



# THE REVIEW

OF THE SOCIETY  
FOR  
JAPANESE IRISES

VOLUME 47  
NUMBER #1  
SPRING 2010



# GREYWOOD FARM

85 RIVER ROAD TOPSFIELD, MA 01983

greywoodfarm@comcast.net

## 2010 Introductions of *Darlyn Wilkinson*



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2007 INTRODUCTION



GREYWOODS ANNALISE

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

**VOLUME 47**

**NUMBER 1**

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**INSERT - YELLOW- POPULARITY POLL BALLOT**

# THE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES

## Officers

<b>President</b>	Dennis Hager , PO Box 390, Millington, MD 21651 Tel: (410) 928-3147; <hager@aredee.com>
<b>Vice President</b>	Patrick Spence, PO Box 2520, Woodenville, WA 98072-2520 Tel: (425) 770-5984 <patrick@CascadiaIrisGardens.com >
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<b>Treasurer</b>	Jody Nolin, 5184 Cty Rd 20, Rushsylvania, OH 43347 Tel: (614) 507-0332, jody.nolin@gmail.com
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<b>Editor</b>	Rita Gormley, P. O. Box 177, DeLeon Springs, FL 32130 Tel: (386) 277-2057, cell: (314) 606-9709 <GormleyGreenery@gmail..com>

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<b>2012</b>	Chad Harris, P.O. Box 346, Washougal, WA 98671-0346 Tel: (360) 835-1016 <chadharris@prodigy.net>
<b>2013</b>	Lorena Reid, 1829 E St, Springfield, OR 97477 Tel: (541) 747-1787, <LOREID@peak.org>

## Nominating Committee

<b>Through 2010</b>	Jim Copeland, 78118 M-40, Lawton, MI 49065 Tel: (269) 624-1968; <jandjcope@aol.com>
<b>Through 2011</b>	Bob Bauer, 9823 E. Michigan Ave., Galesburg, MI 49053; Tel: (269) 665-7500; <ensata@aol.com>
<b>Through 2012</b>	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, 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

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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.

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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
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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.

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

SJI Slide Set Rental	\$5.00
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Iris Laevigata – book rental	\$5.00
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All prices include US postage. Send requests to John Coble. Check payable to SJI. Please allow ample time for scheduling.

### Deadlines for Submitting Articles and Information

**Spring - February 15**

**Fall - August 15**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

*Dennis Hager*

### **BLOOM SEQUENCE: SAVING THE BEST FOR LAST**

As irisarians, we are attuned to bloom season, trying to predict peak bloom. That's important for scheduling garden visits and exhibitions. However, for ones own garden, pinning down the right day for peak bloom is not so important as sequence of bloom-that is comparing when the iris blooms relative to other flowers in the garden.

Japanese irises are the last of the spring-blooming irises. For many of us, they are summer-blooming irises, capping off the season with the most regal of the irises. It's as if Mother Nature knew to save the best for last.

This year as you enjoy the spring bloom, take note of the sequence and enjoy the parade of irises (along with other spring flowers) with the confidence that once again, the best is yet to come.

Happy gardening.

*Dennis*

### **MEMBERSHIP REPORT-JODY NOLIN**

YEAR	MEM	COMP	L	DA	DT	SA	ST
2003	356	10	70	4	64	35	173
2004	335	10	68	6	58	42	151
2005	302	12	71	4	51	39	125
2006	296	13	70	6	51	24	132
2007	281	14	68	6	46	20	127
2008	264	13	65	6	47	16	117



# **SJI POPULARITY POLL 2010**

*Ruth Barker, Greensboro, NC*

Included with this issue is your yellow ballot for the 2010 Popularity Poll. Please choose your ten favorite cultivars. Write-in votes are encouraged and welcomed, but please remember that write-ins count toward your total of ten votes. All cultivars that receive at least two (2) write-in votes will automatically appear on next year's ballot.

The names on the ballot represent all JIs which received 2 or more votes on the 2009 Popularity Poll. 37 names were removed from last year's list due to failure to receive at least two votes. There were 27 write-in cultivars, 4 of which received 2 votes and were added to the ballot. Also included are those that received the Payne Medal, AM, or HM in 2009 and were not presently on the list.

Please mark your choices with an X. If there is a second SJI member in the household, that second member's choices should be marked with some other symbol, such as a 2 or 0.

Send the ballot by September 1, , 2010, to:

**RUTH BARKER**

**SJI Popularity Poll**

**6183 BAR-MOT DR**

**GREENSBORO, NC 27455-8267**

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

**OR**

[http://www.socji.org/member\\_services.htm](http://www.socji.org/member_services.htm)

**YOU MAY DOWNLOAD THE FORM** and send it to Ruth Barker

**VOTE NOW!! There were only 30 Ballots for 2009!!!**

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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](mailto:cindy@riverstonequarry.com)

Jl Hybridizer's Robin: Jill Copeland, director, 78118 M-40, Lawton, MI 49065; 269-624-1968; E-mail: [jandjcope@aol.com](mailto:jandjcope@aol.com)

Jl E-mail Robin: Dennis Hager, director, E-mail: [hager@aredee.com](mailto:hager@aredee.com); [www.socji.org](http://www.socji.org)

### SJI REVIEW

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

## PHOTO CREDITS

Front Cover: Bob Bauer-Kalamazoo Country  
Club 2009

Page 13-Graphics Sue Delmez  
Page 18-John White Irises Tom Gormley  
Page 18-Dirigo Garnet Sharon Whitney  
Page 19 Glenn Hoot  
Page 24-25 Chad Harris

Back Cover Bob Bauer-Kalamazoo Country  
Club 2009

### ADVERTISEMENTS

Inside Front Cover Greywood Farms  
Inside BackCover Mt. Pleasant Iris



## EDITOR ESSAY

*Rita Gormley, DeLeon Springs. FL*

I could write a whole page on why this issue is so tadry but suffice it to say that I appreciate your patience and the help of John Coble who helped pull me out of the morass!

