



# ***AIS REGION 6 NEWSLETTER***

**Summer 2020**

**Indiana – Michigan - Ohio**

'Blue My Mind' (Schreiner, 2014) Kent Rumbaugh's Garden

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Editor's note: Thank you, to all who contributed to the Region 6 newsletter. I appreciate each writer's willingness to take the time and effort to write for our enjoyment. I'm sure that each of you will enjoy their contributions. Readers please let our contributors know what you thought about their article. Feedback is important and greatly appreciated.

## ***AIS OFFICERS AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS***

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TBD

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TBD

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### **Immediate Past Regional Vice President**

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### **Columbus Iris Society**

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### **Tri County Iris Society**

Linda Jones  
Mason, MI 48854  
[jonesjandl@gmail.com](mailto:jonesjandl@gmail.com)



# RVP'S MESSAGE



Well I just re-read my spring letter and what a change. I didn't get to see anyone at Muncie, my blooms came late or not at all and all the shows were canceled, with the exception of the Mio club show which was held in Adam Cordes' barn since no venues were open yet. I have talked to Wayne at AIS and he only knows of one other AIS sanctioned show that happened.

Who knew what was coming. We had summer, winter, summer and a very late freeze in our garden, which did in many of the blooms. As I weed, I am finding the mushy remains down near the rhizome. Trying to get it out before it goes any farther. With all this time on my hands I should have a weed free garden, but they all sprang up at once so again I am trying to play catch-up. I did visit Copeland's garden and it looked so nice and clean.

I am hoping and it is looking more like it will be possible to hold the Fall Regional. More and more places are opening and allowing meetings. If we can't go inside, there are always parks and we can bring our own lunch. I am finding I am not the hermit I always thought I wanted to be. I need people and interactions above my 6-year-old granddaughter's level. I know many are still very anxious, but I am ready to get back to living as long as we do it with caution. So, I will close with "Hope to see you at the Fall Regional" and really hope it does happen! Happy growing and weeding. Jean

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Michelle Shackelford  
Cedar, MI

Ed Minas  
Ferndale, MI

Stephen Imwalle  
Cincinnati, OH

Donald Piper  
Columbus, OH

Jessica Vanbeek  
Jenison, MI

Sherrie Zou  
Bristol, IN

Tonya Hayes  
Kalamazoo, MI

## HELLO! HELLO! ANYBODY OUT THERE?

Kathy Kibitzin, NEIS

(editor's note: Kathy sent her article in mid-April 2020 after the 'shelter in place' order.)



This is not about Irises! What else would we talk about? It's spring! Because I've been home alone for a while, I've been able to enjoy Spring in my own little section of the world. I started with a pussy willow bouquet. That came in to be enjoyed a bit before we were asked to stay home....at least from everything. The next bouquet was forsythia branches. They were **outstanding** and lasted for 3 weeks! As that bouquet began to fade, the daffodils were calling for their moment in the spotlight! So, they were bouquet number 3. As the daffodils began to collapse, I brought in branches of the redbud trees! Then yesterday we had 3 inches of snow!!!! But the forsythia bush at the start of the drive is gorgeous still! Soon will come lilacs,

flowering quince, bleeding hearts, and perhaps by then our beloved irises! And let's not forget the little spring flowers that come along to brighten your day.

Bouquets weren't all I was doing of course. Being a retired nurse, I felt compelled to do daily sanitizing of frequently touched surfaces. I missed the rush to stock up on popular sanitizing products, so I looked for what I could find at home. A bottle of Pine Sol says it kills 99.9% of germs. So, germs aren't viruses, but Lysol and Purell don't kill viruses either. Rather than use up paper towels (hard on the environment and maybe in short supply on the shelves) I used small squares of old disposable dishcloths (that hold up through many washes). I made a diluted mixture of Pine Sol and water in a recyclable plastic container from the deli and put in several folded squares and lidded it. Now each day I walk around the house wiping down light switches, doorknobs, drawer handles and pulls. And of course, the refrigerator, freezer and microwave doors!

Time home alone gives me time to cook favorite recipes and try new ones! New recipes come from newsletters, the internet and some from a new book I got as a gift over a year ago. The book is excerpts from a series of stories I and a friend had in common. She gave me the book and truthfully, I had dismissed it. But with time on my hands, I started reading it; *Jan Karon's Mitford Cookbook & Kitchen Reader*. The excerpts are accompanied with the recipes that are mentioned in the books. They are Southern style family recipes. Many don't fit with my efforts to eat a healthy diet that supports the health needs of a senior, somewhat overweight, arthritic lady, with asthma, but having been a rehabilitation nurse, I know about adaptation!

