

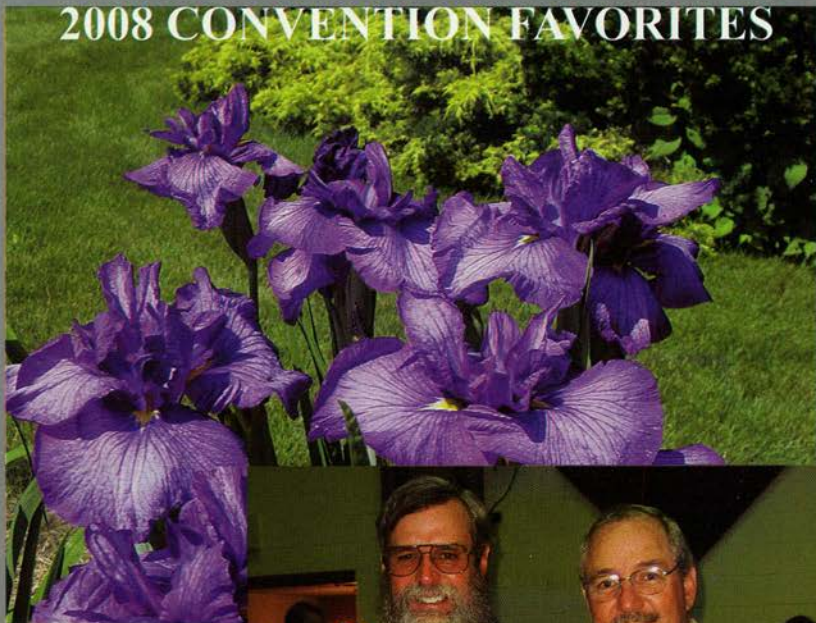
THE REVIEW

OF THE SOCIETY
FOR
JAPANESE IRISES



VOLUME 45
NUMBER #2
FALL 2008

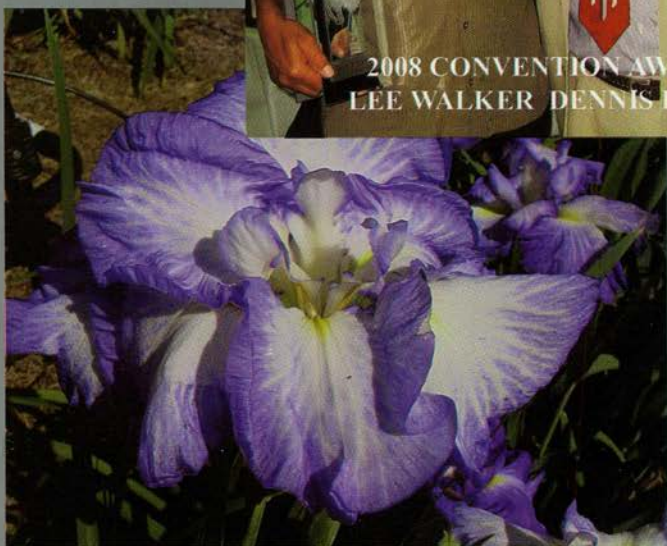
2008 CONVENTION FAVORITES



**Kool Craola Ice
Walker**



**2008 CONVENTION AWARDS
LEE WALKER DENNIS HAGER**



**Sdlg 04-06-04
Hager**

THE REVIEW OF THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES

VOLUME 45

NUMBER 2

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THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES

Officers

President	Dennis Hager , PO Box 390, Millington, MD 21651 Tel: (410) 928-3147; <hager@aredee.com>
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Treasurer	Jody Nolin, 5184 Cty Rd 20, Rushsylvania, OH 43347 Tel: (614) 507-0332, jody.nolin@gmail.com
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2009	Phil Cook, PO Box 338, Underhill, VT 05489 Tel: (802) 899-9928; <phgarden@together.net>
2010	Anna Mae Miller, Bronson Place, 1700 Bronson Way #155, Kalamazoo, MI 49009; Tel: (269) 349-5934; <irisquilt@aol.com>
2011	Gary White, 701 Old Cheney Rd., Lincoln, NE 68512-116; Tel: (402) 421-6394, <in2iris@yahoo.com>

Nominating Committee

Through 2008	John Coble, 9823 E. Michigan Ave., Galesburg, MI 49053; Tel: (269) 665-7500; <ensata@aol.com>
Through 2009	Carol Warner, 16815 Falls Road, Upperco, MD 21155-9445 Tel: (410) 374-4788; draycott@qis.net
Through 2010	Jim Copeland, 78118 M-40, Lawton, MI 49065 Tel: (269) 624-1968; <jandjcope@aol.com>

SJI is an affiliate of AIS and all meetings are open to the public.

Appointments

Membership	Jody Nolin, 5184 Cty Rd 20, Rushsylvania, OH 43347 Tel: (614) 507-0332, jody.nolin@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; <cindy@riverstonequarry.com>
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	Ruth Barker, 6183 Bar-Mot Dr., Greensboro, NC 274-55; Tel: (336) 644-1573; <ruthbb@aol.com>
Display Garden Chair	Open
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, SJI REVIEW Index, and Member Services

Business Items

DUES: NEW - Effective January 15, 2009

Single	annual - \$10.00	triennial - \$25.00
Dual	annual - \$12.00	triennial - \$31
Youth	annual - \$4.00	triennial - \$9.00
Single	annual - \$20.00	triennial - \$50.00
Dual	annual - \$24.00	triennial - \$62.00
Youth	annual - \$8.00	triennial - \$22.00

Dues may be sent either to the AIS Membership Chairman (www.irises.org) or directly to the Membership Chairman, The Society for Japanese Irises.

Address changes: please notify Membership Chairman

Please note that all memberships run from Jan 15th to Jan 15th.

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

SALES AND RENTAL ITEMS

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

\$20.00 including US Postage

Special limited time offer - 2 or more \$15.00 each

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.

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 - \$2.00 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 US postage. Send requests to John Coble.
Check payable to SJI. Please allow ample time for scheduling.

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.

2006 J.I. CHECKLIST

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

To order, Send \$7.50 postpaid* to:

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

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

**Deadlines for Submitting Articles and
Information**

Spring - February 15

Fall - August 15

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

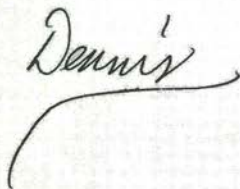
Dennis Hager

In the spring, I encouraged you to go to Kalamazoo for A Convention to Remember. It lived up to its name as you can see with the articles and pictures in this copy of the Review. The members of the Southwest Michigan Iris Society were perfect hosts—and it really helps that the Japanese irises were in glorious bloom at the same time. Many hours of work went into making the 3 days a great success. We all owe the SWMIS a big “Thank you”.

It's time to put the next SJI Convention on your schedule. The Greater Portland Iris Society will be your host for the Japanese Iris Convention in 2011. We look forward to seeing all of our Japanese iris friends there.

