

THE MEDIANITE

Quarterly Publication of the Median Iris Society

A SECTION OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

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STAY TUNED! We apologize for the backlog in the publishing of the Medianite, but promise some interesting issues coming up in 1988-- further thoughts on BBs from Carol Lankow, the conclusion of Louise Smith's checklist of fragrance in medians, and some focus on Aril-medians and the use of dwarfs in median breeding...and we're always receptive to your ideas, comments and opinions.

THE MEDIAN IRIS SOCIETY

A SECTION OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

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IMPORTANT CONTACTS !

MIS MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: CAROL LANKOW, 725 20th Avenue West, Kirkland, WA 98033.

Please advise Carol of a change of address. REMINDER: Your expiration date is printed after your name on your MEDIANITE mailing label. PLEASE CHECK THIS DATE, and renew your membership when necessary. Prompt renewals mean less paperwork for our busy Membership Chairman.

DUES: Single Annual: \$5.50; Single Triennial: \$15.00; Family Annual: \$8.00; Family Triennial: \$22.50. MIS and AIS memberships need not have the same expiration date. Is yours an annual membership? Why not consider a triennial membership next time you renew? It will mean a savings in time and money for you!

MIS SLIDES CHAIRMAN: TERRY AITKEN, 608 NW 119th St., Vancouver, WA 98686 (For slide ordering information, see AIS Bulletin No.260, January 1986.)

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MIS SYMPOSIUM: GENE TREMMEL, 5613 Wallings Rd., North Royalton, OH 44133

MEDIAN ROUND ROBINS: BARB GIBSON, 13253 McKeighan Rd., Chesaning, MI 48616

(There are a number of median robins now in flight, and there is always room for new members. Robins are a great way to meet and stay in touch with other median iris growers and hybridizers. Join today!)



LETTERS AND CARDS



Dear Marian,

Does anyone remember the name of the very old violet diploid tall which has an overwhelmingly sweet fragrance? Back in 1973 I effected a cross on it with WHISPERING SPRITE pollen and got 4 or 5 seedlings, three of which were numbered because they carried the fragrance. They had the vigor of the violet diploid, I guess, as they persisted while a tall fir tree very nearly eradicated use of the area for iris culture. (This cross was undoubtedly made in response to Medianite references to fragrance.) They weren't used at all in my program because they were all oversize.

In 1985 a couple of very sweet-smelling seedlings bloomed from two different crosses. Really 3 seedlings, as there were two in one cross, 85 DG 55 being one of them:

82-DG167 / 78-66 (Brown Crown X Parakeet)
/ 71-139 (DQ#4 X Pagoda)

82-DG61 / Lemon Cliche (Pewee X bee)
/ 76-24 (involved Daystar, Brown Crown,
Dancing Gold)

It followed in 1985 that I made 14 crosses. In 86 and 87 all had seedlings-pods from crosses carried from 3 to scads of seed in different sizes. Most of them were within acceptable MTB size. I'll try to report in 1988 and 1989 on whether they are MTB size and whether they are fragrant.

Terry Varner and I are actively exchanging seedlings; his being 48 c from Ben Hager's introductions and seedlings, and mine having pink in pedigrees.

The numbers of the three fragrant sibs used in the 85 crosses are 73 DG 130/131/133 (Q FrVi X Whispering Sprite.) Crosses were effected with CHIAN WINE, BHUTAN GLORY, of my own, and many seedlings and 4 pods X WHITE CANARY, which podded once to 73-130 and three times to 85-55. I usually do two attempts in a cross because I don't know how many seeds to expect.

The WHITE CANARY X 73-130 gave six seeds while the 3 pods to 85-55 gave a total of 25. In the 14 crosses most were random because I had no idea whether or not 73-130/131/&133 would mix with the MTB.

I have around 40 named lilac shrubs on the east and west boundaries of my acre which does affect how one can evaluate iris odor! Across the south road side frontage is a swatch 3 feet x 90 feet of iris pallida--planted there so that our southwest winds would perfume my yard. My neighbors all take deep springtime breaths of ecstasy!

--Dorothy Guild

A note from Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada, dated 26 August 1987:

Dear Marian,

Right now I have one SDB and one MDB in bloom and another SDB about to open. The two in bloom are real surprises-- MISTER ROBERTS and LIBATION. I checked their pedigrees and found that they share two ancestors: BROWNETTE and H503 (SULINA X Cook 1546.) The one about to bloom surprised me less: GINGERBREAD MAN.

We usually have a mild climate here - in fact, last winter there were not many nights below freezing. More commonly the lows are 10 to 20 degrees F., and our summers are quite hot and humid. This is the first year for summer rebloom for me - I guess I'll explore other medians to see how they rebloom here.

--Cheryl Morris

Dear Marian,

Both the medians and rebloomers have been more fragrant on the whole here than the oncer TBs, with the reblooming medians as a group the most fragrant of all.

Fragrance and rebloom are both highly heritable. From an SDB X MDB cross - BABY BLESSED (probably the strongest, most reliable rebloomer of all with the bonus of a strong, sweet/spicy fragrance) X DITTO (the most reliable MDB rebloomer that always smells super sweet here) came babies that nearly all rebloomed and all were very fragrant, 9 or higher. Most are right on the border between MDB and SDB in size and height though.

The one with the strongest reblooming tendency of all also puts out the strongest sweet fragrance I've ever smelled, always. One flower fills a room! It's a white with tiny turquoise flashes below white beards.

