

AIS Region 21 April 2023 Newsletter

RVP Message -

Greetings All,

I hope everyone is staying safe from all of the storms we've been getting this winter.

Spring will be coming for us and then we can look forward to the beautiful blooms of the many iris we have planted in our yards and gardens.

I, along with my wife Sue, will be attending the National Iris Convention in Dallas, Texas April 12-16, 2023. It will be wonderful to get out and see some old friends again. We look forward to going. I do believe there will be several others from our Region there as well.

I am slowly getting used to being your RVP and hope to do a good job at doing so.

After the National Convention we will wait about a good 5 to 6 weeks and we will have our Region 21 Convention in Lincoln. It should be a lot of fun.

Until then - Everyone stay safe, think spring, and see you either in Dallas or Lincoln. Maybe both.

Regards your RVP,
Michael (Mike) Becker

Affiliate News

CanWest Iris Society

The Can-West Iris Society will be having an iris show, tentatively scheduled for Sunday, June 11th, at Bourkevale Community Centre in Winnipeg. Details are still being finalized and will be on the Can-West website as soon as confirmation is received.

Can-West website: <http://www.can-westis.com/>

Greater Omaha Iris Society

Members of the Greater Omaha Iris Society will host one of the Region 21 Spring Meeting Open Gardens at the Sass Memorial Iris Garden, May 21. [See Invitation below]

Heart of Iowa Iris Society

HOIIG just had its last Zoom meeting (Sue & Rosemary Witt are in AZ, returning to Iowa by April) and will be meeting at the Witt's in April for our first in-person gathering since 2020.

When we were so rudely interrupted (along with the rest of the planet) in 2020, we were on the verge of hosting a May Iris Show. It was planned as a dress rehearsal for a full-fledged AIS Iris Show in 2021 and as a feeder event to our August 2020 Iris Sale.

We are jumping back in where we left off with a Cut Iris Exhibition, May 27 at Ted Lare Design Build & Garden Center, in Cumming (just southwest of Des Moines), thanks to the generosity of Kelly Jensen and his employer. Viewers' Choice will be the only awards. Any and all are invited to participate.

We are looking at this event as a springboard launching HOIIG back into action.

Lincoln Iris Society

Lincoln Iris Society is hosting the Region 21 Spring Meeting and Garden Tour, May 19-21.

[Invitation and Registration in this Newsletter. Brochure pdf sent with this Newsletter]

Monument Valley Iris Society

The Monument Valley Iris Society will be having their 2022 Annual Holiday Party on April 1, 2023. No April Fool's Day joke.

This past year was a tough winter and the annual holiday celebration was canceled twice before it was finally rescheduled for April 1st. Several monthly club meetings were also cancelled or rescheduled during this winter.

On a positive note -

The club has been able to welcome several new members this past year. The club also added 23 new irises to their display garden.

The club is tentatively scheduling a non-juried iris show for the later part of May or the first part of June, depending, of course, on the weather this spring.

Sioux Empire Iris Society

Weather has added a new challenge to meetings.

David Warren will be familiar to those of you attending the Region 21 meeting in Sioux Falls last September. He has accepted the office of Region 21 Treasurer.

Siouxland Iris Society

Please visit our website and Facebook page for information.

Website:

<https://topdog51031.wixsite.com/siouxland-iris>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/SiouxlandIrisSociety/>

Region 21 Spring Meeting Invitation

Greetings from Lincoln, Nebraska,

We invite you to come to Lincoln as guests of the Lincoln Iris Society for the Region 21 Spring 2023 Meeting and Garden Tour. Dates for this meeting and tour are May 19 to May 21, 2023.

It has been a few years since Region 21 membership has been to a spring garden convention and we would like very much for you to join us this May in the Lincoln area to enjoy irises, our gardens and to see one another again. We want to make your stay as enjoyable as possible during the glory of this iris season.

The weekend will begin with **Friday evening** at Hello Gorgeous Gardens, home of Jenny and Mark Cich. In addition to seeing their beautiful gardens, we will enjoy food and camaraderie with friends old and new. And, if you are just arriving to the area, this can be your first stop before going on into Lincoln and the hotel. We will have welcome packets available there for you as well. More information and directions to the Cich home will be sent to you upon registration for the meeting/tour.

