



Region 1 Bulletin

American Iris Society

Winter, 2001

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2001 Median Odyssey and MDB Mini-convention May 18 - 20, 2001

MAY 2000 REGION 1 MEDIAN ODYSSEY PREVIEW TOUR

Region One members took the opportunity in May 2000 to visit four tour gardens and check out first year bloom on Median Odyssey guest iris. The cool dark drizzly day seemed at first to be a negative. After several gardens we realized that the day's conditions were suited for appreciation of iris blossom color. Bright colors stood out in contrast to dank, grey surroundings. There was no sun to fade flower color, so we could also appreciate the more subtle pastel colorations in all their fullness.

First garden stop was Stephanie Markham and



*The Willott's **Persian Wood** (IB)*

Larry Wilson's Toadland in Norfolk. Here are some of the most beautifully grown bearded iris in all of New England. The garden has been extended toward the woods to produce impressively landscaped beds for the Odyssey guest irises. The Willott's IB **Persian Wood** complimented the garden environment: a clean subtle tan plicata with a contrasting pure violet colored beard. Brad



A view of Toadland, garden of Stephanie Markham and Larry Wilson



*Brad Kasperek's **Aardvark Antickz** (IB)*

Kasperek's work with broken color patterns was evidenced in his IB **Aardvark Antickz**: standards are unbroken yellow-tan but the falls blend yellow, tan and violet with brown haft accents and random white breaks. Marky Smith's IB **Delirium** impressed with its bud count, proportion and branching, which comes packaged with intense and distinctive flower color. Standards are yellow-orange, beard is orange while falls are intense contrasting purple with a thin orange edge. We regret that the tour day did not correspond to peak bloom for Stephanie's MTB



*Marky Smith's **Delirium** (IB)*

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Marky Smith's **Starwoman** (IB)

seedlings. Hopefully they will be on display for the 2001 Odyssey tours!

Next was Hermit Medlars Walk, the growing commercial garden and seedling collection of Bill and Ada Godfrey in Foxborough. On this day the introductions of Marky Smith were at peak: SDB's **Marksman**, an orange bitone, and **Incendiary**, dark red and yellow plicata. IB's **Delirium**,



Marky Smith's **Black Curreant** (IB)



One of the convention beds at Hermit Medlar's Walk, the garden of Bill and Ada Godfrey



Martha Hutcheson's garden

We moved on to Martha Hutcheson's garden in a secluded wooded neighborhood in Weston. Writing for those of us who had not visited Martha before, her garden surprised and amazed us. In the guest bed up top near the house we were captivated by two of the Craig's I. aphylla creations: **Quinalt** is a beautifully ruffled tan and violet bicolor. The beard is orange tipped violet,

matching the color contrast of standards and falls. **Chartres** is a dark violet amoena. In Martha's soil and the dark day we saw a dark brown infusion at the base of the standards and the top of the falls. On the falls the color went from dark brown through deep violet to light violet edges. Moving to the backyard we passed a charming little display bed outside the picture window but we weren't prepared to experience the terraced hillside that Martha has created in



*Lynda Miller's **Fooled Me** (IB)*



*The Craig's aphylla hybrid **Quinalt** (BB)*



*The Craig's aphylla hybrid **Chartres** (IB)*



Martha Hutcheson's seedling 96-333BDT

her backyard. On the upper path we admired the well branched IB seedlings from Martha's cross **96-333BDT** of the red-white-blue TB from France, **Attrape Coeur**, with the tan SDB from Australia, **Esoteric**. The results are clean light violet pastel flowers with orange beards. On the bottom terrace, in the middle of the circle of judges, stood Martha's IB seedling **97-6V-9 (Sun Doll x Pirate's Quest)**. The seedling color was comparable to color of both parents. Ruffled flower form appeared superior to the form of both parents. Branching and proportion are impeccable.



Connie Hall's garden in Bedford promises to be an ideal convention garden. There are expansive, perfectly manicured beds and lot of room for visitors to gather among incredibly well grown clumps of bearded iris. The guest iris looked to be happy here, showing good increase and bloom on first year plants. Her collection of established medians shows enviable presentation, selection and variety. Among the many newer iris were Paul



*Two views of Martha Hutcheson's IB seedling **Lucky Old Sun** (97-6V-9)*

Black's dark IB **Sinister Desire**, Richard Tasco's ruffled light yellow IB **Love Unlimited**, and Keith Keppel's super clean plicata IB **Whistle**.

