



# *AIS Region 6 Newsletter*

Fall 2015

Indiana ❖ Michigan ❖ Ohio

I. laevigata at Ensata Gardens photo by P.Hager-Allen

### **Attention Region 6 Hybridizers**

*TCIS will be requesting guest iris for the Spring 2018 Meeting. More information will be in the spring newsletter.*

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*Please notify the newsletter editor when  
changes are made in your clubs officers.*

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# RVP's Message

As I near the end of my term as RVP I would like to reflect back on the past three years. Region 6 has had a very good Board of Directors and appointed Chairpersons. I especially want to thank Deb Diget for the fine job she has done as Editor of the Region 6 Newsletter. Deb has brought color to the newsletter and solicited many good articles. She has also expanded the email list to receive an electronic copy of the Newsletter and save Region 6 funds. The Newsletter is perhaps the most difficult of all positions to fill. Thank you Deb.

Jean Kaufmann has done a meticulous job as Secretary and assisted with the mailing of the Regional Newsletter.

Jody Nolin initiated a website for Region 6 and Bri Diget has done a good job putting it together and maintaining it along with Deb Diget's assistance. An active website for Region 6 has long been needed.

Barb Bunnell has done a good job as Assistant RVP in getting Affiliates to volunteer for future meetings. She will now take over in November as your new RVP for Region 6.

Peggy Harger-Allen has done a good job as Treasurer and will continue for the next three years as Treasurer of Region 6. After the auction at the Fall meeting the Region 6 treasury went over \$20,000. This is the largest amount that Region 6 has ever had in its treasury.

Carol Morgan has done a very good job in restarting and revising the Region 6 Awards program. Thank you Carol. The three State Chairmen, Tom Tomlinson for Indiana, Jody Nolin and now Fred Peterson for Ohio, and Don Sorensen for Michigan have done remarkable jobs in welcoming new AIS members to Region 6. All three Chairmen will continue their duties for another 3 years.

Judy Barton was appointed Youth Chair for Region 6. She has a program started to encourage more youth to become interested in iris. Region 6 has only 4 youth members at present.

A big thank you to all who have had an official position these last three years for Region 6.

This year we have achieved a big increase in Regional meeting attendance. There were 53 registered for the Spring Regional in Kalamazoo and 43 registered for the Fort Wayne Fall meeting. Let's keep the momentum going. I was especially pleased to see more participation from Ohio. The North East Ohio Iris Society has begun to rebuild their Society with several new members becoming active and also wanting to become AIS judges.

Region 6 will be in good hands the next three years and now I can spend more time fishing.



## **Welcome New Members!**

Debra Knapke  
Columbus, OH

Patricia Young  
Muncie, IN

Kathleen Patton  
Peru, IN

Jackie Bachman  
Lebanon, OH

Sylvia Bondar  
Luzerne, MI

William Weakland  
Aurora, OH

Jelene Campbell  
Bloomington, IN

Nancy Deckard  
Bloomington, IN

Kathy Lee Goodbold  
Cicero, IN

Arthur Pratt  
Charlestown, IN

### ***Photo Plan for Newsletter and Website Use***

“All persons submitting photos for the website and/or newsletter, should make certain with photo subjects that it is okay for public use *prior* to submitting the photo.”



# Fall Region Meeting

As participants traveled to the annual Region 6 fall meeting the sky was gray, but as we arrived the clouds cleared and more than **40** region members gathered for a day of region business, food, fun and lots of laughter.

Our activities began with a business meeting by our RVP, Jim Copeland. He informed all that this was his second tenure as RVP, he held the position 30 years previously from 1980-82, and he declined to hold the position again in 30 years.

As part of our meeting Carol Morgan presented a surprised and extremely happy Gene Tremmel with the *Region 6 Outstanding Service Award* (pictured right). She also presented the *Don Waters Award*, from our Spring



Region Meeting, to Bob Bauer and John Coble for their top vote getter 'Blueberry Brandy' (2010) (Pictured left).

Everyone actively participated in judges training sessions from Chuck Bunnell and Adam Cordes. Brian Wendel's presentation on 'Tips for Show Iris' provided all of us with excellent tips for preparing and showing iris. He concluded with the reading of Colin Campbell's essay, IF I WERE AN IRIS. Campbell, age 16, was an Ackerman Essay Winner this year. His essay is in the Summer 2015 edition of IRISES The Bulletin of the AIS. A must read.

We enjoyed a **delicious** lunch prepared by Reta Winebrenner and numerous members of NEIIS. There were luscious grilled burgers, salads, fruit, vegetables and of course plenty of desserts.