There are many dedicated volunteers working for SJI but none so important than our Treasurer! Catherine Button has been at the helm for many years and kept the Society on the “straight and narrow”, taking care of Membership, budgets and reports. Her initiative with on-line membership made the SJI the leader among the AIS Sections. She also wrote a manual detailing the responsibilities of the job. We sincerely appreciate all the work she has done - thanks Catherine! Her successor, Jody Nolin, especially appreciates the meticulous records and a detailed Handbook of all activities. We welcome Jody to our team.

Happy Gardening!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dennis". The signature is written in dark ink and includes a long, sweeping horizontal flourish that extends to the left and then curves back towards the right.

THANKS TO SWMIS!!!

**WE THANK SOUTHWESTERN
MICHIGAN IRIS SOCIETY FOR THEIR
GRACIOUS HOSTING OF THE 2008
SJI CONVENTION
AND
THEIR GENEROUS DONATION OF
\$4,000 TO SJI AND IRISES TO THE
DUBUQUE ARBORETUM**

LATE BREAKING NEWS

Catherine Button has submitted her resignation as Treasurer. Jody Nolin of Columbus, OH has agreed to accept the position. This requires Board approval. Jody is RVP for Region 6. She also indexed the back issues of the SJI Review. This user-friendly report is available for download from the SJI website.

Motion was made, seconded and approved by the SJI Board by e-mail, to be verified at the next SJI Board meeting.

Catherine has done a wonderful job as Treasurer. She single-handedly led the charge for accepting membership application and renewal via PayPal, long before other Sections and the AIS started using an online system. She is also prompt, efficient and a notorious "fiscal watchdog" in the care of SJI's finances. She also initiated and updated the "SJI Treasurer & Membership Handbook"

It has been a great pleasure to work with her the past many years!! Thanks, Catherine for all you have done for SJI.

New ITJ brochures reflecting the change in dues and Membership Secretary will be available soon.

COMMERCIAL GARDEN DIRECTORY

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INTRODUCING FOR LORENA REID

ROBINS FLYING !

We are pleased to report that the Robins are up and going. 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: cindy@riverstonequarry.com

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

JI E-mail Robin: Dennis Hager, director, E-mail: 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.

PHOTO CREDITS

Front Cover:

PAYNE MEDAL

Raspberry Candy

Ensata

Page 21

Hybridizers Medal

Alex Stanton

Inside Back Cover:

Dubuque Arboretum

Judy Curnan

All other photos taken by Tom and Rita Gormley

BOOK SPECIAL THE JAPANESE IRIS PERFECT GIFT FOR ALL PLANT LOVERS!

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

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

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

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

AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY JAPANESE IRIS 2008 AWARDS

THE PAYNE MEDAL (JI)

(Total votes cast = 107)

34 RASPBERRY CANDY (Bob Bauer/John Coble)

Runners Up:

29 LITTLE BOW PINK (Don Delmez)

24 DIRIGO RED ROCKET (John White)

AWARD OF MERIT

JAPANESE

Total votes cast = 163

25 SUE JO (Donald Delmez)

21 FRECKLED PEACOCK (Chad Harris)

Runners Up:

16 ANGEL MOUNTAIN (Bob Bauer/John Coble)

15 BEWITCHING TWILIGHT (Chad Harris)

14 OREGON MARMALADE (Lee Walker)

HONORABLE MENTION

JAPANESE

(Total votes cast = 238)

23 BANJO BLUES (Bob Bauer/John Coble)

19 DIRIGO MAIDEN'S BLUSH (John White)

18 COHO (Chad Harris)

17 SECOND WAVE (J. T. Aitken)

15 RAINBOW DARTER (Jill Copeland)

Runners Up:

14 CRAOLA KISS (Lee Walker)

12 WISPY CLOUDS (Bob Bauer/John Coble)

12 FIRST STRIKE CRAOLA (Lee Walker)

REQUEST FOR GUEST JAPANESE IRISES 2011 - JAPANESE IRIS CONVENTION

The Greater Portland Iris Society is hosting the Japanese Iris Convention, in Portland, Oregon, June 2011. Hybridizers of *Iris Ensata* and related hybrids are invited to send recent introductions and/or seedlings under serious consideration. A number of guest irises were received during the fall of 2008.

For those who prefer to send guest irises in 2009, shipment will be accepted during the spring of 2009, until April 15, 2009.

Send guest plants to:

Terry & Barbara Aitken
608 NW 119th Street
Vancouver, Washington 98685-3802
360-573-4472
aitken@flowerfantasy.net

Guidelines: Up to three divisions of each variety may be submitted. The name of the variety or seedling number must be clearly marked on each division. In addition, a packing list with the following information must be enclosed:

1. Hybridizers name, address, email, phone number
2. Name or seedling number of variety
3. Description, distinguishing characteristics, diploid, tetraploid, hybrid, bloom season: E,M,L.

A receipt will be sent to all contributors.

Only officially submitted guest iris will appear in the convention booklet. The Convention Committee and the owners of guest iris gardens will follow the code of ethics as printed in the AIS Convention Handbook.

A CONVENTION TO REMEMBER - KALAMAZOO 2008

Rita Gormley, Dubuque, IA

We knew this was going to be a special Convention even before we arrived in Kalamazoo, MI on July 3rd but when we were greeted by SJI President Dennis Hager and given a kazoo and a "Beginners Music Lesson", there was no doubt! Over 100 people were there from Maine through Ottawa to Washington, Georgia to Oregon and all across the Midwest! Sixteen of the twenty-four AIS Regions were represented. The Latvian Center is a delightful place to hold a small Convention and the SWMIS really knows how to put one on!! Very classy briefcases were distributed as "convention bags" as well as THE BEST nametags we've seen in all the conventions we have attended on adjustable cords during the "Meet & Greet" while we had time to catch-up with old friends and greet new ones, buy Mike Shadrack's great new Hosta book, and enjoy slides of new seedlings, introductions and work-in-progress as shown by the many JI hybridizers with us. Even the booklet had a special feature of "Haiku to you from Kalamazoo", some of which are scattered throughout this issue for you to enjoy also.

As seems to be the norm before an iris convention, the weather was exciting on Wednesday, the day before the start, with noisy thunderstorms, "Fourth of July" Fireworks-type lightning and 5.5 inches of rain!! Garden hosts were madly scrambling to re-clean their gardens before Friday, move the debris and lay down straw and mulch so they did not lose any conventioners in the quagmire.

The tours Friday and Saturday were a delight with great weather (although we had to listen to John Coble moan about how much time it took to clean the limbs out of their sizeable Ensata Garden) and the garden details are contained in other articles in this issue by our great volunteer authors! I will tell you I fell madly in love with shade gardens with miniature hosta and ferns and promptly blew my "plant budget" when we got back to Dubuque to recreate the beauty of the ones we saw in Kalamazoo!

