

No 24.

Geishou.

# THE REVIEW

OF THE SOCIETY  
FOR  
JAPANESE IRISES



二十四號  
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VOLUME 44  
NUMBER #1  
SPRING 2007

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# **THE REVIEW OF THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES**

**VOLUME 44**

**NUMBER 1**

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INSERT - Popularity Poll Ballot - Return by August 1, 2007



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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

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# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Dennis Hager*

## Educating the Public

Providing information and correcting misinformation about Japanese irises should be one of our highest priorities. It was over fifty years ago that Walter Marx's color catalogs featured these unique plants, yet many avid gardeners have never grown them. Even worse, some gardeners think they are growing Japanese irises, when they actually grow Siberian irises or *Iris pseudacorus*.

In 1950, Walter Marx's color catalogs were cutting technology. Today, we have incredible resources. We will continue rely on publications such as the SJI Review and the Internet provides us with a mechanism to reach many more people and provide information, however the best way to educate is still with the flower in glorious bloom. The display garden program and AIS exhibitions do just that.

This year, I would like for each of you to try a new method to educate the public about Japanese irises. I call it the One Entry Japanese Iris Exhibition. The concept is simple. When your Japanese irises are at peak, take flowers to places in your community where they will be seen along with information. I have prepared suggested guidelines and information for you. It is published here on the next page and on the SJI website at [www.socji.org](http://www.socji.org).

Have a great gardening season.

*Dennis*



# UNOFFICIAL ONE ENTRY JAPANESE IRIS EXHIBITION

**Purpose** – To educate people about Japanese irises

**Exhibition location** – Limited only by your imagination and chutzpah. Obvious possibilities include medical or dental offices, bank lobbies, hardware stores, pharmacies, convenience store checkout, garden centers, church vestibules and restaurants.

**Containers** – Containers should have a small footprint, so they do not take up much space in their exhibition location. Wine bottles work well.

**Specimen selection** – Fresh stalks in loose bud or first-day bloom should be selected to assure extended cut flower life.

**Placement in Container** - Entry may be one single stalk or multiple stalks. Be sure to allow room for each flower to be easily seen. Avoid European or mass flower arrangements that take up much space. Cut stems so that the flower is below eye level.

**Placement at Exhibition** – Carry the entry into the target establishment and request that it be placed in a location for patrons to enjoy. Do not be surprised if the host location asks for additional entries. Be sure to explain that the flowers will last for only a few days and should then be discarded.

**Label** – Entry should identify the plant by common, botanical name and contact information for the Society for Japanese Irises, as well as local Iris Society contact information. Contact information should be on tear-off tab.

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**THESE RULES ARE SUBJECT TO REVISION AND  
CHANGE AT AIS DISCRETION  
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## ROBINS FLYING AGAIN!

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### SJI REVIEW

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

# GEISHOU

*By Clarence Mahan*

I am writing a book that I have tentatively titled *Japanese Irises: One-Hundred Woodblock Prints*. Some years ago I was fortunate to be able to purchase a boxed set of two volumes containing 100 woodblock prints. The seller knew nothing about this set of prints except that they were produced in Japan circa 1900. When I saw the prints I thought that they were most likely the famed wholesale catalogue of the Yokohama Nursery Company, all copies of which were thought to have been lost.

If you look up the entry “Yok” in the 1939 *Alphabetical Iris Check List* you will find information on the Yokohama Nursery Company, which at the turn of the last century had offices in New York City, San Francisco and London. The entry mentions “three books of color plates” and concludes with these words: “All their old catalogues and reserve supply of books were destroyed in the earthquake fire.”

As many others had assumed, I thought all copies of the “books of color plates” had been destroyed in the 1923 earthquake that nearly destroyed Tokyo and Yokohama. This turned out to be incorrect. The “three books of color plates” mentioned in the 1939 *Alphabetical Iris Check List* were actually three boxed sets, each containing two volumes of mounted prints. Each volume has 50 prints. In addition to the set I own, the Royal Horticultural Society’s Lindley Library has a set. The third set was cannibalized, and individual prints from the set sometimes are sold at art auctions. Several posters have been made from several of the prints from the cannibalized set; I have seen these posters offered for sale on the Internet.

The plan for my book is to provide general information on the Japanese iris and its history. It will be illustrated with all 100 woodblock prints. My plan is provide notes on each print to explain

what is known about the iris depicted and provide information about the iris's name and its relevance to Japanese history and culture. I tell you this as an introduction to this little essay on the iris 'Geishoui,' which is depicted in print number 24.

#### No. 24. Geishoui

'Geishoui' is a treasured iris in Japan because of its history and because of its unique beauty. Matsudaira Shôh, the most celebrated of all Japanese iris hybridizers, spent most of his adult life striving to breed a multipetal iris—an iris with a flower "like a peony." Late in life he had his first success with the seedling he named 'Uchu.' Subsequently, a multipetal seedling with well-formed, large maroon flowers, white halos and white veins appeared in his garden. Matsudaira named it 'Geishoui.' This was in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. 'Geishoui' has been a favorite in Japan ever since that time.

The name of this iris is written with four Chinese ideographs. The name is pronounced, as are almost all Japanese words, with no emphasis or stress on any syllable or word. The first kanji character is "gei," pronounced geh ç. It means "rainbow." The second ideograph, which means "skirt," is "sho," pronounced shô. The third kanji character is "u," pronounced oo. This ideograph means "feather." The last Chinese character is "i," which means "robe" and is pronounced ç. Thus, 'Geishoui' is correctly pronounced geh ç shô oo ç. The literal meaning of the four kanji characters are "Rainbow Skirt Feather Robe."