Our day concluded with a lively and fun auction led by John Coble, assisted by Jim Copeland. The auction included bearded & beardless iris, a variety of other plants, books about iris, iris decorated items, and a number of small pumpkins painted by Lana & Geno Wolfe. Lynda Miller donated a collection of her recent introductions, which were auctioned. In the photo below John is auctioning 'Football Hero' (2015) which was pictured on the cover of IRISES,



summer 2015. The proceeds from the sale of her collection will go to the 2017 Mini Median convention to be held in Lafayette, IN. The Region 6 fall meeting was an event to remember. If you missed out, please make plans now to attend the Spring Region 6 meeting, Saturday, June 11, 2016 in Bellefontaine, OH.

'Thank you' to the Winebrenner's for opening their home for the fall region meeting. The hospitality and amenities were outstanding. The guests exceptional!



## **Region 6 Judges Training Report**

Recommendations for Region 6 judges in 2016 have been sent to Judy Keisling.

Two students have been recommended to advance to Apprentice Judge. One Apprentice Judge was recommended to continue her second year as an Apprentice.

Region 6 lost one Emeritus Judge this year.

Four Master Judges have been moved to Retired Judge. One due to age, 2 due to health and one for lack of training.

Judges by category in Region 6 for 2016:

	Indiana	Michigan	Ohio
Apprentice	1	1	1
Garden/Exhibition	5	7	1
Master	4	4	0
Emeritus	0	2	1
Retired	0	4	5
Total	10	18	8

*Jim Copeland, Region 6 Judges Training Chairperson*

## **Youth Programs Report**

**MISSION:** To encourage and develop a strong Youth Membership in our Region and foster new membership in AIS and interest in iris for the next generation.

**GOALS:** 1) To establish a Youth page on our website; 2) encourage projects for our region's youth; 3) participation in youth in our region's local chapters.

**CURRENT PROJECT:** We are participating in a school project at Webberville High School. The Future Farmers of America have an annual plant sale. We are donating rhizomes for growth and sale. As part of this project we will be giving a demonstration on how to plant irises and iris growth. Hopefully, the young members will find an interest in irises.

**Ideas for encouraging Youth in your local chapters:**

- 1) Contact your local schools to inquire about 4H, FFA or Montessori Gardening programs and ask them to participate in a club function.
- 2) Consider paying for a membership to AIS for a promising youth member.
- 3) Encourage youth members to attend local meetings and Regional meetings
- 4) Consider asking youth members to participate in a club iris sale at a market
- 5) Offer speakers to go to schools to talk about iris hybridizing to science classes.
- 6) Offer to have youth assist in planting a garden or working on a philanthropic project.
- 7) Talk about historic irises or why interest in irises needs to be encouraged by youth.
- 8) Have an auction only for youths. Give them "iris dollars". Have members donate good rhizomes with pictures.
- 9) Consider giving youth members a plot or piece of land to grow their own irises.

Respectfully submitted: Judy Barton & Scott MacGuidwin

# Experiences with Siberian Hybridizing

## Region 6 Hybridizer Jim Copeland

Photos: Ensata Garden

I never thought about making crosses as Jill had been hybridizing for several years and I was enjoying her creations. Our garden at the Wolf Lake Fish Hatchery was on tour for the 1976 AIS convention. Dr. William McGarvey had sent Siberian irises for the Convention. One of them 'Pink Haze' (1980) was trying it's best to perform but due to five twenty degree freezes in May it just was not doing well. The day of the Convention, Dr. McGarvey saw it and said that was not 'Pink Haze' and he turned the label around. He said we could do whatever we wanted to with the plant and he did not want it back. Needless to say everyone that saw it wanted a piece of it. As time went on it multiplied and several people received a piece of it.



'Fishermans Morning'

At that time there were no good pink Siberian irises and Jill said that I should hybridize with it. Anna Mae Miller received a piece of it and "challenged" me to see who could get a better pink. I was still working at the Fish Hatchery full time and did not have a lot of time. In my spare time I took advantage of my other hobby-Fishing. I have fished all my life and still actively pursue those tasty critters.

