

THE REVIEW

OF THE SOCIETY
FOR
JAPANESE IRISES



VOLUME 47
NUMBER #2
FALL 2010

SJI 2011 Convention

“A Summer’s Bloom”



READ THE ARTICLE STARTING ON PAGE 19

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

VOLUME 47 NUMBER 2

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Cover Photo:

2010 Payne Medal Winner - Sue Jo (Delmez 2003)

Photo by Don Delmez

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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Through 2011	Bob Bauer, 9823 E. Michigan Ave., Galesburg, MI 49053; Tel: (269) 665-7500; <ensata@aol.com>
Through 2012	Terry Aitken, 608 NW 119TH ST, Vancouver, WA 98685-3802 Tel: (360) 573-4472, <terry@flowerfantasy.net>

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, <treasurer@socji.org>
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	Patrick Spence, PO Box 2520, Woodenville, WA 98072-2520 Tel: (425) 770-5984 <patrick@CascadiaIrisGardens.com >
E-Mail Robin	Dennis Hager , PO Box 390, Millington, MD 21651 Tel: (410) 928-3147; <hager@aredee.com>
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Display Garden Chair	Open
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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
Overseas		
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. Jody Nolin, 5184 Cty Rd 20, Rushsylvania, OH 43347

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.

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 COLOR (4 X 3 1/2)	\$45.00
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 charge \$10.00 Annual

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.

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

SJI Slide Set Rental \$5.00

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All prices include US postage. Send requests to John Coble

Ensata Garden. 9823 E Michigan Ave. Galesburg, MI 49053-

9756. E-mail: ensata@aol.com

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

Deadlines for Submitting Articles and Information

Spring - February 15

Fall - August 15

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Dennis Hager



The way we do things has changed. First there was e-mail. Now there is an "e" in front of practically every form of business and communication. Electronic publication is growing very quickly. Book readers, like the Kindle® are gaining in popularity. In keeping with this trend, the SJI is now offering e-membership. With e-membership, you will be able to read the Review using your book reader. It is always exciting to get the next issue or the

Review. You may want to receive it electronically and the SJI is proud to be able to deliver.

There is nothing like the real thing and a printed issue may seem like the real thing. However, the real thing is Japanese irises blooming in the garden and that is what we like to experience. Plan now to attend A Summer's Bloom, the triennial convention of the Society for Japanese irises in Portland next June. Registration information can be found in this issue.

Happy gardening!

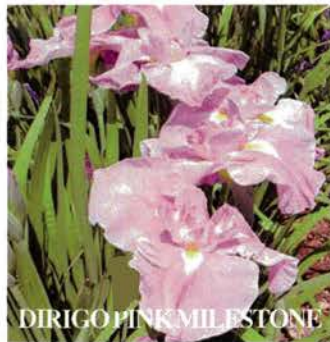
Dennis



SJI POPULARITY POLL RESULTS

2010

Ruth Barker, Greensboro, NC



Due to the delayed mailing of *The Review*, there was considerable confusion about the deadline for returning the ballot. The good news is that I received 42 ballots, representing 47 voters! All ballots received by Oct 7, 2010, were included in the calculation. A special thanks to all who participated.

There was quite a healthy competition this year, as you can see below! There were also 41 write-ins with one vote each. Seven cultivars received multiple votes and will be added to the 2011 ballot.

As you see below, there is a tie for first place and there several new ones were voted into the top 10! New ones also are found on the Runners Up list!

2010			2009
Place	Votes	Cultivar (hybridizer/year)	Place
1	13	DIRIGO PINK MILESTONE (White '00)	6
1	13	SUE JO (Delmez '03)	1
3	12	LITTLE BOW PINK (Delmez '98)	2
3	12	SING THE BLUES (Reid '97)	-
5	11	CASCADE CREST (Aitken '88)	12
5	11	LION KING (Bauer/Coble '96)	-
7	10	RASPBERRY CANDY (Bauer/Coble '99)	8
8	9	BLUE SPRITZ (Delmez '96)	4
8	9	LAKE EFFECT (Bauer/Coble '04)	12
10	8	CENTER OF ATTENTION (Rich '86)	10
10	8	CRYSTAL HALO (Marx '59)	-
10	8	OREGON MARMALADE (Walker '03)	-
10	8	RIVULETS OF WINE (Aitken '99)	12
10	8	TIDELINE (Bauer/Coble '95)	-
Runners Up:			
15	7	BEAUTIFUL ACCENT (Delmez '94)	-
15	7	CAPRICIAN BUTTERFLY (Marx '85)	-
15	7	ELECTRIC RAYS (Aitken '90)	-
15	7	FIRST STRIKE CRAOLA (Walker '05)	-
15	7	FLASHING KOI (Marx '78)	2
15	7	ORIENTAL EYES (Vogt '84)	-

COMMERCIAL GARDEN DIRECTORY

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INTRODUCING FOR LORENA REID

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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:

Jl General Interest Robin: Cindy Rust, director, 2016 Meadow Lane, Union, MO 63084; 636-583-2745; E-mail: cindy@riverstonequarry.com

Jl Hybridizers Robin: Patrick Spence, PO Box 2520, Woodenville, WA 98072-2520 Tel: (425) 770-5984 <patrick@CascadiaIrisGardens.com >

Jl E-mail Robin: Dennis Hager, director, E-mail: hager@aredee.com; www.socji.org

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

PHOTO CREDITS

Front Cover	'Sue Jo' -Don Delmez
Inside Front Cover	Convention Bed-Chad Harris
Page 9	Dirigo Pink Milestone-T Gormley
Page 15	Sue Jo, Dirigo Red Rocket, Freckled Geisha-T Gormley
Page 16	Sapphire Crown, Rosewater, Sugar Dome-John Coble
Page 17	Japanese Pinwheel, Copeland Seedling R18Tc-John Coble
Page 19	Convention Bed #1-Chad Harris
Page 21	Earthart T6-98-62-2, Walker JBC-C02-32-4, Hager 04 18 12 -Chad Harris
Page 31	Center of Attention, Garden Shot, Vince Lewonski
Page 32	Lion King, Gay Gallant, Vince Lewonski
Page 33	Garden Sculpture, Rose Queen Vince Lewonski
Page 34	Design 1, Design 2-Cindy Rust
Page 35	Show Layout, Queen's Table Cindy Rust
Page 36	Ipsus - Rita Gormley
Page 37	Sterling Innerest Ann Innerst Leedy
Page 38	Capaneus, Iapetus, Jocasta, Admetus - Reid
Page 39	Iaeptus - T Gormley
Page 42	Ellen Gallagher - T Gormley Anna Mae Miller - K Norris
Inside Back Cover	New Editorial Assistant Rita Gormley
Back Cover	Design from the Columbia, MO Show - Cindy Rust

AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

AIS AWARDS 2010

****NUMBER OF VOTES LISTED FIRST**

PAYNE MEDAL: JI

(TOTAL VOTES CAST = 123)

34 SUE JO (DONALD DELMEZ)

RUNNERS UP:

22 DIRIGO RED ROCKET (JOHN WHITE)

21 RIVULETS OF WINE (J. T. AITKEN)

16 BLUSHING SNOWMAIDEN (CHAD HARRIS)

16 FRECKLED PEACOCK (CHAD HARRIS)

AWARD OF MERIT: JI

(TOTAL VOTES CAST = 170)

26 COHO (CHAD HARRIS)

18 BEYOND CHANCE (DONALD DELMEZ)

RUNNERS UP:

16 OREGON MARMALADE (LEE WALKER)

15 BANJO BLUES (BOB BAUER/JOHN COBLE)

15 SECOND WAVE (J. T. AITKEN)

14 BELGIUM WARRIOR (WILLY HUBLAU)

HONORABLE MENTION: JI

(TOTAL VOTES CAST = 263)

27 CHRISTINA'S GOWN (JILL COPELAND)

25 ANGELIC CHOIR (CHAD HARRIS)

20 FIRST STRIKE CRAOLA (LEE WALKER)

19 RED TESSA (J. T. AITKEN)

RUNNERS UP:

18 SUNRISE RIDGE (CHAD HARRIS)

15 BOB'S CHOICE (JILL COPELAND)

13 NATURE'S BOUNTY (DONALD DELMEZ)

12 SIMPLY STATED (DENNIS HAGER)

12 VISION OF BEAUTY (DON DELMEZ)

12 WALK RIGHT IN (LEE WALKER)



SUE JO



DIRIGO RED ROCKET



FRECKLED PEACOCK

Kalamazoo JI Display, 2010

The Southwestern Michigan Iris Society again set up a Japanese iris display (unjudged show), July 3, 2010. John and Bob from Ensata Gardens and Jim and Jill Copeland set up two tables with 25 JI and 5 Pseudatas. With the bloom season 10 days early, we were pleased to have twice as many stalks as we had anticipated. The display was set up at Wedel's Garden Center. We were pleased to have twice as many visitors as we had anticipated on the holiday weekend. We ended up handing out 104 blue ribbons to gardeners passing by to place beside their "favorite" that day. Tough decisions! Every stalk received at least one ribbon.

The favorite of the day was 'Sapphire Crown' with 12 blue ribbons. The next vote getter was 'Rose Water' with 10 ribbons. Big size is always impressive and Jill



SAPPHIRE CROWN

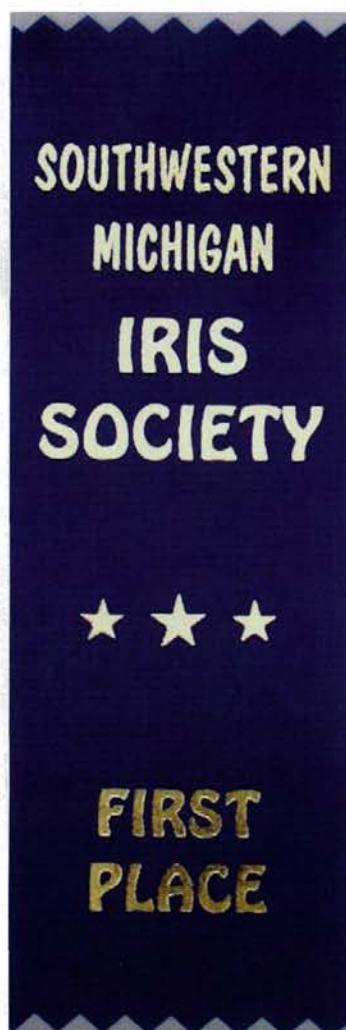


ROSEWATER



SUGAR DOME

Copeland's 6-fall tetraploid pure white seedling, R-12, attracted 7 ribbons. To show that all colors and patterns were attractive, the following each attracted 6 ribbons: 'Japanese Pinwheel', 'Sugar Dome' and a Bauer/Coble 6F



JAPANESE PINWHEEL



COPELAND R18TC

dark grape seedling.

At least one couple was very interested in coming to our next meeting with the annual auction, and we promised to have a few Japanese iris for their bidding! We sure would like to gain another JI exhibitor!

John Coble

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/)

“A Summer’s Bloom”



Convention Time

Chad Harris
Mt Pleasant Iris

Greater Portland Iris Society again welcomes you to join us in viewing the newer work of eleven hybridizers on June 24th and 25th in 2011. The hotel is one that we are familiar with and have had the pleasure to use several times. They have offered a special room rate of only \$60.00 plus tax per night.

Another bonus is that the hotel location is only 10 minutes from the Portland International Airport (not under any flight paths!), offering complimentary 24 hours shuttle service.

As one of the three quest gardens I was privileged to preview the bloom on most of the 120 guest plants this past spring and summer.



National Japanese Iris Convention

Sponsored by the
Greater Portland Iris Society
June 24th & 25th, 2011

Convention Hotel
Ramada Inn
6221 N.E. 82nd Avenue
Portland, OR 97220
877-726-2326

Name: _____ Region: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

E-Mail: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Additional Registrants _____;

Nametags will be made as printed above.

Full Registration includes: Welcome Dinner, Breakfast, Lunch, Awards Dinner and bus tour of three guest gardens.

No cars will be allowed to drive to the gardens on tour day. Those who wish to drive can do so on their own after the convention dates.

Friday June 24, Japanese Iris board meeting followed by Judges Training with Lorena Reid. Open slide show (limit 10 slides) and dinner.

Saturday June 25, Breakfast, Bus tour with lunch, followed by Awards Dinner and Auction.

