

THE MEDIANITE

Quarterly Publication of the Median Iris Society

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CONTENTS



The President's Patch	Carl Boswell	3
Our Finest Median Introductions	Tony and Dorothy Willott	4
A Pleasant Surprise	Joe Gatty	7
Robinery	Lucy Burton	8
Seedling Shenanigans	Keith Keppel	8
Maya Mama's Mama	Audrey Machulak	9
AIS Region 6 Spring Tour to Feature Medians		10
Dwarf and Median Irises at Zephyrwude Gardens-England	Richard Brooks	11
The Medians of Today	Dave Niswonger	13
Favorite Children	Ken Fisher	16
MIS Advertising Rates & Policy		17
Where Are SDBs Going?	Lynda Miller	18
My Finest	Tom Magee	19
Median Spree In '93--Request for Guest Irises		20
Varietal Comments	Cleo Palmer	21
1991 Introductions from Moonshine Gardens-Monty Byers	Monty Byers	22
1991 Border Bearded Introductions-Long's Gardens	Cathy Gates	23
Small and Tall Irises from Evelyn & Bennett Jones	Bennett Jones	24
1991 Introductions from Hillcrest Iris Gardens	Hooker Nichols	25
An Iris Is An Iris Is An Iris--Right?	Allan Ensminger	26
My Best Medians	Cleo Palmer	27
Why Blends As a Favorite?	Dorothy Guild	28
The Region 13 Carol Lankow Award	Sigrid Asmus	29
Commercial Directory		
Keeping Records on Your Irises-An Ordinary Gardener's Solution	B. Schmieder	32
The Good, The Pretty, & The Vigorous	Paul Black	33
Favorite SDB Introductions	Lynda Miller	35
Favorite SDB Introductions	Bennett Jones	36
In The Eyes of the Beholder	Monty Byers	37
What Are My Finest Introductions?	Carl Boswell	38
1991 Nominating Committee Report	Barbara Schmieder	39

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SPECIAL NOTICE: Until we have secured a new membership Secretary--send all new membership dues and renewals to Carl Boswell, 1821 Gross Lane, Concord, CA 94519.

Please advise Carl 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 paper work for our busy membership secretary.

Special Note AIS Membership Secretary now requests that dues to sections now be paid directly to Section Membership Secretary rather than through the AIS Membership Secretary.

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 your 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., 280, January 1991)

MIS SYMPOSIUM: Gene Tremmel, 5613 Wallings Road, North Royalton, OH 44133

MEDIAN ROUND ROBINS: Barbara Gibson, 13253 McKeighan Road, 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!)

MIS DISPLAY GARDENS: Jim Morris, 682 Huntley Heights Drive, Ballwin, MO 63021
Phone: 314-256-3927. (Get on the bandwagon! Send Jim a note telling him you would like to be listed as a Display Garden!)

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THE PRESIDENT'S PATCH

This is my last President's Patch, I will turn my Presidents Gavel over to a new President at the AIS Convention this spring. I hope you will be as good to him as you were to me.

As president I had a chance to meet many of you and get to know you, which was my great pleasure. I am go to missed the letters, calls, and visits that I received while being President of the MIS. I have not accomplished all that I planned to do, what little I did, I hope it has met with your approval. A thank you to those Clubs that ask me to do programs, it was nice visiting with you, and I learned much about growing Iris in other parts of the county, and as I always said "Iris People are great"!

Here are people that did the work, and were there when I needed to talk or ask a question, my many thanks to them:

HOOKEr NICHOLS, who got the Medianite back on schedule, and did a great job as Editor.

JIM FOREMAN, Treasurer and Medianite Publisher, I do not know how you find the time, each job is time consuming.

GENE TREMMEL, MIS Symposium Chairman, the many hours he put in making the list, and then counting the votes, and compiling results.

JIM MORRIS, MIS Display Gardens Chairman, sending the questionnaire to the Display Gardens, then asking for their return, and counting what Iris did what, then making a list of the answers.

RAMONA HOWARD, MIS Membership Secretary, thank you for stepping in and taking the job, when Carol became ill.

ETHEL BAUKUS, MIS Secretary, what would I do with out your meeting notes.

TERRY AITKEN, MIS Slides Chairman, I do wish more people would have used the slide programs you worked so hard to put together.

BARBARA GIBSON, Median Robins Chairman, she volunteered to get some Median Robins going, and she did, this is a very important way of passing information around.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, thank you for your help in making decisions.

My best wishes to the new President and the new Offers of the MIS.

Looking forward to seeing many of you at the AIS Convention in Washington, DC. Hooker Nichols will do the program at the Section Meeting.

Thank you to all that send in articles to the Medianite, it made good reading.

I do hope we can keep in touch, because you are my friends, and my best wishes to all of you.

Carl

OUR FINEST MEDIAN INTRODUCTIONS

By Tony and Dorothy Willott

Using the word "finest" to describe irises can imply merely those varieties which we believe have the most attractive blooms, along with desirable plant habits. It can also apply to those varieties which are tried and true and still grown by many people a number of years after introduction. "Finest" can also be used to describe those irises that have proven to be excellent parents, passing desirable traits on to subsequent generations. We will list some varieties that fit each of these categories.

Some of our earlier introductions, for some reason, seldom found their way into parentages of newer varieties, but are distinctive enough that they are still being grown. Some of these are:

ANGEL'S KISS (75) (Nylon Doll X Blueberry Muffins) 11 in. SDB This is a blocky, pure white self with golden yellow hafts and white beards. Petal edges are serrated.

ANTIQUÉ SATIN (73) ((Imperial Amethyst x Lilablanka) X Unknown) 13 in. SDB Standards are smoky grey-lavender; red violet falls deepen around blue beards.

INDIGO CROWN (76) ((Fairy Frolic x Blueberry Muffins) X Blueberry Muffins) 11 in. SDB Medium violet blue standards top olive-green falls; beards are deep violet blue; striking.

LADY IN RED (73) ((Eye Shadow x Lemon Spot) X Laced Lemonade) 12 in. SDB This full red-violet with brighter red overlay around gold and violet beards is still one of the brightest reds on the market, although it's petals are not as wide as some of the newer ones. It is the pod parent of Dave Niswonger's LITTLE ANNIE.

PETITE POLKA (76) (Carousel Princess X Gunga Din) 12 in. SDB A ruffled white ground plicata with purple stitching, purple styles and cream beards, this has modern form and lots of personality.

RAINBOW MUSIC (73) (Jack O' Hearts X Parchment Plum) 12 in. SDB No other variety has this combination of light red-violet base, full red-violet spots, amber hafts and violet-blue beards. It is lightly ruffled and its form is still acceptable.

TEA PARTY (78) ((Delicate Air x Blueberry Muffins) X Jane Taylor) 13 in. SDB After this was introduced, we heard reports that this behaves more like an IB than an SDB in some places and a sister seedling was tall for an SDB. Therefore, we now suspect that a bee beat us to this cross. However, we still feel it is an exceptional iris. It is an iridescent cream self with pale violet-blue styles and very pale blue beards. Very firm substance allows the standards to open outward in the form of a teacup without ever collapsing.

ALASKAN SKY (80) ((Carousel Princess x Tiffy) X Happy Halo) 26 in. IB Charmingly waved, this frosty light blue on white ground plicata can be depended on to perform well every year. Orange-yellow beards compliment the effect.

CARACAL (81) (Triple Touch X Gibson TB Sdlg.) 22 in. IB A ruffled and broad-petaled plicata. Gold standards have tan veining. Gold falls with creamy white centers have tan overlay around the edges, violet dots in the center and deep yellow and light violet beards. This is another faithful performer. It wins a blue ribbon every time it is entered in a show.

Some irises are not only attractive, but have something in their make-up that causes their offspring to be exceptional, even though dissimilar in many ways. Often it is hard to believe what comes from a single cross. Here are some of our varieties that have passed on good qualities to their progeny:

LEMON SPOT (68) (Welch Sdls. WX-23 X WX 25) 10 in. SDB The parent seedlings were an 8 in. yellow with deeper rays and great form (which we still grow) and a 14 in. white repeat bloomer with yellow spots and somewhat recurved form. LEMON SPOT has ruffled cream standards; white falls with large bright yellow spots; and white tipped yellow beards. This is small for a standard dwarf and seldom has pollen, but when it does have pollen, it can give great diversity. The cross of Earl Roberts' EYE SHADOW X LEMON SPOT gave plicatas, red-violets, blue-violets, blue with deeper blue-violet spots, blue-white selfs and whites with blue or red-violet spots.

CAROUSEL PRINCESS (71) 11 in. SDB is the most important offspring of the Eye Shadow X Lemon Spot cross. It is a white ground plicata lightly marked purple with fairly broad, ruffled petals. Two grandchildren of LEMON SPOT through CAROUSEL PRINCESS are PETITE POLKA (SDB) and ALASKAN SKY (IB), described earlier. Another LEMON SPOT grandchild is TRIPLE TOUCH (76) ((Roberts 65R15 [Yellow sib to Lenna M] x Lemon Spot) X Gunga Din) 11 in. SDB Ruffled, creamy white standards have light violet plicata markings; creamy white falls have a light yellow edge overlaid with brown markings; cream beards. Two of its children, described elsewhere, are AUBURN VALLEY (SDB) and CARACAL (IB).

CORAL WINGS (83) ((Blueberry Muffins x (Roberts 65R27A [Sib to Lenna M] x Dove Wings)) X Unknown [supposed to be I. mellita - possibly a tetraploid form]) 12 in. SDB Chinese coral self with slightly deeper hafts; beards red-orange in throat, light blue at tips. This one is the real beginning of the Willott pink lines of SDBs and IBs. It has brilliant color and great form and substance. Its only fault is a tendency toward bloom-out. Some of our introductions from CORAL WINGS are SDBs APRICOT TART, BALLET SLIPPERS, PINK PANTHER, POET LAUREATE and PRETTY TINA and IB DUSTY RHODES.

OH KATZ (90) (Erie Islands X (Cherished x white pumila)) 11 in. SDB Ruffled pale yellow standards; round, ruffled creamy white falls with lemon hafts and lightly washed edges; blue-white to lemon beards. Although not pink itself, it has been important in our pink line. Its parent, ERIE ISLANDS, has Roberts' pinks and Cotton Blossom in it. OH KATZ is a parent of previous introductions PINK CRYSTAL and PINK PANTHER and, along with CORAL WINGS, is a parent of 1990 introduction BARNEY'S DELIGHT 12 in. SDB Ruffled apricot self; deeper hafts; orange beards.

A grandchild of OH KATZ and CORAL WINGS is PRINCESS BLUEBEARD (91) (Pink Panther X Poet Laureate) 11 in. SDB Its standards are pink with a slight blue cast; falls are pink with apricot hafts; beards are bright, deep blue. We feel that the blue beards came from BLUEBERRY MUFFINS which is in the background of both CORAL WINGS and OH KATZ.

We had expected that MISTER ROBERTS (79) 12 in. SDB would provide some breakthroughs because it was a cross of pumila Inca Star X TB Happy Halo. In a first generation cross with FRESH FACE (Melon Honey x Wilma Greenlee) we obtained some very nice bright yellows, but nothing startlingly different. Two of the yellow seedlings were introduced as HAPPY CROWD (82) and LEMON CHARM (84). It took another generation for something unusual to develop.

