

THE MEDIANITE

Volume 3

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PRESIDENT'S PATCH

Thanks to a lot of work by a lot of people, the MIS is now in a position to roll. Organization is now complete - shakedown period is over and with the present proposals before the Board we will have a stable, competent Society. We are well set up in all the important categories - Publications - Finances - Committees. The base is very solid but we need more members to spread the word.

Every member of the AIS is a possibility - let's look and see our probables. We can divide the AIS as the article on rebloomers did - three zones - temperate, warm and hot. Most of our members come now and will come from the temperate and warm zones. Our breeding material, pumilas and even the SDBs do not grow too well in the hot zone. We are working on this problem. Perhaps Iris subbiflora will be the answer.

Another way of dividing the AIS members - hybridizers, collectors of varieties, and regular gardeners. So far our appeal has been to the hybridizers, and most of our members are in this category. Collectors of varieties - there are some specialists who grow great numbers of varieties, try to obtain the latest and best (most discussed) varieties. Usually they are also interested in the social aspects of a society - want others to see their collections. These people should head up our Display Gardens, etc., and get their gardens on the local and regional tours. Regular gardeners we have very few - people who want to use medians in the proper place in a planned garden.

Another way of breaking down the membership - Judges and other members. We have a lot of the Judges - and for obvious reasons should get the rest. Potentially they are prime prospects.

Another way of breaking down the membership - show enthusiasts - garden enthusiasts, "bulletin members", casual gardeners and organizations. Shows are becoming more and more popular. We have done little and should get on the band wagon. A show is a wonderful way of keeping non-hybridizers contented - gives ribbons, awards, a sense of accomplishment; people can see, feel, smell and "sense" the beauty and want to possess it. Shows are wonderful publicity - and a well-run show exposes vast numbers of the general public to the classes of irises on display.

Garden Enthusiasts - the dedicated gardener usually fits into one of the above categories also - he is a good prospect. We have them as hybridizers and display garden members. Casual "Bulletin members" are not our dish - we are too specialized and will always remain so. Their interest is served by the AIS Bulletin - in fact, Popular Gardening and other flower magazines ALMOST meet their requirements. Let's not forget, though, that some serious and dedicated people are not joiners and thus do not appear active.

Iris organizations can be broken down into two types: Garden and Iris Clubs - mostly their members are "casual" gardeners, but collectively they want to learn a bit, and if they evolve to a higher order, fine! We should go after them. Horticultural Societies and Libraries - make good steady members. No headaches or troubles.

Are there any other ways of analyzing the AIS membership? The above analysis shows that we should make a two-pronged effort to increase memberships.

First, particular attention should be paid to obtaining and keeping as members the dedicated irisarians - hybridizers and display collectors, plus organizations. Garden tours and local meetings must be encouraged vigorously.

Secondly, SHOWS. We should put on a big drive to popularize the showing of Medians. (To show them you have to grow them!) A big effort on this should go over with the commercials, and help in getting medians distributed. Now, shows are practically all for TB with a few "other-than" classes. We could encourage a specialized median show - and also encourage many more classes for medians in the "TB" shows. Particularly, an early show would be easy to expand.

How can we get this rolling? We have to make showing of medians attractive - appeal to the reason people show flowers - give them an additional sense of accomplishment - additional awards. Various committees are now at work to increase showing of medians:

The Awards Committee is studying the advisability of a medal and/or certificate awards.

Show Classification is working to color read and set up tentative classes. They will check with the Exhibition Committee of the AIS.

Show Assistance will help with recommended schedules and will act as a clearing house for ideas.

Publicity and Promotion will concentrate most of their efforts toward shows.

Most important, though, is for every one of us, every member to do his part in talking up growing medians, showing medians, and joining our society. Your help is needed.

 President

THE FOUNDING FATHER

With this issue our first founding father fades from our roster. Actually, the original Douglas lilliputs couldn't have happened to a busier (or nicer) man. They were the product of a pollen gift from Paul Cook, and Geddes saw immediately that they had tremendous potentials, and that he would have to promote others into making a future for them. His first astonishment was expressed in a letter to Fitz Randolph published in the April, 1951, AIS Bulletin, #122. The editor of a society's publications is in a tough spot for promoting his own product; hence it was in the British Iris Society's Yearbook for 1954 that Geddes best explained his hopes for these delightful plants.

He started by introducing them in groups of several siblings from the same cross, in hopes that hybridizers would follow up these leads. About the same time, he threw out a general invitation to all interested to join him in an "Intermediate Club". For some inexplicable reason his first hope - that his Lilliputs would be line-bred by interested members - never did materialize until his sister took over his own lines some years later; but the invitation to join brought in a good nucleus list of workers which formed the basis for organizing the later Median Iris Society.

With his usual canny insight into the budding affairs of horticulturists, our hero at this point merely waved his jovial finger at anybody who sounded useful, and said "YOU'RE IT!" In this manner he somehow stacked up an organizing committee, with Earl Roberts as its Chairman, and with people in charge of setting up round robins, pollen exchanges, and other needful functions. No nonsense about treasurers and vice-presidents, just people willing to work their fool heads off to get the thing airborne.

By the 1955 season the robins were off the ground, and the pollen flew madly criss-cross from the HAVES to the HAVE-NOTS. Geddes sat in his AIS editorial chair or worked his many horticultural plots (a pun is intended here), with that secret smirk generally associated with cats and canaries. An occasional nonchalant hand signal produced extravagant effects from his team; when cornered, he stood and charmed all present without committing himself.

We haven't lost him; he's there, as interested as ever in our affairs, though since his retirement as Editor of the AIS Bulletins which he so capably produced for so many years he's a mighty busy man, serving as President or Vice-President or on

committees of various Nurserymen's Associations, continuing his TV program and running the "Jones Ornamental Nurseries" which he acquired when he retired from his Editorship.

We DO once in a while have a direct communication from Geddes, which is always a great pleasure; and we want to quote here his remarks about Lillipinkput, when it was suggested last year that it might better be classed as Intermediate. We quote:

"I have had Lillipink for a long time, eight or nine bloomings at least. It has never gone over 15 inches in either one of the two places in the garden it was planted. 12 to 14 inches is normal. The other seedlings of this cross will vary up to 22 inches. All are yellow except one and it is brown. The brown one is slightly taller than Lillipink. One of the yellows opens first, Lillipink last, a full week later.

"You can blow any iris up in both size and height by the use of varying amounts of nitrogen, and I feel that this must be the cause of some of the reported tall stalks of Lillipink. Another factor is the length of the growing season. Take Pigmy Gold, for example. The first blossoms will open on stalks less than six inches high. The later stalks will go up to 12 inches. As to blooming season, Lillipink is definitely right with the old Intermediates."

ACTIVITIES

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Our new President asked me to put in a special department for this...page, he said! PAGE, says I to myself...with what's going on in the Median Society these days??? Who can do justice to one of our meetings in a page, let alone to announce EVERYTHING beforehand and to report on it afterwards???

Let's have a try at it, though...and if I squeeze SCRRRUNCH SCRRUNCH, okay??? We hope to get our April issue out early with news about all sorts of bloom season tours, meetings and judging schools, as well as the Shows to which this issue is dedicated!

The Eastern and Western fall meetings were both marvelous..reported elsewhere in this issue...all agree that it's almost more fun having a chance to visit, talk and learn without the immediate pressure of gardens and flowers to be studied.

Peg Grey's delightful story makes us happy that she has agreed to be signed up as one of our official Display Gardens...more in our next issue on Display Gardens and the dates for visiting them.