Spring also brings us new birds to look for and enjoy! And that is what prompted me to write this tome! (Which has annoyed my senior, arthritic cat, who believes she has squatting rights on my lap and control of where my hands should be). That same friend, I mentioned earlier, gave me the book, *Why don't birds get headaches? And other bird questions you know you want to ask*. The book is hilarious! The author, Mike O'Conner, owner of a bird lovers store, wrote articles to answer bird questions for a New England newspaper. The book is NOT written in textbook style, but rather Trevor Noah style! I have laughed and laughed!

After many seasons, Mr. O'C realized he was answering the same questions over and over, so he put the articles together in a couple of books. He has a great sense of humor and applies it to answer the questions. For instance, a lady asked about hummingbird migration and told of the hazard a neighbor pointed out to her about leaving her feeder out too long, saying that would trick the hummingbirds to stay too long and end up freezing to death!

First, Mr. O'C expounded on nosy neighbors who give bad advice. Then proceeded to tell her everything about hummingbird migration. The "no-good" males who fathered many birds in multiple nest, did nothing to build the nest, support the females while they are sitting on the nests or helping to feed the hatchlings, or later the fledglings. So as early as July, those males decide they better get out of town, before their multiple lady friends start looking for them. (The males are not chaste mates!) Maybe you get the idea. Anyway, if you have a chance to read this book, I think you'll get some good laughs.

Hopefully, all that rambling says to you that I've managed to enjoy my days "staying at home" and I hope you are too. And I've heard various reports of the clearing of air pollution. My hope is that we as the controlling animal group in this world; humans will remember the kindnesses we've experienced with one another and other benefits of staying home and distancing and will retain and carry them forward. Stay well friends! Kathy (lgarden2@aol.com)

# 2020 - THE YEAR OF THE FREEZE (AND PANDEMIC)

Peggy Harger-Allen, IGEI

The year 2020 was shaping up to be a stellar year for the iris. In central Indiana, leaves were gorgeous, and one could see buds coming along down in the stalks. Then the weather started acting up with long periods of cold, some light frosts and days with winds that sheared off peony stalks. Soon the leaves were rather ragged, but we still held out hope for the blooms. Then the evening of May 8, a freeze was predicted. Most of the historic varieties were showing color and ready to bloom. The modern iris stalks were about half-way up. A quick google search suggested using socks to cover the stalks. We only had 60 socks and 60 buckets/ plastic pots and had to decide what to cover. Only the newest varieties, the ones that had never bloomed here, and most of the historic iris were covered. All



manner of socks were used (photo left), but we did not use knee socks as we thought they would do more damage going on or coming off the next day. Every vessel we could find was employed (photo below) and a brick was placed on each one. The wind was very high that night. The temperature dipped to 28 degrees F.



The next morning, we removed all the covers and it looked pretty grim. The peonies and many iris stalks were all drooped over. The iris tissue appeared damaged. Once the weather improved, the temperatures came up and when the sun came out things started to straighten up and depression started to lift as well. A week later, most of the historic varieties had bloomed, but the stalks seemed stalled out. After two weeks, some iris started blooming, but big clumps only put up one stalk and some of the flowers were distorted and streaked. I started cutting the stalks that were starting to rot and would not bloom this year.



distorted and streaked. I started cutting the stalks that were starting to rot and would not bloom this year.



I. germanica



'Starlit Velvet' (Stahly,1990)



'Charger' (Stahly,1983)



'Relentless' (Cook,1948)

The jury is still out as to the success or failure of this experiment, but I would do it again if needed. Some of the lost bloom on the MDB's, SDB's and IB's may have been due to the early wind/frost and not the freeze on May 8. **Results:**

MDB's: 30% bloom  
SDB's: 50% bloom  
IB's: 30% bloom  
BB's: 67% bloom

MTB's 65% bloom  
TB's: 40% bloom

### Photos showing frost damage:

I. germanica (not covered)  
'Starlit Velvet' (covered-white streaking)  
'Charger' (covered-white streaking)  
'Relentless' (covered-petal damage)



## *SHIRLEY POPPIES ANYONE?*

Brian Wendel, NEIS

Are you looking for some color to help accentuate parts of your Iris, perennial or annual garden beds? It may behoove you to try growing some annual Shirley Poppies, as they are an amazingly simple but

extremely effective way to add some outstanding color to your gardens. Shirley Poppies have progressed a long way from the early selections by the Vicar of Shirley, William Wilks, during the 1880's that chose only corn poppies void of black markings with yellow or white stamens, anther and pollen.