I think that as more hybridizers start breeding for fragrance along with all the other things to go for, new ratings are going to have to be devised for the intensity and reliability of the fragrances of the irises of the future.

--Monty Byers

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Mr. Ernest J. Brodeur
5 Cottage Place
Lowell, MA 01852

Christopher Bellia
5053 Centerwood
Lake Oswego, OR 97035

Mr. & Mrs. Roy Bohrer
1 Summer Court
O'Fallon, MO 63366

Mesilla Valley Iris Society
Sharon McAllister
902 Loya Lane
Las Cruces, NM 88005

King County Iris Society
Greg Hastings, Pres.
4009 24th Ave.W
Seattle, WA 98199

Mr. C. Fred Fry
401 Francisco Ave.
El Paso, TX 79912

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Mr. Jerry D. Gifford
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Mr. & Mrs. Michael B. Lowe
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Blackstone VA 23824

Mrs. Patricia R. MacLean
4524 N. Van Ness Blvd
Fresno, CA 93704

Mr. James W. Russell
116 W. Tyler, Box 236
West Memphis, AR 72301

Thank You, Median Hybridizers

by Lucy Burton

"Phase One" of the May 1989 Median Muster has come to a magnificent conclusion thanks to the generosity of 40 median hybridizers. A total of 685 plants representing 260 cultivars arrived in Massachusetts this summer; and while we often have a "why isn't it spring" attack in mid-winter we have never had one in August before.

The guest plants are divided among six gardens which gives us over a hundred plants per garden. Four gardens will be on tour Saturday, May 20, and two on Sunday, May 21. The gardeners are pleased that so many people have trusted us with their seedlings. It can be a difficult decision to send seedlings or not as they are usually in limited supply.

Certainly the next two years' bloom will give those of us in region one a great view of coming attractions in medians. We hope many of the other members of the Median Society are planning to join us in 1989 to observe these new medians. All the members of the Iris Society of Massachusetts are very grateful, and again say "thank you" to the median hybridizers.

MASSACHUSETTS MEDIAN TOUR 1987

by Barbara Schmieder
and Marian Schmuhl

On Sunday, May 17th, ISM started its annual median tour in the Bedford garden of Marty Schafer and Jan Sacks. This is an ideal garden in which to begin a tour, as it is one to be lingered over (even drooled over!) and, as a result, no one minds waiting here for the latecomers to arrive.

Marty and Jan have a business - Joe Pye Weed's Garden - which includes flower arrangements, sale of cut flowers and potted perennials, and sale of Bee Warburton's iris introductions. They belong to several plant societies and grow many exciting plants in their garden in addition to their irises. The main garden is the small back yard of their neighbors across the street and every inch of it (except for the stone-lined paths) is packed with plants. On the day of the tour, RAIN DANCE was beautiful with green and white tulips and forget-me-nots blooming behind it. Evidently other people liked it too, as it was voted the favorite iris in this garden.

Other SDBs that were especially nice include:

RHINESTONE COWBOY (Nichols 82) - lemon S. and gold F., with nice veining in falls.

FROSTY SKY (Warburton 85) beautiful pale blue.

SNOW PIXIE (R. Blodgett 78) a nice white with green spot on falls.

HAPPENING (Hager 78) cream standards, lavender falls, very clean, with small tailored flowers.

DESIGN (Warburton 82) - violet plicata-luminata.

VIOLET LULU (Warburton 86) - violet-blue luminata over a white ground, white hafts. Wide, with open starchy standards.

SAPPHIRE JEWEL (Hamblen 78) - must have had 50 flowers open - a gorgeous sight with those deep blue-violet beards on the lighter blue violet iris.

After everyone had finished looking, refreshments were served on the porch for those who had left home too early for breakfast.



The next garden on the tour was that of Barbara and David Schmieder in Concord, where extensive changes have been made since the National Convention toured here in 1983. The median beds are now located at the end of a woodland path in the front yard. Plenty of sun, rich garden soil and meticulous care combine to make this garden, containing hundreds of medians and carefully selected companion plants, a special one.

I made notes on more than thirty of the irises in bloom here, which means that some of my notes were rather sparse, and some of the notes referred to irises I just didn't like for one reason or another. Among those that did inspire my enthusiasm were:

CHERRY POP (Hager 84) - love the falls! a dark red center, and almost an orange pink on hafts. Very faint scent.

FLIRTY MARY (Rawdon 77) - distinctive; grayed lavender blush on white standards and styles, falls yellow with white edge, ruffled.

ZOWIE (Boushay 80) - I was in the mood for dainty and distinctive this year, and ZOWIE rated two stars in my notes. Blooming in a good clump, the ruffled white flowers with yellow infusion in standards and a dark yellow spot on the falls really stood out. I was so absorbed in looking at this one that I forgot to check it for fragrance.

ICE CHALET (Black 82) - had a definite vanilla scent here, and I described it as white with a light blue and yellow overlay, light blue beards and ruffled.

The scent of MINX (Willott 78) a brown SDB, was like lemon candy.

STARLIGHT WALTZ (Helsley 82) like ZOWIE is a COTTON BLOSSOM child. I noted its excellent, full form and very pretty ruffling, light yellow standards and white falls with lemon yellow patches near the beards; faint fragrance.

MUCHACHA (Gatty 83) - I noted as a cute yellow on white plicata, nice form, perky.