Our Western West Garden Supervisor, Carol Walters, hasn't set a date for her visits, but here are instructions for finding her, and we hope all who possibly can will get there. Carol says: "Rio Linda is about 12 miles north and west of Sacramento, and we're about one and one-half blocks from the Rio Linda Post Office. For out-of-towners unfamiliar with the Greater Sacramento area, we can be easily reached from HiWay 40 north of Sacramento. Leave the Freeway via Watt Ave. North; go through North Highlands and turn left on M Street, right on Dry Creek Road, left on Curved Bridge Road, left on Oak Lane and stay left at the "Y" to the second house on the left. Lost? Call WYL-4167.

We have our first report for the season on a median slide program from C Harold Blackmer of Flint, Michigan. Harold has a hand in making Buicks. He says: "We note in the October 1961 Newsletter that you asked for comments on median iris slide program if used. A set of slides secured from Earl Roberts was shown at the December meeting of the Central Michigan Iris Society.

"Our society members as a whole favor the tall bearded iris so that is why I procured the slides to show them what is being done with the small and shorter types of

Iris.....This was our Christmas meeting. The slides were shown after the business meeting, and a question and answer period followed by a social hour. The tables were decorated in Christmas style.

"I liked Dr Werckmeister's Serbian #15 and made a mental note to obtain it when possible. My wife liked Lilli-Blue. They liked your Brassie and Golden Fair, also Ruth Stephenson's Royal Thumbprint. Another liked the Oncomed Okon. A number liked intermediates Cloud Fluff, Little Angel, Moonchild, and the new plicata from Wilma Greenlee, Tiffanja X (Cretica x Sunset Blaze). Table Iris mentioned were Mary Williamson's Drady and Austin's Fairy Flo. Border bearded irises liked were Goodrick's Pink Pixie, Canadian iris Sultan's Armour, Harris' Little Gem and Crescent Deru's Chocoleto. Of the Roberts irises, I liked Alaskan Ice, Paganite and 61R22. The group liked the cross of Golden Alps X Brownett, Gypsy Flair, 61R12, Stylmark and Forever Amber."

Thank you, Harold! We would like to add that Earl Roberts' slides were featured at our Eastern fall meeting, too....we recommend them highly as a program feature.

!!! FIRST IN THIS WORLD - A SHOW FOR MEDIAN IRISES !!!

Off again on again finnegan was the planning for our eastern show for median irises - now it is definitely ONAGAIN, with our Long Islanders in charge, Harry Kuesel as chairman, and we hope Bill Peck will co-chair this. As you see in this issue, we have done an immense amount of work on planning the classes. Time and place:

May 12 or 13th, at the Bronx Botanical Gardens. Our efficient chairman has already found out that there are several motels within reach. We couldn't have a Show without a meeting, so here we go again.

This is an experimental Show. We mean to try out all sorts of methods of showing our medians, and of educational and companion materials. We expect to draw members from quite a distance..Lee Eberhardt from Ohio, for instance. Come and exhibit, and help us to work out details for future Shows.

SOCIAL REPORT OF THE NEW PALTZ MEETING

Molly Price

As I was leaving for the meeting, my husband asked me how many people I thought would be there. "Oh, twelve to fifteen," I said. "Probably two from Massachusetts, maybe two or three from Connecticut, three or four from Long Island...not many." But when I drove up the van de Waters' lane with its familiar poplars, cars were parked all over the place and the house was nearly bursting at the seams. There were four people from Massachusetts: our Bee, of course, Shirley Spurr and both JoAnne and Don Tufts. Six came from Connecticut: Ruth Stephenson, Eleanor Westmeyer, Fred Jacobs, Carl and Ruth Schulz and our president-elect, Jack Goett. I was disappointed that Frances Winkler couldn't make it, but that was my only disappointment in the whole meeting.

New York, including Long Island, was first on the list with thirteen: Dr Randolph (with a most becoming new haircut), Harry and Peg Edwards, Clint and Fran Jennings, Jane Hall (an old robin friend whom I had not met before), Kay Heinig, Harry and Elinor Kuesel, Bill and Esther McGarvey, Bill Peck, Betty Rizzo, Herman Storey, our hosts Vandee and Irene, Alline Williams and your reporter.

Bruce and Alberta Richardson and my robin pal, Albert Ellis, came all the way from Canada. That was the biggest surprise. Next biggest surprise was the Pennsylvania delegation: Charlotte Gantz and the Chambers, Bill and Kathryn. New Jersey was second in number with eight: Zeh and Dottie Dennis, Joe and Mrs A Gatty (Joe's mother), Don Loeber, Harriet Segesserann, and Fred and Barbara Walther. I am always happy to see Barbara, who has served The Iris so long and so beautifully.

It was a fine meeting, interesting, stimulating, even exciting...the best I ever attended. Better than a party. I arrived about 2 PM and crept to my motel room about 2 AM with not a moment of dullness in the 12 hours.

Irene and Vandee served wonderful hot spiced cider and cakes in the late afternoon, and dinner at the College Inn Motel was excellent, I think. I was so busy talking with Ruth Stephenson and Eleanor Westmeyer that I paid small attention to the food. After Dr Randolph's talk on his European collecting trip (on which I took full notes. I hope somebody reports it), he showed slides which members had brought (I took notes on these, too. They were note-worthy) until he must have been worn out. Afterward, some of us sat around talking and wetting our parched throats with this and that until....

Then Shirley Spurr, who had graciously offered to share her room with me, and I talked some more. This was a special piece of luck for me: I had never met the interesting and vital Shirley.

Sunday morning most of us had a leisurely breakfast together before separating... until spring? If everyone had as good a time as I...and I think everyone did...they will all return for the next meeting.

NORTHWEST MEDIAN MEETING

Jean Witt

On Monday, November 27, 1961, Alta Brown and I were hostesses for our first Northwest Median get-together, at my home in Seattle. Twenty-five Medianites and guests from Washington and Oregon met for an afternoon of reports and discussions, a potluck supper, and an evening of slides. Of those who attended, eighteen were from the Seattle Tacoma area: Mr and Mrs Charles Carper, Mr and Mrs Keith Kernkamp, Cay Flagler, Helen Tutmark, Grace Pederson, Leona Mahood, Marjorie Barnes, Orpha Salsman, Roy Davidson, Mr and Mrs Peter Maloney, Florence Weed, Mr and Mrs Rex Brown, Mr and Mrs Joseph Witt. From elsewhere in Washington, Hattie Hubbard from Olympia, and Fred Nacke and Dick Rosenfels from Richland. Robert Schreiner, Bennett Jones, Grace Carter and Ruth Hardy came from Oregon.

Among the topics which came up for discussion in the afternoon were:

1. The difficulty of hanging onto the dwarf species long enough to make use of them. Our people from the dry side of the Cascades apparently have just as much trouble as we do on the wet side. We do not yet know enough about the species' native habitats to meet their rather special requirements. Aphylla, one of the widest ranging species, was suggested as being less demanding than some of the others.
2. Better publicity for Medians of all classes is needed. This means "talking them up" at every opportunity. The group was urged to make a special effort to take pictures for the AIS and other slide sets.
3. The problem of getting judges properly acquainted with the requirements of the various median classes. Strictly TB judges may not know one kind of median from another, let alone what constitutes a good one. The fact that some older irises are now classified in different classes from those in which they were registered complicates the problem.

