

AIS Region 21 Newsletter - Feb 2024

Two Region 21 hybridizers registered their first irises this year

Congratulations to Evelyn Toth and Brad Collins on their irises!
You can see photos of the irises starting with their hybridizer's page in the Iris Encyclopedia.

Evelyn Toth: <https://wiki.irises.org/Main/Bio/HybridizerTothEvelyn>

Evelyn's irises are being introduced through Indian Creek Irises.

For more information, see the list of iris sources in this newsletter.



Toth Hybridizing Garden

Brad Collins: <https://wiki.irises.org/Main/Bio/HybridizerCollinsBrad>

Brad's irises are being introduced through Schreiner's:

<https://www.schreinersgardens.com/search?q=collins>

More about his seedlings: <https://garden.org/thread/view/176986/seedlings-2023/#top>



Cherry on Top



Ease Your Mind



Man Cave

The Collins Garden is featured in our Spring Meeting.

Affiliate Iris Club Reports

Annual AIS Affiliate Renewal Reminder: It's that time again!

Can-West Iris Society – from B.J. Jackson, Brandon, Manitoba

See Can-West's Newsletter on the Region 21 Website – aisregion21.org

Direct link to Can-West's Autumn Newsletter:

<https://aisregion21.files.wordpress.com/2024/01/cwis-2023-autumn-newsletter-final.pdf>

Greater Omaha Iris Society quarterly news – Linda Wilkie, Omaha, NE

Greater Omaha Iris Society (GOIS) wrapped up our year with a Thanksgiving potluck. We celebrated holding our first iris exhibition in nearly 7 years, adding the two missing Sass hybridized Siberian iris to our display garden, and welcoming several new members to the group. Sadly, we have also had to say goodbye to several old friends with the passing of Jan Fricke (September 3rd), Amy Green (November 19th), and Rich (December 5th) & Christa (December 15th) Kohout.

Jan, Amy, and Christa all had the distinction of serving as president at one time or another. Jan's beautiful garden was one of the tourstops featured during the 1990 AIS National convention where not only were the iris in great form but her peonies were exquisite as well. Jan was a talented artist and her mastery of color and light made her gardens a delight. Amy recruited many of her master gardener friends to GOIS and was a key organizer for the display gardens on the Sarpy County Fairgrounds in Springfield. Rich and Christa were bus captains during the 1990 convention, organizing tours that ranged from Plattsmouth to Lincoln, through Sioux City and as far north as Sioux Falls SD. Rich was one of the GOIS men who built our display garden sign and made all of the exhibition tubes that we still use at our shows. They were both judges (retired) and had a keen eye for iris quality. Even after they downsized their home and "eliminated" their gardens Rich managed to sneak in a few of his favorites including 'Dusky Challenger', 'Lily Pond', and 'Black Magic Woman'. Rich was also a lover of orchids and shared his cultivation tips for these plants freely with the group.

GOIS will start meeting again with the growing season, beginning in March, and will meet the second Saturday of the month at 11:00 AM. Any changes to the schedule will be posted on our website <https://greateromahairissociety.org/>. The annual rhizome sale will be held Friday, August 2nd. Details will be posted on our website when finalized. Workdays at the Sass Memorial Iris Display Garden are scheduled for the third Saturday of the month with special workdays as needed, these too will be posted on our website's schedule of events.

Heart of Iowa Iris Society – Sue Witt, from her snowbird home in AZ

Heart of Iowa Iris Growers would like to invite regional members to the Spring Regional Meeting May 24-25, 2024.

We will be meeting Friday evening for light refreshments and a visit with hybridizer, Brad Collins. Saturday we will be visiting two gardens. The day will focus on the garden from the eye of the hybridizer and the judge. The tours will include the hybridizing gardens of Brad Collins and the iris garden of Howells Greenhouse and Pumpkin Patch. Saturday evening will include a presentation on Historic Irises, dessert and the silent auction.

