



Beardless iris in Meijer Gardens: photo: B.Heilman



AIS Region 6 Newsletter

Fall 2022

Indiana – Michigan – Ohio

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In the summer 2022 newsletter the winner of the **Don Waters Award** was 'What's On Second' (Hollingworth, 2017) a photo of 'Who's On First' was mistakenly displayed. 'What's On Second' photo is to the left.

In the Welcome New Member box Darlene's last name was misspelled. The correct spelling is Darlene Cyr. Darlene is from Midland, MI.



RVP's Message

It is with mixed emotions that I write my last RVP letter. After 4 years I will be giving up the reins. Writing this for the newsletter has been the hardest part of the job. It has been an enjoyable time for the most part with the disappointment of a couple years due to Covid. At least I am retiring with things getting back to normal again.

We are busy here at TCIS getting ready for the Spring Regional on June 2-3. Please put this on your calendars. More info will be in future newsletters. We still need other clubs to sign up for future spring/fall meetings. If you plan ahead, you will have time to ask for "guest" iris which is always fun. The spring meeting is definitely more work than the fall meeting, but it would be a shame if we didn't get to visit other's gardens and had to just have meetings.

This fall my re-bloom was not as spectacular as last fall, but the freeze came a month earlier. There were a few buds that weren't far enough to open in a vase, but I did have a nice small bouquet to bring into the house. Makes me almost wish for spring but then I remember all the garden work that requires, and I try to be happy with my little vase full.

For those of you who took advantage of the free year of AIS membership, I hope you continue to be a member. There is lots of information on the website for those of you just beginning and member benefits for those of us that have been around a long time and still have questions. Looking forward to meeting more of you new folks at the spring regional and those of you that have been around awhile like me.

Welcome New Members

Karen Bodey
Urbana OH

Mark Christel
Columbus OH

Suzanne Czyrlo
Whitmore MI

Laura Fischer
Brighton MI

Dolores Forge
Dublin OH

Sabina Funk
Columbus OH

Mike & Ellen Looney
Danville IN

Caitlin Kell
West Layette IN

Donald Keim
South Bend IN

Jamie Holtsclaw
Plainfield IN

Patrick Harrigan
New Albany IN

Hans Hansen
Zeeland MI

Terry McCurdy
Marion OH

L.Jean Pennington
New Albany IN

Rebecca Pierson
Indianapolis IN

Judy Paether
Howell MI

Allen & Khris Sorgenfrei
Livonia MI

Cynthia Spikell
Middlefield OH

Melody Teodoro-Kurtis
Lansing MI

Ilse Schweitzer
East Lansing MI

Joanne Vickers
Columbus OH

Gretel Young
Columbus OH

A Weekend with The British Iris Society

Jody Nolin

I had the great pleasure of attending the British Iris Society's fall weekend centennial celebration at Stratford-upon-Avon on September 17th and 18th.

The BIS began in 1922. A picture of the founding fathers at the first organizational meeting included John Wister, who had been advising them. They have been celebrating this anniversary with events all year. In May they had a big show at Wisley and participated in the Chelsea Flower Show where they won a gold medal from the Royal Horticultural Society for their exhibit.



David and I had dinner with Jill and Alun Whitehead the evening prior to the meeting. A delightful couple with lots of interesting iris stories. We helped set up the meeting room with some wonderful display boards. Although it was a small group, John and Anne Milner, Rex Harden, Jennifer Hewitt, and Jill made it a lively event.

There were three main presenters. Lucy Skellorn, the great-great granddaughter of Sir Michael Foster, gave a very interesting talk about him, his iris, and her discovery of his work. She holds the National Collection of his iris. The head gardener of Sissinghurst Gardens, the home of Vita Sackville-West, gave a presentation. The main speakers of the day were Jan Sacks and Marty Schafer of Joe Pie Weeds Garden. Jan and Marty discussed their goals for new color patterns in Siberians. After that, three members gave short presentations on their love of iris. It was a great idea as more folks got to share their ideas.



Potted historic iris were sold (photo left). Of course, we couldn't bring any home. I did buy a few BIS items that will be in a future Regional auction.

The banquet followed. We had a wonderful time sharing stories. The discussion got lively comparing cultural challenges with different types of irises. We were invited to view a few gardens if we come back some spring. We learned a bit about how similar and different BIS and AIS are. For instance, their judges do not vote on awards outside of shows. They have a panel that decides on awards. They are a much smaller organization with 400 members in the UK. (There were around 40 people at the event.) They have regions that operate a bit like ours.