Irises, garden delights and Judges Training were great but everyone will agree the highlight of Friday was Copeland's world-famous "Fish Fry" with the "fish of Jim's labors" during the off-iris season and the great side dishes and spectacular desserts provided by the SWMIS! It is always worth the trip to Kalamazoo for Copeland's Fish Fry!! Friday evening festivities included more slides and an informative (and sometimes hilarious) slide and video presentation by John Coble. (I WILL get even with you John for the hillbilly depiction of the Gormley move to Dubuque, complete with rickety overloaded truck and chickens running around!)

The Saturday Awards banquet was especially nice with John White from Maine there to accept the Payne Medal 2007 for 'Dirigo Pink Milestone' and Lee Walker ('Kool Craola Ice') and Dennis Hager (Seedling 04-06-04) winning the most popular iris and seedling at the convention. The Youth members made the table centerpieces and Hal Stahly conducted the "barely-rehearsed" but talented SJI Kazoo Band. The Auction was lively with the usual great interest in Jim Copeland's home grown and made jellies and canned salmon as well as the irises seen in the gardens.

Many thanks to Anita Gauthier, cook and menu planner for an outstanding event and Jim Copeland, President of the group and all the members for showing us truly "A Convention To Remember".

CONVENTION FAVORITES

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 1st | Kool Craola Ice, L. Walker '06 |
| 2nd | Sue Jo, D. Delmez '04
Evelyn White, J White, '08 |
| 3rd | Kimono Silk, Bauer-Coble '08 |

SEEDLINGS

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 1st | 04-06-04, D Hager |
| 2nd | T98-86-6, L Walker
J02-D-2, Bauer-Coble |
| 3rd | J02-H-6, Bauer-Coble |

SEE PICTURES ON INSIDE FRONT COVER

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

The rolls of SJI include outstanding iris specialists, gardening experts and horticulturists with interests in many kinds of ornamentals, but the Society is primarily for the amateur gardener who enjoys growing Japanese irises.

SJI Membership Brings You...

- An informative culture sheet, free to new members, on raising Japanese irises.
- The SJI Review, with 2 issues each year averaging 54 pages of interesting feature articles on iris varieties, culture, hybridizing, exhibiting, and many other iris subjects.
- A wide range of activities at the national, and local level, including the national meetings, conventions, garden tours and round robin corresponding groups, display gardens, exhibitions, and special programs for the enjoyment of SJI members.
- Up to the minute information on award winning irises, and the privilege of voting in the "Annual Popularity Poll" of favorite irises.
- A library and slide collection offering various books and publications, which can be rented by members.
- Helpful sources for assistance with your technical problems in culture and hybridizing, or in finding rare species, out of print articles, and valuable hybridizing records.

You are cordially invited to become a member of the SJI. You can join either by regular mail, using this form and instructions, or JOIN ONLINE, by using our online membership form. Pay with either a Paypal account or using a credit card thorough the Paypal service.

[HTTP://WWW.SOCJL.ORG/](http://www.socjl.org/)

AMENDING THE ARBORETUM SOIL HANDS ACROSS THE PRAIRIE FROM KALAMAZOO TO DUBUQUE

Q - Our Dubuque IA soil tests came back showing a pH of 7.6. Since the Arboretum is close to us, I'm assuming their pH is high too so we need to give them a "recipe" to acidify their soil. Your website instructions show to use ferrous sulfate to acidify but our local Ace hardware (there is no good garden center close to us) had none but do have Aluminum Sulfate (0-0-0) which the packaging says will help to lower the pH. Rita Gormley

A - Yes it will, but continued use will build up toxic levels of aluminum. Epsom salts will work faster but not long lasting. Use about a handful per clump area and dig or till in. But the most important thing to ALSO do, is incorporate agricultural sulphur (dust or pellets). Again, about a handful per 2 foot of row or per clump area. dig or till it in. It will lower the pH, it will takes weeks to change the soil chemistry, but it will last for a couple years. We apply it or ammonium sulfate monthly when we have to irrigate frequently with our pH 7.5 well water. (Ammonium sulfate from our farmer or we buy it from the Farm Bureau Co-Op) It supplies both nitrogen and sulphur.

So, find a farmer or farm supply Co-Op and get 50 lb bag of sulphur. Also a 50 lb bag of Ammonium Sulfate (don't let it get wet). Use it at the rate of 1-2 Tablespoons per clump area. Dig it in or It dissolves easily. John Coble-Ensata Garden

See article on page 45-46 and pictures on IBC

THE COPELAND GARDEN

by Carol Warner, Upperco, MD

After traveling through fruit growing areas loaded with cherry trees, apple trees and grape vineyards, we arrived on a beautiful, sunny Friday afternoon to what looked like an arboretum from the road. Beautifully landscaped rolling grounds with specimen Paperbark Maples, Japanese Maples, Red-flowering Chestnuts and many evergreens greeted us. In 1989 Jim and Jill Copeland purchased 36 acres of brushy fields. Their son, Jimmy, built the home into which they moved in 1993 and they transformed the property into an incredible garden.

First we were treated to an incredible fish fry featuring yellow perch caught by Jim and lots of homemade side dishes and even fresh strawberry shortcake for dessert. This was served in the garage and eaten on a lovely shaded patio at the back of the house. A terraced heather garden on the side of the house must have been beautiful in early spring. A tricolor beech was the center feature of the back lawn.

The guest irises and seedlings were located in the "up back" garden located behind cherry trees loaded with ripe fruit, apple trees and Christmas trees. The land here was flat and the soil was very sandy. They had received one and a half inches of rain in half an hour on Wednesday in a violent thunderstorm but there were no muddy or wet areas to be seen. A golf cart shuttle was available driven by the Copeland's two grandsons, Shaun and Cody.

Jill's first year pseudata seedlings occupied the first two rows of the garden. All had very yellow foliage except for one huge clump with deep green leaves. Seedling S-10 caught my eye with a deep yellow signal and a red violet eyelash pattern. S-8A has wide creamy yellow falls and a rounded red eyelash surrounding the yellow signal. Jill's favorite was S-7, a creamy yellow with a deep gold signal again surrounded with the red eyelashes. The rest of the bed contained Jill's tetraploid transplants and first year seedlings. Many were blooming short for some reason but one deep pink six-fall seedling showed lots of promise.

The guest pseudatas from Mr. Shimizu attracted lots of attention. They were large tall clumps with lots of bloom. 'Okagam', 'Take No Sato' and a similar seedling, 'Takamagahara' were especially attractive. Other guest Japanese irises which were blooming well and attracted my attention were 'Second Wave', a six fall deep blue violet from Terry Aitken, three seedlings from Dennis Hager, 04-15-03, 04-06-04 and 03-02-03. Lee Walker had some very nice tetraploid introductions and seedlings including 'Kool Craola Ice' in bloom. The new blue introductions from Bob Bauer and John Coble were growing and blooming in full glory.