The last two kanji characters in the name 'Geishoui,' have an alternative pronunciation. Although the meaning is the same, these two characters are also pronounced "hagoromo." The most popular of all Noh plays is Hagoromo, or "Feather Robe." There is a dance in this play called "Geishoui."

The plot of the Noh play Hagoromo is based on a legend known to every Japanese schoolchild. The ancient folktale upon which it is



based is called Tsuru no Ongaeshi, often mistranslated as “Crane Wife” but which actually means “Crane’s Repayment for Kindness.” It is a very old story that been adapted and changed by different Asian cultures over its long history. It is associated with Buddhism in China, Korea and Japan but its origin in India predates the founding of that religion. The story came to Japan from China and Korea during the Tang Dynasty (618-907 CE).

The plot of the story is simple. A tennin (Sanskrit: asparas) is a female celestial being similar to an angel. A tennin can fly with the aid of her robe of many-colored (rainbow) feathers. A tennin comes to earth and takes off her robe of feathers to bathe. A man comes by and hides her robe of feathers. The female spirit, unable to return to heaven, marries the man. The man promises to return the robe of feathers if the spirit will dance for him. She puts on the robe of feathers and dances. She then flies away to heaven. The Japanese legend places these events on the beach of Miyo at Shizuoka.

There are many versions of the hagaromo legend. In the version my wife learned as a small girl in Korea, the man who found the robe of feathers was a woodcutter. When he married the heavenly spirit, he was warned by a wise man to keep the robe hidden until his wife bore him three children. After his second child was born the woodcutter was so happy that he relented and returned the robe to his wife. She at once donned the robe and, grasping a child in each arm, flew back to heaven. If the woodcutter had only waited for the third child she would have had to remain on earth because she could not have carried three children in her arms.

*Editor’s Note: Thanks to Clarence for providing the cover picture of print number No. 24. Geishoui*



# JAPANESE IRIS CONVENTION IN 2008

*By Jim Copeland, Lawton, MI*

The National Japanese Iris Convention in 2008 will be in Kalamazoo, Michigan and is sponsored by Southwestern Michigan Iris Society (SWMIS).

Jim Copeland is the chairman of this convention and Jim Welch is the registrar. We haven't set dates but it will probably be July 3, 4, & 5 but maybe June 26, 27, & 28. We will have 4 gardens on tour. The Copeland garden (Lawton) and Ensata Gardens (Galesburg) are production gardens with lots of JIs all in rows. The other 2 gardens are landscape gardens. The O'Melay garden (Wyoming, MI) and the fourth garden, the Munson Garden, is a shade garden on Crooked Lake (Portage) and while they don't have masses of JIs both are magnificent gardens.

Bob Bauer is the guest iris chairman. We have about 260 guest plants with many pseudatas (*I. pseudacorus* X *I. ensata*). The guests are from all over the country and Japan. We are planning to have 2 days of bus trips visiting 2 of the gardens each day. We will have a "slide" show evening on Thursday to start the convention. Anyone can bring slides or CDs of Japanese Irises they have seen or new seedlings they are working on. Sometime during the convention, we will have Garden Judges Training and an auction with some of the guest plants and anything else anyone donates.

Those of you that came to the Region 6 Spring Tour 2006 during JI bloom time, will want to come back and those that missed it, will definitely not want to miss this one.

# DIGGING AND DIVIDING JAPANESE IRISES

*R. Dennis Hager. Millington, MD*

No plant evaluation is complete until the roots have been examined. Since irises are dug and divided frequently, we have many opportunities to learn more about the plants we love. Understanding the function and life-cycle of the root is important to understanding the plant.

Irises are monocots and the root system is typically adventitious. Instead of an upside-down tree form, the roots form at the base of the fan, with very little branching. New fans (increases) arise along the leaf axils. For the increase to grow, new roots must develop to support the increase. This is easy to observe in tall bearded and Louisiana irises, with their plump horizontal rhizomes, ground level rhizomes and wide leaf spacing. Japanese irises, with crowns below the soil surface, have slender rhizomes and tight vertical growth, making the origination of increases more difficult to observe. It's only during digging and dividing that origination of increases can be seen.

Increases that have established a healthy root system will usually bloom the following year. With good culture, many increases will form. Initially, growth will be supported by the mother rhizome and root system, but by the end of the growing season, the spent rhizome and the supporting root system will begin to die. Young healthy roots are white, while the older roots take on a rust red color. Young roots that are damaged will show spots of the red color also.

How many increases should you expect with Japanese irises? With good culture, a single fan will produce at least four increases and with some cultivars, many more. I have dissected rhizomes and counted as many as twelve increases in various stages of development on a single fan. The limiting factor on their development is the length of the growing season.

Since new growth is concentrated in such a tight area, root crowding can easily occur. The photograph shows the roots of a typical 2-year seedling with 8 new fans. Notice the density of the roots. The darker roots in the center are supporting the fans that developed the previous year. Increases develop exponentially and you can see that very soon the plant will need to be divided.

Plants that are not divided will go into decline. Initially, flower size and height will be affected. For the hobbyist, that may not be of concern, but for the gardener who shows competitively, it is very important. If the roots of spent rhizomes do not deteriorate rapidly, the new roots will not be able to penetrate deep enough for water and nutrients and decline will result in death. When dividing a plant, look for old roots. If they are still recognizable after the second year, they may be contributing to the decline of the plant. In some cases, that rate of deterioration may have a genetic component.