Our membership is increasing and we would love to include other interested iris lovers. Looking forward to Spring!

Monument Valley Iris Society

The Monument Valley Iris Society had a very good 2023 with a successful iris sale and 10 new members.

Our new co-presidents are Edd Verplancke and Anita Cervenak [Phone 307-401-2858; Email acervenak@hotmail.com]

Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/p/Monument-Valley-Iris-Society-100067386662960/>

Sioux Empire Iris Society – Deb Johnson, Sioux Falls, SD

I continue in the President role, but with us being such a small group, we all work together and decide on Club issues together. We had a good turnout for our iris sale in 2023. However unfortunately, we've not been able to find new members. Our regular monthly meetings are April- Sept.

News from the group:

-We had a couple meetings during fall months, basically to get together for the friendship.

-We're hoping to have a couple winter meetings, but that depends on the weather, and snow amounts.

Regional Activities and Opportunities for Participation

Volunteers are always welcome to committees (committee chairs shown on the last page), meeting activities, and website management. It's a great way to meet and get to know iris lovers from across the Region.

2024 offers added opportunities for participation in many regional activities:

- The triennial election of officers takes place at the "Fall" meeting in August.
- The annual election of a new director also takes place at the August meeting.
- The Newsletter Editor position opens as of May 15 and contributors are always welcome.

2024 Region 21 Spring Meeting/Garden Tour Madison County May 24-25

Cumming Iowa – Madison County, just southwest of the greater Des Moines area, is the location for the 2024 Region 21 spring garden tour. Hotel rooms and meeting space are located in Clive.

Friday evening HOIG will be hosting a meet and greet with Brad Collins in the meeting room at the hotel. Light refreshments will be served.

Saturday morning Brad will provide a guided tour of his hybridization gardens. Judges Training, with Bev Hoyt of Region 18, will follow the tour.

At the end of the morning, we will cross the road to Howell's Greenhouse and Pumpkin Patch for an out of the sun picnic lunch, followed by a leisurely tour of the Howell iris garden.

Mid-afternoon we will gather back at the hotel meeting room for regional announcements, a program, and the opening of the silent auction.

Dinner will be on your own (multiple choices in the area). We will gather back in the hotel meeting room for dessert and the evening program presented by Wanda Lunn, on the topic of Historic Irises. Silent auction bidding will close before the program.

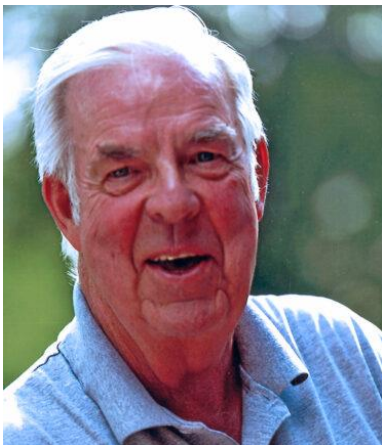
On the Horizon – Spring Joint Convention

In May of 2025, Region 21 will be partnering with the Society of Siberian Irises for a joint Convention in Ames, IA. Further details will be forthcoming in upcoming issues of our newsletter, on the SSI website, and in upcoming issues of Irises. Volunteers to help with the convention can contact Kris Jurik, or Lois Girton, the co-chairs.

Contact Information

Kris Jurik: k.jurik@yahoo.com
Lois Girton: Loisgirton@gmail.com

In Memoriam



Remembering Dean Douglas, August 4, 1933 - November 16, 2023

Dean Samuel Douglas, a longtime member of the Lincoln Iris Society, passed away on November 16, 2023. Dean is survived by his wife Judy, five children, 10 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

Dean Douglas was born on March 4, 1933 in Palmyra, Nebraska, grew up on a farm nearby and graduated from Palmyra High School. After attending Ag College at the University of Nebraska, Dean joined the U. S. Army and served from 1953-1955. He then worked for NC+ Hybrids for 39 years until he retired in 1998. Dean and Judy were married for 51 years. They moved to their two-acre spot in Elmwood in the fall of 1972. Dean had a passion for irises, and that brought him and Judy to the Lincoln Iris Society more than two decades ago.

