

Region 2 of the American Iris Society NEWSLETTER

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'Catch The Fever' (Keppel, 2018)

Who We Are

Region 2 of the American Iris Society

Officers

President & RVP

Kathryn Mohr – kemohrke@aol.com
19 Roslyn Drive, Ballston Lake, NY 12019-9748
(518) 952-4995

Vice President

Carolyn Schaffner - drsnooks@twc.com

Secretary

Kate Brewitt – kbrewitt@rogers.com

Treasurer

Vaughn Sayles – vsayles47@aol.com
640 Sheffield Road, Ithaca, NY 14850-9253
(607) 273-1355

Committee Chairpersons

Archives

Dorothy Stiefel – irisacher@aol.com
260 Michigan Hollow Road, Spencer, NY 14883
(607) 589-7465

Bylaws - Dorothy Stiefel (See Archives)

Creative Money – Position is Open

Awards & Exhibitions

Kathryn Mohr (See President & RVP)

Judges Training

Wendy Roller – gwr67@frontier.com
158 Lida Lane, Rochester, NY 14616-4133
(585) 621-8985

Membership - Vaughn Sayles (See Treasurer)

Newsletter Editor

Kate Brewitt – just1moreiris@gmail.com

Youth Committee - Position is Open

Webmaster - Kate Brewitt (See Newsletter Editor)

Affiliate Chairpersons

Capital-Hudson Iris Society (CHIS)

Linda Knipper – linda.montanaro@gmail.com
15 Wiltshire Way, Schenectady, NY 12309
(518) 377-4987

Greater Rochester Iris Society (GRIS)

Cara Hutchings – thehutchings@mac.com
1996 N Clinton Avenue, Rochester, NY 14621
(585) 266-0302

Ontario Iris Society (ONIS)

Terrance Laurin – tlaurin@rogers.com

Western New York Iris Society (WNYIS)

Marilee Farry – farmare@aol.com
103 Towers Boulevard, Cheektowaga, NY
14227-3140
(716) 668-1789



'Pan For Gold' (Chapman, 2007)

RVP Message

By Kathryn Mohr, President and AIS Region 2 RVP

Greetings, Iris Lovers

Hello, all! This past iris season was one of the best and longest I can remember. The first MDB bloomed May 8 and the last pseudata finished blooming in mid-July. Moderate temperatures and ample rainfall produced excellent color, branching and bud count. One of my pseudatas reached clump size this year and produced an incredible number of blooms.

The Greater Rochester Iris Society (GRIS) is hosting the Region 2 Annual meeting this October. Details are elsewhere in the newsletter. This promises to be an exciting weekend. Thanks to Cara, Neil, Wendy and everyone else involved. Please support Region 2 and GRIS by attending.

This region could not function without the Region 2 and Affiliate leaders and all the hard work they do. Thank you all. You make possible the friendships that exist within the iris and general garden community in Region 2 that make all our lives richer.

Our Youth Chair, Joanne Maier has tendered her resignation. She deserves special recognition for the work she has done. She brought enthusiasm and innovation to the position of Youth Chair.

Several Region 2 members attended the AIS National Convention this past April. Region 14 hosted the 2019 Convention in San Ramon, CA. Attendees were treated to Median, Tall Bearded, Arilbred, Louisiana, SPX, other beardless and incredible Pacific Coast irises. Convention Chair Shirley Trio-Probst, Region 14 RVP, Jean Richter and the Region 14 Affiliates put on an outstanding event.



Kathryn Mohr with Nancy McDonald, HIPS editor, at this year's AIS National Convention.

Start planning now to attend the 100th Anniversary AIS Convention May 18 – 23, 2020 in Newark NJ. It promises to be a special event and is close by. The tentative schedule is available on the convention website - <https://2020irisconvention.org/program>.

This year Region 2 begins a difficult transition. Last October Affiliate Chairs asked that the traditional Annual Meeting format be changed. The concern was that the time and expense involved would be too great. As Region 2 plans for the future we welcome input from all members. Since I first began attending Annual Meetings 25 years ago, the social aspect of coming together each year as a Region has been very important to me. I hope we can “think outside the box” and develop a new meeting model that preserves the best of the past without burdening individual Affiliates.

I’m starting to see positive signs of growing membership in all three of the plant societies I belong to. I hope the AIS Region 2 Affiliates are also seeing growth. Don’t forget to welcome, mentor and appreciate new member candidates. They are the future of Region 2.

Happy gardening everyone! I’m off to tackle the excellent crop of weeds I’m growing.

Kathryn

Capital-Hudson Iris Society (CHIS)

Submitted by Euthemia Matsoukas

Capital Hudson Iris Society has had a busy and productive winter, spring and summer.