Crowding is not the only factor contributing to decline and the need to divide and replant. Increases generally grow with their crown elevated higher than the spent rhizome from which it develops. Even without crowding, some cultivars tend to grow out of the ground more quickly than others. When cutting into a rhizome, take note of the relative position of spent rhizomes and new increases. You may be able to predict which cultivars need to be replanted more frequently.

In summary, paying attention to the little details when you dig and divide your Japanese irises can help you understand the subtle nuances of these remarkable plants.





# PROGRESS IN TETRAPLOID JAPANESE IRIS

*by Jill Copeland, Lawton, MI*

I have been trying to make tetraploid Japanese iris seedlings for 35-40 years. I started about the time Currier McEwen did. I did take time out to go back to school, work, and raise 3 children but still I didn't make any progress. Currier helped me with counsel and gifts of tetraploid seedlings.

During that time, we lived at the State Fish Hatchery. I did have an acre to use but the pH of the soil was 8. We had plenty of water but its pH was 7.8. Besides the pH problems, we didn't know good JI culture and with small children around, colchicine treatments were limited.

Thirteen years ago, we moved to our present location. The JI's growth improved immediately but we didn't have a good watering system. We also, didn't have the culture regime that we do now (fall 2005 issue of the review).

Some of you may have noticed at the '06 Region 6 convention that I have quite a few tetraploid seedlings. I was asked to what I owe my new found success.

The first step was to develop a good culture schedule. Briefly, Jim works up the ground to get rid as many weeds as he can, spreads an inch of horse manure, and tills it in. Then he levels the new bed, sprays a preemergent herbicide, and mulches with chopped straw. Jim has put in a good watering system and I fertilize with 19, 19, 19 every month or so over the growing season.

The second step is to use fertile tet JIs as parents. That may seem a no brainer but tet JIs are notoriously infertile. With some correspondence with Currier I found out that 'Blueberry Rimmed', 'Dramatic Pattern', 'Royal Burgundy', 'Japanese Pinwheel', 'Thoroughbred', 'Triple Threat', 'Maine Chance' and 'Raspberry Rimmed' are fertile. Using these cultivars gave modest success. I have since found that 'Maine Charm' and 'Whiting' are pollen fertile.

The next piece of information, which greatly helped, came from Lee Walker. Lee had lots of tet JI seedlings which he got by using older



pollen, using lots of pollen, and applying cell sap to the stigmatic lip prior to pollination. Lee found that the pollen from tet JIs needs time to ripen. He, also, found that the stigmatic lips of tet JIs are dry, especially, after a day or so. He and I get the moisture by breaking the style crests. Others break a leaf and apply the resulting moisture to the stigmatic lip. You may wonder how do the bees do it. The answer is they don't. None of the "bee" pods on tet JIs, in my garden, have ever had good seeds in them. There have been some spontaneous tetraploid JIs like 'Fourfold Mystery' and 'Pink Mystery'. You can assume there have been others but no "wild" tet JI has ever developed into a reproducing colony.

I had always spread pollen to as many different flowers as I could thinking it didn't require much pollen to make full pods of seeds. After all, bees only apply a small amount of pollen to each stigma that they visit. But they spend most of the day spreading a small amount of pollen resulting in 100 or so small amounts. I would rather apply a lot at one time instead of reapplying 100 times.

What you saw in our garden last year were seedlings from tet JI times tet JI. My conversions, so far, haven't had that much success.

*Editor's Note: From the hybridizer's critical perspective, there may not be an absolute success, however there are some incredible flowers in her seedling bed.*



Don Delmez receiving Payne Medal from Jill Copeland

# SEEDLINGS AT THE REGION 6 SPRING TOUR IN KALAMAZOO

*By Rita Gormley, Cedar Hill, MO*

One of the most exciting things about attending a Tour/Convention is seeing all the new seedlings that are being evaluated. The Region 6 Spring Tour 2006 had approximately 45 Guest Seedlings and we saw even more as “resident” seedlings in the two hybridizer’s gardens on tour.

Copeland Garden and Ensata Gardens had almost peak JI bloom the first weekend in July and an enthusiastic group of Region 6 and JI lovers from across the country had a wonderful time. Two hours of training for Garden Judging was provided on JI and Species and especially emphasized growing conditions as well as form and durability.

In no particular order, other than color balance on the page, are pictures some of our favorite seedlings blooming the Tour.

Bauer-Coble seedling J04A was really attractive although its sibling was tagged for introduction. We know hybridizers look for more than a “pretty face” ! Jill Copeland’s white seedling, O-7T, was crisp and stood out in the sunlight. Phil Cook’s petite 9512-1205 was full of buds in a nice clump. Seedling Lee Walker-93-81-25 was dark and beautiful in both Host gardens. Bauer-Coble-J99J-2 shows very attractive ruffling-in-the-middle with fancy style-arms. Copeland P-28 paraded many shades of the same color.

It is fun to see what the future holds!