Full Registration before April 16, 2011: Number of People: _____ X \$130.00= _____
registration after April 16 will be \$175.00

2 Dinner Banquets only: Number of People: _____ X \$65.00 = _____

Welcome Dinner your choice

Chicken Cordon Blue number _____

Roast Pork Loin number _____

Awards Dinner your choice

Chicken Marsala number _____

Herb Crusted Salmon number _____

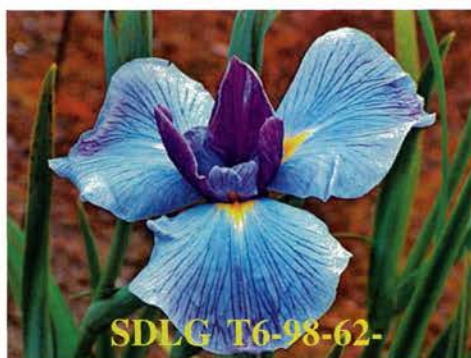
If you have special dietary needs please indicate that here and we will try to accommodate you.

Send this form and your check made payable to **Greater Portland Iris Society** to the address below. If you have questions or need to make changes, please contact Dale Grams.

Hotel Rates are \$60.00 per night, plus tax. Complimentary 24 hr Airport Shuttle.

Registrations received after May 15th, 2011 will be at the discretion of the registrar. Request for refunds for cancellations will be made at the discretion of the convention committee.

Send this form to
A Summer's Bloom
Dale Grams, Registrar
Post Office Box 346
Washougal, WA 98671-0346
360-835-1016 mtpleasantiris@prodigy.net



I am sure that Dr. McEwen would be pleased to see how tetraploid ensatas have improved not only with new bloom colors, but many plants are starting to relax with their foliage structure.

Sharon Whitney of Eartheart sent T6-98-62-2 a 3F tet of sky blue and dark

red-violet standards that stand straight up. Jill Copeland's S 23 T with 3 wide overlapping falls is white with random streaking of red-



violet, and is the first broken color tetraploid that I have seen. Several tetraploid ensatas were sent in by Lee Walker, but my breath was taken away by his diploid JBC-C02-32-4 a 3F of a unique mauve coloring with a rich contrasting blue halo framing the bright yellow signals. Dennis Hager of Academy House guested

several plants of which two are the deepest clear saturated blue that I have ever seen. For Hiroshi Shimizu, Carol Warner of Draycott Gardens sent two dozen plus of the 'eye shadow' patterned pseudatas for us to evaluate.



This is but a small sampling of some of the many hybridizers and of their excellent work that has been sent to grow for the 2011 National Japanese Convention. I hope that I have enticed you to come join us in Portland, Oregon for "A Summer's Bloom".

CHIRPS FROM THE JAPANESE IRIS HYBRIDIZER'S ROBIN

Jill Copeland Reporter

Lorena Reid, Springfield, OR, writes: The present [JI] bed was planted in either 2000 or 2001, in land that has grown mostly Japanese Irises since we arrived---about 1967 or so. There is some varietal difference, but some varieties do not do well, or even die under the same conditions as others do fine.

A year or so ago, I noted this in one flight of this robin, and promised to make lists... Well today, I made the lists, of those varieties, which had been planted in this section in 2000 or 2001 and their present condition. One additional problem, we have had some problem with voles coming from the pasture next-door beginning last summer (becoming evident last fall, & battled since). They seem to have an appetite for the roots of Japanese Irises and have even gnawed the bottoms of some of the rhizomes (tooth marks evident, besides nipped off roots)... The varieties in the Doing Great list have huge, vigorous clumps (little or no vole damage). Those in the Doing OK list are not quite so large, but still doing well. Those...[doing] poorly are smaller, not forming good clumps, or having dead spots in the clumps. [Others have died].

The varieties [listed below] are those, which I should use as parents, if I want to breed varieties, which can do well in soil where Japanese Irises have been grown for years, and vigorous enough to survive not being replanted every 2 or 3 years, and 'some' vole damage as well. The others, many being lovely varieties, if used in a hybridizing program could well produce clones which would need to be babied more, or grown in fresh soil...and one runs out of 'fresh soil' after growing irises on the same 2 acres between 35-40 years!

JIs doing great here (JIs mostly since 1966)

Absalom (Innerst)

Anytus (Innerst)

Angel Mountain (Bauer/Coble)

Awaji-Shima (Mitsuda)

Barbara's Choice (Hublau)	Beni-tsubaki (Hirao)
Bluetone (Payne)	Brocade Blue (Ackerman)
Cascade Crest (Aitken)	Cascade Spice (Reid)
Cascade Spring Dress (Reid)	Center of Attention (Rich)
Chidori (Hirao)	Chicogesho (Sato)
Dancing Waves (Payne)	Dirigo Old Pewter (White)
Dramatic Moment (McEwen)	Frosted Pyramid (Marx)
Geisha Mischief (Maddock)	Hatsukagami (Hirao)
Hekito (Hirao)	Japanese Pinwheel (McEwen)
Kaleidoshow (Reid)	Koshui-no-asa (Shimizu)
Magic Ruby (Payne)	Midnight Stars (Aitken)
Midnight Whisper (Marx)	Mystic Buddha (Marx)
Narihira (Hirao)	Nishikiori (Shimizu)
Oriental Fantasy (Payne)	Pink Dimity (Reid)
Pleasant Earlybird (Harris)	Popular Acclaim (Payne)
Rose World (Reid)	Royal Crown (Marx)
Royal One (Ackerman)	Ruffled Dimity (Reid)
Ruri Ogi (Hirao)	Sapphire Star (Marx/Rogers)
Strut & Flourish (Payne)	Summer Storm (Marx)
Umi Botaru (from Hager)	Walk in Beauty (Rich)
Wilderness Amour (Wood)	Yamato Hime (Hirao)
Yamato-I-koku (Kamo)	Yayoikagami (Hirao)

JIs doing OK (from 1967 to 2006)

Blue Lagoon (Marx)	Blue Marlin (Copeland)
Blueberry Rimmed (McEwen)	Blushing Crimson (Rich)
Confetti Dancer (Reid)	Confetti Shower (Payne)
Dame Fortune (Payne)	Dino (Aitken)
Diomedes (Innerst)	Dirigo Devil (White)
Double First (McEwen)	Dramatic Pattern (McEwen)
Electric Glow (Aitken)	Electric Rays (Aitken)
Enchanted Lake (Payne)	Flashing Koi (Marx)
Foreign Intrigue (Bauer/Coble)	Fractal Blue (Reid)

