



# *AIS* *Region 6* *Newsletter*

Fall 2014

Indiana ❖ Michigan ❖ Ohio



Summer 2014 at Hollingworth Farm  
Photo: Kathy Devlin



One of the perks of winning the Dykes Medal is enjoying cake with real buttery frosting.

Congratulations Chuck for an outstanding achievement.

## *Congratulations to The Dykes Medal Winner!*

**'Dividing Line'  
(Chuck Bunnell) MTB**



### **In This Issue**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 2 AIS Officers                            | 9 'Flower Power' Hybridizer Don Sorensen      |
| 2 Region 6 Officers                       | 10 Adventures in New Orleans – SLI Convention |
| 3 Region 6 Affiliates                     | 12 Summer 2014 Events in Region 6             |
| 4 RVP's Message                           | 14 Herbicide Studies for Weed Control in Iris |
| 4 Welcome New Members                     | 16 Kalamazoo Japanese Iris Display            |
| 5 Region 6 Secretaries Report             | 17 More Events for 2014 in Region 6           |
| 6 Judges Training Report                  | 19 AIS Ballot Results for Region 6            |
| 6 Snap Shots from Region Fall Meeting     | 22 AIS and Region 6 Future Events             |
| 7 'Flower Power' Hybridizer Jill Copeland |   |

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# RVP's Message

Many thanks to Jody Nolin for hosting the Region 6 fall meeting. Thanks also go to Geno and Lana Wolfe for their onsite coordination. There were 19 in attendance. Mary Lou Swann-Young gave one hour of judges training on Reblooming Iris. She handed out sheets showing iris that rebloom in Region 6 and the list is extensive. Congratulations go to Chuck Bunnell for Dividing Line winning the Dykes Medal. Congratulations also go to Carol Morgan for Rayos Adentro winning the Williamson-White Medal. Congratulations also go to Jill Copeland for Wooly Bully winning the Randolph Perry Medal. Region 6 Hybridizers continue to put Region 6 on the map!

It is time to start thinking about putting the iris to bed for the winter. I keep hearing that this winter is going to be much like last winter. This year was a good bloom year. If it takes cold snowy winters to spark a good bloom season then "bring it on"!

Start thinking about attending the 2015 Spring Region 6 meeting in Kalamazoo. We promise you a good time.

I recently had the opportunity to go to the Northern Border of Manitoba caribou hunting. It was an experience that most people will never have. I was 350 miles South of the Arctic Circle. Much of the tundra that we walked on was like walking on wet sponges. We flew into the outpost camps on float planes. There were 2 camps guiding 23 hunters. A total of 41 Caribou were harvested in the week that I was there. I managed to fill both of my Caribou tags. We had hot showers and electricity from a generator. It definitely was the trip of a lifetime.

Jim

## **Welcome New Member!**

**Richard Douglas Alley**  
Elwood, IN

### ***A Note From Hal***

In an earlier article that Carol Morgan wrote for me about my hybridizing it was noted that the first iris cross I ever made was Ola Kala X Casa Morena, two award winning irises of the time. I had often wondered where the name 'Ola Kala' came from, thinking it was probably someone's name. Recently in one of the Talking Books for the Blind that I get, I came across the name. The book said 'ola kala' was Greek language meaning "all is good". Hal Stahly



***The Don Waters Award*** was presented to Chuck Bunnell for 'Gesundheit' which was voted best clump hybridized within Region 6 at the 2014 Spring Regional Meeting. Chuck and Barb were unable to attend the fall meeting so Peggy Harger-Allen presented the award to Chuck at their club meeting.

# Region 6 Secretaries Report

## *Region 6 Fall 2014 Meeting—Ft. Wayne Indiana*

The minutes from the last meeting were read and approved.

The treasurer's report was read. We have \$18,017.89 in savings and \$1,167.15 in checking with a total of \$19,185.04 in assets. *Report approved.*

**Website:** We currently have no web site as ours expired and we lost the site. There was much discussion about what to do and if we wanted a web site. It was mentioned that it is difficult to get information from members. Finally, Jody Nolin agreed to set up a site and Deb Diget will maintain it.

**The Newsletter editor** (Deb) reported that she sends 119 newsletters via email, which is up from 103 last year. Jean reported she sent 112 via USPS last time. Fifteen of the memberships are dual membership. Information for the newsletter is due by Oct 1 for the fall November newsletter. Feb 1 for the Spring newsletter and due June 1 for the July summer newsletter. Deb would like people to send photos, small write ups of anything of interest that happened, or any interesting article. Jean Kaufmann reported that with the paper printing of the newsletter we now have a Tax number with Office Max so we don't pay taxes. If any of the groups need to print something please check with her. It was mentioned that some of the Regions send an Email copy to the club presidents and they are responsible to get paper copies to members who request them. There was a round of applause for the great job that Deb is doing.

**Judges Activity:** Jim Copeland's judge's report stated that we have 1 new judge, 2 failed to send in their reports and 1 apprentice judge dropped out. He also stated that ½ of the judges failed to judge a show. It was suggested that the clubs didn't want judges from too far because of the mileage expense. The judge's reports will now be sent online and by USPS and also **earlier** to help everyone get them in on time. He also reported the email membership only covers 1 person in the family so some people really aren't members that thought both of them were covered with the online membership.

**Awards:** Carol Morgan handed out a copy of the recommended changes to the by-laws. Jean moved to accept them, Tom Tomlinson seconded. There was very little discussion and it was voted unanimous to accept the changes. Jean will retype the bylaws since there is no electronic copy. Carol reported she has cancer and will be having treatment but plans to keep up and asked for encouragement.

**State Chairman: Tom (Indiana)** stated he tried to make contact with other presidents and invite them to their meetings. He also stated that there are grants you can get if your club hosts a regional meeting in your district. Call him for information. **Jody (Ohio)** had no report but Deb made a trip to the Cleveland show. They are getting new members.