Jill Copeland then gave a very informative judges training session on pseudatas. These crosses between *I. pseudacorus* and *I. ensata* will tolerate more alkaline soil conditions, will grow year-round in water, often have very large bud counts and exhibit a characteristic of "pushing buds" in which terminal spathes can have three or four flowers displayed over a long period of time. Each student evaluated three different cultivars or seedlings and it was most interesting to compare the results and hear how differently each person evaluated them. After the training session, I had time to look around again at some of the landscaping and found the sign for "Grandma's Garden" which had curved paths leading through the shade. Bloodroot, hosta, allium, red bud trees, columbine, trillium and hardy orchid (bletilla) were all happily growing. In the small sunny area there were Siberian irises and lilies. "Grandpa's Garden" was located in a sunny area on the other side of the house. Here, berries, asparagus, assorted vegetables, daylilies and bearded irises grew in perfectly straight rows.

Before being forced to head back to the bus I grabbed a couple homemade cookies and some refreshing punch made with pineapple sherbet. Jim and Jill's gardens were incredibly neat and well manicured. It is amazing to see what two very hard workers could do with a large piece of property in a short amount of time.

AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY HONORS ROBERT BAUER AND JOHN COBLE

By Clarence Mahan, McLean, VA

This past year the American Iris Society recognized the outstanding iris hybridizing achievements of Robert Bauer and John Coble by awarding them the AIS Hybridizers Medal. The report of the Honorary Awards Committee recommending this award noted that although their primary work has been in the field of Japanese irises—a field where we have all too few hybridizers—they have also bred superb Siberian irises. Eight of their Siberian irises have been recognized with Honorable Mention awards and two—'Mesa Pearl' and 'Sprinkles'—have received the Award of Merit.

Fifteen Bauer/Coble Japanese iris introductions have received the Honorable Mention award. Five have received the Award of Merit. These five are 'Bellender Blue', 'Foreign Intrigue', 'Lion King', 'Raspberry Candy' and 'Tideline'. Two of their irises won the Payne Medal. 'Bellender Blue' won the medal in 2000 and 'Lion King' won it in 2003.

All of Bob and John's iris introductions have been worthy. Their standards have been of the highest order and they have been uncompromising in attaining them. One iris is a favorite of mine. 'Lion King' is, in my opinion, the finest of all multipetal Japanese irises. It has nearly perfect symmetry, an attribute commonly lacking in multipetals. It also has intense color, superb substance and outstanding growth habits.

I know that Bob and John's many friends in the world of irises join me in congratulating them on their receiving the Hybridizers Medal. If there were a Nice Guy Award they would each win that too! And if I were able to invent other awards I would create one to recognize the magnificent web page of Ensata Gardens. The huge array of gorgeous pictures of Japanese and Siberian irises available there takes one's breath away and is a gift to all iris aficionados.



AIS HYBRIDIZER MEDAL BOB BAUER - JOHN COBLE



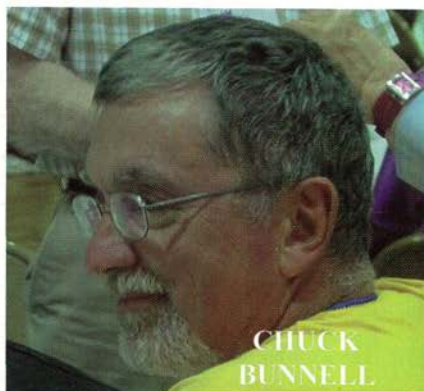
HYBRIDIZERS AT THE CONVENTION

Back: Chad Harris, Sharon Whitney, John White, Dennis Hager,
Terry Aitken, Lee Walker

Front: Bob Bauer, Jill Copeland, John Cobel, Don Delmez,
Carol Warner

Attending also: Chuck Bunnell, Jim Copeland, Carla Lankow,
Anna Mae Miller, Hal Stahly

PEOPLE AT THE CONVENTION



CHUCK
BUNNELL

Dorothy & Hal Stahley



LEE WALKER, JUSTIN PARKER, SHEENA NOLIN



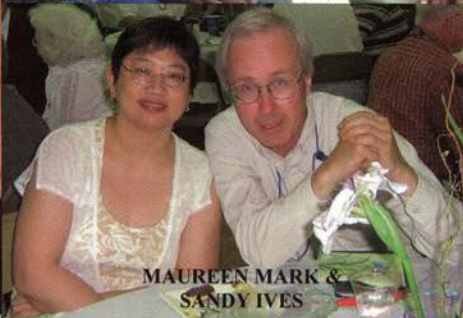
GEORGE & CARLA LANKOW



VINCE
LEWONSKI



TERRY LAURIN &
KATE BREWITT



MAUREEN MARK &
SANDY IVES

MORE PEOPLE AT THE CONVENTION



JILL COPELAND



Patrick & Maragret Spencer



JIM COPELAND



Don Delmez
DDKPRU



Tom
Gormley

Mary
Thurman



**SHARON WHITNEY,
JOHN WHITE &
DON CLIFFORD
SJI CONVENTION 2008**

**DIRIGO PINK
MILESTONE 2000**



**DENNIS HAGER &
JOHN WHITE &
PAYNE MEDAL
SJI CONVENTION 2008**

EVELYN WHITE 2004



JOHN WHITE'S 'DIRIGO PINK MILESTONE' WINS 2007 PAYNE MEDAL

By Ted White, Minot, ME

Born on April 20, 1916, John White grew up on his family's Jersey dairy farm in Auburn, Maine where he assisted his father with various agricultural chores and the care of the dairy herd. When John graduated from Bates College in 1939 he joined his father Harold S. White in the dairy business. Over the years, he was responsible for the breeding of dairy cattle and raising agricultural crops that would improve the milk production of his Jersey cattle. No doubt these genetically-based improvements in the family's dairy cattle and the crops necessary to sustain them, served him well years later, when he would attempt to genetically improve the irises in his hybridizing program. When the milk business was sold in 1976, John, his wife Evelyn, and son Ted moved to Minot. Now, John had more time to devote to other pursuits including gardening and ultimately, the hybridization of irises.

In the early 1980s, John met the late Dr. Currier McEwen while visiting his iris garden in Harpswell, Maine. He became intrigued with Currier's hybridizing program with Japanese and Siberian irises, and began growing his own beardless irises in his Minot, Maine garden. He became very interested in Dr. McEwen's tetraploid conversions and wanted to do some of his own conversions. He spent hours with Currier to learn the finer points of tetraploidy through the use of colchicine. Although Currier was using tetraploids almost exclusively in his Siberian hybridizing, both he and John used a combination of diploid and tetraploid pollen in their Japanese hybridizing programs. Certainly, Currier had a great impact on John's success in hybridizing. He served as his mentor for nearly twenty years.

Over time, John's Japanese and Siberian irises showed great improvement from those developed in his early hybridizing experience. At least once or twice each year, Currier would visit John's garden to observe the irises and to lend encouragement and suggestions for future crosses. In turn, John visited Currier's Seaways Gardens several times

each summer. This gave him an opportunity to compare his progress with that of the masters'. Throughout the years, Currier generously provided pollen from some of his latest iris creations. This pollen was used by John to integrate some of the best genetic material available into his existing lines. One of the lines developed was from Currier's diploid 'Continuing Pleasure' line. Irises from these lines gave John some of his first introductions.

Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, John made remarkable progress in both his Siberian and Japanese iris breeding program. In the 1990s and early 2000s, five of his irises went on to win the Bee Warburton Medal for the best irises hybridized by a New England hybridizer. His medal winners included the Japanese irises 'Dirigo Debutante' 'Dirigo Red Rocket', and 'Dirigo Pink Milestone'. His Siberian iris Warburton Medal winners were, 'Dirigo Black Velvet' and 'Dirigo Ruffled Feathers'.

In 2007, John won the coveted Payne Medal with his 'Dirigo Pink Milestone'. The presentation of the Payne Medal took place at the 2008 convention for the Society for Japanese Irises in Kalamazoo, Michigan. There, John was presented his medal by President Dennis Hager. To win the Payne Medal was certainly a great honor that was the culmination of twenty years of hybridizing JI irises. When 'Dirigo Pink Milestone' first bloomed, John took a bloom to Currier for his examination. Dr. McEwen remarked, "John, this is the pinkest Japanese iris bloom that I have ever seen. Someday, this will likely win the Payne Medal." It seems that Currier was also a prophet, in addition to the many other talents he possessed.

In 2008, John introduced the Japanese iris 'Evelyn White' through Sharon Whitney's Eartheart Gardens in Harpswell, Maine. This lovely, six fall white flower is widely banded a bright, very intense red-violet that makes for a very classy flower. 'Evelyn White' finished second in the balloting at the 2008 Japanese Iris Convention for the most popular JI iris seen at the convention. Evelyn, of course, played a very important role in John's hybridizing pursuits until her passing in 2001. It was she who kept a garden log of all his seedlings and named varieties and who lent much encouragement and support to John.

At age 92, John continues to actively hybridize irises. His present, all-consuming project is to create a yellow Japanese iris. This, of course, will be a very difficult and time-consuming quest, but he is determined to reach his goal. The story of his pursuit of a yellow JI was written and published in the Bulletin of the American Iris Society. The article entitled, The Quest for a Yellow Japanese Iris, written by John, appears in the April 2008, Volume 349, of the Bulletin. In this publication, he outlines his hybridizing plan for achieving his goal. A goal, which if realized, would be the crowning achievement to a long hybridizing career.

John also loves to swim and has won many national and international awards for his swimming achievements in his age category. Several times each week he swims at the Bates College pool in nearby Lewiston, where he practices and builds stamina for swimming events throughout the year. John has received awards from FINA, an international sports organization that maintains world records for various sporting events including swimming. FINA has awarded him recognition as one of the top ten swimmers in his age group in the Masters Swimming program. John has also received individual U.S. Master Swimming awards and as a member of a relay team. Currently, John's relay team consists of four members all of whom average more than 90 years of age. This past year, the team that John anchors, established a new world record for a relay team in this age group. Quite an achievement for anyone in any age group, but especially so, for a nonagenarian!

Distant summer storm
Maine chance of rain
passes by
O. leave me sighing
-Gary White

THE MUNSON GARDEN

By Jody Nolin, Rushsylvania, OH

Before I get started telling you about the Munson garden, I just have to say what a great convention it was. The relaxed pace was wonderful. Lots of time to evaluate plants, catch up with old friends and make new friends. The weather was gorgeous and, of course, the food was outstanding. Ok, on to the garden.

The gardens of Bev and Jim Munson, on the shores of Crooked Lake, are a combination of light and shadow. I say gardens plural, but the yard is really an integrated whole. The paths draw you along a continuous journey from sun to shade and back again. The garden was begun by Bev, and when Jim retired he began the extensive hosta collection and winding pathways under the trees. Walkways lead around the house from the sunny road approach, down the cool, shady slope to the lake and back around again, with several side trails, all boarded by hosta and many, many companion plants and statuary.



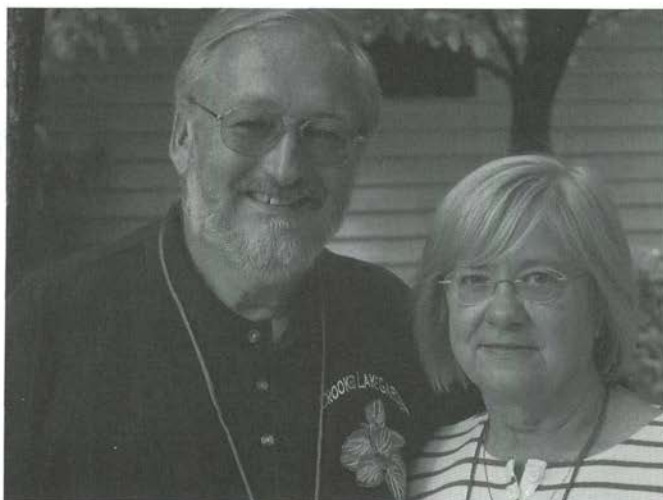
In the sunny upper garden, 'Crystal Halo' Marx 1958, a 6 fall purple JI with yellow signal, and white halo; along with 'Pink Puffer', Copeland 2006, a 6 fall pink with darker styles, were blooming among daylilies and tree peonies.

Red daylilies of note were 'Cool Jazz', 'Beryl Stone', 'Little Fat Dazzler' and 'Sombrero Way'. Pinks included 'Joylene Nichole', 'Pink Embers' and 'Apache Tears'. Another stand-out daylily was the soft peach-melon 'Diamond Anniversary'.

As nice as these sun-lovers were, the real focus of these gardens is shade. The Munson hosta collection is outstanding. There, along the winding paths under the trees, were minis like 'Baby Bunting' and 'Radio Waves' and giants like 'Big John' and 'Olive Bailey Langdon'. Jim collects sports of 'Sum and Substance' and 'Blue Angel', so there were lots of huge plants.

The variegated varieties are my favorite. 'Striptease' is large, with dark green outer leaf, light green center and a thin, variable white stripe dividing the two. 'Christmas Pageant' is a two-toned green with the light green turning to white as the leaf matures. 'Galaxy' is a mid-sized 3-color hosta with rounded leaves. Another 3-color, 'Oh Cindy' is very light green. New on the hosta scene is the variegated 'Sharp Dressed Man'.

All these plants were interspersed with lots of statuary and companion plants. Companion plants included the largest Jack in the Pulpits



I've ever seen, astilbe, coral bells, hellebores, primula and i. tectorum and lots of types of fern. Of note were the clumps of Tatting Fern and 'Miss Sharples', an umbrella shaped

maidenhair fern. A giant metal spider guards one path, little pottery heads peak out from under leaves, organic looking statuary sprouts among the plants, and an enormous chime hangs by one path. The total effect is relaxed and inviting, with something interesting around every corner.

