

# **AIS Region 21 January 2023 Newsletter**

## ***RVP Message -***

*[Submitted Fall 2022]*

Hello everyone. Let me introduce myself.

My name is Michael Becker. I am your new Regional Vice President. I am the President of the Siouxland Iris Society and have been a member for the last 12 years.

I am married to a wonderful gal and her name is Sue. We are going on 35 years next year. We live in Le Mars, IA which is the Ice Cream Capital of the World. It is home to the Well's Blue Bunny.

I am a professional Santa and will be heading to Owatonna, MN for 7 weeks starting on November 8. I leave on November 7. Sue will be with me this year. I will be at Cabela's there in Owatonna.

We have been members of AIS for the last 10 plus years. I have been to one National Convention and that was in Des Moines a few years back. We are planning to go to Dallas this upcoming year. I have been to all of the Regional Gatherings in the Spring and Fall since I've been a member of AIS. They are usually a lot of fun meeting new people and seeing old friends. Hopefully everyone is staying safe.

I encourage each of you to try to attend a Regional or a National event. You won't be disappointed. For now, take care everyone, stay safe and Happy Iris Gardening.

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## **You are invited to the AIS Region 21 Spring Meeting**

The Lincoln Iris Society is hosting this year's AIS Region 21 Spring meeting. So, grab your calendars and reserve the weekend of May 19-21<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

We are still hammering out the details, but here are the highlights:

- Friday evening will be an in-garden meet 'n greet social time to reconnect with old friends and make some new ones.

- Saturday will take you on a guided tour of several gardens, with lunch provided.
- On Sunday, additional gardens will be open for you to visit at your leisure. And, this will be the very first time for several of these gardens to be on tour.
- Also, this year we will be joined by the current American Iris Society President, Andi Rivarola. He will conduct an in-garden judges training class during the tour on Saturday and give an after-dinner presentation that evening.

We are still working to finalize the schedule and menus for the weekend and will send an invitation letter when that is complete.

In the meantime, the members of the Lincoln Iris Society would like to extend an invitation for you all to come spend the weekend with us in May to enjoy the irises and give Andi a big Midwestern welcome.



Lois Linke's Garden - LIS 2023 Garden Tour  
Photo By: David Lionberger

---Linda Rader, Lincoln Iris Society

## Affiliate News

### Lincoln Iris Society, recap of 2022

The Lincoln Iris Society (LIS) began the year by holding meetings by ZOOM, then finally meeting in person beginning in March and continuing through the rest of the year. Meeting programs were varied and interesting, ranging from one on how irises are named (along with the registration rules) to programs on different classes of irises such as Japanese irises and SDB irises, to a program on iris hybridizing, to a recap of the AIS and Siberian/Species conventions of the year. We also learned about invasive pests, and about selling irises from your home garden.

We held two large events during the year. These were the annual iris show and the annual iris rhizome sale. The rhizome sale turned out to be our second largest in terms of overall sales, only surpassed by our 2021 sale (after having no sale in 2020). Our iris auction included a total of 79 cultivars including all bearded classes except MDBs. Remaining unsold rhizomes were shared with the Greater Omaha Iris Society, Siouxland Iris Society, and the Sioux Empire Iris Society.



Judging  
Linda Wilkie & Carolyn Lingenfelter

The annual iris show was one of the larger shows in the country, with a total of 234 entries. We had 21 exhibitors, including 6 youth exhibitors. All bearded classes were represented, except MDBs. The largest number of irises in a single class was the IB class though, with 62 stalks shown. The timing was perfect for Intermediate Iris bloom in the Lincoln area. In all, there were 140 different cultivars represented.

The Best Specimen of the Show was 'No Egrets' a Brad Kasperek TB, exhibited by Natalia Bjorklund. Best Artistic Arrangement was exhibited by Jenny Cich, showing the "Diversity of Iris". The Best Un-Introduced Seedling was exhibited by Ava Toth, one of our youth

members. The Best Specimen in the Youth Division was 'Sailing At Dawn', a Rick Tasco Arilbred, exhibited by Dietrich Brase.



Judging  
Tim Stanek &  
Marge Jansen

The Silver Medal for most blue ribbons went to Gary White, with the Bronze Medal for second most blue ribbons to David Toth. The Youth Silver Medal went to Ava Toth and the Bronze Medal to Evelyn Toth. The Popularity Vote (or People's Choice Award) went to 'Queen's Circle', a Fred Kerr TB, shown by multiple exhibitors.