RASPBERRY JAM (Niswonger 81) - I liked so much I took a photo of it (the film, alas, later jammed in the camera..was this an unfortunate pun?) Basically a red violet with deeper spot on falls, I also liked the style arms: white with purple tips, and lavender beards. It made a lovely clump.

Favorite iris in this garden, as voted by those attending the tour, was BEAUTY MARK (Schreiners 79), with lilac standards and falls and a large rosy red spot.



Next we visited Chan and Elaine Fulton's exquisite garden in Weston (hometown of the Case Estates, for those who attended the 83 Convention.) Their home was built in 1980 on a wooded hillside overlooking a small lake. (Or rather, a pond, I think it would be properly called in Massachusetts.) Chan and Elaine's interest in irises did not emerge until 1983, so I was astounded by the extent of their garden (the entire front and side yards) and the vigor and size of their clumps. ("lots of manure!" explains Chan, with a grin.)

New England bred irises were doing especially well here--perhaps they feel most comfortable with a few rocks around? (See Chan's article in the Jan.86 AIS Bulletin)

WOODLING (Sobek 85) - my notes say, emphatically, "looks perfect here." The standards are gold with an infusion of dark purple at the base, and a faint, light gold rim on edges, the styles have a turquoise ridge on them, falls have a dark brown spot. Most unusual!

SCOT CREAM (Warburton 65) - creamy white with a lavender-blue beard, and perfumed with a faint lily-of-the-valley scent.

LITTLE LAMB (Warburton 80) - a tailored, exquisitely formed pure white, small and perfect.

GRAPESICLE (Sobek 82) - five years after its introduction, it has become a ubiquitous iris here in Massachusetts. Bushel-baskets full of it show up at our auctions, large drifts of it spread over our hillsides. Weary of irises that dwindle and disappear after a few years, Bob Sobek once remarked that his dream was to hybridize an iris that would later be declared a dangerous roadside weed. With GRAPESICLE, his dream may have come true. This violet SDB with bright purple spot on the falls and blue-violet beard, floriferous and perky, certainly looked like a dream come true at the Fulton's, where it won the "Favorite Iris" ballot in this garden.

MASSACHUSETTS MEDIAN TOUR 1987

The garden of John and Lucy Burton in Hamilton, on the North Shore, has become a median-lover's mecca. Every year the gardens are enlarged, re-arranged, and more medians are planted. Here we saw BIBURY, winner of the British Dykes Medal. An SDB hybridized by Taylor and introduced in 1976, it is a good grower, a nice ivory white with pale yellow blended around the shoulders.

SIXPENCE (Willott 77) is a cute pale greenish yellow with good substance, a brown-copper spot on the falls, and a lavender beard.

EYEBRIGHT (Taylor 79) was a knockout, and won the "Favorite Iris" award in the Burtons' garden. It is a golden yellow with brown veins on the falls, a gold beard. A good grower and very striking.

BUBBA (Jones 80) - a grayish blue with gold spot, was a distinctive color and has a nice form, but was growing too short for the size of the flowers here.

NARNIA (Innerst 85) - on a first year plant, had 8 fans and also reached the top of the height limit for SDBs, seeming to do everything with vigor. (Might be a good one to plant next to GRAPESICLE). The standards are lavender, the falls brown edged purple.

CROWNINSHIELD (Burton '86) was delightful in large clumps, the buds showing a green blaze on the underside of the falls, an overall perky bright yellow with white spot, and an occasional rebloomer.

Among the seedlings being watched here are 84-ER-3 (GREEN SPOT X TWICE BLESSED) a pale yellow, good form with flaring, horizontal falls showing green veins and purple-brown dots making a ring around the beard.

34-B-2 (DEMENCE X THIRD CHARM) has rebloomed here two years in a row, a nice purple with a plum spot.

Burton's 81-1 has us holding our breath. A unique light blue SDB with a sprinkling of darker spots all around the beard and excellent form, it was growing in a perfect clump as a guest at the Schmieders', but at home has sometimes had a tendency for the outer foliage of the clump to grow too tall. The stalks are consistently in class however, and the foliage behaved somewhat better at home this year. If it continues to perform as a well-behaved clump, this iris would be an outstanding addition to the SDB class. John has crossed it to his seedling 84-ER-3, the similar seedling mentioned above with good form, gold-green shoulders and brown and lavender dots near the beard. It will be fun to see the next generation.

The 1987 Massachusetts median tour included four of the six guest gardens for the 1989 Median Muster. With the addition of the 685 guest irises from 40 hybridizers that were planted this summer, these gardens will be a total delight two years from now. People tend to go all out for a convention, and it is exciting to see median irises grown with such meticulous attention.



MEDIANITES FIRST ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST

THE WINNERS ARE...



The Grand Prize Winner is
Gus Sindt for his photo of
CONSUMMATION (Welch 78 MTB)

Gus wins a one year free
membership in the Median
Iris Society and a \$5.00
gift certificate toward any
median introduction listed
in the 1987 or 1988
Medianite.

FIRST PLACE

Second Prize goes to **Larry
Harder** for his photo of
GIMLET (Hagberg 82 SDB).

Larry also wins \$5.00
toward the purchase of any
median introduction from
the 1987 or 1988 Medianite.



SECOND PLACE

... FIRST ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST ...

Congratulations and thank you to our top prize winners, and thanks also to our panel of independent judges and to the individuals who donated the prizes. We received many outstanding photos--I didn't envy the judges.