On Sunday we toured Admington Hall Gardens, a lovely former hunting lodge (1590) with all the trimmings. Walled gardens, water garden, orchard, topiary, statuary, and tulip tree avenue. I was astounded at the cyclamen growing wild under the trees. Of special interest were the espaliered hornbeam and beach trees. At the end of the tour, tea and cakes were served on the terrace. As the group broke up to go home, we exchanged lots of promises to keep in touch. I hope some of the members will take us up on our offer of accommodations if they visit the States.



Treasurer's Report

AIS Region 6 Financial Report 09/15/2021 through 09/16/2022

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| BALANCE FORWARD: | | (09/15/2021) | \$25,960.21 |
| | Savings: | | \$24,811.27 |
| | Checking: | | \$948.94 |
| | Auction change (9/15/21) | For Fall auction Returned 9/21/22 | \$200.00 |
| | | | \$25,960.21 |
| INCOME: | | | |
| | Interest Savings | | \$1.89 |
| | Fall 2021 Auction | Proceeds | \$786.50 |
| | 12/7/21 Gift from IDIS | | \$100.00 |
| | Spring 2022 Auction | Proceeds | \$2,478.00 |
| | Total: | | \$3,366.39 |
| EXPENSES: | | | |
| | Gift to Siberian Iris | Society | \$43.00 |
| | Gift to Japanese Iris | Society | \$43.00 |
| | Bri Diget | Webmaster (\$100.00/quarter) | \$400.00 |
| | Deb Diget | Newsletter – fall 2021 | \$109.08 |
| | Deb Diget | Newsletter – spring 2022 | \$120.60 |
| | Jean Kaufmann | Reimbursement for AIS National | \$611.02 |
| | Deb Diget | Newsletter – summer 2022 | \$190.69 |
| | IN-Biz | Business Entity Report due again 2024 | \$22.50 |
| | Total: | | \$1,539.89 |
| TOTAL CHECKING: | | | \$27,786.71 |
| TOTAL ASSETS: | | | \$27,786.71 |
| Note: Closed 5/3 accounts 6/8/2022. Reopened PNC account 6/10/2022 | | | |
| Savings incorporated into checking account 6/10/2022 | | | |
| Peggy Harger-Allen | | | |
| Region 6 Treasurer | | | |
| 9/16/22 | | | |

Secretary's Report

Region 6 Fall Meeting, September 17, 2022

Region 6 met for its fall meeting at the Avilla library, Avilla Indiana.

RVP Jean Kaufmann called the Board meeting to order at 9:45am. There were 27 members present.

Secretary: Judy Hollingworth read the 2021 Fall minutes as printed in the Region 6 bulletin. The minutes were accepted with additions and corrections – the most notable being that SWMIS is hosting this meeting rather than TCIS as stated in the minutes.

Treasurer: Peggy Harger-Allen noted that we have a balance of \$27,786.71

Youth Chair Report: Position vacant

Judges Training Report: Jody Nolin was not present

Newsletter: Deb Diget reported that there are 130 email newsletters and 24 print copies being sent. Deb thanked everyone for their contributions to the newsletters.

STATE CHAIR REPORTS:

Indiana: Brian Wendel has resigned (P. Harger- Allen will try to find a replacement)

Michigan: Adam Cordes was not present but submitted a report of the activities of the Michigan clubs.

Ohio: No report.

Slate of Officers for the period November 2022 to November 2025:

RVP: Fred Pedersen Ohio

Asst. RVP: Peggy Harger-Allen Indiana

Treasurer: Julie Eberly-Clark Michigan

State Reps. Indiana -vacant, **Michigan** -Adam Cordes, **Ohio** -Lou DiSanto

Jean Kaufmann was presented with her RVP pin and thanked for ably leading us and especially for agreeing to stay in that position for an extra year, which became necessary due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

OLD BUSINESS:

Future meetings – Spring 2023 Tri-County Iris Society, Michigan
Fall 2023 Tri-County Iris Society

No further meetings confirmed. Lana Wolfe offered Northeast Indiana Iris Society as the host for the fall 2024 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jim Copeland, standing in as temporary awards chair, asked the group for suggestions on the kind of recognition to be given to award winners in the future. After discussion it was decided that we would publish details of the **Don Waters** and the **Hal and Dorothy Stahly** awards in the newsletter and send a copy of same to the winners. The other award winners will receive plaques as previously.