Saturday will begin at 8:00 AM on a party bus for about 30 of us (the remainder will travel by carpooling) traveling to 5 gardens during the day and arriving back at the hotel by 4PM. Most of these five gardens will be new to Region 21 members outside of the Lincoln area. We will visit the gardens of Lois Linke, Heidi Brase and family, Kami Brinkerhoff, Paul Moss, and Dottie Ladman during this Saturday tour. Lunch will be in Kami's garden. There will also be a 1-hour Judge's Training session during the Saturday garden tour.

After time for a bit of rest following the tour, we will all travel by carpooling to St. Mark's Lutheran Church for an evening dinner, Silent Auction, and program. Some of you have been to St. Mark's as it is the home meeting location (and home for iris shows and sales) for the Lincoln Iris Society. Our speaker for this Regional meeting will be Andi Rivarola, current AIS President. Andi will also conduct the in-garden Judge's Training earlier in the day.

The garden tours will continue on **Sunday**, though they will be **Open Gardens** that you may visit on your own before leaving for home. As of this date, we will have three gardens open for you to visit. The gardens of hybridizer David Toth and hybridizing daughters Ava and Evelyn Toth will be open all day on Sunday (David says you may stay until dark if you wish). In addition, the BentFork gardens of Gary White and Linda Rader will be open on Sunday as well. This is a garden that many of you may have seen in the past, but there are always new (and old) things blooming. And, members of the Greater Omaha Iris Society will host an Open Garden at the Sass Memorial Iris Garden at Mahoney State Park on Sunday afternoon. If you are leaving the Lincoln area and driving towards Omaha, this renowned historic iris (and peony) garden is a must see. It will be right on your way, just off I-80, before you cross the Platte River.

The Registrar for this meeting and tour is Lois Linke. Her address and email are at the end of this letter and on the Meeting Registration form.

For more information, questions, etc., you may contact me, Gary White. I will be happy to help you. My contact information is below as well.

Once you arrive in the area, you may either go first to the hotel where you have a booked room, or you may stop at Jenny and Mark Cich's garden first if you are arriving in the evening.

The hotel is the AmericInn Lodge and Suites, located at 8701 Amber Hill Ct, Lincoln, NE. For those of you familiar with Lincoln, it is located in far southeast Lincoln on Nebraska Parkway (formerly NE Hwy 2) just across the highway from Menards.

The Group hotel room rate for this meeting is: \$115 per night plus taxes (16.74%) for all rooms in the block. The block will be held until May 5, 2023. This rate of \$115 plus taxes is for either a Double Queen room or a Single King room.

You may book your room online using the Group Code (located under the special rate drop down): **Iris Society** or you may use the bookable Link: [Click here to book](#) or you may call **402-420-0027** for reservations and ask for Iris Society rates.

Please be sure to reserve your room as early as you can and certainly prior to May 5 if at all possible. This same weekend is graduation weekend for the University of Nebraska, so it most hotels and motels may be full for that weekend.

A **registration form** follows with this letter.

We have limited the registration fees for this meeting to \$45 for adults for full registration.

For those who can only attend the Saturday evening dinner and program, the fee is \$25.

For all youth AIS members attending this regional meeting, the Lincoln Iris Society is covering their registration fees.

The Lincoln Iris Society is covering a significant portion of the costs for this meeting/tour by paying rental costs for the party bus during the Saturday garden tour, thereby holding adult full registration fees to \$45.

Check-in and Welcome in Lincoln:

The meeting Welcome/registration desk will be open at the hotel from about 3PM until we leave for the Cich garden in the evening. We will have the meeting registration/welcome materials at the Cich garden in the evening.

Smoking Ordinance:

Please be aware that Lincoln business establishments are non-smoking by City Ordinance. All public buildings, including bars and restaurants, and the hotel for this meeting, are Non-smoking.