Freckled Geisha (Reid)	Frilled Enchantment (Marx)
Frost Bound (Rich)	Frosted Pyramid (Bauer/Coble)
Good Omen (Marx)	Grape Fizz (Ackerman)
Pixie Won (Copeland)	Hakugyokuro (Hirao)
Hatsuho	Hekigyoku
Heme Kagami (Hirao)	Heme Komachi (Kamo)
Hisakata (Marx-import)	Howard Brooks (McEwen)
Iapetus (Innerst)	Jeannine's Pride (Hublau)
Jeweled Sea (Payne)	Lilac Peaks (Vogt)
Magic Opal (Payne)	Mai-Ogi (Hirao)
Matsuono-Uki (from Hager)	McKenzie Sunset (Reid)
Sapphire Skies (Delmez)	Oba (Shimizu)
Oriental Classic (McEwen)	Over the Waves (Marx)
Picotee Princess (Reid)	Pink Ringlets (Aitken)
Prairie Twilight (Hazzard)	Rolling Seas (Aitken)
Rose Prelude (Marx)	Rosewater (Bauer/Coble)
Sakurijishi (Tomino)	Sakuraku (from Hager)
Sessyu (Kamo)	Sing the Blues (Reid)
Slumbering Dragon (Bauer/Coble)	Springtime Showers (Reid)
Springtime Snow (Reid)	Star at Midnight (Rich)
Summer Splash (Reid)	Sweet & Low (from Hager)
Swirling Waves (Payne)	Taga Sode (Hirao)
Tropical Storm (Bauer/Coble)	Valiant Prince (Marx)
Variation in Pink (McEwen)	Violet & Silver (Payne)
Warai Hotei (Sakata)	Wilderness Debutante (Wood)
Wilderness Intrigue (Wood)	Yusho (Hirao)
Dirigo Pink Milestone (White)	Raspberry Candy (Bauer/ Coble)

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?

Lorena, thanks for the list. I think I will use varieties from your "doing great" list for my hybridizing, too. I will try to generate a list from my garden.

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 intrac-table.

Chad, Thanks for all of your work on the convention this spring. I read with interest your story about Pleasant Earlybird planted in a bog in 1996 (that is 10 years!) with no soil amendments or dividing. Do you think the answer is the genetics of the plant or the environment of water? Both?? Going along with Mike Iler's comments I wonder if the root growth habit of Pleasant Early Bird is similar to that described by Mike.. more of a spreading habit of growth like Siberians

Mike, I was impressed with the beauty and diversity of the irises you sent to the Delaware convention. I was disappointed that you were not with us to hear how much everyone liked your plants. I am wondering if the varieties that Lorena has placed on her various lists could also be evaluated and classified as you suggest, by root growth habit. Thanks for your insightful comments on root growth.

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".

And *The Japanese Iris* page 57 "A fourth method tested by Hager 1957 is based on the principle that nematodes cannot live long in submerged conditions."

Referring to 'Pleasant Earlybird' growing at the pond with no nematode damage, the soil is saturated at all times. I think that nematodes can be controlled not eradicated but controlled.

In the future I'm resting a field for 2 years with a heavy dose of compost also, a cover crop of crimson clover before replanting, Only time will tell if this takes care of the cultural needs of JIs and the build up of nematodes.

Lorena, I concur with your list of plants that do well... In the past, I've grown about 80% listed - many I still grow. I try to keep the collection down to 100 plants.

Sharon, 'Pleasant Earlybird' has the same growth habits as other JIs if not lifted and the soil amended, it soon declines. I'm very tempted to make another bog setting and try a less vigorous JI.

Lorena writes: Mike, the 'Mechanical problem with very old plantings' of JI is easy to see with the quantity of twisted old brown rhizomes that form multi-layers cress-crossing each other, till there is scarcely room in between for new shoots to come up through in extreme cases.

Chad, do you have any trouble with water not soaking down through the 6-8" of composted mulch put onto old clumps during the summer? I was going to dig and toss the whole 'old planting' of JIs next spring, but think I will try the heavier composting of some in the spring to see if it will maybe revive them...just for experiment's sake.

Jill writes: This is the year [2006] that Region 6 has its spring convention during JI bloom time. This will be good rehearsal for the 2008 JI Convention. We are accepting guests anytime this year for the 2008 Convention. We hope to see you at both. Carol Warner has sent the pseudatas from Japan [by Shimuzu]. Some of them will bloom at the Region 6 meeting.

Sharon writes: Lorena, I have been sweet on 'Sing the Blues' since seeing it growing in your garden at the convention a few years ago. Congratulations to you for winning the Payne Award! We are fortunate to have 'Sing the Blues' growing in our garden and will be able to show it off to our visitors in 2007.

Jill, I heard such lovely reports about your Region 6 convention! My excitement about the 2008 convention is building!

Lorena writes: Chad, Do you have any trouble with water not soaking down through the 6-8" of composted mulch put onto old clumps during the summer? I was going to dig and toss the whole 'old planting' of JIs next spring, but think I will try the heavier composting of some in the spring to see if it will maybe revive them...just for experiment's sake.

Chad writes: Lorena, The type of compost that I use (rotted leaf mold and yard debris) does not form a water barrier. Woodchips or bark dust do, as I found out at our old house in Vancouver. The wood fibers lock together like a birds feathers and actually shed water. I also do not walk on the compost or compact it in any way. It seems to stay light and airy for three years. At that time it is then tilled into the subsoil in preparation of a new planting bed.

Jill writes: Chad, What a good experiment you did! I have been wondering if JIs could be planted like new asparagus by digging a deep hole, planting the plant at the bottom and then filling the hole a little each year. I think JIs must have evolved in a delta (the flood plain of a river) where they were flooded and buried in rich mud each spring. We are using alfalfa as a cover crop.

Chad writes: Jill, Interesting thought about JI's evolving in or around the flood plain of a river. Has anyone seen wild native stands of JI's, what are the ground conditions like? The JI that is old and by our pond is never flooded. We have a drainpipe that keeps the water table constant. The soil is always damp, rotting out the old rhizome in a year or two.

Terry Aitken, Vancouver, WA writes: Shimizu did an article some years back where he talked about diversity within the wild species. Some of the flowers were 3 fall and some were 6 fall. (I still have the pictures) There are photos from northern Japan of wild JI's growing in grassy fields with the ocean in the background. (Coastal marine climate) I suspect that Shimizu would be a good person to contact about the environment where the wild species is usually found. The photos are dated 2002 so the article was probably printed in '03? He may even write an article about the evolution of JI from the perspective of soils.

Since JI's seem happiest with lots of moisture in the springtime and less need in the summer, this seems to indicate spring runoff from mountains and a cooler environment.