On the way back home we stopped at the Schmieder Garden, a 2001 Odyssey convention garden and for years our destination to observe the best in recent Median iris. Their personal collection rivals the Odyssey guests for showing the newest and best. We were blown away by Keith Keppel's purple luminata IB **Moonglade** and Barry Blyth's **Swoon**, a light blue-grey SDB with dark blue beards surrounded by a lightly veined spot pattern.



*Richard Tasco's **Love Unlimited** (IB)*



*Paul Black's **Sinister Desire** (IB)*



*Keith Keppel's **Whistle** (IB)*



A view of Connie Hall's garden

Although this May 2000 tour was a wonderful day we saw only the tip of the iceberg of the potential 2001 Median Odyssey display. The guest iris will have another year to increase and the benefit of a snow covered winter to help put on the supreme show this coming May.



*Keith Keppel's **Moonglade** (IB)*



*David Schmieder's seedling
94-0W-01*



*Barry Blyth's **Swoon** (SDB)*

The Bulletin is on the Internet!

See the photographs in this issue in full color on the internet. The complete issue is available in PDF format which can be read using an Acrobat 4.0 reader. Additionally the photos can be seen with just an internet web browser. Go to www.irisgarden.org/librarymain.htm for more information.



Connie Hall's patio features this lovely raised bed

Median Odyssey 2001,
including a Dwarf Iris
Mini-convention.
May 18, 19, 20, 2001

The MEDIAN ODYSSEY 2001, sponsored by The Iris Society of Massachusetts, is planned for Friday, May 18, and Saturday, 19, 2001, and will feature eight gardens in Massachusetts. By popular request, we have planned an extra day, Sunday, May 20, as a Dwarf Iris Mini-convention. Over sixty hybridizers have sent guest irises and there are twice as many irises this time as there were for the Median Muster in 1989.

Thursday evening, May 17, there'll be a welcome banquet at the hotel, and a chance to chat with friends and catch up on news.

Friday's four gardens include those of Lynn and Peter Markham of Lunenburg, and John and Lucy Burton in South Hamilton, in northern Massachusetts, all of whom have been breeding bearded irises for quite a number of years. In fact, John Burton received the Williamson-White medal last year for his miniature tall bearded iris, **BILLIE THE BROWNIE**. Among the many Burton median seedlings you'll be able to see John's pumila seedlings, too, while the Markham's who have been familiar names in the median field for years are also hosting a few MDB's.

The other two gardens are those of Connie Hall in Bedford who has quite a collection of MDB's as

well as medians, and of Jan Sacks and Marty Schafer in Carlisle where you'll see many different species.

There are three shopping malls, two theatres, and dozens of restaurants adjacent to the hotel, a commuter rail to Boston within minutes for those who have enough energy left to go into Boston's North End (for the great Italian food), or Faneuil Hall (for its enormous selection of international food), or a night at the Pops, or a free lecture at Boston University. If you've had enough travelling for one day and would rather stay in the hotel, an hour's judges training is being offered on Show Judging.

There are four more gardens on Saturday. The gardens of Martha Hutcheson, in Weston, and Alice Schaefer, in Newton, have the most intermediate, miniature tall, and border bearded irises. Further afield, in Norfolk you'll see the gardens of Stephanie Markham and partner Larry Wilson, and in neighbouring Foxborough, the gardens of Bill and Ada Godfrey. There's the choice of an hour's judges training in Bill and Ada Godfrey's gardens, or an extra wander around the convention beds, or the MDB beds (with over 150 MDB's). Saturday evening's Awards Banquet concludes the Median Odyssey.

Sunday morning will see buses taking conventioners to down east Maine for the mini Dwarf Iris convention. The two gardens on tour have many miniature dwarf bearded irises and a variety of other plants to see. There's more

likelihood the MDB's will be in bloom here, but there're also many, many other varieties of irises and plants to see, too. Before returning to Massachusetts, there'll be an opportunity to vote for the best MDB, and to see who wins the award.

Buses will return to Logan Airport to drop off those who are catching a late plane to Pennsylvania for the following week's American Iris Society convention, and then on to the hotel to drop off those who are remaining for one more night in Natick.

Massachusetts heads the nation in the number of accredited universities and colleges located here. The weekend of the convention is the weekend for many of the universities' graduation exercises and room rates in other hotels are astronomical. We have been able to keep overall costs within limits by choosing a hotel which is close to a very efficient but low-priced bus service going to and from Logan Airport, by working very closely with the Crowne Plaza, and by the Iris Society of Massachusetts heavily subsidizing the registration fee.

