

# THE REVIEW

of the Society for Japanese Irises

Volume 49, No. 1  
Spring 2012

# GREYWOOD FARM

85 RIVER ROAD TOPSFIELD, MA 01983

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*JI Introductions of  
Darlyn Wilkinson*



GREYWOODS MOONSTONE (2012)



GREYWOODS ROYAL ANTICS



GREYWOODS FLOWING WATERS



GREYWOODS GYPSY SPIRIT

**VIEW DESCRIPTIONS AND ALL OUR PRIOR JI &  
DAYLILY INTRODUCTIONS AT:**

<http://greywoodfarm.squarespace.com>



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This Page: Brock Heilman

# THE REVIEW of the Society for Japanese Irises

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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.

# President's Message



Photo: Brooks

"It's the garden"

This being a presidential election year, there is occasionally a bit of discussion about former presidential campaigns and slogans. For President Clinton's campaign, the phrase "It's the economy, stupid" is remembered as the slogan. "Stupid" is a word that my mother worked hard to remove from my vocabulary and

for the most part she was successful.

During Japanese iris season, I frequently cut flowers and distribute them in the community so that other people can enjoy them. As we all know, Japanese irises do not last long as cut flowers and occasionally the beneficiary of my floral donations will point out what they may think is a flaw. At that point, I remind the person of Clinton's slogan complete with the "stupid", then look him or her squarely in the eye and say "It's the garden."

Happy gardening!

See you in the garden!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dennis". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

# SJI Popularity Poll 2012

Ruth Barker, Greensboro, NC

Included with this issue is your colored paper ballot for the 2012 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 two or more votes on the 2011 Popularity Poll. Fifteen names were removed from last year's list due to failure to receive at least two votes. There were 36 write-in cultivars, six of which received two or more votes and were added to the ballot. Also included are those that received the Payne Medal, AM, or HM in 2011 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 August 1, 2012, 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](mailto:RuthBB@aol.com)

# In Downtown Olympia

Mike Unser, Convention Chairman

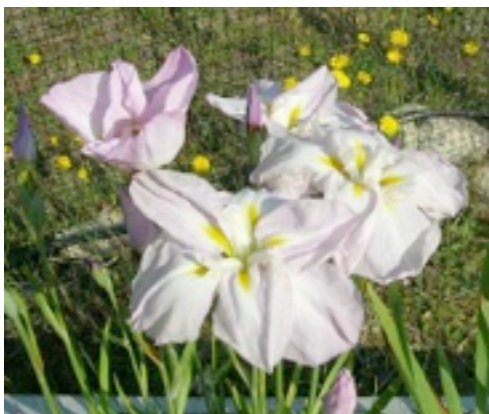
In downtown Olympia, Washington, surrounded by warehouses and office buildings there sits a small house on a small triangular lot next to the railroad tracks. It is a rental home, painted black and inhabited by a flowing stream of artistic minded college students (the landlord has several of these black houses about town all rented to artists and students). I have learned from older gardeners I have talked to that a married couple lived here back in the day and they were well known for their beautiful garden. They had passed on by the late 70's.

Today the house is surrounded by a weedy patch of lawn and the overgrown remnants of the former garden, along with the detritus of art students. A wisteria has taken over the entire back of the property, rambling over the former trees and shrubs and nearly collapsing a small shed. The old daylily 'Kwanso' gamely thrives at the corner of the front porch, even tho it sits in water quite a bit. Japanese irises thrived along the edge of the tracks in a ditch that remains boggy most of the year, as it sits just inches above the water table. They grew and bloomed beautifully for years before the city started 'cleaning up' the area several times each year and mowing over the irises, horsetails and cattails that had colonized the area, doing what 30 years of neglect couldn't - they are no longer to be seen.

I walk by this place a lot as it is between my workplace, the library and the downtown restaurants. Before the city's incursion into this small backwater lot I was fortunate enough to have made the acquaintance of one of the guys living there and was given permission to pull starts of these irises. I managed to get a piece of all four and they are now growing in my garden. It is a struggle to keep them going here with our dry, sandy soil. I keep some in pots and sink them in the pond during the bloom season to give them adequate water. Even with this the blooms often are short lived in the hot sun.