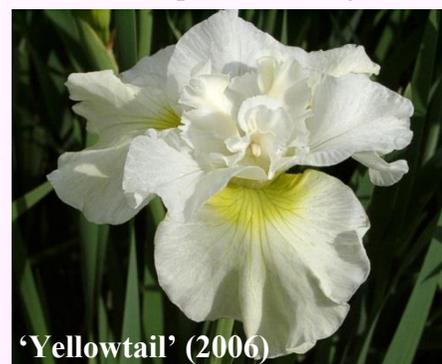
In 1981 I made my first crosses. I selected 'Dear Delight' (McEwen, 1975) to cross with 'Pink Haze' because I liked the compact form of 'Dear Delight'. I made crosses both ways and from those first crosses I had over 700 seedlings. From that point I made sib crosses and back crosses. In 1994 I introduced my first Siberian 'Fisherman's Morning' named by my Secretary at the Fish Hatchery.

One fault I later learned was that 'Pink Haze' was subject to Botrytis and passed the tendency along to its offspring. This condition only became evident in certain years. In 2001 I crossed 'Esther C.D.M.' (McGarvey, 1982) into the line of breeding. This cross made the plants much less susceptible to Botrytis. I have only used 'Dear Delight', 'Pink Haze' and 'Esther C.D.M.' in all of my crosses.



'Hooked Again' (2006)

I kept crossing the pinkest of the offspring with the pinkest. I have never achieved the goal of what I consider a good pink Siberian. As time went on I would not make new crosses every year. Remember, I made time for fishing. Jill would comment that "Jim would make crosses and then wait for them to bloom before making more crosses". That is probably true and I am sure that it drove her crazy as she was making many crosses every year and forging ahead. Jill did not like crossing Siberians as the parts were too small



'Yellowtail' (2006)

and difficult to pollinate.

I retired in 1997 and continued to make crosses but now there was a new challenge. We purchased 36 acres in 1989, built a house and moved into our present location in 1993. Now I had a full time job taking care of the gardens including the seedlings of Jill and myself. I did not make a lot of crosses because I had other things to do and did not want to spend that much time breeding irises. The crosses that Jill was making were as exciting to me as were any crosses that I made.

In the mid 2000's a yellow Siberian popped up from my breeding. This was about the time that everyone was getting shades of yellows. I have not had much success with making crosses the last few years but have collected a few bee pods from some of my favorite iris. I have introduced five Siberians and have a few more that I am considering.

One of the most exciting things about making different crosses is that you will get many surprises!



'Fishermans Fancy' (2012)



'Fishermans Twilight' (2014)



# AIS 2015 Awards 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)

To see photos of all the Region 6 award winning iris go to the region website:

<http://aisregion6.weebly.com/hybridizers.html>

<b>The Dykes Medal Runner Up:</b>	<b>'Swans In Flight'</b> ( Bob Hollingworth)
<b>The Founders of Signa Medal</b>	<b>'Jin Yu'</b> (Jill Copeland)
<b>The Randolph Perry Medal</b>	<b>'Do The Math'</b> (Jill Copeland)
<b>The Mary Swords DeBaillon Medal</b>	<b>'Seminole Sunrise'</b> (Harry Wolford)
<b>The Payne Medal</b>	<b>'Sugar Dome'</b> (Bob Bauer/John Coble)
<b>Payne Medal Runners Up</b>	<b>'Pink Puffer'</b> (Jill Copeland) <b>'Christian's Gown'</b> (Jill Copeland) <b>'John's Fancy'</b> (Jill Copeland)
<b>LA Award of Merit</b>	<b>'Michigan Belle'</b> (Jill Copeland)
<b>LA Awards of Merit Runner Up</b>	<b>'Seminole Autumn'</b> (Harry Wolford)
<b>SIB Award of Merit</b>	<b>'Judy, Judy, Judy'</b> (Bob Hollingworth) <b>'How Audacious'</b> (Bob Hollingworth)
<b>SIB Runner Up</b>	<b>'Encore Performance'</b> (Bob Hollingworth)
<b>JI Award of Merit Runners Up</b>	<b>'Kimono Silk'</b> Bob Bauer/John Coble <b>'Christina's Sister'</b> (Jill Copeland)
<b>LA Honorable Mention</b>	<b>'Seminole Moon'</b> (Harry Wolford) <b>'Start Of Something Big'</b> (Harry Wolford) <b>'Earline Sudduth'</b> (Harry Wolford)
<b>LA Honorable Mention Runners Up</b>	<b>'Holly Joy Carol'</b> (Harry Wolford) <b>'Mister Sandman'</b> (Harry Wolford)
<b>SIB Honorable Mention</b>	<b>'Fisherman's Fancy'</b> (James Copeland) <b>'Hail To The Chief'</b> (Bob Hollingworth) <b>'Lemon Mousse'</b> (Bob Hollingworth)
<b>SIB Honorable Mention Runner Up</b>	<b>'Colorflash'</b> (Bob Hollingworth)
<b>JI Honorable Mention</b>	<b>'Vintner's Pride'</b> (Bob Bauer/John Coble)
<b>JI Honorable Mention Runners Up</b>	<b>'Alexisaurus'</b> (Jill Copeland) <b>'Rings A Bell'</b> (Bob Bauer/John Coble) <b>'Silken Charm'</b> (Bob Bauer/John Coble)