PASTEL DELIGHT (86) 11 in. SDB had as pod parent DUSKY FAWN (76) ((Delicate Air x Blueberry Muffins) X (Platinum Gold x Roberts 65R27 [sib to Lenna M])) which is a violet and brown blend. The pollen parent was seedling 79-104 from the cross of Mister Roberts X Fresh Face. The result was a pinkish lilac flushed deeper at the base of the standards and flushed pink at the sides of the light violet-blue beards; styles are apricot-pink. A light violet line down the center of the falls shows its heritage from DUSKY FAWN. The first introduction involving PASTEL DELIGHT as a parent will be a diminutive seedling from ((Oh Katz x Coral Wings) X Pastel Delight) which has been registered CAMEO CUTIE (MDB).

AMBER BLAZE (84) (From a complicated background involving Blueberry Muffins, Nylon Loveliness, Dark Fairy, Gingerbread Man, Roberts pink SDB seedlings and Dove Wings) 11 in. SDB is described as light violet standards; golden brown falls edged light violet; violet and gold beards. A sister seedling is DRAMBUIE (86) 11 in. SDB golden brown blend. Some AMBER BLAZE children are BRASS SHOPPE, LIME MIST and NACHOS. NACHOS (89) (Amber Blaze X Platinum Ruffles) 12 in. SDB has tan-gold standards, flushed red-violet at base; falls are ruffled gold overlaid red-brown with orange-bronze beards.

BALMY BREEZE (87), BLUEBERRY SCOOP (85), ROYAL SILK (84) and SYLVAN SPRING (81) came from the cross of JAY TOO X Warburton 84N01. The purpose of the cross was to obtain blue standards and white falls. Although the objective was not attained, the cross did produce a number of quality plants. ROYAL SILK 14 in. SDB, a royal purple self, is giving particularly fine seedlings and a cross of it by W. E. Jones' MICHAEL PAUL has led to the introduction of TWILIGHT MOOD (89) and PILGRIMS' CHOICE (90).

PILGRIMS' CHOICE, 12 in. SDB has ruffled, slightly open, standards in a blend of blue-grey and ecru. Ruffled falls are light violet-blue edged with the standard color and set off by bright violet-blue beards. It is a very good grower. Four seedlings from PILGRIMS' CHOICE were registered in 1990 and may be 1991 introductions. INNER PEACE (Sapphire Gem X Pilgrims' Choice) 14 in. SDB is a floriferous light blue self. AZURE PUFF ((Blue Surf x Cindy Mitchell) X Pilgrims' Choice) 11 1/2 in. SDB is a wide petaled, ruffled, powder blue self. Seedlings from the cross of NACHOS X PILGRIMS' CHOICE will result in a number of introductions of widely varied colors and forms. The first two registered are PICASSO PRINT 10 in. SDB cream ground splashed red-violet, broad and ruffled; and MOONLIGHTING 11 in. SDB, a ruffled light greenish yellow self with fine form. Others from this cross that are being considered are several deep red-violets, a very deep blue-violet, gold with gold beards, gold with deep blue beards and brown bitones.

Some of our most attractive recent varieties haven't appeared in any family trees, but stand on their own merits:

AUBURN VALLEY (81) (Triple Touch X Gibson TB Sdlg.) 14 in. SDB The light yellow base is heavily marked deep red-violet; burnt orange beards.

GEAUGA LAKE (85) (Jay Too X Jack Riley) 11 in. SDB Light violet-blue standards, deeper at base; falls light violet-blue with olive-tan halos around full violet beards.

STAR SEARCH (85) (Coral Wings sib X (Cherished x white pumila)) 12 in. SDB is a pastel blend of yellow and blue with blue beards. It is ruffled and has very heavy substance.

VEGAS SHOWGIRL (85) (Fresh Face x Unknown) 12 in. SDB Ruffled lilac self with pale violet beards.

CHERRY FESTIVAL (88) ((Clay's Caper x Wild Ruby) X Unknown) 10 in. SDB Ruffled deep red-violet self; pale violet and yellow beards; nice form.

LIME MIST (88) (Amber Blaze X Spring Tracery) 10 in. SDB Warm white standards; white falls washed lime-green; blue-white beards; lime scent; very nice form.

DUSTY RHODES (86) (Lisa Ann X Coral Wings) 21 in. IB Standards apricot-buff flushed rose; falls rosy red fading to buff at edges; deep orange beards.

NORDIC CRYSTAL (87) ((Citron Ice x (Delicate Air x Blueberry Muffins)) X Stitched Right) 23 in. IB Wide, ruffled pale blue self; light blue beards.

DREAM WALTZ (90) (((Blue Chiffon x Java Dove) x pink TB Sdlg.) x Buffy) X La Velita) 19 in. IB Ruffled white self; light yellow beards.

BROWNBERRY (87) ((Swizzle x Co Co Mocha) X Picayune) 26 in. BB Cream ground standards heavily washed brownish red-violet; falls white shading to cream at edges, narrowly bordered brownish red-violet; hafts heavily dotted brown; yellow beards tipped red-violet. It consistently maintains BB size and proportion.

Last, but not least, are three IBs registered in 1990. All are luscious, ruffled confections. TROPICAL PEACH (Coral Wings X Magic) 18 in. is light apricot with deeper hafts and coral-orange beards. WINGS OF LOVE (Coral Wings X Magic) 20 in. has light pink standards; pale apricot falls, slightly deeper on hafts and edges; blue-tipped deep orange beards. FLIRTATIOUS (Barney's Delight X Magic) 21 in. is a pink self with orange beards.

A Pleasant Surprise

Joe Gatty (California)

Every now and then in every serious hybridizer's garden a seedling may appear that is beyond the expectation of the hybridizer and which in itself is a step forward in its particular color and/or pattern class. Just such a seedling appeared in the G-4 cross involving C67-N ((Dainty Royal x Golden Fair) x Zip) X Keppel 71-68A (Bonifay X Gatty A70-1 (Dancer's Veil x Tea Apron)), but then all of the seedlings in the cross were a delight to the eye. Seedling G4-5 which eventually went forth as Rare Edition proved to be a charmer from day one. It is an iris I chose not to try to improve upon and even today, eleven years since its introduction, it is still holding its own against Johnny-Come-Latelies of its color pattern.

IB Robin

Lucy Burton (Massachusetts)

Larry Harder, NE. I agree. . . that IBs do much for the landscape. I am going to make two long rows of nothing but IBs in one part of the garden. Saw some lovely big clumps in one garden we toured this spring. I feel that I might try to do something like it one of these years in my perennial borders. I took out the irises in them in the years' past, but I think I might try to put some back so that they add interest in the early spring. I used TBs before, but think I might switch to IBs this time.

Terry Varner, OH. Seedlings are growing nicely. With good rains all summer and my use of Miracle-Gro and Liquid Seaweed they have several side fans. As to the IBs which were great here--MOSS BAY (my favorite), ASK ALMA, HONEY GLAZED, SARANAP, APRICOT ALA MODE, LITTLE TRUDY, MAUI MOONLIGHT, FRIDAY HARBOR. Oldies that really showed themselves were: LILLIPINKPUT and PINK KITTEN.

Lucy Burton, MA. Our best new IB was HOT SPICE(Aitken), brown and yellow plicata. Our regulars, RARE EDITION, INDIAN DOLL, SWIZZLE, AZ AP, PONY, IN THE BUFF were all their usually happy selves. RUFFIAN is a small flowered ruffled red that blooms late for an IB. CON BRIO (S-lavender-F-red violet), VOILA and BRIGHT RUFFLES did well but need dividing. I wish wish more people grew CON BRIO--it's unusual and a great performer.

Carl Boswell, CA. As president of the Median Society I would like to see the MIS support median meetings. If they are close to AIS convention cities and dates it may make it easier for people to attend. The other side of the coin, if it is on the other side of the country, there may be people who could not attend the AIS convention that could go to a median meeting.

Seedling Shenanigans

Keith Keppel (California)

If asked a few years ago what my favorite median introduction was, I would have said the border bearded Embroidery. But that was before seedling 78-74A made an appearance. It was a cross of the shortish tall 75-113B, a very bright variegata-plicata with old gold ground and solid red fall rim, from ((Flamenco sib x (Roundup Sib x April Melody)), and the tall bearded sib to Peccadillo, 75-98B, which carried the colors of Touche done in a bicolored luminata plicata pattern. This "Fancy Touche", as we garden nick-named it, would have been introduced had it not bloomed itself into oblivion.

Anyhow, the resultant seedling 78-74A fairly shrieked when it first opened its peach pink standards and red violet washed falls. I was crushed that it was so small, for I wanted a tall bearded! In subsequent seasons it proved its worth by staying small and proportionate and by growing and blooming rampantly. I have since forgiven Shenanigan for being short!



THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

MAYA MAMA'S MAMA

Parents who are constantly reminding others of the accomplishments of their children can become BORING! Hybridizers are like parents in a way...they have helped in the creation of their iris introductions. When Mr. Nichols asked for a short article on "What you consider to be your finest median introductions thus far," he opened the door for parental bragging, and my personal opinion. However, you may not agree.

As my first choice I would consider MAYA MAIZE, a BB which has an HC and an HM to its credit. The ruffled, full yellow flowers have garden appeal and even as a first year planting it makes one take notice of its generous bud count. Our garden has experienced some bad winters, but MAYA MAIZE appears each spring unharmed.

MAYA MIDNIGHT would be my second choice. The deep mahogany is a great contrast to the gold edges of this SDB. A sizable clump will capture your attention as you approach the garden. Another plus is that the foliage remains attractive throughout the entire growing season. Thus far it has earned an HM and hopefully it will win more awards in the not too distant future.

A delicate blending of violetta, gold and champagne is MAYA MELODY. I like to think of this MTB as a truly feminine flower. There is nothing harsh about this one which has won an HC and an HM. Though it is not a rapid increaser it behaves as a lady should, watching its proportions carefully.

Last, but not least, is MAYA MAMA. This SDB earned an HC with its creamy white and pansy purple colorations. It may not be the perfect introduction, but I have had a lot of fun with it. If an iris with a name like MAYA MAMA can promote a few laughs and folks can feel free to tease the hybridizer about it, I would be willing to name another MAYA MAMA'S MAMA.

Mrs. Walter Machulak (Audrey)

REGION TOUR TO FEATURE MEDIAN HYBRIDIZERS
AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY REGION SIX SPRING MEETING
May 31, June 1 and June 2, 1991

Headquarters Hotel for the 1991 Region Six Spring Meeting will be Days Inn, Wadsworth, Ohio, at the State Route 94 exit from I76. Festivities begin on Friday evening, May 31, with light refreshments provided by the Akron Area Iris Society and a chance for attendees to show their slides.