All of our SJI members send sincere condolences to the family of John White. We have included two obituary articles-one from AIS and one from the local Maine contact because John was so well known for a diversity of activities. Obviously hybridizing and growing Japanese irises leads to a long, happy and healthy life as John White and Currier McEwen personified.

As a new topic that will soon be under discussion of the SJI Board of Directors: Electronic Memberships:

Every gardening/plant group is having a problem getting new members and retaining the current ones and SJI is no exception. Every person is feeling the economic crunch and looking for ways to cut back on their expenses. Personally, for example, we belong to AIS and all the Sections and receive printed publications from each.

SIGNA is the first of the Sections (that I know of) that has made a firm decision about lower Member fees for an Electronic membership (no printed Newsletter sent). Spuria recently announced that E-option but have not addressed the separate dues structure issue. Several other Sections are working on this concept as well as AIS and soon we will have many climbing on the E-bandwagon!!!

I personally am very much in favor of this option of Electronic Membership especially for economic reasons (and, for example, cost of SIGNA E-membership is 50% of the regular one) and the cost to each Section of printing colorful Newsletters for, after all, what are irises descriptions without the colors!

Let President Dennis Hager know your feeling on how you view an option of Electronic Membership or post to SJI Robin - <http://www.socji.org/jirobin.htm>



# WE FONDLY REMEMBER

**John W. White 1916 -2010**

John W. White (1916 - 2010), 93, of Minot, Maine, Region 1, died peacefully on April 12, 2010, at the Hospice House in Auburn. He was born on April 20, 1916, and grew up on the Whiteholm Dairy Farm in Auburn. His son, Edward (Ted), reported that John had a long, happy and remarkable life with many interests and accomplishments. These included farming, real estate, competitive swimming, iris hybridizing, genealogy, history and public service.

John White was a graduate of Bates College in 1939 with a B.A. in economics. At college he was captain of the Bates swim team, specializing in the backstroke under the tutelage of his coach and father, Harold S. White. He was married on June 28, 1941, to Evelyn Jones, who he met at Bates. Ted reported that his parents shared an idyllic life on the Whiteholm Farm and later at the home they built in Minot. He was the farm manager and treasurer of the Whiteholm Farm dairy from 1941-1976. He established a second career as a real estate broker from 1977-1991, specializing in undeveloped farm and forest land. During his lifetime, he was a director of the Lewiston-Auburn Red Cross, a member of the Twin County Farm Bureau and Androscoggin County Soil Conservation Commission, a director of the Maine Breeding Association, president and director of the Historical Society, and president of the Auburn Heritage Society. He served on the Auburn City Council from 1960-1968.

Following a full life of dairy farming, John, with wife Evelyn and son Ted, established extensive flower gardens at their Minot home, specializing in iris, daylilies and hosta. John registered 33 irises, introducing 11 Siberians and 12 Japanese irises. His 'Dirigo Pink Milestone' (2000, JI) won the W. A. Payne Medal in 2007. He also won AMs for 'Dirigo Red Rocket' (2001, JI) in 2006 and for 'Dirigo Star' (1999, JI) in 2007. HMs went to 'Dirigo Black Velvet' (1999, JI), 'Dirigo Maiden's Blush' (2005, JI), 'Elisabeth McEwen' (1996, SIB), and 'Neat Trick' (1997, SIB) the first broken color Siberian.

(Jim Morris-Milestones, AIS Bulletin July 2010)

John W. White of Minot, Maine, died peacefully on April 12, 2010 at the Hospice House in Auburn in the company of his family. He was born on April 20, 1916 and grew up on the Whiteholm Dairy Farm on Turner Street in Auburn. His long, happy and remarkable life was marked by many interests and accomplishments, including farming, real estate, competitive swimming, iris hybridizing, genealogy, history and public service. He was a warm and kind man, loving and proud of his family, and blessed with a legion of friends of all ages.

John graduated from Edward Little High School in 1934, and from Bates College in 1939, with a B.A. in economics. At Bates he was the captain of the Bates swim team, specializing in the backstroke under the tutelage of his coach and father, Harold S. White.

He was married on June 28, 1941 to Evelyn Jones, who he met at Bates. They shared an idyllic life on the Whiteholm Farm and later at the home they built in Minot. He was the farm manager and treasurer of the Whiteholm Farm dairy from 1941 to 1976, and established a second career as a real estate broker from 1977 to 1992, specializing in undeveloped farm and forest land.

During his lifetime, he was a director of the Lewiston-Auburn Red Cross, a member of the Twin County Farm Bureau and Androscoggin County Soil Conservation Commission, a director of the Maine Breeding Association, President and director of the Androscoggin Historical Society, a director of the Sarah Frye Home, and President of the Auburn Heritage Society. He served on the Auburn City Council from 1960-1968, the Board of Directors of the Auburn Urban Renewal Authority from 1969-1974 and the Town of Minot Budget Committee.