"NOTHING LESS THAN PERFECT" O'MELAY GARDEN

Jim and Janet Wilson, La Grange, KY

Gardens come in many forms, some remarkable for their plant selection, some for their use of color and form, some for thoughtful construction and layout, some for meticulous evident care, some for their general atmosphere of joy and peace. Visitors to the O'Melay garden were awestruck by the masterful combination of all of these and other attributes in a single visit.



Dick and Eileen O'Melay moved to their home in August, 1993, to a yard that was grass but little else—a hill behind the house that was overgrown with sumac and weeds and a small wooded area at the top. They brought in all the landscaping, all the boulders, and plant material. The hill area took four years to complete, and it is always changing, as is the rest of the yard. Dick designed

much of the landscaping, and Eileen laid the brick, quite a feat in itself given the multiple levels and graceful curves. They manage to maintain the garden with painstaking perfection, trimming the edges of the beds by hand with grass shears. Nothing is complete without documentation, and the O'Melays maintain a notebook with Photoshop™-accurate maps detailing where everything is planted.

From the first steps onto a uniform and weedless lawn, artistic choices and meticulous care were evident. The front garden presented a composition of miniature conifers, white alyssum, lobelia, succulents, poppies, a Japanese maple, and a fountain, backed by a Lemonstar vine, miniature hollyhocks and hanging baskets.

To the south are TBs, daylilies, an Alpine garden, trough gardens and the JI guest bed. The troughs (handmade by Eileen) display miniatures at heights chosen to work together in the garden and with the plants within. Color and form combinations were always thoughtfully chosen. The Alpine garden, including over 50 different conifers, consists primarily of plants that grow minimally each year, although some median irises are included.

All of the JI guests were perfectly groomed. The pseudata 'Shiryukyo' (Shimizu, 2008) was a favorite of many visitors, as were many of the JIs: 'John's Fancy' (Copeland, 2008), a three-falled veined lavender; 'Kool Craola Ice' (Lee Walker, 2006), a multi-tone deep violet; 'Sugar Dome' (Bauer-Coble, 2008), violet-washed white; 'Second Wave' (Aitken, 2005), blue veins on deep violet; 'Kimono Silk' (Bauer-Coble, 2008), a beautiful 6F ruffled white, dusted blue; and 'Avalanche Express' (Harris, 2001), a white billowy 6F beauty. Dennis Hager's seedling 04-06-04 was a favorite of ours and won votes for the title of best seedling throughout the convention. 'Eileen's Dream' a 9+F maroon-purple velvety creation, selected by Eileen from the Bauer-Coble seedlings, showed itself to be an excellent choice. Hosta, Siberian irises and daylilies are also in this area. Along the west is the shed, ferns, dwarf hemlock, and other perennials.

Beautifully designed areas for enjoying the garden are placed throughout. A Camperdown Elm shades a viewing point, emphasizing the virtues of a garden built for enjoyment in three dimensions. Statues were well placed and in scale to highlight and not overwhelm. Even the vegetable garden displayed a permanent gardener at work to maintain peace among all the elements. Balance and visual composition are evident from wherever you go and wherever you look. Northwest is the hill, a Koi pond, and stone steps to take you to the top of the water feature, where a papyrus plant offered its fireworks to commemorate our July 4 visit. More hostas and ferns graced the path back down to the JIs and daylilies. In the permanent JI collection, built into a bog bed at the base of the hill, were, among others, outstanding clumps of 'Frilled Enchantment,' 'Lion King,' 'Dancing Waves,' and 'Jocasta.' A white seedling with cream stylearms from Jill Copeland also was noteworthy.



Along the north side of the garage is a mini collection of 36 hostas. Under the deck, Eileen has established a fern nursery, growing her own from spores in covered and well-tended containers.

What will be next? A skeleton tree remaining was under consideration - maybe to remain as it is,

removed, or pruned into a sculpture? Avian visitors enjoyed it, though: some that joined us in our brief visit were Sparrows, a Downy Woodpecker, Finches, Cardinals, Redwing Blackbirds, and a Goldfinch. The guest JI garden will be redone with other plants that will be approaching crowding. The O'Melays claim that all is possible by dividing the garden into sections or rooms, and concentrating on one room at a time. It was hard for us, however, to imagine any room for improvement here.



ENSATA GARDENS - A FIELD OF DREAMS

By Kathy Guest Shadrack, Hamburg, NY

I can still recall the first time we went to Ensata Gardens. We fully expected to elbow our way through the crowds at bloom time - but we had this wonderful place to ourselves then... and it's become even more wonderful over the 20 or so years we've been visiting since.

For those who have never been, I hope I can take you there.

John Coble and Bob Bauer have been growing Japanese Irises in



Galesburg, Michigan since 1980. The property was a former dairy farm with a ramshackle main house and a dilapidated tenant house when they purchased it. The sellers fully expected that both houses would be razed and sold the property with that in mind. Fortunately, they found the right buyers... who appreci-

ated the glory of the 1858 brick Victorian main house and the possibilities in the 1906 tenant house, now a lovely rental property. They have lovingly and with much talent, restored the main house over the past 30 plus years and it is now an elegant home, filled with Bob and John's

stained glass, their artistic touches and a fair amount of EBay purchases. The centerpiece is probably the oval dining room, complete with curved 8 foot doors, featuring a marvelous wisteria wallpaper.

But the garden is what you want to hear about. This is a wonderland for plant lovers.





First there are the gardens surrounding the house. Behind the house rise mature trees, sheltering hosta display gardens and sweeps of *miscanthus gracillimus* (Maiden Grass) set in graceful, oriental-flavored crescents.

There are three interlocking koi ponds artfully planted with small grasses, a weeping cercis and other interesting small conifers and specimen plants. There is a raked gravel garden and a writhing dragon sculpture to

complete the Japanese feel of this space.

There are also JI's growing here... 'Kool Craola Ice' (Walker) was in full bloom, a lovely 6-fall violet with a darker edge and dark violet styles. But the main JI planting is in the field adjacent to the garden area. You enter this field by traveling past the magnificent 1840 barn, through an enormous stand of stately old pines, sheltering more hostas, past the container interestingly planted with *amorphaphallus* and then break out into full sun and a sea of color. They could not have picked a more perfect weekend for this convention!

Favorites in the field for me included Shimizu's pseudata 'Yukiyaagi', an elegant white with a magenta etched eye. Another pseudata that caught our attention was 'Tsukiyono' - at 50" tall, an imposing statement, lavender with violet etching.

Seedling J02H-6 (Bauer/Coble) was as pretty as a party dress, a flouncy purple with a white ray pattern and fancy upright purple styles. J02H-5 was my personal favorite; delicate lilac standards over white, diamond dusted falls. The standards are tightly bunched giving the entire flower a very finished and sophisticated aspect. The plant as a

whole, in full and outrageous bloom, looked like a troop of ballerinas - an iris to watch for.