On Saturday, June 1, busses will take tour participants to five gardens. In Akron we will visit the garden of award-winning MTB hybridizer, Mary Louise Dunderman, who is growing IB and MTB guest irises in addition to her own introductions and seedlings. Also in Akron, is the small but meticulous garden of Georgia Rhodes, where we will see Medians, Tall Bearded and Siberians. The Peninsula garden of Mike and Sue James is located inside the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area. Many lovely Hostas nestle under tall trees at the edge of the woods, but there is plenty of open area for raised iris beds. They have many Median guests in addition to TBs and Siberians. In Northfield Center, Tony and Pauline Szegedi concentrate on Tall Bearded irises and Aril-Medians. The largest garden on tour is that of Tony and Dorothy Willott in Beachwood, a suburb of Cleveland. They hybridize Dwarfs and Medians, and have planted over 150 guest irises for the tour, including SDBs, IBs, BBs, MTBs, Aril-Medians and Siberians as well as a large number of TB irises. A buffet lunch will be served in the Willott garden to allow more time for viewing the iris and perennial beds and rock gardens.

There will be a guest speaker at the Saturday evening banquet which will be held at the Headquarters Hotel. Following the banquet will be an auction of irises donated by Region members and from guest plantings seen on the tour.

Sunday morning, June 2, will bring breakfast and judges training in the Wadsworth garden of Otho and Violet Boone. Their very large and pleasant garden is just a short drive from the Days Inn. They have Median, TB and Siberian irises as guests in addition to their own plantings of many types of irises, peonies, miniature roses and other perennials spread out between sweeping sections of lawn.

Over 450 guest plants are growing in the tour gardens, representing 249 different varieties and 38 hybridizers. We received median guests from Carl Boswell, Mary Louise Dunderman, Kenneth Fisher, Carol Lankow, Hooker Nichols, Terry Varner, the Willotts and others. This includes 10 varieties (23 plants) of SDBs, 16 (34) IBs, 18 (36) BBs, 21 (45) MTBs and 15 (29) Aril-Medians. For more information, please contact Meeting Chairman, Eugene D. Tremmel, 5613 Wallings Road, North Royalton, Ohio 44133, telephone (216) 237-6457; or Assistant Chairman, Anthony Willott, 26231 Shaker Blvd., Beachwood, Ohio 44122, telephone (216) 831-8662.

Dwarf and Median Irises at Zephyrwude
January 1991
medians

SDB 316

Ace of Clubs	Dixie Pixie	Little Annie	Royal Contrast
Alsterquelle	Dixieland Delight	Little Bishop	Royal Elf
Amazon Princess	Doll Dear	Little Black Belt	Royal Eyelash
Amber Blaze	Dot	Little Dream	Royal Sparks
Angel's Kiss	Easy Strolling	Little Episode	Ruby Locket
Annie's Dress	Easy Style	Little Showoff	Rusty Dusty
Apricot Tart	Eccentric	Live Jazz	Sam
April Anthem	Elsa Denkewitz	Llanthony	Sapphire Jewel
April Sweetheart	Enchanted Blue	Lollipop	Sass with Class
Ashanti	Enchanted Gold	Lonesome Cowboy	Scented Air
Astralite	Evening Event	Love Lisa	Scrimmage
Auburn Valley	Eye Opener	Lovely Me	Sea Jewel
Babe	Fairy Footsteps	Loveshine	Sea Urchin
Baby Baron	Favorite Angel	Low Snow	Semi-Precious
Baby Blessed	Fire Island	Lucky Duck	Serenity Prayer
Baby Sunshine	First Step	Mahogany Snow	Sheer Class
Bay Ruffles	Flapjack	Manchu Coffee	Sheer Energy
Be Happy	Forte	Matt's Choice	Show Me Yellow
Beauty Mark	Fracas	Maya Morocco	Shy Violet
Betsey Boo	Frosty Crown	Melon Honey	Sigh
Black Star	Fruit Salad	Mercy Me	Silk Petals
Blitz	Fuzzy Face	Michael Paul	Sky and Snow
Blood Dance	Galleon Gold	Midnight Madness	Slap Bang
Blue Bumble	Gigglepot	Mini Dynamo	Small Flash
Blue Buttons	Gleanings	Mister Roberts	Smell the Roses
Blue Line	Golden Ruby	Moment	Snow Tree
Blue Neon	Grape Orbit	Music Box	Soft Breeze
Blue on Blue	Grapesicle	Music Caper	Solar Song
Blue Pools	Guest of Honor	Narnia	Sonnentrude
Blue Puff	Gypsy Boy	Neon Pixie	Splash of Red
Boo	Gypsy Eyes	O'What	Split Decision
Brass Shoppe	Hafnium	Oh Jay	Squeaky Clean
Brass Tacks	Hamburger Nacht	Ohio Belle	Star Shower
Bright Bauble	Happening	On Fire	Stardate
Bright Chic	Happy Crowd	Open Sky	Starlight Waltz
Bright Moment	Happy Easter	Orange Caper	Stintfang
Bright Vision	Hermosa Rose	Orange Chips	Stockholm
Broad Grin	Hi Sailor	Orange Sunset	Strange Child
Buckeye Blue	High Wire	Orange Tiger	Sugar Please
Bunny Hop	Highborn Kinsman	Oregold	Sun Doll
Button Box	Hite-Norrick Y212-1	Ornament	Sunbrella
Can't Stop	Honeydip	Outburst	Sunny Heart
Candy Apple	Hoodwink	Outstep	Sweet Treat
Captive Heart	Huddle	Over Easy	Syllable
Caress	Ice Chip	Pastel Delight	Tantara
Carrot Curls	Inscription	Patacake	Tarheel Elf
Casey Jill	Intimate	Paul	Tell Fibs
Chaos	Irish Halo	Peach Eyes	Ten
Cherry Festival	Irish Temper	Pecan Spot	Tender Tears
Cherry Pop	Jan Reagan	People Pleaser	That's Right
Cherry Tart	Jared	Pep Talk	Threepio
Cherub Tears	Jazzmatazz	Peppermint Twist	Thrice Blessed
Chubby Cheeks	Jeremy Brian	Pet	Tillie
City Girl	Jesse Lee	Pigeon	Toasty
Clap Hands	Jewel Baby	Pink Caper	Torchy
Classy Babe	Joyce McBride	Pip-Squeak	Toy Boat
Comma	Joyful	Pippi Longstockings	Transcribe
Concord Touch	Joyous Isle	Plum Wine	Tricks
Conservatively Clad	Jungle Warrior	Pogo	Truly
Cool Melodrama	Kandi Moon	Pony Express	Tu Tu Turquoise
Cool Satin	Katy Petts	Princess of Love	Tumbleweeds
Cops	Kayo	Privileged Character	Two Rubies
Coquette Doll	Kentucky Bluegrass	Pumpkin Center	Vegas Showgirl
Coral Wings	Kiwi Capers	Puppet	Violet Lass
Cotton Blossom	Kiwi Slices	Pure Allure	Violet Lulu
Court Magician	Lasagna	Quark	Wake Up
Cowboy Poet	Learn	Queen's Pawn	Waterboy
Cream Cake	Lemon Blossom	Quiet Lagoon	Watercolor
Cricket Lane	Lemon Charm	Rabbit's Foot	Well Suited
Crispin	Lemon Fantasy	Rain Dance	Westar
Crystal Bright	Lemon Lark	Rainbow Sherbet	White Gem
Cupid's Cup	Leprechaun's Delight	Rainmaker	Willow Mist
Cushla	Lighten Up	Raspberry Jam	Wizard of Id
Dark Vader	Lilac and Lavender	Raspberry Whip	Woodling
Dash	Lilac Lulu	Reluctant Dragon	Yellow Girl
Dash Away	Lima Colada	Riches	Yippee
Delicate Pink	Lime Mist	Ripple Chip	Yo-Yo
Design	Linesman	Rosie Lulu	Zounds
Diligence	Little Amigo	Rosy Air	Zowie

Dwarf and Median Irises at Zephyrwude
January 1991

medians

IB 112

Ain't She Sweet
Alice in Wonderland
All Right
Annikins
Appleblossom Pink
Apricot Silk
April Fog
Arabi Treasure
Art Gallery
Ask Alma
Aurean
Az Ap
Bedtime Story
Black Watch
Blue Calico
Blue Icing
Blushes
Bold Print
Brown Doll
Bubbly Blue
Butter Pecan
Butterpat
California Style
Candy Walk
Cat's Meow
Cheers
Cutie
Daiquiri
Dancin'
Dark Blizzard
Doll
Doll Type
Dusty Rhodes
Erect
Flivver
Friday Harbor
From the Heart
Glee Club
Golden Muffin
Harlow Gold
Helen Proctor
Hellcat
Hero
Hills of Lafayette
Hissy-Fit
Hokeypokey
Holiday Flame
Honey Glazed
Hot Fudge
Hot Spice
I Bless
Indeed
June Rose
Lady Day
Lady of Nepal
Langport Chimes
Langport Finch
Langport Girl
Langport Minstrel
Langport Romance
Light Cavalry
Little Snow Lemon
Logo
Lookin' Good
Love's Tune
Lover Boy
Maui Moonlight
Midday Blues
Morning Show
Muffin
New Kid
Nice 'n' Nifty
Night Shift
Obligato
Pacer
Patches on Parade
Peaceful Skies

Peachy Face
Pink Kitten
Piper's Tune
Posh
Raindance Kid
Rare Edition
Raspberry Blush
Raspberry Rose
Red Tempest
Red Zinger
Revved Up
Romp
Shampoo
Shooting Sparks
Silent Strings
Silkengold
Snappie
Snow Festival
Snowcone
Solo
Spring Dancer
Strawberry Love
Strum
Sunny Dawn
Sunny Honey
Sunshine Boy
Tan Tingo
Tchin-Tchin
Toulouse
Virtuous
Voila
White Lilacs
Why Not
Winkieland
Zoom

BB 27

Am I Blue
Audacious
Blackbeard
Blackberry Brandy
Border Bandit
Brownberry
Color Brite
Friday Surprise
Happy Song
Inner Circle
Jane Ann
Just Jennifer
Loving Cup
Maid of Orange
Marmalade Skies
Maui Surf
Nautical Flag
North Sea
Peach Petals
Pink Bubbles
Raspberry Sundae
Something Special
Sonja's Selah
Stepping Little
Turbo Mauve
Veiled Prophet
Whoop 'Em Up

MTB 67

Aachen Elf
Abridged Version
Almond Spice
Baby Bibs
Bee's Pride
Bettina
Blue Bisque
Blue Twinkle
Bumblebee Deelite
Canary Queen
Carol Lee
Carolyn Rose
Chaste Delight
Chickee
Consummation
Copper Strike
Crystal Ruffles
Dancing Gold
Dappled Pony
Disco Jewel
Doll Ribbons
Dotted Doll
Echo Pond
Evening Pond
Fairy Lace
Flashing Beacon
Frosted Velvet
Ginger Cookie
Grandpa's Girl
Inner Fires
Jill Welch
Jubie
Lady Belle
Lady of Charm
Lisette
Little Me
Little Who
Little You
Louise Hopper
Lucky Mistake
Maggie Me Darlin'
Manisses
New Wave
Ozark Sky
Panda
Piquant Lass
Puppy Love
Queen's Baby
Quirk
Real Jazzy
Rosemary's Dream
Sand Princess
Satin Blue
Second Opinion
Snow Fiddler
Snow Gambit
Spanish Coins
Striking Gold
Striped Pants
Surprise Blue
Teeny Bikini
Ting-a-Ling
Topsy Turvy
Tutone Elegance
Tyke
Vibrant Rose
Zippy Cherub