The AIS judges for this show were Marjorie Jansen, Carolyn Lingenfelter, Tim Stanek, and Linda Wilkie. Two of these people then retired as judges at the end of 2022. So, a special thank you goes to Marge Jansen and Carolyn Lingenfelter, who together have judged a large number of LIS Shows over the years. We are grateful for their iris knowledge and their judging expertise, and

we are happy that they have been willing to travel to Lincoln so many times to judge our shows. More importantly, we value their friendship to all of us in the Lincoln Iris Society.

*Submitted by Gary White*



Best of Show  
No Egrets

## Can-West Iris Society

### Excerpts from Aurora, the Can-West Newsletter, provided by B.J. Jackson

We are well and truly into the cold and snow in Manitoba and reports from other members indicate similar conditions across the prairies. And even though we know it will get colder, we also know that in a few short months it will be spring. That means it is time to start planning for 2023. Over the winter months, the Organizing Committee will be continuing our work looking forward to the new year and hopefully a more normal one as we move into the post COVID world and 'living with the virus'.

Our summer rhizome sale was once again a success thanks to member support even as there were a few glitches along the way. Never again will we start the sale without all the rhizomes in hand to avoid this year's shortages. There is always a glitch or two but this year there were too many. The Rhizome Sale Committee thanks all who ordered for their patience as we worked out the problems.

### Iris Borer Control - By BJ Jackson

Earlier this summer it was confirmed through the University of Manitoba that the iris borer (*Macronoctua onusta*) had arrived in Manitoba. Inevitable, but still a shock and dismay to everyone. CWIS urges its members and friends across the province to be vigilant. So, to provide information on control, Chuck Chapman's on his website at <http://www.chapmaniris.com/id38.htm>,

I also spoke to a couple iris friends about their experiences over the years and what has worked best for them. Here are their thoughts and recommendations:

From Kate Brewitt and Terry Laurin in Southern Ontario,  
"We can't say enough good things about the DynaTrap. Nematodes require work and precise timing while manually picking/squishing is labour intensive. With the DynaTrap we just plug it in, sit back and enjoy our irises. It's also good at catching mosquitoes and lawn moths."



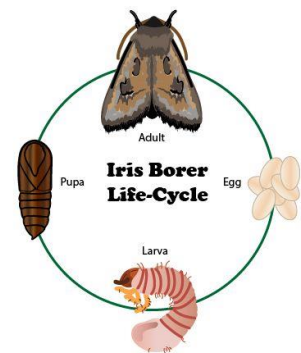
From Cathy Eggerer and Nancy McDonald in Michigan USA,  
"We have had great results with nematodes. We treat the iris fields in the early summer and that pretty much takes care of them. Last year we found no borers at all; this year we found maybe five or six, and that's in a field with 1200+ iris clumps..."



Cathy provided further information indicating that the nematode in the Scan Mask she uses is *steinernema feltiae* and the one in their EcoMask product is *steinernema carpocapsae*. Both attack iris borers. She also indicated that from her research, she had identified a company that sells both of them in Canada and provided a link to their products:

<https://retail.koppert.ca/products/entonem-am?variant=42796406735083>

She writes: "Basically, you mix the nematode powder with water and spray it at the base of the irises when the fans are 6 inches or so tall, but before they bloom. When the borer travels down the fan into the soil on the way to the rhizome, the nematodes invade their bodies and basically dissolve them from the inside out, while reproducing inside the larva. It sounds horribly gruesome and very satisfying to an iris gardener!"



So, don't despair, even though the pest is here, there are options available to us!

*Editor's Note: Illustrations inserted by editor for your garden journal gallery.*

## Additional Item from CanWest Newsletter

Did You Know...

... The use of iris as a garden plant dates back to 1469 B.C. and King Thutmose III of Egypt. Apparently, the king was an avid gardener and coveted plants the way many at the time coveted gold. When Egypt conquered Syria, the king found irises growing in abundance and introduced them to his gardens. Although no source gave an idea of which type of irises they might be, a few scattered sources indicate that it was probably a bearded species. Apparently, they appear on reliefs in Egypt at the site of his original gardens to this day.

Thank you to B.J. and Can-West for allowing us to include these items from their newsletter.