'Swans In Flight'



'Jin Yu'

'Do The Math'



'Sugar Dome'



'Seminole Autumn'

# Iris at the End of the Earth

Article and Photos by Nancy McDonald and Cathy Egerer

**GRAND MARAIS, MICHIGAN**—The residents of this small village on the south shore of Lake Superior have a slogan for their town: “It’s not the end of the earth, but we can see it from here.” Michigan’s Upper Peninsula might not leap to mind as wonderful bearded iris territory, but it is. Bearded irises seem to actually like the poor, sandy soil and six months of winter. Ten feet of snow? Fine! Cathy Egerer, President of the Historic Iris Preservation Society (HIPS), and Nancy McDonald, editor of the HIPS journal, *ROOTS*, grow between them some 1,500 bearded irises in several locations in and around Grand Marais. They maintain a HIPS Display Garden behind the Pickle Barrel House, a cabin in the shape of a barrel that is on the National Historic Register (pictured right). Here’s what they have to say:

Nancy:

I’ve grown bearded irises here for more than 30 years as part of mixed perennial beds. I’ve long preferred the tailored form of pre-1960 historic irises, so I was most excited to find the HIPS (such an appropriate acronym, given my usual posture in the garden). My husband bought me a life membership as a birthday gift in the mid-1990s. In the past few years our gigantic, unruly mixed perennial gardens have become too much to care for. I read Sydney Eddison’s book *Gardening for a Lifetime: How to Garden Wiser as you Garden*

Older (2010). One of her take-home messages is “grow what you love.” In thinking about how to spend the rest of my gardening life, I settled on three things: Keep the vegetable garden. Keep a much smaller mixed garden of shrubs, perennials, biennials, and annuals, in which every single plant is a favorite. And save some historic irises. So many historic irises of all classes are slipping away from us. I wanted to help prevent that. I thought, “This is something I can do.” Because they grow so well here, and because I love them, I chose to work with bearded irises—bearded irises of all sizes and any introduction date up to 1960, and beyond that date, too, if they’re not too ruffly. As you know, the development of medians and dwarfs came considerably later than that of the larger irises, so there are plenty of tailored historic irises of more recent vintage. I have a special soft spot for MTBs.



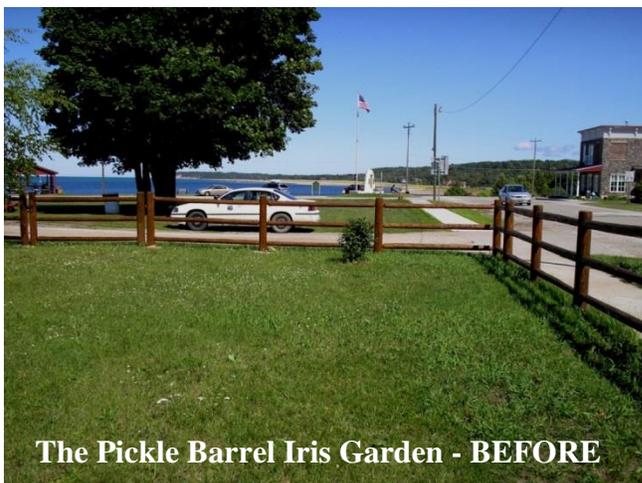
One of the Guardian Gardens in Grand Marais

Several dear friends around town became interested enough in the project to allow us to grow irises on their property —hundreds and hundreds of irises. Not only do we seek the rarest old irises from commercial sources, but a number of iris rescues, donations, and facilitated sales have brought us some of the most unusual historic irises we have. Our goal, through a wonderful HIPS-supported effort called the Guardian Garden program, is to grow and propagate these sweet old irises and get them back out in gardens and in commerce. These irises have great intrinsic value not only for their beauty and their history—they are, after all, the ancestors of all modern irises—but also as banks of genetic material for future breeders. Just as saving heirloom vegetables has proved extremely valuable in

breeding disease resistance and other traits back into modern hybrid veggies, so can the genetic material in these irises positively influence the irises of tomorrow.

