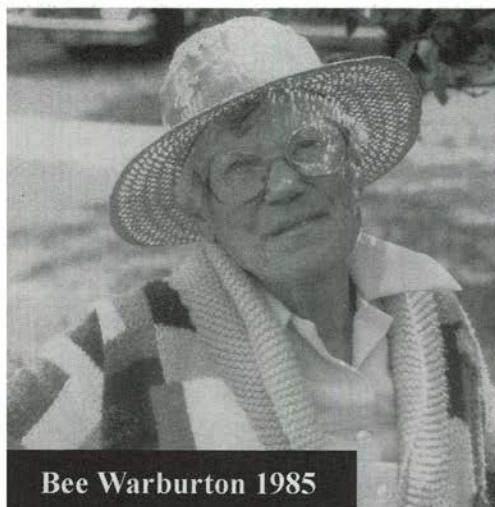
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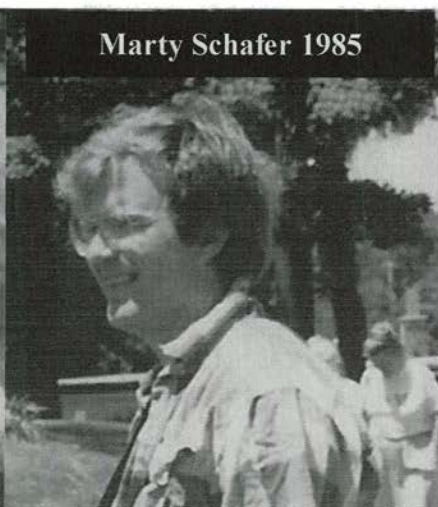
Or you may e-mail your top ten to <bfilardi@comcast.net>

PHOTO CREDITS

Many thanks to Anna Mae Miller, John Coble and Bob Bauer for the pictures that comprise the collage of 1985 and 1989 Convention people on page 44. More of these pictures will appear in future issues



Bee Warburton 1985



Marty Schafer 1985



Three Kazooties 1985



**Coble, Bauer, Warburton, McEwens
1985**



Mahan 1989



Miller 1989



Copelands 1985

FORTY-TWO YEARS GROWING JAPANESE IRIS REMEMBERING CONVENTIONS (PART ONE)

Anna Mae Miller, Kalamazoo, Michigan

The Japanese Iris Society became a section of AIS in 1964. Ronald and I were charter members. Our first JIs were from Walter Marx in 1957. In 1960 Arthur Hazzard joined Southwestern Michigan Iris Society and in 1963 SWMIS staged the first Japanese Iris Show in the US, including Oriental floral designs featuring Japanese iris. Orville Fay and Clarence Blocker of Chicago brought Dr. Shuichi Hirao of Tokyo, Japan. Arlie Payne provided slides of Japanese irises for a continuous showing and a bonsai exhibit.

What a thrill to attend my first AIS 1969 Convention at Boerner Gardens with the three domes, Milwaukee, WI and go to the first meeting of SJI. I took pictures of the officers: Eleanor Westmeyer, Bill Ouweneel, Bee Warburton, Arlie Payne, and Arthur Hazzard.

The Fall of 1982 SWMIS planned a Special Event for Japanese iris for July 5-6, 1985, as a Region 6 (unapproved) event. We called it "Kalamazoo Weekend for Japanese Iris". We asked for guest iris and 16 hybridizers sent 108 guest iris. A surprise! The gardens on tour (comments by Hal Stahly) were Jim and Jill Copeland's, a fish fry lunch was prepared by Jim. Their seedlings and guests iris were enjoyed, Ensata, where John Coble and Bob Bauer had developed a Japanese garden with stone, water, wood, grasses and Japanese iris creating visual harmony and a sense of serenity, Ron and Anna Mae Miller's where perennials grew in profusion, as well as the Siberian and Japanese irises. Lee Welsh's, relatively new garden was beautiful, holding promise of more to come. The iris show had 5 exhibitors with 65 specimens. 'Prairie Noble' (Hazzard 72) was Queen of the Show.