Bauer-Coble #J04A



Copeland #P-28



Cook #9512-1205



Walker #93-81

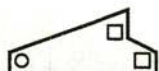


Bauer-Coble in Garden



Luke in Copeland Garden





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## HIROSHI SHIMIZU AWARDED AIS HYBRIDIZERS MEDAL

Many iris hybridizers have bred irises with new colors and new color patterns. Only a handful of hybridizers have created new types of irises. One man who has created a new type of iris is Hiroshi Shimizu of Japan. Before Shimizu created his eye-shadow irises, a couple of iris breeders had successfully bred hybrids of *Iris ensata* and *Iris pseudacorus*, notably Dr. Osugi's 'Aichi no Kagayaki' and Mr. Ueki's 'Kinboshi.' These hybrids all had yellow flowers and yellow-green foliage.

Hiroshi Shimizu began a program to create improved hybrids of *Iris ensata* and *Iris pseudacorus* in 1993. He obtained seeds of many different strains of *Iris pseudacorus* from the British Iris Society Seed Exchange. He grew these seeds in pots, as he grows all of his irises. When the *Iris pseudacorus* seedlings came into bloom, Shimizu pollinated about 100 of them with mixed pollen from Japanese irises. The seedlings that resulted from the pod of an *Iris pseudacorus* that Shimizu subsequently named 'Gubijin' were remarkable in their colors and color pattern diversity. The seedlings had two things in common, namely a striking, deep blue violet halo and green, not yellow-green, foliage.

Subsequently, Shimizu made many crosses using 'Gubijin' as the pod parent and various Japanese irises as pollen parents. Shimizu has selected several hundred of the best of these and calls them eye-shadow irises, a name derived from the blue-violet halo on the falls of the flower. Although these hybrid irises are apparently sterile, they are very vigorous and make wonderful garden plants with flowers having colors and patterns that have never before seen in an iris garden. Although only three of these eye-shadow irises have been introduced in the U.S. so far, many more will be introduced in the future. Those who attended the SJI convention in 2005 saw several of the eye-shadow irises, including 'Soushu' and 'Kouryu,' pictures of which are posted on the web site of the Society for Japanese Irises.



## Hiroshi Shimizu -continued

Shimizu's spectacular success with interspecies hybrids does not detract from his outstanding career as a breeder of first-rate Japanese irises, several of which have been first introduced in the United States, such as 'Reisyun', 'Koshui No Asa', and 'Yaemonmiji'. Outstanding among his irises seen at Japanese iris conventions have been 'Hoshi No Kaidan', 'Saig No Kotei', and 'Hengen'. Among his many Japanese iris creations, 'Kasenzakura', 'Gyokuryu Setuzan' and 'Nouhime' are the cultivars of which he is most pleased.

Hiroshi Shimizu was born in Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan in 1953. He and his wife Yoko have two daughters, Keiko and Akiko and they live in Sagamihara, south of Tokyo. Shimizu graduated from Nihon University in 1975 with a degree in plant genetics and plant breeding. He also holds a degree from Nihon Medical Technology College and is a qualified medical technologist in blood transfusion medicine. His current position is Chief of Blood Quality Control at the Tokyo western blood center of the Japan Red Cross. He is a director of the Japan Iris Society and is the AIS Registrar's coordinator for Japan. He has written many articles for the AIS Bulletin, The Review of the SJI, and the British Iris Society Year Book. He also breeds *Hepatica nobilis* var. *japonica*.

All of Hiroshi Shimizu irises are grown and bred in his small garden in Sagamihara. The irises are grown in pots tier upon tier. Many people who had such limited space would think that hybridizing irises would be impossible. Hiroshi Shimizu has used the space to create scores of new, lovely Japanese irises and a new race of irises of incredible beauty.

Clarence Mahan

# **2009 SIBERIAN/SPECIES BEARDLESS CONVENTION**

Minnesota 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 2007

Fall Shipments – until September 15

Fall 2007

Guest Iris registrar:

Barbara Sautner

2100 W. 106<sup>th</sup> St.

Bloomington, MN.44431-3418

[bjstaxservice@aol.com](mailto:bjstaxservice@aol.com)

952-884-8254

# 2006 REGISTRATIONS AND INTRODUCTIONS

Compiled by John Coble with assistance from Bob Pries  
AIS data supplied by Mike Lowe

**ANGELIC CHOIR** (Harris, Chad) 2005 Aitken Salmon Creek Gardens  
2006

**BARE LEIGH WHITE** (Mull, Bill) : 2006. {Sdlg: 24A-03}. (34in 86  
cm) M (3F). White self (RHS 155A), signal near white (155C).  
[Neat Eh X Janice Ann.]

**BELGIUM SKY** (Hublau, Willy) 1996 Delmez 2006

**BEYOND CHANCE** (Delmez, Donald) 2000: *HM 2006*

**BEYOND EXPECTATIONS** (Delmez, Donald) : 2006. {Sdlg:  
DDKPRU}. (32in 81 cm) M (6F). Style arms pink, multiple; F.  
dark pink fading to light pink at tips, light yellow-green signals;  
very ruffled. [Saigyo zakura X Dreams Unfold]

**BOUNTIFUL BLESSINGS** (Delmez, Donald) : 2006. {Sdlg: DBWST-  
2}. (34in 86 cm) M (6F). Style arms white, midrib and tips blue;  
F. sky blue lightly veined blue, yellow signals; ruffled. [Azure  
Heaven X Spirit Lake]

**BROKEN ENCHANTMENT** (James, Ronald) : 2006. {Sdlg:  
0022005}. (32-35 in, 81-89 cm) M (6F). Wine red and violet,  
speckled and striped white, yellow signal; style arms white edged  
violet; broken color pattern; slight musky fragrance [Epimetheus  
X Shingo]