MEDIAN ODYSSEY REGISTRATION

Registration will be limited to 188 people (four buses of 47 each) so register early. There will be no partial registrations Median Odyssey: Registration is: \$90 (after March 18, 2001, it will be \$110) .Registration includes two continental breakfasts, Friday and Saturday morning, two lunches, and two dinners.

DWARF MINI-CONVENTION REGISTRATION

The Dwarf Iris Mini-convention registration is \$25. Included is a continental breakfast, Sunday morning. Lunch is provided by the Maine Iris

Society.

Convention Headquarters:

Crown Plaza Boston-Natick
1360 Worcester Rd
Natick MA 01760
1-800-2-Crowne

Room Rates \$126.00 plus 9.7% sales tax
Up to four people in a room (some rooms will not accommodate four). Guests check with the hotel when you make your reservations.

Please reserve your room directly with the hotel using the name Median Odyssey Block. Cut off date for these rooms is April 17, 2001. The above rate cannot be guaranteed after this date. Transportation information will be provided in your registration confirmation. There are Logan Express buses from Logan Airport to the bus terminal in Framingham, \$14 round trip; \$12 round trip seniors. The hotel will send a shuttle bus to pick you up from the bus terminal which is around the corner.

Who Brought Which Iris? - *the answer*

Page 12 of the Winter 2000 issue featured a puzzle called *Who brought Which Iris?* The answer to the puzzle:

First - Evelyn with **THORNBIRD** and *I. versicolor*;
Second - Larry, **MYSTIQUE** and *I. cristata*;
Third - Keith, **VANITY** and *I. virginica*;
Fourth - Joe, **IMMORTALITY** and *I. pseudacorus*; and *Last* - Joyce, **SUPERSTITION** and *I. tectorum*.

**Miniature Iris at the Median Odyssey
by Ada Godfrey**

Just to remind you that May 18, 19, and 20th are the dates for our Median Odyssey 2001 and Dwarf Iris Mini-convention, here in New England, with eight gardens in Massachusetts and two gardens in Maine on the tour.

I may have failed to report on the species iris that are included in the convention. Falling into this category of miniature species are the cristatas which belong in the Evansia or crested iris subsection. Convention beds out in the open are not the place to find them. We put them circling a tree next to some arisaemas and hostas, not too far from where we grow a selection of other wild and hybridized cristatas. Our own cristatas are under maples which are very greedy when it comes to food and moisture. The cristatas thrive, and their thin rhizomes creep about over the soil. They battle with foxgloves and hostas, grass and gracilipes,

primroses and columbine and, come May, their broad green leaves are almost hidden by the mass of flowers in whites, lavenders and blues with yellow signals and crested ridges on the falls.

We have cristatas from David and Barbara Schmieder, presently under seedling number, which are all distinctive. For example, one of them looks like an amoena from a distance, that is, it looks as if it has white standards and blue falls, until you walk nearer for a closer look. Nobody walks by the cristatas without bending down to admire the details of the toothed crests.

Jan Sacks and Marty Schafer of Joe Pye Weeds Garden, also have cristatas in the convention one of which is being introduced this year under the name, **Little Jay**. What makes it so different is **Little Jay** has no yellow in the signal, the yellow has been replaced by a deep blue

Median Odyssey 2001 and Dwarf Mini-Convention Registration Form

Please print names of registrants clearly, exactly as you want them printed on your name badge.

Name: _____ Region: _____

Address: _____

and

Name: _____ Region: _____

Address: _____

for ___ Median Odyssey 2001 (\$90; \$110 after 3/18/2001) Friday, 5/18 and Saturday, 5/19/01
 ___ MDB Mini-Convention (\$25) Sunday 5/20/01

Please make checks for one or both conventions payable to the **Iris Society of Massachusetts**

which makes for a very distinctive blossom. Of course, they are all extremely vigorous and like all cristatas, there is a mass of bloom in May.

We have some pumilas, too, in the convention, but they need more sunlight than the cristatas. Of course pumilas are famous for having been used as a parent, along with tall bearded, of the standard dwarf bearded. They're also famous for their spot pattern. Two hybridizers of note who use pumilas in their crosses are Lynda Miller of Millers Manor Garden, and Tony and Dorothy Willott. The Willott's **Burst of Blue** blossomed in our convention bed last spring and we loved it. It has white standards and falls with an impressively eye-catching navy blue spot. We don't have any of Lynda's pumilas in the convention bed but we do have **Bitsy Blue**, in our own beds which is fast becoming one of our all time favourites. Part of its charm is it is so tiny. It clumps fast and in late April, early May, slowly unfurls exposing tiny turquoise blue on cream blossoms.