**Jim C (Michigan)** reported that he and Jill had a garden open house after the show and they had 34 people attend. Several of them joined. He suggested other clubs might want to try it. On the Symposium vote, Jim reported that there are 270+ Region 6 members and only 10 of them voted in the Tall Bearded Symposium.

**Future meetings:** The 2017 Spring meeting has been moved from Lansing Michigan to Lafayette Indiana. Lafayette is going to host the Median Iris Society Convention that year in conjunction with the Region 6 meeting. Lansing will host in 2018 instead. Since the AIS National convention is in Des Moines that year they hope people will also attend the Median Convention. Tom reported on the Spring Regional meeting. There were only 30 in attendance probably due to bad weather and late bloom. The gardens were lovely a week later. The Spring 2015 Regional is in Kalamazoo and they have no guest iris because of short notice to host. There won't be a guest speaker on Friday night but 1 hour of classroom training. There will also be 1 hour of judges training on Saturday and maybe on Sunday morning if enough interest. Tour gardens are Deb Diget for breakfast, Ensata Gardens for lunch and Copeland's with the Saturday night banquet to be a Fish Fry at their house.

**Other topics:** Bunnells couldn't attend as they had a funeral to attend. They stressed the importance of continuing Spring Meetings as Judges need to see newer iris since they can't grow all varieties and they need to have opportunity for Judges Training. Jim reported that Jill is having spinal surgery in October.

Next fall's meetings will be held at Golden Coral in Ft. Wayne since they have a free room and will give a discount for a large group. They have been catering the meals here and it is more expensive and less convenient than eating there. Lana and Gene (NEIIS) will host.

*Meeting adjourned, Jean Kaufmann, Secretary*

## Region 6 Judges Training Report

Region 6 has one new Apprentice Judge for 2015. Two Judges failed to complete and return their Activity Reports. AIS rules state that if a judge fails to complete a report for two consecutive years they will be dropped. Rose and Frances Holecek have been advanced to Master Judges for 2015. One Apprentice was dropped for failure to complete Apprentice requirements in the 3 year period. Nine Affiliates hosted shows in 2014.

Number of Judges	Shows judged
1 -----	4
1 -----	3
2 -----	2
7 -----	1
15-----	0

I plan on both mailing and emailing Judges Activity Reports in 2015. They will be sent earlier and have a much shorter mail back deadline.

*Jim Copeland, Region 6 Judges Training Chairman*

## *Snap Shots from the Region 2014 Fall Meeting*



Anita and Alvie looking over the items up for auction.



IGEI display board by T. Tomlinson, describing 4 great reasons to join IGEI.



Our successful lively auction



After the auction, all listen as Jodie wraps up our informative and enjoyable day.



# 'Flower Power'

## Region 6 Hybridizers

### Hybridizer Jill Copeland

by Jill Copeland

Photos: Ensata Gardens

I have always been interested in plants. In high school, my science fair project was to germinate apple seeds without cold treatment. I excised the embryos of apple seeds and grew them on an agar medium. The formula for the medium came from the Detroit library from an old AIS Bulletin for embryo culture of hard to germinate aril irises. With the help of the high school chemistry teacher, I mixed up the medium and sterilized it in my mother's pressure cooker. Actually, I tried every seed that I could get in an ordinary household in November but I only succeeded with apples. I love to play with seeds.

I find this hard to write since I have been hybridizing irises for 45 years and can't tell everything in one article. I have had many mentors over this time. I started with bearded iris. Frank Williams, successful dwarf and median hybridizer, was a SWMIS member and very helpful. I never developed a bearded seedling worthy of introducing, however. Arthur Hazzard, the very successful Japanese iris hybridizer, was, also, a SWMIS member, and was very helpful and introduced some of my first JI introductions. When I decided to try tetraploid JIs, Currier McEwen was a great a mentor. Later Lee Walker also mentored. In fact, any AIS hybridizer I contacted was happy to mentor me so I try to do the same.

As you can tell, my focus has changed many times over the years. I have had to have many focuses at a time since many goals were not fruitful for many many years. For instance, if I only focused on tetraploid JIs, many times I would have had only 3 seeds and they may not have germinated the first year if ever. It is important to have new plants to evaluate every year to keep you going. At this time, I am focused on x-pseudatas, species crosses, inter-species crosses, tetraploid JIs, a JI with the form and pattern of 'John's Fancy' in pink, a yellow JI, and summer blooming colorful re-blooming TBs.



'John's Fancy' (2008)

The projects that I am focused on require planning. My dream



was for a plant that grows like *pseudacorus* with flowers like

JIs. That was in 1980 and I am still not there. I find it necessary to know what I am looking for if it is going to be difficult. It took many years to get an *I pseudacorus*, that was compatible with JI pollen, and the JI to bloom at the same time. In 1988 when many pseudies and JIs bloomed at the same time, it took 100 crosses to get 10 pods only one of which had seed that germinated. The first year only one germinated, the second year 6 more germinated and that is all that ever germinated. Out of those 7 seedlings only one ever bloomed and that was 'Pixie Won'. On the other hand, I some times just see two flowers blooming and think that would make a good cross and

make it. Once in a while I get something good that way. When I first got the *I versicolor*, 'Mysterious Monique' (Uve Knoepnadel 1986), I knew that plant had potential. I like to make inter-species hybrids. *I versicolor* and *I. virginica* cross either way and make x-robustas. The bees can do it in the wild so this was a no brainer.

I hybridized 3 x-robustas from 'Mysterious Monique': 'For Jay', 'Celia Welia', and 'Wooly Bully'.