Don Delmez, St. Charles, MO writes: Chad, Would like to know more about your compost. Compost can vary considerably in its suggested to me that it never dries out. There were a few large shrubs, but no trees. It has been on my "to do" list to go back there to see what they are like.

My experience with top dressing with compost mirrors Chad's. As I see it, the added layer postpones the inevitable process of lifting, dividing and planting deeper.

Speaking of planting deeper, a few years ago, I planted 3 large divisions of 'Iapetus' at different depths in sandy bog. The crowns were approximately 2", 4" and 6" below the surface. All three grew well, but the deeper they were planted, the slower they were to emerge in the spring. For the first year, there also appeared to be a correlation between depth of planting and initial bloom. It occurred to me that bloom season could be manipulated by this technique, but once again, I have not yet repeated the experiment.

Sharon writes: Years ago Currier and I mulched some failing seedlings with compost. They had been growing in place for 4 years,

bloomed beautifully the 3rd year and started to fail the 4th year. That 4th year, we mulched between the rows with 2"-4" of compost. We also watered the area so that it would receive 2" of water a week. The seedlings continued to fail the next spring, the 5th year. Late that 5th summer we moved the JI to new soil in a section of the garden that had never grown JI. Thankfully they perked right up and were doing great when Don Delmez and Lee Walker visited two summers after the move. I am certain that Lee and Don will remember the seedlings.

I believe it was Currier's visit to Japan that inspired him to mulch between the rows and water every week. He observed that the gardens in Japan were mulched with compost and flooded with water around bloom time. I believe that the gardens had formerly grown rice.

Sharon writes: I was able to find correspondence from Irina Pautova sent in 2005. I asked her if she or Dr. Rodionenko had found *I. ensata* growing in the wild

"Dr. Rodionenko in the Russian Far East once found a small bog, where *I. laevigata* occurred, and on some hillocks there was *I. ensata*. According to his observations, after soil slips taking place from abundant moisture, *I. ensata* first goes ahead to hills, to the fresh earth, and thrives there until sedges appear and displace it. He also saw *I. ensata* on meadow plots together with peony, Dahurian lily and grasses. He never found large thickets, as those of *I. laevigata*. Probably, *I. ensata* holds its populations by means of seeds. From the data of the book "Vascular plants of the Soviet Far East", populations of *I. ensata* occur north of Vladivostok. They are located to the west, near the border of China, reach Blagoveshchensk and somewhat north of it at the Zeya River."

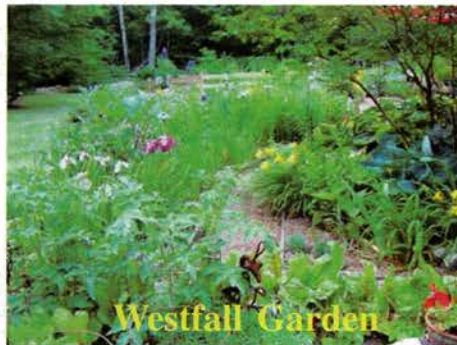
Editor's Note: "Paper Robins" are a dying breed in this electronic age and only the SJI and the Median Iris Society still have active groups! The report printed here goes back over a long time period, has no dates but I don't see where any of it has been printed before. Enjoy!

A Visit to the Westfall Garden

Birchrunville, PA
by Vince Lewonski

On the evening of June 18th, 2010, members of the Delaware Valley Iris Society gathered together at the home of Larry and Debbie Westfall to eat, drink, talk, and, of course, look at irises!

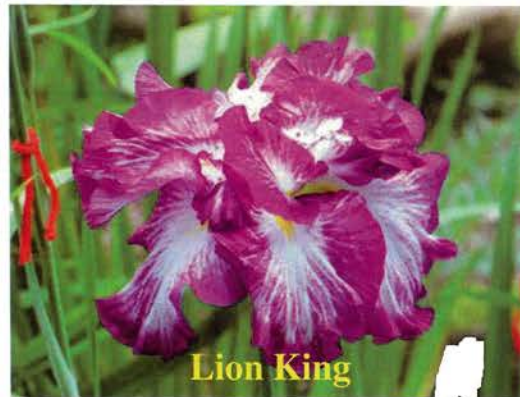
The Westfalls live in a heavily wooded rural area, with the whole property being on a slope leading down to a stream. The house is a historic log cabin that has been heavily modified with additions. The yard also continues to evolve over the years, as Larry personally installed an extensive stone patio and terraces in the last two years.



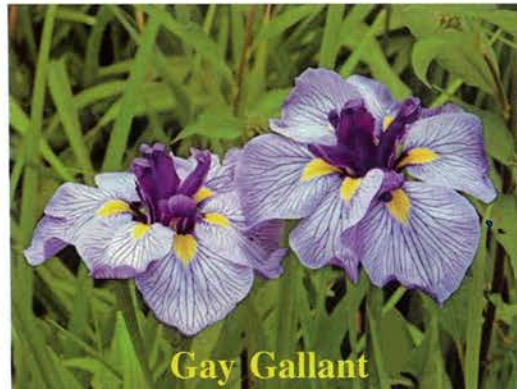
This garden is one of the largest collections of Japanese irises in the East. The JIs are obviously Larry's favorite type of iris, and the number of years that he has been growing them have made him an expert in their culture. All clumps were doing well, both on the terraces and down closer to the stream. Various

other annuals, perennials, vegetables, and garden ornaments were interspersed throughout the garden. This presented a nice overall effect

and would give visitors something to look at during the time when the irises are not in bloom. A lot of gardens (mine included) are just rows and rows of irises, and have more of a commercial nursery look than a unified garden look.



Spring and summer in Pennsylvania this year was ungodly hot. We broke all kinds of records and the record heat had the effect of accelerating the bloom season. We were lucky in that Larry's garden was still quite close to peak bloom, being a week or two behind most other member's gardens. The garden is surrounded by full sized mature trees, which provide some shade. Most of the garden appears to get 4-6 hours of sunlight a day. The garden is living, growing proof that Japanese irises don't need a full day of sun! The stream, although small, also has a cooling effect. And, being in a rural area, the nighttime temperature drop is greater. All of these factors give Larry a delayed bloom, and also a longer bloom season, as flowers don't fry up in the sun as quickly.