Following a full life of dairy farming, during which he employed progressive agricultural methods, John, with his wife Evelyn and son Edward, established extensive and admired flower gardens at their Minot home, specializing in varieties of iris, daylilies and hosta. John became nationally known for his hybridization of new and improved Japanese and Siberian iris, receiving many awards for his work, including the distinguished W.A. Payne Medal from the American Iris Society in 2007 for his creation Dirigo Pink Milestone. He was a member of the

Maine and American Iris Societies, the Maine Hosta Society and the Japanese, Siberian and Pacific Coast Iris societies. He and Evelyn attended many national iris conventions together. At the time of his death he was working on developing the first pure yellow Japanese iris in the world.

He traveled extensively with Evelyn, including to Russia, Kenya, Alaska, England, Mexico, Central America, Canada and the Caribbean.

After retiring from farming, John also became a world-class competitive masters swimmer in the backstroke, training and competing until age 93. He was perpetually among the top three backstrokers of his age in the United States, and was ranked as high as second in the world in the 200 meter backstroke. He swam almost daily at the Bates College pool and counted among his friends many fellow masters swimmers and members of the Bates College Swim team.



John also had a lifelong interest in the genealogy of the White, Frye, Jones and Kilgore families, creating well annotated family trees going back several centuries, and traveling to England on several occasions to track down family heirs.

John is survived by five children - Edward White of Minot, John White and wife Anne of Auburn, Donald White and wife Terry of Auburn, Jeffrey White and wife Nancy of Cape Elizabeth, and Janet Schwanda and husband John of Freeport twelve grandchildren Megan, Matthew, Benjamin, Allison, Lindsey, Kurt, Josie, Kara, Peter, Jamie, Wade and Caitlin and one great-granddaughter Lily.

(The Fortin Group

217 Turner Street, Auburn, ME 04210 | 207-783-8545)





**TOP RIGHT  
DIRIGO PINK  
MILESTONE**

**LEFT  
DIRIGO OLD PEWTER**

**RIGHT  
DIRIGO STAR**

**BOTTOM  
DIRIGO GARNET**



# I HOPE EVERYONE HAD AS NICE A JULY 4TH AS I DID !

I left early Friday morning to visit the fabulous Japanese iris garden on the Washington side of the Columbia Gorge in Washougal, WA of Chad Harris, a master iris judge who has been growing and selling Japanese irises for over 30 years. The garden was in spectacular bloom! It was raining only for the first part of the trip, and it stopped raining fortunately while photographing Chad's irises.



To my friends, my strongest garden suggestions are to consider the



beardless iris classes - Siberian irises, native Pacific Coast iris hybrids and most definitely these stupendously gorgeous Japanese irises which also have gorgeously graceful foliage too.

They have the largest of all iris blooms - from 6 to 12 inches in diameter.

There are a lot of wrong notions - an awful lot of wrong notions - about the cultural requirements of Japanese irises. They like full sun, deep planting, summer watering, and lots of horse manure but they do not like to be grown in water. This notion stems from the Japanese themselves who, for aesthetic reasons only, deliberately flood the fields the irises grow in when they are in bloom - but do not grow them in water.



*Glenn Hoot M.D.Ph.D.  
Aberdeen WA*



# **Kalamazoo Country Club**

## **The Best Display of Japanese Iris in the U.S.**

*By John Coble, Michigan*

The Kalamazoo Country Club has built up the most gorgeous display of Japanese iris. We have also seen large displays at Hugh Knight's island planting and Swan Lake Iris Garden both in Sumter, South Carolina (see top photo, inside front cover of fall 2009 Review - Hugh Knight's garden).

Those were mass plantings and beautiful displays. But the designer of the KCC perennial beds, Steve Markwart, has incorporated companion plants with different textures and forms and colors that have transformed beautiful curved beds of Japanese iris into mixed



perennial beds of fantastic and interesting displays. Steve has also taken large curved beds of Shasta daisies and added some modern, gold ruffled daylilies and just a scattering of purple and blue Japanese iris that really stand out and make a statement. When we were there to photograph the Japanese iris, hundreds of them, the beds were edged with white petunias or wax leaf begonias. Steve changes this color scheme and plant material each year. The clumps of JI were interspersed with Shasta daisies, pink oriental lily hybrids, some late yellow Asiatic lilies and the first few ruffled daylilies were blooming that will take over center stage when the JI are finished.

These perennial beds are maintained all season by only two men, the team of Steve Markwart and Chris Belson, who work on or around the beds 5 days a week... and it shows... and they are appreciated by the KCC members and their out of state visitors attending golf tournaments who tell them that these are the most beautifully landscaped greens that they've seen.

Steve has been landscaping, developing and maintaining the perennial beds at KCC for 28 years.