This was a successful contest and has yielded us many excellent photos to use in future Medianite issues, and slides for the MIS slide program. The contest will definitely be repeated in 1988. Details will be announced in our next issue.

MEDIAN WANTS

Every once in awhile we hear from MEDIANITE readers that they are searching unsuccessfully for a median cultivar from the past. Larry Harder has suggested that it would be a useful service if the MEDIANITE would list these searches in a column.

Even if the irises are not available commercially, perhaps our readers would be willing to swap the irises we list for some other medians that they would like, or to provide them at a minimal cost to cover expenses. Or the irises that are being searched may be available in a catalog, and the searcher just has not found the right catalog yet. In any case, if you are looking for a particular median and haven't yet found it, let us know at the MEDIANITE--perhaps someone else may be able to help you.

ZUA and QUAIL are the two oldies being searched by Larry Harder. If you can help him please write to him at: P.O. Box 278, Ponca, NE 68770.

PEWEE and WIDGET are two venerable MTBs that Bob Pries mentioned he was in search of in a recent round robin. Bob's address is: 6023 Antire Rd, High Ridge, MO 63049.



Hooker Nichols • Iris Grower - Hybridizer • (405) 254-5914

402 7th Street
Woodward, Oklahoma 73801

1988 Median Introductions

CASTLE STRONGHOLD (H. Nichols) BB 27" Fluted and ruffled medium purple plicata. (Aegean Star X Victory Pledge). Fertile.....\$15.00

THEDA CLARK (H. Nichols) IB 18" M-L Ruffled deep violet self with occasional darker red-violet hafts. ECs 1984 & 1985. (Sapphire Jewel X Billy Harris).....SPECIAL OFFER FOR MIS MEMBERS:.... \$10.00 INCLUDING POSTAGE.

Please send all orders before JULY 20.

IDAHO 1987: YEAR OF THE MEDIAN

by Robert L. Jensen
Montpelier, Idaho

1987 was the year of the Median in my southeastern Idaho garden. The killing frosts that so often occur during the month of May were absent this year and the SDB class especially reflected that fact with the best bloom in some years. It was also a long season as many established clumps continued to send up stalks after the first group had faded. These are some of the varieties that were especially pleasing.

AZURE GEM (Hamblen 82) A fine little flower of light blue with deeper blue beards. It has some ruffling and fluting, a slight fragrance and it grows and blooms well.

CASEY JILL - A near yellow amoena of pleasing flaring form, the beards are bluish white. This one also has some fragrance.

DEMON - This little black red gives a different garden effect from most of the small blacks and is well worth a place in the garden. It performs well and has a slight cinnamon fragrance.

FIRE ONE - This continues to be the brightest variegata type that I have seen among the SDBs. It looks sharp and grows well.

LOVE - Although this is not the last word in white for form, I like it because it grows well and always seems to bloom.

NANNY - A bright and showy rose red that has lots of life and garden value and likes to bloom. This one does not seem to have had the attention and popularity it deserves.

NANCY ALANE - A bright red violet and purple that is very colorful in the garden. A reliable variety that I've always liked.

PALE STAR - This little iris is a real charmer of the palest pastel blue with beautiful form and some ruffling. Also a first year plant produced several stalks and sturdy plant growth. An excellent addition and quite fragrant.

PEPPERMINT TWIST - A lively and pretty bright red violet stitched on white plicata. A classy little one that shows well in the garden.

ROSIE LULU - Though in my garden the color appeared more violet than rose, it is surely a distinct and different addition to the SDB group. Could perhaps be called a small version of the TB variety PRETTY PANSY.

WESTAR - The vivid blue beard is the thing that sets this one apart. The form of the near white flowers is not quite as refined as some of the Bennett Jones varieties. This is quite pleasingly fragrant.

YELLOW GIRL - This may have been my favorite of all the standard dwarfs as they bloomed this year. A sunny yellow with a lighter rim and a white beard it seemed to have a look about it that is different from any seen before. It continued to send up bloomstalks for a month. It is also lightly fragrant.

VIOLET LASS - This fine blue violet also sent up additional bloomstalks after the first flush of bloom and lasted well into the tall bearded season. It was taller here than its parent RAIN DANCE. This one is not fragrant.

INTERMEDIATES - MY FAVORITE CLASS

AVANELLE - (W.Jones 77) This continues to be one of the nicest of the whites, with a lemon cast and yellow beard. It is a beautiful flower and heavily fragrant.

BLUEBIRD'S SONG (Jeffries 70) A variety that seems to have the ability to continue growing and blooming for a number of years without resetting. A five year clump was loaded with flowers of light blue with an olive touch at the hafts and blue beards, It is quite fragrant.

ANNIKINS (Warburton 67) A good looking deep violet purple with class, and it has some fragrance. Although twenty years old, it is still nice and most worthy of garden space.

AZ AP (Ensminger 80) This is one of the most floriferous irises I've ever grown and it is a fine shade of blue with a good blue beard. A great little iris that likes to grow, it has been a favorite here for several years.

BUTTER PECAN (Hager 83) This is probably the classiest and richest brown on yellow plicata that is presently available. It is also a fine strong grower and a reliable bloomer. It has some fragrance that is not entirely pleasant.

BOLD PRINT (Gatty 82) A sharp violet and white plicata that was beautiful in 1987; in fact, it has never looked better here. This one has a strong and pleasing fragrance.

BLUET - An old, old timer with old fashioned form, but it is pretty and I still like it and it gives a very blue effect in the garden. It is thrifty in growth, free with bloom and has some fragrance.