After everyone had wandered through the garden and eaten to their heart's (and stomach's) content, we had an in-garden judge's training session. Larry then gave a demonstration on how to groom a stalk for a show. He then revealed that one of the stalks was from a

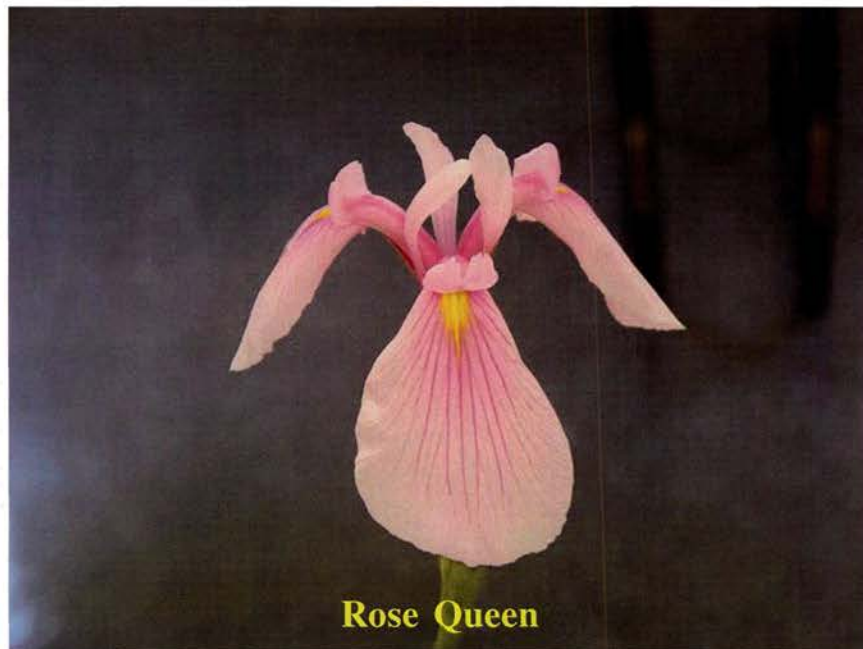
Louisiana iris, to which he had carefully attached a JI flower! "Don't try this at home!"

Larry also had useful tips on transporting stalks to a show. One technique he had was to use florist's tape to attach a thin stake to the stalk all the way up, including the perianth tube. This keeps the flower from tilting or goosenecking while in transit. Obviously, the stake and tape have to be removed prior to judging.



Mantis Sculpture

That weekend, the Delaware Valley Iris Society had a show, the first in many, many years to be held during the JI bloom season. Larry won Best of Show with a larger and taller than normal stalk of the old classic 'Rose Queen'. It seemed only fitting.



Rose Queen

First Beardless Show for Show Me Iris Society!

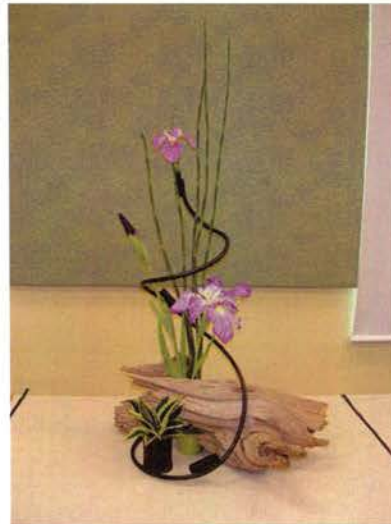
By Cindy Rust, Union, MO



The large and lovely new library in Columbia, MO was the site for the first- ever beardless show for this Region 18 group. For years, they had decided to expand their iris knowledge and to learn about beardless irises, how to grow them and now they have experienced hands-on actually growing and exhibiting these lesser known irises. I was privileged to be one of the judges of their "late" show. If they had not all repeatedly told me this was their first beardless show, I never would have believed it!

The group's mentor for this project was Region 18's **Mr. JJ**, Don Delmez. It sure looked to our judging group like everyone paid excellent attention! Don Delmez had gone to the extra trouble to bring "feet" for the tables, so that they could be staged low and the flowers would then be at eye level for the viewer. This not only gave an oriental flair to the room, but was very practical as well.

In addition to the full selection of Japanese Iris, there was a great Louisiana section (mostly stocked by Show Chairman, Dan Judy) some lovely species and spurias, too. There was even a dandy little entry of the reblooming

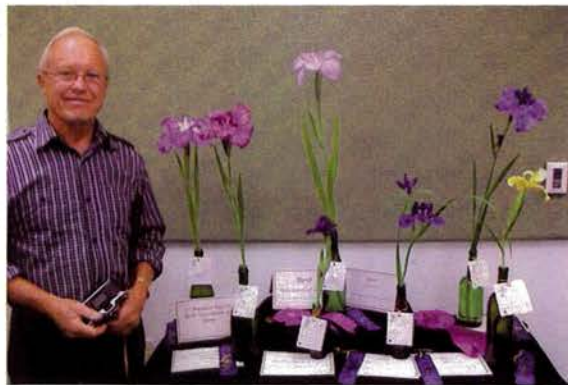


SDB, "Autumn Jester," exhibited by Audrey Judy that won a blue ribbon. This show had six exhibitors with 90 entries and 83 varieties / cultivars. It was the perfect number of entries for the long room and the Queen's



Table was a delight to see. Best Specimen of the Show went to "Beautiful Accent," exhibited (and hybridized!) by Don Delmez. The Best Seedling went to Number DBDKBST, also hybridized and exhibited by Don Delmez. Don won the Silver Medal with 18 blue ribbons and Dan Judy won the Bronze Medal with 7 blue ribbon

winners.



This show also featured some lovely artistic arrangements. The big winners were Ken Sadler winning Best Design Of Show and Ken also won the Sweepstakes Award for winning the most blue ribbons in the

design section of the show. Additional winners include Dennis Van Landuyt for Species and Jessie Emmons for Spuria.

Congratulations to this Region 18 group who grew some classy irises in a section they had little experience with before this project and their new-found enthusiasm with the Japanese Iris and other beardless iris as well.

WE FONDLY REMEMBER

STERLING INNERST

February 6, 1935 - September 6, 2010

Sterling Urias "Pete" Innerst, 75, of Dallastown, PA passed away peacefully at Colonial Manor Nursing Home. He was the husband of the late Barbara Jean (Boreck) Innerst who passed away August 26, 1999.

A graveside service will was held with the Rev. Dr. Jason A. Leader officiating. He was a graduate of Dallastown High School and Millersville University. He was an elementary school teacher in the Dover School District for thirty years prior to his retirement. He served as a military policeman in the U.S. Army. Mr. Innerst is survived by two brothers, Jay Innerst of Dallastown, and Fred Innerst of Red Lion, and four sisters, Ruth Lehr of Spring Grove, Irene Eberly of Dallastown, Virginia Striebig of York and Ann Leedy of York.