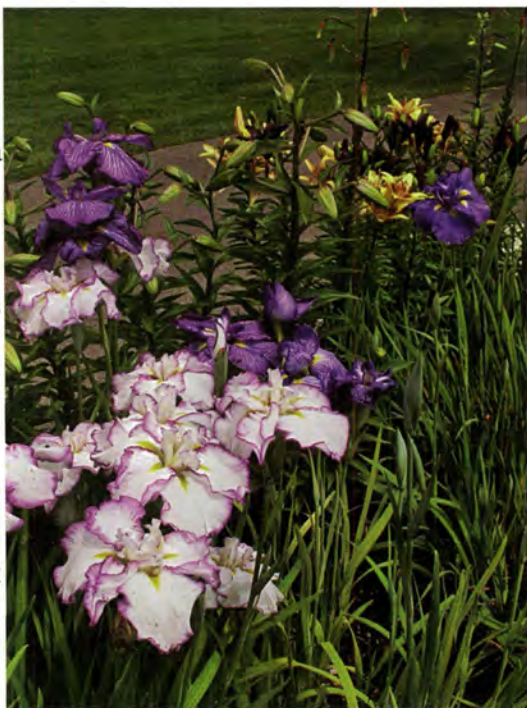
Just seven years ago he found his first Japanese iris, blooming in a pot at a local greenhouse. He found it intriguing and immediately was interested in finding more. It was not easy. Eight months passed until Steve and Chris attended the first annual spring plant expo in March at a local nursery. There they stumbled across a display table maintained by the Southwestern Michigan Iris Society. Did I say stumbled?! With several photos of Japanese iris on display, Steve was drawn



like a magnet- like a moth to a bright light! Well, who was sitting behind the SWMIS information table other than Anna Mae Miller! You can imagine how she latched onto them! When she heard that they were looking for some Japanese iris, she said, "boy, have I got a couple guys for you to meet!" She told them about Ensata Gardens (just a few miles away) and soon they had a catalog in hand. Within a week Ensata received what would be the first of several large annual orders from Steve. Within a couple years Steve's collection (KCC and personal) climbed above 300 varieties. This sounds somewhat similar to what happened back in 1979 when Bob Bauer and John Coble "stumbled" into SWMIS handing out JI seed at a March garden expo! They turned out to be "magic beans"!stumbled across a display table maintained by the Southwestern Michigan Iris Society. Did I say stumbled?! With several photos of Japanese iris on display, Steve was drawn like a magnet- like a moth to a bright light! Well, who was sitting behind the SWMIS information table other than Anna Mae Miller! You can imagine how she latched onto them! When she heard that they were looking for some Japanese iris, she said, "boy, have I got a couple guys

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When Bob and I went over to KCC last July 1, the major plantings of Japanese iris were in their third and fourth year and the display was fantastic. It was spectacular because of four to five years of soil amendments, fertilizing, and frequent watering. These beds are given weekly attention of weeding, mulching, and spraying when warranted. To see these perfect plantings, one would never realize the cultural problems Steve had the first years. His first planting produced many shorter plants with yellow foliage. We suggested the need for nitrogen or iron and to check the pH. The next year all of the plants came back but now most of the plants were shorter with yellow foliage. Most of the plants bloomed, but the yellowing plants did not make Steve a happy man. He was determined to conquer the cultural perfection of Japanese iris! Nitrogen was added but only helped a little; iron did not help and the pH tested normal and the water from the lake tested okay. The one thing that the soil sample test did not detect was herbicide! It was finally concluded that





there was residue of broadleaf herbicide in the beds (2-4 D types).

The soil was dug out and replaced with non-contaminated soil, amended with leaf compost, iris replanted and within a week the new emerging leaves were starting to green up. Several plantings around the grounds had to be rejuvenated this way and the photos two years later show the full recovery. Gosh, what can be accomplished with a little more than average determination!

We sure are glad Steve and Chris figured out the soil problem and absolutely turned the KCC perennial beds into the finest display of Japanese iris in the U.S. Thank you for your perseverance.





## CULTURE CORNER



### GROWING IRIS ENSATA

**CHAD HARRIS**

The cultural needs of *Iris ensata* are a bit more exacting than many other species of irises. Gardeners including iris buffs get frustrated with the lack of growth, bloom, or total loss of a plant after planting in their garden. The four basic needs to grow *Iris ensata* successfully are: soil, water, sun, and transplanting.

The soil in a perennial bed is the foundation. With a proper foundation laid down the structure of a plant can grow and thrive. *Iris ensata* demands loose loamy soil that is slightly acidic and very high in organic matter. Compacted soil does not breathe; plants need oxygen at their roots. The soil should be worked up and loose to a depth of ten to twelve inches. Organic matter needs to be added at every transplanting. Whatever you use, aged manures with fillers or leaf compost, it should make up approximately twenty to thirty percent of your soil mixture. The ideal PH range of your soil should be 5.8 to 6.8.

Water, water, water; wet in the spring and moist in the summer. Saturated soils near natural ponds or streams is preferred but only if the crown of the plant is above the water line. A very deep watering once or twice a week is preferred over shallow everyday watering.

It is my belief that not conditioning the soil properly and under watering are the primary reasons that people loose their plants.

*Iris ensata* is a full sun iris growing naturally in open wet fields in Asia. It requires a minimum of 6 hours of sun to grow but would increase and bloom better with 10 to 12 hours of sun. In high heat areas such as the Mid West or even a back yard patio, afternoon shading will benefit the bloom and plant.

The growth habit of *Iris ensata* demands transplanting every three growing seasons, some require transplanting every two. New plants of two to four fans are planted three inches deep. If sun, soil, and water needs are met, by the second growing season the crown will be two inches deep with eight to sixteen fans. The third growing season the crown will be one inch deep with thirty two to sixty four fans. Do you see the pattern here? By the fourth growing season the crown is at or above soil surface with one hundred twenty eight to two hundred fifty six fans and no place for the new increase or roots to go. At this point you are on borrowed time and may lose the plant.