Members had been asked to come prepared to tell about their median interests and projects. Those who were present for the afternoon session heard a most interesting recital of median enthusiasm. Several people mentioned the attraction of the unlimited opportunity that median irises have to offer the hybridizer. The standard dwarfs seem to be receiving the most attention, possibly because of the DIS test garden in Seattle. However, all classes have their active proponents, and many people are working with more than one class.

Cay Flagler, who had attended the 1961 Convention, told of some of the medians she had seen in the East, and showed Kodacolor photographs with her opaque projector.

Bennett Jones told about his hybridizing work with border irises. He also mentioned some of the problems of judging as it pertains to medians, and distributed a large envelope of *I. missouriensis* seed, collected in Colorado.

Bob Schreiner told a little about his work with aphylla, and his interest in working the pumila spot up into larger irises. He also told about some of the bearded species that he grows. He recommended *croatica* as one for those interested in border and miniature tall irises to try.

Among the people working with the standard dwarfs, Leona Mahood reported on an interesting series of crosses of *Carpathia* with blue talls. Hattie Hubbard mentioned getting Green Halo seedlings of various beard colors. Fred Nacke is interested in getting amoenas, using pumila dwarfs. Helen Tutmark reported that most of the test crosses she had made to study color had given very few seeds. Dick Rosenfels told of a number of crosses involving Green Spot which were giving very interesting things for him.

Roy Davidson brought a large flat of various small irises, which he was giving away lest he lose them during a forthcoming building project. He also distributed seeds of many types of median crosses, which he hadn't planted for the same reason. These were snapped up eagerly...(a wonderful way to get people started in medians!)

Alta Brown told about her pink intermediates, the product of her work toward a pink dwarf. She also works with SDB, and some with MTB. I reported on some of my experimental crosses using various kinds of diploid tall bearded whites, not all of which gave the same results, and told a little about some of the MTB varieties which are proving to be good parents.

Members who do no hybridizing were asked to tell why they were interested in medians for their gardens. Some good talking points for publicity were brought out here. Mrs Kernkamp and Grace Carter both mentioned that they preferred medians because they held up better in their very windy locations. Cay Flagler and others were looking for arrangement material. Marjorie Barnes liked their small size in her somewhat limited yard space.

The slides shown at the evening session included quite a range of bearded species, both dwarf and tall, as we have several members who grow species. Named varieties in all the various classes of medians, from antique to latest contemporary, gave us a fine idea of the wide variety available to the collector and the hybridizer. Seedlings gave us a preview of things to come. Several groups of slides showing parents and progeny were particularly instructive.

Naturally, our time was all too short, and we barely skirted the edges of all the things we would like to have discussed. It was decided that we should get together again next year, and November was agreed upon as a suitable time, since a meeting in the blooming season is not feasible for most of us.

Marjorie Barnes, who took notes for us, brought three blooms from her *stylosa*, thus making the meeting complete.

(Your Ed is unable to resist adding a bit from Fred's tale of his trip over the mountains for this meeting): "It is a little under 250 miles from Richland to Seattle. In good weather it usually takes me around four hours....I started out Monday morning at 7:15..it was raining and freezing. The first 20 miles..slickest road I ever drove on. You could go into a tailspin without even trying..Then I hit packed snow..this wasn't too bad..From Ellensburg to Cle Elum at the base of the mountains it was packed snow and...had rained on it; talk about slick! Up over the pass it was SNOWING. I got into Seattle at 12:30....got out to Jean's place at 1:30..Jean and Alta met me at the door; both grabbed a hand and said 'are we glad to see you!'.said they were all worried about me, that the report was that the weather was bad up on the mountains. I said 'well, I am sure that you have all heard it said some time or another that all iris people are crazy...I just proved it. Anybody who would drive over the roads I just came over to attend an iris meeting has to be nuts.' For a meeting like we had, believe me I would do it again tomorrow!"

For Your Show Schedules	REVIEW OF THE MEDIAN CLASSES	by Subsection Veeps
For Your Buying Guide		
For Your Garden Labeling	For Your Slide Programs	
For Your Sales Talks	For Your Choice of Round Robins	
For Your Judging	For Your Goals in Hybridizing	

I STANDARD DWARF BEARDED

Dorothy Dennis

Standard dwarf bearded irises are those species and hybrids from ten to fifteen inches in height. They usually bloom in late dwarf season. Species included in this class are Iris aphylla, benacensis, hungarica, italica, olbiensis, subbiflora and virescens, and some of the taller chamaeiris. Probably the most important at present are hybrids of tall bearded and Iris pumila.

The Cook-Douglas Award is given to the variety receiving the most votes from the garden judges. This award is equal to the Award of Merit and was activated in 1959, when the first award was given to Green Spot. In 1960 it was given to Tinkerbelle and to Fairy Flax in 1961. Green Spot also received the Median Iris Society's Symposium Certificate in 1961. Varieties receiving ten or more votes for Honorable Mention in 1961 are:

Little Rosy Wings	Golden Fair	Spring Mist	Wee Scot	How Now
Snow Elf	Paper and Ink	Lilli-var	Derring-Do	Jersey Lilli

II INTERMEDIATE BEARDED

Adelaide Peterson

An intermediate bearded iris is one which stands from 15 to 28 inches in height and which blooms usually midway between the standard dwarf bearded and the tall bearded seasons. Though its form is preferably similar to that of the border bearded iris (often referred to as a "smaller tall bearded"), the intermediate must open well before--AND NOT WITH--the tall in order to qualify as an intermediate. For should it open and bloom with the tall bearded, it must then be classified as a border iris. Awards for 1961:

The Hans and Jacob Sass Award: Moon Child
 Runners-up: Blue Asterisk, Cloud Fluff

Honorable Mention: Little Angel, Lime Ripples

Median Iris Society, Symposium List:

Kiss-Me-Kate (Hans and Jacob Sass Award, 1960) First MIS Symposium Certificate.		
Cloud Fluff	First Lilac	Florinda
Blue Asterisk	Ultra	Eleanor Roosevelt
Moon Child	Alien	Ruby Glow
	Lime Ripples	Laguinita

III BORDER BEARDED

Keith Keppel

What is a border iris? The horticultural classification now in use by the American Iris Society defines the class as including those bearded irises which bloom with the tall bearded yet grow but 15 to 28 inches in height. Flowers generally are four inches or more across and the stalks are stiffly erect; these two points separate the border iris from the miniature tall. Basically the border irises are species or varieties of tall bearded irises which simply are too short to be classed as "tall".

That is what constitutes a border iris. However, our ideal for the class must qualify on several other points. That it should have good substance, good color (whether clear and bright or delicately blended), and adequately wide and pleasing form goes almost without saying. The most important point is that the whole plant must

be in proportion. The flowers should be small enough to be in scale with the foliage and stalk; likewise, the stalk should not look like a sawed-off broom handle with flowers bunched at the top. A flower doesn't have to possess good substance, branching, proportion, etc., to qualify as a border iris, but it does need these attributes to qualify as a good border iris.

In a nut-shell that's it. Actually it isn't quite so simple, for of course, performance (and this includes height) of a variety fluctuates with the culture and climate; what is short enough in one area to be a border iris may reach up into the tall class elsewhere. Obviously we must try to determine the "average" behavior of a plant. In our haste to describe the borders as "short tall" we must not preclude the possibility of a whole series of advanced generation hybrids involving dwarf or intermediate species; if by selection we can develop a series of iris blooming with the tall and similar to them--but shorter--then these shall be border irises, too, of course.

