



American Iris Society Knowlton Medal history + winners

History by Clarence Mahan

This medal is restricted to border bearded (BB) irises. It is named in honor of Harold W. Knowlton (1888-1968).

Harold Knowlton of Auburndale, Massachusetts, was a tireless promoter of the border bearded class of irises. Bennett Jones wrote in *The World of Irises*: "Harold Knowlton was among the first to make deliberate selections of smaller plants. Two of his 1950 introductions, Pearl Cup ... and Cricket... display the desirable features we still seek in modern border irises."

Knowlton was the seventh president of the AIS (1953-55) and served the society in several important positions. He was highly regarded as a leader, planner and organizer and reorganized the AIS awards system and instituted the first Handbook for Judges and the handbook for new members; *What Every Iris Grower Should Know*. He also compiled and edited the 1959 Check List. The AIS awarded him the Distinguished Service Medal in 1955.

KNOWLTON MEDAL Border Bearded (BB)

2010	EYE CANDY (Keith Keppel)		
2009	BORDER CONTROL (Thomas Johnson)		
2008	TEAPOT TEMPEST (Lynn Markham)		
2007	Go for Bold	Paul Black	
2006	Anaconda Love	Brad Kasperek	Elwood, UT
2005	Christiana Baker	Fred Kerr	North Highlands, CA
2004	Orange Pop	Larry Lauer	Wilton, CA
2003	Lemon Up	Tom Magee	Littleton, CO
2002	Baboon Bottom	Brad Kasperek	Elwood, UT
2001	Cranapple	Terry Aitken	Vancouver, WA
2000	Apricot Frosty	Dave Niswonger	Cape Girardeau, MO
1999	Petite Ballet	Keith Keppel	Salem, OR
1998	Red Rooster	Jack Durrance	Denver, CO
1997	Sonja's Selah	Allan Ensminger	Lincoln, NE
1996	Lenora Pearl	Hooker Nichols	Dallas, TX
1995	Calico Cat	Carol Lankow	Kirkland, WA
1994	Zinger	Steve Stevens	Crystal City, MO
1993	Zinc Pink	Allan Ensminger	Lincoln, NE
1992	Batik	Allan Ensminger	Lincoln, NE
1991	Shenanigan	Keith Keppel	Salem, OR
1990	Miss Nellie	Jimmy Burch	Huntsville, AL
1989	Peccadillo	Keith Keppel	Salem, OR
1988	Soft Spoken	Perry Dyer	Blanchard, OK
1987	Drum Solo	Hal Stahly	Grand Blanc, MI
1986	Pink Bubbles	Ben Hager	Stockton, CA

1985	Gypsy Wings	Melba Hamblen	Roy, UT
1984	Marmalade Skies	Dave Niswonger	Cape Girardeau, MO
1983	Am I Blue	Don Denney	Hayward, CA
1982	Picayune	Keith Keppel	Salem, OR
1981	Whoop 'em Up	Dovie Brady	Dumont, TX
1980	Brown Lasso DM 81	Gene Buckles by Dave Niswonger	Sikeston, MO Cape Girardeau, MO
1979	Stepping Little	Harry Kuesel	Littleton, CO
1978	Raspberry Sundae	Dave Niswonger	Cape Girardeau, MO
1977	Embroidery	Keith Keppel	Salem, OR
1976	Molten Glass	Jim Marsh	Chicago, IL
1975	Dresden Frills	Nate Rudolph	Aurora, IL
1974	Junior Prom	Joe Ghio	Santa Cruz, CA
1973	Bride's Pearls	Alta Brown	Kirkland, WA
1972	Lace Valentine	Bee Warburton	Westboro, MA
1971	Crystal Bay	Bennett Jones	Portland, OR
1970	Pebbles	Jim Tucker	Centralia, IL
1969	Blue Miller	Tom Brown	Milton-Freewater, OR
1968-M	Frenchi	Bennett Jones	Portland, OR
1967-M	Jungle Shadows	Sass, Henry by Helen Graham	Omaha, NE El Dorado, KS
1966-M	Tulare	Melba Hamblen	Roy, UT
1965	Bayadere	Opal Brown	Milton-Freewater, OR
1964-A	Tulare	Melba Hamblen	Roy, UT
1963	Fairy Jewels	Melba Hamblen	Roy, UT
1962-A	Jungle Shadows	Sass, Henry by Helen Graham	Omaha, NE El Dorado, KS
1961-A	Frenchi	Bennett Jones	Portland, OR
1960	Yellow Dresden	Margaret Albright	Salt Lake City, UT

The Median Iris Society sponsors the annual awarding of four medals by AIS to medians in each of the recognized classifications: SDB, IB, MTB, and BB. Note that most classifications within the AIS Awards System began with Award of Merit (AM) equivalent Awards, later elevated to Medal status. At this transition, previous Award winners from a specified period of time re-competed for the higher Medal honors. Thus there are some duplicate entries. They are designated with an "A" beside the date on which they won the AM-equivalent, and an "M" on Medal status. "T" designates a tie. Any year omitted is a year in which no award was made.