



Sterling Howard Garden, Photo: Peggy Harger-Allen



AIS Region 6 Newsletter

**Spring 2022
Indiana - Michigan - Ohio**

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TBD

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

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Barb Bunnell, Lafayette, IN, 47905, (765) 296-6955 | email: store130@aol.com



Region 6 Affiliates

Columbus Iris Society

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704.824.3071
gobux48@gmail.com

Grand Valley Iris Society

Steve Smith, President
Bryon Center, MI 49315
616.878.1759
smith3761@sbcglobal.net

Indiana Daylily – Iris Society

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317.923.3786
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Brecksville, OH 44141
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Southwestern Michigan Iris Society

John Coble, President
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269.665.7500
ensata@aol.com

Tri County Iris Society

Linda Jones, President
Mason, MI 48854
jonesjandl@gmail.com



Sterling Howard Garden
Photo: Tom Tomlinson



RVP's Message

BURRRRRRRRRR! I don't know what else to say at this point. What a January and February it has been so far. Guess we have to pay for the above average December weather. At least that is what is going on in Michigan. Any iris that can survive here is definitely hardy.

I am already looking forward to the Spring Regional in the Paw Paw Michigan area. It is so nice to be around others with the same love of iris and the sharing of exclamations of surprise and awe. This time of year, I tend to go through my photos from previous regionals. I don't know how other regions are, but we are definitely an amazingly diversified region with lots of talented gardeners and clubs. Thanks to all of you for the great things you do for us. This will also be the last convention that will have the Copeland's gardens on display so if you have never been there before, I highly recommend you visit this wonderland of flowers and unusual plants.

So, as we shiver and resist the urge to turn the furnace up to 80 just remember that spring is on the way and looking at iris catalogs is a wonderful past time. Ordering is very rewarding too!

A Note from the Copeland's

Jill and Jim are beginning to downsize. We have many SJI, SLI, SSI and New Zealand Bulletins. We would like to give them to someone that would like them. Contact us at jandjcope@aol.com

Welcome New Members

Bennett Cordes-Youth Member
Hillman, MI

Jacob Cordes-Youth Member
Hillman, MI

Tammy Wharton
Columbus, OH

Michael Yales
Maybe, MI

2022 Introductions from Region 6 Hybridizers

Bob Hollingworth – Bob has introduced two Siberian Iris this year.



‘Chasing Fireflies’ is a dark purple - sometimes near black on repeat bloom stalks - with a very distinct gold signal - the firefly's tail! For once in my hybridizing career, I can't easily designate it as diploid or tetraploid. It came from a cross treated with colchicine and it has characteristics of both dips and tets - my guess is that it's a mixoploid - a complex mix of diploid and tetraploid cells. But it is quite stable in that mode. Really bright in the garden! The name also refers back to when we had a young family, and we would all go out to collect fireflies in a neighboring field so I could use them in some research I was doing at Purdue.

‘So Delicious’ is a deeper colored Siberian to the light blue Petalicious - a well-organized, compact multipetal type with 3 standards, 6 falls and a central rosette of petaloids. The two sisters look nice growing together.

Bob's irises are available through Ensata Gardens:
<http://ensata.com/>



Jill Copeland – Jill's introduction this year is a pseudata, ‘Polly Wolly Doodle’. It is a mid to very late pseudata, 45” with 3-4 branches. Ensata describes it as, “A sassy addition to the pseudatas. Yellow, style arms bright yellow. Falls are bright yellow. Signals are bright yellow-orange with maroon edges, ruffled.”



Lou DiSanto – Lou has introduced ‘Santa’s Whiskers’ a Species Iris this year. ‘Santa’s Whiskers’ is 24 inches in height with 4 or more branches. The blooms are large, 6 – 8 inches with white standards and style arms and yellow signal. (Note from Lou: “The spathes are deep red purple as well as the base of the fans. It’s pure iris Setosa.”) Lou’s iris is available through Ensata Gardens.