Demanding - yes, difficult - no. Give a cultivar a try and enjoy the June bloom of *Iris ensata*.







### THE FIRST BULLETIN 'HANASHOBU' 1931

It is a great honor to congratulate The Japan Iris Society on its eightieth anniversary. American gardeners are awed not only by the beauty of Hanashobu, but by the long history that is associated with the glorious flower that we know today, but with the development of that flower from the single species *Iris ensata*. Without a doubt, Hanashobu is the greatest plant gift that Japan has given the world.

Balancing the past with the present is difficult. As much as it is important to remember the history of The Japan Iris Society and the beloved Hanashobu, it is also important to look to the future. As we honor the accomplishments of past generations of gardeners, we must also look forward to the way that irises are used in the gardens of the generations to come. Plant innovations such as the newer *Pseudatas* and tetraploid varieties will help to assure a place for irises in the gardens of tomorrow.

In 1931, about the time The Japan Iris Society was formed, an article "The Iris of Japan" was published in the Bulletin of the American Iris Society. This article was groundbreaking as the first comprehensive report written in English.

The Japan Iris Society has continued publishing in English, specifically The Japanese Iris and the 70th Anniversary Bulletin, which was graciously published on the internet. Just as Hanashobu is a gift that Japan has given the world, these publications are a gift that The Japan Iris Society has given the English-speaking world and we are most grateful.

We look forward to the continued success of The Japan Iris Society as we work towards our common goals.

R. Dennis Hager, President  
Society for Japanese Irises, Section of the American Iris Society



## **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.SOCJI.ORG/](http://www.socji.org/)**

# 2009 REGISTRATIONS, INTRODUCTIONS AND AWARDS

*Compiled by John Coble from AIS data*

ALL THE STYLE (Bauer/Coble): 2009. {Sdlg: J01N-2}. (40" 102cm) EM (3F). S. blue with blue-violet edges; style arms contrasting white, flared blue crests; F. blue, darker blue halo and veins, yellow signal [J84K-3: (Strut and Flourish x unknown) X Asato Biraki] Ensata Gardens 2009

ALLIE ADORNED (Matheny III, Ed: 2009. {Sdlg: J:18-01-98}. (40in 102cm) ML (3F). S. and F. rose lightly lined white, fades to pink; style arms white; signal yellow [Sapphire Star X unknown]

AMETHYST ACTRESS (Harris, Chad) : 2007. Aitken's Salmon Creek Gdn 2009

ARTESIAN SPRING (Harris, Chad): 2009. {Sdlg: 02JC15}. (48" 122cm) L (6F). F. blending of purple (RHS 83C), blue undertones (90A), overall effect (86A), faint neon blue (92A) ray pattern, signal bright golden yellow (13B); style arms multiple upright white, blue violet (93C) crests, pastel violet (91C) edges; rolling ruffles [Night Angel X Frosted Intrigue]

BELGIUM ELEGANCE (Hublau, Willy): 2009. {Sdlg: 96 E 30-2}. (31" 80cm) ML (6F). F. light blue, darker blue zones and edges, white rays, intense yellow signals; style arms white, pencil thin blue edges ["ideal" line sdlg]

BELGIUM JEWEL (Hublau, Willy): 2009. {Sdlg: 2001 G 9-1}. (31" 80cm) EM (6F). F. grey-white, purple zones, fine rays, large gold-yellow signals, overlapping; style arms grey white, purple edges and tops [Cascade Crest X Belgium Sky]

BELGIUM SNOW CAP (Hublau, Willy): 2009. {Sdlg: 98 H 32-4}. (31" 80cm) ML (9-12F). F. pure white, strongly structured, gold-yellow signal; style arms white, light cream-yellow at base [D4 peony X Chigosugata]

BEWITCHING TWILIGHT (Harris, Chad) : 1999. HM 2005, AM 2009

BLUE CIRCLE DANCE (Walker, Lee) : 2008 Wildwood Gardens 2009

BRIGHT AUTUMN MOON (Walker, Lee): 2009. {Sdlg: 98-41-3}. (29" 73cm) M (6F). F. medium lavender fading to lighter lavender rim, bright blue halo and veining, medium yellow signal; style arms cream, light lavender tips [Sit Right Down X 93-66-15: (Dancing Waves x Iapetus)]

CHRISTINA'S SISTER (Copeland, Jill): 2009. {Sdlg: N-9}. (38" 97cm) M (6F). F. violet tinted white (RHS 76C), heavily veined purple violet (80B) especially at edges, very narrow white rim, deep dark-violet (83A) halo around deep yellow (7A) signal; style arms deep violet (83B), few light marks on edge of crests [Parentage unknown] Ensata Gardens 2009

CRAOLA FIESTA (Walker, Lee) : 2008 Wildwood Gardens 2009

CRAOLA KISS (Walker, Lee) : 2004. HM 2009

DIRIGO GARNET (White, John) : 2006 Earheart Gardens 2009

GINGHAM GEISHA (Hager, Dennis) : 2004. HM 2009

GOT MY MOJO WORKING (Schroetter, Jim): 2009. {Sdlg: 01JIA2}. (42" 107cm) M (6F). F. grape purple ground, prominent white rays extending from white halo around yellow signal almost to edges; style arms white, crests brushed purple lavender on crests [Glitter and Glamour X Hue and Cry]