It was also decided that the bylaws, last revised in 2002, be reworked as many of the requirements listed therein are no longer possible to achieve. The RVP shall appoint a committee to review the bylaws and report back to the group at the Fall 2023 meeting. Meeting adjourned at 10:40am



'Oktoberfest' (Maryott, 1987) hanging out with 'Pledge Allegiance' (Schreiner, 1984) in Tom Tomlinson's garden.

Fall Meeting 2022



The day was perfect for working in the garden, but instead 30 iris lovers / growers met at the Avilla Library in Avilla, IN for our annual region fall meeting. The dahlias (photo left) and gourds decorated the tables setting the scene for an enjoyable meeting.

Jean Kaufmann was presented with her RVP pin and thanked by Jim for her extra year of service.



Following the business meeting, John Coble did the judges training session on Iris Seedlings. John emphasized that seedlings should be 'new and distinctive...something we haven't seen before'. Each of us needs to have a broad knowledge of what is out there to determine what is new and distinctive.

Bob Hollingworth's presentation, 'Sometimes You Get Lucky – Luck of the Iris' abounded with photos and Bob's years of experience. He delved into Tetraploid Iris, Multi-Petalled Iris, Flatties, and Dots & Dashes. (Editor's note: Bob has agreed to write a few short articles from his presentation for future issues of the Region 6 Newsletter).

We enjoyed a tasty lunch, visited with friends, and looked over the many contributions brought in for the auction. As always, our meeting concluded with a lively auction. What a wonderful day spent with fellow iris growers! Thanks to all who attended and SWMIS for hosting the event. Hope to see many of you at the Region 6 Spring Meeting to be held in Lansing, Michigan.



Fun with Hybridizing Tall Bearded Iris

Alvie Bebertz

I've always loved iris and one year a friend told me about hybridizing and showed me how to do it. I was hooked - what fun to "create" one's own iris and to experience the thrill of seeing what would pop out when the seedlings finally bloomed. Since I love the red/burgundy colored iris, one of my first "matings" was between 'Spartan' (Schreiner, 1973) (garnet red) and 'Tufted Cloud' (Schreiner, 1971) (pure white). I was hoping to get white standards with burgundy falls or burgundy standards with white falls. Well, most of the "babies" were yellow! I later read that if one mixes these two colors, yellow will quite often result. But I didn't give up! I began mixing different burgundy colored iris together and told my husband that I was going to come up with the first true red iris and win the Dykes Medal - I'm still working on that! I even got my sister interested in hybridizing, but she mixed a purple iris with a similar purple one and was disappointed to see that most of the "babies" were of a similar purple. I told her that she has to be bold and mix them up!

Off course, when I first began hybridizing, I didn't keep good enough records and still regret that some of my favorite hybridized iris have an "unknown" parent listed so now I keep good records.

I began using 'Tufted Cloud' as a parent - it is a pure white, but it is one of the tallest irises in my garden with a nice, thick stalk - but for some reason, the flowers are only average size. Whenever I used 'Tufted Cloud' as a parent, besides a nice tall, study stalk, the flowers are quite large. I mated 'Tufted Cloud' with 'Casino Queen' (Gibson, 1971) and got a nice large flower which I named Big One. I registered it as Big One with Jumbo Jane as my second choice for a name (I didn't think Big One would fly and I was right, so it is registered as 'Jumbo Jane' (Bebertz, 2010)!) A few years ago, I placed some of my registered iris in our show's guest beds and they've been sold to our club members. I was so pleased to see 'Jumbo Jane' in one of the gardens during our Region 6 spring garden tour. I have only registered half a dozen of my seedlings but have made many more "keeper" iris and have named them and keep a record of the date and parents. It really is great fun!