Since 1940 the following varieties have received Honorable Mention, Award of Merit or the Knowlton Award as border irises:

Baby Doll HM '61	Fairy Jewels HM '60	Pink Ruffles AM '42
Bitagold HM '61	Frenchi HM '59, Knowlton '61	Priscilla AM '47
Black Forest HM '46, AM '48	Joy HM '43	Robert Melrose HM '61
Buttercup Lane HM '40	Jungle Shadows HM '61	Saucy Peach HM '61
Buttonhole HM '60	Lady Kay HM '60	Sputnik HM '61
Cherry Falls HM '53	Little Gem HM '56	Summer Sunset HM '61
Chocoleto HM '59	Lugo HM '61	Sunday's Child HM '61
Christmas Cove HM '61	Make Believe HM '61	Teenage HM '60
Clarendon Springs HM '61	Moon Talk HM '59	Two Bits HM '59
Cockle Shells HM '60	Pearl Cup HM '58	Wee Bit HM '58
Cricket HM '58	Penny Arcade HM '61	Yellow Dresden Knowlton '60
Donna D HM '61	Pinata HM '59	Yum Yum HM '57

IV MINIATURE TALL BEARDED (TABLE IRIS)

Alice White

Definition: Table irises are miniature replicas of tall bearded irises.

Standards:

1. The whole plant, flowers included, shall be small and in perfect proportion throughout.
2. Height of flower stalk, about 15 to 25 inches.
3. Flower no more than 2 1/2 x 3 1/2 (combination of six inches).
4. Stem slender, wiry, graceful.
5. There must be branching as in TB, and numerous buds for bloom, at least five buds is a must, seven to nine or more being very desirable.
6. Foliage narrow, graceful, and in proportion to the rest of the plant.

Typical examples: Daystar, Kinglet, Nambu, Pewee, Warbler, Widget.

Awards - Honorable Mention:

1958 Parakeet, Pewee
 1959 Desert Quail
 1961 Quien Sabe, Baby Doll (also listed as a border iris)

YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THE IDES OF MARCH!!

But you do have to pay your dues by March 31. Send them directly to your membership chairman: Rita Ingham, 19624 Battersea Blvd, Rocky River 16, Ohio

The easiest way to start is to ask the shows already existing in your area to add some median classes to their schedules. If there is no show in your area, you might band together with any other medianites in your region and start a purely median show. While it is difficult to get all the median classes represented because of the different bloom peaks, enough of a show might be had from standard dwarfs and intermediates, or from borders and table irises with a few belated (or retarded) SDBs and IBs to give interest.

Where to have these shows? Here in New England we are fortunate in having the Massachusetts and Worcester County Horticultural Societies to join with the AIS members in sponsoring iris shows and in adding classes for other kinds of irises in season, combined with other specialty groups such as roses or dahlias. If you are not so fortunate in your region, you might ask any of the following to give you space for an iris show (this could even be a one man or woman show for a starter!): banks, churches, schools, libraries, public utility store windows, department stores or specialty shops. These places are usually glad to have their facilities used and also glad to have the public look their way.

It is well worth setting up educational exhibits of a general nature in such show windows, as well as in Shows. For Iris Shows, the six classes of bearded irises makes a good exhibit with the definitions of each class accompanying the flower stalks or flowering plants.

Simple exhibits of parts of the iris flower, or hybridizing exhibits with stamens, styles, seed pods and seed; an exhibit of the various patterns new in median irises, the halos, feathers and variously shaped spots; a judging exhibit with award winners contrasted with horrid examples of poor form, substance and dirty coloring; any of these, along with the more general exhibits of cultural practices, seed-sowing and germination methods, exhibits of various seed types, species exhibits, insect and disease exhibits...any and all would be interesting and valued additions to any Show.

While it will be natural to have BB and MTB with a TB show, it will be a little more difficult to show SDB at this same time. It has been suggested that the dwarfs be potted and held back to bloom and be shown with the TBs. It would be good to try classes of potted dwarfs, both miniatures and standards, for all sorts of shows, either forced or retarded. We are wishing every success to the Berkshire Garden Center in their exhibit at the International Flower Show in New York in March, where they plan to force and show dwarf irises in a garden setting. (The huge pillar in the center of the space allotted is giving Mr Boutard some worry).

We have had some luck with refrigerating cut stalks of our earlier irises and they don't take up quite as much space as TB stalks!

If you have ever seen a large show with the huge TBs set up in color classes and have seen the medians set up the same way you will have noted the contrast in the amount of color on the benches. For this reason we have suggested three stalks per vase in the color classes for the smaller medians, but many of our authorities say positively NOT, a specimen is ONE STALK, period.

Containers? Use Coke bottles or 1/2 pint milk bottles with a circular skirt of green or brown construction paper. Use the height of the bottle for the radius, and staple on 1/2 of each circle to fit the bottle. A half-pint conical milk carton of waxed paper is perfect painted green with any oil base paint.

Do get some arrangement classes for medians in your shows. If you aren't interested in arrangements DO offer your bloom stalks to those who are. Most arrangement classes do not require entrants to grow their own material. Perhaps if you have loads of medians you could furnish the blooms for a garden club workshop.

HELP! HELP! HELP! HELP!

We NEED everyone's help in getting color readings of all of the different named varieties of median irises; borders, tables, intermediates and standard dwarfs. President Jack Goett has asked for this color classification of the medians, such as the AIS has for the tall, so that median irises can be promoted at the shows. Please send us any information that you have to help out with this work.

Alta Brown, Chairman, Classification Committee
In cooperation with Art Nelson, Exhibition
Committee, American Iris Society

INTERIM COLOR CLASSIFICATION

Harry B Kuesel

for Median Iris Shows and Median Sections of AIS and Spring Garden Shows

This spring we expect an increasing number of shows which feature median irises. To assist show committees in assembling show classes we have reviewed Ben Hager's original classification report in the Median Newsletter, Vol I, 1958, and supplemented it with Minnie Colquitt's reports of median registrations for recent years.

DIVISION I: Standard Dwarf Bearded (SDB) (Single specimen or three stalks of same variety)

<u>Class</u>	<u>Color and pattern</u>	<u>Symbol*</u>	<u>Examples</u>
1	White selfs Also include WIV, W-1B, W-10, W-1R when examples are introduced.	W-1 W-1Y	Snow Elf, Dainty Delight, Little Angel, Bright Bee, Lilli-White, Autumn Queen Dessert, Little Cottage
2	White plicatas	W-2	Plickadee, Lilli-Plic, Dale Dennis, Little Dogie
3	White bitones & bicolors	W-3 W-4	None Bainbridge, How Now, Lilli-Bright, Green Accent, Starla, Wilma V, Honey- tone, Lilli-Green, Charming Morn, Paper and Ink, Grape Spot, Green Spot, Playboy
4	Violet and purple selfs	V-1P to V-1D	Queen's Velvet, Spring Violets, Lilli- Purple, Jersey Lilli, Thormila, Dacia Aphylla Hungary, Kerry Lea, Dark Star Little Shadow, Royal Midget, Pagan Midget.
5	Violet plicatas (V-2, none) Bitones and bicolors	V-3 & V-4	Dark Fairy, Derring-Do, Westward, Wee Scot
6	Violet and blue blends from P to D	V-5 & B-5	Pearl Shell, Spring Mist, Lt de Chav. Ditton's Purple
7	Blue Selfs, from P to D	B-1	Sky Baby, Lilli-Blue, Blue Denim, April Blue, Toytown, Small Wonder, Helen's Child, Fairy Flax, Sapphire Night, Dear Love, Ladies of Peeling.
8	Blue bitones and bicolors Includes various halo, spot, feather, etc.	B-3	Jaylet, Missie, Lilli-Bitone, Little Imp, Olbiensis Sannicandro, Austrian Sky, Lilliput, Tinkerbell
9	Green and yellow selfs	G-1 to Y-1F	Dawn Favor, Golden Fair, Orange Blaze, Zing, Blue Ivory, Gleeful, Lemon Flare, Brassie, Lilli-Flora, Orange Bantam, Yellow Bantam, Happy Thought, Pigmy Gold, Baria
10	Yellow ground plicatas	Y-2	Jokers Wild, Wee Reggie, Patretica