CHEERS (Hager 75) This to me is a classic IB. It seems to have the vigor to continue to perform for years without resetting as my clump is five years old and had over 50 bloomstalks in 1987. A distinctive red bearded white, with little or no fragrance.

COUNTRY DEEJAY (Lankow 79) The red color is not as bright as INDIAN DOLL but it is a fine reddish purple shade and very attractive. A two year clump was full of flowers.

BLUSHES - This has a depth of pink color not usually seen in the smaller iris. A small first year plant bloomed nicely and was a fine addition. It has some fragrance.

FROSTED CREAM (A.Brown 68) There are few varieties among the IBs that can be classed as cream but this is one. Although the form of the flowers could be better, this blooms freely and grows well and it fills a spot in the color spectrum.

HARLOW GOLD (Black 82) A pretty medium yellow with a small white blaze. The standards are somewhat open but pleasingly so. It grows well and is somewhat fragrant.

HELLCAT (Aitken 83) A beautiful and distinctive iris and a new color for the IB class. With lavender standards and lavender purple falls and a stylish ruffly flower, it is something like MYSTIQUE in IB size. A fairly good grower, it is quite fragrant.

HONEY GLAZED (Niswonger 83) A different color of cream standards and amber falls, this is most attractive. The flowers are larger than many IBs and it appears to be a good grower. It has slight fragrance.

INDIAN DOLL (Greenlee 68) To my eye this continues to be one of the reddest irises in the garden and it is an excellent grower and reliable bloomer on both reset and established plants. It is not pleasingly fragrant.

LOU BROCK (Briscoe 76) This is still the very finest black IB I know with outstanding color that is as good as any tall bearded. The form of the flowers is fine too. Although it is not as vigorous as some IBs, it is quite adequate and has performed well here for several years and blooms reliably.

LOOKIN GOOD (Hager 79) This is among the better yellow IBs because of the beautiful full form and fine medium yellow color. It is also a strong grower and blooms reliably every year. A favorite here.

LITTLE SNOW LEMON (Gaddie 84) This bears some resemblance to the SDB YELLOW GIRL with a similar color although edged in creamy white. A small new plant bloomed very well.

MAGNA (Blyth 75/6) A true white and yellow amoena and a good one. With clear and clean colors and a nice flaring form, it is an excellent addition to the IBs and also to the yellow amoenas.

PINK KITTEN (Wood 77) The first IB of the season, opening on May 14. This is a strong grower that blooms well and the color is excellent, giving a good pink effect.

RASPBERRY BLUSH (Hamblen 76) This iris together with its sisters RASPBERRY BONNET and RASPBERRY ROSE brings new life and new colors into the IB season. All are strong growers and reliable bloomers. Bravo to Melba Hamblen for giving us these bright additions to the class.

RARE EDITION (Gatty 80) This one and BOLD PRINT seem to compete for the title of best of the violet and white plicatas. RARE EDITION is a little deeper color and possibly has the sharper pattern. It performs well and has some slight fragrance.

SATIN SEQUIN (Plough 82) This has become a favorite in my garden. It is a beautiful shade of apricot orange with deeper red orange beards and a pleasing flaring flower of good form. It is a fine performer and seems to have been somewhat overlooked. Fragrance is slight.

SILENT STRINGS (Dyer 79) This clear sky blue with ruffly flowers is proving to be one of the finer varieties in its color class. The growth is sturdy and plant habits are good. It is also an early bloomer.

SHORT DISTANCE (Gatty 80) A very pretty flaring light blue that is well named as a shorter version of the tall bearded variety DISTANCE. This one is highly fragrant.

SEA SONG (Nichols 78) An interesting light lavender with an amber haft that is sort of a larger version of the SDB PUPPET. This is a likeable variety that has been most reliable in my garden.

SUBTLETY (Gatty 77) This soft blend of greys, browns and violet is well named and a different color among IBs. It is much like the older TB LULA MARGUERITE in color. One for close-up viewing, it is not fragrant.

SUNDOWN RED (Blyth 82/3) A smooth and clean-looking dark maroon red that has grown vigorously here. This one has no fragrance.

VAMP (Gatty 72) This long time favorite and very beautiful blend of red, violet and brown, has never been a very strong grower here. But I'll continue to give it a little extra care.

VOILA (Gatty 73) VOILA, on the other hand, is a rampant grower and very free bloomer, and with its bright red violet color is very showy in the garden. It is a good companion for LIME RIPPLES. It has some fragrance.

WINKIELAND (Boen 80) A very attractive white and yellow combination of a type often seen among TBs but rarely among IBs. It has heavy texture and very attractive form with standards of medium light yellow and falls edged in white. It has almost no fragrance.

Robert L. Jensen
Montpelier, Idaho

In Memoriam: MARY WILLIAMSON

Mary Williamson, hybridizer and member of a prominent iris family, died recently at the age of 78 in her hometown of Bluffton, Indiana.

She was the daughter of E.B. (Bruce) Williamson, for whom, with Alice White, the Williamson-White Award for MTBs is named. Mary worked alongside her father at their Longfield Iris Farm in Bluffton, first assisting him by making crosses that he had planned, but later taking part in the planning herself. After his death in 1933 she assumed full charge of the Iris Farm, introducing WABASH, the famous purple and white amoena TB, in 1936. WABASH, an ancestor of many present day irises, was awarded the Dykes Medal in 1940, and remained on the AIS Popularity Poll through the mid-1960's.