Even devoid of their identity the flowers are lovely. My favorite is a soft pale pink with yellow signals on its six falls. The color tends to fade in the sun but I like it just the same. There's a short three-petaled white with a wine tone plicata edge, and a very large white heavily washed with blue and purple. Another large flowered variety in purple with deeper veining and a light edge is very dramatic, but it is not doing well and I fear I will lose it. I enjoy having this little bit of local history preserved in my garden, and I've since given starts of them to a local community garden in downtown Olympia. I hope they will thrive there, where they have better soil and care - just three blocks from their original planting.





# Jewel of Saint Louis ~

Missouri Botanical Garden's Japanese Garden

Debbie Hughes, Wellsville, KS



Photo courtesy of the Missouri Botanical Garden

For years, I've been intrigued by the charm of the zig-zag bridge in the Japanese Garden at the Missouri Botanical Garden. The *Yatsunashi*, or "eight bridges", refers to a place in 10th century Mikiwa Province in Japan, where a single river branched into eight channels. Each channel was crossed by a bridge with irises on either side.

The *Seiwa-en*, "garden of pure, clear harmony and peace," was designed by the late Professor Koichi Kawana. This 14-acre garden dedicated on May 5, 1977, is the largest of its type in the Western hemisphere. My husband and I had the opportunity to meet with MOBOT's Senior Landscape Horticulturalist, Greg Cadice while we were there attending the Region 18 Spring meeting. Would you believe we witnessed the first Japanese iris to bloom in this garden on May 12th?

Greg has been taking care of the garden for 26 of the 35 years the garden has been in existence and his love and passion for the garden was evident as we toured the garden. He and his staff lovingly prune the trees and shrubs to frame views and control the size of plants from an inside out manner so the plant grows to the desired point rather than heading it back to the point. This art of pruning in this manner is accomplished by hand; no electric hedge trimmers allowed!

The Japanese Garden is a peaceful oasis of monochromatic design punctuated by color at points of interest. Red leaf Japanese maples are a subtle queue used by the designer telling you to slow down and notice a special feature coming up along the path. The entrance to the *Yatsunashi* is marked in such a manner. The exploring visitor takes the stone steps down to the water's edge to the zig-zag bridge. Planters on either side of the bridge are generously planted with Japanese iris. Each planter filled with a single variety of iris was sunk into the base of the pond and capped in steel with decorative wood pilings attached giving the appearance that the iris beds are floating. 'Flashing Koi' is a favorite of Greg's.

For years the staff treated the Japanese irises in the planters as annuals because they seemed to just melt away each year. It was only after talking with Don Delmez that they realized the source of the problem was the water wicking up from the pond during the winter was causing the plants to die.

Later that year, they renovated three of the planters, building up the soil level with Canadian Peat Moss, compost, and their secret ingredient, Turface® MVP® Calcined Clay. Turface® is basically kitty litter fired again to 1200 degrees and is used in the turf industry to absorb moisture so that games can be played on ball fields and golf courses soon after a rain. While it holds moisture it also holds on to nutrients that can be accessed by plants as needed. They added 2-3" of both Turface and compost to raise the beds higher than the top of the planters to provide the drainage needed to get the plants through the winter. They also add soil sulfur in the fall and use a 4-8-4 fertilizer such as Hollytone® twice a year to their recipe for success. Right at bloom emergence they apply a 20-20-20 liquid fertilizer. This methodology proved to be a winning combination as the *Yatsunashi* was featured on the cover of the 1999 - 2000 MOBot calendar.



Photo courtesy of the Missouri Botanical Garden

One day I'll get the timing right to see this garden in bloom first hand, but for now this photo will have to do.

From the *Yatsubashi* we strolled over to the beautiful "Pebble Beach" featuring *Liriope spicata* bordering the black pebbles. This is a grass-like perennial that doesn't clump like other varieties. They mow it in the early spring to even it out and then just pull any errant weed that might decide to sprout to achieve the swath of green which serves as a soft barrier to keep visitors from walking across the pebbles to the lake.

Greg was once asked by a visitor how they kept the weeds out of the *Liriope* to which he responded "diligence". Weeks later the visitor came back and said he had been looking for Diligence® at the garden centers and no one knew what it was. Suffice to say we all had a good chuckle over this as diligence obviously abounds in this garden.

