

'Chubby Cheeks' (SDB by Paul Black, 1985).

Photo: Mid-America Garden



'**Chubby Cheeks**' (Paul Black, R. 1984). Seedling 824E. SDB, height 12" (30 cm), Early bloom. Standards white ground, stitched light violet, greyed chartreuse band; falls white ground, stitched violet around outer portion, widely banded greyed chartreuse; pale violet beard tipped tangerine in throat; ruffled; pronounced sweet fragrance. Seedling 824E: Paul Black's seedling B80-20: ('Concord Touch' x 'Daisy') X 'Soft Air'). Mid-America Iris Gardens 1985. Cook-Douglas Medal 1991

Hybridizer's Comment: When the seedlings from the cross of Black's Seedling B8020 : ('Concord Touch' x 'Daisy') X 'Soft Air') bloomed, they were everything i could have hoped for. They ran the gamut from clean white ground color with sharp purple plicata markings to cream ground with brownish markings. Many had complete bands of color completely encircling the plicata markings and so was born the 'ringed plicata'. There was one that stood out from all the rest, seedling number 824E, later to be named 'Chubby Cheeks'. It had a rather subtle grayed violet plicata band on a warm white ground. The full, fat, rounded and ruffled form was a marked advancement in form and became it's hallmark trait. It begged to be named 'Chubby Cheeks' and as we've come to know, a good name never hurts. (from MEDIANITE-Spring 2008)

From the AIS blog July 27, 2015 "Standard Dwarf Bearded Irises: A Success Story" by Tom Waters:

"In the nearly 65 years since the first SDBs were introduced, there has been a steady improvement in form and substance. ...the greatest breakthrough was Paul Black's '**Chubby Cheeks**' in 1985. A prodigious parent for decades, this iris and its descendants set a new standard of form for the entire class."

'Chubby Cheeks' received an HM in 1987, an AM in 1989, and the Cook-Douglas Medal in 1991.

Over the next 30 years, there have been at least 246 irises registered with 'Chubby Cheeks' listed in the parentage of these irises, as noted in the official registrations. There are several more registered irises that don't have CC actually listed in the registration as being in the parentage, but 'Chubby Cheeks' is evident in the extended background when parents are researched.

Of these 246 irises, descendants of 'Chubby Cheeks' are registered in 8 iris classes:

13 MDB

168 SDB

56 IB

5 AB (OGB-)

1 MTB

1 BB

1 SPEC

1 TB

At least 50 different hybridizers have introduced irises with 'Chubby Cheeks' listed in the parentage of those iris registrations.

39 of these hybridizers are in North America, 6 in Europe, 2 in Russia, 3 in New Zealand.

Out of the 246 noted progeny, there have been 49 HM awards and 20 AM awards received. In addition, 7 of the direct first generation descendants of 'Chubby Cheeks' have received Special Medals:

'Cee Jay' IB Sass Medal Hybridizer: Lankow 1998

'Prince Of Burgundy' IB Sass Medal Hybridizer: Niswonger 1999

'Starbaby' SDB C-D Medal Hybridizer: Smith 2001

'Starwoman' IB Sass Medal Hybridizer: Smith 2005

'Ruby Eruption' SDB C-D Medal Hybridizer: Chapman 2006

'Yak Attack' MDB C-W Medal Hybridizer: Kasperek 2008

'Persian Sapphire' AB Mohr Medal Hybridizer: Baumunk 2011

One of these won the American Dykes Medal: 'Starwoman' by Marky Smith 2008

There are many more irises that have 'Chubby Cheeks' in the second, third or fourth generations back that have won HMs, AMs, and Special Medals.

Some of these Special Medal winners are:

IB irises winning the Sass Medal: 'Nickel', 'Devil May Care', 'Red Hot Chili', 'Rimaround'

MDB irises winning the C-W Medal: 'Gecko Ecko', 'Chemistry', 'Dollop Of Cream'

SDB irises winning the C-D Medal: 'Eye Of The Tiger'

The Motion regarding the Board of Directors Award was passed July 24, 2019:

that the Board of Directors Award be reinstated in the Handbook of Judges and Show Officials, to read:

"This distinctive award is neither a garden award nor an exhibition award. This award is made by The American Iris Society's Board of Directors to honor an iris which has not won a Dykes Medal, but which shows clearly in its progeny that it is among the greats of irisdom. Candidate cultivars for this award are presented to the Board of Directors by the Awards Committee but can be nominated by any AIS member. The Board of Directors Award, which is not an annual award, was established in 1972 and first awarded in 1975."

Discussion: In 2008, this award was deleted from the Judge's Handbook by the Board of Directors. But there hasn't been a new edition of the handbook since 2008, so the award has continued to be in the handbook. The reason for reinstating this award is that there are cultivars out there that have not won a Dykes Medal and should be recognized for the number and quality of the progeny they have produced. Up until a few years ago, Dykes Medals were won primarily by tall bearded irises and this award could recognize irises from other classes. It's important to remember that most awards go to the cultivar and not to the hybridizer.

Past Board Of Directors Award winners:

'Tobacco Road' (Rudolph Kleinsorge, TB iris 1941) AIS BOD Award 1975

'Snow Flurry' (Clara Rees, TB iris 1939) AIS BOD Award

'White Swirl' (Fred Cassebeer, SIB iris 1957) AIS BOD Award 1987

Submitted by: Gary White

November 5, 2021