John Burton has some species crosses in the convention too from a 40 chromosome MDB by an aphylla. The one in our garden is a very pretty plicata but grows a little tall. Look out for its MDB-size plicata sibling in Maine.

Then, of course, there are the results of crosses using standard dwarf bearded. Its a logical choice to cross the standards together as they are descended from pumilas and carry the genes for shortness. When crossed to another, some of the resulting plants will be miniature. Some I thought were lovely are Brad Kasperek's, **African Wine** in cabernet and chrysanthemum crimson (yes, that's

the description in the DIS 2000 Checklist, isn't it lovely), and his **Purple Puma** in dark violet purple with wisteria blue beards. **Coral Carpet** by Chuck Chapman of Canada, is beautiful, too. It is a ready increaser and provides colour when you need it on dark days in spring.

We have just a few of the MDBs in our convention beds as it is very unlikely they will be in bloom in May. Where they will be seen, however, is in Maine, in the gardens of Shirley Pope, in Gorham, and Marie and Warren Hazelton, South Norway. Shirley, and Marie and Warren, have all of the MDBs sent in by the hybridizers in their gardens. When we travel up there in the spring, round about this date, for the Maine Iris Society shows which are always spectacular, we're always sure to see MDBs on the show bench. They grow them to perfection up there.

Registrations are coming in steadily. Dwarf irises and Maine are both very popular. We hope you'll be there.

AIS Dues Increase in 2002

AIS annual dues will increase by \$2 as of January 1, 2002 to \$20 single or \$25 dual. It could be advantageous to purchase a triennial membership in 2001 at \$43 single or \$54 dual, to postpone the increase. Life memberships are also available for \$360 single or \$435 dual. See page 1 of the January 2001 AIS Bulletin for current membership rates. AIS membership renewals should be sent to **Anner M. Whitehead, P.O. Box 14750, Richmond, VA 23221-4750**

Region 1 Business Meeting October 7, 2000

RVP Ada Godfrey called the meeting to order. She recognized the Connecticut Iris Society for hosting the Regional meeting. She introduced Dick Sparling, hybridizer of MDB's, past RVP Region 4, and past president of the Dwarf Iris Society. Dick has relocated to Connecticut. Ada welcomed Louise Dunphy who has joined AIS and WNEIS this past year.

Region 1 Treasurer Marty Schafer presented the Treasurer's Report. He suggested that in consideration of Region 1's financial health that Region 1 not ask affiliates for money donations to Region 1 this year. Motion that Region 1 not request donations from affiliates in 2000 was made seconded and passed. WNEIS suggested that affiliates donate toward the ISM Median Odyssey in lieu of Region 1, as ISM is subsidizing the Odyssey registration fees to keep the cost of attending the Median Odyssey affordable. Motion made, seconded and passed to accept the Treasurer's Report.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the October 1999 Region 1 Business Meeting minutes as recorded by Secretary Peter Young and printed in the past Region 1 Bulletin.

David Schmieder, chair of the Region 1 Nominating Committee presented the following slate of officers: Ada Godfrey RVP; Bob Sawyer Asst. RVP; Marty Schafer Treasurer; Peter Young Secretary; Lynn Markham Nominating Committee

(replacing David Schmieder). Motion made to elect the slate was seconded and passed.

For New Business Barbara Schmieder moved that when an AIS Board Member resides in Region 1, Region 1 will pay the AIS national convention registration for the Board member. Motion was seconded and in discussion Shirley Pope spoke in favor of the motion as it would significantly benefit future Board members. Motion passed unanimously.

Minting of the Warburton medals has been recently completed. Barbara Schmieder presented the Warburton medals posthumously to Sarah Tiffney (Snow Prince, 1998 winner) and to Marty Schafer and Jan Sacks (Roaring Jelly, 1999 and Careless Sally, 2000). Barbara also recognized the 2000 runnerups in the Warburton balloting: Dirigo Debutante and Neat Trick, both hybridized by John White.

Ada Godfrey reviewed plans for the 2001 Median Odyssey/Dwarf Iris Society convention. The four buses limit registration to first 188 people. Eight Massachusetts gardens will be toured Friday and Saturday. On Sunday the Pope and Hazelton gardens with MDB iris plantings and guest iris will be visited. There are over 1,500 guest irises received from 61 hybridizers. As the dates conflict with college graduation ceremonies the Crown Plaza Natick was selected as the best overall host considering room rate and access to Logan airport. The registration fee has been kept low through the efforts of the planning committee and special fund raising organized by ISM. Judges training will be offered: one hour Friday

in a garden and one hour Friday evening. Ada urged all attendees to register early. When registrations exceed 188 a waiting list will be setup to replace dropouts.

