



Brian & Anita Wendel's Garden



AIS Region 6 Newsletter

Fall 2021

Indiana – Michigan – Ohio

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Regional Youth Chairman

TBD

Regional Webmaster

Jody Nolin | email: jody.nolin@gmail.com; Bri Diget | email: bridiget@gmail.com

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Barb Bunnell, President
Lafayette, IN, 47905
765.296.6955
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'Pumpkin
Pie Ala Mode'
(Johnson, 2013)

North East Ohio Iris Society

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Mio Irisarians

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Tri County Iris Society

Linda Jones
Mason, MI 48854
jonesjandl@gmail.com



RVP's Message

Thanks to the shutdown last year due to Covid, I am remaining as your president for another year. Its good things are beginning to get back to a more normal routine. Although I am not sure anything is normal in the gardening world.

I am really enjoying this unusually warm fall. Here it is over half-way through October and no frost so far and none on the horizon according to my weather persons. I currently have 7 re-bloomers in bloom. Several have just finished and another

6 have buds. It is so nice to see flowers and I am amazed by the branching that is occurring. Several are definitely winning forms. Photos: top: 'Raspberry Frost' (Sutton, 2001) and 'Harvest Of Memories' (Zurbrigg, 1984).

Kalamazoo will be hosting the Spring 22 Regional and I hope more folks are getting comfortable with the new "normal" and will attend. There are new gardens to visit and on a bittersweet note, this is the last time that Jim and Jill Copeland will host a garden tour. It is so wonderful to visit their gardens at any season as you can always see something special.

On another sad note, Jim is retiring after 26 years as for Region 6. It is a job he has done thoroughly and before I moved into the region. It can't have been easy in on a timely manner when folks are busy out in the garden! And he's always so tactful in letting us know when we are getting close if he hasn't received our report yet. Thank you, Jim, for a job very well done, we will miss you. His final amazing act was to convince Jody Nolin to take over, what a guy! She will have to go 27 years to beat his tenure.

Another great moment at the fall regional was that Deb Diget (who compiles this wonderful newsletter and gets it out to us all) was given an award honoring her outstanding service to Region 6. She is one of those quiet behind the scenes people that make it easier for the rest of us. And she also nags politely.

Let us hope for a not too bad or too long winter and lots of wonderful spring blooms.



AIS judges chair politely since to get reports sent

Welcome New Members

John Bruce
Middletown, OH

Barbara Hanes
Corydon, IN

Amanda Ingraham
Grand Rapids, MI

Carissa Lohrman
Fort Wayne, IN

Charlotte Watty – Youth
Indianapolis, IN

Chris Patacsil
Portage, MI

Roberta Schirado
Sparta, MI

Debra Sustersic
Cleveland, OH

Mason Patacsil-Youth
Portage, MI

Treasurer's Report

AIS Region 6 Financial Report 09/02/2020 through 09/15/2021

BALANCE FORWARD:		(09/02/2020)	\$25,715.05
	CD:	Note: matured 6/28/21 and is now in savings	\$23,172.50
	Savings:		\$2,109.80
	Checking:		\$432.75
INCOME:			
	Interest CD		\$528.37
	Interest Savings		\$0.60
	Spring 2021 Auction	Proceeds	\$1,087.00
	Total:		\$1,615.97
EXPENSES:			
	Bri Diget	Webmaster (\$50.00/quarter	\$200.00
	Deb Diget	Newsletter – fall 2020	\$86.14
	Deb Diget	Newsletter – spring 2021	\$93.28
	Deb Diget	Spring Convention Printing	\$27.41
	Deb Diget	Newsletter – summer 2021	\$181.98
	Japanese Iris Society	Carol Morgan's auction items	\$66.00
	Siberian Iris Society	Carol Morgan's auction items	\$66.00
	Lou Disanto	NEOIS postage guest plants	\$55.00
	NEIOS	Cover convention losses	\$547.00
	Jim Copeland	Awards	\$48.00
	Total:		\$1,370.81
TOTAL SAVINGS:			\$24,811.27
TOTAL CHECKING:			\$1,148.94
TOTAL ASSETS:			\$25,960.21
Peggy Harger-Allen			
Region 6 Treasurer			
9/15/21			



Secretary's Report

The meeting was brought to order at 10:30 am by RVP Jean Kaufmann (Jean). There were 30 members present.