'For Jay' (2003)



'Celia Welia' (2004)



'Wooly Bully' (2006)  
2014 Randolph Perry Medal winner

Sometimes I supplement my seed supply with seeds from the SIGNA seed exchange. I have gotten some very interesting things that way. I grew some seeds from Tomas Tomberg that were *I versicolor* X *I. laevagata* (converted to tetraploid versilaev) and crossed it with 'Mysterious Monique' and got 'Do the Math'. Another time I got SIGNA seed from Tony Huber which is a *I. versicolor* X *I. ensata* X *I. versicolor* cross. One of the seedlings is so perfect that I will introduce it as 'Simply Cute'.



'Do the Math' (2008)

Most years I make over 300 crosses. Most don't take because they are converted tetraploids or inter-species crosses. To work in either of these fields requires a lot of patience and a tolerance of failure. If I didn't have other easier projects along the way, I may have given up. There is nothing better than succeeding at something that is very difficult and took a long time. I try to grow 1000 new seedlings each year. More than that and I get overwhelmed and less than that and I feel disappointed. I try to convert 100's of newly germinated seeds to tetraploids with sparse results but when I am successful it sometimes means a leap in progress. I start all my seeds in the winter and grow them under lights until May or June. If they can be planted out by June, I get over 90% bloom the next year cutting out one year wait for bloom.



'Simply Cute'

I really admire Currier McEwen's work converting JIs to tetraploidy because I know how hard it was. I appreciate Lee Walkers work developing a method to cross tetraploid JIs. I had much less success before I used his method. I admire Tomas Tamberg and Tony Huber for their work in inter-species crosses and their willingness to share their special crosses through SIGNA seed exchange. I admire Bob Hollingworth for his innovative work on Siberians, even though I don't hybridize Siberians. I admire hybridizers who do very imaginative things like Marty Schafer, John Coble, and many others even Keith Kepple, Joe Ghio, and Paul Black.

When I first started, I wish I knew the good culture practices that we (mostly Jim, whom I really, really appreciate) have developed over the years. I started in tetraploid JIs because in July JIs have a hard time getting enough water and wilt and I thought the heavier substance of tetraploids would help. What helps is more water. New hybridizers should take advantage of those who know the answers. Never hesitate to ask questions. You may have to adapt their knowledge to your own circumstances but why repeat other people's mistakes. I have never found a hybridizer who wasn't willing to help new hybridizers.

My favorite introduction is 'John's Fancy' which was a serendipitous seedling that was not planned. It is my idea of what a 3 fall JI should be. My introductions are introduced by ENSATA Gardens, [ensata.com](http://ensata.com).

# Hybridizer Don Sorensen

## “My Hybridizing Adventures – Totally Innocent or Somewhat Guilty”

Article and Photos by Don Sorensen

It all started out so innocent. We had a new home built on Burgess Lake just outside of my hometown of Greenville, Michigan, and I wanted to landscape around the house and plant some kind of flowers in the yard for color. My aunt and uncle had given me a ton of dahlia bulbs but they needed to be dug and stored inside each winter - I wanted something that could stay in the ground and provide some color in the spring.



‘Spirit Falls’ TB (2012)

In the early 1970's I saw an advertisement by Cooley's Gardens in the Flower Grower magazine. They had (6) iris rhizomes for a small cost and it seemed like a good choice. I ordered and planted them - the next spring they all bloomed and were very colorful. I was amazed that a plant could have all the colored dots and splashes that the plicata variety Azurite had. I also found an advertisement in Flower Grower to join "The American Iris Society" - I joined that year. The next year I ordered more plants from Cooley's and Schreiner Gardens and it just kept getting worse. More and more iris each year. I also purchased some iris at the *Fruitbasket Flowerland* in Grand Rapids



‘Sugar Plum Dream’ IB (2012)

and noticed a small booklet titled "How to grow Iris" - it was twenty five cents and in it was a chapter on how to hybridize iris. That was all it took and I was hooked for life. I crossed every flower with every bit of pollen I could find that year. I spent many years making crosses before I named and introduced my first introductions - Golden Wedding Lace, Frosted Parfait and Angelus Chimes in 1997.

Frosted Parfait went on to win the Queen of Show at a Grand Rapids show. Golden Wedding Lace is probably still my favorite flower of my own crosses as it has intense lace and I have always continued a line of laced iris - it is a favorite feature of mine. To date, I have named thirty seven and introduced thirty three iris in most of the classes with more on the way. I have not investigated the possibilities of the Spuria iris but it does sound inviting.



‘Little Blue Chip’ SDB (2012)

All of my introductions are listed with pictures on the AIS web site, [Iris.org/encyclopedia](http://Iris.org/encyclopedia). Most of my crosses are planned during the winter months but some are changed at bloom time due to poor bloom or other conditions. I have always admired the work of Keith Keppel and Joe Ghio as they both have

developed excellent iris with great form and intense ruffles. I try to work some of their varieties into my lines as they have many excellent traits. I normally have a rotation of around thirty five hundred seedlings each year and have finally convinced myself that I must purge the undesirable seedlings immediately when they bloom or I will forget their faults after bloom season and the number of seedlings will get out of hand. My advice to any new hybridizer would be to test your new possible introduction several years in as many other gardens as you can - you surely want any faults to show up before you introduce it. I have been fooled before on some plants and have learned a good lesson - test, test, test.

It started out so innocently, but then again maybe I am somewhat guilty of spending too much time in the garden weeding, feeding, breeding and deleting, but oh the joy and wild frenzy of hybridizing iris.



Don's seedling field

# Adventures in New Orleans

by Inge Mesik

Since neither of us had been to New Orleans before, Anna Mae Miller and I decided to go to the Louisiana Iris Convention, which happened to be in New Orleans in 2014. We arrived in New Orleans two days early for the convention, so we spent the time exploring the city. We quickly learned about the street cars, that take you anywhere in the city, and cut down on walking. Purchasing a "Jazzy Pass" for the day, lets you ride the street cars as much as you like. Our only problem was, getting on the 'right' street car. The 'St. Charles Line' was our favorite. It is on the National Register of Historic Places as the oldest continuously operating street car in the world. It takes you to the French Quarter. On the way, you ride through the Garden District, already in bloom with magnolias, crepe myrtle and azaleas. Also, elegant homes with a myriad of architecture, Spanish, Italianate, Greek-revival, Victorian and more, are found on St. Charles Street.