Dean began growing irises (65 of them) that he bought from Schliefert Iris Gardens near Murdock (after their first visit in 1990), but then the collection grew and grew and grew. He and Judy had a wonderful iris garden that was on local and regional tours several times. They were on both the 2004 TBIS/Region 21 and the 2007 MIS/Region 21 Tours which included hundreds of guest irises. They started a small business named Dean And Judy's Iris Patch, that brought lots of new friends to their iris garden. Dean hybridized a couple of irises, and registered them with the American Iris Society. Those two irises both are attached by name to the community he loved. They are 'Elmwood Sunset', a TB showing the colors of the sunset, and 'Bess Streeter Aldrich' a lovely yellow and white TB iris named for the author who made Elmwood her home. Both of those irises are growing in several of our gardens and in the Magdalene Pfister Iris Garden in the Maxwell Arboretum on the UNL east campus. Dean also maintained a full Dykes Medal collection at their home.

Irises, of course, connect and join the members of the Lincoln Iris Society, but it's the people who make our group so enjoyable and memorable. Dean embraced the Lincoln Iris Society and became very involved. He managed our annual iris rhizome sale for several years. He also managed our involvement in the Husker Lawn & Leisure Show for a number of years, and he was a past President of the Lincoln Iris Society during 2005 and 2006. Dean attended some of the Region 21 meetings as well as a few of the AIS

National conventions. Dean and Judy were given Honorable Life Membership in the group. It was great seeing Dean almost every month for the better part of 25 years....and enjoying his greetings, when he was always smiling, very upbeat, and welcoming. Dean was one of a kind, a great irisarian and a wonderful person. We miss you, dear friend.

Gary White



Remembering Amy Green, July 21, 1964 – November 19, 2023

Margaret "Amy" Green received her Master's degree in Early Childhood Development from UNL and later earned a Culinary Arts Degree from Southeast Community College. She was an American Iris Society Life Member, a past Omaha Iris Society President, Omaha Daylily Society member, a Nebraska Master Gardener – Crew Chief at Sarpy County Fairgrounds, and the Community Garden Writer for the Springfield online newspaper. Amy was a JCI Senator, a past Nebraska Jaycee I.D.V.P., and Springfield President, and the St. Joseph Youth Director and past Finance Committee member.

Amy was preceded in death by her parents, Dr. Richard and Jewell Smith. She is survived by her loving husband, Robert "Bob" Green, brothers, Doug (Karyl) Smith, H. Daniel (Paula) Smith, Steve (Shirley) Smith, and Dr. Samuel (Janet) Smith; sisters, Dale (Buck) Larsen, Josephine (Bill) Lamp, and Beth (John) Ryan; many loving nieces, nephews, and friends.

Linda Wilkie

Remembering Carolyn Lingenfelter, January 18, 1941 – October 4, 2023

On October 9, 2023 friends and family of Carolyn Lingenfelter gathered at St. Paul's church in Norfolk, Nebraska to remember and pay final respects to a fellow irisarian. In a fitting tribute, plants were shared with attendees, much as Carolyn had shared plants during her lifetime.

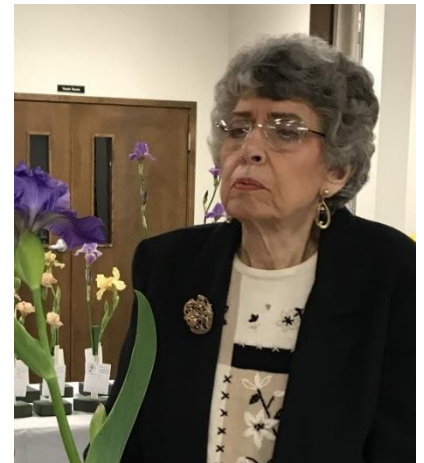
Carolyn was a life member of the American Iris Society and a fifty-year member of the Elkhorn Valley Iris Society where she served in all offices and as president. She also served as RVP of Region 21. Many kinds of iris graced her garden, with purple and lavender her favored colors.