We also learned that MoBot uses ultrasonic waves to kill algae in the pond. When asked if they have issues with all the leaves getting into the pond in the fall, Greg told of his experiment stringing together

swim noodles. The experiment worked and they now string black pipe insulation together and work with the wind to “herd” the leaves to the overflow drain.



The highlight of the tour was a trip to the teahouse island. The bridge access to this island is closed to visitors but with Greg as our guide we made our way over the drum bridge and through the bamboo hedge into the cool sanctuary of the teahouse courtyard. As soon as you crossed the threshold you could feel the temperature drop about 10 degrees. It is a very special place built with tremendous care and planning. Every detail adds something special for the visitor such as the opening cut out of the bamboo that frames the view of Paradise Island if you bent over to wash your hands in the fountain.

This island was where the planning of the garden began. A large river birch with undulating branches marks the inspiration point where Koichi Kawana began planning the garden. It is considered hallowed ground by those associated with the garden.

What an amazing jewel this City of St. Louis has to offer its visitors. To learn more about this garden and its creation explore [www.missouribotanicalgarden.org](http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org). Thank you!





View May 25, 2012, Photo by Lisa Francis, Missouri Botanical Garden, Hort. Dept.

# SJI Treasurer's Report

Year End 2011

Asset Balance - December 31, 2010 \$13,786.23

## INCOME

Interest	\$0.00
Dues	\$1,062.00
Dues - Paypal	\$486.00
Advertising	\$450.00
Jl Book Royalty	\$2.76
Librarian Income	\$0.00
Auction	\$1,500.00
Donations	750.00
Other	\$16.64
TOTAL INCOME	\$4,267.40

## EXPENSES

The Review	(\$979.00)
Medal Expense	(\$101.47)
Membership reminders	(\$97.00)
Paypal Fees	(\$18.90)
Postage, Publicity, Slide	(0.00)
Other	(\$0.00)

TOTAL EXPENSES (\$1,196.37)

Ending Balance \$16,857.26

Checking Balance Dec. 31, 2011 \$10,697.30

CD Maturing on May 10, 2011 \$6,159.96

PayPal Balance 0.00

Total

Assets \$16,857.26

Submitted by:

Jody Nolin, Treasurer

# *Ensata Gardens*



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# The Delmez

## End-of-the-Season Iris Bash

Eric Tankesley-Clarke, California MO

Reprinted with additional photos from 2011 Region 18 Fall Bulletin  
Photos by Eric Tankesley -Clarke

Japanese irises always come late to the iris party. But that's when some of the best things happen. If you're the sort that goes home early, you know what I mean. You're always on the receiving end of breathless stories: "You should have been there when...." You resort to nodding and smiling wanly and thinking to yourself that maybe, just maybe, the next time you'll stay a little longer.

The Show Me Iris Society does not go home early. No, sirree, we stay to the end. Last winter, we began making plans to be sure the party lasted a little longer and got in touch with Don and Sue Delmez. The Delmez garden, of course, is known throughout the country and beyond for outstanding Japanese iris originations and a wide-ranging collection, too. So one day in June many of us trekked to St. Charles County for one last fling before the summer.

Blue. Japanese irises have long had many shades and tones of purples, ranging from deep violet to mulberry red hues. Rosy pinks and whites, yes. But blue? Yes, there are some, but until a few years ago, it wasn't that common in Japanese. Sparkling "Babbling Brook" blue (does that date me?) was a color mostly absent in a typical Japanese iris. Don set out to change that, and 'Blue Spritz' (Delmez, 1996) brought the point home when it won the Payne Medal.

On our visit, we saw many colors and shapes and patterns. But in the Delmez seedlings, blues carried the day. For instance, there was 6-falled 'Azure Heaven' (Delmez, 1996), introduced by Don the same year that 'Blue Spritz' (Delmez, 1996) came



out. It is a warmer blue, but still light—Don calls it sky blue—and has white style arms edged with blue crests. More intense blues



Azure Heaven

could be found in seedlings. Don's "DBWV 5 day" is a rich, deep blue. It shows prominent yellow spear signals and a little darker veining. A child of this seeding (DBWST-2 X DBWV 5 day) is lighter blue with much texture veining and blunter, more discreet signals. It was among my favorites seen that morning. Both of these seedlings had style arms of the same color as the falls. In the tetraploid line, another seedling, Delmez DBVODKBVOST, was leaning more toward violet blue. (Don's seedlings may be Japanese, but their "numbers"—I use the term loosely—wouldn't look out of place in a Slavic newspaper.) Again a 6-falled form (everything I'm mentioning is 6-falled unless I note otherwise), it has darker veining, self-colored style arms and quite a bit of ruffling.