The 'Canal Street Line' takes you to historic cemeteries and City Park. This is where the Museum of Art is located, the Sculpture Garden and the New Orleans Botanical Garden. That is an all day trip and you get back exhausted.

Of course, we took in as much of the French Quarter as possible: the food, the music, the sights and the small shops along Decatur Street. We stopped for the Louisiana state donut, the 'beignet' at Cafe du Monde, open since 1862. On the way back to the hotel, we see, what must be VIPs. They were being stopped for their autographs and pictures. The **wrestlers** were in town for 'Wrestle Mania' appearing at the Superdome. FYI, the Superdome is the world's largest enclosed stadium, 27 stories tall and can seat 87,500.

Early Thursday morning we take a taxi to the convention hotel, to arrive in time for the buses leaving for the gardens. Since I knew very little of Louisiana Iris, this was a very educational tour for me. It was a shock to see how they grow their iris. They are grown in gallon pots, a single variety per pot, placed in plastic lined beds. Water is added as needed, so that the pots are always standing in water. Many of these beds line their back yards.



The Eileen Hollander's garden is a Katrina recovery garden. It was covered by 7' of water for 6 weeks in 2005. As a result, an extensive amount of hardscaping has been installed to reduce maintenance. The 170 iris cultivars are densely placed in rows, in the back yard, on this small lot. Although not many iris were in bloom, annuals and perennials made this garden colorful and interesting.

Joe Musacchia lost all his hybridizing stock to Katrina. Although his home had very little damage, a friend's home, down the street, was completely destroyed. His home is in Gray, outside urban New Orleans and on the long drive, Joe explained the devastation and the recovery from Katrina. There were many of Joe's seedlings in bloom, but I got a few pictures of named varieties: 'Our Sassy' (Rudkin, 2006) see above photo, 'Joe Pott' (Mertzweiller x Wilhoit, 2007),

'I Remember You' (Wolford, 2006) photo below left, and 'Adell Tingle' (Hutchins, 2006).



Lunch at the “French Loaf” in Houma, served typical Louisiana French cuisine, freshly cooked to order. What a treat! And atmosphere!

Benny Trahan has the largest collection of Louisiana iris species in the country. He collects iris species, variants and natural hybrids from the marshes and ditches of Louisiana. And, he is usually barefoot; alligators, YES. Snakes, YES! He is determined to collect any and every variety of wild iris before they are gone forever. Many species have already been lost by human invasion and construction. His collection is displayed in the typical gallon pots in water beds, according to their native class: *I. brevicaulis*, *I. fulva*, and *I. nelsonii*. There are also examples of iris that he has hybridized.

Back at the hotel, we finally get to officially check-in and attend the 'Welcome Mixer' in the – can you say- A t c h a f a l a y l a room.

Second day gardens tour starts at 7:30 am. We are greeted at the Longue Vue House and Gardens (photo at right) for a tour of the house. The majestic classical revival mansion sits on eight acres of gorgeously maintained gardens. It was built by Edith and Edgar Stern, completed in 1942. The gardens were designed by landscape architect Ellen Biddle Shipman, beginning in 1935 and continued until her death in 1950. The gardens are laid out in several distinct garden spaces: the Rose Garden, the Formal Garden, and the Herb Garden. The Wild Garden (right bottom photo) features a hundred yard, meandering walkway lined with Louisiana iris. Caroline Dorman originally planted the iris in the 1930s and worked in the garden until her death in 1971. Both Edith Stern and Caroline were charter members of SLI in 1941. I was engulfed in taking pictures, when the first raindrops hit me. I hurried to the large tent, which had been set up for us, to have lunch. The clouds parted and the sun came out for us to continue our tour.



Patrick O'Connor's Garden is a hybridizer's garden. A compact garden in suburban Metairie, contains mostly his registered iris and seedlings being evaluated for registration.

He has scaled back after the closure of his commercial garden. In the absence of a lawn, all the space is devoted to ornamentals and a fern collection. I enjoyed the unique garden art and his humor. He had prepared a “Special Awards” ballot for his garden only, with questions like: Best Scape on a Non-blooming Iris, Iris most likely to be superb when it opens, Best Fern in an Iris Garden ( disqualified if blooming).....

The piece de resistance of the convention was the 'live' auction or 'lively' auction. I understand Dr. Stanely Schikowitz's superb ability to keep things moving could only be partially due to his medical training. Obviously, I have missed a great deal of what happens at a convention. There is no dull moment. You will just have to go and experience it yourself. As they say in New Orleans, “Laissez les bons temps rouler!”

# Summer 2014 Events in Region 6

## Road trips

### **Iris Road Trips 2014**, by Peggy Harger-Allen *The McFadden Iris Farm*

Kent Rumbaugh and I enjoyed visiting two iris gardens this year. May 21<sup>st</sup>, we visited the iris farm of Joan McFadden near Seymour, Indiana. Joan has acres of iris and sells them from her home. It was a beautiful farm and loaded with thousands of blooming iris. There was an iris for everyone from histories to recent introductions.



Two beds of recent introductions pictured above. Historic iris 'Golden Crown' and 'Hollywood Nights' pictured far right.