Notable to Medianite readers was her early work with MTB's and her documentation of this historical work. Of their origins she wrote:

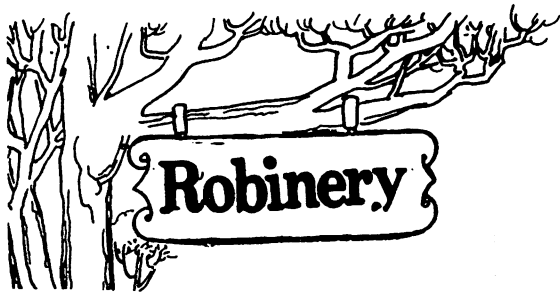
" The Table Iris originated with us at the suggestion of Ethel Anson Peckham of New York State. She used to visit us each year at flowering time to help check seedlings. As Ethel, Father (E.B.Williamson) and I walked up and down the seedling rows, we were intrigued with several 'runts' which appeared among the tall bearded irises and bloomed with them. We separated the 'runts' from the rest of the irises for further study. We were completely charmed by the perfect balance throughout the whole plant.

It was Mrs. Peckham who created the name 'Table Iris' because of their usefulness in making table arrangements. Tall bearded irises are much too large for such use. In our enthusiasm we set up standards ourselves in selecting this type of iris."

Among the MTBs introduced by the Williamsons were PEWEE, TITMOUSE, SISKIN, PLAYBOY and KINGLET, registered in 1934, WARBLER (1935), CHEWINK (1937), DAYSTAR (1941), WIDGET (1943) and NAMBE (1946). PEWEE is the type designated by MIS for the MTB class.

Mary Williamson recognized the old TOM TIT (Bliss 1919) as fitting the Table Iris standards, and she used it in her experimental hybridizing to produce WIDGET (Tom Tit X), a white dotted lavender plicata.

We extend our sympathy to Mary's sister and her many iris friends in Region 6.



Terry Aitken:

There is absolutely no point in trying to select "small tall" on first year bloom. We have had numerous experiences with 18" 3-budded first bloomers developing into 40", 10-budded plants. Second year bloom has to be the first reselection process.

Carl Boswell:

I have an almost red amoena BB, but not from my red amoena hybridizing line. It was from MARMALADE SKIES X LILAC WINE - 26", S.pale lavender white, F.reddish maroon, edges and center line white, yellow beard. A good IB to use for BB breeding is HEAVENLY BROTHERHOOD with TBs or BBs. It brings down the size but keeps the color of the BB or TB used.

Carol Lankow:

All of my aphylla work goes back to a cross of a Randolph collected 48ch aphylla dwarf, Geneva S-2. It is a smooth violet closer to mid- than dark and is a pretty decent looking floer, unlike many of the aphylla dwarfs. The first cross that took was on a pink small tall seedling of mine, and it sure was fun. Bloomed over 30 seedlings that ranged from 6" to 32" in height and from dirty white through the tan yellow that aphylla produces, through all shades of violet to very dark. They all grew like crazy and all were loaded with pollen. All the pollen that I used was very fertile on just about everything. I figured that prject was going to be a snap. I had been reading articles about the difficulties in this type of work, and wondered what they were all about. I did decide that the pink I had used was not the greatest iris in the world, just very fertile, and decided to do it again on better irises, and not just pinks. As far as I got, it developed that pods were not all that easy to set on just any iris, the offspring were few in number and not exactly beautiful.

I used the seedlings from the first batch, 7225 cross, on a lot of BBs and small tall. The offspring were very encouraging, especially those from ROYAL RUFFLES, a small tall dark violet, and MINUTE WALTZ, and MISS RUFFLES. Had whites, blues, all shades of violets and from MINUTE WALTZ some very nice neglectas and even a couple of nice smooth pinks. Breaking away from the dark violet color turned out not to be a problem. The fun with the aphylla work is that you can work the seedlings in so many different directions. Read Hager's parentages and you will see the same seedlings in the backgrounds of IBs, MTBs and BBs. After all, LOOKIN' GOOD and LOUISE HOPPER are sibs--one is IB and the other MTB.



Barb Gibson reports that only one more member is needed to start a General MTB robin--so far there are both experienced and beginning growers signed up and waiting. Interest has also been expressed in General SDB and General IB robins, and the BB Hybridizing Robin could squeeze in another participant. Interested? Contact Barb at 13253 McKeighan Rd, Chesaning, MI 48616

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OUTSTANDINGLY DIFFERENT IRISES
Not Just Improvements on Old Themes
1988 INTRODUCTIONS
TB



GLORY STORY (Weiler 88) TB 91 cm (36") L-VL. Heavy fluting on all petals of this dark blue flower give unique form for an iris of this color. Heavy substance makes 8-10 late and well timed buds flower until virtually all other irises are finished blooming to extend the season. Good, well branched stalks, vigorous growth and rapid increase complete an outstanding garden subject. 82-104-8:(Social Whirl x Bridal Wreath) X (Goodnight Irene x Blue Lustre)

\$30.00

GOLDEN VELVET (Weiler 88) TB 94 cm (37") E-M. Outstanding smoothness in creamy white to pale yellow standards, depending on the season, contrast beautifully with deep, golden yellow, velvet-textured falls. Straight, sturdy stalks support perfect modified candelabra branching to display 8-9 flowers sequentially. Vigorous plants, healthy foliage, and good fertility both directions. 82-143-1:(Trudy x Roe D10 a greenish amoena) X Peach Sundae