2022 Region 6 Judges

Robert Bauer	Galesburg, MI 49053	M
Barbara Bunnell	Lafayette, IN 47905	G/E
Dr. Charles A. Bunnell	Lafayette, IN 47905	M
John A. Coble	Galesburg, MI 49053	M
James A. Copeland	Lawton, MI 49065	E
Jill Copeland	Lawton, MI 49065	E
Adam Cordes	Hillman, MI 49746	G/E
Autumn Rose Cordes	Hillman, MI 49746	G/E
Kathleen Devlin	Milan, MI 48106	M
Deb Diget	Battle Creek, MI 49014	G/E
Louis F DiSanto	Aurora, OH 44202	G/E
Susie Everse	Hamilton, MI 49419	A
Peggy Harger-Allen	Whitestown, IN 46075	G/E
Brock Heilman	Belleville, MI 48112	G/E
Judith Hollingworth	Williamston, MI 48895	G/E
Robert Hollingworth	Williamston, MI 48895	E
Jean Kaufmann	Okemos, MI 48864	G/E
Kathy J. Moore	Franklin, IN 46131	M
Jody Nolin	Rushsylvania, OH 43347	E
Annette Pedersen	Brecksville, OH 44141	G/E
Fred Pedersen	Brecksville, OH 44141	G/E
Laurel Richardson	Indianapolis, IN 46242	G/E
Mary L Swann-Young	Cordsville, IN 46055	G/E
Janet L. Wilke	Indianapolis, IN 46226	M
Wil Weakland	Aurora, OH 44202	G/E
Doris Winton	Franklin, IN 46131	M
Lana Wolfe	Willshire, OH 45898	M

News Around the Region

Grand Valley Iris Society

Steve Smith, President

Grand Valley Iris Society (Grand Rapids, MI) will resume monthly meetings starting On March 8 ,2022. Meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 1:00pm – 3:00 pm at Meijer Gardens.

An AIS sanctioned Iris Show (Horticulture and Artistic Designs) is scheduled on June 4th and 5th at Meijer Gardens.

Open to the Public from 12:00 -5:00

Call 616-878-1759 for more information.

Iris Growers Eastern Indiana

Barb Bunnell, President

Penny Ann Hoover, 76, passed away Thursday October 21, 2021. Penny was a long-time member with her husband, Roger, to Iris Growers of Eastern Indiana. They both passed away last year. Penny and Roger maintained several iris beds at their home in Union City, Indiana. They co-hosted many IGEI meetings and hosted the Region 6 2014 Spring Meeting held at Winchester and Union City, Indiana. In addition, they developed and maintained the IGEI iris garden at Harter Park in Union City, IN, which was the garden used for the judges training program at the 2014 Spring Meeting. Penny also was instrumental in the annual Iris Shows and Iris Sales over the decades. Over the decades Penny and her husband Roger contributed greatly to the successes of IGEI. Tom Tomlinson



Sterling T. Howard, long time iris grower and member of Iris Growers of Eastern Indiana and Northeast Indiana Iris Society passed away on November 9, 2021. Sterling was an avid plant collector and was known for his collection of irises which included every Dykes Medal winner. It took a great effort over the years to obtain some of the Dykes Medal winners, but he stayed to task and completed the collection.

Sterling's iris gardens were always well maintained and an attraction to plant lovers. He would host iris organizations and garden clubs for

garden visitations to his venue complete with catered meals.
Tom Tomlinson



*Thanks for the memories
Iris Friends!*

North East Ohio Iris Society

Fred Pedersen, President

It was a joy to know and work with Dorothy as a member of the North East Ohio Iris Society, which Dorothy co-founded. I was privileged to be the President of NEOIS when the Willott Memorial Iris



Garden (photo: right) was in the development stages. Dorothy was so happy when our local society voted to support the building of a formal iris garden at the Rockefeller Greenhouse grounds with a substantial donation. It was her style to



be low key and I always sensed her humility when it came to discussing the proposed memorial garden. I

have the fondest memories of working with Dorothy and other members as we went on a treasure hunt to find old Iris that her husband Tony Willott, planted at the Rockefeller Greenhouse Grounds. They were covered with tall and thick weeds. Dorothy was so determined to preserve as many irises from the original garden as possible. It was a special experience to observe Dorothy's passion for Iris and I marveled at her encyclopedic knowledge of the varieties she and her husband Tony hybridized over the years. Dorothy was truly an expert at organizing the annual Iris show and her expertise was always greatly valued by all members. I will think of her when it comes time for my iris to bloom. Rest In Peace Dorothy and May heaven be as beautiful as the Willott Iris Garden. God Bless your memory, Dorothy. When I visit the Willott Iris Garden each May, I will think of you. Dennis Deagon

Northeastern Indiana Iris Society

Lana Wolfe, President

Brian Wendel, Vice President

Lana Wolfe, Secretary

Alvie Bebertz, Treasurer

'Brazilian Art' (Keppel, 2009) (photo: below left) preforms very well and is a show-off in the garden.