Cathy:

When my husband and I moved to Grand Marais full-time in 2008, after almost twenty years of being part-timers, I couldn't wait to get a garden started. Imagine my surprise when I found a beautiful purple bearded iris blooming among the thick grass of a field next to the house, an iris that had been serenely dividing itself for at least twenty years with absolutely no care. It turned out to be 'Lent A. Williamson', which will basically grow in concrete around here, and it got me thinking. Irises? Let's see: well-drained soil, check. Cold winters, check. Lots of sunlight, check. Our summers may only be a couple of months long, but there are 18 hours of daylight for plants to absorb. And irises have some fine company this far north, as peonies, hardy roses, and daylilies also like it here.



The Pickle Barrel Iris Garden - BEFORE

When Nancy explained her idea to create a historic iris garden full of local NOIDs (no-IDs, irises that have lost their names) in honor of her late mother-in-law, I was on board immediately. That garden became the Pickle Barrel Historic Iris Garden, a registered display garden for HIPS. A couple of years later, the irises were ready to divide and we held our first sale. Local people were interested and we started signing them up for HIPS and helping them plant their own irises. "I kill everything," they'd lament. "You won't kill these," we assured them. "Plant them shallow in the sun and leave them alone."

Sure enough, they bloomed. Nancy and I then got involved with HIPS at the board level, she as editor of *Roots*, the HIPS journal, and me as

PR Chair and lately as a somewhat hesitant President.

The Guardian Gardens program was formed, and today HIPS members are growing more than 1,000 rare irises for division and sharing among other gardens in the GG network, then to be sent out to the public. My own garden now includes about 300 irises. It's a paltry number compared to many HIPS members, but in a rare moment of iris sanity, I realized that I needed to cap the contents of my own garden in order to help care for the other hundreds of historic irises we manage.

We welcome visits from other Iris Nuts! Our bloom season is several weeks later than most of the Upper Midwest, so if you come in mid to late June, you're almost guaranteed a good show.



The Pickle Barrel Iris Garden one year later

## ***HIPS & Guardian Gardens***

We're looking for more iris lovers to participate in our Guardian Gardens program, including gardeners interested in the more ruffly historics from 1960-1985. Those are in many ways the most endangered historics, because they're not old enough to have the appeal of the truly antique irises, but they're also not the newest of the new. We're also looking for rare historic irises in all classes, not just the tall bearded. All classes of iris have their historics.

Please consider joining HIPS—an e-membership is only \$10 per year. If you have the space to care for some rare irises, and are willing to do a minor amount of record-keeping, we'd welcome you into the GG network. For more information, contact Doug Paschall, the program administrator, at <[gg@historicism.org](mailto:gg@historicism.org)>, or visit the HIPS website for details and downloadable information: <<http://www.historicism.org>>.

# Summer 2015 in Region 6



Leo the McCaw took a fancy to the JI's on display.



## SWMIS Late Iris Show

Article and photos by John Coble

On June 27, 2015, the SouthWestern Michigan Iris Society held their annual late iris show. Actually it is a display and not an AIS judged show. Mainly Japanese iris are brought in for display, but any iris in bloom is welcome to show the public what CAN bloom three weeks after the tall bearded bloom. The display was set up at

Wedel's Garden Center in Portage, Michigan. The iris club has had blue ribbons made and we hand one to each person that passes through the garden center and we ask them to "vote" for their favorite flower with their blue ribbon. It is actually fun to hold an iris display this way and we get to talk to almost everyone passing by. 168 blue ribbons were handed out to visitors.

This year we had four exhibitors. 49 stalks of Japanese iris were displayed... 7 stalks were duplicates. Six of the Japanese iris were seedlings. Two Spuria iris and ten pseudatas were exhibited. Almost every iris received at least one blue ribbon vote.

The most blue ribbons were laid down in front of 'Eileen's Dream' (Bauer/Coble, 2000) ... 18 votes.



'Eileen's Dream'



Copeland Seedling V-5-T

The second most popular was a large tetraploid Japanese iris seedling of Jill Copeland's, V-5-T with 17 "votes". And a close third place, with 16 votes was 'Victorian Trim' (Bauer/Coble, 2009).



'Victorian Trim'

'Tideline' (Bauer/Coble, 1995) had 11 votes as did 'Bellender Blue' (Bauer/Coble, 1993). 'Sugar Dome' (Bauer/Coble, 2008) garnered 9 votes and the Spuria iris 'Backlit' (Hedgecock, 2010) received 7 blue ribbon votes.