MDB 80

Alpine Lake
April Ballet
Baby Pink
Bee Wings
Bite Size
Black Stallion
Blue Doll
Blue Wind
Bluetween
Brass Button
Brown Heart
Buddha Song
Buttercup Charm
Canary Baby
Candle Flash
Candy Fluff
Cherry Halo
Child Bride
Chubby Cherub
Cinnamon Apples
Crocus
Dainty Belle
Daisy Fresh
Daring Eyes
Ditto
Doodle
Dream Stuff
Dumpling
Egret Snow
Fiorellino
Flakes
Flea Circus
Footlights
Funny Face
Garden Gnome
Gold Canary
Golden Eyelet
Grapelet
Greenwillow
Harry Hite
Hot Foot
Invisible Ink
Irish Lady
Joanna Taylor
Jojo
Lemon Puff
Little Pearl
Midas Mite
Mini Pearl
Moon Drops
Navy Doll
Nuggets
Pennies
Penny Candy
Perfume
Persian Doll
Petite Blush
Petite Jewel
Puppet Baby
Pussycat
Pussytoes
Quip
Rainbows
Scribe
Sleepy Time
Smidget
Snow Cub
Snowy River
Spot of Tea
Sunny Citrus
Surprise Orange
Tanny
Tic Tac
Tiny Cherub
Tiny Freckles
Toyland
Twist of Lemon
Wee Doll
Whisky
Zipper

THE MEDIANS OF TODAY

by Dave Niswonger

In the sixties, I had no idea of what was about to happen in the development of median irises. It truly has been amazing. I had gotten some SDB's in the early sixties and was unimpressed. I discarded them but soon saw some bright yellows with shocking blue beards and I said "Wait a minute---you're missing out on something". So I began acquiring some of the newer introductions and I was hooked. Some of the newer colors and combinations are not available in the tall bearded such as the bright yellow with a deep blue beard or even a white with a blue beard like Bennett Jones' BLUE LINE, an SDB introduced in 1987.

When my own RASPBERRY SUNDAE'72 BB, first bloomed in 1969, I was disappointed because it wasn't a TB. The first time I saw it, it had four bloom stalks with 2 and 3 blooms open on each stalk and was stunning but it took me awhile to adjust to the Border Bearded class. Now we know that these beauties fit in nicely in the landscape scene. BROWN LASSO'75 was a similar story. It first bloomed in 1971. I had moved Gene Buckles' seedlings to my house in the spring of 1970 (Gene had died in Dec. of 1969 and we were having the Spring regional meeting in our area--I knew the seedlings would be stepped on so I moved the 680 of them). Dorothy Palmer was visiting and I remember distinctly asking her "Dorothy, do you like it?"--almost expecting her to say "It sure is a runt" but she surprised me and said it was wonderful and that I should be sure and introduce it.

In the Border Bearded class, I like ZINC PINK (Ensminger'87). It's such a clean clear unusual shade of pink. Ensminger's BATIK'86 with it's royal purple color and the white flecks gives contrast. BOY O'BOY (Ghio'86), NURSERY SCHOOL (Ghio'85), CANDY LAND (Byers'88) and OBLIGATO (Stahly'88) bring in plenty of apricot and orange tones. LEMORA PEARL (Nichols'90), PINK LAMB (Blaylock'85) and PIXIE PRINCE (Simon'85) add to the pinks that are available. PIXIE PRINCE is the deepest pink or hottest pink of which I know including the TB's. ES BRALDA (Ghio'88) is a bright orange and where could you find a nicer brown plicata than in BROMBERRY (Millott'87)? PEACH PETALS (Niswonger'87), MEXICAN BEAUTY (Nichols'88)--a bright brown, SONJA'S SELAH (Ensminger'89)--a pink amoena and WINTURA (Hummel'90)--a pale blue with a blue beard, looked good at Omaha.

The Intermediate Class is another group that has been erupting into some gorgeous introductions. BEDTIME STORY (Ritchie'82) is such a nice blue and so floriferous. BOLD PRINT (Gatty'82) is one of the best blue plicatas. CANDY WALK (Blyth'85) gets into the pink bicolors or bitones that are coming along. STRAWBERRY LOVE (Blyth'85) is another of the pink colors. HELLCAT (Aitken'83) is all quality. In rebloomers you can't beat I BLESS (Zurbrigg'85) for rebloom and its fertile too and has produced some starchy, well formed seedlings. NEW KID (Shoop'87) is a bright yellow with an almost red beard--very showy. LITTLE SNOW LEMON (Gaddie'84) is a yellow and white combination that you can see across the garden. Gene Gaddie's WIDE BLUE EYES, a white with a blue wash on the falls looked nice at Omaha. Speaking of Omaha, one can't quite forget the display of intermediates at Allan Ensminger's garden. Just look at his ad on page 62 of the April issue of the AIS bulletin to see the wide range of colors he has produced. PENNYNORTH (Ensminger'84) has always been one of my favorites--a nice clean brown. Then, the cardinal red self of MORNING SHOE'88 that won the Presidents Cup at Omaha is undoubtedly one of the reddist irises in existence. Well, I might as well mention the others of Allans'--BASSO'90 a dahlia purple with a purple beard, BLUE EYED BLOND a pale yellow with a blue beard, HERS'90 a white with a pale lavender flush, HIS'90 chrome yellow, JOHN '90 brown stds. with yellow falls, KERMIT'90 a chartreuse with a blue blaze and WILLOW WARE with stds. of white and sea blue falls---what a group! I believe that SUNNY DAWN (B. Jones'89) a sunny yellow with an orange wash will be very popular. I really like Bennett's CALIFORNIA STYLE'90 with white stds. and orange falls edged with white. It is really different and if one doesn't immediately see it in a border, they must be near being blind. There are several others that could be mentioned but I'll let others do that.

On the Standard Dwarf Bearded, I made considerable comments in the last issue of the Medianite. I can say again that my favorite SD- for 1990 was Barry Blyth's CHANTED'90. I had seen several from this cross when I visited in Australia in 1988 and was really thrilled when I saw them then. But, CHANTED stopped me in my tracks this last spring when I saw it blooming in my garden--a deep pink with a bright blue beard in the rain. I didn't even get a picture of it because I kept waiting for better weather.

Other SDB's that I will mention briefly that I think are tops include CHUBBY CHEEKS (Black'85) a plicata with impeccable form and growth habits; BALLET SLIPPERS (Willott'86) one of the widest and good substanted pinks, CHERRY DELIGHT (Cleo Palmer''86) a deep red violet; CINDY MITCHELL (C. Palmer'86) one of the best formed SDB's of which I know; for color, LIVE JAZZ (Lankow'86) is a deep orangy pink; George Shoop's pinks are great too such as BRIGHT VISION'83, PINK CAPER '86 and TILLIE'86; COOL MELODRAMA'86 and RAIN MAKER'86 of Hooker Nichols' are nice blues; lavender with orange might describe Jack Boushay's HOOLIGAN'78 and HOOCHWINK'84 and another such vivid combination as PUMPKIN CENTER (E. Jones'89); Oh, in talking about the pinks, I should have mentioned SHEER CLASS'88 of Lynda Miller's and an earlier pink with blue beard of Barry Blyth's, PEACH EYES'86; for a nice contrast to the ones mentioned above, SERENITY PRAYER (P. Dyer'89) is sheer class and SYLLABLE (Innerst'86) a yellow amoena with SERENITY PRAYER being a light yellow with a striking blue beard. STARDATE (P. Black'87) is a nice deep blue with a near tangerine beard that really sets it off and for the almost black ones, MICHAEL PAUL (Wm. Jones'79) is still hard to beat. Oh, there are so many good ones in this group I can hardly stop!

In the Miniature Dwarf Bearded, I'll have to admit to not much expertise. I would have to say that of the ones that I have grown which are not many, BANTAN (Varner'85) would have to be my favorite. It's a dark red-purple with lots of substance.

So, I've learned a few things over the past few years, that the Medians are a delightful group that bring in the iris season with many dazzling colors and great hardiness to withstand the sometimes harsh winters we get here in the Midwest. Everyone should grow them.

What would you say if asked to name your favorite child? Of course they are all intelligent, honest, lovable--well, you get the idea. So the discussion ends. But then, I thought of Hooker Nichols and his needs.

My hybridizing started in 1975 in Minnesota. The crosses were made among popular diploid varieties carried by Zula Hanson's Riverdale Gardens. Some available small TBs and IBs were included in the program. Selected seedlings were planted in Zula's garden for further evaluation. IN 1979 my irises found themselves sitting in the rocky acid soil in the woods of Bella Vista Arkansas. My surprise was that the rapid shifts of temperature and sleet were more demanding on the iris than Minnesota weather had been.

1984 saw the first introductions, Sand Princess and Grandpa's Girl. Little Paul followed in 1985 and it is the best of my introductions through 1987. New varieties from contemporary hybridizers had been introduced into the program. Lively Rose 86, Spring Harmony 87 and Lucky Charm 87 followed. Lively Rose gets my ~~A~~ward for Fastest Increaser. The year 1988 was difficult because of Zula's health problems. However, in 1989 Striped Pants, Carol Lee and Frosted Velvet were introduced.

Frosted Velvet has to be given my personal Most Distinctive Award. Carol Lee earns the Most Overlooked Award. Probable this situation results from the fact that there were three excellent variegatas introduced in a short period

Given an extra year to build stock, ^{OZARK}~~SKY~~ was introduced in 1990. It captures my Surprise Award by returning 70 rhizomes from the Omaha gardens. Zula 90 has been performing in the Riverdale Gardens since 1982. Zula herself reported it to be among the visitor favorites, hence its earning a Certificate of High Commendation in 1990 is fitting to Zula's memory.

Bella Vee and Ozark Evening are this year's children. Ozark Evening is a luscious pink tetraploid which I feel is yet another step forward in our battle to tame the tetraploids. It took very little urging from Carol Lankow to get me to introduce it. It would get my Iris of the Future Award. My hybridizing program has been split evenly between the diploids and the tetraploids because of Ozark Evening.

Hooker, the best of my introductions is in the future, given the time and help from above.

MEDIAN IRIS SOCIETY ADVERTISING RATES & POLICY

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: September 1

Summer Issue: June 1

Winter Issue: December 1

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

The Medianite
c/o Hooker T. Nichols
402 7th Street
Woodward, Oklahoma 73801

WHERE ARE SDBS GOING?

by Lynda Miller (Indiana)

I wish I could say the SDBs were making as great of advances in form as well as color breaks, but when I look at the many new SDBs I put in each year, only a few ever make a lasting impression. Why you ask? They are gorgeous in the spring on two year clumps, but what really counts for me is what they look like up close and up close is what makes that lasting impression. In my catalog, I do not list descriptions on the "older" varieties. When I look down the listings the only ones that stand out in my memory are the unusual colors or great formed ones. Examples are "Yellow Girl", great form on a yellow, "On Fire", an unusual red, "Rain Dance", still one of the best formed true blues, "Toasty", brilliant golden yellow with heavy brown dotting, "Royal Magican", a very round violet plaita. Actually I know the description of most of the ones on the "older" list, but if I don't remember them, when I look them up they are just another blue, violet, yellow, or purple with no character.