<u>Class</u>	<u>Color and pattern</u>	<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Examples</u>
11	Yellow bitones	Y-3	Easter Holiday, Coreop, Honey Bug, Truce, Green Halo, Picture Yellow, Jean Siret
12	Yellow bicolors including spot patterns	Y-4	Fairy Face, Forest Glade, Red Spot, Lilli-Var, Scintilla, Dancing Bee, Spring Tan, November, Pogo
13	Yellow, orange and pink blends and selfs, includes browns and apricots	YO-5 to O-1F	Americana, Brown Bantam, Oriental Tan, Sugar Loaf, Brownseta, Gold Cadet, Knotty Pine, Lillipinkput, Tolita, Brownie, Lilli-Richtone, Tan Fantasy, Chica, Pixie
14	Approaches to red	R-1 to R-4	Red Rockette, Royal Midget, Tangarose, Red Dandy, Little Rosy Wings, Red-Lilli, Garnet Treasure, Jack o' Hearts, Merry Maker
15	Approaches to black, N-1 to	N-4	???

*Color symbols are the official AIS designations as explained in the 1949 AIS check list and in the Iris Color Classification reports which you are urged to order from Art Nelson, Exhibitions Committee Chairman of the AIS.

DIVISION II: Intermediate Bearded Irises (IB)

Classes and symbols the same as for standard dwarfs (above) Examples as follows:

- Class 1: Cloud Fluff, Alaska, Snow Maiden, Cosette, Zua
 2: ?
 3: Starfall, Dateline, Dainty Jewel, Kiss-Me-Kate, Ivory Elf, Olive White, Sea Foam, Ivorine
 4: Paganite, First Lilac, Florinda, Moonchild, Black Hawk, Nocturnal, Kochinette, Eleanor Roosevelt
 5: Dorcas Hutcheson, Dead Sea Scrolls
 6: Shirley Marie, Constance Schreiner, Challenger, Turk
 7: Lilli-hoog, Twilite Time, Mideastern, Harmonizer, Barre Beauty, Harvest Blue, Marine Wave, Bountiful Blue, Gentius, Ultra, Blue Boy
 8: Fall Bluebeard, October Clouds, Blue Asterisk, Spring Contrast, Laura Hutcheson, Autumn King, Fritjof
 9: Lime Ripples, Little Cottage, Spring Prelude, Butter Bit, Alaloe, Early Cheer, Southland, Golden Bow, Golden West, Maygold, Crysoro, Soledad, Far South, Sangreal
 10: ???
 11: April Magic, Chimera, First Gold, Aruba, Bright Eyes, August Indian, Chancelot, Progenitor, Gaynelle
 12: Spring Signal, Alien,
 13: Pink Fancy, Sweet Allegro, Pink Debut
 14: Prodan, Lagunita, Ruby Glow, Red Orchid, Abelard, Susa, Crimson King

DIVISION III: Border Bearded Irises (BB)

Classes and symbols the same as above except as noted: Examples as follows:

- Class 1: Echoette, Angel Child, Christmas Cove, Donna D, Fairy Jewels, Tiddlede-Winks, Columbine
 2: Little Reb, Sputnik, Mme Electra, Precious Gem, Friscoette, Lady Priscilla Rhages, Heliane, Anndelia, Stipples, Dimity, Mary Garden

- 3: Snow Orchid, Cute Tomato, Silver Treasure, Arctic Crown, Pearl Cup, Mildred Presby, Rhein Nixe
- 4: V-1L to V-1F, may be subdivided if entries warrant:
 Lady Kay, Lucy Lu, Rose Ballet, Royal Visit, Spring Violet, Lugo, Smile Awhile, Terese, Floretta, Candy Kid, Fluff, Fringette, Precious Jewel, Dainty Bess, Pink Ruffles, Chewink, Troost, Caprice, Queen of the May
 V-1DD or B-1DD, approaches to black:
 Black Flounce, Black Forest, Black and Blue
- 5: Song at Twilight, Pinata, Frenchi, Sea Orchid, Perfection
- 6: Stylmark, Jungle Shadows, Bo Peep, Dorothea, Ramora, Dalila, Demideuil
- 7: Lake Elation, Little Bowknot, Sandra Lou, Little Dude, Blue Shade, Clarendon Springs, Billet Doux, Berkeley Blue, Dainty Bess, St Osyth, Elizabeth Huntington
- 8: Blue Velvet, Rheintochter, Cottage Maid
- 9: April Love, Baby Doll, Border Gold, High Hopes, Pepite D'or, Petit Poupee, Polar Flame, Bitagold, Mayober, White Glow, Impossible, Jingles, Yellow Dresden, Lemon Drop, Valiant Ola, Helios, Virginia Moore, Coronation, Rialgar
- 10: Extempore, Calouste, Lady Slippers, Sweet Chariot, Sandyson, King Karl
- 11: Yellow Bitones, and
- 12: Yellow Bicolors: Baby Buttercup, Curly Top, Dr Mantor, Clara Noyes, Shrill Clarion, Ruffled Duchess, Wild Canary, Corsage, Cricket, Buttonhole, Gaucho, Gay Hussar, King Midas, King Tut, Lodestar, Navajo, Miss Eardley, Loreley, Prinzess Viktoria Luise
- 13: Y-05: Penny Arcade, Chocoleto, Teenage, Robert Melrose, Summer Sunset, Cobbler's Song, Doll Festival, Ethel Miller, Fawn, Copper Frills, Treasure Trove, Golden Light, Autumn Dawn, Robert, Valencia, La Bohemienne, Fra Angelico
- 0-1R to R-1P: Nancy Jean, Forever Amber, Little Dickens, Pagoda, Saucy Peach, Moon Talk, Cockle Shells, Two Bits, La Nina Rosa, Peach Lemonade, Pentomic, Pink Purity, Emma Hamilton, Cotlet, Little Gem, Yum Yum, Wee Bit, Border Charm, Border Pink, Mimi Carril, Pink Pixie, Sherry Kay, Ingenue, Seventh Heaven, Pink Bouquet, Dream Girl, Spring Idyll, Goldfish, Rose Ash
- 14: Little Sir Echo, Little Brother, Combat, Little Major, Sandia Sunset, Peppercot, Rose Pearl, Joy, Ouray, Monarda, Firefall, Apache, Montour, Spark, Nancy Orne

DIVISION IV: Miniature Tall Bearded (Table) Irises (MTB)

<u>Class</u>	<u>Color and pattern</u>	<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Examples</u>
1	White selfs	W-1	Limber Lassie, Daystar, Pewee
2	White plicatas	W-2	Apache Papoose, Jennifer, Minnette, Westward, Angelita, Widget
3	White bitones & bicolors	W-3 & W-4	Baby Doll, Little Helen
4	Violet selfs, bitones & blends	V-1 to V-5	Little Lady, Orchid Butterfly, Tidbit, Tom Tit, Two for Tea, Nambe, Eversweet
5	Blue selfs, bitones, bicolors & blends	B-1 to B-5	Zimbrakeet, Blue Mouse, Bunting
6	Yellow selfs	Y-1	Warbler, Siskin, Sherwin Wright, Mrs Neubronner, Kinglet
7	Yellow bitones & bicolors	Y-3 & Y-4	Smarty Pants, Spring Sprite, Hobo, Zingara, Kaleidoscope, Quien Sabe
8	Red approaches		Second Thought ???