It was announced that Peter Young has attained Master Judge status. Ellen Gallagher is now a Garden Judge. The Region congratulates Ellen for taking over as editor of the Siberian Iris Review.

Motion to adjourn seconded and passed. Followed by the Region 1 Auction. After a break for lunch, Lorena Reid presented slides on her Japanese and Sino-Siberian iris.

AIS Award Winners from Region 1

Creations of Region 1 hybridizers have been recognized through the 2000 AIS Awards made on the basis of ballots returned by AIS judges in the US and Canada. The HM Award went to three Region 1 Siberian Iris: **RIVERDANCE**, the ruffled blue '97 introduction of Marty Schafer/Jan Sacks, **BLACKBERRY JUBILEE**, marbled red-violet with light blue styles also a '97 Schafer/Sacks intro, and **LITTLE BLUE SPARKLER**, a small flowered I. sibirica hybridized by the late Sarah Tiffney and introduced through the efforts of Pope's Perennials in 1996. An HM award went to one Region 1 Species iris, **SUSLIK**, I. pumila, introduced by John Burton.

Classic Connecticut Iris Excels at Royal Horticultural Society Trials

Black Sergeant placed fourth at the Royal Horticultural Society's Long Term Trial for tall bearded iris at Wisley in the United Kingdom and was awarded the prestigious Award of Garden Merit. The late Fred Gadd and Mary Gadd introduced **Black Sergeant** back in 1984.

Beatrice A. Warburton Medal 2000
by Lynn Markham

The Warburton Medal ballot in 2000 included no less than SEVENTY-SIX irises introduced by Region One breeders from 1990 through 1997. This is probably the longest list that our judges will ever have to deal with (unless our breeders start mass producing). The reason is that at the award's inception in 1998, we reached all the way back to 1990 for "eligibles", and none except the medal winners were dropped from the ballot through this year because we wanted each iris to have a fair period of time to be evaluated. The attrition begins in 2001, when 1990 and '91 introductions will be dropped; '92s and '93s will be eliminated in 2002, and '94s and '95s in 2003. That will bring us back to a "normal" ballot, including only irises that have been on the market no less than three and no more than eight years.

In any case, partly because of the size of the ballot but even more because of the tremendous quality represented, the competition for the Warburton Medal was a real "horse race", with 31 AIS Region One judges casting votes for a total of 34 irises - and only a five point spread between the winner and the second runner-up! The ballot counters were completely in the dark about the results until the last ballot was in. Fun!!

And the winners are (drum roll, please!):

Warburton Medal CARELESS SALLY
SIB Schafer/Sacks 1996 22 POINTS

First Runner-up DIRIGO DEBUTANTE
JI John White 1994 20 POINTS
Second Runner-up NEAT TRICK
SIB John White 1997 17 POINTS

Besides the medal winner and the runners-up there were four irises receiving double digit scores in the voting:

SNOW TREE (SDB-Sobek '90) with 16 points, **PEIGNOIR** (TB-Markham '96) and **HARPSWELL SNOWBURST** (SIB-McEwen '91) with 15 points each, and **BOZRAH** (AB-Gadd '90) with 13 points.

Another six irises received more than five points, in alphabetical order:

BILLIE THE BROWNIE (MTB-J. Burton '92), **CHANDLER'S CHOICE** (SIB-McEwen '95), **CROSS YOUR FINGERS** (SDB-Godfrey '96), **ELISABETH MCEWEN** (SIB-J.White '96), **HARPSWELL VELVET** (SIB-McEwen '91), and **MARGINAL WAY** (MTB- Sobek '93).

CONGRATULATIONS to ALL !!!!

Footnote: scoring system for the medal has each Region One judge vote for three irises in preferential order. Four points are awarded for each first placement, two points for each second placement, one point for each third placement. Ties are broken by comparing the number of first, second and third placements; "real" ties (even on all counts) result in duplicate awards.

ISM Median Sale and Auction August 5, 2001

Instead of the Apogon Auction, ISM will hold a sale of the convention medians from Median Odyssey 2001. There may be some apogon iris but the emphasis will be on median iris. Our hosts will be Barbara and David Schmieder Concord, Massachusetts.

Come join us in the morning for slides and conversation. After lunch we have a sale of irises. Great bargains as we expect the more prolific convention medians will be on the sale table! Then the newer irises will be auctioned. All are invited and we have quite a good time.

Schedule of Events

10:30 AM	Set up, coffee and conversation
11:00 AM	Slides of the irises on sale
12:00 PM	Brown bag lunch. Beverages and dessert will be provided.
1:00 PM	Sale table opens

When the dust settles from the sale tables, the auction will begin!