**BYBROOK AILEEN DADSWELL** (Lewis, Gary) : 2006. {Sdlg:  
0898}. (33in 85 cm) M (3F). Medium pink self, signal lavender-  
pink halo [World's Delight X Rose Queen]

**BYBROOK ELECTRIC STORM** (Lewis, Gary) : 2006. {Sdlg:  
2599}. (26in 65 cm) M (6F). Redpurple splashed and streaked  
with white; style arms white stained red-purple, crests redpurple  
[Capaneus X Grape Fizz]

**CARING LEIGH** (Mull, Bill) : 2006. {Sdlg: 21A-03}. (37in 94 cm) M  
(3F). S. purple (RHS 187A); style arms white (155B), crests  
grey purple (RHS 187C); F. purple (187A) fading to veining at  
near white edges, signal yellow (2A) [Neat Eh X Frances Mae]



- CHRISTINA'S GOWN** (Copeland, Jill) : 2006. {Sdlg: 8-N}. (43in 109 cm) EML (6F). Style arms white (RHS 155A) tipped violet purple (82A); F. darker violet blue than (90A), rimmed (155A), veined (82A), signal yellow orange (14A); ruffled [27-I X Snook] Ensata 2006
- CRAOLA RIO** (Walker, Lee) : 2006. {Sdlg: C-96-75-10}. (31.5in 80cm) M (6F). Blue violet halo becoming medium violet veined blue violet, light violet dusting forming rim, signals medium yellow; style arms grey-violet center, medium violet rim and tip; petaloids cream with light violet tip [Jocasta X 93-68-2: (Nobori-Ryu x Fuji)]
- CROWN IMPERIAL** (Bauer/Coble) 2001: *HM 2006*
- DIRIGO AICHI SHIROI** (White, John) : 2006. {Sdlg: }. (30in 76 cm) EM SPEC X (3F). White self, S. upright; small yellow signal [Aichi-no-Kagayaki, colchicine treated]
- DIRIGO CIRCLE PINK** (White, John) : 2006. {Sdlg: 99-W4-2}. (36in 91 cm) EML (3F). S. white edged pale pink; style arms creamy yellow; F. white edged pale pink, green in throat, edges lightly ruffled, yellow signal [95AA-W16-7: (unknown x 95JF-W16-3) X 95JF-W11-3: (92GA2- 11: (Aitken 86J-1-4: (Ruby Star x Asian Warrior) x Momojido) x Hana-no-Yoi)]
- DIRIGO GARNET** (White, John) : 2006. {Sdlg: 01-R2-47}. (44-46in 112-117 cm) ML (3F). S. red; style arms white tipped red; F. red, white blaze, small yellow signal; S. held at 45° [98JC-MW2-2: (95C-A1-9 x Reisyun) X 98JB-MW2-1: (92G-A6-7 x Momomatsuri)]
- DIRIGO RED ROCKET** (White, John) 2000: *HM 2004, AM 2006*
- ESPATA** (Copeland, Jill) 2001: *HM 2006*
- EXTASE** (Cayeux, R.) : 2006. {Sdlg: 8407A}. (31in 80 cm) M (6F). Blue amethyst washed blue around golden yellow signals, blue-white striations [Parentage unknown]
- FRIEND LEIGH** (Mull, Bill) : 2006. {Sdlg: 16D-02}. (35in 89 cm) M (6F). Style arms white (RHS 155A) tipped red purple (82A); F. white, red purple veins coalescing to solid band at edge, signal yellow (12A); slight fragrance [Prairie Snow X Prairie Twilight]
- GEORGE RODIONENKO** (Huber, Tony) 1999 Iris City 2006
- GINGHAM GEISHA** (Hager, Dennis) 2004 Academy House 2006

- GREYWOODS COLD SMOKE** (Wilkinson, Darlyn) : 2006. {Sdlg: 01-48}. (36in 91 cm) ML (6F). Style arms white centers, medium blue edges and tips; F. clear medium blue, white center, white rays, few blue specks, small yellow-green signals; flat form [Electric Glow X 93-12: (91-1: (Crystal Halo x Strut and Flourish) x Midsummer Reverie)] Greywood Farm 2006
- GREYWOODS GENTLE REFRAIN** (Wilkinson, Darlyn) : 2006. {Sdlg: 02-5}. (38in 97 cm) M (6F). Style arms clean white tipped light pink; F. clear white centers, wide light pink borders, white rays extending into wavy borders, signals veined yellow gold [Greywoods Antique Blush X Pink Ringlets] Greywood Farm 2006
- GREYWOODS MAYBERRY LULLABY** (Wilkinson, Darlyn) : 2006. {Sdlg: 01-53}. (32in 81 cm) ML (6F). Style arms hazy white, rose violet borders, darker at tips; F. white, rose violet pencil veins, more dense at rims, some rose violet flecking throughout, signals deep greenish-yellow [Sapphire Crown X 93-12, pollen parent of Greywoods Cold Smoke] Greywood Farm 2006
- GREYWOODS QUICKSILVER** (Wilkinson, Darlyn) : 2006. {Sdlg: 00-82}. (34in 86 cm) EM (6F). Style arms clean white, hint of yellow at base; F. clean white, signals green yellow lines radiating outward; flat form [Nemurijishi X Tideline] Greywood Farm 2006
- GREYWOODS TIANA** (Wilkinson, Darlyn) : 2006. {Sdlg: 01-36}. (28in 71 cm) M (6F). Style arms deep violet-blue rimmed white, wide white tips; F. clear white, deep violet-blue pencil lines radiating out in center, signals vivid green-yellow [Greywoods Lady Luck X Sky and Mist] Greywood Farm 2006
- GREYWOODS ZAMPATA** (Wilkinson, Darlyn) : 2006. {Sdlg: 02-29B}. (36in 91 cm) E (6F). Style arms satiny violet, white at tips; F. white shaded raspberry violet, lighter at rims, deep violet-purple center halo with heavy raspberry-purple lines, signal bright green, yellowlined; wavy form [Greywoods Social Butterfly X Sapphire Crown] Greywood Farm 2006
- LADY IN PINK** (Aitken, J. T.) : 2006. {Sdlg: 98J5B}. (44in 112 cm) ML (3F). S. light pink; style arms white, pink rim; F. light pink, deeper at light yellow signal. . Aitken 2006. [96J-2-12: (Hatsu Kagami x Pink Ringlets) X Hime Kagami] Aitken Salmon Creek Garden 2006