Note: The final answer to color classification for shows can only come with experience. When two irises of closely related color appear at the show bench and obviously belong in the same class, committees are urged to put them there, and let us know so we can reclassify accordingly. We also appreciate advice on any errata or omissions and suggestions for improvement to be incorporated in next year's edition.

There have been several changes in iris classification since 1920 when AIS began its registration system. Early blooming border irises may well be intermediates, while late blooming intermediates may well be borders. It will be very helpful to your Show Committees if show chairmen will report the names of all irises entered in each class, and cases where it appears desirable to change the color classification for any iris listed.

We need notification of name, date and place of all shows including median classes; we need to know the numbers of entries in each and every median class listed, and the winners of each class besides the show and division champions.

Send a copy of your Show Schedule with this information to the Chairman of your Show Assistance (Exhibitions) Committee, Harry B Kuesel, 19 Mary Lane, Greenvale, New York.

MEDIAN SCHEDULE

Lee Eberhardt

I have been trying to figure out a median schedule for some time and have not as yet come up with anything very logical. Actually, the color classes aren't even strictly defined because we've got all these spot variations.

Obviously at a median show if you hit midseason you could have the entire gamut represented. I believe it would be unfair to group all the medians by color since it would place too much responsibility on the judges to try to eliminate size considerations say between a yellow chamaeiris, table and border. This would be like trying to pick a best in show in each class.

It would be best to have an abbreviated color class in each of the median divisions. I do not believe it would be practical to have a total of much over 50 classes in the show; and also believe four, five or more arrangement classes would be a good median iris promotional idea. The following might be a practical schedule:

DIVISION A: SDB - Single specimen (or say three???????)

- Class 1. White selfs (1-3)* W1W - W1R
2. White plics (4-8) W2V - W2N
3. White bitones & bicolors (9-14) W3 - W4N
4. Violet & purple selfs (15-18) V1P - V1D
5. Violet plicatas, bitones, bicolors (19-23) V2 - V4
6. Violet blends (24-27) V5P - V5D
7. Blue selfs and bicolors (28-31) B1P - B4
8. Green & yellow selfs (32-39) G1 - Y1F
9. Yellow plicatas (40-43) Y2V - Y2N
10. Yellow bitones & bicolors (44-50) Y3L - Y4N
11. Yellow, pink & oranges, blends and selfs (51-56) Y05P - O1F
12. Reds and blacks (57-65) R1P - N4

DIVISION B: IB - same classes as above, classes 13-24 inclusive

DIVISION C: MTB - " " " " " 25-36

DIVISION D: BB - " " " " " 37-48

DIVISION E: Seedlings - Class 49: SDB 50: IB 51: MTB 52: BB

DIVISION F: Artistic arrangements - Classes 52 - 60.

Based on my show experience, the above should be about enough to drive a bunch of medianites and AIS judges stark raving mad.

Along with the increase in AIS sponsored shows comes increased use of the classes recommended by the AIS exhibition Committee. This system is flexible, authoritative and relatively simple to follow. It has gradually evolved toward the 40 number registration system of eight colors across, five patterns down, as explained in the Nelsons' Iris Classification Report.

In the listing of these classes for Shows a choice must be made. In previous usage they have been listed first by color, then subdivided by pattern. Some of the classes must be consolidated, some further divided. The average small show consolidates adjacent classes...white selfs with white plicatas, yellow bitones with yellow bicolors, red bicolors with red blends. This is left up to the show committee, and it is easiest to remove the divider between two classes when there are only one or two spikes in each. A little more judgment results in putting, for instance, class 9 white bitones, with class 3, white selfs, rather than with class 10, amoenas. Or class 31 (Wide World) with class 27, pale blue, rather than with 30, medium blue.

If the committee were to divide into pattern first and then subdivide into color, normal consolidation of classes would be different, e.g., blue and violet selfs together, white and yellow plics, yellow and orange blends.

For our standard dwarf bearded division I would like to see this tried out. It sounds more logical and interesting, and might even work out better. New colors and patterns have been introduced recently, but we still have only a few varieties in many of the classes. For instance, Little Reggie is the only distributed yellow plic and should go with the white plics such as Dale Dennis and Little Dogie rather than with the yellows. How about Lilli-Bright, the yellow amoena? Consolidate it with the whites? If Pastel Gem, Tolita or Blue Ivory, the soft light blends still scarce, won't fill a class, will they go in with other blends or with blue or yellow selfs?

Many of us have been stressing the newer patterns that our SDBs have shown to the iris world, the pumila thumbprint, halo, arrow, feather, spot, etc., instead of the familiar solid amoena. Normally these would all be lumped under bitones and bicolors - and lost! Can't we consolidate all the variously colored halos into one class, the various spots into another, and the feathered into a third? We are in the habit of talking about both color groups and pattern groups, in articles and in our hybridizing exchanges - that is, we discuss the plicatas, the amoenas and the blends as a group regardless of color differences. Can't we show them the way we talk?

CLASSES FOR THE SDB DIVISION

Ruth Stephenson

(Note: in this rather extensive breakdown of the standard dwarfs, meant for a Division of the class in its own season, a special class based entirely on pattern has been suggested for the first time.)

- | | | | | |
|---------|--------------------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| Class 1 | White | a) blue (cold) | b) white-white | c) cream (warm) |
| 2 | Blue | a) light | b) medium | c) dark |
| 3 | Yellow | a) pale | b) medium | c) deep |
| 4 | Orange | a) pale (apricot) | b) deep | |
| 5 | Brown | a) tan | b) brown | |
| 6 | Red | a) pale (pink) | b) deep (red) | |
| 7 | Violet (dark blue toned) | | | |
| 8 | Purple (dark red toned) | | | |
| 9 | Blends | | | |
| 10 | Amoenas | | | |
| 11 | Variegatas | | | |
| 12 | Patterns | a) plicatas | b) haloed | c) feathered d) spot |

(Note: Peg wrote this up as a tentative median section for the Long Island Show, before she had seen the new classification report; it is a fine example of a sched. arranged by patterns first....Ed)

DIVISION I Border Iris

- Class 1 White selfs
- 2 Pale to light blue and lavender selfs
- 3 Medium to dark blue and violet selfs
- 4 Pink selfs
- 5 Red Selfs
- 6 Yellow and orange selfs
- 7 White ground plicatas and fancies
- 8 Other ground plicatas and fancies
- 9 Bicolors, white with blue or violet
- 10 Bicolors, white with yellow, orange or pink
- 11 Bicolors, yellow with red, brown, orange or violet
- 12 Bitones, blue and violet
- 13 Bitones, yellow, orange, pink
- 14 Blends, blue or violet predominating
- 15 Blends, yellow, brown, orange or red predominating

DIVISION II Miniature Tall Bearded (Table) Iris

- Class 1 White selfs
- 2 Light blue or lavender selfs
- 3 Dark blue or violet selfs
- 4 Yellow selfs
- 5 White ground plicatas or fancies
- 6 Other ground plicatas and fancies
- 7 Bicolors, white standards
- 8 Bicolors, yellow or other standards
- 9 Bitones, blue or violet
- 10 Bitones, other colors
- 11 Blends

NOTES FROM ENGLAND

Harry J Randall

In the excellent book published two years ago by the A.I.S. I had the temerity to write on how to exhibit irises at Shows. I wrote from experience, but only from experience gained in showing tall bearded varieties; and I realize that what I wrote is of little benefit to exhibitors of dwarfs and medians. I ought to say that in Britain we have never had at our Iris Shows any competitive classes for these two sections because they have generally finished flowering before the Shows are held, and we do not have a sufficient number of growers to make an earlier and special Show worth while.