Secretary: The minutes of the 9/18/2019 meeting was presented by Judy Hollingworth – Bob Burton moved; Jody Nolin seconded that the minutes be approved. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Peggy Harger-Allen presented her report for the period of 9/2/20 through 9/15/2021 which was approved. We have a balance of \$25,960.21.

Judges Training Report: Jim Copeland presented his report. Region 6 has 28 judges for 2022. Wil Weakland and Annette Pedersen (Ohio) will advance to Garden/ Exhibition judges, Susie Everse (Michigan) is a new Apprentice Judge. Jim noted that he is retiring after 26 years as Judges Training Chair. Jim received a warm ovation, and his term was celebrated with cake!

Newsletter report: Deb Diget reported that 39 summer newsletters were mailed via USPS and 130 were emailed. She reported that only two emails were undeliverable. Peggy will check on one of the email addresses the other was unknown to members present. She thanked all for their contributions to the newsletter.

State Chairman Reports:

Michigan – Adam Cordes was not present but sent in a written report.

Indiana – Brian Wendell gave a short report

Ohio – no report

Youth Chair: Position is still open.

Officers: All the current officers agreed to serve an additional year since they were not active in 2020 due to Covid 19.

OLD BUSINESS

Jean confirmed the next regional meetings:

Spring 2022: Southwest Michigan Iris Society. Jim Copeland gave details of their upcoming meeting which will be the last in which the Copelands will be actively involved. Jean agreed to contact neighboring Regions with details of the meeting. It was observed that the Region 6 membership is aging and we need new ideas for attracting members.

Fall 2022: Tri County Iris Society.

To date there are no further commitments to hold a regional meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Judges Training Chair: Jean reported that Jody Nolin has agreed to fill the position of Judges Training Chair.

RVP Pin: Barb Bunnell was awarded her RVP pin for her service as RVP from 2016-2018.

Distinguished Service Award: Deb Diget was given the distinguished service award for her exemplary service to Region 6 as Newsletter Editor and with daughter Bri, maintaining the Region 6 website.

Judy Hollingworth proposed that Bri Diget's honorarium as Webmaster should be increased. After discussion a motion was presented to increase Bri's honorarium from \$50.00/quarter to \$100.00/quarter. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15am.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15am.



Editors Note: It was truly an honor to receive the Region 6 Distinguished Service Award. I was surprised and speechless. I enjoy putting together the newsletter and never consider it a 'service'. The contributions made by members makes the newsletter. I urge each of you to decide how you can support Region 6. Whether it's volunteering in your local club to help host a region meeting, sending a photo or article to be included in the newsletter, or stepping up to fill an opening in a region or club position. Each of you can make a difference. Your support is needed to keep the world of iris growing.

A few of the Region 6 AIS 2021 Ballot Award Winners

To see **all** the Region 6 award winners & runners up go to the Region 6 website (click on the link):
aisregion6.weebly.com



Dykes Medal Runner Up

'Judy, Judy, Judy'
(Hollingworth, 2010)

Williamson-White Medal Runners Up



'Breakfast In Bed'
(Bunnell, 20114)

'Hoosier Belle' (Bunnell, 2012)

Founders Of Signa Medal Winner



'Sushi' (Copeland, 2013)

Morgan-Wood Medal Winner

'Neptune's Gold'
(Hollingworth, 2014)



Morgan-Wood Medal Runners Up



'Concord Crush'
(Bauer/Coble, 2009)



'Fisherman's Fancy'
(Copeland Sr, 2011)



'Encore Performance'
(Hollingworth, 2010)

A few more AIS Ballot winners...

Payne Medal Runner Up



'Alexisaurus' (Copeland, 2012)

Fred and Barbara Walther Cup

(most HM votes in any category)



'Alabama Blue Fin' (Copeland, 2017)

News from Region 6 clubs

IGEI – Remembering Our Friend

Tom Tomlinson

Roger “Flip” Hoover long time member of the Iris Growers of Eastern Indiana (IGEI) passed away Saturday, August 21, 2021, at his residence in Union City, Indiana. He was born October 17, 1938 the son of Charles Ira and Mary Alberta (Carpenter) Hoover.

Flip’s many iris contributions included:

- Served three terms as President of the Iris Growers of Eastern Indiana.

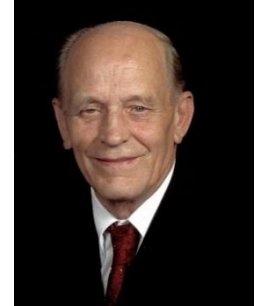
- Chaired many IGEI Committees over the years including IGEI Iris Sales and Shows.