Character is what many of the SDB lack today. As a hybridizer I have to work doubly hard to come up with SDBs that can compete with longer experienced hybridizers like Bennette Jones and Ben Hager. Looking over the many hybridizers, I see Paul Black, Terry Aitken and myself working towards the same lines. Something different with unforgettable form if possible. Other hybridizers are working for distinction by working with rebloomer, like Earl Hall, his "Little Showoff" got up staged this spring by B. Jones "Shy Violet" and it's outstanding form on similar light blue color, but "Little Showoff" rebloomed this fall. And John Weiler's "Refined" is not just another yellow, it reblooms early and very faithfully.

Since I am wanting SDBs with different colors with my favorite form (round, ruffled, and flaring falls), I work alot with IBs. This results in later seasoned, taller, and larger bloomed SDBs. On the other hand I also work with smaller SDBs with MDBs trying to work the color of the SDBs down to the MDBs which is also giving small flowered SDBs on shorter stalks which can be just as lovely as the larger flowered taller SDBs. But I don't want large flowers on short stalks. I wish all my introductions could be formed and proportioned like my "Dark Vader", black with a bushy blue beard on my ideal form.

So what new varieties looked good this year in my garden after repeated freezes. Besides "Shy Violet", "Orange Tiger", B. Jones '88, last year it was just orange, this year its form was more rounded and pleasing. But Black's "Patacake" with that creamy orange color looked good enough to eat and his "Tu Tu Turquoise" which even though its standards are wide open it does not take away from the rufflely form and dreamy pale turquoise with brilliant turquoise spots. My own dream I introduced in 1990 was "Classy Babe" whos parents were Shoop's "Bright Vision" a glowing pink and my "Sheer Class" which is a magenta rose pink. "Classy Babe" tall, round, ruffled, and light coral pink about the color of "Beverly Sills". Then there was my not a "perfect" formed neon sign introduction "Neon Pixie" which is coral pink with tangerine orange spots and a dark tangerine beard that grows like a weed. Interesting note this year was on a one year clump of "Neon Pixie" some of the blossoms were totally tangerine while some were pinker. Weather can do some strange things. "Oh Jay" Carol Lankow '88, had not only good form but a different yellow orange color. Willotts' 1988 introduction "Raspberry Whip" had the best descriptive name, it was the color of black raspberries whipped with cream on a smooth form. "Serenity Prayer" P. Dyer '89 was a well formed come back to the yellow with blue beard class. The sleeper of the year was Audrey Mackulak's 1990 introduction "Maya Moracco", the row of one year plants all bloomed the same

height with at least three buds per stalk in a totally new color of smokey purple with velvety darker spots on well rounded blossoms. (Much prettier than I can describe.)

The one thing nice about writing an article in late fall is you only remember the ones that make that lasting impression. Many a little older varieties look outstanding as usual, but as a hybridizer I'm always looking for those new colors and better forms to work with. Unfortunately many new varieties didn't bloom because of our odd winter and multiple late freezes this spring so I'm sure some great thing will be seen on two year clumps.

MY FINEST Tom Magee (Colorado)

In 1964 my curiosity moved on Dr Durrance's iris crossing instructions: "Lift the anther with thumb and forefinger to brush pollen on the lip of another's style arm". Time was limited so there was a lot of 100 foot dashes from flower to flower. Judy warned a watching neighbor was likely to call the paddy wagon. Its an engaging wonderment!

From the 1970 crosses, with 7000 seeds, 1300 germinated in 1972. A cross of a red seedling (BANG X MARTEL) with the red-black SWAHILI resulted in 24 large, doggy, muddy, purplish TBs and one clean, ruffled, red runt. Carolyn Wedow liked it immediately as a border bearded. Four years later she named and introduced MOROON BELLS.

My nethods have improved such that an explanation can make a program. Rewards seem to come not with methods but, as Melba Hamblem reminds, with luck. My first is my finest. I've bloomed probably over 1000 seedlings of MAROON BELLS. Many interesting and beautiful, but none better.

Everyone should take heart for luck can come to anyone.
Look at DEBBY RAIRDON!

MEDIAN SPREE IN '93
OKLAHOMA CITY MEDIAN CONVENTION

GUEST IRIS REQUEST

The Sooner State Iris Society will be hosting a national median convention in the spring of 1993, immediately before the Ft. Worth National. The dates for "Median Spree in '93" are Friday, April 16 through Sunday, April 18, 1993, culminating with a national median show and awards luncheon. "Keeper" trophies will be given to the winners of the Best In-Region and Best Out-of-Region Seedlings and Best In-Region and Best Out-of-Region Introductions.

There will be 8 gardens on tour to show off your latest and best (4 of the gardens were on tour at our national convention in '88, and there are 4 new gardens). Although we would anticipate being at peak Intermediate Bearded bloom on these dates, we will gladly accept guest plants from all median classes (including aril-medians).

Send guest irises to:

Gail Wettstein, Guest Iris Chairperson
c/o Peggy Estes
2429 N.W. 36 Terr.
Oklahoma City, OK 73112
Gail: (405) 949-1739; Peggy: (405) 946-2749.

When sending guest irises, please observe the following guidelines:

1. Guest irises will be accepted only this year, and only from August 1 through August 31, 1991. NO guest plants will be accepted in Summer 1992.
2. Guests should be limited to introductions of recent vintage and seedlings under serious consideration for introduction.
3. A maximum number of 30 introductions and/or seedlings per hybridizer will be accepted. Hybridizers may send up to 3 plants per variety, for a total maximum number of 90 plants.
4. Please include the following information with each plant to be requested:
 - a. Hybridizer's name and address.
 - b. Name/seedling number of the variety/seedling.
 - c. Classification (type) of iris.
 - d. Height and color description.
 - e. Season of bloom (e.g., Early, Midseason, Late, etc.).
 - f. Year of introduction (if applicable).
 - g. A master packing list of all guests received.
5. All official median guests will be listed in the Median Spree in '93 Convention Booklet. Any corrections/updates of information (e.g., the naming of a seedling, the year of introduction added, etc.) must be reported to the Guest Iris Chairperson by December 1, 1992, in order for the garden markers and convention booklet to accurately reflect the change.
6. A receipt will be mailed to all contributors, listing the garden assignments of the plants. Contributors will also be notified in Spring 1993 regarding the disposition of plants. A reply regarding disposition must be received from the contributor no later than June 1, 1993. All returned guests (if requested) will be shipped during the month of July 1993.
7. If any losses occur, the hybridizer will be notified in Spring 1992 and given the opportunity to send replacement plants during August 1992.
8. AIS convention policy regarding the guest iris Code of Ethics, will be strictly adhered to. No guest plant will be traded, sold, or hybridized.

VARIETAL COMMENTS

Cleo Palmer (Oklahoma)

BAY RUFFLES: Wide, round, very ruffled violet blue self with yellow beards tipped blue white. SDB

VOLUPTUOUS: A wide rounded and ruffled white self with yellow haft veins on the shoulders. Yellow beards. IB

DARK VADER: Dark grape standards with a lighter border. Moderately wide falls being the same color with yellow beards with lavender tips. SDB

ORANGE TIGER: Peachy orange standards and medium orange falls with a slightly lighter rim. Wide, elliptical form with fantastic deep red-orange beards. Possibly the best red beard to work with in the SDB class.

FLAMING RHYTHM: Wide ruffled light blue violet flowers with darker halos and red-orange beards. Good substance. SDB

JAZZAMATAZZ: Open yellow standards and yellow falls overlaid with narrow rim of yellow with dark maroon centers. Wide and ruffled. SDB

CORAL WINGS: Wide and lightly ruffled peach and light orange blend with darker orange hafts and shoulders. Red beards with just a touch of lavender in the tips. SDB

PINK EMPRESS: Ruffled medium pink self with light orange shoulders with white areas at the tip of the red beards. IB

COQUETT DOLL: White standards and white falls heavily veined red edged white. Yellow and white beards. SDB

CHUBBY CHEEKS: Standards are white marked light blue violet having one quarter inch rim of smokey greyed blue-violet with a smattering of yellow thrown in. The falls are white in center with blue-violet markings and rims. Bronze beards with pale blue violet tips. SDB

SENSATIONAL: Pale lemon yellow standards with white centers. The falls are the same with darker tips. Light orange yellow beards with cream tips. Wide, ruffled form. SDB

HOT FUDGE: Burgundy red standards with light yellow in lower midrib area. The falls are yellow ground with burgundy red rims, moderately wide, elliptical. Yellow beards with violet tips. IB

SUN DOLL: Bright butter yellow self even to the beard. Wide, ruffled form.

SERENITY PRAYER: Ivory white self with light yellow green shoulders. Bronze beards with purple tones. Nice form.

SPANISH EMPIRE: Pale lemon yellow standards. White falls infused palest yellow with yellow haft veins and shoulders, wide rounded form. Very ruffled. The beards are yellow tipped pale blue. SDB

LITTLE EDENITE: Dark red black self with slightly lighter haft area. Brown beards. Reminds one of the old tall bearded variety, Edenite.

DOROTHY HOWARD (SDB) is a white self with light yellow spots on the falls and red beards having blue tips. Good quality over all, though standards open more than I like, but one can't expect perfection at first in a new line. Proving to be an exceptionally good parent. A good pink of mid intensity with a quite blue tip on beard, an orange amoena, and a lavender with red beard all came from the same cross.

EXTRA (MDB) has standards which are light blue-violet and falls being medium blue-violet with intense red-violet spot combine to make a very pleasing combination that really draws attention to itself. Though it should be fairly sterile, it is fertile and produces improved Pumilas when crossed to them.

FLAMING RHYTHM (SDB) has medium to light blue-violet with striking red-orange beards that stands out quite noticeably. The first in my quest for red bearded blues. It will figure heavily in future efforts in several lines.

LEILAHA KAI (1991 IB) is a nice pink IB that exhibits less peach tone and more true pink tones. It has a nice sweet fragrance as well. The name is Hawaiian for Beautiful Child.

ANGEL FIRE (1991 IB) has white standards tinted pink with falls being the same with yellowish shoulders and pink flushes on each side of the beards. It has wonderful branching consisting of two branches and spur plus terminal. Terminal and one branch open the first day and second branch opens the second day. This one consistently gives stalks with three open well placed flowers and should be a great show bench iris variety.

PRIDE AND GLORY (1992 IB) has pale smokey blue-white standards with a hint of pink at the base and falls being medium blue-violet with amber hafts and shoulders and nice red beards.

Presenting the new Moonshine Medians. For detailed descriptions of these, our other 1991 Introductions, our previous Introductions and all the other things we're listing this year - send for our free catalog.