Top photo, iris from left to right, "That's All Folks" (Maryott, 2005), 'Magical Times' (Black, 2015), 'Dog and Pony Show' (Black, 2013). They are all quite happy growing around the tree stump.

The photo lower far right is an IB, 'Kay's Cowboy' (Wolfe, 2015). Which preforms for me every year in this spot but in another spot not so well.



Bloom in Lana's garden



Southwestern Michigan Iris Society

John Coble, President
Susie Everse, Vice President
Julie Eberly Clark, Secretary
Jim Copeland, Treasurer

John at 28° and 5" for Scott
to romp in 🤪



SWMIS is very excited to be hosting the 2022 Region Spring Meeting. We have 2 new members' opening their gardens for the tour and a final tour for the Copeland's.

The Friday evening gathering includes a meet-and-greet, slide presentations of Iris Seedlings by hybridizers, and a one-hour Judges Training program, presented by John Coble, on Judging Seedlings-In and Out of the garden.



Tri County Iris Society

Linda Jones, President
Robert Hollingworth, Vice President
Jean Kaufmann, Secretary
Charlan Washington, Treasurer

Tri County Iris Society is planning a Zoom Meeting on March 13th, Adam Cordes will be the guest speaker, sharing pictures of his latest seedlings. We will also plan our garden tours for May. The tours were enjoyed by all last year, and we hope to make them an annual tradition.

Mio Irisarians

Adam Cordes, President

Our club's 78th annual IRIS SHOW is set for Sunday, June 12, 2022, in Hale, Michigan. Location is the Plainfield Township Hall right on M-65.

As usual, our plant sale will be included at the show site. ☺ We'd love to see anyone that wants to join us.

A Note From Lou DiSanto

I have asked and was given permission to use the area behind the Willott Display Garden where we kept our guest beds for the 2021 spring meeting. We will call it The NEOIS seedling evaluation and judges training garden. It will be open to all during the regular hours at the Rockefeller Greenhouse. I plan to have a rotation of plantings with the focus on new introductions and seedlings with the garden replanted every three or four years.

More Iris Musings Spring 2022

Brian Wendell

Greetings fellow Irisarians! It always brings much joy to my heart when middle January arrives. Of course, it is not to see how much snow has fallen or how cold the thermometer reads. It is high time to take the carefully prepared iris seeds (photo left), that have been quietly waiting in the refrigerator out



for the maiden see of how many have or have not yet germinated. I was a little more apprehensive about the seed germination this year, as most of the crossed seeds were diploid Sib-tosa crosses and some tetraploid Siberian Iris crosses. There were just a few seeds that had germinated on January 20, 2022. Therefore, I used a secret that some of my neighbors to the north had shared in an article about soaking the seeds in warm water for an hour or so daily. This technique really helps the germination of beardless iris seeds after stratification. By early February the number of germinated iris seeds had increased quite a lot. I was very grateful to see that I have seven seedlings of ('What's On Second' x 'Wish Me Luck') x (I.

Setosa var hookeri). Each of the previously named parents holds a special place in my heart. I was pleased to know that there were more seeds germinated in this cross than there was for the single seedling of the cross for 'Happy Traveler'. Other crosses with the I. Setosa var hookeri as pollen parent included: ('Simply Delightful' x 'Wish Me Luck'), 'Starlion' and ('Swans In Flight' X S19-15). The last cross was a very dark velvety blue black out of two lighter parents. It will be interesting to see what results. There are twenty-five seeds of the crosses containing I. setosa as the pod parent and fifteen seeds of assorted tetraploid seedling crosses, namely five crosses. The seeds are in yogurt cups in the basement under growth lights eg, old fluorescent lights awaiting emergence through the soil. They are hopeful promises of February.