Lincoln is very easy to navigate since it is designed on a grid. The main east-west street through town is 'O' Street. South of 'O' are lower lettered streets such as N, M, etc and higher letters (P, Q, etc) are north of 'O'. Most of the north-south streets are numbered, with the main downtown area going from about 7th to 17th Streets west to east. This grid of east-west lettered streets and north-south numbered streets makes it very easy to find your way around the city.

If anyone is **flying into Lincoln or Omaha**, please let us know your flight details and we will pick you up at the airport and drive you to the hotel.

We hope that you will contact us with any questions or further information needs that you may have.

Lois Linke, Registrar
phone: (402) 429-1981

103 South 36th Road

Syracuse, NE 68446-7407

Email: loispetersenlinke@gmail.com

Gary White, Conv. Chairman

phone: (402) 890-3689

Email: in2iris@yahoo.com

**The Lincoln Iris Society
Hosts
Region 21 Spring Meeting and Tour
May 19-21, 2023**

Adults \$45.00 Youth: Free Banquet, only: \$25.0

ADULTS

Name _____ **Check One: ___Adult ___Banquet, only**
 Address _____ City _____ ST _____ Zip _____
 Phone: _____ email: _____@_____
 Do you wish to receive credit for judge's training (circle one): Yes No

Name _____ **Check One: ___Adult ___Banquet, only**
 Phone: _____ email: _____@_____
 Do you wish to receive credit for judge's training (circle one): Yes No

YOUTH MEMBER

Name _____
 Do you wish to receive credit for judge's training (circle one): Yes No

Name _____
 Do you wish to receive credit for judge's training (circle one): Yes No

Name _____
 Do you wish to receive credit for judge's training (circle one): Yes No

Please list any dietary restrictions on the back.

Gary White, Conv. Chairman
 phone: (402) 890-3689
 Email: in2iris@yahoo.com

	Number	Sub-Total
Adults @ \$45.00		\$
Youth Free		FREE
Banquet Only @ 25.00		
	Total	\$

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Mail with payment to: Lois Linke, Registrar
 103 South 36th Road
 Syracuse, NE 68446-7407

For Questions or more information contact:
 Lois Linke, Registrar
 phone: (402) 429-1981
 Email: loispetersenlinke@gmail.com

HOTEL

Please Register for this Spring Regional meeting, and reserve hotel rooms BEFORE May 5, 2003

AmericInn Lodge and Suites
 8701 Amber Hill Ct, Lincoln, NE
 402-420-0027

Block held until May 5, 2023

- Group rate: \$115 per night plus taxes (16.74%) for all rooms in the block.
- Double Queen or Single King rooms available.

Book Online using the Group Code (located under the special rate drop down): **Iris Society**

- Or, use the bookable Link: [Click here to book](#)
- Or, call 402-420-0027 for reservations and ask for Iris Society rates.

Irises In the Snow

A great first promise of Spring is seeing flowers in the snow. While crocus have often held this honor, it turns out that irises can be added to this harbinger list.

Alan McMurtrie, an AIS member and hybridizer in Ontario, recently presented an AIS webinar providing a glimpse into the possible.



“All About Reticulata Iris & Creating Amazing New Colors and Patterns” by Alan McMurtrie
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VVvMgwVSZWM>

Website:

<http://www.reticulatas.com/>

Youth Growing Zone

Consider including a Youth table, corner, or zone at your club events.

AIS is not just about growing irises – it is also about growing iris growers.

Suggested activities -

- Grab bag irises with a care sheet and an invitation to show their iris next year
- Iris in a pot – “Healthy Plant-in-a-Pot” competition at a late summer event
Might also include Creative Pot Decorating competition
- Iris Drawing Gallery – paper, crayons, tacks (or magnets) and the board
- Photo op – Face hole in generic iris bloom photo on foamcore or posterboard
Possibly, green “blade” gloves to use as they hold the board up to their face

Appointment of New Treasurer

David Warren has been named the new Treasurer for Region 21 to fill the term left vacant after the Fall 2022 meeting. He will be serving the remainder of the 3-year term currently being held by Acting Treasurer, Sue Witt. As approved at the Fall meeting, RVP, Mike Becker, made this appointment.