For the past two years we have staged joint exhibits at Shows of the Royal Horticultural Society, and I have contributed a few items on each occasion. Some exhibitors have staged complete plants in pots or bowls, and these have looked very fine indeed. In several instances, however, individual flower stems have been shown in small vases, and these have looked rather like orphans of the storm - lonely, nude and uncared for.

There is little doubt that if we had a competitive Show for dwarfs we should insist on complete plants being exhibited, and this would probably apply also to medians. More work would thus be given to exhibitors but the interest of the Show would be increased. If we had sufficient entries we should probably have classes for mixed colours and also for separate colours, because that is what we do with the tall bearded. But I am afraid that it will be a long time before we are able to stage a sizeable Show for dwarfs or medians in London.

First, we are anxious to maintain the principle of an all-inclusive iris society. Consequently, we are anxious that the awards for all irises follow the same general format, and that we furnish to the several divisions the same awards which we furnish any other, both on an over-all and on a specialty basis.

I am suggesting that we furnish to any section or affiliate of the American Iris Society the certificates, printed on the same general format as the present certificate, but with wording appropriate for the class. This can be done in two ways:

1. The present silver certificate can serve the same purpose that it does now, an award to the winner of the most first place points in the Show. Instead of the Bronze medal certificate being granted for the winner of the second most first place points in the Show, it can be awarded to the winner of the most first place points in each section.

2. Special sectional certificates in colors different from those now used can be printed up, with appropriate wording for the section in which they are to be used. We already are doing this, in pale blue, for the seedling certificate. In this way, all AIS Show awards follow the same general format.

Rosettes intermediate in size between the large size for Best Specimen of Show and the smaller Special Award Size can be made up for sectional Queens of Show. A two streamer ribbon about two inches longer than the Special Award Rosette could be sold for about 60¢. I am willing to have them printed up with Median wording. If you wish, I could have them made up for each of the Median classes, with the appropriate wording for each class.

The certificates would be furnished to you free of charge, just as we do for any show approved by AIS. Other supplies are sold for the cost of operation.

Finally, we are anxious to give to the sections as much service as we can, and all of us will welcome any ideas that you have on that score.

FROM A HYBRIDIZER'S NOTEBOOK

Table Iris Notes...the compiler? Our membership chairman, Rita Ingham

Ben Hager's "minimizers" - "usually a MTB that seems definitely to carry genes for smallness": Tom Tit, Nambe, Kinglet, Dawn and possibly Sans Souci.

Others would add: Tipo Red, Bootblack (Hazel Grapes), Aphrodite, Pluie d'Or, Wabash and/or Sandia.

Earl Roberts "try these for minimizers" (NL 4/61) Pixie, Playboy, Tan Toy.

"Such a minimizer is the Welch seedling #444, parentage unknown, in a buff and lavender coloring with fine branching, not much over 15 inches tall." (Widget X 444 gave Parakeet, Desert Quail and Wild Canary). "The 10 inch pallida (used by Paul Cook) may be one of these "minimizers" of Ben Hager's."

Potent pollen (Earl): Siskin. No pollen: Pewee, Two for Tea, Tidbit, Daystar.

Full Seed Pods (Earl): Warbler, Kinglet, Widget, Parakeet, Desert Quail.

Full Seed Pods (another list): Nambe, Pixie, Widget, Kaleidoscope, Parakeet, Desert Quail, Wild Canary.

Long bloom season: Kaleidoscope. Finest pale yellow: Mrs Neubronner. Gives wide petals: Sylvia.

Species for MTBs: cengialtii, perrieri, reginae, rudyskyi and variegata.
Perhaps also try border iris species: albertii, imbricata.

Trautlieb X reginae (Cook) gave many five-branched irises, mostly too large for MTBs. Trautlieb is an old German diploid TB (G&K, 1899). Paul crossed these seedlings with a 10 inch pallida sent by Hanselmayer. Nearly all these proved to be MTB.

HAPPY COMPANIONS

Peg Grey

Small irises are at their best in settings designed just for them. Used with restraint, rather than en masse, the individual personality of any variety is bound to sparkle. Use of other small plants with complementary contrast of foliage and flower form and color, or with a different flowering season, insures an interesting planting when the irises are not in bloom. Here are a few ideas for special spots in your garden:

The deep violet lilliputs, such as Dark Star, with a carpet of white violets, alternated with a white intermediate like Cloud Fluff and its ground cover of purple violets, give heavenly fragrance.

Green Spot is charming against a mossy rock, carpeted with wild strawberries. A green toned miniature dwarf like Dirty Face would be delightful here. A very rough textured pumice rock with bold patches of yellow-green lichen is a wonderful foil for the charms of Lilli-Green.

It's fun to select from several classes with their successive bloom seasons. Start with a pale blue miniature dwarf like April Morn, add SDB Small Wonder or Tinkerbelle, the later blooming intermediate Blue Asterisk, and the miniature tall Chewink, or the blue-and-white plicata, Widget. Set them off with forget-me-nots and a cover of white alyssum.

Is there anything more enchanting than the baby blue and white amoena? Tiny Angel Eyes or Heart's Content, followed by pale blue and deep blue Lilli-Bitone, then IB Bainbridge, is an outstanding grouping. A blue-marked-white violet like 'Freckles' here, please!

The same effect can be achieved with all whites, or all yellows, and with these the choice of later blooming MTBs and RBs (border irises) is much greater.

Miniature roses are wonderful companions for the little irises. Small picket fences to support climbers, and a planting arranged almost as one would feature TBs and big roses together, is a project full of fun. Pale blue lobelias would be a fine ground cover here.

One of my favorite plantings is a large manzanita bush, with its sprawling red-brown, satiny-smooth branches. Golden daffodils are frequently seen with them, but I'm using bright golden yellow lilliputs. Brassie, which multiplies rapidly and is very bright on dull days, is marvelous, especially with a cover of yellow alyssum saxatile. Forget-me-nots lend an airy touch here, too. In fact, the little yellow irises can be effectively used wherever daffodils are naturalized beneath flowering trees.

Dull red-brown rocks from our creek set off dwarf artemisia (*A. schmidtiana*) with its finely cut silvery foliage. Planted here, standard dwarf Pogo, with its bright yellow standards and red-brown spot (the exact color of the rocks) is a real delight to behold. Yellow violets or pansies make the ground cover.

Searching flower catalogues for the exactly-right companions to little irises is a fascinating pleasure. And there's an added dividend, too, for I've found, as so often reported, the incidence of disfiguring virus mosaic and leaf spot is much less when irises grow in a border with other perennials, than when they are all together in a bed with no ground cover or accessory plants.

"....the voluntary hobby society is a part of the genius of the democratic peoples...."

William G McGarvey

For the members who have lists of new dwarf and median irises and feel helpless about starting a hybridizing program, here's how. First find out what types your irises are and write down their chromosome numbers beside them. It isn't too difficult to find out what types they are, in the registrations and various catalogs, or among the chromosome counts in "Garden Irises", but if you have trouble don't hesitate to ask for help from any of your Median Society officers, directors, or committee chairmen. Anybody will be glad to give you a hand. People who have studied these things can scribble down these chromosome numbers as fast as they can write, and you'll be surprised how soon you'll be doing it for somebody else.