There have always been two great loves in my life. Namely gardening and baking. Gardening seems to fill the spring, summer and fall. The baking season takes center stage for the colder winter months. It wouldn't seem like Christmas or Valentine's Day or any of the other holiday if I didn't bake cut out sugar cookies. I have been baking these since our children



were very young and they always look forward to them even now that they have families and little ones of their own. So as not to bore you here, if you would please kindly go to the <https://www.houseonthehill.net/> , you can read a story about how my fondness for cookie baking originated or not. This Christmas season I rediscovered the joy of baking the anise scented Springerle cookies. They are truly a work of art that is almost too beautiful to eat.

There is now a third great love, our two grandsons, one is 16 months and the other 4 months old. Please do trust me that they are even better than gardening or baking. Since Anita's stroke back in June of 2020, I have cut way back in the gardening arena as there are more important things that I need to do now. I will continue to bake for the little ones will more likely enjoy the tasty results better than the garden and that is okay. I guess the gardens will fend for themselves. I had shared some photos previously of an unusual colored tetraploid Siberian Iris seedling R6P2. I will need to see how the clump effect is this

year. Marty Schafer relates that garden clump effect is very important. I guess one could relate it to the 'Swans In Flight' clump effect of being a perfectly, amazing bouquet effect in a clump.

I trust that as the winter days are passing by so quickly you will soon start joyfully thinking of spring and Iris season. I am thankful for the brave almost fool hardy snow drops that keep trying to bloom amidst the snows. Trust me that we would all love to hear your stories also. We learn so much from one another's stories and they make the world a better place. It would also mean that I might not have to bore you with these Iris Musings. Until next time. Brian from Craigville. IN

Calling All Designers!

Do you enter designs in shows? Are you an AIS judge?

AIS is going to begin certifying judges as design judges for AIS shows. Any level of AIS judge will be eligible for design certification.

We are doing this for two reasons. First, we want to encourage more designers entering shows. Second, we want to ensure that qualified design judges are available for AIS shows, particularly in areas where outside garden judges may not be available.



AIS judges who have had formal design training can be certified by communicating with your local Judges Training Chair. (That would be me.)

We are also looking for people who have had design training, whether through a garden club or AIS, who would be willing to train other AIS judges.



If you are already a design judge or are willing to train others or both, please contact me.