Please bring a chair and a brown bag lunch. Beverages and dessert will be provided.



Careless Sally SIB Schafer/Sacks 1996
Winner of the 2000 Warburton Medal

2001 Fall Regional Meeting October 6, 2001

This year's fall meeting will feature Don and Ginny Spoon of Virginia on "How to Achieve a Long Season of Iris Bloom". Don and Ginny have one of the largest commercial iris gardens on the East Coast with an extensive hybridizing program. They have a passion for reblooming iris of all sizes and are frequent contributors to the AIS Bulletin on a wide range of subjects.

The annual business meeting will start the morning followed by an auction of iris or garden-related items just before lunch.

ISM will host the meeting at the Bedford Town Center in Bedford, Massachusetts. Lunch will be served and ISM expects the cost to be less than \$10 per person. You may also bring your own lunch if you prefer.

IN MEMORIAM - BARBARA ROBERTS

In November Region One lost a leading grower, hybridizer and connoisseur of tall bearded iris, Barbara (Mrs. Keith) Roberts. Barbara grew a large and eclectic collection of bearded iris in Barre, in central Massachusetts. Her growing conditions were severe for southern New England. The weather always seemed colder and the wind stronger for the iris in her garden. Barbara and Keith did a beautiful job creating and adding beds of iris to accommodate her collection of cultivars and TB seedlings. Barbara had a special appreciation of clear, subtle, pastel flower color in iris she selected to grow (like **PEARL CHIFFON**) and in iris that she hybridized. An example would be her 1986 introduction **MISTY HUES**, a light beige-peach TB which she put into commerce after urging from Bob Sobek. Barbara worked to produce hardy pink TB's for New England. In 1983 she introduced **KISSIN' COUSIN** and **ILLUSION IN LACE**, both having **PINK TAFFETA** as one parent. In 2000 she introduced **NO GREATER LOVE**, a child of **VANITY** which has improved branching, bud count and foliage while maintaining reliability and length of bloom. Barbara had a special passion for the reverse amoena color pattern, colored standards and white falls. In 2000 she introduced two: **AURORA'S GOWN**, a pastel yellow reverse amoena, and **WINTER ETCHINGS**, a blue-violet reverse amoena. Barbara's legacy with iris growers will be tied closely to her 1985 introduction, **JAUNTY AIRE**. This is the rare yellow TB that performs in New England, and for some iris

growers is the best performing TB of all: reliable bloom every year, floriferous, disease resistant, unaffected by wind and rain.

Barbara was a long standing supporter of Region One, a member of the Iris Society of Massachusetts, a member of the Western New England Iris Society, an astute AIS judge, and a close friend to many Region One irisarians.

IN MEMORIAM - JANET MERRILL

Janet Merrill was a great friend of irises and Region 1. She served as treasurer of the Region for 12 years and personally mailed the Region's Bulletins and meeting notices. When Janet became treasurer, the Region's finances were weak and through her careful efforts, the Regions treasury increased fifteen-fold by the end of her term as treasurer. Janet was an AIS Judge and she served as the registrar for 1983 National AIS convention in Boston.

Janet was a great supporter of Region 1 hybridizers and she had one of the finest collections of iris bred in New England. Janet worked as a nurse in Concord, New Hampshire and was a colleague of Dr. Graves who he introduced her to the American Iris Society.

Janet had a keen sense of history. She was a graduate of Mount Holyoke College and her thesis was on the root causes of the American Revolution. One of the ways in which she shared her love of history was through her delightful doll

collection. Janet commissioned dolls of several historic figures, including Mary Lyons, founder of Mount Holyoke College. She used her dolls to bring old New England to life. Janet created a hilarious presentation called "The Parlour Meeting" which reenacted a prayer meeting featuring many classic rural New England personalities. This was a favorite program of New England doll clubs and other organizations.

Harley Briscoe introduced the Siberian iris **Janet K. Merrill** in 1985. They became friends through an AIS robin. Harley had asked Janet if he could name a white SDB in her honor so she was quite amazed to learn there was a picture of a gorgeous *Siberian* iris in **Flower and Garden** magazine called **Janet K. Merrill**. Janet was not a subscriber so she had to search for a copy so she could see "her" iris for herself!