DBWV 5 day



Of course, blues aren't all we saw. What about violet? One of Don's seedlings, DDKDVO had a garden name of "Black Beauty," if I understood its label correctly. Not black, but certainly dark violet, with narrow triangles of bright yellow signals and dark violet style arms. The petal color was evenly and deeply applied over the whole surface.

A different treatment of violet is seen in 'Midnight Stars' (Aitken, 1998). It may not be to everyone's taste. But then, what iris can claim that it is? Here we have deep purple tones with frosted



highlights. The flower is full of energy, which is a polite way of saying the 6 falls billow and writhe rather than spreading out to display themselves to their full advantage. It is almost as if the petals have trouble deciding whether they are falls or standards. On the other hand, it gives a distinct, frothy appearance, and you wouldn't want all of them to be quite flat, would you?



Purples leaning to the red side give the appearance of being even redder than they are when grown with all the other blue, violet, and white varieties. We saw 'Taiko' (Hirao, 1992), vibrant mulberry, to prove the point. It has white signals. The falls are somewhat more pendant (drooping) than other varieties. Another very richly colored red-violet was in a Delmez seedling, SDKBVO X 'Oriental Classic' (McEwen, 1988). The red-violet falls (6 of them) folded up at the edges, giving extra life and dimension to the flower. Nearly white style arms and signals gave contrast. Even more contrast came in another red-violet seedling, DRVOWST. The style arms are nearly completely white, and the huge signals, bright yellow widely feathered in white, make for a starry effect, almost reminding me of a star sapphire.





Taiko

Japanese irises don't usually have much of a bicolor effect, since they often produce no standards. An unnumbered seedling with just three falls and also three standards was bicolored, however. The large rich violet blue falls, almost electric blue, contrasted with brilliant red-purple standards. The standards were so small they might have been mistaken for style arms. The actual style arms stuck a conciliatory note between the two, being mild blue violet. Don's row list showed that the cross was unknown; I wouldn't be too surprised if it comes from his own 'Beyond Chance' (Delmez, 2001). It was in flower that day, too. 'Beyond Chance' is pale violet with dark red-violet style arms, also three falled.



White and patterned white irises add variety to the Japanese palette. 'Sue Jo' (Delmez, 2003) is one of Don's varieties, blue-white lined in indigo. Brilliant indigo style arms rise up in the center instead of spreading out over the flower. In our own garden, this has proven to be one of the best performers and one we'd not want to be without. A different version of the lined white theme can be found in 'Maine Elegance' (McEwen-Whitney, 2009). This one has very large yellow signals, and the lines are quite faint, mainly restricted to the signal area. Blunt style arms of palest violet make it appear nearly a self. It is a tetraploid.

'Maine Elegance'





'Sue Jo'



For nearly pure white, 'Dirigo Snowflake' (John White, 1998) filled the bill. There is no purple in this flower, only snowy white petals and style arms, with deep greenish yellow signals huddled in the center. 'Sanri-no-Kasumi' is a Japanese iris originated in Japan, as the name would lead you to guess. It is not truly white, but an icy blue-white, becoming somewhat bluer in the style arms.



There was another patterned white, 'Sayo-no-Tsuki' (Ichie, 1994). This is not a Japanese iris, but a hybrid between *I.*



*pseudacorus* and a Japanese. There are some vigorous clones of this type now, but this isn't one of them. Compared with others in the garden, it was given to weak growth and chlorotic foliage, as so many of these hybrids are. I suspect they have low tolerance for our hot, humid summers, given their performance for us. With its white flowers and deep purple lined signals, however, it is a novelty. The large penciled eye and simple form are striking. Perhaps it will do better in some gardens than others. Among all the other Japanese, it didn't quite fit, something like a guest's "plus one" who doesn't know anyone else at the party.

Every party needs some drama—at least that's your opinion if you are the one given to dramatic displays. 'Dramatic Moment' (McEwen, 1982) is light blue violet, heavily lined with deep blue violet and planted in the center are rich violet style arms. Yellow triangular signals are edged in deep violet, enriching the color of the flower. Its style of drama is one that no one would find objectionable.