In March we were treated to an excellent talk and discussion by Karen Perkins, world-renowned epimedium expert. Her talk, “**Epimediums – Jewels of the Shade**”, woke a lot of us up to how many different epimediums there are and how useful they can be in the garden. Karen also brought some choice epimediums for sale. Karen is an excellent speaker and many were planning to visit her Garden Vision Epimediums nursery in Massachusetts for her open house during epimedium bloom time.

In April we had what was planned as our January meeting which had been postponed due to bad weather. Robert Clyde Anderson spoke on **Garden Extroverts: Adding Drama to Your Designs with Big, Bold and Beautiful Plants**. Robert recently retired from a nursery in Hudson and has spoken to our group twice in the past – he is a terrific speaker and a talented garden designer. His talk displayed his talents as a garden designer and as a photographer. He had a career as an illustrator and book designer, and then came to the Hudson Valley to contribute his considerable artistic skills as a garden designer at two nurseries. He now concentrates on garden design, writing and public speaking, and has a beautiful blog “Sempervivum” which you can find on-line by googling his name. It is worth it.

We decided not to have a May plant sale this year because the amount of profit we made last year just about covered our expenses. Instead we potted Siberians (many sent from Bob Keup in Maine) and decided to sell them at our August Rhizome Sale to see how that would work. But we did have a potting party on June 29 and struggled to keep them alive during the horrendous heat of the summer. We probably lost 40% of them, but those that survived sold well.

On June 1, Kathryn Mohr organized a small but very successful Iris Show at the East Greenbush



L to R - Joanna Doggett, John Colley, David Nitka, Rebecca Wong, and Don Salhoff with winning irises

Library. Dave Nitka, Rebecca Wong and John Colley were the judges. Virginia Dorwaldt won Best in Show for Queen Caterina, and Best Specimen in two other categories, MTB and Siberians. Euthemia Matsoukas won Best Specimen in the Species and SpeciesX category. Two first-time exhibitors were welcomed as well. Like other clubs, we really need to get some new blood in here, so we were really happy to see Joanna Doggett and Brian Michaud! Brian won the Founders Award for most blue ribbons won by a first-time exhibitor.

After our Rhizome Prep party on July 31st, we held the annual Rhizome Sale at Faddegon's Nursery in Latham on August 3. Bob Keup and Kathryn Mohr were responsible for providing the rhizomes for the sale. We had a great showing, sold out all the irises (including the Siberians potted in late June and five cultivars of Day Lilies) and were finished with the sale in two hours, a new record. We netted \$2758 for the sale, which is more than the two sales we had in 2018. We will probably continue with selling our

Siberians at the August sale rather than at two different sales, but perhaps pot up the Siberians a little earlier (before they bloom not after) to help them get acclimated to their pots and thrive until the sale. We now know that only one sale (and eliminating the considerable effort that two sales takes) will most likely give us enough money to pay for speakers for the next year.

If you have any questions on the above, feel free to contact Euthemia Matsoukas at the email address below. And do feel free to attend any of our meetings – we would love to have you.

CHIS Officers:

Chair: Linda Knipper, Linda.Montanaro@gmail.com
(518) 377-4987

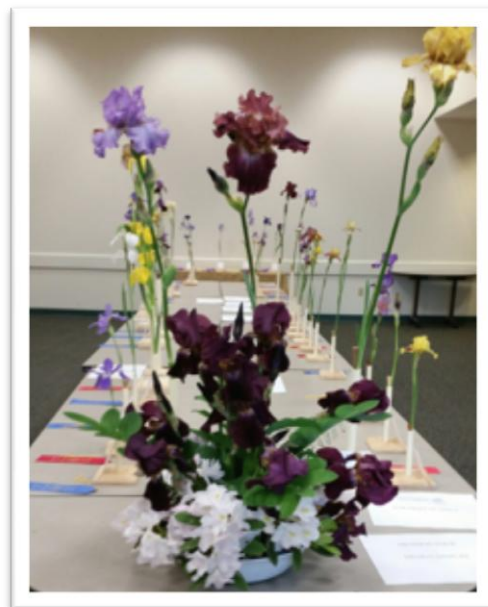
Vice Chairs: Dan and Joanne Maier,
Danjomaier@gmail.com (518) 449-8480

Secretary: Virginia Dorwaldt, vmdorwaldt@gmail.com
(518) 439-3110

Treasurer: Don Salhoff, driris2000@hotmail.com
(518) 439-1484

Newsletter editor: Euthemia Matsoukas,
EuthemiaMatsoukas@gmail.com (518) 439-3758

Iris Show Chair: Kathryn Mohr, kemohrke@aol.com
(518) 952-4995



2019 CHIS Flower show
Flower Arrangement by Charlie Buchanan



Do you support Region 2 of the American Iris Society? Do you shop on-line? If you shop on Amazon you will be able to have .5% of eligible purchase prices donated to Region 2 of the American Iris Society*. In light of the changes that will be taking place in Region 2 additional sources of revenue will be beneficial. There is no cost to Region 2 and there is no additional cost to you. It is a win-win scenario if you make purchases this way.

