

AIS Region 21 September 2022 Newsletter

EDITORS NOTE –

A topic sparking lively discussion during the Region 21 Fall Meeting was the need to reestablish a better level of intra-region communication. Especially so, since an insurmountable number of hurdles and challenges brought a halt to the traditional Region 21 Bulletin.

This newsletter is an attempt to begin the process of building a timely and information pipeline addressing topics, activities, and events of interest to the entire membership of the region.

Content will be driven by the member submissions and feedback. There will be little, if any, repeating of information contained in *Iris*, *The Bulletin of the American Iris Society* or in *News & Notes*. This newsletter is meant to provide enhanced and new information, focusing on our region.

All are invited to submit items, articles, club activities, requests, gardening questions & tips, comments, and anything else that comes to mind. Regional hybridizers and nurseries are invited to share information about their activities.

As a starting point, the schedule of publication will be every 4 months, with special editions as warranted or requested, distributed via email as a PDF document and posted on the region's website. Print copies will be mailed to regional members not having an email address.

This issue contains:

- A Directory of Affiliate Clubs, Judges, Officers, Board Members, Committee Chairs and Administrative Positions.
- Short items on topics raised at the Fall Meeting
- Regional Events, Judges Training Memo, and Regional Hybridizers Spotlight.

We hope you find this informative and worth contributing to.

-The Editors -

Incoming RVP

Mike Becker, President of the Siouxland Iris Society, was selected for the office of Regional Vice President during the election at the Fall Meeting in Sioux Falls, SD August 13. His 3-year term officially starts November 9 following approval by the AIS Board of Directors. However, as is the custom, Mike assumed the duties and responsibilities of his new office immediately after the election August 13. One of his early acts as RVP will be to appoint someone to fill the vacant office of Treasure.

Mike, as many of you know, is a professional Santa Claus. He will soon be heading north – to Minnesota - for annual training and certification. Sue will be joining him this year in the role of photographer.

Fall Meeting Snipits

Sioux Empire Iris Society

Thank you to the entire Sioux Empire Iris Society for a wonderful welcoming meeting. Outstanding setting, hospitality, food, and souvenirs.

Hooker Nichols, Hybridizer, AIS Emeritus Judge (Region 17)

Hooker Nichols as guest speaker and Judges Trainer, provided a series of informative and entertaining presentations. He shared tales of starting his iris adventure at age 5 in his aunt's Oklahoma iris field, as well as, tales of many challenges of establishing his most recent iris acreage in drought-stricken Texas. Little did any of us know that he and Bonnie would soon be facing epic flooding around their home in Dallas.

Regional Meetings Planning Committee

The idea of forming a Region Meeting Planning Committee with representatives from each affiliate and members of the BOD was well received. It is still in the discussion stage and all views are welcome.

Library Holdings Fate

The idea of having a regional library no longer carries the same weight as when the library was established. The volume is substantial and the holdings are of varying importance and value. The plan discussed was to have a select group go through the materials and evaluate how they can best be handled. This is an issue that also ties in with the Historian holdings.

The list of the holdings of the Region 21 library is available on the website:

Open Board Positions

The Treasurer Position remains open and will be filled by appoint of the RVP. It is a very minimal activity position based on managing a few expense payments and deposits generated at the Spring and Fall Meetings. If you are interested in filling this 3-year term, please contact Mike Becker.

Does Region 21 need an Assistant RVP? Perhaps, not. Each region makes it own decision on what offices are needed, beyond RVP. The question was raised and is open for discussion.

Judges Training Memo

Annual Certification

The annual compiling of Judges Training records has now been completed and the certification process is now in the hands of AIS Judges Training Chair, Bonnie Nichols. Time to start your fresh JT record. And what better place than with the AIS online offerings.

Retiring Judges

Thank you to retiring AIS Master Judges Carolyn Lingenfelter and Marjorie Jansen for their years of dedicated service.

Affiliate Snapshot

Heart of Iowa Iris Growers (HOIIG)

On September 22, near the close of its normal meeting schedule (Mar-Oct), HOIIG is meeting for the first time since the "big disruption." At the time of the disruption, HOIIG members were set to hold a trial run iris show with the goal of raising funds for holding an AIS sanctioned iris show in 2021. With all of that scuttled, this meeting brings the remaining members back together to look at where we are and to craft a plan for what happens next.

A Sad Farewell

Arnold (Arnie) Koekoek (1933-2022)

Region 21 experienced the sad loss of beloved member and dedicated irisarian, Arnie Koekoek. To say he will be greatly missed, is an understatement. He touched many of our lives and enriched many of our gardens. The memories he created rewards all of us.

Arnie's obituary, written by Jim Morris of Region 18, can be found in the Summer 2022 issue of Irises.



HYBRIDIZERS SPOTLIGHT



Region 21 Hybridizers 2022 AIS Awards (balloting by AIS Judges) Results

Kudos to David and Kelly!



'Tropical Smoothie'

BB Award of Merit Runner Up - David Toth



'Prairie Lights'

Species Award of Merit Runner Up - Kelly Norris

TB Honorable Mention - David Toth



'Shattered Dreams'



'Sheer Panic'

To view all results: [wiki.irises.org/Main/InfoAwards2022](https://www.wiki.irises.org/Main/InfoAwards2022)



A Tip of the Hat and a Three Trowel Salute!

To Ava Toth, Hybridizer and Youth Member
for her **28 iris registrations**



'Hippo Hiccup'

For more of her whimsical irises: [wiki.irises.org/Main/Bio/HybridizerTothAva](https://www.wiki.irises.org/Main/Bio/HybridizerTothAva)

Clicking on the name will take you to the pictures.



Affiliates

Canwest Iris Society

BJ Jackson, President
jacksonb@mts.net

Greater Omaha Iris Society

Linda Wilkie, President
lrwilkie@gmail.com

Heart of Iowa Iris Growers

Sue Witt, President
sue.witt@unlv.edu

Lincoln Iris Society

Gary White, President
in2iris@yahoo.com

Monument Valley Iris Society

Kathy Nielsen, President
kathynielsen007@gmail.com

Sioux Empire Iris Society

Deb Johnson, President
nurses32@hotmail.com

Siouxland Iris Society

Mike Becker, President
mbecker51031@gmail.com

JUDGES

Emeritus

Gary White in2iris@yahoo.com

Master

Eleanor Hutchison elhutch203@gmail.com

Tim Stanek timjstanek@gmail.com

Dorothy Ver Hey dorothyverhey@icloud.com

Garden & Exhibition

BJ Jackson jacksonb@mts.net

Kelly Norris gardens@kellydnorris.com

Sandra Proulx srproulx13@gmail.com

Linda Wilkie lrwilkie@gmail.com

Board of Directors

Officers

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

Directors

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

Committee Chairs & Administrative

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

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

Newsletter Publication Schedule & Submissions Deadlines

Jan 2023 Due by Dec 15

Apr 2023 Due by Mar 15

Sept 2023 Due by Aug 15

Send to: wrmessenger@gmail.com