I've dwelled on light colored Japanese with darker lines. Let's not forget the other approach, dark colored petals with lighter lines. An example of that sort is 'Mai-Ogi' (Hirao, 1992). As Sue pointed out, you can hardly take a bad picture of this variety. Rich blue-violet falls are heavily lined in white, and white style arms end in violet crests. Generally, only the upper three signals are visible, but they are prominent and dark greenish-yellow.



Pink tones are another place where American breeders have greatly improved Japanese irises. I often found the ones that

actually originated in Japan (you can usually tell by the Japanese names) to be weak growers, but 'Little Bow Pink' (Delmez, 1998) is quite vigorous. Another even darker colored pink we saw was 'Pink Puffer' (Jill Copeland, 2006). Richer veining and deep colored style arms give a raspberry pink look. A more delicate effect occurs in 'Rose Adagio' (Payne, 1969). While it is not quite as pink, being more rosy lavender when you really look at it, it is washed with cool blue-white in the centers to give a refreshing pastel appearance. This one is said to be 9-falld, and it was showing all nine of them for our visit. It was a party, after all.

Perhaps not truly pink, 'Yuzen' (Ichie, 1997) should be mentioned here. This illustrates the lovely picotee effect which we'd call plicata in other types of irises. Here, rose purple edges white petals. Even though it is technically six-falld (count the signals—there are 6 of them), the upper three petals are typically smaller and rise up to give the effect of standards.

Some Japanese irises change color over time or may even be differently colored from blossom to blossom to begin with. We saw an example of that in 'Belgium Dancer' (Hublau, 2005). Flowers ranged from red-purple veined with white to blossoms nearly white and brushed with purple. I've known some people who changed as the party went on, too, but we won't go there.

I hope Judy has room to run a photo of the Delmez garden on the morning of our visit. Because the party may have been coming to an end, but there was still quite a crowd.

# 2011 Registrations, Introductions and Awards for JI and all Cultivars involving JI

Assembled by John Jones & Debbie Hughes

**CAROL JOHNSON** (Currier McEwen, deceased, by Sharon Whitney, R. 2011). Sdlg. T<sub>6</sub> 98/62-2. JI (3 F. tet.), 32" (81 cm), ML. S. purple violet (RHS 82A) veined darker (86A), near white (91D) edges; style arms near white, veined violet (86D); F. sky blue (97C), distinct violet-blue (94A) veins, small rich yellow (14B) signal, ruffled, arched; very large flower. Maine Charm X T<sub>5</sub> 83/24: (Maine Encore x T<sub>4</sub> 80/51-2: (mixed seeds from Hirao x Kyokku)). Eartheart 2011.

**CASCADE RAIN** (Chad Harris 2007) HM 2011

\***CELESTIAL EMPEROR** (Chad Harris, JI (6 F.), R. 2010). Salmon Creek 2011.

\***DALLE WHITEWATER** (Chad Harris, JI (6 F.), R. 2010). Salmon Creek 2011.

**EVELYN WHITE** (John White 2004) HM 2011

\***GOT MY MOJO WORKING** (Jim Schroetter, JI (6 F.), R. 2009). Got Irises 2011.

**GREYWOODS ZENYATTA** (Darlyn Wilkinson, R. 2011). Sdlg. 03-27. JI (6 F.), 31" (79 cm), EML. F. white ground overlaid blend of fuchsia mauve-lavender, white lines out to lighter edges, signal chartreuse yellow lined deeper; style arms white tipped lavender mauve; wavy, sometimes extra F. 00-26: (Tropical Storm x Wilderness Snowball) X Greywoods Snow Etchings. Greywoods 2011.

**HOPES AND DREAMS** (Donald Delmez, R. 2011). Sdlg. DWBV-5D. JI (6 F.), 34" (86 cm), M. F. slightly ruffled white veined light blue-violet, signals yellow; style arms very light violet. unknown X Wonderful Delight. Delmez Gardens 2011

**INDIGO ANGEL** (Bob Bauer/John Coble, R. 2011). Sdlg. J02H-1. JI (6 F.), 36" (91 cm), M. Style arms dark purple, slight light rim on crests, upright form; F. white ground sanded with blue-violet halo and veins, veins turning red-violet at ends fading into red-violet edges, white wire rim. Night Angel X Sapphire Crown. Ensata 2011.