- LAVENDER BLUE SKIES** (Walker, Lee) 2005 Wildwood Gardens 2006
- MAGIC ENCHANTMENT** (James, Ronald) : 2006. {Sdlg: 0022008}. (32-35in 81- 89 cm) EM (6F). White background veined dark purple in varying amounts, yellow signal surrounded by short dark purple rays; style arms purple tipped white; slight sweet fragrance [Epimetheus X Shingo]
- MULBERRY TANGO** (Walker, Lee) : 2006. {Sdlg: 94-33-24}. (33.5in 85 cm) M (6F). Grey ground, medium red-violet speckled blue-violet halo, blue-violet and grey veins running down to  $\frac{3}{4}\frac{1}{2}$  from edge, dark yellow signals; style arms white, medium red-violet-mulberry edge and tips; petaloids grey violet tipped violet; ruffled [Iapetus X Summer Splash]
- OREGON MARMALADE** (Walker, Lee) 2002: *HM 2006*
- REBECCA JOHNS** (Carter, Galen) : 2006. {Sdlg: }. (30in 76 cm) ML (3F). S. red purple, rounded at end; style arms stippled pale smokey purple, paler center, purple tips, white midrib and throat; F. deep purple, fading at edges, shield shaped; signals white, slight blue rays ending in narrow white center stripe, deep yellow and very small in throat [unknown]
- RIVULETS OF WINE** (Aitken, J. T.) 1999: *HM 2002, AM 2006*
- ROWDEN DICTATOR** (Carter, Galen) : 2006. {Sdlg: }. (30in 76 cm) L (6F). Style arms white, blue speckles thicker at tips, narrow blue midrib, short, very ruffled; F. white lightly veined blue, inner 3 more lightly veined, slightly ruffled; signal bright yellow, rays extending down F [Rowden Autocrat sport]
- SHAPE SHIFTER** (Hensler, Christy Ann) 2002 Rock Garden 2006
- SILESIAN DRAMA** (Seidl, Zdenek) : 2006. {Sdlg: 99-CBPA/6}. (24in 60cm) L (6F). Violet veined darker, becoming more blue near yellow signals, slightly lighter edge; style arms rich purple; wide and waved [Caprician Butterfly X Port Arthur]
- SILESIAN LAGOON** (Seidl, Zdenek) : 2006. {Sdlg: 02-CB.PeFu/38}. (35in 90 cm) M (6F). Dark blue, edge more violet, yellow signal; style arms violet, dark blue edge; wide flat flaring form. [Caprician Butterfly X (Persephone x "Fushijama")]
- SILESIAN NIGHT** (Seidl, Zdenek) : 2006. {Sdlg: 02-CB.PeFu/2}. (31in 80 cm) EM (6F). Velvety rich purple, outer edges with short blue-violet rays near deep yellow signals; style arms slightly lighter than F [Caprician Butterfly X (Persephone x "Fushijama")]



**SIMPLY STATED** (Hager, Dennis) 2004 Academy House 2006

**SING THE BLUES** (Reid, Lorena) 1997: *HM 2000, AM 2004, PM 2006*

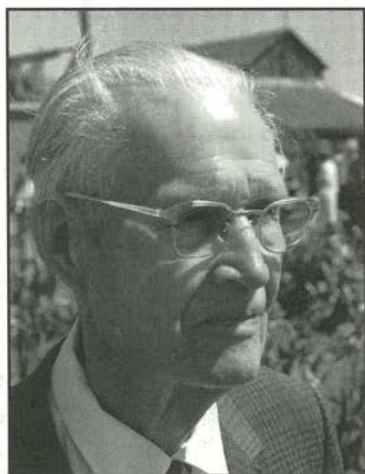
**SIT RIGHT DOWN** (Walker, Lee) 2005 Eartheart 2006

**SPECIAL LEIGH YOURS** (Mull, Bill) : 2006. {Sdlg: 27A-03}. (25in 64cm) M (3F). S. violet blue (RHS 89A), style arms same, grey purple (187A) crests; F. violet blue (89A), spot and veins transitioning to light violet (88C) at edge, signal yellow (14A) [Frances Mae X unknown]