Her plant interests extended far beyond iris as evidenced by her memberships in Master Gardeners, Norfolk Garden Club, Norfolk Tree Advisory Board, and as a charter member of Nebraska Daylily Society.

Carolyn's gardening pursuits included many hours spend caring for public plantings in her community. For many years, she maintained St. Paul's church landscaping. She was an active participant in care of plantings at Verges Park. It was through her efforts that the park was for public use and became the property of the Elkhorn Valley Museum.

She is survived by her husband, Gary, and her daughter, Trisha Kolterman.

Carolyn will be long missed and remembered by those of us who knew her.



Marjorie Jansen

Remembering David Lionberger, January 24, 1935 – November 1, 2023

David Lionberger, an honored member and past president of the Lincoln Iris Society, passed away peacefully on November 1, 2023 at Tabitha Journey House in Lincoln after an extended illness.

David was born on January 24, 1935 in Lincoln, attended Northeast High School, graduating in 1953. David met Marjorie Lou Kohl at Northeast High and after they both graduated in the same class, they were married the following February 7, 1954. David worked at a number of jobs, including for Pepsi-Cola and Goodyear Tire Company, and with his younger brother at George Lionberger Construction. Later, he was also a driver's license examiner for the Nebraska DMV.



Marjorie's favorite flower was the iris, and of course made David aware of that fact. Over the years, they visited local iris gardens including Allan Ensminger's garden, and later, Dean and Judy's Iris Patch. Those visits prompted Dave to plan and prepare an iris garden for Marjorie. Dave took care of the iris garden, enlarged it, and added many varieties to it. Eventually, he also started hybridizing, registering six tall bearded irises with the American Iris Society. The first two, 'Elderberry Wine' and 'Madeline Ruth' were registered and introduced in 2013, followed by 'Eli' in 2014. In 2017, David introduced two more, 'Blossoms Aflame' (from seed obtained from Bob Smith) and 'Lena Grace'. Three of his irises were named for Dave and Marjorie's great-grandchildren. And Dave's last registered iris was 'Marjorie Lou' in 2022 and named in honor of his wife of 69 years.

David and Marjorie joined the Lincoln Iris Society in June of 2009, quickly becoming involved in all the activities of the group. David, sometimes accompanied by one or two of his great-grandchildren, worked in the Magdalene Pfister Iris Garden on the East campus of UNL, helping maintain that garden for the iris society. In the fall of 2013, David was elected President of the Lincoln Iris Society, an office he held for six years, 2014 through 2019. In the fall of 2014, Dave also began writing and managing the LIS newsletter, the Rainbow Messenger, with help from Marjorie and his daughter, Melinda Smith. This arrangement with the newsletter continued through 2019. Also in 2019, David managed the annual iris rhizome sale for the club.

We miss Dave's stories and experiences, his practical outlook on life, and his humor and wit. Our thoughts and love go out to his family of 6 children and their families, including 10 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. David Lionberger's time in the Lincoln Iris Society had a lasting positive effect on this organization and we miss him dearly.