Dr. Currier and Elisabeth McEwen with the AIS Gold Medal. Shirley Pope presented the medal to Dr. McEwen on behalf of the American Iris Society at the 2000 Maine Iris Society Japanese Iris Show. Dr. McEwen joined AIS in 1956. He has introduced more than 160 Siberian and Japanese iris. and authored three of the definitive books on Japanese and Siberian iris. He was awarded 5 Morgan-Wood Medals, 5 Payne Medals, the AIS Hybridizers medal in 1976 and the AIS Gold Medal in 1999.

Region 1 2000 Show Results

Show	Silver Medal	Bronze Medal	Queen of Show	Exhibitor
Maine Iris Society Spring Show Iris Society of Massachusetts	The Hazeltons J Sacks & M Schafer	The Whites The Schmieders	Bedford Lilac (SDB) I. tectorum (SPEC)	Julie Baither J Sacks & M Schafer
Western New England Iris Society	Andrew Wheeler	Deborah Wheeler	I. cartholinae (SPEC)	Deborah Wheeler
Maine Iris Society Maine Iris Society Japanese Iris Show	The Moors Paul Dotsie	The Whites The Moors	Idols Dream (TB) Dirigo Pink Milestone (JI)	The Whites The Whites

Artistic Division Results

Show	Best Design	Artistic Sweepstakes	Best Design - Youth
Maine Iris Society Spring Show Iris Society of Massachusetts Western New England Iris Society	Peter Young Kathy Marble Kathy Marble	Peter Young Kathy Marble Kathy Marble	
Maine Iris Society Maine Iris Society Japanese Iris Show	Peter Young Shanna Desothe	Nancy McNeal Shanna Desothe	Kelsey Best Jolene Best

2001 IRIS INTRODUCTIONS OF BILL AND ADA GODFREY
Hermit Medlars Walk
3 Pierce St (Rte 140), Foxborough MA 02035

APPLE PIPPIN (Godfrey W&A) Standard Dwarf Bearded 12" E-M \$15.00

Softly domed white standards with green mid-ribs, beautifully rounded white falls slightly tinted blue, with green hafts, and white beards orange in throat. It has beautiful blossoms and grows like mad here. Excellent increase habits, makes this a lovely clump for the front of the border.

This comes from a cross of two miniature dwarf bearded (MDB's). The pod parent is **Hey There**, one of Carol Lankow's introduced by Terry Aitken in '92, a very well shaped MDB with excellent growing habits here in New England, crossed by **Tooth Fairy**, Bennett Jones' orange amoena ('93) MDB which also has excellent growth habits, by which we mean not only does it increase well but it stays within the AIS imposed boundaries of 8". **Apple Pippin**, though, grows to 12" and is a standard dwarf bearded iris.

We've been painstakingly mingling the genes of irises we want to use so we'll have the tools we want for future crosses. Not all the results have been as satisfying as this one. **Apple Pippin** is a very well shaped iris with lovely rounded standards and falls plus tiny serrations, which we hope is the precursor to lace. We live in hope! As well as the tiny serrations it also gets its red genes from **Tooth Fairy**, and we've sprinkled pollen liberally. It's fertile both ways and, another plus, seeds from crosses using pod or pollen seem to germinate very quickly. **HEY THERE X TOOTH FAIRY**

CRAFTED (Dunderman, M L/Varner W T) MTB 20" E-M \$20.00

Closed creamy white standards with half inch rose plicata edging; creamy white falls edged with quarter inch rose plicata lines and rose edging; yellow-rose hafts; deep yellow beards orange in throat.

This introduction is Mary Louise Dunderman's classy pink plicata miniature tall bearded (MTB), another in her long line of pink plicatas, which Mary Louise and Terry Varner selected for introduction before her death. It has excellent increase habits and puts on a lovely display - three branches and nine buds makes for longer flowering. **CRAFTED** comes from a long line of diploid pinks and pink plicatas with **Crystal Ruffles** three times in its lineage, crossed by **Rosemary's Dream**. It is difficult to set seed with **Crystal Ruffles** and it's to Mary Louise's credit that she was able to do so three times at least! The name is apt, not only fitting the precision of the plicata markings but reflecting Mary Louise's careful selection of parents to produce this lovely work of art. CC-450 pale pink: (AA-229 orchid pink:(Y-894 rose x Y-798 rose) x AA-353 pink: (Y-665 pink tinged white x W-185 dark pink plic)) X **ROSEMARY'S DREAM**

HEART'S RADIANCE (Sobek, R) MTB 24" M \$20.00

Violet center blended yellow toward margins of standards; falls light amethyst violet, hafts blended yellow; golden orange beards; sweet fragrance.