Use the following link <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/31-1743524> to log directly into **AMAZON SMILE**. You won't even have to search for Region 2 of the American Iris Society and 0.5% of the price of your purchases will be donated to Region 2.

*(Note: this is available to US Amazon shoppers only.)

Greater Rochester Iris Society (GRIS)

Submitted by Cara Hutchings, Affiliate Chair

The Greater Rochester Iris Society has been having a very busy year this year!

Our first meeting in March was a review of an AIS program on the different forms and unique features of various irises. We also discussed spring garden prep work to do. Our April meeting got moved to May, so we had quite a lively discussion going about how to best present your iris at an iris show, as our show was only two weeks after the meeting!

In the meantime, the next weekend, we had a Judges' Training combined with our annual club picnic. Wendy Roller did a wonderful job conducting the training in Neil Houghton's garden.

This was followed by our show, with the surprise best of show going to "Smarty Pants" grown by Wendy's granddaughter, Evie, 8 years old! Great job, Evie! (*Evie is pictured right with her sister Aubrey on the left.*)

We had a little break, working in our gardens, before it was time for our annual sale. We had to move to a new location this year, due to the fact our old location closed. But we had quite a few people follow us to the new location and sales were not down at all! In fact, they were a bit better than in the past.

Our meetings start up again in September, with the meeting on the 8th focusing on cleaning a prepping our gardens for winter, and viewing the AIS program "Beardless Iris".

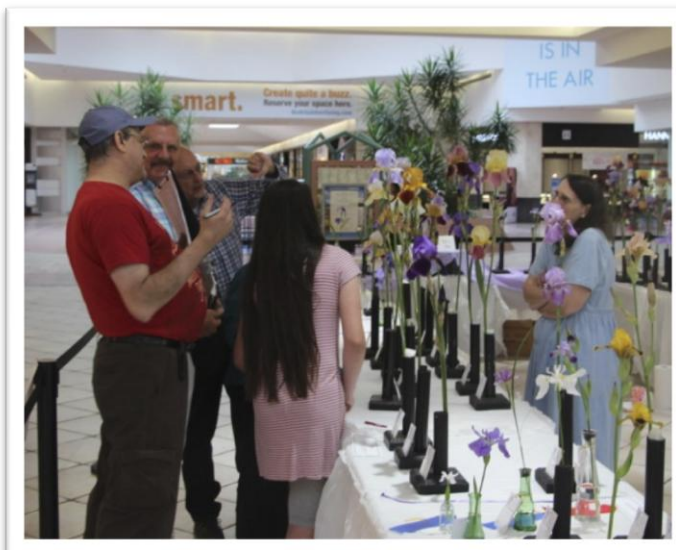
Looking ahead is the Region 2 meeting, which we are hosting (see more info in this newsletter) on October 4-5. Finally, our last meeting of the year is scheduled for October 13th, the week after the Region 2 meeting. The discussion will focus on fall, winter and early spring care of your garden. We will also take a look at the AIS program on bulbous iris.

GRIS Officers:

President: Cara Hutchings
thehutchings@mac.com

Vice President: Neil Houghton
images@irises.org

Secretary/Treasurer: Nate Hutchings
thehutchings@mac.com



Judging the Irises – L to R. Nate Hutchings, E.J. Mattson, Vaughn Sayles, Cora Roller and Wendy Roller.

Ontario Iris Society (ONIS)

Submitted by Kate Brewitt, Secretary

Between plant sales, open gardens and flower shows we had a very busy iris season.

In May we attended the Ontario Rock Garden and Hardy Plant Sale (ORGHPS) at the Toronto Botanical Garden (TBG). Here we sold lots of potted irises, bought companion plants for our irises and mingled with the local gardening community.

Also in May, we had two President's Open Garden. Due to below seasonal temperatures and record breaking rainfalls our iris season was a week to 10 days behind. As a result, the first Open Garden had minimal bloom so we extended an invitation to iris lovers to come back the following weekend. This second weekend had a much better display with our usual 100+ clumps of MDBs and SDBs in bloom.

With our bloom season being so late it was fortunate that we had selected June 9th for our show. By the beginning of June MDBs and SDBs were still in bloom while the IBs were at peak. There wasn't a TB, or a Siberian, to be seen...and we had the William McGarvey Beardless Iris Award! A warm, dry spell during the five days before the show got the irises blooming which allowed nine exhibitors to enter over 75 bloom stalks. As suspected there were lots of medians with the IBs being the most abundant...unusual for a mid-June show. As it was one of the few nice days during spring (i.e. no rain!) lots of visitors were at the TBG to admire the gardens and take in our show. Thanks to everyone who cut their bloom stalks for display.