'Jumbo Jane'
'Tufted Cloud' on 'Casino Queen'



'Ester's Joy' (2010)
'Indigo Rim' on 'Jumbo Jane'



'Kathryn Grace' (2010)
'Indigo Rim' on 'Jumbo Jane'

Region 6 AIS 2022 Ballot Award Winners

The Williamson-White Medal

'Breakfast In (Charles Bunnell, 2014)



Morgan-Wood Medal

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



Morgan-Wood Runners Up

'Concord Crush'

(Bob Bauer/John Coble, 2009)



'Hail To The Chief'

(Robert Hollingworth, 2012)



Payne Medal Runner Up

'Alexisaurus' (Jill Copeland, 2012)



IB Award Of Merit

'Cold Hands Warm Heart'
(Mary Lou Swann-Young, 2017)



MTB Award Of Merit

'Pixi-Wan Kenobi' (Charles Bunnell, 2016)



SIB Award Of Merit

'Hot, Hot, Hot' (Robert Hollingworth, 2015)



Interspecies Award Of Merit

'Lawton Ridge' (Bob Bauer/John Coble, 2013)



Interspecies Award Of Merit Runners Up

'Simply Cute' (Jill Copeland, 2015)



LA Award Of Merit Runner Up

'Memories Of Melody' (Jill Copeland, 2016)



'Phantom Island' (Bob Bauer/John Coble, 2013)



Iris Plants From Seeds

Peggy Harger-Allen

About 12 years ago I heard Jody Nolin give an iris talk and she suggested we all try growing an iris from seed. She passed out Louisiana seeds and gave us suggestions on how to grow the seeds. I tried all the suggestions (nicking them, washing in toilet tank, tortilla rollup in refrigerator, etc.) over the last 10 years but never could get one seed to germinate. I finally gave up.

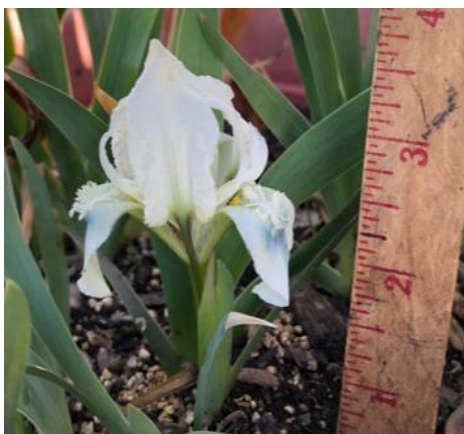
In 2020 I purchased seed from SIGNA (<http://www.signa.org/index.pl?SeedXchg>) and the Dwarf Iris Society (<https://www.dwarfirissociety.org/seedsale.html>), and just potted them straight from the envelopes into a seedling cell holder (photo right) and let the winter and elements stratify the seeds as nature intended.



Of the SIGNA seeds, only two plants lived, *Iris sanguinea* #19SB067 ('Risc Reward' [Schafer/Sacks, 2013]-open pollinated-bloomed in 2022) (photo left) and *Iris typhifolia* #19SB076 ('Caitlin's Smile' [Waddick by Kevin Morley, 2004]-open pollinated-no bloom yet). Of the several DIS seeds, four plants lived and three bloomed in 2022. 2020-01 (*Iris pumila*) produced a white and a purple plant (photos below), 2020-09 (*Iris* sp. aff. *reichenbachii* ex 'Vardar Gorge' x ?) one plant (photo below right) and 2020-25 (intermediate bearded seedling x TB 'Dracula's Kiss') has not bloomed. It was a heady and exciting time in May when those plants burst into bloom!



I encourage everyone to try growing an iris from seed. Seeds often show up at regionals, can be purchased online, hybridizers gift them, and can be found in your own garden in bee pods. Just plant them and let nature take care of the rest.



2020-01 white



2020-01 purple



2020-09

News from Region 6 Clubs

GVIS

Ruth Levanduski

The GVIS iris show was held at the Fredrik Meijer Gardens Show Room in June 2022.

Best of Show: 'Rings True' (Schreiner, 2016) exhibited by Mike Moorman (photo right)

Best Blue Iris: 'Home Of The Blues' (Schreiner, 2019) exhibited by Mike Moorman



Best Design: 'The Color Purple' line design exhibited by Steve Smith (photo left)

Best Design For Men Only: 'Where the Wild Things Are' exhibited by Joel Levanduski

Best Winter Design: 'The Winter's Tale' designed by Ginger Smith (photo below)

Designs In Cages, themed

'I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings'



NEISS

Lana Wolfe

Just for fun here are some of my favorite flowers from this year.

Photo left is a tree peony that I grew from seed. The photo right is 'Bold Statement' (Tasco, 2002) an IB. The BB

(photo below) is 'Raspberry Silk' (Spoon, 2000). (Editors note: Lana had many more favorites to be shared in the future.)