#### *A selection of favorite tall bearded iris:*

- 'Golden Crown' (Kleinsorge, 1954)
- 'Vibrations' (M. Dunn, 1990)
- 'Tennessee Vol' (Niswonger, 1993)
- 'Keeping Up Appearances' (Black, 2000)
- 'Hollywood Nights' (Duncan, 2001)
- 'Spice Lord' (Blythe, 2002)
- 'Mythology' (T. Johnson, 2003)
- 'Dalai Lama' (B. Williamson, 2003)
- 'American Master' (Kerr, 2006)
- 'Marching Band' (Ghio, 2006)
- 'Ketchikan' (M. Davis, 2007)
- 'Old Renegade' (M. Davis, 2008)
- 'Dancing Star' (T. Johnson, 2009)



### *Redbud Lane Iris Gardens*



by the iris world. We learned so much about beardless iris that day from Jerry and Melody. As always, Jerry followed along with his spading fork and sent us home with gifts for our gardens. Their garden is a sensory delight with gorgeous iris and singing birds.

**On June 9<sup>th</sup> we visited Jerry and Melody Wilhoit at Redbud Lane Iris Gardens in Kansas, IL to see Louisiana and Spuria iris.** A trip to Redbud Lane is always a treat, but sadly was bittersweet, as Melody Wilhoit passed away a few weeks after our visit on June 21<sup>st</sup>. Melody was a lovely person, a fantastic irisarian, and will be missed



Above photo 'Cherry Twist', far right top 'Melody Wilhoit' and bottom 'Clara Ellen' (Jenkins, 1993)

#### *A selection of favorite of Louisiana iris:*

- 'Marie Caillet' (Conger, 1963)
- 'Bayou Short Stuff' (Faggard, 1988)
- 'Perfect Match' (Taylor, 1989)
- 'Empress Josephine' (Haymon, 1990)
- 'Cherry Twist' (Pryor, 2002)
- 'Morgan's Dixie' (M&J Wilhoit, 2009)
- 'Gulf Coast Sunshine' (Nichols, 2011)
- 'Melody Wilhoit' (Nichols, 2012)



We recommend an iris road trip in 2015 to our nearby growers and hybridizers. It is fun, educational, and memorable.

## *Chicago Botanical Garden Trip* by Anna Mae Miller

I always enjoy visiting gardens, especially Botanical Gardens. Though August is not my favorite time in the gardening year, I found several plants to put on my wish list. I was lucky I asked a friend, Marjean Rieschel, whom I had met at the Lady Bird Johnson Garden during the Austin AIS Convention, to meet me for the day. Marjean, is a [Chicago Botanical Garden](#) member and a wonderful guide.

We took a tram ride which gave a good overview seeing the test garden areas, the Japanese Gardens, which I had seen in depth on my last visit in July 2-3 years ago and the prairie, where there were many yellow composites blooming. We lunched at the Garden Cafe with Don Sorensen then, began seeing the garden. We saw a



flower show:  
Horticulture,  
Hosta Leaf, cut  
flowers, displays  
of salad  
vegetables, and  
potted plants.  
We especially  
liked the use of an



ornamental (dinosaur kale) dark curly kale used with dahlias (photo at left)

We also had the opportunity to visit [Chalet Nursery](#) in Wilmette, IL, which was a treat as they carry a lot of unusual plants. They gave a tour and explained about their services. I collected materials about several plants that I have an interest in growing better, while others found many plants to add to their garden collection.

It was an enjoyable day at the botanical garden; we switched bus partners so that added to the enjoyment.

*(Note: This trip was organized by Don Sorensen and the Iris Club of West Michigan.)*



## **Grand Valley Daylily Bus Trip** by Nancy Sniff

*(Note: A lot of us Iris Club of West Michigan members are also members of the daylily club & were on the bus when all of these things happened. Nancy is also a member of our iris club.)*

**Our bus trip turned out to be VERY interesting.** Many had never been to *Walter's Gardens in Zeeland, MI*. We were to start our spending spree at Rob McLaughlin's which continued on at Dave Evick's (Stone Place Daylilies, Lawrence, MI).

Then things happened. The bus got hung up backing out. Even though the bus was blocking one lane of traffic we did not have to worry. Animal Control showed up! Then the Dog Catcher! Were they trying to tell us something? Finally the real police came to help direct traffic. The bus door was jammed so only someone the width of a broom stick could have gotten off. But we had air and a good supply of jokes from Barb's 90 year old father. After only an hour and a quarter the wrecker showed up and got us going in a flash. Speaking of flashes. A photographer also showed up. Are we now on the Most UnWanted List? And speaking of flashes again. As we were turning around in a cemetery (yes a cemetery) we almost got creamed by a van passing us????

Barb announced we would have to cut down our shopping times at both commercial gardens. But we are professionals. We were able to load that darn bus down with full sized trees, numerous bushes, a tall metal sculpture, along with boxes and boxes of other plants. The challenge became how much can you spend per minute and we won! So we got home only 2 hours later than scheduled but we did sign up three new members. I suspect they want to see what will happen next!

# Herbicide Studies for Weed Control in Iris

By John E. Kaufmann

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(Note: This is the fifth and final article of a series I am writing on weed control in iris. Questions via email, about the content of each article are welcome as they come out.) In the first four articles, I discussed Herbicide Groups K<sub>R</sub>, A, E, K<sub>S</sub>, C, G, and O. In this article I will cover Groups F and L and recent research test results on beardless iris.

**Group F herbicides** are known as the carotenoid biosynthesis inhibitors. Carotenoids are yellow-orange pigments in the plants. Their loss also causes loss of (green) chlorophyll. As a result the symptoms of the herbicide appears to bleach the leaves white, sometimes leaving some anthocyanin (red) left over. This class has generally been found safe on vegetation of all types of iris. I have not applied just prior to bloom, so I do not know if color bleaching might occur on the blooms. This group of herbicides can have both pre and post emergent activity on certain weeds. The two herbicides I have tested are mesotrione and tembotrione and specific weeds each one controls can be found on the label. Mesotrione can be purchased by the homeowner on the internet under the trade name Tenacity. Later on in this article, I discuss a recent research project where tembotrione was applied at 2 times the recommended rate. No injury was observed on any of the iris species tested, but crabgrass in the plot was severely bleached (Photo 1).