Trophies were awarded as follows,

R.D. Little Trophy – Queen of the Show
MTB 'Hoosier Belle' (Bunnell, 1912), exhibited by Terry Laurin.

Toronto Region Award – Princess of the Show
TB 'Imprimis' (Blyth, 1992/93), exhibited by Karen Lockyear.

Verna Laurin Plaque - Best Historic Iris
TB 'Champagne Elegance' (Niswonger, 1987), exhibited by Karen Lockyear.

Jean Sanderson Trophy – Best Canadian Introduction
TB 'Northward Ho' (Zurbrigg, 1991), exhibited by Kate Brewitt.

W.J. Taylor Trophy - Best Seedling: SDB 03-40-01, exhibited by April Missons.

F.W. Caulfield Trophy - Highest total points in the Tall Bearded classes – Karen Lockyear.

William McGarvey Beardless Iris Award - (AIS Region 2 Award for Highest Placed Beardless Iris) - SIB 'Ginger Twist' (Schafer/Sacks, 2009) exhibited by Kate Brewitt



*2019 Court of Honour
L to R - 'Imprimis', Seedling 03-40-01,
'Hoosier Belle' 'Northward Ho' and
'Champagne Elegance'*

Our August rhizome auction and sale was another great success. Thanks to Mid-America Gardens we were able to provide our bidders with a fabulous selection of TBs introduced between 2016 and 2019. Bidding was brisk as members and guests competed to own the latest and greatest cultivars from Thomas Johnson, Paul Black, Barry Blyth and Lynda Miller. Thanks also to our members who generously donated irises from their personal collections for the table sales and draw prizes.

Overall it was a successful year for ONIS. Between the Seedy Saturdays and the other plant sales we attended we signed up seven new members. Our annual meeting, which will be held in late October or early November, is in the planning stages.

ONIS Officers:

President: Terrance Laurin – tlaurin@rogers.com

Vice President: Jinny Missons jojimissons@sympatico.com

Secretary: Kate Brewitt – kbrewitt@rogers.com

Treasurer: Lyn Hickey – lhickey94@hotmail.com



*Proud award winner, Karen Lockyear,
with her winning iris, 'Imprimis'*

Western New York Iris Society (WNYIS)

Photos provided by Dave Baehre



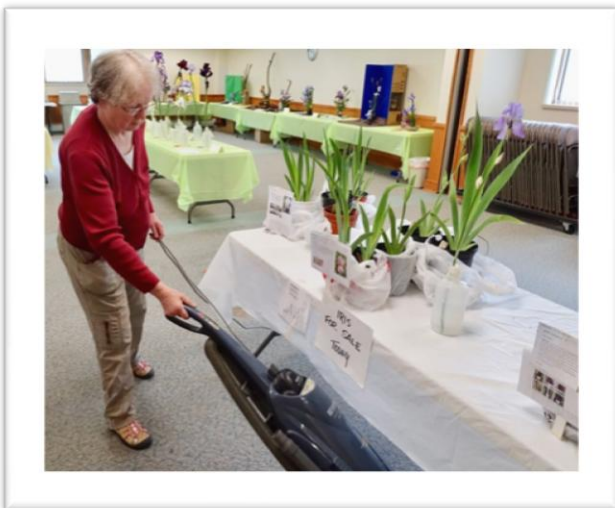
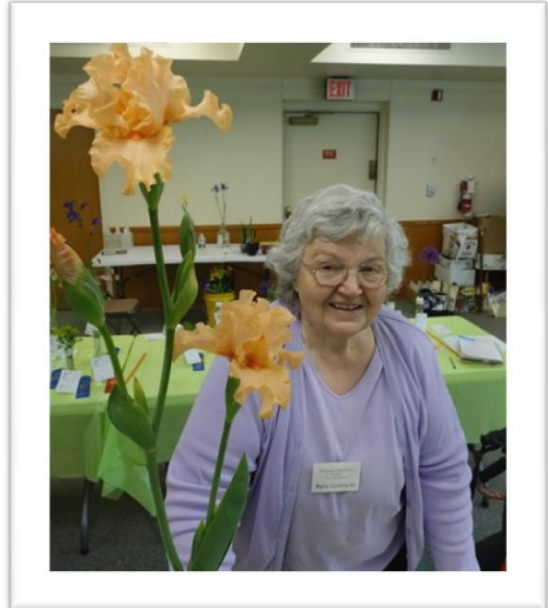
WNYIS Officers:

President: Marilee Farry – farmare@aol.com

Vice President: Maria Gerbracht –
mrgerbracht@verizon.net

Secretary: Velma Szczesny –
frank123451@icloud.com

Treasurer: Annette Kuhn – akuhn@rich.com



Clockwise from top left: Joanne Bassett (l.) & Annette Kuhn (r.) waving the WNYIS flag; Maria Gerbracht & her Best Specimen iris; Best Design of Show by Annette Kuhn; Carolyn Schaffner cleaning up

2019 AIS Region 2 Annual Meeting

Hosted by the Greater Rochester Iris Society
Friday, October 4 and Saturday, October 5, 2019
Honeoye Falls, New York

The Greater Rochester Iris Society is hosting this year's meeting. Mark your calendar and join your fellow Region 2 friends for a weekend of fun.