\$30.00

JOLT (Weiler 88) TB 81 cm (32") M-L. The most shocking, deepest firey orange and yellow combination yet produced with deep, flaming carrot-red beards. There is a flash of yellow at the end of the beards. Broad, lightly ruffled petals on nicely branched stalks with 7 buds flower a long time. Abundant bloom on a clump and good increase make this an excellent garden subject. 81-90-3: ((New Moon x ((Glittering Gold x Orange Crush) x (Ballerina x Orange Crush))) x Summer Dawn) x Sunfire) X sib to Fame: (((Glittering Gold x Orange Crush) x (Ballerina x Orange Crush)) x ((Cloth of Gold x Ballerina) x Pompano Peach)) x Fresno Calypso) x (Georgia Girl x ((Ola Kala x Orange Crush) x Pompano Peach x (Moon River x Orange Crush)))

\$30.00

SDB REBLOOMERS

BLITZ(Weiler 88) SDB 25 cm (10") E-L & RE. One of the earliest for fall rebloom from this garden, this is a new color as well for our race of SDB remontants. Standards are deep, full yellow, falls even more intense dark golden yellow with a velvet texture. Beards are light yellow. Plants bloom heavily in earliest spring, repeat modestly near the end of TB season and then begin abundant rebloom in September lasting through October. 84-50-1:((Ruby Contrast x Little Blackfoot) x (Brighteyes x Grace Note) x Bronze Babe) x (Cartwheel x (Brighteyes x Grace Note)) x Pink Ambér) X ((Yellow Wave x (Brighteyes x Grace Note)) x (Cartwheel x (Brighteyes x Grace Note) x Chariots) x (Brighteyes x Grace Note) x Gingerbread Man) x Stockholm))

\$10.00

RAINBOW SHERBET(Weiler 88) SDB 22 cm (8½") E-L & RE. A totally new bicolor is shown in these flowers. Pastel, lemon yellow standards top pastel orange falls highlighted with pastel blueberry beards. Good substance, flaring falls and ruffled petals make a showy, perky, flower. Heavy spring bloom, some repeat bloom early summer and then, early fall rebloom is scattered but lasts for several weeks on rather short stalks. 84-39-1:(((Ruby Contrast x Little Blackfoot) x (Blue Canary x (Brighteyes x Grace Note))) x Dancing Damsel) X (Melon Honey x ((Bloodspot x (Brighteyes x Grace Note)) x Satin Lustre))

\$10.00

DEAL

With a check payable to Reblooming Iris Society, join for one year, \$3, and receive one of our 1987 remontant SDB; for a three year subscription \$7.50 receive free one of our 1988 SDB rebloomers.

Write for a free copy of our price list which includes a full line of remontant median and TB irises

Include \$2.50 postage

California residents add 6% tax (plus ½% if you live in Fresno County)

**MEDIAN IRIS SOCIETY ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING,
LA POINTE, PHOENIX, ARIZONA**

APRIL 18, 1987

The annual business meeting was called to order by President Jayne Ritchie at 3:03 PM. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as published.

The treasurer's report showed an income of \$1849.07 and the expenses were \$1623.59.

The membership chairman reported we have 396 members.

The Display Garden Chairman asked that owners please return the cards. He would like to co-ordinate display gardens and judges training.

The Symposium in the Spring 87 issue of the Medianite will include the 87 ballot. Please note the deadline is changed from July 4 to July 15.

Terry Aitken, slide chairman, asked for new slides of newer irises.

The slate of officers was presented. A motion was made to accept the slate as presented. Motion was carried.

On the AIS awards list there are 225 SDBs listed with only 4 votes. It was moved and seconded to ask for at least 6 votes in the HM category for SDBs.

A preview of the Median Muster in Boston, May 19, 20 and 21, 1989, was given by Barbara Schmieder.

A motion to adjourn was passed, and the meeting was turned over to Carl Boswell for a program on Aril-meds.

--Ethel Baukus,
Secretary.

MEDIAN IRIS SOCIETY BOARD MEETING PHOENIX, ARIZONA, APRIL 15, 1987

The meeting of the Executive Board of the Median Iris Society was called to order by President Jayne Ritchie at 2 PM.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as printed in the Medianite.

The treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

Carol Lankow, membership chairman, reported we have 396 members; 5 honorary, 32 life and eight complimentary. We lost 34 members for various reasons but gained 24 new ones.

Jim Morris gave the display garden report. He started with the gardens of 1982 and sent out 182 letters; 22 were returned, yes; 13- no (2 died and 5 wrong addresses); 60-no response. The Willotts, Boswells and Ritchie responded today. He gave the response by region. We will have 26 display gardens next year, and he will keep trying.

Eugene Tremmel reported on this year's symposium. Next year's ballot will include the 1984 and '85 HMs. It was moved and seconded to list HMs for three years unless they receive 5 or more votes per year. Motion carried.

The slide chairman, Terry Aitken, received 9 requests for the slide programs. Thanks for the slides received from David Sindt, a second set was made by duplicating some of the first collection. \$34.87 was the cost of duplicating. He received \$40.00 for the use of the slides, including a \$25.00 donation from one group.

The due date of the symposium was changed to July 15.

The nominating committee's report was printed in the Medianite.

Carl Boswell said he has been asked "Why don't we put out a portfolio?" We have that information in the Medianite.