- Organized and hosted many Union City, Indiana Iris Shows at the Union City, Indiana historic Depot.

- Hosted the AIS Region 6 Spring Conference at Union City and Winchester, Indiana in 2014.

- Was responsible for the creation and annual maintenance of the Harter Park (Union City, Indiana) iris garden for the AIS Region 6 Spring Conference in 2014.

- Developed and maintained three large iris gardens at his residence in Union City, Indiana of which were on the tour list for the 2014 AIS Region 6 Spring Conference.



Flip was also an active citizen of the Union City, Indiana community: former Mayor of Union City, Lions Club, Barbershop Chorus and member of United Methodist Church of Union City. Roger graduated with the class of 1957 from Spartenburg High School, was a United States Army veteran and he retired after 45 years from the Union City (Indiana) Body Company. On August 15, 1967, he married Penelope Ann Bothust in Barton, Indiana.

All memorial contributions were made to the Iris Growers of Eastern Indiana.

NEIS

Lana Wolfe, NEIS

We lost a member this summer, Jim Horrell. He will be missed.

We certainly have a fun group and always look forward to our meetings and activities. Our club had a great show this spring and the July sale was a huge success. One thing that we do each year is have grab bags made up for those who are looking for a bargain. Each bag has at least two named iris with picture and then 3 surprises which are made up of iris that have lost their name tags but are pretty. We always have return customers for



them and that makes us happy. Our club rewards it's participating members by giving them a voucher to purchase new or different iris for their gardens each year.

With all the rain we had earlier in the summer I had expected some nice fall blooms on the iris but found none. I am blessed to be a part of NEIS and so sorry I could not attend the fall regional meeting.

Summer 2021 for TCIS

Linda Jones, TCIS

TCIS members enjoyed the opportunity to see each other a bit more often last summer. We held our annual rhizome sale on Facebook Marketplace where over 250 rhizomes were sold. Potential buyers were treated to some of Brock Heilman's beautiful photography of many of the irises on sale. Thank you, Brock! Our Webmaster, Sue Nieland, did an amazing job as well posting information on the website. Our dig was held at the home of John and Jean Kaufmann, and the group, including new member Kathleen Foley Geiger, spent the good portion of a summer day trimming, labeling, and washing iris. John and Jean worked above and beyond, and we are grateful for all their contributions and work that made the sale a success.

Our members voted to contribute funds to Harris Nature Center in Okemos to purchase two pavers for the handicapped accessible walkway. They are inscribed with Tri County Iris Society and The American Iris Society respectively, and the pavers include an impression of an iris as well. Native iris were also donated for the plantings at the nature center. Evelyne Cudel spent hours coordinating this effort to reach out to our local community.

We look forward to our fall potluck and meeting when we plan to view and discuss a to be determined AIS presentation. It is truly good to meet in person again!

SWMIS Late Iris Display

John Coble, SWMIS

The Southwestern Michigan Iris Society is continuing to "Keep Up Appearances" with an annual display /show (non AIS judged) of Japanese iris and any other late blooming iris during the last week of June. This year we surprised ourselves with a healthy number of show stalks after a week of mid-90s heat. We still have three JI growers that collected their best. Two low tables were filled with 36 stalks: 27 JI (named and seedlings) and 9 Pseudatas (named and seedlings).

The venue for the display was Wedel's Garden Center in Portage, Michigan. We let the public vote for



their favorite iris, most never having seen these kinds of iris before. It stimulates some questions and we get to interact one-on-one. We ended up having passed out 114 blue ribbons (votes). One of Jill Copeland's 8" tetraploid seedlings (W5T) (photo right) garnered the most votes with 16 blue ribbons. American gardeners love BIG flowers,



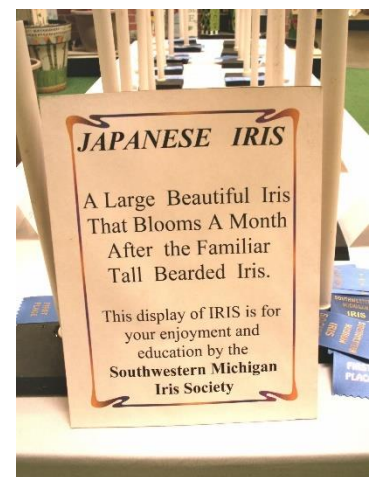
so another of Jill's large tetraploid seedling (ALxB) (photo: left) gathered 8 blue ribbons as a runner-up. The soft pinks are always attention getters, so with a pink picotee edge, 'Rings A Bell' (Bauer/Coble, 2011) (photo: below) drew in 13 blue ribbons for "second place". The dramatic color pattern of 'Indigo Angle' caught eyes and 10 blue ribbons in a tie with dark 'Wine Maiden' for third place. You can tell by the "counts" that blue ribbons were spread all over the tables. The people had fun! More Clubs should try it.