Hugh Stout of Stout Gardens at Dancingtree in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma will be this year's keynote speaker. Hugh is a Garden/Exhibition judge and the past president of the Tall Bearded Iris Society.

Location: First Presbyterian Church of Honeoye Falls, 27 N. Main St.
Honeoye Falls, New York 14472

Judges' Training: There will be a 1-hour session on Friday night as well as a 2-hour session Saturday afternoon. Both sessions will be given by Hugh Stout.

Registration Fee: \$20.

Accommodations: If you are booking a hotel room, we have put you in control of your own booking. This allows you to book at a location of your choosing as well as at a rate that fits your pocket book. If you are so inclined, perhaps you can book with special friends at the same hotel.

Here are some helpful hints for on-line booking.

1. Expedia, Priceline, Trivago, Travelocity all have variable rates (with the exception of RIT Inn & Conference Center which had room rates ranging from \$94 to \$116 US)
2. If booking through a hotel's website look for Senior's rates, special AAA/CAA rates, package deals e.g one hotel had a 'Staycation Package' for two at \$95 US for a single night however usual 'best price' was \$129 US for a single night.
3. Most offer free breakfast, free parking and free internet.
4. All the hotels listed here are within 15 to 20 minutes of Honeoye Falls.
5. The lowest rate provided is a non-refundable 'pay now' rate; the higher rate is what you pay if you want free cancellation. Please note, this is only a guide - all prices are subject to tax and change.

190 Exit 45 (Henrietta area) (all rates are in US dollars):

<u>Hotel</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>	<u>Pay Now</u> <u>(non-refundable)</u>	<u>Free Cancellation</u>
RIT Inn and Conference Center (no breakfast)	(585) 359-1800	\$97	\$129
Microtel Inn and Suites	(585) 334-3400	\$76	\$90
Super 8	(585) 359-1630	\$56	\$66
Econolodge	(585) 334-7000	\$71	\$84
Red Roof	(585) 359-1100	\$81	\$85



I90 Exit 46 (Victor area) (all rates are in US dollars):

<u>Hotel</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>	<u>Pay Now</u> <u>(non-refundable)</u>	<u>Free Cancellation</u>
Best Western Plus	(585) 924-3933	\$110	\$130
Holiday Inn Express	(585) 672-2100	\$151	\$164
Homewood Inn and Suites	(585) 869-7500	\$152	\$162
Hampton Inn and Suites (2017's meeting was held here)	(585) 924-4400	\$143	\$162
Microtel Inn and Suites	(585)869-9399	\$118	\$139

Schedule of Events

(subject to change)

FRIDAY – First Presbyterian Church, 27 N Main Street, Honeoye Falls, NY

TBD SILENT AUCTION SETUP

5:00 – 5:30 pm MEET at the restaurant in Honeoye Falls. Two restaurants are under consideration. Those interested should email Cara (thehutchings@me.com) and Neil (images@irises.org) before September 20 so reservations can be made. You will be advised of the restaurant once determined. You are responsible for your own dinner expenses.

7:30 pm JUDGES' TRAINING presented by Hugh Stout – Exhibition Judging of Tall Bearded Irises - 1 hour classroom credit.

SATURDAY – First Presbyterian Church, 27 N Main Street, Honeoye Falls, NY

8:00 — 9:00 am REGISTRATION (Pastries/Coffee/Tea set up all morning)

8:00 -- 9:00 am SILENT AUCTION SETUP

8:30 -- 9:00 am AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING

9:00 am --1:00 pm SILENT AUCTION BIDDING - Bidding will close promptly at 1:00 pm

9:00 – 10:30 am REGION 2 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING-- Region 2 Officers and Affiliate Chairpersons. Discussions will include dates for 2020 sales, shows, and selection of Region 2 Awards plus drafting a Budget for 2020.

10:45--11:45 am GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - Business meeting and Awards presentations.

12 noon to 1 pm HUGH STOUT PRESENTATION – 'The Diversity of Bearded Irises' – Open to the Public

1:00 -1:45 pm LUNCHEON – registration required.