## Remembering

**Barbara Marsh**

**August 10, 1919-August 2, 2022**

Barbara Marsh passed away at her home on Tuesday August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022. She would have been 103 years old just a few days later on August 10, 2022. Barb and husband Connell Marsh were founding members



of the Lincoln Iris Society, along with Gladys and Allan Ensminger, Gene Newburn, and several others. She told us that the club met at a bank during that first year in 1979.

Barb was a hybridizer, as was Connell, though she only registered four irises. Two of those, 'Innocence', a TB and 'Gentle Bluebeard', an SDB are still being grown by members of the Lincoln Iris Society. Another TB, 'Royal Claret' may still be locally grown as well. The Connell's garden, Iristocrat Acres, was often on the local LIS tours in the 1990s and very early 2000s. The garden was featured on Region 21 tours as well.

Barb was always very welcoming to new members of the Lincoln Iris Society, especially to youth members. She often gave a bag of irises to new members that she dug from her own garden. She was a very friendly, generous and dedicated member of the Lincoln Iris Society.

by Gary White and Linda Rader

### **Anna Smith**

**February 15, 1918 – September 19, 2022**

Anna Smith, was one of the longest serving members of the Lincoln Iris Society. She joined in 1981, just two years after the club was founded and was quite active in the society for most of those four decades. On September 19, 2022, at the age of 104 years, 7 months and 3 days, she passed away.

In her garden in Emerald, NE, Anna grew daylilies, phlox, columbine, old-fashioned hollyhocks, peonies, an impressive collection of hostas and, of course, irises. She loved purple irises best, not only for the color, but she always said they lasted the longest.

Anna was almost always present at Lincoln Iris Society meetings, usually arriving with her friend Eunice Cernohlavek. For many years she served as a clerk for the AIS judges at the LIS shows. She contributed to and worked the rhizome sales and, in her later years, she liked being the Bag Lady who greeted buyers at the door, offering them a paper bag for their purchases. In May of 2014, Anna brought and entered just two irises in the annual Show. One of those was the IB iris 'La De Da'. It was chosen Best Specimen of the Show and Best Ensminger Hybridized Iris! Anna was very surprised and beamed with pride.

Anna liked people, made friends easily and was a longtime and treasured member of the Lincoln Iris Society. She was the last of the early group of folks in the society.

by Gary White and Linda Rader

### **Vera Hummel**

**August 14, 1938 -October 5, 2022**

Vera and Jim Hummel were very active members of the iris society in years past. Jim introduced several iris and, they were one of the host gardens for the National when it was held in Omaha.

Vera M. Hummel, 84, of Wayne, died Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2022 at her home at Kinship Pointe in Wayne. She was preceded in death by Jim and survived by two sons, seven grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Vera Muree Churchill Hummel was born Aug. 14, 1938 in Woodbine, Iowa to George H. and Ida Bintz Churchill, the youngest of 11 children. She graduated from Woodbine High School and earned her bachelors and master's degrees from Wayne State College. Vera married Jim Hummel on Dec. 28,

1958 in Woodbine, Iowa. The couple lived in Mead, Nebraska for six years prior to moving to Wayne in 1964.

Vera retired in 2000 after serving as emeritus faculty at Wayne State College. She later served as a founding Director of Seeking the Spirit Within, the Nebraska Synod of the ELCA Institute of Spiritual Direction Formation; Spiritual Director and Spiritual Retreat Facilitator. Vera was also a volunteer in hospice for many years, served as a member of the Board of Trustees for Wayne State Foundation, and in many church roles at Our Savior Lutheran Church (organist, choir, council, committees).

Vera will be remembered as a loving wife, mother, and grandmother who shared her faith, integrity, love, and care for others.

Memorials may be directed to The Jim and Vera Hummel Scholarship Fund/Wayne State College Foundation.

*Information courtesy of Carolyn Lingenfelter*

Board of Directors

Officers	
RVP	Mike Becker
ARVP	(Unfilled)
Secretary	Gary White
Treasurer	(Pending)
Immediate Past RVP	Wayne Messer
Directors	
1 <sup>st</sup> Year	Heidi Brase (2022-2025)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Year	Linda Wilkie (2021-2024)
3 <sup>rd</sup> 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



Kami Brinkerhoff's Garden – LIS 2023 Garden Tour  
Photo by: Linda Rader