Other irises that impressed included 'Sue Jo' (Delmez) a 6-fall lavender, shot with dark purple and set off with almost black standards and styles. 'Miss Buffalo' (Rettig) is a 3-fall white, washed with blue and has an intriguing thin red-violet edge on each white standard. But the standout was the iris that John White named for his wife, Evelyn. 'Evelyn White' deserved the accolades it received at this convention. A very full 6-fall, with extravagant ruffling - a dark purple fall, centered white (or maybe a white fall with a wide purple edge) and matching standards, also heavily ruffled. A masterpiece from an excellent hybridizer.

There was to be Judges Training in this garden, which meant that the rest of us could continue to enjoy the gardens and the local micro-brew or wine thoughtfully provided.

And if you were very lucky, you got a private tour of Nefertiti's "loo".



Petals unfold
A brushwork of color like
Whispers on the wind.
-Catherine Button

THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES

MINUTES

JULY 4, 2008 KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN

Attendance: R Dennis Hager: President, Peter Weixlmann: Secretary, Jill Copeland: Immediate Past President, Rita Gormley: Editor, Anna Mae Miller: Director. Guests: Karl Miller, Lorena M. Reid, Doris Shinn

Meeting called to order. Quorum was present.

Discussion of Finances, SJI is operating in a deficit budget.

Discussion of on line Paypal was determined to be quite successful.

Discussion of ways to encourage Regional level interest in the SJI took place.

Discussion of the decrease in membership for the past five years was touched upon.

Motion made by Peter W. to increase the membership dues rates to cover the cost of printing and postage to be effective January 15, 2009 as follows:

Single Annual	\$10	Triennial	\$25
Family Annual	\$12	Triennial	\$31
Youth Annual	\$4	Triennial	\$9
Overseas			
Single Annual	\$20	Triennial	\$50
Family Annual	\$24	Triennial	\$62
Youth Annual	\$8	Triennial	\$22

Second: Jill C. Motion voted upon & passed.

Discussion of new ITJ with new rates was tabled until need arises.

The Display Garden Chair position is open. Proposal for an on line garden photo section was discussed.

Future Conventions:

2011 Greater Portland Iris Society

2014 date is open

Discussion for organizing a future tour to Japan for Japanese iris bloom season will be researched and further discussion will follow.

Motion to accept Portland's offer to host 2011 convention and researching a possible Japan trip was made by Rita G. Second by Peter W. Motion voted upon and carried.

Motion to accept Treasurer's report subject to audit made by Rita G. Second by Peter W.

Motion voted upon and carried.

Awards: no report.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by Anna Mae M., Second by Jill C. Motion voted upon and carried.

Peter Weixlmann, Secretary

SJI NOMINATING REPORT 2008

The Nominating Committee is pleased to offer the names of the following members to serve as Officers of the Society for Japanese Irises, starting January 1, 2009.

Director at Large - Chad Harris (thru 2011)

Nominating Committee - Bob Bauer(thru 2011)

If there are no other nominations received before December 15, 2008, these nominees shall be duly elected.

Respectfully submitted,

John Coble, Carol Warner, Jim Copeland

Happy bug basking
In the sun, iris leaf
munching
Growers hand squashing.
-Jill Copeland

SJI POPULARITY POLL FOR 2008

Ruth Barker, North Carolina

As you might imagine, there was a flurry this year when we realized that the ballot was omitted from the spring mailing of The Review. Although they were mailed separately, we still had a good return of the votes, with 45 ballots, representing 52 members! Many thanks to all who participated.

It was exciting counting the votes, which resulted in a tie for first place between 'Dirigo Pink Milestone', who won the past 3 years and 'Little Bow Pink', both receiving 16 votes each!

In 2008 we welcome 5 newcomers (and returners) to the Top Ten Favorites: 'Frisled Enchantment', 'Pinkerton', 'Bellender Blue', 'Lion King' and 'Cascade Crest'!

Nine cultivars received two or more write-in votes and will be on the 2009 Ballot.

2008 place	Votes	Cultivar (hybridizer/year)	2007 place
1 tie	16	DIRIGO PINK MILESTONE (White '00)	1
1 tie	16	LITTLE BOW PINK (Delmez '98)	4
3	14	FRILLED ENCHANTMENT (Marx '59)	6
4	12	PINKERTON (Bauer/Coble '98)	-
5 tie	11	SUE JO (Delmez '03)	4
5 tie	11	SING THE BLUES (Reid '97)	4
7 tie	10	BELLENDER BLUE (Bauer/Coble '93)	-
7 tie	10	FLASHING KOI (Marx '78)	4
7 tie	10	LION KING (Bauer/Coble '96)	16
10 tie	9	CASCADE CREST (Aitken '90)	16
10 tie	9	CENTER OF ATTENTION (Rich '86)	4
10 tie	9	JAPANESE PINWHEEL (McEwen '88)	2
13 tie	8	BLUE SPITZ (Delmez '98)	2
13 tie	8	CAPRICIAN BUTTERFLY (Marx '85)	11
13 tie	8	IAPETUS (Innerst '88)	16
16 tie	7	BUTTERFLIES IN FLIGHT (Aitken '91)	-
16 tie	7	DIRIGO RED ROCKET (White '01)	4
16 tie	7	ELECTRIC RAYS (Aitken '90)	11
16 tie	7	OREGON MARMALADE (Walker '03)	16
16 tie	7	ORIENTAL EYES (Vogt '77)	-
16 tie	7	PLEASANT EARLYBIRD (Harris '95)	-

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

Have You Looked at the SJI Website Recently?
New items are being added all the time!!!

Complete Index of The SJI REVIEW back to January 1964. This will be invaluable when researching a particular topic or author. It is in downloadable Excel format and many thanks to Jody Nolin who completed this project.

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

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

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

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

EDITOR'S ESSAY

Although Fall is not officially over until next week, it will be into Winter by the time you receive this issue. I do apologize for running so late and causing many to wonder whatever happened! Hopefully you will enjoy all the pictures of the JI Convention and you get a real "flavor" of what fun it was. Please plan on attending the next one in 2011 and join in the fun!

Thanks so much for the authors of the host garden articles! I am also grateful to those "regulars" who always provide material but really need more articles from our members for the Spring issue. There are about three hundred members out there and we need to hear from more of you.

Please drop me a note or e-mail telling about your JI garden bloom, hybridizing program, technical issues of culture, ideas for topics that I can research, advice or complaints. Don't worry about grammar, spelling or format-I can take care of that. We want to continue to publish a quality bulletin of great value to our members so please lend a hand.

Participation in the annual Popularity Poll was higher this year even though the ballot was left out of the regular mailing. Look for your bright orange ballot in the Spring issue and cast your vote!!! Many members use the results as their "Shopping Guide" for dependable growers!

Wishing you a peaceful winter and Holiday season from a very snowy and cold Dubuque, Iowa.

Rita Gormley



**Assistant Editors Alexander and
Hamilton waiting for Spring!**

BEARDLESS IRIS CONVENTION

The Iris Society of Minnesota will be the host for the Beardless Iris Convention on June 11-14, 2009. The guest iris will be featured in 5 private gardens in addition to a mass planting at the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum.