FOLLOWING LUNCH – Announcement of Silent Auction winners followed by a LIVE AUCTION of Stout Garden Iris.

2:30 – 4:30 pm JUDGES' TRAINING presented by Hugh Stout – Garden Judging of Tall Bearded Irises – 2 hour classroom credit.

Fall Meeting Registration Form

(one form per person, please)

To Register: Mail completed registration form with your check made payable to GRIS or Greater Rochester Iris Society to: Cara Hutchings, 1996 N. Clinton Ave. Rochester, NY 14621

Confirmation will be sent by e-mail only.

Please make a copy of this form for your records.

Questions: Please e-mail thehutchings@mac.com.

For our Canadian members, you may email the registration form to Cara and pay at the door.

Registration

☐ \$ 20 US per person – Full Registration (**before September 20, 2019**)

Name _____

Name to appear on your name tag _____

Affiliate Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Prov. _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

Preferred phone _____

E-mail _____

☐ I will be attending the Friday night Judges' Training – 'Exhibition Judging of TB Irises' (1 hr)

☐ I will be attending the Saturday Judges' Training – 'Garden Judging of TB Irises' (2 hrs)

Please specify any dietary requests _____

Who Doesn't Like an Auction?

The Region 2 Annual meeting is known for its auctions. There is always a Silent auction where Region 2 members donate items that you can bid on throughout the day. Sometimes you will find themed-baskets specific to an affiliate's geographic location, other times you will find pots of irises donated by members from their gardens or even hand-made pieces of garden art. Whatever you find the selection is always special and the prices are even more special...unless of course you get into a bidding war...but that is all part of the fun! Proceeds from this auction go to the Region for future events.

At this year's meeting there will also be a live auction of irises from Stout Gardens at Dancingtree. What will be in the offering will be a surprise however you may be bidding on irises seen at this year's convention. The only way to find out is to come to the meeting and join the fun! Proceeds from this auction will go to the Greater Rochester Iris Society.

So sharpen your pencils, exercise your bidding arm and plan your strategy for both auctions. It guarantees to be a lot of fun!



TB 'Cowpoke' (Stout, 2017)
(all photos by k.brewitt)



TB 'Cabin Fever' (Stout, 2017)



TB 'Corinthian Leather' (Stout, 2017)

Silent Auction Items Needed

Are you creative and/or artistic? Do you like to share your talents?

Have you found yourself with one too many iris-themed items or garden ornaments?

Are you down-sizing and looking for a new home for some of your belongings?

Have you found yourself with an abundance of homemade preserves this year?

If you answered 'yes' to any of these questions then you may want to think about donating items to this year's Silent Auction.

Dorothy Stiefel has agreed to organize the auction along with the assistance of Joanne Bassett. If you have items to donate please email Dorothy (irisacher@aol.com) with a description. This will allow her to complete the bid sheet before the meeting. If you have any questions you can email Dorothy or Joanne (jbassett43@gmail.com). They will be happy to help.

So gather your treasures together for the Region 2 Silent Auction...and remember, you will need space to bring home some new treasures!

2019 Awards and Exhibition Report

Submitted by Kathryn Mohr, Show Chair

Western New York Iris Society, June 1

Best Specimen of Show: TB 'Curvaceous Coral' exhibited by Maria Gerbracht (*pictured top right*)

Silver Medal: David Baehre

Bronze Medal: Joanne Bassett

The Ruth V. Blenis Award: TB 'Curvaceous Coral' exhibited by Maria Gerbracht

Artistic Division - 11 Exhibitors

Best Design of Show – Open Division: Annette Kuhn "Imagine the Perfect Dinner"

Educational and Commercial Divisions

Bronze Medals for Outstanding Educational Exhibits: Marilee Farry and Velma Szczesny, "Irises Are For Everyone"

Bronze Medal for Outstanding Commercial Exhibits: Marilee Farry, "Judging an Accredited American Iris Society Show"

Capital-Hudson Iris Society, June 1

Best Specimen of Show: TB 'Queen Caterina' exhibited by Virginia M. Dorwaldt (*pictured right, second from top*)

Silver Medal: Virginia M. Dorwaldt

Bronze Medal: Kathryn Mohr

The Ethel Anson S. Peckham Award: TB 'Queen Caterina' exhibited by Virginia M. Dorwaldt

Greater Rochester Iris Society, June 2

Best Specimen of Show: MTB 'Smarty Pants' exhibited by Evie Roller (*pictured right, third from top*)

Silver Medal: Dorothy Stiefel

Bronze Medal: Wendy Roller

The Magdalen Award: MTB 'Smarty Pants' exhibited by Evie Roller

Ontario Iris Society, June 9

Best Specimen of Show: MTB 'Hoosier Belle' exhibited by Terry Laurin (*pictured bottom right*)

