

# AIS Region 21 Newsletter - May 2024

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## Affiliate Iris Club Reports

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

<https://aisregion21.files.wordpress.com/2024/05/cwis-2024-spring-newsletter.pdf>

Spring is here! It has been a long journey and a most unusual winter throughout the country. And hopefully it is done and we can look forward to a new bloom season. But, it is April and we all know anything can happen.

2024 marks our 20th anniversary of existing, first as Northern Lights Iris Society informally in 2004 and then as Can-West Iris Society to the present. It has been a wild ride with growing pains and bumps along the road, but with the continuing support of our members and friends we made it through and continue to thrive.

We are pleased to announce that we will try once again in 2024 to put on our first flower show since 2019. [See website for full details in newsletter.] We literally cannot do it without member support.

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

website <https://greateromahairissociety.org>

Greater Omaha Iris Society (GOIS) kicked off our growing year March 9<sup>th</sup> with a potluck luncheon and program on “Beyond Pretty Pictures: How to Make an Informed Iris Purchase”, presented by president, Linda Wilkie. Our April program continued the in garden theme with “Soil: Getting the Dirt on Good Garden Culture” presented by treasurer, Karen Stiles.

GOIS is pleased to announce that we will again mount a Spring exhibition. This year’s theme is “A-ticket, A-tasket, Iris in my basket”; a complete show schedule can be found on our website. The show will be held Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> in Omaha at St Andrews Episcopal Church (925 south 84th Street). Entries are accepted from 8:00 AM – 10:15AM and will be open to the public from 12:30 until 4:00 pm. This year the exhibition will include judged single blossom entries, a fun new AIS sanctioned category.

The Sass Memorial Iris Garden at Mahoney State Park, near Ashland, NE has begun bloom with a fine display of SDBs in both the Sass hybrid beds and reblooming beds. Stalks are coming on in the intermediate collection of Sass Medal winners as well. Stop by the park to see this historically significant collection when you are in the area!

**CAN-WEST IRIS SOCIETY -13th Iris Show**  
Bourkevale Community Centre  
100 Ferry Road  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
Sunday, June 9th, 2024 - 1:30 to 4:00 p.m.

## Regional Upcoming Meetings

2024

### Spring Meeting & Garden Tour

May 24-25

Cumming, IA

Hosted by: Heart of Iowa Iris Growers

### Fall Membership Meeting

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

## August Membership Meeting

- **Call for Agenda Items**

Submit proposed agenda items to Mike Becker, RVP: [mbecker501031@gmail.com](mailto:mbecker501031@gmail.com)

- **Election of 1<sup>st</sup> Year Director**

Submit nominations to 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Director, Linda Wilkie: [Lwilkie.gois@gmail.com](mailto:Lwilkie.gois@gmail.com)

### Current Directors

1 <sup>s</sup> Year	Jenny Cich (2023-2026)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Year	Heidi Brase (2022-2025)
3 <sup>rd</sup> Year	Linda Wilkie (2021-2024)

## Open Volunteer Position

- **Newsletter Editor**

Contact Mike Becker (see email address above) to volunteer for this position.

### Newsletter Schedule & Submission Deadlines

**Feb**                      **Due Jan 15**

**May**                      **Due Apr 15**

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR POSITON IS OPEN**

**Oct**                      **Due Sep 15**

## In Memoriam

**Helen Elizabeth North Bledsoe**, October 10, 1937 - April 15, 2024



Helen met the love of her life on the train riding back and forth to Furman University.

Helen's love of Irises and Roses was initially nurtured by her husband of 62 years, "Bob" and his mother Lorena. Their passion was to grow roses and "Louisiana Irises". Sioux Falls neighbors would walk a block out of their way to look at the Bledsoe flower garden that covered most of the back yard with over 500 different irises. Helen and Bob were founders and charter members of the Sioux Valley Rose Society and the Sioux Empire Iris Society

in South Dakota. Bob taught courses for flower show judges in the area and Helen was a judge of iris and rose gardens in the region.

**John Leroy Randall**, January 19, 1942 -February 8, 2024

In the early 1990s, while attending a Garden Club meeting in Omaha, John met Phyllis Davis and she became the love of his life. They opened Oakcrest Gardens nursery in Glenwood, Iowa specializing in hostas and other spring ephemerals.

John and Phyllis chaired the GOIS Spring potted iris sales for many years with John carefully tending plants over the winter so that they were ready for sale during the Lauritzen Garden's Spring Affair each year. John had an encyclopedic knowledge of plants and their culture and was a wonderful mentor to many novice irisarians, including this irisarian, over the years. John was preceded by wife Phyllis who passed in June of 2021.



-Linda Wilkie

### 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.
- **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](mailto: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/Indiancreekirises/>