Stalks in pvc pipes



How the public votes their favorite



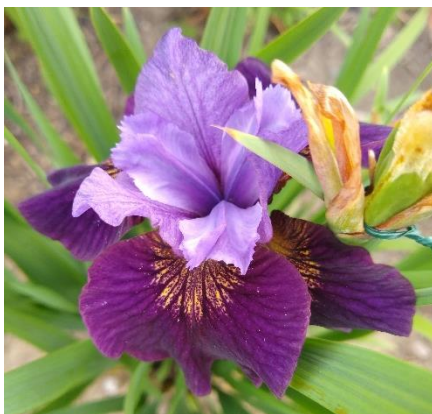
To help with questions

The three amigo exhibitors are John and Bob of Ensata Gardens, Jim and Jill of the Copeland gardens, and Roger and Linda of the Busk gardens.

More Iris Musings Fall 2021

Brian Wendel, NEIS

In the spring of 2021, ten, diploid Siberian Iris were crossed using Setosa var. hookeri (photo below) as the pollen parent. The crosses were made in late May to early June. Six of the ten crosses produced seed pods. The number of seeds per pod ranged from five to sixty-two. I compared the resulting harvested open pollinated seeds of Setosa var. hookeri to the harvested Sib-tosa seeds. The Setosa var. hookeri seeds were more rounded on one end with a uniform lighter brown color than Siberian Iris seeds are. The Setosa seed looked almost like a small, brown, unpopped popcorn kernel. I also conferred with Marty Schafer and he verified that the seeds of the diploid Sib-tosa cross, 'Happy Traveler' (Schafer/Sacks, 2015) resembled Siberian Iris seed.



The Siberian Iris pod parents for the crosses included: 'Star Lion', Seedling R11P1, (photo left), a deep velvety failed seedling containing ('Swans in Flight' x S19-15 Wendel seedling). Seedling R2P5, (S17-02 Wendel seedling X 'Miss Apple') another velvety failed seedling. R5P5, a Siberian Iris seedling containing ('What's on Second' and 'Wish Me Luck'). R7P3 containing 'Simply Delightful'. I chose the Siberian seedlings for the rich velvety appearance of the falls. All the seedlings chosen for the crosses had nice branching and at least three to four blooms per stalk.

I will use the proven method of fall preparation of seed for hopefully planting germinated seeds middle January to February of 2022. This quote was taken from an excerpt about planting bulbs in the fall. I think it is very appropriate for the anticipation of the Iris seed starting process. "There was something magical -even mystical- about planting bulbs in the fall, as the leaves were falling all around. There was an immense amount of trust placed in those brown, papery-sheathed bulbs especially for a child-that they would appear five months later and brighten our garden." I believe that the above excerpt also holds very true for the hybridizer of any new seed pod and the joyful expectation that the germinated seedlings may bring. Yet of course, we hybridizers must wait at least two springs later to see the initial bloom season of our highly anticipated botanical children. That in itself requires a child-like faith of something good to come and I wish to encourage all of you that hybridize iris and other plants as well.

Speaking of germinated Siberian Iris seedlings, I set out fifteen new ones that contained 'Double Play' as the pollen parent this spring. The pod parents included: 'Fiddles on Fire', 'Star Lion', 'Tutu Blue' and S19-16. Inadvertantly, the seedlings containing 'Fiddles on Fire', 'Star Lion' and 'Tutu Blue' were planted in better soil than the S19-16 seedlings were. I did amend the soil some after the 2021 Region 6 Fall Regional and they have perked up considerably. I look forward to next spring and the bloom season to see whether half of the seedlings planted will be doubles. Bob Hollingworth relates that half of the seedlings should be doubles. I look forward to seeing the single flowers also. The seedlings look like "little sentinels" (photo right) a phrase that Adam Cordes once used to describe how his rows of newly planted seedlings looked, and I liked it ever so much



and thought it a most appropriate description. I had also set out eighteen tetraploid Siberian Iris seedlings containing 'Life is Good', 'Something Shocking' and a seedling out of 'Crimson Fireworks'. Well, it is always a pleasure to visit with you via the newsletter. There was such an abundance of bee pods this year. It is important to remember that some very good Iris have come from bee pods such as 'Rayos Adentros'. I just wish that more of you would relate what is going on in your Iris world and thoughts and would share something with the rest of us. We would be ever so happy to hear about it. All for now and see you next time. Brian from Craigville.