GREYWOODS FANTASY WHIM (Wilkinson, Darlyn): 2009. {Sdlg: 00-54/56}. (35" 89CM) EM (6F). F. greyed white ground, marbled and striated mauve lavender, stippling variable, signal deep chartreuse-yellow with darker lines; style arms white, becoming marbled lavender-mauve [Sapphire Crown X Greywoods Contessa] Greywood Farm 2009

GREYWOODS SILK SHADOWS (Wilkinson, Darlyn): 2009. {Sdlg: 01-16}. (32" 81cm) EM (6F). F. white ground, variable fuchsia-lavender sanding, variable thin fuchsia-raspberry lines, rims more white, wavy, signal dark yellow lined deeper yellow surrounded by hint of blue; style arms white sanded raspberry lavender [Greywoods Contessa X Greywoods Gypsy Plumes] Greywood Farm 2009



## 2009 Registrations, Introductions and Awards

INTO THE MYSTIC (Schroetter, Jim): 2009. {Sdlg: 01JID6}. (46" 117cm) M (6F). F. grape purple drizzled over lavender ground, denim area around yellow signal, broken color pattern; style arms violet purple and white blend; lightly ruffled [Crystal Halo X Star at Midnight]

JAPANESE PLUM (Harris, Chad): 2009. {Sdlg: 02JB4}. (38" 97cm) ML (6F). F. rich velvety plum red (RHS 77A), signals bright golden yellow (13A); style arms plum red; extra petaloids [Frosted Intrigue X Diomedes]

KELSEY BABE (Matheny III, Ed): 2009. {Sdlg: J:22-02-98}. (38" 97cm) ML (3F). S. violet; style arms white brushed light pink-violet; F. white brushed pink violet, yellow signal [J:00-04-94: (Returning Tide x unknown) X unknown]

KOOL CRAOLA ICE (Walker, Lee) : 2005. HM 2009

KRISTIN ANNE (Smith, Stephen) : 2008. Joe Pye Weed 2009

LADY IN PINK (Aitken, J. T.) : 2006. HM 2009

LAKE EFFECT (Bauer/Coble) : 2004. HM 2007, AM 2009

LITTLE BOW PINK (Delmez, Donald) : 1998. HM 2003, AM 2005, Payne Medal 2009

MAINE ELEGANCE (McEwen, Currier by Sharon Whitney): 2009. {Sdlg: T(5)90/44}. (30" 76cm) ML Tet (6F). F. white with violet blue (RHS 94B), outer F. slightly larger than inner, signals rich yellow (7A); style arms white brushed violet blue (94D) on outer half [Japanese Harmony X self] Eartheart 2009

MY KATHLEEN (Smith, Stephen) : 2008 Joe Pye Weed 2009

NEVER ENDING LOVE (Schroetter, Jim): 2009. {Sdlg: 01JIE17}. (38" 97cm) M (6F). F. lavender (RHS 76B) ground veined deep purple (77A), yellow signal; style arms dark purple (79B); velvety [Crystal Halo X Pink Dimity]

O KIMI SAN (Scopes, Nora) : 2004. British Iris Society 2009

OH SO PINK (Delmez, Donald): 2009. {Sdlg: SDKR}. (30" 76cm) E (3F). S. deep pink; style arms pink tipped deeper pink; F. deep pink, lighter around edge, yellow signal; ruffled [unknown X Little Bow Pink]

## 2009 Registrations, Introductions and Awards

ORIENTALLADY (Bauer/Coble): 2009. {Sdlg: J02D-2}. (30" 76cm) E (3F). S. bright pink; style arms light pink, darker crests; F. bright pink, dark pink halo and radiating veins, signal yellow, some pink dusting in signal [Dirigo Pink Milestone X J93P-1; (B. Hager 3F Pink sdlg X Satozokura)] Ensata Gardens 2009

PINK PUFFER (Copeland, Jill) HM 2009

RUFFLED WHITE WATER (Copeland, Jill): 2009. {Sdlg: N-14}. (40" 102cm) M (6F). F. white (RHS 155D), signal green (138C) deep in center blended with bright yellow (7A) at edge, few yellow veins running onto F.; style arms cream, white (155A) crests [Parentage unknown]

SAMON (Shimizu, H. by C. Warner): 2009. {Sdlg: }. (42" 107cm) M SPEC-X (3F). S. small, erect cream overlaid wine giving wine-purple effect; style arms cream veined wine, white rim, some light yellow on edge of midrib; F. white lightly veined red violet, slight yellow overlay on center, signal bright yellow, deep red=violet eyelash marking in pointed pattern; foliage purple base [Gubijin X mixed JI pollen] Draycott Garden 2009

SILESIA CREAM (Seidl, Zdenek): 2009. {Sdlg: 02-CC.GSM/8}. (31" 80cm) EML (6F). F. creamy white, yellow signals; style arms pure white; wavy [Cascade Crest X Gei-Sho-Mi]

SILESIA PINWHEEL (Seidl, Zdenek): 2009. {Sdlg: 02-JS.GSM/6}. (31" 80cm) EM (3F). S. dark purple (RHS 86A); style arms white, light yellow midribs, purple (87A) edges; F. white rays on violet (87A) dusting, light white edge, pale yellow signal [Jewelled Sea X Gei-Sho-Mi]