Seedling judged Most Worthy: SDB 03-40-01 Hybridized by April Missions

Silver Medal: Terry Laurin

Bronze Medal: Kate Brewitt

The William McGarvey Beardless Iris Award: SIB 'Ginger Twist' exhibited by Kate Brewitt



Judges' Training Report

Submitted by Wendy Roller, JT Chair for AIS Region 2

REGION 2 OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY – JUDGES and STUDENT JUDGES Status Roster – as of July 31, 2019

<u>Active Master</u>	<u>Garden / Exhibition</u>	<u>Apprentice Judge</u>	<u>Retired Master</u>
David Baehre	Kate Brewitt	Suzanne Perry	Daniel P. McMillen
Joanne Bassett	John Colley		Gloria McMillen
Chuck Chapman	Marilee Farry		James McMillen
Maria Gerbracht	Terrance Laurin		Carolyn Schaffner
Raymond Ives	E.J. Mattson		Helen B. Schueler
Donna James	Jinny Missons		Kathleen Shadrack
Donna J. Lowry	Vaughn Sayles		Mary Jane Shanley
Maureen Mark	Janette Smith		
Wendy K. Roller	Mary J. Urist		
Dorothy Stiefel			

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

During the period August 1, 2018 – July 31, 2019, Region 2 accredited judges and student judges collectively earned 69.5 hours of credit for attending or presenting classroom, in-garden training and tutoring sessions. The events were held in California, Illinois, Louisiana, New York, and Pennsylvania.

A summary of the judges training sessions offered during the last year is as follows:

- During the 2018 Region 2 Annual Fall Meeting event held in Delmar, New York, AIS Emeritus Judge Bonnie Nichols, iris and daylily hybridizer and co-owner of Hillcrest Iris and Daylily Gardens in Mesquite, Texas, presented a one-hour course on “Awards and Ballots” and a two-hour course on “Novelty Iris.”
- During the 2018 Region 3 Fall Meeting event held in New Holland, Pennsylvania, AIS Garden/Exhibition Judge Mary J. Urist, former owner of Louisiana Iris Gardens in Tully, New York, presented a two-hour classroom course on “Judging Louisiana Iris A-Z - on the Bench and in the Garden.”
- During the North Illinois Iris Society Region 9 Meeting held in Chicago, Illinois, AIS Master Judge Chuck Chapman, owner of Chapman Iris in Guelph, Ontario presented a 1.5 hour classroom course on “Standard Dwarf Bearded Irises.”
- During May 2019, in the garden of Neil Houghton in Mendon, New York, AIS Master Judge Wendy K. Roller presented two two-hour in-garden judges training sessions on “Median Irises” and provided a one-on-one apprentice judge in-garden tutoring session.
- During June 2019, at the Capitol-Hudson Iris Show held in East Greenbush, New York, AIS Garden/Exhibition Judge John Colley provided a one-on-one apprentice judge show tutoring session.

- During July 2019, AIS Master Judge Donna James, owner of Enchantment Acres in Hannibal, New York, presented a two-hour in-garden course on “Japanese Irises.”

FALL, 2019 JUDGES TRAINING COURSES IN REGION 2

The Greater Rochester Iris Society will be hosting the AIS Region 2 Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 5, 2019. The meeting will be held at the First Presbyterian Church of Honeoye Falls, located at 27 North Main Street in Honeoye Falls, New York 14472. During the event AIS Garden/Exhibition Judge Hugh Stout will give the keynote address on “The Diversity of Bearded Irises.” Hugh hybridizes irises and daylilies; and he is a Past President of the Tall Bearded Iris Society. Hugh is the owner of Stout Gardens at Dancingtree, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He will present the following two judges training courses during the event:

1. Friday Evening, October 4, 2019 – Exhibition Judging of Tall Bearded Irises (1 hour credit)
2. Saturday Afternoon, October 5, 2019 – Garden Judging of Tall Bearded Irises (2 hours credit)

AIS Region 2 Membership Report

Submitted by Vaughn Sayles, Membership Chair

As of August 1, 2019, in addition to four affiliate memberships (Capital Hudson Iris Society, Greater Rochester Iris Society, Ontario Iris Society and Western New York Iris Society) and four 4 organizational memberships (Brooklyn Botanical Garden, Cornell University Library, Jardin Botanique de Montreal Bibliotheque and the Sayville Garden Club), there are 98 members of the American Iris Society who reside in Region 2.

We would like to welcome Joanna Doggett of Cohoes, New York and the Sayville Garden Club of Sayville, New York who became members this year. Joanna has also become an active member of the Capitol Hudson Iris Society.

Do you know when your AIS membership expires?

Go to www.aislookup.org to find out your expiry date. If your membership is expiring you can go to www.irises.org and renew on-line through PayPal. It's that easy to keep your AIS membership current.