**Group L herbicides** are those that inhibit cellulose development in susceptible plants. This group is mostly pre-emergent herbicides that, similar to K<sub>1</sub> and K<sub>2</sub>, must be watered in the soil to prevent weed seeds from germinating. The two herbicides I have tested include isoxaben and indaziflam. The latter is not yet available to the homeowner. However, Isoxaben can be found on the internet under the tradename Gallery, or in combination with trifluralin under the trade name Snapshot. Isoxaben prevents primarily broadleaf weeds while trifluralin prevents mostly grassy weeds. Therefore the combination provides a broad spectrum of weed prevention. While both herbicides are safe for over-the-top application of the iris species tested, my research shows indaziflam to have both broadleaf and grassy, as well as longer lasting weed prevention. It is my hope this herbicide becomes available to the homeowner market.

Last fall I initiated another herbicide evaluation, with permission of the hybridizers, by planting 11 beardless iris seedlings left over from the convention. I also planted one bearded iris (a mixture of Going My Way and Stepping Out). This spring, after presenting an herbicide talk at their convention, I was offered and planted 7 varieties of gladiolus. Fourteen herbicide or herbicide combinations were applied on July 11 at double normal use rate. Both of the Group C herbicides, atrazine and simazine, caused leaf tip die back on all 11 beardless iris (Photo 2). However, Group O herbicides, which were injurious to bearded iris, appeared safe to the vegetative



Photo 1. Crabgrass injury/control with tembotrione. All iris and gladiolus showed no injury. Photo was taken on July 24, 2014, 13 days after application.

stage of beardless iris. Several varieties of gladiolus were sending up a bloom stalk at application and Group O herbicides showed typical twisting of stems illustrated in Photo 3.



Photo 2. Triazine injury on leaf tips of Siberian iris. Photo was taken August 6, 2014, 25 days after application.



Photo 3. Gladiolus bloom stalk treated with a Group O herbicide when stalk was in the sheath. Photo was taken on July 24, 2014, 13 days after application.

**In conclusion**, please understand that the extent of my research tests included: 1) bearded cultivars Blue Pools, Distant Fire, Jesse's Song, and a mix of Going My Way and Stepping Out, 2) beardless cultivars: Premier (spuria), a seedling (lavigata), eight Siberian seedlings and one species-X seedling. As a result, I can only suggest herbicides mentioned in the articles will perform similarly on other cultivars within the species I have tested. However, I cannot be sure. So, always test your herbicide application on a small area until you are sure you can get good weed control without iris injury.

**Following are summary statements for those herbicides within each Group that were tested.**

To find specific herbicides tested, refer back to the appropriate article.

1. **Group A herbicides**, called graminicides, grass killers or fops & dims, were found to be safe for "over-the-top" application on all iris.
2. **Group C herbicides**, example simazine, were found to be safe for over-the-top application on bearded iris, but were somewhat injurious to beardless iris. Directed application around the base of beardless iris may be difficult since these herbicides can be root absorbed.
3. **For Group E herbicides**, sulfentrazone was found to have good control of emerged nutsedge, but showed some leaf tip burn on beardless iris. Therefore "directed" application on the nutsedge is recommended, avoiding exposure to iris as much as possible. Oxadiazon is a pre-emergent herbicide that can be applied "over-the-top" of iris in a granular form.
4. **Group F herbicides**, example mesotrione, can be applied over-the-top of all iris.
5. **Group G herbicide**, glyphosate, cannot be applied close to iris. Even small amounts of particle drift will injure iris. Use hooded sprayers.
6. **Group K herbicides**, both those that target root and shoot growing points of germinating seeds, were found to be safe for "over-the-top" application of all iris.
7. **Group O herbicides**, called auxins or "dandelion killers", should not be applied prior to initiation of iris bloom-stalks. Either a small amount of particle drift and/or latent vapor drift may cause twisting and distortion. In vegetative phases, over-the-top applications injured bearded iris but appeared safe on beardless iris. For bearded iris, consider using "directed" applications that avoid direct exposure to vegetation as much as possible.

**Finally a reminder**, always read and follow label directions and follow appropriate safety practices. I hope these articles have been helpful to you.

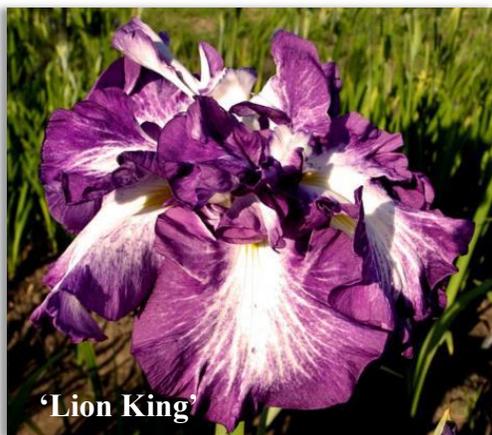
## Kalamazoo Japanese Iris Display

By John Coble, Photos: Ensata Gardens



We ended up handing out 134 blue ribbons to gardeners passing by to place beside their “favorite” that day. Tough decisions! Most stalks received at least one ribbon.

The favorite of the day was a roaring success for ‘Lion King’ (Bauer/Coble, 1996) with 15 blue ribbons. The next vote getter was ‘Ardith Ann’ the new 2014 introduction of Jill Copeland’s, with 12 ribbons. Jill’s ‘Wind Glider’ (2006) attracted 10 ribbons, as did Terry Aitkin’s ‘Rivulets of Wine’ (1999). To show that all colors and patterns were attractive, the following varieties received: ‘Lake Effect’ (Bauer/Coble, 2004) 8 votes and ‘Midnight Clouds’ (Bauer/Coble, 2010) 7 votes.