\***INTO THE MYSTIC** (Jim Schroetter, JI (6 F.), R. 2009). Got Irises 2011.

**JOHN'S FANCY** (Jill Copeland 2007) HM 2011

**LADY IN PINK** (J. T. Aitken 2006) AM 2011

**LAKE EFFECT** (Bob Bauer/John Coble 2004) AM 2009 Payne Medal 2011

**LASTING IMPRESSION** (Donald Delmez, R. 2011). Sdlg. DRVOWST. JI (6 F.), 32" (81 cm), M. F. dark violet, white halo around light yellow signal; style arms white tipped dark violet; ruffled. Parentage unknown. Delmez Gardens 2011.

\***NEPTUNE'S TRIDENT** (Chad Harris, JI (6 F.), R. 2010). Salmon Creek 2011.

\***NEVER ENDING LOVE** (Jim Schroetter, JI (6 F.), R. 2009). Got Irises 2011.

**PINK PUFFER** (Jill Copeland 2006) AM 2011

**RINGS A BELL** (Bob Bauer/John Coble, R. 2011). Sdlg. J04A-9. JI (6 F.), 36" (91 cm), M. Style arms white with deep pink crests; F. white with ½" pink rim, yellow signal with short green veins extending into falls; ruffled. Silken Charm X self. Ensata 2011.

**SHIRYUKYO** (Hiroshi Shimizu by Carol Warner 2008) HM 2011

**SUGAR DOME** (Bob Bauer/John Coble 2008) HM 2011

**VINTNER'S PRIDE** (Bob Bauer/John Coble, R. 2011). Sdlg. J02H-3. JI (6 F.), 36" (91 cm), M. Style arms dark grape-purple; F. dark grape-purple with darker veins, wide yellow signal; usually with multiple style arms; ruffled. Night Angel X Sapphire Crown. Ensata 2011.





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## **Deadlines for submitting articles and information:**

**Spring issue - February 15**

**Fall issue - August 15**

# Dues

Dues may be sent to either the AIS Membership Chairman ([www.irises.org](http://www.irises.org)) or directly to the SJI Membership Chairman, Jody Nolin, 5184 County Road 20, Rushsylvania, OH 43347.

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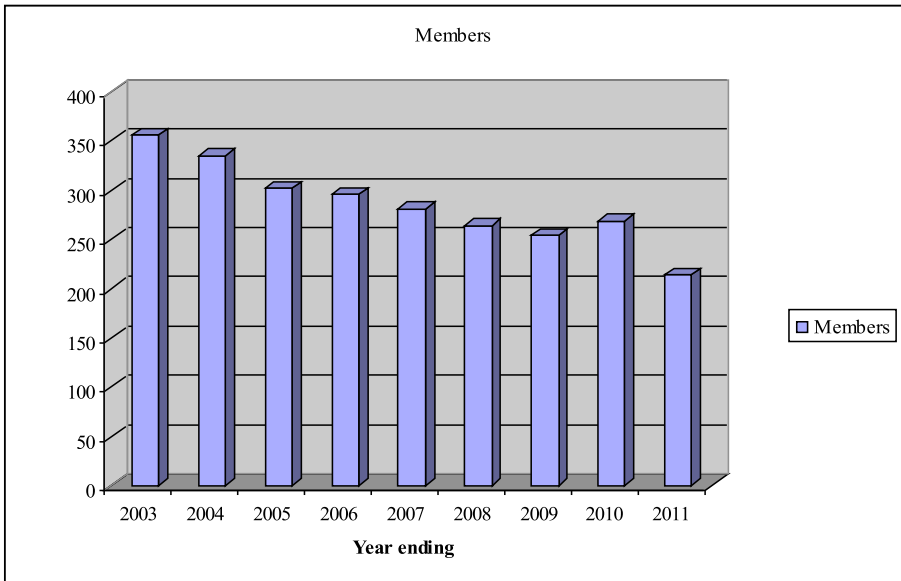
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# Membership Report

Jodi Nolin

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2003	356	10	70	4	64	35
2004	335	10	68	6	58	42
2005	302	12	71	4	51	39
2006	296	13	70	6	51	24
2007	281	14	68	6	46	20
2008	264	13	65	6	47	16
2009	254	13	65	8	45	22
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2011	214	12	65	4	35	24



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