**SUNRISE RIDGE** (Harris, Chad) : 2006. {Sdlg: 97JE1}. (40in 102cm) M (6F). Style arms and crests white lightly edged hyacinth violet (RHS 83C); F. hyacinth violet, 1¼-½ petunia violet (82A) band, white rays from signal to within ¼-½ of edge, signal golden glow yellow (17C) [Bauer/Coble J90G4: (inv. Kyokko and Rose Prelude) X Mai Hime]

**VISION OF BEAUTY** (Delmez, Donald) : 2006. {Sdlg: DDKRVO}. (38in 97 cm) M (6F). Style arms red violet, darker than F., large, upright; F. dark red-violet, velvet sheen, bright yellow signal; ruffled [Flanders Lion X Graceful Dancer]

**WIND GLIDER** (Copeland, Jill) : 2006. {Sdlg: 12-N}. (45in 114 cm) M (3F). S. violet (RHS 83B); style arms mineral violet (84D) veined (83B); F. white (155D) veined violet (87B), signal dresden yellow (5B) and yellow green (154A) [8-K X Yodo-No-Kawase] Ensata 2006



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## CHIRPS FROM THE JAPANESE IRIS HYBRIDIZER'S ROBIN

*Jill Copeland Reporter*

SJI continues to have a very lively exchange of ideas and experiences among many of the prominent Japanese iris hybridizers of today. Many of the postings in this robin pertain to cultural practices that all growers can learn from and show the differences in conditions.

We greatly appreciate the sharing of their Robin with all SJI members. If you have specific questions on a particular item, please send them to the Editor or to the on-line SJI Robin.

**Jill Copeland, Lawton, MI** writes: Sharon, that is a good idea to compare soils from "virgin soil" from different parts of the country. Also, we should test the soil from those gardens in areas where JIs are in decline. Maybe we could get AIS to fund the research. We should look at micro orgasms, micro and macro elements, and toxins. Anyone have more suggestions?

In your leaching experiment, did you continue the water into the winter? Are you still continuing?

Mike, I think John Coble agrees with you that the trouble with JI decline is mechanical. I am sure that is some of it. I think that Chad's "bog study" supports that idea, too. I think Chad has the right setting for the JI evolution. I grew some species JIs from seed and after 3 years they had built themselves up out of the ground. By the next year, they had died.

**Sharon Whitney, Harpswell, ME** writes: Our leaching experiment came to an abrupt halt when we had a cold and open winter. The plants were weak from being in that failing state and died. The plants that lived were the plants we installed in "new soil". I would like to start up the study again and may if I can find the help and energy. I used 5 gallon buckets with a small hole about two or three inches up from the bottom through which the water or water mix would slowly flow. I watered from April until November when it became too cold to continue. We did not water in the winter. After December in Maine, the hoses are frozen and it would have been too hard for me to accomplish.



Here are the comments of a friend who is recently retired from The Bowdoin College chemistry department.

"It does seem that the JI's are putting something in the soil that is water soluble - which is why they thrive for extended periods along the margins of ponds and why leaching restores the soil. For this reason, it would be interesting to make water extracts of soils where they had been grown, and see if the extracts were toxic. Also, I wonder if they might be modifying the pH of the soil - e.g., making it so basic that they could no longer grow. One could test this idea by buffering the soil with a weak acid and see if that protected them. In this connection, it should be easy to measure pH changes produced by the roots in direct experiments. Anyway, it is an interesting problem that should not be completely intractable."

**Chad Harris, Washougal, WA**—Chad writes: Two years ago I transplanted the named JI field into an old seedling field after amending the soil with approximately 6" of compost. The named JIs took off and are doing great. I did notice this year digging orders that there seemed to be less nematode damage where the compost was put down the heaviest.

I also left some old clumps of JIs in place (4 year old plants) and buried half of the plants with 6-8" of pure compost. The half that did not get a top dressing grew and bloomed at 24" instead of 36" to 42". There also was very little or no increase this summer. The half that got compost shot up even taller than last year with very strong bloom and increase the size of a 2 year old fan. Upon digging to inspect the root system, the composted plants had a new layer of roots twice the thickness of the roots below them. Also very noticeable was the lack of nematode damage - virtually none. As for the roots below in the soil, they were bright orange. The plants that did not get compost (5 years old this year) had no roots or very few. Some of the plants are totally dead - the crowns climbed right out of the soil. I tried the compost not for the nematodes but to see how long a clump of JIs can be grown in a average garden setting before being forced to lift and divide. But after looking up nematodes in *The World of Iris* page 342 "Some nematodes are discouraged by increasing the organic content of the soil".

## NOMINATION COMMITTEE REPORT

There being no further nominations subsequent to the Nomination Report published in the Fall 2006 SJI REVIEW, page 38. The officers for 2007 to 2010 are:

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

SARON HAYES WHITNEY, BARBARA AITKEN, JOHN COBLE

### **SJI 2007 CONVENTION MEETINGS - OKC**

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

2:00pm - 3:00pm Society for Japanese Irises Bd Meeting

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

4:30pm - 5:30pm Society for Japanese Iris Program

**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>

## EDITOR'S ESSAY

Now that the worst of the winter is (hopefully) behind us, we are all looking forward to Spring and the joy it brings to gardeners as well as the world! We hope you all will seek out and visit the SJI Display Gardens near you or on your way to anywhere you may travel. AIS Judges especially need to take the opportunity to see all kinds, and the newest, in JIs!

In doing research for the Median Iris Society History issue, I found some pictures and some articles pertaining to SJI and am including some in this issue. Hope you enjoy them and please send any old items of interest for our archives!