'Tideline'



'Bellender Blue'



'Sugar Dome'

# ***IGEI's Annual Garden Tour***

by Tom Tomlinson

June 11, 2015 members of the Iris Growers of Eastern Indiana embarked on their Annual Iris Garden Tour to the South section of the membership area. First stop was Seymour, Indiana to visit Joan McFadden's vast collection of irises at *The Iris Garden* (photo at right). The majority of Joan's irises are tall bearded irises which for the most part were in bloom.



The second stop was in Franklin, Indiana at Doris Winton's *Winton's Iris Hill* (photo below). This beautiful garden spans five acres of rolling grounds in Franklin, Indiana, about 40 miles south of downtown Indianapolis. Not only were the IGEI visitors treated to

a vast collection of irises but also to the many other perennial plants available for sale.



*The Iris Garden  
and  
Winton's Iris Hill  
are both Region 6 display  
gardens.*

# ***Iris Bloom in Michigan's Upper Peninsula***

by Nancy McDonald

This is one of four local gardens that house the Pickle Barrel historic bearded iris collection. Most of the 1,400 irises date from 1960 or before. Grand Marais, Michigan, on the south shore of Lake Superior, has sandy soil that irises love, at least if we add a little lime and alfalfa meal. Bearded irises thrive in our short, cool growing season. Siberian irises love it, too, of course. They must feel right at home.

Despite temps that might be considered a little cool by human standards (especially the tourists), we had a very good long bloom season. Thanks to our super-sandy soil, we had almost none of the rot problems that people experienced in many parts of the country.



# COLUMBUS IRIS SOCIETY MINI GARDEN TOUR

by Ann Bateman, C.I.S.

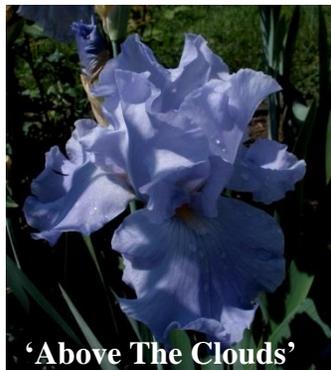
Being a transplant from a Chicago suburb, I love driving around in rural Ohio so I was really looking forward to the trip northeast of Columbus to visit the iris gardens of four C.I.S. members. May 28<sup>th</sup> I left Columbus at 9 am and headed to Lexington to Polly and Mike Mason's. Due to the logistics of trying to get out of Columbus with all the interstate construction and getting lost once, I arrived around 10:30 am. The last leg of the drive to their home was a fun hilly, curvy, narrow road. Looking back, I certainly hadn't needed to be slowing down searching for numbers on mailboxes because, as I came up a hill, ahead of me there were hundreds of iris blooms. It reminded me of a line from Wordsworth's poem *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud*, "...when all at once I saw a crowd, a host, of golden daffodils...", only these were iris. Polly's husband Mike had brought in an armload of gorgeous blooms to our "Early Mini-Show" at Oakland Nursery the previous week so I kind of figured I was in for some nice blooms, but I had no idea....



Alongside the road was a very long rectangle filled with iris interspersed with peonies which were just beginning to bloom, daylilies, and roses (photo left). Another similar garden ran alongside the beginning of the semi-circular driveway. The large property is gently



rolling and the house backs up to extensive woods. Shady areas were creatively planted with hostas and other shade-loving plants. Towards the future greenhouse was an historic iris bed, still a work-in-progress.



'Above The Clouds'

Some iris I particularly liked were 'Got Milk' (Aitken, 2002), a ruffled white self with white beards; 'Above The Clouds' (Schreiner, 2001), a ruffled bubbly blue self; and 'Falcon Pride' (Schreiner, 2007), a fluted purple self. All the blooms were huge. Polly said she fertilizes with Schreiner's iris fertilizer. I belatedly realized all her iris are white, purple or blue. She prefers this color combination and it does make a striking show. She doesn't care for yellow iris!

After the tour of the gardens, the two of us headed for Bob Buxton's garden in Warsaw. He's working on transplanting iris from one house to another, a work-in-progress, and has created a small separate garden of two rows for his newest iris. He has about 20

new varieties and is digging twelve of them to take to the C.I.S. Annual Rhizome Sale. Pictures were difficult as almost all the stalks had been flattened by a storm, but most individual blooms had held up

amazingly well. If you're looking for some sturdy blossoms, you might want to check out the following. A sample of his "sale" row includes 'Rare Find' (Ghio, 2003), a pale yellow and light orange bicolor; 'Trade Secret' (Keppel, 2003), a pleated yellow self with a white flash on the



'Trade Secret'



'Rare Find'

falls and orange beards; and 'Country Kisses' (Blyth, 2005), a flaring light peachy-pink self with double standards!