The price of back issues of the Medianite was discussed and it was decided to let the editor use her own discretion, as the old prices won't cover the cost of postage, etc.

Dorothy Willott will compile an annual checklist for the Medianite from 1983 through 1987. She has already compiled a list of median award winners.

An acknowledgement of the money sent to Vienna, Austria, for the International Flower Show has been received.

Combining the dwarf and median societies has been brought up a number of times but never passed. Reconsideration must be given to the difference in the awards, iris types, registration, etc. It was suggested an inter-society committee be formed to decide the possibility of combining the two groups. It was suggested Gus and Char Sindt and Jim and Lucy Frye head the committee if they are willing.

Aril-meds are voted under the Aril Society. It is time to rethink classification in the not-too-distant future as there are so many varieties being introduced. CAMPUS CUTIE is a good example of reclassification.

Judges should have training in irises that grow in their region.

There are 225 standard dwarf irises listed on the AIS judges ballot eligible for an H.M., but we can only vote for 4. We should ask the AIS board to make that 6 we could vote for.

The meeting closed by a motion of Carl Boswell, seconded by Jim Morris. Motion carried.

--Ethel Baukus, Secretary.

Your Choice !

Do you prefer the covers and binding for the Medianite as it has been for the past two years, or did you like it better the way it used to be, holes punched out so the issues could be inserted into three-ring binders? So far we have received one vote for the new way and one vote for the old way. We would really like to get more opinions before we print covers for the 1987 issues. What do YOU think?

Median Iris Society - Treasurers Report
6 April 1986 - 9 April 1987
For Presentation at the Annual Meeting

CASH ON HAND	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987
Savings	2226.05	1338.64	-	-	-	-
Life Membership Fund	102.93	187.15	197.28	281.98	376.89	392.10
Total Savings	2328.98	1525.79	197.28	281.98	376.89	392.10
Checking Account	1557.86	425.07	2557.29	2970.86	4101.62	4316.39
Total Worth	3886.84	1950.86	2755.07	3252.84	4478.61	4708.49

INCOME BY SOURCE

Dues via AIS	712.75	859.50	931.50	1138.00	957.00	728.50
Dues via MIS	397.25	536.00	429.00	614.00	483.50	547.50
Life Memberships	100.00	75.00	-	75.00	75.00	-
MIS Press Sales	55.00	-	-	1136.25	69.33	83.00
Medianite Ads	35.00	25.00	-	185.00	140.00	195.00
Median Auction/Sale	450.00	-	-	-	-	-
Library	-	3.50	56.50	-	-	-
Interest on Investments	208.48	246.15	111.10	114.64	183.69	245.83
Donations	25.00	104.00	290.85	430.00	254.21	5.00
Misc.	-	2.00	-	40.00	5.00	44.24
TOTAL INCOME	1983.48	1851.15	1819.95	3733.39	2167.73	1849.07

EXPENDITURES BY PURPOSE

Member Services	248.84	2581.38	88.29	-	141.75	50.67
Press Supplies	-	-	247.00	-	-	-
Medianite Printing	842.15	918.93	448.35	1028.52	513.19	1038.86
Medianite Postage	137.38	247.65	254.12	182.28	230.88	438.96
Officers Expenses	6.70	24.17	-	76.90	55.55	95.10
Publications Sale	-	-	-	1947.92	-	-
Slide Committee	-	15.00	-	-	4.36	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	1235.07	3787.13	1037.76	3235.62	945.73	1623.59

Respectfully Submitted



James J. Foreman, Treasurer

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There is currently no charge for a listing in the Medianite's Commercial Directory. If you operate a commercial garden with a list or catalog for mail order sales, all you need to do to be listed in the Medianite is to send a brief description of your services (catalog price? specialties?) to the Medianite editor.

Note: Because we have several members overseas and in Canada, it would be especially helpful, if you are set up to ship plants out of the country, if you would mention this fact in your commercial listing. If there are any commercial gardens in other countries who can ship plants to United States customers, we would appreciate hearing from you as well.



SUNDORA (Gadd 83, Ar-Med)

Photo by Larry Harder

MEDIANITE STAFF:

EDITOR: MARIAN SCHMUHL, 7 Revolutionary Ridge Rd., Bedford, MA 01730
 SDB: Jim Morris (address above)
 IB: Terry Aitken (address above)
 MTB: Jean Witt, 16516 25th Street NE, Seattle, WA 98155
 BB: Carol Lankow (address above)
 PUBLISHER: MIS PRESS, Jim Foreman, 1360 W. Michaels Rd., Tipp City, OH
 45371-2028.

The MEDIANITE gladly accepts reports, articles and photos. Closing dates:
 Spring - March 1. Summer - June 1. Fall - September 1. Winter - Dec. 1.

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Full page - \$45.00 per insertion	1/4 page - \$25.00 per insertion
Half page - \$35.00 per insertion	1/8 page - \$15.00 per insertion

Ads with photos, art or special headings should be submitted "camera ready." Other ads can be sent as typewritten copy and we will set them up with headings in boldface type and box them in. Deadlines are:

SPRING Issue : March 1

FALL Issue: Sept 1

SUMMER Issue : June 1

WINTER Issue: Dec. 1

Make checks payable to MEDIAN IRIS SOCIETY, and send copy and check to the editor:

THE MEDIANITE
 c/o Marian H. Schmuhl
 7 Revolutionary Ridge Road
 Bedford, Mass. 01730

American Iris Society
Median Iris Section
 1360 W. Michaels Road
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