*** * * MOONSHINE GARDENS - P.O. Box 367 - Potter Valley, CA * * * * ***

TART -SDB * Hager by Byers * From a very long, very involved oncer SDB line of Ben's * Orange with tangerine orange b. * Bloomed for well over 4 months here last year. Started in the spring with the earliest SDBs and bloomed steadily, stalk after stalk, right through the TB season. Again September on! Good all the way.....**\$10.00**

HOT -SDB * Byers * SUNSTRIP X FRANKINCENSE * A super rich and bright, hot variegata. * Excellent and excellent October rebloom. Powerfully and wonderfully fragrant - consistently!.....**\$10.00**

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HAVEN -SDB * Byers * WILLOWMIST X TWINKLE TWINKLE * Blue S.; green F. edged in blue-green; blue b. * Cool and lovely! Very nice in all respects. Lots of rebloom -from early September on.....**\$10.00**

CONCOCTION -IB * Byers * JUICY FRUIT X MY SHEBA * Blended mauve pink with a violet streak down the F. from bluish b. tipped watermelon red-pink. * Not very modern but it does have novel and strangely beautiful coloring. And early and super strong rebloom -à la Juicy Fruit. Incredible vigor!.....**\$20.00**

STANZA -BB * Byers * (RE-TREAT x SKY HOOKS) X sib. * An eggshell white and light red violet plicata, cinnamon over the hafts. * What a surprise! Not only the coloring, the quality too -very round petaled, compact, heavily ruffled flowers. Prolific October rebloom here, during the summer as well for others.....**\$20.00**



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SWEETIE GIRL (Tom Magee) 21" E For all the girls I've loved. Pink cotton candy, ruffles, and lace, and everything nice. Pink beards. EC 1988, HC 1990. (Pink Bubbles X ((Strike-Me-Pink X Fair Luzon) X Pink Sleigh))).....\$20.00

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1991 INTRODUCTIONS

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April Angel (H. Nichols) SDB 12" E-L Slightly open eggshell white standards over flaring and ruffled ivory falls with ends of the style arms having faint violet plicata markings with yellow and white beards. (((Court Magician x (Pink Kitten x (Happy Mood x Kiss)))) \$7.50

Blood Covenant (H. Nichols) SDB 12" E-L Slightly open light garnet brown with tan undertones over flaring garnet brown falls edged the color of the standards. Brown gold beards. (Pony Express x Sheer Energy) \$7.50

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Rodeo Clown (H. Nichols) IB 24" E-L Ruffled yellow-tan standards flecked red violet over similar falls having a white area around the orange-gold beards. (Chatterbox x Flamenco) \$12.50

Royal Decree (H. Nichols) SDB 15" E-L A ruffled white ground purple plicata with class. Yellow beards tipped blue. (((Court Magician x (Pink Kitten x (Happy Mood x Kiss)))) May grow out of class at times. \$7.50

Honeymoon Dance (H. Nichols) TB 36" E Ruffled pink red violet standards over broad and ruffled pale peach falls banded raspberry with darker hafts. Rusty orange beards add a smart accent. (Beyond x Pink Confetti) \$25.00

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AN IRIS IS AN IRIS IS AN IRIS--RIGHT?

Allan Ensminger (Nebraska)

It is easier for a camel to walk through the eye of a needle than for a SDB iris to receive the Dykes Medal.

Now surely this cannot be a true statement. Are not all the irises that become eligible for the Dykes Medal the very best of their type? Yes, this is the way that it is supposed to be. Up to this stage in our Awards and Honors system the SDB candidates have been judged against other SDBs. IB candidates have been judged against other IBs. But now, all of these apples and oranges of the iris world are gathered into an elite group, candidates for the coveted Dykes Medal. It now becomes a popularity contest and bigger becomes better.

Does the AIS judge say, "This beautiful little SDB, when judged against the standards for its type, gets an amazing 97 points while this TB iris, when judged against the standards for its type gets only 85 points, so based on a scale of points that represents excellence for each type the SDB is the better iris and should receive the Dykes."

Unfortunately, the system doesn't work that way. Until we devise a system in which we judges select the Dykes winner on the basis of its perfection in its classification, it will continue to be a popularity contest.

The Medianite editor sent me a card asking for a short article. "The topic is what you consider your finest median introductions. I will leave the format up to you." So much for the format.

This isn't an easy topic for a hybridizer who has an on-going hybridizing program. If I had stopped hybridizing in 1985 I might have said:

Do-Si-Do is my best SDB.

Az Ap is my best IB.

Iris Bohnsack is my best BB.

In 1988 I may have said:

People Pleaser is my best SDB.

Morning Show is my best IB.

Zinc Pink is my best BB.

But in 1991, my best median irises to date are seedlings that have not yet been introduced.

Hopefully, my best Median Irises will be the result of crosses that I make in the year 2,000. Perhaps by that time, one of them, judged on its own merits, against the standards of perfection for its type, will receive the Dykes Medal.

My Best Introductions

Cleo Palmer (Oklahoma)

Having been asked to write on the favorites of my introductions, I'll approach it from the oldest and up to the most recent. SEA PATROL, a near sky blue self with pale yellow beards. It not only had good blue color with little violet in it, but had wide round falls and wider hafts than prevailed at the time. It also has an interesting pencil line edge to the standards that is translucent, and gives a sparkling effect like that from a diamond, if you are at the right angle to the sun. It still competes fairly well with the best of the most modern IBs.

APRIL BALLET (MDB) has exceptionally good wide, rounded form and very prolific bloom habits. The good blue color is great. Though this type cross is generally considered to be rather sterile, APRIL BALLET is reasonably fertile, and crossed back to Pumilas will give some seedlings with wider and rounded form. So it can be useful in breeding good MDBs.

SNOW FESTIVAL (IB) is a white self with yellow haft veins and yellow beards tipped white. Nice form, substance, flare and good bloom habits. Still a fine good IB 16 years after being introduced.

DAISY (SDB) is a white self with yellow haft veins and yellow beards tipped white. Wide round flaring form with heavy substance. An excellent parent that passes many of its good qualities on to many of its seedlings. It was named for my mother. So, it has to be a favorite.

MIDNIGHT INTRUDER (BB) has light blue-violet standards and blackish purple falls. This along with TWIST OF FATE (TB), were the culmination of my efforts to breed a black and white amoena. Should do more along these lines, but am currently working on a SDB with this coloration or hopefully pure white standards. I am getting there, but progress is slow at present. Material is at hand that may speed the program up somewhat.

DELICATE PINK (SDB) is a very pale pink with darker pink veining with wide rounded falls of good substance. This combines a more pink color and better form than most which are very similar peachy tones or pink. It has proven to be a good parent.

WORK OF ART (IB) has yellow standards and white falls with yellow shoulders. The ruffling and lace were the object of the cross that yielded this beauty.

SUNSET HUES (IB) has smokey pink standards, blue-violet falls with red beards. The first effort to produce pink/blue IBs as well as blue amoenas with red beards. It will wet seed and intentions are to try to reproduce this pattern in a SDB using SUNSET HUES crossed to pink SDBs as well as other lines.

BLUE CALICO (IB) is a white based plicata having a $\frac{1}{4}$ " line rim of blue around the standards and heavy dotting elsewhere with white falls with $\frac{1}{4}$ " rim of blue and a few dots in the center. The attract on of this was its very blue color for a plicata since most are much more blue-violet than blue. This one makes a fine garden subject.

PRINCESS DOROTHY (SDB) has pale silvery blue flowers of exceptionally good form and other fine qualities, especially very wide hafts. Should be an excellent parent, but I have neglected using it as much as is warranted. It has produced a pale blue amoena SDB of PROGENITOR lineage that will figure heavily in future breeding efforts for improved blue amoenas, pink/blue combos, blue amoenas with red beards and bicolor types such as occurred from PROGENITOR line crosses in the talls.

WHY BLENDS AS A FAVORITE?

Dorothy Guild (Washington)

As with so many iris classes in the early years of registering them, MTBs (which so often were only chance tiny seedlings from 2n TBs) had no recorded parentage.

The American Iris Society registration rules changed that by requiring that a three generation pedigree accompany applications of registration for any seedling if known. Iris hybridizers have become aware of the value of pedigrees.

Not caring to compete seriously with breeders of self colored MTBs, I began looking more closely at some of the blends evolving here and realized that few of them had been registered in this class. There were many shades of yellows and red, but few other colors. There were a few others of mixed color patterns. The variegatas have vastly improved in the past decade.

DISCO JEWEL's catching the public eye happened as a big surprise when voted the Williamson-White Award in 1983. Seldom do blends shout for attention across a garden as do white, yellow, or pink selfs.

DISCO JEWEL (Guild '77) came from ((Victory Pink (unknown parentage) X 71DG87 (Purple Heather x Brown Crown))).

Purple Heather (MTB sdlg. G-164 X H-1369 (Black Forest x Green Spot))

Black Forest (Schreiner '45) came from (Dymio X Ethiopia Queen). The World of Irises has an interesting article on the history of the black iris origins in TBs. Black Forest was a short TB of 24 inches.

Green Spot (Cook '51) came from Cook 10942 X a yellow pumila.

Victory Pink was registered after I had used it. It was a Rienberg seedling and was listed as a BB at 24". It was a chance seedling in Victor Rienberg's garden and a blend. It was the pod parent of DISCO JEWEL.

Thus DISCO JEWEL's parentage is as complex as some in other classes-even to the belief that I. aphylla figured in that of short TB 24" (Black Forest).

HERE'S LUCY (Guild '82) (Nambe X ?) dressed in buff and violet is a perky one having an orange beard. Its real bonus is in its late bloom time. Very often it is the last MTB giving a showy performance in mine and the gardens of others who cherished it.

Nambe was used considerably here because it gave many seeds per pod which wasn't the case with most MTBs of that era. And yes, I planted its bee pods for this reason. It figures in BARBI DOLL and WHISPERING SPRITE. From WHISPERING SPRITE came FUN AND FANCY, SNOW GAMBIT, and SPARKLING CHABLIS. (I might add that SPARKLING CHABLIS was in my garden for nearly 10 years before Jean Witt saw it and urged me to introduce it.)

MAGGIE ME DARLIN (Guild '84) is from two seedlings:((78 DG '62 (Brown Crown seedling x 71 DG 130 (Brown Crown x Glint O' Bronze) X 78 DG 64 (Brown Crown x Flashing Beacon))). My favorite blend. Its standards are buff instead of yellow, so I decided to include it among blends rather than variegatas. It blooms mid to late season.

When one stops to look closely at it, you realize that it has brighter coloration than when viewed at a distance as is the case with most blends.

Other blends from her are ADONA TAPESTRY and CHESTNUT TIGER.

The readers might be interested in knowing that VICTORY PINK is behind:

ADONA TAPESTRY
CHEONE WINE
DO A WARDANCE
LITTLE JAZZMAN
FAIR THEE WELL
FUN AND FANCY
SNOW GAMBIT

Unfortunately, VICTORY PINK has been lost leaving, as a legacy, the above children.

The Region 13 Carol Lankow SDB Award

Sigrid Asmus (Washington)

This new award was initiated in the fall of 1989 as the Region 13 SDB Award, when members wanted to create a way to give "advance notice" to the wide variety of excellent newer introductions they were interested in growing, and as a complement to awards on the national level. The name of the award was changed in 1990 when the first winner was Carol Lankow's Jesse Lee (1987), a porcelain-smooth ruffled light blue, in memory of her work and her love of irises. Blue Line (1987), Orange Tiger (1988), both from Bennett Jones, plus Jayne Ritchie's Pure Allure (1987) came in as a three-way tie for second place, with Bennett's Sun Doll (1986) placing third.