Country Kisses'

Also in Warsaw was Susan McCurdy's home. Bob offered to lead us there so we followed his truck and within minutes were at her farm. Susan had said she wouldn't be home but we were welcome to stop by. She also mentioned we might enjoy seeing the new baby goats.

Iris are scattered around with shrubs, wildflowers and flowering weeds I remember fondly from my childhood playing in the vacant lot behind my home. I suspect she'll be doing a lot of planting as out back is a large, newly created, mostly empty rectangular bed in full sun, a work-in-progress.

The baby goats were darling.

Before heading to the last garden outside Gambier, we stopped in town for a late lunch at the Village Inn. They have a full menu and their sandwiches were delicious.

Mary Jo and John Shrimplin live out in the country on a straight section of road where a driver can see for miles, but still someone managed to lose control of his car, drive across the Shrimplin's front yard missing trees and large rocks and slammed into the corner of their house seriously damaging the corner of their basement and ruining a washer and dryer in the fallout. So MaryJo was unable to walk the beds with us as she was dealing with the delivery and set up of a new washer and dryer. But like Susan, when I called to confirm our trip, she also graciously said to come anyway. Iris people are so nice.



Shrimplins grow their iris in four very large rectangular raised beds. Many of the iris were past peak but there were still a lot of blooms to see. In my search for the perfect white for my 12'x16' garden area at my town home, I was excited to see 'Skating Party' (Gaulter, 1983), a bubbly white self. Also, one purple and white striped iris intrigued me (*photo below*). It was a challenge to photograph as it was growing way down in the leaves behind a pole and between much larger plants. It's a tailored form with thin purple lines running the length of the white falls banded in purple. Standards, what I could see of them, appeared similar only with a purple rib on the outside. Is it a plicata with a virus? Is it floppy because it's an old bloom? Is it tailored because a frost affected it? Mary Jo didn't know what it was so I've added it to my Mystery List to research.



A long fence row off to the side adjacent to the iris beds is edged with daylilies and should be spectacular in another couple of weeks.

When we returned to Polly's, I couldn't resist another walk around her gardens before heading

back to Columbus around 4 pm. Iris people are friendly, nice, love gardening, and from my observation on this trip, three out of four have a work-in-progress. Actually, it may be four out of four—I think Mary Jo said she needs to work on re-doing some of her iris labels.....



# ***Iris Connoisseurs of Michigan & SWMIS Host Jim & Jean Morris for Two Days in October***

Jean Morris presented 'Median Iris and Irises Through the Year' at the ICOM meeting held in East Lansing, MI. She shared photo slides of each type of iris starting with *I. reticulata* (which are bulbs), MDB's, the Median iris – SDB's, IB's, Arilbred Medians, MTB's and BB's, then TB's, SIB's, Louisiana's, Spuria's, Species, JI's and ending with reblooming iris, for up to 10 months of iris bloom in Missouri, in Region Six 6 to 8 months of iris bloom. Jim sat close by and added tidbits for the audience. For more information about Median Iris and the Median Iris Society go to <http://www.medianiris.com/index.html>.

The next day of the Morris' visit Jim presented 'What's New In Irises' and 'Irises Down Under, New Zealand and Australia'. In May 2015 the AIS Board of Directors chartered the Novelty Iris Society as a section of AIS. See [http://www.irises.org/About\\_AIS/Membership\\_Info/Sections.html](http://www.irises.org/About_AIS/Membership_Info/Sections.html) for contact information.

Jim shared many lovely photos of iris being produced in New Zealand and Australia. Our iris hybridizer friends 'down under' are producing lovely colorful iris. Jim also explained that iris hybridized in New Zealand do not qualify for the AIS Dykes Medal because the New Zealand Iris Society awards their own *Dykes Medal* through the auspicious of the British Iris Society.



'Adoree' (Blyth, 2009)



'Advance To Go' (Blyth, 11/12)

## ***A Note From The Iriswarehouse.... A Region 6 Display Garden*** by Judy Barton



The rebloomers were crazy great this year. I think I counted 7 potential stalks of 'Autumn Tryst' (Weiler, 1993) in the garden this morning, September 30<sup>th</sup>. Unheard of.

I also had 'Over the Edge' (Sutton, 2005) (*photo on the right*) blooming on September 11th. Not a



rebloomer, but a lovely very late blooming iris. I planted it for the first time in July and was rewarded with nice plant bloom the same year!