Some will be marked with ?? and these are usually complicated hybrids, and are variously infertile, but as no plant is always and forever sterile, if you are willing to go to a lot of work for dubious results, go to it and our blessings on you! This is true to a certain extent also of those marked 36 and 44 chromosomes. It will be hard to set seed on these, and usually they have no fertile pollen, but the rewards of success may be disproportionately good - OR bad.

There will be certain chromosome numbers listed which will be almost certainly fertile. Lowest number of these is 32 chromosomes, denoting a tiny dwarf, Iris pumila, which has a large number of named and numbered variants. Pollen from these is good to cross on almost anything bigger and later; you can hardly go wrong with it. It is a heavenly little species of delightful potentials. Crossed with lilliputs or the chamaeiris dwarfs, it gives lovely miniatures; with the tall bearded, it gives lilliputs - lovely or doggy, depending on luck and your choice of parents.

The chamaeiris dwarfs, the lilliputs (hybrids of tall bearded and Iris pumila) and a large number of the standard dwarfs listed in the catalogs, will have 40 chromosomes, or near enough to 40 to be interfertile. They produce fascinating progenies when they are intercrossed.

Those marked 24s on your list will probably be table or border irises. We have published considerable material on breeding WITH and FOR table irises in recent issues, and there is more on page 16 of this issue. 24 chromosomes is the number of all the ancients; we don't seem to get away from this diploid set-up in our table iris breeding. Perhaps we should - who can say? We have some species also at 24. These are really specialist materials, but if you want to have a shot at trying them out, who's to object?

As for those marked 48s, other than the tall bearded for which this is the norm, we have the aphyllas, Iris balkana and some reichenbachii (as Progenitor hybrids, for instance). These may always be intercrossed, and if some are border irises, we hope that you WILL intercross them. Here it might be better to stick within color lines for your crosses, but of course there are always those who prefer wide crosses, and sometimes these give unexpected breaks.

As for pollen from outside, you may always get pumila pollen to cross onto your tall bearded, or tall bearded pollen from the median pollen service to cross onto anything earlier in the garden; tall bearded pollen is often more fertile than pollen of the various hybrid types, and is at times the only pollen that will set seed on the unbalanced hybrids. This is a rewarding program which operates as a service, not as an exchange; anybody will be glad to send you pollen, so don't hesitate to contact the committee.

Tall bearded pollen crossed on the 40s will give you intermediates, and perhaps some very interesting ones. It is harder, but possible, to cross it onto existing intermediates (44s in your list). If you get it early enough, and want to try crossing it onto your pumilas (32s) all evidences seem to indicate that you will get just what you would get from saving the same pumila pollen and crossing it onto the same tall bearded, but then, you might not HAVE the same tall bearded.

Anyway, don't hesitate to ask for advice, or for pollen. We'll be glad to have you.

PROFILE OF A ROUND ROBIN

We want you to meet all our round robin groups; last time we introduced the Inner Circle Robin of the Table Iris Division. This time it is Robin 10 of Medians General. This is the newest of the general median robins but we have special reasons to introduce you to some of the people in this robin. We are going down the route list, with their own histories, cut by us and with commentary (since we ARE the Director!) and with brief quotes from the robin letters:

Georgia (Mrs H J) Scribner, of Rich Hill, Missouri. Georgia is a modest soul who says "I can't say anything about myself, there's nothing to say". She adds "I used to want to raise a white with a blue (or tangerine) beard in medians, but I'd settle for darn near anything now". We didn't manage to gouge any more information out of Georgia, but we know she lives on a good-sized farm; at least, she reports that 80 acres were flooded from one of the hurricanes, and 45 acres of soy beans lost.

A Georgia quote from the robin: "Just recently harvested my crop of small iris seed pods..Truce x self, Pam x Green Spot, Little Jewel x self. Brassie didn't bloom much to my disappointment..I'd thought of using Fashion Lady x Brassie, but the dog got after a mole in the dwarf iris bed..she got the varmint, best mole exterminator I've ever seen, but O the havoc in the bed!"

Phyllis (Mrs Don R) Holtz of Kellogg, Idaho has been our honorable and hard-working secretary without whom we would hate to try to run this Median Society, for the past two years. She tells us "married in 1937 and have four children, two boys and two girls, and three granddaughters. Born and raised in Idaho, moved to Eugene, Oregon, met and married Don there. He is from South Dakota. When he came out of the service moved back to Kellogg and have worked as a legal secretary ever since.

"Gardening has always been a love; never had much of a green thumb, but was happy that anything would grow in spite of what I could do to it. Have loved iris since a small child. My mother wouldn't have one in her yard because they were not as pretty to her as other things. However, someone had given her some many years before I was born, and she had tossed them into a field far back from the house, where one white one grew in spite of efforts to get rid of it. I spent many long hours watching that iris and thought it was the most beautiful thing ever grown. Comparing it from memory to the irises now, it was a muddy, not particularly well-formed plant, but it was an IRIS and I loved it.

"Haven't had any spectacular results from hybridizing, however I'm as happy as if I had good sense. I think I have a couple of pretty fair babies, and there are lots more on the way."

"I fared so well in the MIS auction, I successfully purchased nearly everything on the list..my mouth dropped in amazement and I couldn't get my check into the mail fast enough. I got several aphyllas, illyrica, cengialtii, Little Reb, Zing, Zing sibling, Derring-Do and the pumila collection. I'm certainly glad the auction did so well this year and now that I have dipped in my nose, I will be an ardent bidder in the future."

Next Fred Nacke, of Richland, Washington, variously known as "Fiorella" and "Door-Knob" Nacke, whose thumbs are acknowledged by all to be the greenest. The "Doorknob" because he reputedly set seed on one, this guy sends out thousands of seed every year, all over the world.

We will not let this one speak for himself entirely, nor will we detail his seven children and his various grandchildren..he likes kids, kids like him...what have plicatas to do with the freckles of his granddaughter??? He says, tamely, he's male, 51 years old, six feet one and a half inches tall, a hundred eighty-five pounds, brown hair, blue eyes. His pal anonymous says: "Born in a flowerbed in the middle west, joined AIS in 1957. Got into iris work by accident, had been raising roses and a few irises were ordered unknown to him. Since then has gone into iris in a big way, now more or less specializing in medians, rebloomers and oncobreds. One big dream...

a red, white and blue iris to be named "Old Glory". He is a stationary engineer at the Hanford Atomic Energy works, near Richland. An artist, he designs and draws beautiful iris stationery for his iris friends, award certificates for the MIS, a cook-book cover and illustrations for a women's club in Texas, and countless other things.

"A camera fiend, quite capable, but no one and nothing is safe from his camera. The city lot surrounding his home in Richland is filled to the brim with flowers of all kinds, but mostly irises....he has named and registered his first four irises this year."

Now, to quote from one of Fred's robin letters: "I still say you're missing the boat by not using Florida. Believe me I'm going to work it. You know I'm a funny guy.. when someone tells me something cannot be done then I'm going to find out for myself, unless they give me some real good reason why....Florida in itself I can't say I'm too fond of, that is as a show iris, but as I say I saw the possibility as a breeder..what I should have said was I had a hunch."

Fred designs our Median Certificates....the cartoon below doesn't do justice to his versatility - or hint at all the art work he does for various groups.