Ah, another iris tale

Tom Tomlinson

Sunday afternoon when Bev (carrying 'Fast Forward' [photo: right] in a priceless Peroni vase), Bob and myself were exiting the Riverside Cafe a gentleman passed us, saw the iris, stopped and said, "progressive iris." I replied it was a rebloomer. "No!" he said. "It is a progressive iris!" Wanting to avoid fisticuffs in the parking lot over iris terminology I relented.



I could not wait to get home to jump into my various iris reference books to find the term progressive iris. Nothing on quick check of indexes. Got on the internet and googled the term which gave me two or three monitor pages of sites for reblooming irises. So, like the term "flags" from iris days of yore a term for irises is the term "progressive irises" a historic term for rebloomers? Google has something in its system to relate the term to rebloomers.

Now, a lesson learned here is when an iris "expert" crosses your path one should not get in a debate but hand them an application to join an iris society like IGEI, IDIS, NEIS, etc.

Part II. . .

The gentleman also said he always wanted a white iris but could never find one. Apparently, he has never been on the internet to check out the many white irises offered by the many iris growers. . .or attended an iris sale.

Now, another lesson: Always have iris sale mini posters available when people are looking for irises. I have been accosted many times by various senior citizens of the area with: "Are you going to have the **flag** sale again this year?" Now, after being educated I can say: Yeh, and we got progressive irises for sale also.

Editor's Note: Several comments and emails were received expressing thanks to IDIS, Peggy and Lana for their contributions to making the fall meeting a success. It was wonderful getting together again!

Quote from one region member: "Kudos to IDIS!" And Peggy for what was described as, "bestest ever judges training!"



Looking to trade or purchase these Dykes medal winners

Peggy Harger-Allen

A friend from the Blue Grass Iris Society in Lexington, KY, Graham Rowles, is working on a garden bed that features every Dykes Medal winner named since the award's inception in 1927. Graham's goal is to have his Georgetown, Kentucky garden completed by the centennial of the award in 2027. He's missing just a few Dykes winners (listed below). If you have any or know where they might be found, please email Graham: growl2@uky.edu

'San Francisco' (1927), 'Coralie' (1933), 'Mary Geddes' (1936), 'Missouri' (1937), 'Copper Lustre' (1938), 'Prairie Sunset' (1943), 'Chivalry' (1947), 'Cherie' (1951), 'Truly Yours' (1953), 'Amethyst Flame' (1963), 'Allegiance' (1964), 'Pink Taffeta' (1975), 'Kilt Lilt' (1976)

Mark Your Calendar

Year	Date	Event & Location
2022	April 11 – 16	AIS National Convention, Las Cruces, NM
	May 27 -28	Region 6 Spring Meeting – Paw Paw, MI area, Host: SWMIS
	September 17	Region 6 Fall Meeting – Fort Wayne, IN area, Host: SWMIS
2023	April 10 – 15	AIS National Convention, Dallas, TX
	TBD	Region 6 Spring Meeting – Lansing, MI area, Host: TCIS
	September 16	Region 6 Fall Meeting – Fort Wayne, IN area, Host: TCIS

Region 6 – 2022 Spring Meeting

SWMIS is excited to be hosting the 2022 region spring meeting. Three club members planted guest beds in the fall of 2019. David Curtis and Susie Everse, two of the gardens we will visit, are newer members to our club and enthusiastic iris growers. The third garden on display will be the Copeland Garden and this will be the last garden tour Jim and Jill will host.

Mason Patacsil and his mother Chris will open their garden for guests on Friday, May 27 and Sunday, May 29. Mason is a new youth member that has a great interest in iris and is an active club member.

Ten rooms have been reserved at the Comfort Inn & Suites in Paw Paw, MI with the group rate of \$109.00 for 5/27/22 – 5/28/22. Jim has also reserved a 56-passenger bus. More information and registration form will be in the spring newsletter coming to you the first of March 2022.



Iris in Curtis Garden