Gary White and Linda Rader

Region 21 Iris Sources

- **Jenny and Mark Cich** offer irises and other plants through their **Hello Gorgeous Gardens**. See their Facebook page for further details. <https://www.facebook.com/Hello-Gorgeous-Gardens-205903306107761/>
- **Joni's Dance-in-the-Wind Iris Garden** has irises and other plants <https://www.facebook.com/people/Jonis-Dance-inthe-Wind-Iris-Garden/100064243917100/>
- **Tim Stanek** is offering his 2023 Arilbred 'Yondu' for \$25 + \$10 shipping. For picture: <https://wiki.irises.org/Ab/AbYondu>
Address: Tim Stanek 23329 Ellington Ave., Glenwood, IA 51534 Email: timjstanek@gmail.com
- **Toth Irises** sales page with iris Introductions by David, Ava and Evelyn Toth: <https://www.facebook.com/p/David-Toth-Irises-100064683205597/>
Indian Creek Irises is where you can find Toth plant pictures and seedlings and other events: <https://www.facebook.com/indiancreekiris/>

Board of Directors

Officers

RVP	Mike Becker
ARVP	Pam Messer
Secretary	Gary White
Treasurer	David Warren
Immediate Past RVP	Wayne Messer

Directors

1 ^s Year	Ginny Cich (2023-2026)
2 nd Year	Heidi Brase (2022-2025)
3 rd Year	Linda Wilkie (2021-2024)

Committee Chairs & Administrative

Historian	(Unfilled)
Judges Training	Wayne Messer
Librarian	Mike Becker
Newsletter Editor	Wayne Messer
	Pam Messer
Nominations	Linda Wilkie
Youth Members	Heidi Brase

Meeting Schedule

2024

Spring Meeting & Garden Tour
 May 24-25
 Cumming, IA
 Hosted by: Heart of Iowa Iris Growers

**Fall Membership Meeting
 Election of 2024-2027 Officers**
 Tentative Date: Aug 9 -10
 To be held in the Lincoln - Omaha Area
 Location will be announced when confirmed

2025

Joint SSI Convention & Regional Meeting
 May 2025
 Ames, IA

Newsletter Schedule & Submission Deadlines

Feb	Due Jan 15
May	Due Apr 15
Oct	Due Sep 15

2024 Region 21 Spring Meeting/Garden Tour Through the Eyes of the Hybridizer and Judge

Friday, May 24

Evening Meet and Greet
Hotel Meeting Room

May 25

Garden Tours - Judges Training - Meeting Sessions

Madison County Gardens

Brad Collins

3145 **Cumming Road**, Cumming, IA

Howell's Greenhouse and Pumpkin Patch

3145 **Howell Court**, Cumming, IA

Judges Training

Collins Garden

Saturday Meeting Sessions

Late afternoon & After Dinner
Hotel Meeting Room

Meals

Lunch

Picnic (out of the sun) at Howell's

Dinner

On your own (multiple options are available close to the hotel)

Dessert

Served at the Evening Session

Silent Auction

Opening at Saturday afternoon session and closing during the evening session

Country Inn & Suites

1350 NW 118 Street, Clive, IA 50325

ASK FOR ROOM BLOCK: AIS Region 21

Meeting Room Rate: \$129

Includes Full Breakfast Buffet

Reservations: 515-223-9254

Cutoff Date: April 24, 2024

Meeting Registration

(Saturday Lunch Included)

Members: \$40

Youth Members: Free

Non-Members: \$60

Registration Form - Region 21 Spring Meeting/Garden Tour

May 24-25, 2024

Name: _____

Email: _____@_____ Phone: _____

Member (\$40.00) Youth Member (Free) Non-Member (\$60)

Name: _____

Member (\$40.00) Youth Member (Free) Non-Member (\$60)