Shirley Poppies add an extremely nice visual garden enhancement even when not in bloom (photo left) or after bloom. I simply love the texture and the interesting color of the leaves as well as the ornate flower buds, fuzzy, green, ovoid and elaborately segmented that explode into an amazing visual display of light to deep pink, white with pinkish edging, bright reds and all sorts of colors in between. There can

be deep ruffling or simpler flower form but each and every bloom is most pleasing to the eye almost like an exquisite Rembrandt painting. The individual plants also put on quite a lengthy show of bloom and after bloom the seed pods also add an additional interesting contrast to the garden depth perception.



I have especially enjoyed growing some Shirley Poppies from Renee's Garden, called Angel's Choir with lots of fully double and triple flowers and very ruffled. Falling in Love, is another beautiful selection of Shirley Poppies with less doubling and ruffling yet the blooms are still exquisite. Best of all, no matter how double or full the flower, the pollen is still very accessible to the bees and pollinators that find the flowers hard to resist coming to and pollinating. Just make sure you view them on a sunny day for they look rather less presentable after the rain.

They are very easy to grow. Just work up the top 3 to 4 inches of soil and just barely cover or sprinkle the seeds on the top of the soil. You will also find that poppy seedlings may pop up here or there if you let a few seed pods mature ... provided you are not a "Preen King or Queen." Poppies resent transplanting due to their long tap roots. I have transplanted some and some do great and others I should



have never tried moving. They are lovely combined with later Siberian and Spuria Iris. Fall or winter sown seeds will bloom sooner than March sown seeds. Sharing a few exquisite, Shirley Poppy blooms.

I now need to figure out how to cultivate Icelandic Poppies. There are also some pictures of some Icelandic Poppies that have thrived and are actually blooming well with our current cold spring. It seems that the Icelandic Poppies make better cut flowers than the other poppies because you don't have to heat seal the stems. I purchased my initial Icelandic Poppy seeds from Seed Needs, an online firm out of Michigan. I also purchased some Pastel Meadows Icelandic Poppy seed from Kitchen Garden Seeds. Oh, happy day, the Icelandic Poppy blooms have given me much needed joy this spring. The seeds purchased from Kitchen Garden Seeds have been putting on the best show and the flowers are so exquisite. The Icelandic Poppies have a much simpler form than the Shirley Poppies, but they are still very pleasing to the eye and the pollinators love visiting them also. Since I am a seed saver, I would be most happy to share any of the above seeds mentioned should you so desire any. Until next time!



***GARDEN BLOOM IN REGION 6***  
***A Spring Garden tour. Enjoy!***

***Iris Cristata From Peggy Harger-Allen's Garden***

***Tom Tomlinson's Garden***



***Petroglyph (Ginny Spoon, 2017)***

The iris bloom season started here in this section of Muncie, IN with the little guys Standard Dwarf Bearded Iris leading the parade.



***Tegan (Donald Spoon 2008)***



***Abuzz With Charm (Carol Coleman, 2017)***





**Jim & Jill Copeland's Garden**

Early spring daffodil bloom. Below the TB garden in bloom.



**Blooms from Lori Lanford's Garden**

Baltimore Oriole  
in flowering crab



'Cats Eye' (Black, 2002)



'Sweeter Still' (Schafer/Sacks, 2011)



'Desert Snow' (Black, 2013)

'Devil's Playground'  
(Blyth, 2000)





**A Walk-Through Lana Wolfe's Garden**



Left: The garden just before the rain.  
Right: 'Pass The Shades' (Nelson, 1974)  
Below left: 'Camelot' and 'Shelly Elizabeth'  
Below right: 'Perrymount' (Richardson, 2007)



Lana's TB Seedling

Buckeye Belle peony





**Blooms From John & Jean Kaufmann's Garden**



Left: 'Gesundheit' (Bunnell, 2012)  
 Right: 'Royston Rubies' (Cordes, 2017)  
 Middle: 'Copper Country'  
 (Hollingworth, 2007)  
 Bottom: 'Rayos Adentro' (Morgan,  
 2007)



**Brian & Anita  
 Wendel's  
 Garden**



Left: 'Blueberry  
 Flambe'  
 (Chapman, 2015)  
 'Joseph's Coat'  
 (Katkamier, 1930)  
 'Kewlopolis,  
 Stout, 2017)  
 'Gingerbread  
 Man' (Jones,  
 1968)





**Spring 2020 Explosion in Lana Cameruci's Garden**



Top left: 'Fatal Attraction' (Kerr, 1995) Bottom Left: 'Tuscan Summer' (Keppel, 2010) Top right: 'Silken Trim' (Schreiner, 2012)  
Middle right: 'Lady Friend' (Ghio, 1980)  
Bottom: 'Lickety Split' (Van Liere, 2015)