Jody Nolin, Region 6 JT Chair
Jody.nolin@gmail.com
614-507-0332



<p>Region 6</p> <p>Display</p> <p>Gardens</p>	<p>Virginia's Iris Garden, Janet Wilke 5406 Boy Scout Rd., Lawrence, IN 46226 Phone: (317) 317-749-1332 (Mon-Fri 8am -6.00 pm) Email: jane.wilk@yahoo.com Dwarfs, IB, TB, BB, SIB Peak bloom: April 15 to May 31 Call on weekends.</p>	<p>Joan McFadden 450 E Cty. Rd. 450N, Seymour, IN Phone: (812) 523-6273, cell: (765) 749-2477 Email: jmcfadden100@sbcglobal.net TB, IB, medians Peak bloom: May 15, please call ahead</p>
<p>Myers Iris Garden, Matt Myers 3514 E 500 S Warsaw, IN 46580 Phone: (574) 527-5663 Over 2,000 named varieties of iris Peak bloom: Mid May to Early June</p>	<p>Winton's Iris Hill, Doris Winton 7131 E 550 South, Franklin, IN 46131 Phone: (812) 526-9237 TB, MTB, IB, SDB, BB and Siberians Peak bloom: TB's - May 15-30; SIBs - May 25-June 7</p>	<p>The Willott Display Garden at Rockefeller Park Greenhouse 750 East 88th St., Cleveland, OH TB, BB, IB, SDB, MDB, Sib, seedlings Peak bloom: Varies for type of iris – call for best bloom time. Greenhouse grounds open every day 8 to 4:30, except holidays. Greenhouse buildings open 10-4 daily</p>
<p>Stick and Thistle Farm, Jody Nolin 5184 County Rd. 20, Rushsylvania, OH 43347 Phone: (614) 507-0332 Email: jody.nolin@gmail.com A bit of everything, including Spuria and LA gardens Peak bloom: Mid-May through June, always something blooming! No need to call Peak bloom: May 1 - July 15</p>	<p>Bunnies and Bouquets, Elaine Johnson 3524 S. Derby Rd., Sidney, MI 48885 (3/8-mile S. of Sidney, Montcalm Co.) Many varieties, but mainly TB's Peak bloom: First week of June</p>	<p>Jim and Jill Copeland 78118 M-40, Lawton, MI 49065 Phone: (616) 624-1968 Email: jandjcope@aol.com IB, TB, LA, SIB, JI, Species and SpecX Peak bloom: We usually have bloom from May through July. Visit anytime we are home</p>
<p>Chuck and Barb Bunnell 7941 Peshewa Dr. Lafayette, IN 47905 Phone: (765) 296-6955 Email: whozher@intel.net MDB, SDB, IB, BB, MTB, TB, SIB, LA, SPU, Species, JA Peak bloom: May</p>	<p>J & J Iris Farm, John and Jean Kaufmann 5140 Cornell Rd., Okemos, MI 48864 Phone: (517) 347-7555 Email: jejpkaufmann@hotmail.com Mostly TB's, some dwarf and intermediate, a few SIBS Peak bloom: Last two weeks of May to first 2 weeks June</p>	<p>Windwood Gardens Irises, Bob & Judy Hollingworth 5410 N. Williamston Rd. Williamston, MI Bob's Cell: 517 930-0180, Judy's Cell: 517 930-4429 Email cyberiris@att.net Mostly SIB, some MTB's Peak bloom: Approx May 25-June 10</p>

Mark Your Calendar

Year	Date	Event
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

2022 Region Spring Meeting

Save these dates, May 27th & 28th for the region spring meeting.

Our event begins with an open garden tour. Mason Patacsil and his mother, Chris would like to invite you to visit their garden. The garden will be open Friday, May 27 1-4PM and Sunday, May 29 9AM – 1PM. Patacsil address: 10037 Roger St, Portage, MI.

Friday, May 27, Meet and Greet at the railroad station in Lawton, MI for a Hybridizers slide show and a 1-hour Judges Training session presented by John Coble. The topic will be judging seedlings in-and-out of the garden. There will be light snacks at the meet and greet.

Saturday, May 28, Bus tour of the Curtis, Everse, and Copeland gardens. Lunch will be after the tour of Susie Everse's garden at the Trestle Stop in Hamilton. After lunch the bus will drop everyone off at the Comfort Inn in Paw Paw. Everyone will then drive to the Copeland's Garden (photo right) for our final garden tour and judges training. We will return to the railroad station for our banquet and auction.

Comfort Inn & Suites
153 Ampey Rd
Paw Paw, MI 49079
269-655-0303

Group rate: \$109.00 per night, ask for Iris Region Convention rates

Registration \$85.00 before May 1st, \$95.00 after May 1st



Registration Form

American Iris Society Region 6
Spring Meeting and Garden Tour
May 27 – 28, 2022

Paw Paw, MI area

Name: _____
(Name as you would like it on badge)

Name: _____
(Name as you would like it on badge)

Address: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Email: _____

Registration fee: #People _____ X \$85.00 (\$95.00 after May 1st) = \$ _____

Will you be attending the Friday, May 27 meet and greet? Yes _____ No _____

Will you be attending Judges Training Saturday, May 28? Yes _____ No _____ How Many? _____

Special Dietary Requirements: _____

The registration includes: Friday evening snack, 2 meals, garden refreshments and the bus. If you have any questions / concerns contact Jim Copeland @ jandjcope@aol.com .

Make check out to: Southwestern Michigan Iris Society (SWMIS)

Mail this form and check to:

Jim Copeland, Registrar
78118 M-40
Lawton, MI 49065
Phone: 269-624-1968
Email: jandjcope@aol.com

Room Reservations:

Comfort Inn & Suites
153 Ampey Road
Paw Paw, MI 49079
269-655-0303
\$109.00 Ask for: Iris Society Region 6 Spring Convention rate