Speaking of archives, our heartfelt thanks go to Jody Nolin for all her work on the SJI Index (see article in this issue) as this valuable tool has been on our to-do list for some time! This will make finding previously printed articles so much easier. The total list, in searchable format, will soon be on the SJI Website for your convenience.

Adam Cordes of Hillman, Michigan attended the Region 6 2006 Tour in Kalamazoo and has provided great pictures to use in this and future issues of the SJI REVIEW. We are printing some of his seedling pictures to show all of you what is coming in the future! Thanks, Adam, for sharing your photographic skills and enthusiasm.

Be sure to hold on to the orange Symposium Ballot and mail before August 1, 2007. Please add your comment as to how they grow for you also as many people use the Symposium results as their "shopping list" when looking for additions to their gardens.

*Rita Gormley*



## 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.

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The Iris Gallery

### **SJI HERO!! JODY NOLIN RUSHSVLVANIA OH**

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 to complete the SJI REVIEW Index! Thanks Jody!!

Jody transcribed the old Index through 1989 and added all the new issues into a searchable database that will soon be posted on the SJI Website ([www.socji.org](http://www.socji.org)) for all to use.

This research tool will be valuable to anyone wishing to find an article previously published in a SJI REVIEW. For a copy of any article, contact the editor noting the issue and page number.

### ***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**



# SJI TREASURER'S REPORT 12-31-06

Balance Dec 31, 2005 \$13,910.69

## INCOME

Interest	\$219.11
Dues	\$971.50
Dues - Paypal	\$209.64
Advertising	\$380.00
Jl Book Royalty	\$28.02
Librarian Income	\$192.00
Auction	\$0.00
Donations	\$4,205.54
Other	\$0.00

TOTAL INCOME \$6,205.81

## EXPENSES

<i>The Review</i>	(\$2,823.00)	
Other print costs/suppl	(\$493.99)	(checklist, postcards)
Postage Expense	(\$128.04)	
Medal Expense	(\$43.00)	
Publicity expense	(\$569.00)	(ITJs)
Slide expenses	\$0.00	
Other	(\$61.98)	
AIS Insurance Expens	(\$200.00)	

TOTAL EXPENSES (\$4,319.01) \$1,886.80

Balance Dec 31, 2006 \$15,797.49

Current Checking Bal	\$5,559.08
Current Money Market	\$0.00
CD to Jan2007	\$5,068.90
CD to Jul2007	\$5,150.21
Jan2006 cd int	\$68.90
Jul2006 cd int	\$150.21
Paypal bal	\$19.30



## **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!

### **Classic Irises And the Men and Women Who Created Them** by Clarence Mahan

The story of how several men and women transformed relatively unimpressive iris species into the plants with flowers of diverse forms and colors so beloved by today's gardeners has never been told until now. This book represents years of research in French, British and American primary and secondary sources. It challenges taxonomists' designation of *Iris germanica* as the type species of genus *Iris* and the generally accepted status of *Iris albicans*. It is also the first book containing extensive information on the native iris species of Florida and deplorable state of taxonomy of these species. This scholarly work was written to appeal to the lay reader as well as the specialist. Many beautiful and original pictures of irises are included along with pictures of some of those whose stories are told.

Hardcover 420 pages. Published by Krieger Publishing Company. ISBN 1-57524-281-8. Limited time offer - \$59.00 USA/Canada, \$67.00 International. (Order now, once the Storefront supply is depleted, this offer is void.)

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e-mail: [aisstore@irises.org](mailto:aisstore@irises.org)

**BOOK SPECIAL**  
**THE JAPANESE IRIS**  
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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**

**Beautiful pictures-Great article**

Better Homes and Gardens Special Interest Publications  
Perennials – Spring 2007

**Page 88 – Discover Japanese Iris**

“Although they somewhat resemble their other iris relatives,  
Japanese Irises are something special. Take a peek at these  
Michigan-grown beauties.”

## PHOTO CREDITS

Cover: Print number No. 24. Geishoui

provided by Clarence Mahan

21	Don Delmez-Jill Copeland	Char Holte
23	Bauer-Coble 'J04A'.	Adam Cordes
23	Copeland Sdlg 'P-28'	Adam Cordes
23	Cook Sdlg '9512-1205'	Rita Gormley
23	Walker Sdlg '93-81-25'	Rita Gormley
23	Ensata Photo Shoot2006	BH&G
23	Luke Dryer-Copeland Field	Adam Cordes
26	Saigo No Kotei	Tom Gormley
26	Hiroshi Shimizu-,NZ-2000	Jim Copeland
26	Soushu	Tom Gormley
26	Hengen	Tom Gormley
26	Kinshikou	Adam Cordes
26	Kouryu	Tom Gormley
34	W. A. Payne,May1968	Larry Harder,deceased

### **Correction on Fall 2006 Cover Photo:**

'Sing The Blues' - Lorena Reid 1997, Payne Medal winner 2006  
correct to Bauer-Coble

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!



# **SJI POPULARITY POLL FOR 2007**

*Ruth Barker, Greensboro, NC*

Included with this issue is your orange ballot for the 2007 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 2006 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:

RUTH BARKER

SJI Popularity Poll

6183 BAR-MOT DR

GREENSBORO, NC 27455-8267

Or you may e-mail your top ten to <ruthbb@aol.com>

**DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT  
JAPANESE IRISES?**

**GO TO THE SJI WEBSITE AND ASK  
YOUR QUESTIONS!**

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