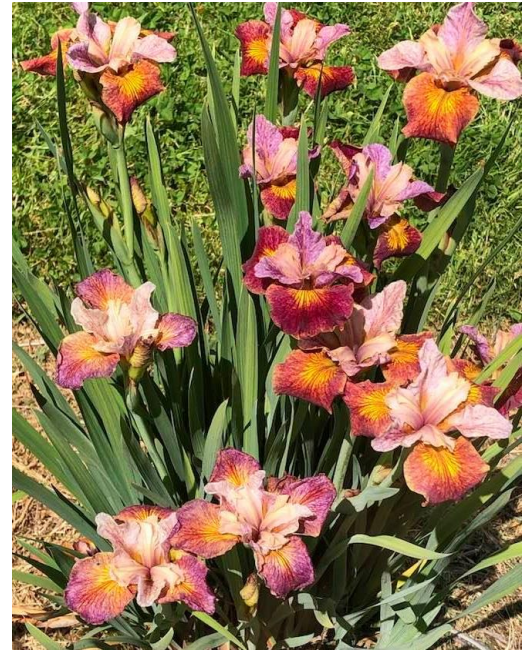


***Blooms In Hollingworth Garden***

'Neptune's Gold'



'Daffy Duck' (Black, 2016)



'Paprikash' (Schafer/Sacks, 2012)



'Petite Purple'

***CONGRATULATIONS ROBERT HOLLINGWORTH!***

**The AIS Distinguished Service Award** was awarded to Bob for his outstanding service and dedication to the American Iris Society 2019.

Bob started hybridizing irises on a whim in 1971. His first attempts were with TB's. He turned his attention to Siberians in 1973 and introduced his first Siberian 'Forrest McCord' in 1983. Since then he has introduced over 85 Siberians and Species-X iris. He has received 10 Morgan-Wood medals, 1 Randolph-Perry Medal, 2 Franklin Cook Memorial Cups, and in 2016 the Dykes Medal for 'Swans In Flight' (the first beardless to ever win this award). In 1997 Bob received the Hybridizer Award from AIS and in 2011 The Foster Memorial Plaque from BIS.

Bob has held a variety of positions on the local, regional and national level of AIS. Presently, he is the Editor of The Siberian Iris, An Emeritus Judge, President AIS Foundation, Chair of the AIS Scientific Committee, and Chair of the Intellectual Property Committee all as he continues his hybridizing efforts.

## ***LANA RESCUES IRIS***

Lana Wolfe, NEIS

A few years ago I had some iris rhizomes left over from the sale that had lost their tags and so I planted them along the neighbor's driveway and no one takes care of them and for two year now I



have enjoyed Man's Best Friend and as you can see they haven't even taken the leaves off of them. Funny how I can baby things along and get them to survive and sometimes bloom and sometimes not. Glad I planted them instead of throwing them away as they sure look good.

## ***THOUGHTS FROM LINDA JONES***

Linda Jones, TCIS

One day as I was teaching piano online during the pandemic, I told my very gregarious student that we had to look at the cup as being half full rather than half empty. We could meet and learn and have fun in spite of circumstances.

Later, I pondered what the half full cup looks like for me. As an Irisarian, I have a great hobby that can continue during social distancing and lockdowns of almost any form. As long as I am allowed to be outside, walks and countless hours in the garden will be the norm. There are many hidden blessings in our present situation if only we are willing to see them. My garden has far fewer weeds for one.

The members of TCIS have not been able to meet and have our annual iris display. However, we do hope to have our dig and rhizome sale in July, but there will be changes due to the risks of Covid-19. Presently, we are still in the process of considering all the necessary precautions.

I do miss the members of TCIS and all my other iris friends. I think about many of you as the irises that you shared with me bloom. Members of region VI will be in my thoughts as I look at the iris purchased at the Regional Conference auction held in Lansing in 2018. Looking at flowers is truly like looking at the faces of dear friends! In short, I can look at the cup as being half full if only I am willing to focus on the positive.



'Magical Encounter' (Schreiner,1999)

(Editor's Note: Have a very safe and enjoyable summer in your garden. May your garden bloom and bring joy to each of you.)





## THE 2020 MIO IRIS SHOW

This has been an unusual year for each of us. As iris growers we look forward to spring and all the activities related to iris. Fortunately for the MIO iris club their show



happened. With all venues closed Adam Cordes, MIO club president opened his barn for the event. They had 18 exhibitors, 9 adults and 9 youth, 151 total entries. There were 8 designs in the artistic section.