Pete was a Iris hybridizer for many years and was active in the American Iris Society, and was awarded the Presidents cup in both 1995 and 2001. Pete also won the American Iris Society Dykes Medal in 1996 for his beautiful black iris 'Before the Storm' (Innerst 1989).

Of the 192 introductions of all types of irises, Sterling had seventeen II and garnered the Payne Medal for three: 1986 - 'Ipsus', 1997 - 'Iapetus' and 2004.- 'Epimetheus'



Sterling Urias Innerst

A remembrance by Rev. Dr. Jason A. Leader

Sterling Urias Innerst, son, brother, husband, uncle, brother in law, school teacher, world known iris hybridizer, orchid fancier, a true master gardener, animal lover, soldier, farmer, and Christian brother died Friday September 6th, 2010. It seems almost unnatural to no longer be able to visit him and discuss all manner of subjects. For you see, in a fashion, he was a Renaissance Man.

I was always amazed at the number of people that would stop and chat with him during a garden show or sale, reminding him they were in his class at Dover. He loved teaching children, and from the reaction of those who stopped to talk with him, they truly loved him and remembered him as one of their best teachers. This continued to the hospital bed, where Ann told me she really enjoyed the way in which he interacted with her grandchildren.



He also had a fondness for pets and loved all his "livestock"-- although I have to admit that I never did understand his fondness for geese. He was passionate about treating animals kindly and was an ardent supporter of the SPCA.

His wife Barb died several years ago. They loved each other deeply and it seemed a part of his soul left him that day never to return. How often when visiting them would find them both reading, not talking but basking in the comfort and pleasure of knowing they were in the same room. Barb did all the shopping, in fact, about six months after she died, Pete called me to ask where Sears had moved and added, when did they change the York Count Shopping Center? Yes, they

loved and supported each other even though they had different hobbies. And now, they are together again.

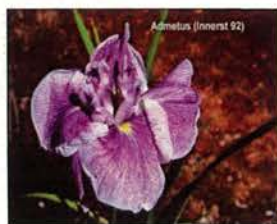
Pete could be direct, perhaps too direct. Yet he was generous to a fault. One can only imagine the number of plants he gave away or donated to the iris and orchid societies, or help he gave to others.

As a plants man he had an incredible eye for beauty, color, and the proper form a



particular flower should have. He won nation and international awards for his iris hybridizing. He was, a master artist with plant genes. He had very exacting standards and was not willing to compromise these standards. If you really wanted to get an opinion on how good one of your iris hybrids were and you asked Pete, he would be very

specific about his response. His first question was "How is that an improvement over what is available in commerce today." And if I were to sum up his life, That is the question by which I believe with which he judged the various stages of his life-- How is that an improvement over the life you now live. He was an educator, artist, and innovator in the plant world. And I have to tell you he had an ironic sense of humor. Who but Pete would give all his Japanese iris introductions Greek names?



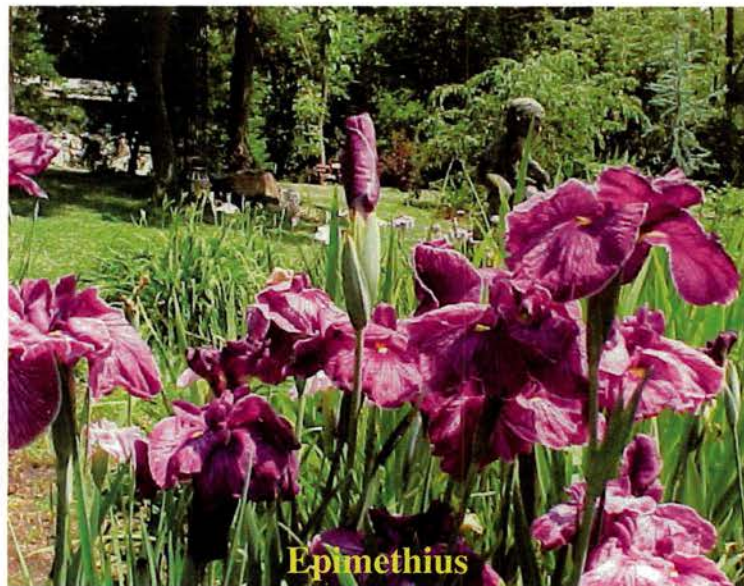
However, If Pete standing here this moment, he would probably say, "talk about the Lord and not me-- that is what is important."

Pete, like all of us was both sinner and saint, and could be judgmental, obstinate and yet he had a deep, strong and abiding faith.

Through all of these trials and travails, I believe he never gave up because he had a strong faith and loved the Lord. He had a firm belief in the resurrection and I believe it saddened him that there were those who did not believe.

He suffered greatly during the past few years because his physical abilities gradually deteriorated, however, his mind remained sharp. He knew what he wanted his body to do but it just wouldn't respond. It seemed the bigger the challenge to him, the harder he tried to overcome it. Pete separated himself for several years from many of you, yet I will tell you that during our conversations, he had a great yearning to be closer to his family and really appreciated the visits and help you gave him. As you know, he could be intuitive and kind and Ann mentioned that many times she left, she felt that he had ministered to her. Most importantly, he loved Jesus and recognized that his relationship with Christ allowed him to love his family even more, because he knew that through Jesus' atoning work of life, death and resurrection, he would travel through eternity with the ones he loved.

Sterling now walks with Barb amongst the saints at the foot of the throne without pain of physical challenge. Pete Innerst, Child of God has gone home. Amen



EDITOR'S ESSAY - RITA GORMLEY

Lots of new "doin's" in SJI!! This issue of The REVIEW is in "full color" thanks to AG Press's new digital printer that makes it more affordable. Thus the color is not only one 4 or 8 full color sheets but interspersed throughout the articles. Important pictures like the AIS winners are no longer relegated just to cover shots. This entails more "Editor work", especially on the part of Graphics Guru Tom Gormley, but we are sure you will love it! Do send me feedback, both pro and con!

A new topic is under discussion with the SJI Board of Directors: Electronic Memberships:

SJI concept is for SJI Regular Memberships with The REVIEW mailed will remain the same. One additional Membership class -Electronic Membership- be added with NOTHING mailed, The REVIEW available as a pdf file, one (three year) dues with no "Overseas" surcharge, one vote in SJI General Membership issues. Details are being worked out but will include dues of 50% of the three year triennial rate (means \$13.00 currently).