Judges Training was given by Adolph Vogt and Currier McEwen. We had the opportunity to get to know the Japanese Iris hybridizers, officers and 80 members who enjoyed the "weekend" and it was declared the first SJI convention. Adolph Vogt shared his slides of the Japanese Iris Tour to Japan in 1984 Friday evening. Favorite guest irises were 'Oriental Eyes' (Vogt 77), 'Royal Game' (Stahly 83), 'Grape Fizz' (Ackerman 81). Dr. William Ackerman was the banquet speaker on "Genetic Variability of Japanese Irises".

Currier McEwen wanted it to become an annual convention so the Summerville SC group invited SJI to the second one in May, 1987. Currier McEwen was our houseguest which was a real pleasure and we had several more conventions with him. I had the pleasure of directing a siberian hybridizer's round robin he was in from 1970-2003. It was great to know him in person.

Our visit to the second SJI convention in Summerville, SC, late May 1987 was pleasant with a nice show of 42 specimens - Queen of the Show was 'Icy Peaks' (Vogt 81), three gardens were on tour with plantings around lakes and city parks. We enjoyed the southern hospitality. My notes from Dr. William Ackerman's talk are still true for today. "A plant breeder should work on many facets with a number of irons in the fire--only a small percentage will pay off- dead ends." "Progress has been made in 'true' pinks and blues, no success in yellows. Color of the foliage is very dependent on the nutritional condition of the soil. Growth depends on different soil conditions."

Kalamazoo had the third SJI convention in 1988 with 130 attendees, a show with 21 arrangements, 70 specimens and 11 seedlings, an Ikebana exhibit and four gardens on tour including ours where the clary sage and the mullein (*verbascum bombiferum*) seemed to get more attention than the Japanese iris. 'Stately Flamingo' (Vogt 87), Payne's 'Premier Danseur' (65), 'Sheer Fascination' (68) and 'Prairie Mantle' (Hazzard 76) were noted. (I'll never forget one day Ron and I met in the backyard having viewed the garden from different ways and he said

“have you seen L. ‘Brunner Bear’ and I hadn’t yet but I said have you seen Adolph’s ‘Stately Flamingo’?)

The Frances Scott Key and the Chesapeake & Potomac Iris Societies, (MD- D.C.-VA) held the fourth Convention in 1989 with 100 guest iris from Japan and 102 from U. S. hybridizers with 132 attendees from 12 regions. They held their 4th annual beardless iris show with 17 exhibitors showing 163 specimens, Don Delmez, MO, had one on the Queen’s Court.

Howard Brookins, WI attended his first SJI convention, “*What an introduction to the world of Japanese iris! I’d never seen such a collection of huge, beautiful flowers, some as large as dinner plates. Flat form ...so graceful and different compared to TBs. ..Single, three petal blooms to compact blossoms with twelve petals, each type a real beauty. ..Interesting to note that the Queen of the Show , ‘Rose Queen’ (,SJI 89), originally introduced in 1915, was an older three petal variety, an excellent pink iris. ”...Diana & Mike Nicholls garden, what a stop! Imagine seeing iris growing FIVE FEET TALL, if you can.....that’s what greeted us! Diana’s secret is to mulch ..with several inches of horse manure, mixed with the sawdust used as bedding for the horses. ”Carol Warner’s garden with JIs in a mixed perennial bed...outstanding accent plants. ...Third garden was Don Spoons at Georgetown University...healthy plants grown in artificial bogsnext Clarence and Suki Mahan’s city lot with every inch utilized. . ”*

The iris I remember best was ‘Japanese Pinwheel’ (McEwen 88), also the favorite guest, however the garden reports mention how well my ‘Michio’ (88) and ‘Rose Frappe’ (88) were growing plus ‘Kalamazoo’ (Bauer-Coble 89), ‘Cascade Crest’ (Aitken 88) and ‘Little Snowman’ (Vogt 81) were mentioned by several. A gift for each was a reprint of George Reed’s 1931, ‘The Iris of Japan’. SJI agreed to register and pay the fee for 100 irises by Japanese hybridizers.

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