NEOIS

William Weakland

When the NEOIS decided to host the 2021 spring regional we asked and received space for our guest beds at Rockefeller Park greenhouse and gardens. We went ahead and planted the guest beds next to the Willott memorial gardens. The iris performed so well we decided to keep the space, after permission was given by those in charge, all they asked was we keep the beds maintained.



So, Louie and I moved forward and created the NEOIS seedling evaluation and training garden. We have received seedlings from local and national hybridizers and many new introductions planted for display and training sessions. The gardens are opened daily from 10 am to 4pm. The address is Rockefeller Park greenhouse and gardens at 750 E.88th street Cleveland, Ohio 44108. You can contact Louie at ldisanto@roadrunner.com if you have questions. Thank you and hope to see you next bloom season.



TCIS

Linda Jones

Tri County Iris Society recently met to enjoy a potluck meal and plan the spring regional meeting. We look forward to hosting this event and hope that many of you will join us on June 2nd and 3rd, 2023 for garden tours, a speaker, judges' training, and an auction. Of course, there will be lots of food and fun as well. We are also planning a live interview with Bob and Judy Hollingworth in their garden for the AIS archives. Since Bob has shared some of his hybridizing history with our group in the past, I can assure you that you are in for a treat!

After our meeting, we toured the "guest" gardens at the Kaufmann's, and Jean and John gave extra Siberian Iris to members of the group who wanted them.

SWMIS

John Coble

The Southwestern Michigan Iris Society again set up a **Japanese Iris Display** (unjudged show), June 26, 2022. John and Bob from Ensata Gardens, Jim and Jill Copeland, and Roger and Linda Busk set up two tables with 20 JI's, 13 Pseudatas and 1 Louisiana; 7 of the JI's were seedlings from Jill Copeland. With the display set up at Wedel's Garden Center, we were pleased to have many visitors. We ended up handing out 92 blue ribbons to gardeners passing by to place beside their "favorite" iris. Tough decisions! Every stalk received at least one ribbon.



The favorite of the day was V-5TxS with 24 blue ribbons (photo left). This was a large tetraploid seeding by Jill Copeland. For American gardeners BIG is better. But you could hardly blame them, the blossom certainly stood out in the crowd with 3 big falls.

The next vote getter was 'Indigo Angel' (Bauer/Coble, 2011) with 15 ribbons (photo right)



To balance out the big tetraploid, the smaller 'Yamanobe' (Kamo Nursery by Society For Japanese Irises, 1999) garnered 9 ribbons for its neat classical form and colors (photo left).



'Blue Mandarin' (Copeland, 1983) (photo left) and 'Caught My Eye' (Copeland, 2020) (Pseudata) (photo right) each collected 6 blue ribbons.



At least one couple was very interested in coming to our next meeting with the annual auction, and we promised to have a few Japanese iris for their bidding! We sure would like to gain another JI exhibitor! Watch for next year's show report!

Mark Your Calendar

| Year | Date | Event & Location |
|------|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 2023 | April 10 - 15 | AIS National Convention; Dallas, TX |
| | June 2 – 3 | Region 6 Spring Meeting, Host: TCIS |
| | September 16 | Region 6 Fall Meeting, Fort Wayne area, Host: TCIS |
| 2024 | June 17 – 22 | AIS National/Japanese/Species Convention, Portland, OR |
| | TBD | Region 6 Spring Meeting |
| | September 15 | Region 6 Fall Meeting |

Notes From John at Ensata

John at Ensata responded to a request for a Japanese iris the last week in October. Here is his response to Jon from Massachusetts.

'I could have dug today (October 28th), we are having a warmish Indian Summer (3-day event). But we have already had a hard frost and the Japanese iris and other plants are going dormant. A transplant now cannot grow enough new roots to get "rooted in" and chances are high that the new plant will heave in the March/April thaw-freeze cycles and dry out and die. That is the only concern for transplanting now.'

In response to the question concerning height and size of a Japanese iris John said....

*'The height and size of a Japanese Iris depends on how **much rich** compost and **water** is given the previous year!'*

The term "Japanese iris" encompasses three species of irises cultivated in gardens or growing wild: **Iris ensata**, **Iris laevigata** and **Iris sanguinea**.

For more information go to the Society For Japanese Irises website: www.socji.org

'Lake Effect' (Bauer/Coble, 2004)