You never can second-guess the public. Some years the dark purples are popular and the next year it may be the whites. It was nice to see at least one 3-fall variety make the top 6. The double (6 fall) varieties are always the favorites of American gardeners and this year (as last year (‘Rose Adagio’)) a well proportioned multipetal variety took top honor. We’ve also noted that our Midwest gardeners are usually amazed at the large size of Japanese iris, and often the sheer size of some blooms will influence the voting.



We have a pretty good time putting on this iris display and get to talk to many gardeners in the nursery setting. We keep hoping that someone will fall in love with Japanese iris and bring a new member into the Club! We keep trying.



Photo in left corner: Flowers were moved to the floor to provide a better view for the children. Above photo: She spent 20 minutes trying to decide which iris was her favorite...when finished she laughed and said, “Whew, glad that stress is done!” Photos: Anna Mae Miller

# More Events for 2014 in Region 6

## *NEIIS Trader Days* by Lana Wolfe



We took our left over iris rhizomes from our annual sale and sold them in two days at the trader days sale. We made \$280 from the sale. We have a number of people who come back every year to buy from us.

One year we didn't have any rhizomes left to take and there were many people that were very disappointed. Some are very particular about colors and some love our grab bags. We make them up with leftover small starts and we always try to have a picture on the bag with variety name included. In the grab bags we always put at least two or three medians so people will have immediate success with their iris purchases. We also put at least one or two

nice starts in with the small rhizomes. The bags have 10 iris for \$5.00. In nine years we have never had a complaint!

## *IGEI Annual Iris Sale* by Tom Tomlinson

Iris lovers of Eastern Indiana descended upon Minnetrista on July 13th to take advantage of the over two hundred different varieties of irises for sale at the Annual Iris Sale of the Iris Growers of Eastern Indiana. The

Annual Iris Sale is the only fundraising event of the Iris Growers of Eastern Indiana. This year's Iris Sale inventory came from donations by IGEI members and many hybridizers' irises that were donated to the three guest gardens for the Spring AIS Conference held in Winchester and Union City, Indiana last May.



Rebloomers are always popular, just ask Mary Lou!

## *The Big Iris Dig* by Jim Copeland

Every year the first Saturday in August, the Southwestern Michigan Iris Society has their Iris Rhizome sale at the Kalamazoo Farmers Market. The day before the sale, members of SWMIS come to the Copeland's to process bearded iris. This year there were 27 Members and friends that participated.

Jim usually does the digging with a fork but this year John Kaufmann volunteered to bring his "Iris Digger" to do the digging. It worked very well. John dug the six one hundred foot rows of 2 year clumps in a little bit over a half an hour. It would have taken Jim 5 hours to dig them by hand!

Three people separated the rhizomes and loaded them on the golf cart to go to the trimmers. After trimming the iris (photo 1) they were sent to the washing station (photo 2) where 2 people did the washing. Each variety had its own crate so they would not get mixed. From the washing table they went to the bleach tubs (photo 3), then to the rinsing tubs and finally to the labeling tables (photo 4). Each variety was labeled and put in separate crates to go to market.

The digging process started about 8:00 AM and over 1200 irises had been processed by 11:00 AM! That is the quickest we have ever processed that many iris but we had a record turnout to help! After finishing all workers were treated to lunch. Chef Anita had made white bean chicken chili and her special homemade cookies. Jim and Jill provided fresh picked sweet corn and there was fruit to top it all off.





Photo 1: trim the iris



Photo 2: wash iris



Photo 3: bleach bath and final rinse



Photo 4: labelling iris

Why did we have a record turnout? Perhaps it is a fun event or perhaps after lunch the advertised “Free Iris” was an attraction. Jill and I had decided we did not need all of the iris for the sale. We decided that the workers should benefit from the left over plants. Most took advantage of our offer and hauled many of the remaining plants away. I would have had to pick them up and discard them so our members saved me a LOT of work.

John and Bob of Ensata gardens were busy digging Siberian Iris at their garden for the sale. Three Dollar iris included TB's, MTB's, IB's, BB's, five dollar iris included Interspecies, Siberians, LA's and Species. All SDB's were \$2.00. Gross proceeds from the sale netted \$3200.

In 2015 we will do it all over again, even if we have to borrow John Kaufmann's digger and entice workers with free iris!

### ***SWMIS Outreach to the Public*** by Jill Copeland

The purpose of SWMIS is to promote irises to the public. We have had 3 major ways of doing this.

First we have a table at the Spring Expo at a local nursery where we hand out information, talk to the public about irises, and hand out seeds for Siberian irises so they can grow some. Second is our Iris Show where we introduce to the public as many different kinds of iris that will grow in this area that are in bloom on the day of the show. Again we have handouts and talk to the public and answer their questions. Third is our late Iris Display where we show late blooming irises and let the public vote on their favorite. This year we added a fourth.

After our rhizome sale, we gave the surplus rhizomes to [Wenke's Greenhouses](#) which is where we had our Iris Show and did a workshop for their customers and other interested people. Wenke's provided publicity, refreshments, tables and chairs, and a planting box so that we could demonstrate how to plant irises. We limited the workshop to bearded irises and, as usual, had SWMIS participation with 7 members helping with the teaching - Inge Mesik, Deb Diget, John Coble, Jim & Jill Copeland, Lana Cameruchi, and Bob Bauer. We started with a definition of



bearded iris, showing the anatomy, pointing out that rhizomes are horizontal stems on or under the soil with leaves at the top and roots from its under surface. This is important because some people think that they are bulbs and should be planted many inches deep and kept until the fall before planting. We also covered the bloom cycle of bearded irises to show that summer is the best time to plant. We explained the different types of bearded irises and why each is good (most types except MDBs were for sale). We proceeded to show participants of the workshop how to plant bearded iris with each getting their own free rhizome to 'plant'. We

explained when, where, and what type of iris to plant. We showed them how to select a rhizome. We finished with a bit about SWMIS and AIS, answered questions, and invited each of the participants to bring their bloom stalks to the show next year to enter. Workshop participants, Wenke's employees, and teachers had a good time and I think we will plan to do it again next year.