The transfer of responsibilities to David will occur after Sue returns to Iowa in early April.

Remembering

Walter Lavern “Vern” Fegler
June 13, 1948 – December 15, 2020

Evelyn M Fegler
January 14, 1938 – January 23, 2023

Vern and Evelyn met while square dancing and married June 13, 1987. They made their home in Gering, Nebraska where their garden was a showpiece in their neighborhood. They shared a passion for woodworking, crafting, and - of course - gardening. Particularly irises.

The Feglers were founding members of the Monument Valley Iris Society where they were invaluable members serving many roles, including President.

Vern was responsible for crafting the iris display boards used for the club’s shows. Evelyn baked some of the most delicious treats served as refreshments. They both loved novelty irises, especially space-age irises. Vern even tried his hand at iris hybridization while Evelyn could always be counted on to help with

all shows. Both were strong competitors in local shows, winning many awards, including Best of Show and People's Choice.

Vern was born to Walter and Darlene (Ring) Fegler in Scottsbluff, Nebraska. A graduate of Scottsbluff High School and Scottsbluff Junior College, Vern graduated from Frontier School of the Bible in LaGrange, Wyoming.

Evelyn was born to Harold and Viola (Potter) Gifford in Scottsbluff. After graduating from Nebraska State Teacher's College (now University of Nebraska-Kearney) in Kearney, Nebraska, Evelyn taught in many schools throughout Nebraska.

Both Vern and Evelyn will be dearly missed.

By Kathy Nielson



Marjorie Lionberger

March 11, 1935 - February 7, 2023

Marjorie Lionberger, a cherished member of the Lincoln Iris Society, passed away on February 7, 2023, at the age of 87.

She and husband David joined LIS in 2009, where she was an active member and a regular at our meetings. With a smile and sense of humor, she enjoyed the company of iris folks. Always willing to help, she managed our meeting

refreshments and enthusiastically greeted customers at the annual sale, handing them bags for their iris purchases. Marjorie loved her irises, so David planned, planted and kept an iris garden for her. Along the way, he caught that iris enthusiasm, began hybridizing and named one of his beautiful seedlings in her honor. 'Marjorie Lou', an apricot-colored Tall bearded iris registered in 2022.

We were so lucky to have Marjorie as part of our group and we miss her.

By Linda Rader & Gary White



Leonard Ver Hey

August 30, 1931 - September 25, 2022

Though not a Region 21 member, Leonard was a familiar face and welcome attendee at many Region 21 meetings, which he attended with his wife, Dorothy.

Dorothy and Leonard celebrated their 70th Anniversary on September 10, just 3 days before Dorothy, along with the rest of the Sioux Empire Iris Society, hosted the Region 21 Meeting.

His gentle presence at our gatherings will be missed.

Spring 2025 Activity

The Society for Siberian Irises is holding a Mini-Convention in Iowa in May 2025 and is currently in talks with Region 21 about holding their event in conjunction with the Region 21 Spring Meeting.

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**Board of Directors**  
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Officers

RVP	Mike Becker
ARVP	(Unfilled)
Secretary	Gary White
Treasurer	David Warren
Immediate Past RVP	Wayne Messer

Directors

1st Year	Heidi Brase (2022-2025)
2nd Year	Linda Wilkie (2021-2024)
3rd Year	Deb Johnson (2020- 2023)

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**Committee Chairs & Administrative**  
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Historian	(Unfilled)
Judges Training	Wayne Messer
Librarian	Mike Becker
Newsletter Editor	Wayne Messer Pam Messer
Youth Members	Heidi Brase

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**Anticipating –**  
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2023 Meeting Schedule

Spring Garden Tour and Meeting
 May 19-20
 Hosted by Lincoln Iris Society
 Lincoln, NE

Fall Membership Meeting
 To Be Determined
 Hosted by Siouxland Iris Society
 Sioux City, IA

2024 Meeting Schedule

Spring Membership Meeting
 To Be Determined

Fall Membership Meeting
 To Be Determined