Email: _____@_____ Phone: _____

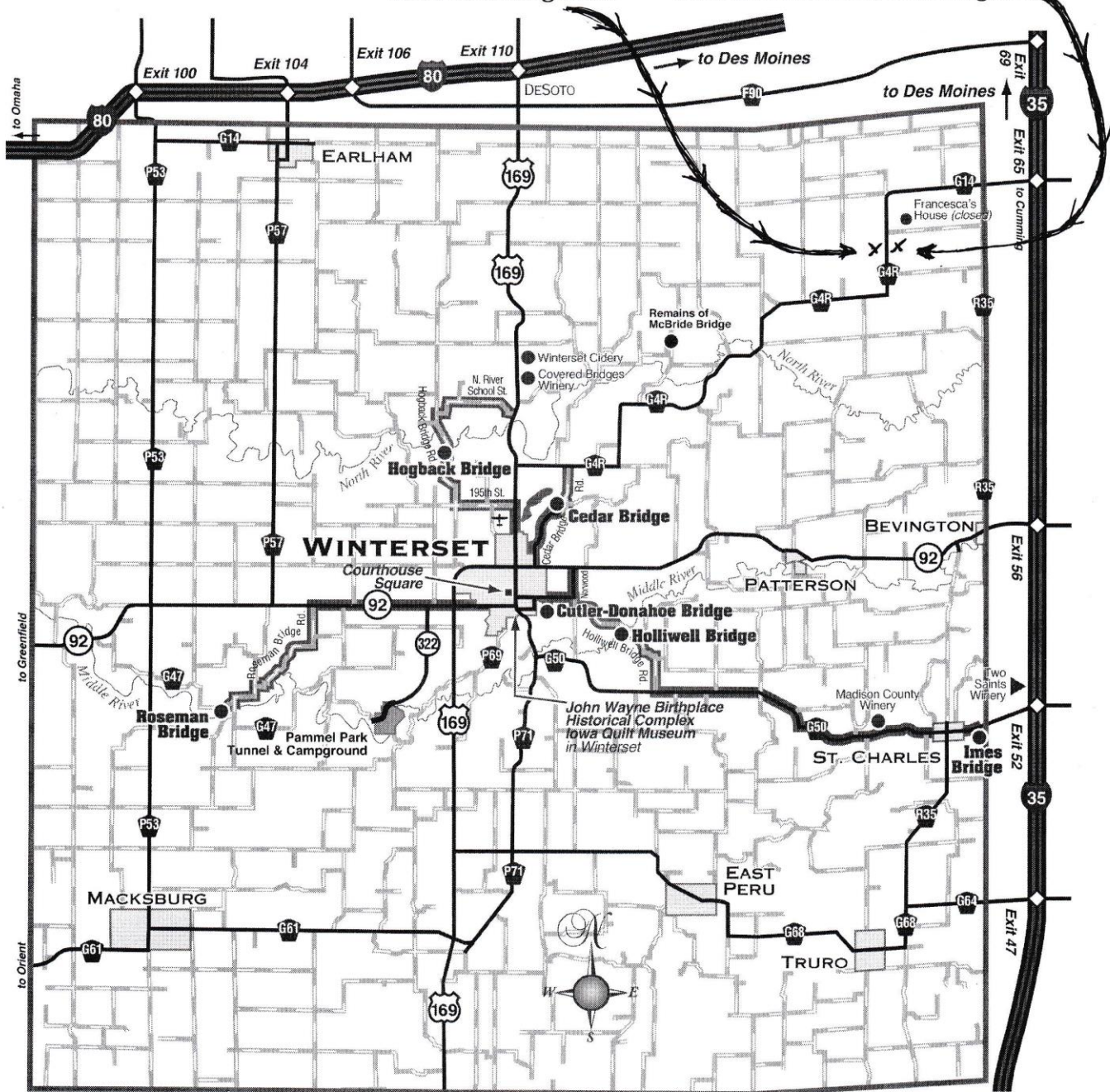
Addition Names Can Be Listed Below

Mail form with payment to:

Pat McDermott
3910 Dakota Drive
West Des Moines, IA 50265

Collins Garden
3145 Cumming Road

Howell's Greenhouse and Pumpkin Patch
3145 Howell Court, Cumming, IA



to Lorimor

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Interstate Highway
 U.S. Highway

State Highway
 County Highway

Signed Routes to Bridges
 Paved Road

Rock Road (gravel)
 Municipal Limits