# ***AIS Ballot Results for Region 6***

**For all the results go to:**

[http://www.irises.org/About\\_Irises/Awards\\_Surveys/AIS\\_Awards.html](http://www.irises.org/About_Irises/Awards_Surveys/AIS_Awards.html)

**THE DYKES MEDAL winner:  
DIVIDING LINE (Charles Bunnell)**



Photo: B. Heilman

**THE WILLIAMSON-WHITE MEDAL, MTB  
irises winner:  
RAYOS ADENTRO (Carol Morgan)**



Photo: B.Heilman

**THE RANDOLPH PERRY MEDAL, SPEC-X  
irises winner:  
WOOLY BULLY (Jill Copeland)**



Photo: B.Heilman

**THE CAPARNE-WELCH MEDAL, MDB irises  
Runner Up:  
RUBY ELF (A. & D. Willott)**



Photo: C&K Coleman

**THE FOUNDERS OF SIGNA MEDAL, SPEC irises  
Runner Up:  
JIN YU (Jill Copeland)**



Photo: Ensata Gardens

**THE MORGAN-WOOD MEDAL, SIB irises  
Runner Up:  
KABOOM (Bob Bauer/John Coble)**



Photo: Ensata Gardens

**THE PAYNE MEDAL, JI irises**

Runners Up:

**PINK PUFFER** (Jill Copeland)

**CHRISTINA'S GOWN** (Jill Copeland)



'Pink Puffer' left photo; 'Christina's Gown' right photo'

Photos: Ensata Gardens

**MTB AWARD OF MERIT**

Runner Up:

**IN MY VEINS** (Charles Bunnell)



Photo: C. Bunnell

**LA AWARD OF MERIT**

Runner Up:

**MICHIGAN BELLE** (Jill Copeland)



Photo: J.Copeland

**SIB AWARD OF MERIT**

Runners Up:

**SIMON SAYS** (Robert Hollingworth)

**NOTHING BUT THE BLUES** (Robert Hollingworth)



Above 'Simon Says', Right: 'Nothing But The Blues'  
Photos: Ensata Gardens

**JI AWARD OF MERIT**

**BOB'S CHOICE** (Jill Copeland)

Runner Up:

**KIMONO SILK** (Bob Bauer/John Coble)



Above: 'Bob's Choice', Right: 'Kimono Silk'  
Photos: Ensata Gardens

Ensata Gardens

**MTB HONORABLE MENTION  
HOOSIER BELLE (Charles Bunnell)**



Photo: C. Bunnell

**GESUNDHEIT (Charles Bunnell)**



**SIB HONORABLE MENTION  
CONCORD CRUSH (Bob Bauer/John Coble)**



**BLUEBERRY BRANDY  
(Bob Bauer/John Coble)**



Runner Up:  
**MOONLIGHT FAIR** (Robert  
Hollingworth)



**JI HONORABLE MENTION  
INDIGO ANGEL (Bob Bauer/John Coble)**



Runner Up:  
**VICTORIAN TRIM** (Bob Bauer/John Coble)



## Notes from our readers

**From Char Holte:** Jim Hedgecock recently reported from a customer of his. The customer put out two electric bug killers in his iris garden. After two years his iris garden is borer free.

[www.comancheacresiris.com/jim\\_hedgecock](http://www.comancheacresiris.com/jim_hedgecock)

**From Jean Kaufmann:** I am trying to collect all the rebloomer information for Region 6. If you could send me the names of all the iris that rebloomed this year and where you are located, I will compile a list that will be in the next Region 6 newsletter. Contact me at [jejpkaufmann@hotmail.com](mailto:jejpkaufmann@hotmail.com). Thank you.

# Mark Your Calendar for AIS and Region Events

Year	Date	Event & Location
2015	May 18 – 23	AIS National Convention – Portland, OR
	May 24 – 25	Siberian/Species Convention – Portland, OR
	June 5 -6	Region 6 Spring Meeting – Hosted by SWMIS
	September 19	Region 6 Fall Meeting, Fort Wayne, IN, Hosted by NEIIS
2016	May 23 – 28	AIS National Convention – Newark, NJ
	TBD	Region 6 Spring Meeting – Hosted by Columbus Iris Society
	September 17	Region 6 Fall Meeting, Fort Wayne, IN, TCIS
2017	May 22-26	AIS National Convention – DesMoines, Iowa
	TBD	AIS Median Convention and Region 6 Spring Meeting – Hosted by IDIS (tentative)
	September 16	Region 6 Fall Meeting, Fort Wayne, IN, <i>Host Club Needed</i>
2018	TBD	Region 6 Spring Meeting – Hosted by TCIS
	September 15	Region 6 Fall Meeting, Fort Wayne, IN, <i>Host Club Needed</i>

## 2015 Spring Region 6 Meeting

Mark your calendar June 5-6, 2015

**Friday** will be a welcome get-together at the motel. We will have light snacks, photo slides, and a 1 hour judges training session.

**Saturday** the garden tours begin with breakfast in the *Diget* garden, then on to *Ensata Gardens* where we will tour the gardens and have lunch. Our final destination will be to the *Copeland's*.

After touring their gardens we will have a 1 hour judges training session, a fish fry banquet, and an auction.

**Sunday** we will offer a 1 hour judges training session at *Ensata Gardens*, IF there is enough interest.



C43-15 TB



C31-4 TB



A7-A TB



C58-29 TB