The guest iris have all arrived and happily growing in their new homes. The Iris Society of Minnesota received a total of 159 different cultivars.

Make checks payable to ISM and send to:

Gerry Moore, Registrar

ISM Convention 2009

8293 157th St. West

Apple Valley, MN. 55124

952-431-5140 (Tim and Gerry)

Email: irisguy@hotmail.com

CONVENTION HEADQUARTERS:

Ramada Inn, Mall of America, 2300 East American Boulevard

Bloomington, MN. 55425, 952-854-3411

Reservations for the hotel may be made by phone: 952-854-3411
or toll free 800-328-1931

Registration: Includes Welcome and Auction Banquet and
Garden Tours on Friday and Saturday

Postmarked:	By 4-1-09	After 4-1-09	
Registrant #1	\$175.00	\$200.00	\$ _____
Registrant #2	\$175.00	\$200.00	\$ _____

Optional tour of Bachman's, Gerten's, and Bailey's Nurseries

Thursday, June 11, 2009

Registrant #1	\$40.00	\$ _____
Registrant #2	\$40.00	\$ _____

HANDS ACROSS THE PRAIRIE FROM KALAMAZOO TO DUBUQUE

Rita Gormley, Dubuque, Iowa



When we moved to Dubuque, Iowa last year, we were delighted to find that we were only three miles from the Dubuque Arboretum. It is the only arboretum and botanical garden in the USA staffed entirely by volunteers. The trees,

plants and shrubs, and seed-gifts which are all labeled throughout the garden are maintained by 325 dedicated individuals. The 52 acre Public Garden was established in 1980 and is open without charge seven days a week from May 1 to October 31, and weekdays the remainder of the year.

The Gardens include what is claimed to be the largest public hosta garden in the United States (13,000 plants representing over 700 varieties), as well as Annual and Perennial Gardens, several Children's gardens, an English Knot Garden and Formal English Garden, Herb Garden, Cactus Garden, Iowa State and All American Test Gardens, Japanese garden designed by Hoichi Kurisu, and Rose Gardens. Also notable are the collections of unusual conifers and dwarf conifers.

Last Fall we spent many hours touring the garden and admiring the huge variety of flora as well as taking all of our out of town visitors there. We were able to clearly see what perennials and shrubs did well in this harsh Iowa climate and do planning for our own new garden.

In the Spring of this year, we went over many times, mostly in the rain, to take photographs of the bearded irises. We agreed to assist Judy Curnan, "Green Team" Coordinator, with the proper ID of the TBs in the four beds as there is a large collection of many of the 44 introductions by Fred Spahn, (deceased 1994). One bed of the four was totally dug this summer by the "Green Team" and planted back with "verified"

cultivars and some new ones donated by Kelly Norris of Rainbow Iris Farm.

While touring the gardens with Judy Curnan, I admired the continuing work on the charming Japanese Garden which includes planting 90 trees, and adding new gardens near the new gate. Plans also include finishing a major league entrance, large waterfall, smaller waterfall, cascade from the top of the area; swans; gold fish; lake; several bridges; tea house; many exotic specimen plants, etc.

There is a lovely planting of 'Caesar's Brother' (Siberian) but NO Japanese irises at all!!! Tom and I had just returned from the SJI Convention in Kalamazoo with three large pots from Don Delmez of his introductions to plant in our new garden. Jack Smith, President of the Dubuque Arboretum and Judy enthusiastically accepted our donation of these JIs and we discussed placement of these next to the small zig-zag bridge. I also told them I would approach the SJI Convention organizers, Southwestern Michigan Iris Society, to see if they would donate some additional varieties. Judy promptly made arrangements with her volunteers to dig out some of 'Caesar's Brother' to plant the three new JIs.

Several weeks later, a HUGE box (55 lbs!) arrived at our house containing SWMIS donation to the Japanese garden. My original plan of potting these plants went right out the window because all of them were CLUMPS, one as big as my lap!! I called Judy to tell her of our "delightful dilemma" and promptly took all the irises over to Arboretum where they were kept in a holding area to keep them well watered until the volunteers could return to dig out more siberians.

The pictures on the inside back cover, except for the one I took of Judy Curnan before the planting was started, were taken by Judy as the planting progressed. John Coble gave us advice on preparing the 7.6 pH soil we have here in the hilly limestone area about 5 miles from the Mississippi River. (See John's instructions on Page 9)

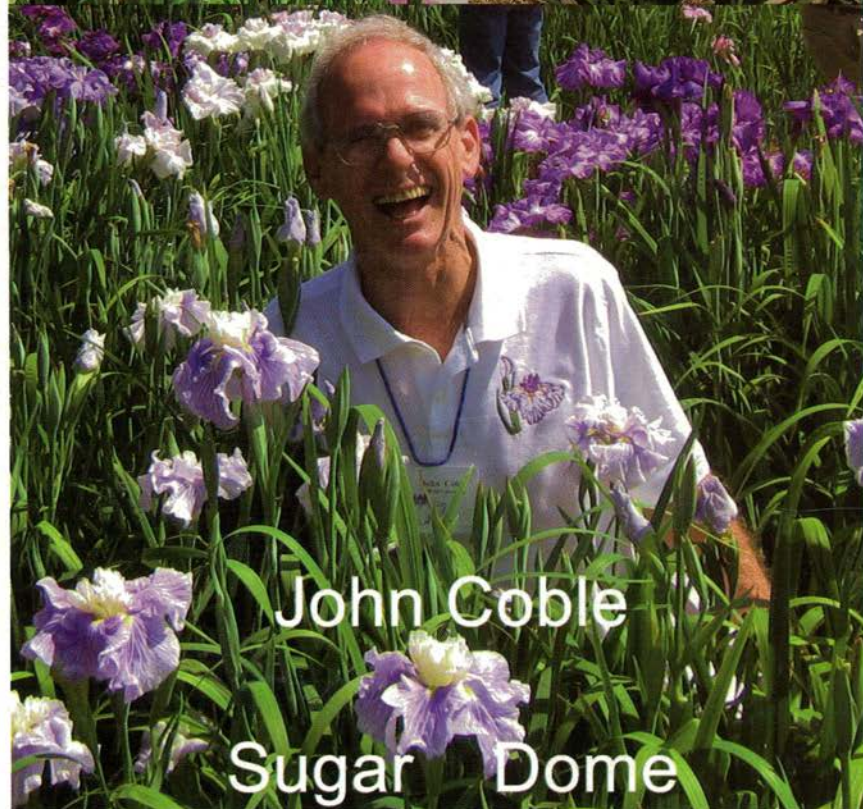
We are all thrilled with the "Hands Across The Prairies" donation from the Kalamazoo group to this delightful garden in Dubuque and look forward to bloom from these "instant clumps". Stay tuned for more pictures.





CHAD HARRIS - SUNRISE RIDGE

Terry Aitken
Second Wave



John Coble

Sugar Dome