Other SDBs receiving votes were Broad Grin, Cherry Tart, Cinderella Sunshine, Cool Satin, Dark Vader, Fingerprints, Jazzmatazz, Lemon Rings, Leprechaun's Eyelash, Over Easy, Pink Caper, Ripple Chip, Senor Frog, Shy Violet, Small Flash and Spook House.

All SDBs introduced in the last ten years are eligible to be voted on (but not seedlings under number); each Region 13 member can vote for as many as thirteen different varieties. Interest in the award runs high in the Washington-Oregon area, well-known for its commitment to this class. Many members make garden notes while attending the annual Median Tour, an informal get-together which brings iris fans to see gardens with good collections of medians in a different area of the Region each spring, in addition to visiting on their own. In 1991, the Median tour will be held in Yakima, Washington, the first weekend in May; the 1992 Median Tour will be in the Portland area, and in 1993 in the Seattle area. For more information, contact Sigrid Asmus, 4009 - 24th Avenue West, Seattle, WA 98199.

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KEEPING RECORDS ON YOUR IRISES - AN ORDINARY GARDENER'S SOLUTION

Barbara Schmieder (Massachusetts)

Often I hear iris people say that they have trouble remembering when something bloomed in their garden or even whether or not it did bloom. Another complaint I've heard is not being able to remember which irises were particularly liked that year-out of sight and out of mind. Many of us have special ways of keeping records and I'd like to share mine with you. It may not work for you if you grow large numbers (I grow 700+ different varieties and am not a hybridizer), but I find it an inexpensive, simple way to keep records.

First of all, each year I buy a ruled spiral notebook (10½" x 8") with at least 50 pages. Then I list all my irises by class, starting with MDBs and ending with Japanese. I alphabetize each class, then allot one line for each variety. I then circle the number I grow of that category and put it beside my heading, for example: MDBs 54. After each iris, I list hybridizer and date of introduction. There is still room on the line (if you write small) to note pertinent facts, such as color, clump effect, misnamed (!), get rid of (ones you don't like), etc. In the margin, I put a check mark if the iris blooms that year. I also note the date of first bloom on each iris and last date if it blooms over a particularly long period. There is also room in the margin for stars for favorite varieties. When it is time to vote your Median Symposium, you can find all your starred items and use the descriptions for your varietal comments. Always leave a little room at the bottom of the listing for each category for additional votes that just wouldn't fit in on that one line.

You'll find the first year the hardest if you haven't already alphabetized your irises. Do it during the Winter when your're watching some dumb TV show that doesn't take much concentration. The next year is much easier-just subtract ones you've gotten rid of, alphabetize the new additions, insert in the proper place, and start a new notebook. I try to get a very distinctive one each year so that I can remember them better-this year is Mickey Mouse, last year's was Garfield. I also use my notebook to list all iris orders. These are listed two separate ways--first, on one page (if your orders can be contained on one page-mine can't!) I list each order: person ordered from, irises ordered, and in the margin price paid (I try not to total these!) and date received. On another page, I list new acquisitions by category-TBs in one column, SDBs in another, etc. This is a good way of making sure you don't order the same iris from two different catalogs!

If you want, you can get a bigger notebook and use it for several years. I find, though, that I use mine for listing my hostas, daylilies, rhododendrons, etc., and just like to have a new notebook each year. Whatever you decide to do, I think you'll like this method and will probably come up with improvements which I hope you'll share with us.

THE MEDIANITE gladly accepts reports, articles and photos. Copy closing dates:

Spring	March 1	Fall	September 1
Summer	June 1	Winter	December 1

THE GOOD, THE PRETTY, & THE VIGOROUS

by Paul Black

Living with ones children, in this case iris children, over a long period of time makes their hybridizer very aware of their performance. Add to this that same persons bias for color and form and you have the subject of this article, what I consider to be my best median introductions.

There are introductions I like because of their all round performance, others I like because of their color, and others because of the breeding potential they have. Sometimes we are lucky and they all come out in one variety! At the top of the list, it would be a toss up between **RED ZINGER** (IB) and **CHUBBY CHEEKS** (SDB).

RED ZINGER (IB) would be at the top of the list except that it so far hasn't had the breeding impact that Chubby Cheeks has had. There is the possibility that it will become important as a breeder. This season I set several pods of seed on it with things such as Patacake and other tangerine bearded SDB's and IB's. Time will tell whether it will have any impact as a breeder. Red Zinger has deep smooth burgundy color with a darker black cherry spot in the fall. Some years the spot is more evident than in others. The beards are dark burgundy with an old gold overlay. The attribute that makes Red Zinger a great iris instead of a good one is that it grows well and the stalks can have three branches with a total of 9 or 10 buds. That is almost unheard of for an IB. One customer sent me a picture of Red Zinger in front a bush that she called Pinkster. It made a startling picture with Red Zinger set in contrast to the medium pink flowers of this shrub. If there were any doubts about its value in the garden, there wasn't after seeing this picture.

CHUBBY CHEEKS (SDB) in contrast to Red Zinger has a proven track record as a top notch breeder. The one difference in them is that Chubby doesn't have the garden impact that Red Zinger has. Chubby Cheeks has the ultimate in form and passes it on easily to succeeding generations. Standards are warm white with medium violet midrib and plicata marks inside a band of gray-violet. Stylearms are violet with white tops and falls are white with a violet plic band and narrow rim of gray-violet. The falls are very wide and round with small, precise ruffling that is very fitting for its size. Chubby needs a more prominent place where its subtle colors can be enjoyed without interference. All but one of my SDB introductions this year are descendants of Chubby Cheeks. A number of other hybridizers are having good success with it also.

MARY'S LAMB (SDB) would also be on a list of my introductions with exceptional attributes. Mary's Lamb comes from several generations of breeding for blue beards on white SDB's. For me, this is the most charming of all my SDB's. Pure white flowers have a brushing of yellow at the haft beside pale blue violet beards. Flowers are small and dainty, but with a nice round form. When it blooms, the blooms are all at one height and it appears as a clean

white carpet in the garden. With three buds, the bloom continues on for an extended time. SIGH which is similarly colored would be my favorite of this color except that it doesn't have the rampant growth that Mary's Lamb has. Sigh does have the extremely wide, rounded & ruffled form that comes from Chubby Cheeks. Mary's Lamb is still being used in breeding, but it seems difficult to intensify the blue of the beards.

TU TU TURQUOISE (SDB) was introduced almost completely for its color and width of fall, although it has plenty going for it other than color. Standards are white with a hint of turquoise and are what could be called informal since they lay outward and twist slightly. Actually they add a bit of distinctiveness and for me are quite acceptable since they hold that shape. Falls are very wide and are a bit darker than the standards with large deep turquoise spots around the turquoise beards. There is also a white ray pattern alongside the beards that helps set them off. Tu Tu for me represents a very calculated effort to put the color of the older Indian Jewel whose falls were hardly as wide as a pencil on a flower with good form. It took several generations, but Tu Tu is close to what I had in mind. The other plus for this variety is that it can rebloom in the fall. That was the way it received its first recognition here; not to be outdone by the tall bearded during the 1988 AIS convention here, it decided to rebloom at that time. There are some very interesting seedlings coming from this variety. One that is of interest is a white with turquoise hafts. The one flaw that Tu Tu has is that it can bloom too heavily without sufficient increase to produce good clumps. This seems to be more of a problem in warmer climates and less so in cooler areas.

WELL SUITED (SDB) is one of those varieties that people come into the garden and stop in front of and there is no doubt that they like it. It is a variety that has EVERYTHING an iris should. The one word that comes to mind when looking at it is elegant. It has the class of a classic tuxedo. Standards are medium purple. Falls are round and precisely ruffled. They are velvety purple black with a narrow edge of iridescent purple around them. Translucent white beards are tipped with purple and short white rays at the haft light up that area. Well Suited makes large clumps that bloom prolificly and makes a startling impact.

PATACAKE (SDB) represents another line of breeding that has been worked with for a number of years. Patacake actually comes from breeding to produce a pink with good substance, form, and growth while avoiding many of the other faults that pink varieties have. Patacake is a smooth creamy orange with orange beards tipped white. The form is wide and round and substance is excellent. The one place it falls short is that it pushes the top of the SDB class in height. It does however, allow sufficient space for the two branches to develop adequately and the blooms to be seen. Patacake is very vigorous and makes beautiful clumps.

CINNAMON APPLES (MDB) is one of those seedlings that named itself. When I looked at it the first time, I thought of those fresh

from the oven baked apples with cinnamon. Cinnamon Apples, the iris, is as appetizing as its edible counterpart. The flowers and stalks are perfectly proportioned for the MDB class and are some of the roundest and fullest formed while still maintaining the daintiness that the class demands. Standards are rich golden tan and falls are smooth chestnut red-brown with a narrow gold edge. Beards are deep red-brown with an old gold overlay.

PRIVILEGED CHARACTER (SDB) is one of those totally unique colored and patterned iris that a hybridizer lives for. Privileged Character is a plicata with the ground color being a strange pearly, silvery, light orchid. The standards have a midrib and wide plicata band of very red grape juice purple. The falls have the same color markings applied as a plicata band and a few hit and miss dots over the rest of the fall. This doesn't have as polished a form as Chubby Cheeks which it is descended from and it again is at the top of the SDB class, but there is no ignoring its merit in the garden. I suspect that this will breed some very interesting luminatas. Cleo Palmer says it is a luminata, but I suspect that others would dispute that.

Without going into detail, there are four other varieties that I find I like consistently from year to year here in the garden. **FORTE** still remains a unique and drawing color. **STARDATE** is a superbly formed dark blue that carries enough tangerine factor to breed tangerine bearded blues. Lastly comes **WAKE UP** that has to be one of the most vigorous and vibrant yellow iris around. The best description for it is rampant.

It has been fun writing this article and thinking about which of my own iris really please me and stand out in my mind after having grown them for a number of years. By the time a variety is introduced, it has been grown for 4 or 5 years and sometimes it is easy to lose track of the virtues of those varieties even though they are new to the iris consumer and connoisseur. Thanks for letting me bend your ear with my prejudices!

FAVORITE SDB INTRODUCTIONS

Lynda Miller (Indiana)

Dark Vader (R. & L. Miller '87) SDB perfectly proportioned at 11" and has what I think is perfect form, very round, falls horizontally flaring with ruffles. Color is very black with a contracting bushy light blue beard. I've had good report from all over the country of it performing very well including seeing it bloom well at the Median Muster.

Classy Babe (L. Miller '90) larger SDB at 14", very round petals and ruffled. The color I feel is the pinkest SDB to date. It is a light coral pink very similar to Beverly Sills with deeper coral pink veins forming a spot pattern on the falls. A half page picture of it was run in the magazine "Weekend Gardener".

Angel's Halo (L. Miller '91) another SDB with that perfect proportioned form like Dark Vader. It's an 11" reverse amona plicata. Standards are cream with light blue violet edges dotting toward the midribs. The horizontally flaring, ruffled falls are white with a few lines at the hafts. Stylearms are cream washed light blue violet. The only time it has been seen by AIS judges was at a show where it got best seedling and was voted an EC, it is uniquely different.