This introduction is one of Bob Sobek's miniature tall bearded specials, meaning his irises have great growth habits and this is no exception. It is out of **Carolyn Rose**, a Dunderman MTB, which is one of Bob's all time favourites to use in crosses, crossed by **Aachen Elf**. **Heart's Radiance** is a lovely well shaped MTB with plenty of blossoms plus a sweet fragrance, an important feature for a table iris. It is especially lovely when the sun illuminates the heart of the flower, and on a sunny day, when the sun catches them just right, the blossoms explode with radiance. **AACHEN ELF X CAROLYN ROSE**

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 webpage: <http://home.ici.net/~hmwalk>
 catalogue to in-region members upon request



Left: Shirley Pope presents the American Iris Society Williamson-White Medal to John Burton. John's **Billie the Brownie** won the highest award for the Miniature Tall Bearded iris class in 1999. The award was presented in the garden of Bill and Ada Godfrey during the Region 1 Spring Meeting, May 21, 2000.

Below: John White's 2000 introduction, **Dirigo Pink Milestone** (JI) won Queen of Show at the 2000 Maine Iris Society Japanese Iris Show. John reports that this iris survived last year's terrible winter in Maine with flying colors!

Region 1 Officers

Regional Vice President - Ada Godfrey,
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Vice President - Robert Sawyer,
Harpwell, ME 04079
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Secretary - Peter Young, Buckfield, ME
04220 email: irjers@aol.com

Treasurer - Marty Schafer, Carlisle, MA
01741 email: jpwflowers@aol.com



Affiliate Presidents

Connecticut Iris Society - Rebecca Wong, kaneonapua@yahoo.com

Iris Society of Massachusetts - David Schmieder, Concord, MA 01742

Maine Iris Society - Enid McNeally, Gorham, ME 04038

Western New England Iris Society - Connie Kindahl, Pelham, MA 01002
kindahl@econs.umass.edu

Calendar of Events

Region 1

October 6 - Fall Meeting, Annual Auction, program by Don and Ginny Spoon. See page 15.

Iris Society of Massachusetts

March 24 - Meeting, Election of Officers, Bedford Town Center.

April 7 - Judges Training at the Schmieders, Concord, MA

May 17-19 - Median Odyssey. See page 8.

May 20 - MDB Mini-Convention in Maine. See page 8.

June 3 - ISM Garden Tour

July 28 - Sale and Auction at Case Estates

August 5 - Median Convention Iris Sale, at the Schmieders, Concord, MA (No Apogon Auction this year) More information on page 15.

Western New England Iris Society

April 28 - Meeting at Greenfield Public Library Garden tours to be scheduled.

June 10 - WNEIS Iris Show, Shelburne Buckland Community Center, Shelburne Falls, MA. Entries at 8:30, Show open to public from 1 PM to 4 PM.

July 8 - Japanese Iris Show, Shelburne-Buckland Community Center

July 28 - Rhizome Sale, Farmers Market, Greenfield, MA

August 4 - Rhizome Sale, Amherst, MA

August 12 - WNEIS Picnic

Connecticut Iris Society

April 21 - Meeting and program on Dwarf Iris. Meriden Public Library, Griffin Room, 1 PM.

May 19 - Iris Exhibition, Elizabeth Park, West Hartford, CT Entries taken at 9 AM. Show open to public from noon to 4 PM.

August 4 - Auction, Bennett's, East Haddam

September 15 - Meeting and Program on floral arranging, Meriden Public Library, Griffin Meeting Room. 1 PM

October 20 - Meeting. Meriden Public Library, Griffin Meeting Room. 1 PM



Maine Iris Society

April 10 - Meeting in Auburn, ME.

May 1 - Spring Auction, Auburn

May 20 - Dwarf Iris Mini-Convention

May 26 - Spring Show, Oxford Hills Jr. High, South Paris, ME

June 4 - Iris grooming session.

June 9 - Maine Iris Show, Auburn Middle School, Auburn, ME

July 21 - Annual TB Iris Swap, Gorham, ME

August 13 - Swap Day

September 11 - Daylily & Siberian Auction, Auburn, ME

October 9 - Annual Meeting and Election of Officers, Auburn, ME

Bonus Internet Page

Here are pictures of the Bill and Ada Godfrey's 2001 Introductions from page 18 and some extra photos from the 1999 Median Odyssey Preview.



Apple Pippet
Bill and Ada Godfrey, SDB



Crafted
Mary Louise Dunderman MTB



Heart's Radiance
Bob Sobek MTB



The guardian of Martha Hutcheson's garden



Maui Moonlight (Terry Aitken) in Connie Hall's garden



Another view of the Hermit Medlars Walk, garden of Bill and Ada Godfrey