# ***Iris Club of West Michigan Garden Tour***

by Jack Sewell

Joining the trip across the state with the Iris Club of West Michigan was a very pleasant and educational day. Although an Iris Club, they made this a daylily focus due to the time of summer. On the bus would be some previous friends and new friends to be. After picking us up in Lansing we had a snack stop in the rest area. The trip was made easier, shorter and amiable by the inclusive conversation of the club members.

Our first viewing stop was at the Greg Schindler Daylily Garden, which although with limited space used it to the utmost. We spent much of the afternoon touring the Cranbrook Estate and Gardens in Bloomfield Hills (photos are of the estate) . The Cranbrook family had a connection to Kalamazoo in having published the Kalamazoo Gazette for decades. It took well over an hour just to wander the grounds and discover the elegance of the place. There were ponds, fountains, gardens, architecture and wonderful plants throughout. The magnificence of the



estate was awe-inspiring.

A surprise after lunch at the Lavere Webster Daylily Garden was the treasure of the trip for us. This hybridizer included a historical daylily garden. We began the guided tour down the area with species from the 1880s and 1890s. This unique gathering of flowers continued with introductions decade by decade until the 1990s. A previously unknown treasure was a particular daylily from Victorian times. It is both night blooming and aromatic. They would plant it under the bedroom window for the night aroma of the flowers. Strange plant but true and since confirmed by research. While attempting to make sure of the name, the host said he had another clump and if we took the entire clump then we could have it for [cheap].

At the end was the “plant buying frenzy” at English Gardens Center in West Bloomfield. The previously unknown to us species daylily we had purchased is now doing well by our back upper patio under my den window. The Iris Club of West Michigan is already planning the trip for next year.

## ***Just a note from our hearts***

We are so blessed to be a part of AIS Region 6. Our region has so many wonderful folks that are always ready to share their knowledge and expertise with others. As I think back, the first regional meeting I ever went to was held at the Fort Wayne Airport Hotel. I was so privileged to sit next to Barney Hobbs and Jack Norrick and it was such a fun time. I remember thinking *wow*, these folks are really special and so they are and were.

In 1988 or '89 I was still working and didn't have time to do as many things as I would have like to. I did take time to go to Jack Norrick's home several times and to Harold Bunkers at least twice a year until he passed away. It was always fun to stop by Miller's Manor too. Later there were many visits to Ensata Gardens, the Copelands and the Hollingworths.

We just want to say “thank you” to all who have given so much to this region and hope we will be around to see even more exciting things to come. We are excited about the 2016 spring regional at Jody Nolin's as well as the Mini Median convention the following year. Sending our love along with this note.

Lana & Geno Wolfe

Days after receiving Lana & Geno's note, Geno passed away. We were all saddened and shocked. Geno will be missed by all who knew him. For more information go to:

<http://www.haggardandsefton.com/book-of-memories/2265039/Wolfe-Geno/obituary.php>

Lana, you are in our thoughts and prayers.



# Mark Your Calendars for AIS and Region 6 Events

Year	Date	Event & Location
2016	May 23 – 28	AIS National Convention – Newark, NJ
	June 11	Region 6 Spring Meeting – Hosted by Columbus Iris Society
2017	September 17	Region 6 Fall Meeting, Fort Wayne, IN – Hosted by TCIS
	May 22 – 26	AIS National Convention – DesMoines, Iowa
2018	May 18 – 20	AIS Mini Median Convention and Region 6 Spring Meeting – Hosted by IDIS
	April 9 – 14	Region 6 Fall Meeting, Fort Wayne, IN, Hosted by NEOIS AIS / SLI National Convention, New Orleans, LA
	TBD	Region 6 Spring Meeting, Lansing, MI – Hosted by TCIS  Region 6 Fall Meeting, Fort Wayne, IN, <i>Host Club Needed</i>

## 2016 Spring Region 6 Meeting

Mark your calendar for one day only – **June 11<sup>th</sup>**

Certain to be a great day with Spurias in bloom and Andi Rivarola as guest speaker. Jody and CIS have three garden sites planted for our visit. The Logan City Historical Society House, the Rushsylvania Firehouse, and Jody's own garden. There will be brunch, supper, auction and judges training for all attending. Mark your calendars so you can enjoy a day in the gardens.



'Ibex Ibis' (Kasperek, 2012)



'Moonless Night'  
(Ghio by Hedgecock, 2010)



Kasperek Seedling 6sp-135a



'Sky Dancer' (Hedgecock, 2010)