FAVORITE SDB INTRODUCTION

Bennett Jones (Oregon)

To ask those who work with standard dwarf irises to name the introduction they feel is their best is a challenge, for who is interested in slighting any of his children. That was the assignment, however, an interesting one and the results ought to be good reading. So challenge accepted, and for me, it will have to be Cotton Blossom. Cotton Blossom after having considered the novel and popular Gingerbread Man, the beautiful color of Rain Dance and more recently Sun Doll and Orange Tiger.

Cotton Blossom, 1969, came along when form and substance were qualities still lacking in much of the SDB world, it was a rather large step ahead in those areas. It brought me more letters than any of my introductions including two to inform me that cotton blossoms were not white which I already knew. The name was to indicate blossoms of cotton. Not so extensively used in hybridizing as perhaps it should have been, that omission may surface yet. Some years ago May Belle Wright incorporated it in her work for tangerine bearded SDBs leaving seedlings which Carol Lankow continued and in turn she left us such treasures as Broad Grin, Live Jazz, Pipestone and Straw Hat, all tangerine bearded SDBs each containing Cotton Blossom one or more times. Treasures to enjoy and to work with.

Cotton Blossom has held up in the symposium over the years indicating wide acceptance contributing to reasons enough, I think, to choose it as my best. I must confess, however, it was Harry Kuesel, a house guest at the time, who discovered it in the seedling beds, not I.

IN THE EYES OF THE BEHOLDER

by Monty Byers

"We see through different eyes". To keep one's ears open when among other iris lovers in an iris patch is to realize the full truth of this old adage. Even our own eyes see things differently -in time. Is there a single irisarian that sees irises just exactly the same as they did before they became one (an irisarian that is). I doubt it.

I know my eyes have been ever changing. They learned to see "good" and "bad" and I culled "bad" with relish. Now we're again growing some of these - older rebloomers I'd initially liked but learned to see as old fashioned and no longer worthy of garden space. Modern they're not but, to my eyes, some looked pretty dang good here last fall - graceful and pretty! Amazing!

My eyes couldn't even see the little ones at first, especially when there were tall in bloom. They were just a blur in my peripheral vision -not worthy of more than a cursory glance. Can remember marveling to myself that there were people that really liked them, even preferred them! Yes, our eyes can change!

Not only do we all see irises somewhat differently, have our own personal preferences -we also have different priorities in the sets of criterion we use to rate/rank them. Basically the same sets - form, substance, distinctiveness, cleanliness, balanced proportions, size, branching, bud count, hardiness, floriferousness, vigor, length of bloom period, etc. -but with at least slightly different values placed on each. With some particulars it's very nice if they excel -with others, we may not want them in our garden if they don't.

Top and foremost in my book is performance - above all else! Am finding it increasingly hard to continue liking any iris that doesn't usually perform well here... no matter how gorgeous it looks in a picture, or at some convention, or once in a blue moon here -or even if the individual flowers are pretty nice, but on a poor, wimpy plant. A few of my own introductions had better shape up or risk being disinherited! The real treasures to me are those few that look good and nearly always take in stride whatever they must, wherever they're grown, year after year.

The ability to rebloom well elevates performance into a whole new dimension. To have what it takes, not only to complete an acceptable oncer annual cycle - but to also give even more bloom and increases at other times of the year! The stronger, earlier, more reliable and widespread the reblooming ability, the higher the rating -in my book. Can make the difference between a couple of weeks or so of bloom, at best, annually from a good oncer, and months of bloom!

Besides trying to add things like new colors and color combos, lace, space age appendages, etc., most rebloomer hybridizers are tackling two major fronts simultaneously -quality (of flowers, stalks, etc.) and reblooming ability (intensifying the tendency). With rebloomer seedlings an upward swing on one front usually corresponds with a sharp seesawing downward on the other side but not always! When one can jump ahead on one front without losing ground on the other, progress is being made - and it is! The day is definitely coming, without a doubt (as Ben Hager and others have been predicting) when just about the only irises being sold will be rebloomers.

But I digress! The subject I was asked to write about was what I consider my finest median introductions thus far. "Finest"?!! - I pondered. Perhaps I should preface it a bit with some perspectives, the criterion I used to choose, I thought, while giving myself time to think about which I really do now consider my finest...and away I went, carried away!

Nearly all my medians thus far are rebloomers, possess at least some ability to rebloom. Several are amongst the strongest, most willing and reliable rebloomers ever! All are rebloomers or space agers and in both classes quality generally lags a little behind today's average for their unadorned, oncer contemporaries. Their innate strength and vigor -performing ability, is overall - outstanding. Most of those highest on the quality side have lately been the least high of this bunch on the performance side, and vice versa. It's really too soon to tell for many of these. Some performed superbly here 'til the year they were introduced - when they sulked! Some that haven't been doing very well here lately have been performing superbly elsewhere. Something I've recently considered is the fact that if one repeatedly sells all the halfway decent sized rhizomes, year after year, they don't have a chance to regain their momentum. Don't have a fair chance to show what they're made of. In time the finest, and the least fine, will prove themselves.

Of all my medians thus far **LOW HO SILVER** '89 (IB) is the one I'm the most proud of at this time. It's sure been proving itself elsewhere as well, so many have written exclaiming over it! Neither the form nor the coloring (silvery white) is exceptional, plenty OK but not great. The vigor and reblooming ability are great - undeniably, nearly unbelievably great! It's reblooming easily wherever anything will, even for some in toughest climates that had previously tried rebloomers without any success. Commonly starts in July or August and continues 'til the weather stops it! Superb proportions. Dainty horizontally flaring flowers on thin, graceful, well branched stalks. Gratant and made for bouquets! A new classic!

HI '90 - LOW HO's sib has tried to rebloom here but too late to make it so far. Was very pleasantly surprised to see it reblooming like crazy at Melrose Gardens this summer -and fall! A one-year plant gave loads of stalks over a long period and the flowers had their horns. Often reblooming space agers don't sport their appendages on their RE flowers. Though a little narrow it's really very pretty - white touched yellow at the hafts with blue beards and blue horns.

DARTS '90 (IB) gave a stalk last summer at Melrose also. Both it and LIKE A CHARM '89 (IB) have shown a slight RE tendency here. Wish DARTS was more consistent with its horns. My favorite IB space ager so far is LITTLE BIG HORN '89. The only IB that I know of that sports flounces, sometimes spoons or horns. Tannish yellow with maroon brown appendages. PALM SPRINGS '90 (IB) has shown great potential --combining superb quality with superb vigor and reblooming ability, but its growth fizzled badly last year here for some reason. Sure hope it's up to snuff again this year. BIRDBATH '89 (BB) is a very beautiful, very ruffled and ultra modern "Song Of Norway" space ager. Very consistent with its spoons. Didn't grow very well here last year though. Neither did CANDYLAND '88 (BB) a peachy amoena - though it's been growing and reblooming wonderfully for others, summer on! Have high hopes for STANZA '91 (BB) - time will tell! It's a very ruffled, very modern little plicata and has performed superbly spring and fall every year here.

All my SDB intros so far are rebloomers. Three quarters are BABY BLESSED children or grandchildren and several of these are rivaling their incredible, supercharged progenitor for vigor and reblooming earliness, strength and willingness. BABY BOOM '90, DARK CRYSTAL '88, GOLDEN CHILD '89 and SMELL THE ROSES '88 are the frontrunners at this time, by my priority criterion. FLOWER CHILD '89 and FRANKINCENSE '89, sibs from SMALL FLASH X DITTO, are probably the finest as far as form and coloring go - but haven't been exhibiting the strength here of the BABY BLESSED progeny. But this year's intros, HOT and EVER READY (sibs out of SUNSTRIP X FRANKINCENSE) have both been extremely strong here and both have extremely strong wills to rebloom. HOT will probably turn out to be the finest of all - in most people's eyes. The form, the coloring and the performance. TART '91 Hager/Byers - should go very far indeed, as well. Nothing can stop it if it performs elsewhere anything like it does here! A tremendous breakthrough - a real orange SDB that's a real rebloomer and very good to excellent in all respects!!!

One thing's for sure. we're all going to be seeing a lot more rebloomers shortly. Much hybridizing is being done in this area now around the country -even by formerly oncer-only hybridizers as well as lots of new hybridizers. I'm aware of several that are doing some very exciting and innovative work. Some of these that are super discriminating with their things should become overnight "names" in the iris world - just as soon as they finally let some of their cold country rebloomers hit the market.

Considering what we now have available to work with - the mind boggles at the possibilities! The IBs just around the corner - from the best of the SDBs and TBs already here! A wide open field! Big things are coming -in little packages as well as big ones! Beauty - in many sizes, colors and shapes - something for every beholder!

WHAT ARE MY FINEST INTRODUCTIONS ?

Carl Boswell
Concord, CA

After my sons, let me see!

SDB: I have always liked the smaller flower SDB, but the one that has done the best has a large flower, rebloomer PLUM PLUM, 1980, S. red-plum; F. darker, edged lighter. I have two favorites, ROYAL EYELASH, 1983, white with royal purple eyelashes, and CUTE STUFF, 1985, S. blue-lavender; F. ruby-maroon edged band of lavender-blue.

IB: BRASSIE LASS, 1973, my first introduction, a bright deep yellow with flaring falls that tipped up like little cups. I think it is a good IB because the flowers are not too large, which to my thinking many IB's are. BANDED BUTTERFLY, 1987, S. bright yellow; F. yellow with brown veining 2/3rds way down, then a white band with a yellow band edge, the flowers can be a little large, it has proven to be a good parent in hybridizing. APRICOT ALA MODE, 1989, S. light apricot; F. white with apricot hafts and 1/4" edge band. the children from it are a step toward a reverse apricot amoena.

MTB: I have had only two, CONCORD SPRITE, 1980, white with maroon and violet dotting and lines. I have many MTB seedlings, the ones that have good color the flowers are too large, which is a No No in MTB's.

BB: LADY CREAM, 1989, cream with darker edges, lace and ruffles, it has not a bright color as some, but the Lady is very showy. BANDED ROGUE, 1990, S. dark yellow; F. light brownish-yellow, edged with a yellow band, bright and showy.

AB-Med: this is a hard one, I liked them all, there are two that have a little edge. BABY RED MOHR 1986, garnet red, darker signal area, a miniature mohr. JEWEL OF OMAR, 1986, S. medium blue, edges and base purple; F. lime-yellow, maroon-violet around violet beard, greenish yellow styles.

1991 NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The following officers have been contacted and have agreed to serve another term in their respective offices of the Median Iris Society:

PRESIDENT: James Morris
FIRST-VICE PRESIDENT: Hooker T. Nichols
SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT: Dorothy Willott
SECRETARY: Ethel Baukus
TREASURER: James Foreman

The following people have agreed to serve on the Median Iris Society Board of Directors.

Term Expiring 1992	Term Expiring 1993	Term Expiring 1994
Terry Aitken	Gus Sindt	Eugene Tremmel
Dave Niswonger	Barbara Schmieder	Jim Hedgecock

Nominating Committee:

Barbara Schmieder, 566 Road to Nine Acre, Concord, MA 01742	(1991)
Anthony Willott, 26231 Shaker Blvd., Beachwood, OH 44122	(1992)
Mike Lowe, Rt. 3, Box 135, Blackstone, VA 23824	(1993)

We, the nominating committee, submit these names in nomination of their respective offices for the ensuing term.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Schmieder, Chairwoman
Nominating Committee

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