SMUGGLER'S MOON (Hutchinson, Janet): 2009. {Sdlg: DW/MS}. (38" 96cm) M (3F). S. and F. red violet, pale wire edge, deep blue-violet veining; style arms pale lavender edged and tipped deep mulberry; signals deep yellow edged white surrounded by blue violet on all 6 petals; ruffled [Parentage unknown]

## 2009 Registrations, Introductions and Awards

SWEETIE PIE (Delmez, Donald): 2009. {Sdlg: SLB}. (38" 97cm) M (3F). S. light blue; style arms white tipped light blue; F. light blue, darker around signal, signal light yellow surrounded by white; lightly ruffled [Parentage unknown]

TENMILES HIGH (Walker, Lee) 2008 Eartheart Gardens 2009

VICTORIAN TRIM (Bauer/Coble): 2009. {Sdlg: J02H-6}. (36-38" 91-97cm) M (6F). F. red violet, white rays, yellow signal; style arms white edged red-violet, large red-violet crests; very ruffled [Night Angel X Sapphire Crown] Ensata Gardens 2009

WAVE ACTION (Bauer/Coble): 2009. {Sdlg: J01E-2}. (36" 91cm) M (6F). F. white, light blue veins and dusting in center, edges ruffled pure white, yellow signal; style arms white lightly dusted light blue, usually multiple [Wispy Clouds X J95K-3: (Hagoromo x Jocasta)] Ensata Gardens 2009

WINE MAIDEN (Bauer/Coble): 2009. {Sdlg: J02H-7}. (36-38" 91-97cm) M (6F). F. light blue-violet ground, dark blue-violet halo and veins ending in wavy dark red-violet edges, signal yellow; style arms red-purple, large curled crests [Night Angel X Sapphire Crown] Ensata Gardens 2009



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bob and I went to the Kalamazoo Country Club this summer and took about 200 photos of the Japanese iris in bloom in mixed perennial borders. It was the most beautiful display of Japanese iris that we have ever seen, anywhere. The rolling landscape is wonderful and the Japanese iris are all planted in mixed perennial beds with coordinated colors and textures that we just never get to see in our "row" gardens and "line-out" guest beds at conventions.

And the Country Club has more varieties of Japanese iris than any other garden outside of Ensata (but we are the source of their purchases !!!) Iris are not identified (even though we recognized many) but we took pictures for beauty and promotion of JI.

John Coble, , Galesburg, Michigan

*Editor Note: see article and pictures on Page 20 and both covers!*

Frozen Pollen: In response to a question asked by Polly Kinsman:

I have frozen JI pollen for making pseudatas for several years now. Remove the anthers from the JI. Scrape the pollen off the anther on to a little piece of paper (computer paper cut to size works fine). Fold the paper to make a little envelope. Label the outside of the envelope and tape closed. Place in a zip plastic bag with a desiccant pack and freeze.

The next year take the individual envelopes out one at a time for that day's use, keeping it as dry as possible. I think dry is the secret. I have used frozen pollen successfully to make pseudatas and have used it successfully on other JIs. I think you can use the frozen pollen for some time after thawed but I have not tested how long.

Jill Copeland, Lawton, Michigan

# **CULTURE CORNER**

## **RAISING BEARDLESS IRISES IN POTS**

**BRUCE HORNSTEIN AND KITTY ACKERMAN**

At one of the conventions, I believe it was Michigan, I mentioned that I initially grow all of my beardless iris in pots. Chad Harris suggested that perhaps I could write an article about the pros and cons of that endeavor. I spoke to Kitty Ackerman about submitting this topic for publication and she sent me a wonderful comprehensive list that really says it all. So, this article is from both of us.

At the National convention of the Society for Japanese Irises in Kalamazoo, I purchased about a dozen cultivars at the auction. These were promptly planted in a newly prepared bed, and at least half of them expired. In evaluating this, I realized that the soil had not retained enough moisture to sustain the plants.

A year or two later when I was preparing to move to a new home, I asked the advice of Carol Warner. She suggested that I dig my Japanese irises and pot them for transport. She also suggested that I use Pro-mix as a potting medium. Over 300 pots of Japanese irises were taken to the new home. Three fourths of these were buried up to the rim in a flowerbed, the rest were stored on a concrete pad. Over 90% survived the winter, but those in the ground appeared to be in better shape than those left out.

In the spring, I retrieved those buried and placed them all in children's swimming pools with @ 2 inches of water. The area received sun morning through noon and then was partially shaded in the afternoon. Dead leaves and debris were removed and the plants were removed from the pool bi-weekly and allowed to drain for 24 hours before being replaced in the pools. During this 24-hour period, the plants were fertilized with Miracid. Almost every plant seemed to thrive.

About this time I began receiving guest plants for the 1995 national convention of the Society for Japanese Irises, and I potted all of these.

In September and October of that year, all of the guest irises were planted in a specially prepared bed. Out of the 108 guest irises, only one cultivar was lost that first year, despite one of the worst winters on record. We had 17 ice storms the winter of 94/95 and I was convinced that potting all new plants was the wave of the future.

Since then all newly received plants are potted. This includes all apogons: Japanese, Louisianas, Versicolors, Siberians, and Setosas; however, only Japanese and Louisianas are placed in ponds. Others are placed primarily in areas that get only morning sun.