Several other AIS Sections are working on this concept as well as AIS and soon there will have many climbing on the E-bandwagon!!! SPCNI already has the option on the JOIN portion of the AIS Website for E-mail Membership (no Print). SIGNA has made a firm decision about lower Member fees for an Electronic membership (no printed Newsletter sent). Spuria recently announced that E-option but has not addressed the separate dues structure issue. I feel that Overseas members will once again find Section Memberships affordable and come in droves!!

In order to continue with the "details" of the Electronic Membership, SJI must FIRST amend the ByLaws to allow the new category. This new wording has been unanimously approved by the SJI Board of Directors. Please see the General Membership ballot on page 39 and promptly e-mail or mail your ballot to SJI Secretary Peter Weixlmann BEFORE **12-31-2010**.

SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES BYLAWS BALLOT - FALL 2010 REVIEW

The Board of Directors of The Society for Japanese Irises unanimously recommends the following change to Article VII of the SJI ByLaws adding the Membership classification of Electronic Membership and deleting new Life Memberships.

CHANGE ARTICLE VII - MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Section 2. Classes of Members. There shall be the following classes of members: Single, Dual, Youth, Honorary Life and Electronic Membership.

- a. Definitions of Classes. The definitions of Single, Dual, Youth memberships shall be the same as definitions adopted for the same classes of membership in the American Iris Society.
- b. Dues Basis. Single, Dual and Youth membership dues may be paid on either an annual or triennial basis.
- c. Electronic Membership Only is single vote and without printed mailed publication AND dues must be paid on a triennial basis.

☐ Yes

☐ No

Return to SJI Secretary Peter Weixlmann by mail or e-mail prior to December 31, 2010

PWeixl@aol.com
PETER J WEIXLMANN
280 SENECA CREEK RD
WEST SENECA NY 14224-2374

SJI NOMINATING REPORT 2010

The Nominating Committee is pleased to offer the names of the following members to serve as Officers of the Society for Japanese Irises

Director at Large - Anna Mae Miller (thru 2014)

Nominating Committee - Ellen Gallagher (thru 2013)

There being no additional nominations, this slate is duly elected effective 1-1-2011

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Copeland, Bob Bauer and Terry Aitken



Ellen Gallagher

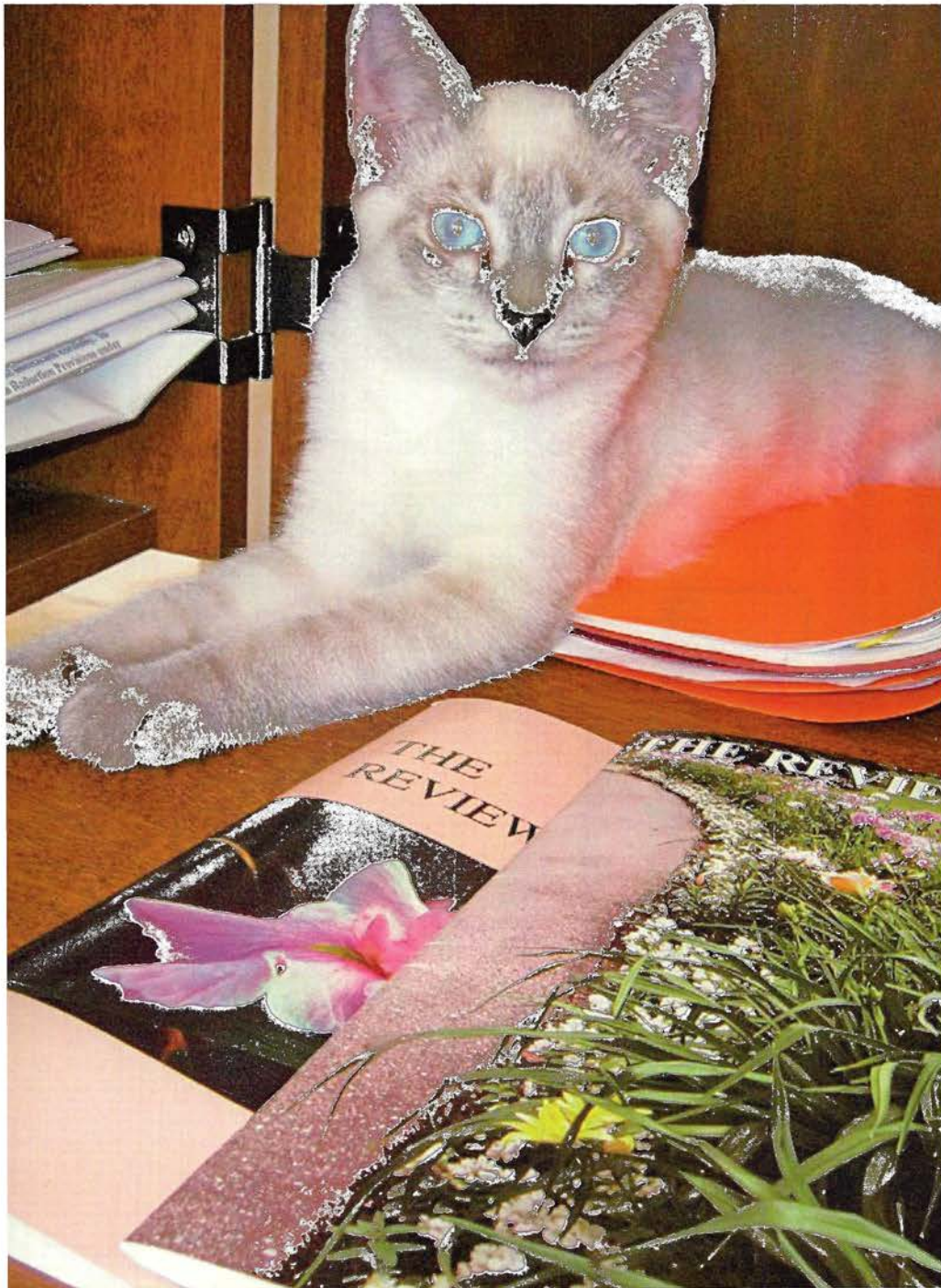


Anna Mae Miller

**IF YOUR MAILING ENVELOPE SHOWS
EXPIRATION DATE OF 1-1-2011, THIS IS
YOUR LAST ISSUE OF THE SJI REVIEW!!!**

PLEASE RENEW PROMPTLY!!!

Introducing our new Editorial Assistant
SAM WHAT AM





Design from the Columbia, MO Show