**Adult Division Queen of Show:** 'Celebration Song' TB exhibited by Pauline Cournyer

### Runners Up:

**BB:** 'Stylish Choice' (Best Median of Section) exhibited by Adam Cordes

**BB:** 'Dapple Dawn' exhibited by Kris Sorgenfrei

**TB:** 'Cher and Cher Alike' exhibited by Kris Sorgenfrei

**SIB:** 'Laugh Out Loud' (Best Siberian of Section) exhibited by Adam Cordes

**TB:** 'Significant Other' exhibited by Kris Sorgenfrei

**TB:** 'Paul Black' exhibited by Leslie Cordes

### Youth Division Queen of Show:

'Absolute Treasure' exhibited by Steven Cordes

### Runners Up:

**TB:** 'Flash Mob' exhibited by Taavi Cordes

**TB:** 'Organic Mechanic' exhibited by Jacob Cordes

**TB:** 'Good Thing' exhibited by Sarah Cordes

**TB:** 'Money In Your Pocket' exhibited by Josiah Cordes

**MTB:** 'Gesundheit' exhibited by Levi Cordes



**Adult Silver Medal:** Mary McDonald

**Youth Silver Medal:** Steven Cordes

**Adult Bronze Medal:** Leslie Cordes;

**Youth Bronze Medal:** Jacob Cordes

Pauline Cournyer is 86 years old. She has participated in the Mio Irisarians club for about 50 years. This is her FIRST time winning the Best in Show. She also is the main overseer of the Ben Azer memorial garden our club has established at the Library in Mio. A sweet woman!

Mary McDonald is also in her 80's and has been a rain-or-shine-as-long-as-the-iris-are-in-bloom exhibitor and member of our club. This year was her first Silver Medal.

Leslie is my sister-in-law. This is her first time winning a medal at a show.

In spite of the 48 hours of 30mph winds prior to the show, and near freezing temperatures (Pauline reported it was 35 degrees in Mio at 6 am on June 13, show day!!), our club had wonderful entries and a fun and heartwarming time at our 76th consecutive annual iris show. Adam Cordes



## *MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR AIS AND REGION 6 EVENTS*

<b>Year</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Event &amp; Location</b>
2020	Sept. 19	Region 6 Fall Meeting, Fort Wayne, IN, Host: IDIS
2021	April 12 – 17	AIS National Convention, Las Cruces, NM
	TBD	Region 6 Spring Meeting, Cleveland, OH, Host: NEOIS
	Sept. 18	Region 6 Fall Meeting, Fort Wayne, IN, Host: SWMIS

### *AIS REGION 6 FALL MEETING*

NOTE: We are planning to have the annual fall meeting in the Ft. Wayne area if the COVID-19 pandemic circumstances allow group meetings. In the event of cancellation, we will have a Zoom internet board meeting. We will keep everyone informed during this time.

Sponsor: IDIS - Indiana Daylily and Iris Society

Date: Saturday, September 19, 2020

Place: INDIANA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY  
8211 WEST JEFFERSON BLVD.  
FORT WAYNE, INDIANA 46804  
(800) 621-8667

Agenda:

10:30 - 12:00	Region 6 Business Meeting
12:00-1:00	Lunch
1:00-2:00	Program
2:00-3:00	Judges Training
3:15-4:30	Auction

IWU's Fort Wayne Education and Conference Center is centrally located at Exit 302 off I-69 (US 24 exit), close to Lutheran Hospital and just minutes from downtown.

From I-69 southbound, take Exit 102. At the bottom of the ramp, turn left. At the second light, turn right onto Olde Canal Place. Follow the road back past Frontier and Aging In-Home Services. Indiana Wesleyan University will be on your left.

From I-69 northbound, take Exit 102. At the bottom of the ramp, turn right. At the first light, turn right onto Olde Canal Place. Follow the road back past Frontier and Aging In-Home Services. Indiana Wesleyan University will be on your left.



# Fall 2020 Registration Form

American Iris Society (AIS) Region 6, Fall Meeting Saturday, September 19, 2020  
Sponsor: IDIS - Indiana Daylily and Iris Society

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ (**Important for last minute updates**)

Registration fee: \$25.00 per person

Dietary requirements: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration includes coffee, donuts, lunch and judges training

**Questions/concerns:**

**Lana Wolfe:** [Lanaopal@aol.com](mailto:Lanaopal@aol.com) or 419-495-2026

**Peggy Harger-Allen:** [dpmallen52@gmail.com](mailto:dpmallen52@gmail.com) or 317-260-0257

**Make check out to – IDIS (Indiana Daylily and Iris Society)**

**Mail this form and check to the registrar:**

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