Advantages:

- 1) Damage from rodents is eliminated completely. Hooray!
- 2) Ease of watering and fertilizing, as all pots can be stored in a relatively small area.
- 3) Pots can be alphabetized so cultivars are easily located.
- 4) Plants sold or given away are well established, so that new owners can be assured that plants will survive.
- 5) Small divisions of valuable cultivars have an excellent chance to survive and thrive.
- 6) Visitors expressing a wish for a certain variety can be handed a pot. No digging, no fuss!
- 7) Helpful to gardeners with limited space; only small area needed.
- 8) Apartment dwellers with adequate sun place pots on deck
- 9) Containers can be potted at waist height.

Disadvantages:

- 1) Plants, not in standing water, need to be shaded from late afternoon sun. Prevent overheating.
- 2) Drain plants in standing water bi-weekly.
- 3) Vigorous growth may necessitate separating in 1 season.
- 4) Flowers, especially Japanese iris, tend to be smaller than cultivars planted in the ground. [There has been some success in using a soil mixture that is half compost / half Pro-mix.]
- 5) Burying pots in the ground, unless cold frame is available.

*Reprinted from Spring 1998, Vol. 35, No. 1, Page 22*



# **CULTURE CORNER**

## **JAPANESE IRIS POT CULTURE AND BONSAI CLARENCE MAHAN**

In Japan, where garden space is very limited, pot culture of Japanese irises is the rule, rather than the exception. Pot culture is a viable option whenever space is too limited to grow Japanese irises in open beds. It is a practical technique when the gardener wants to use the blooming irises in special displays or for decoration on decks and patios. In those areas where soil is very alkaline or porous, pot culture provides a fairly easy way to enjoy these splendid flowers. Providing rich, acid soil for pots is a lot easier than importing such soil for large flower beds.

The materials needed for pot culture are six or seven inch plastic pots with drain holes; a good growing medium, consisting of garden loam, compost and dried cow manure in equal parts; and a watertight container in which to place the potted irises. A children's plastic wading pool is excellent for this purpose. Irises grown in pots are best divided and repotted each year soon after they have flowered.

Cover the roots and rhizome of the iris with soil, but not so deeply as in open garden planting. Place the pots in the wading pool or other watertight container, in which a water level of about two inches is maintained intermittently from April to September. During this period it is best if the soil in the pots is allowed to dry out at least once every two weeks to permit a free exchange of oxygen. Keep the water reasonably fresh and change it every week or so. If the water in your area is alkaline, it may be necessary to use filtered water or, at a minimum, to use an acid type fertilizer in the water.

When the potted irises show six inches of new growth, add soluble 10-10-10 or 20-20-20 fertilizer in the pool. A handful of this fertilizer

can be used every few days until the foliage is green and lush. Stop all fertilizing when buds start to form.

From October to April, drain the water from the pool and mulch heavily around the pots before cold sets in.. During this period, water the irises only from above. Even better, remove the pots from the pool and sink them in the ground until spring. As soon as new growth begins, put the pots back into the water container and begin the fertilizing program again. As soon as the irises finish blooming, remove them from the pots, divide and re-pot.

The use of Japanese irises for bonsai represents a special type of pot culture. Vigorous short cultivars with small flowers and narrow, short leaves make the best bonsai subjects. Sift the soil to be used through a one-half inch strainer, and use the residue from the straining process in the bottom of the pot. The pot should be a shallow container two to three inches deep. Use plants with one fan, and plant them two to three inches apart in a scattered pattern.

Prepare the bonsai immediately after the plants have bloomed. Cover the top of the soil with moss to retain moisture, and keep the plants well watered. When new growth has started, fertilize the plants sparingly two or three times with a water soluble solution. Keep the pots in a sunny location.

In October, cover the pots with straw or dead leaves to prevent dryness. Remove the mulch in the middle of March. In the spring, water only to prevent withering of the plants. Too much watering in the spring causes the plants to grow too tall. For this same reason, do not fertilize the plants in the spring. After blooming, divide and re-pot the plants. Irises treated in this fashion remain small because they are root bound in the small containers.

Reprinted from Spring 1999, Vol. 36, No. 1, Page 14

## **SJI TREASURER'S REPORT - YEAR END 2009**

**BALANCE            DEC 31, 2008       \$18,322.26**

### **INCOME**

**INTEREST            \$74.60**

**DUES    \$468.00**

**DUES-PAYPAL \$283.16**

**ADVERTISING \$420.00**

**DONATIONS        \$32.00**

**OTHER \$81.93    SALES AT CONVENTION, TRANSFER FROM 2008**

**TOTAL INCOME \$1,359.69**

### **EXPENSES**

**THE REVIEW        -\$3,245.50**

**MEDAL EXPENSE        -\$90.00**

**OTHER -\$20.99    NEW CHECKS**

**PAYPAL FEES        -\$13.16**

**TOTAL EXPENSES        -\$3,369.65**

**CURRENT CHECKING BALANCE \$5,174.54**

**CD MATURING ON APR. 7, 2010 \$6,000.00**

**CD MATURING ON DEC. 25, 2010 \$5,074.60**

**BALANCE                        \$16,312.30**

**IF YOUR MAILING ENVELOPE SHOWS  
EXPIRATION DATE OF LATER THAN  
6-1-2010, THIS IS YOUR LAST ISSUE  
OF THE SJI REVIEW!!!**

**PLEASE RENEW PROMPTLY!!!**



# MT. PLEASANT IRIS

2010 INTRODUCTIONS

CHAD HARRIS



JAPANESE PLUM

(FROSTED INTRIGUE X DIOMEDES)



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(NIGHT ANGEL X FROSTED INTRIGUE)

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