Join the American Iris Society



Annual Single: \$30 US / Dual: \$35 US
Triennial Single: \$70 US / Dual: \$85 US
(Includes a quarterly bulletin)

A one-year electronic membership, or e-membership, is available for \$15 US.

Annual Youth Rates (under age 19): \$8 US without a Bulletin
\$12 US with a Bulletin

[Click here](#) to go to the American Iris Society website and a list of additional membership types.

Our Visit to Superstition Iris Gardens

By Kate Brewitt, ONIS

If you are an AIS member you will have read about this year's convention gardens as well as the optional tour to Joe Ghio's gardens in the recent edition of IRISES. However one garden tour you won't have read about is Terry's and my visit to Superstition Iris Gardens in Catheys Valley in the Guadalupe Mountains. This is the home of hybridizers Rick Tasco and Roger Duncan.



This opportunity presented itself when fellow convention goer, Delane Langton of Eagle Ridge Iris Gardens in Montana, told us he was doing a road trip to Superstition on the Tuesday of the convention. Originally I had planned to attend the AIS' day-long Board meeting, thinking it was time to get in touch with the AIS. However when this opportunity was dangled in front of my nose, without any hesitation, I decided a garden visit was preferable to sitting in a boardroom all day.

View of Superstition Iris Gardens in Catheys Valley, CA.

The next day we headed out early as it was a 2.5 hour drive to Cathey Valley in Mariposa County. Once we left the bay area the landscape became very rolling. At one point I felt we were out in the middle of nowhere as all there seemed to be was rolling hills with a tree sprouting up every now and then. Finally as we rounded on last hill, there were the familiar white gate posts of Superstition Iris Gardens. As we drove up the driveway a large field of blooming tall bearded irises came into view. Our jaws dropped and all I could say was 'Wow', over and over again. It is an amazing place in an amazing setting.

We perused the rows of irises, starting with some gorgeous arilbreds. When Rick heard me lament about our failed attempts at growing them he quickly stepped up and suggested that I stay away from OBG and OBG+ and look for OBG- as these are only one-quarter aril thus growing more easily in my northern garden. With that useful bit of information tucked under my sunhat we perused the rest of the beds and watched Rick while he did some hybridizing (*pictured right*).

After a couple of hours of picture taking we sat in the shade and basked in the tranquil setting. Here we discussed irises with Rick, Roger and other garden visitors. We even listened to some wild turkeys calling in the field across the road...and Rick responded with his own very convincing 'gobble'.



Soon it was time to leave. We waved good-bye to Roger and Rick and headed back through the rolling hills to San Ramon and the convention. It had been quite a day, well worth the 'price of admission' to the convention.

You Asked the Editor...

The following question was submitted by our RVP, Kathryn Mohr who wanted to know...

What is a Seedy Saturday?

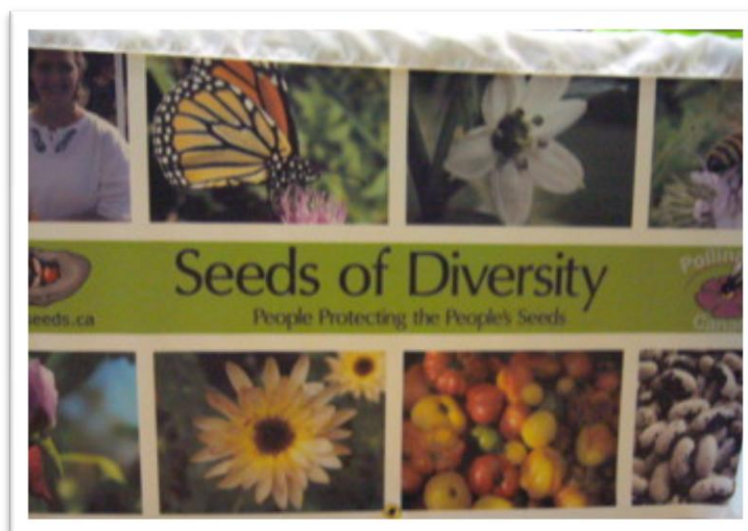
During the long, cold Canadian winter gardeners enjoy attending Seedy Saturdays (and Sundays). These are a series of non-profit, public events organized by individuals and community groups that see a need for gardeners, seed companies, nurseries, gardening organizations, historic sites, and community groups to have a low-cost local venue where they can learn from one another, exchange ideas, and purchase seeds and plants in a comfortable, social setting.

The first Seedy Saturday was the work of Sharon Rempel, a pioneer in Canada's organic and heritage seed movement. In a search for period-appropriate vegetation for a 1880s garden she was working on, she found she only had one source of seeds – and it wasn't even in Canada. So on a fateful spring day in 1990, she organized the first Seedy Saturday at the VanDusen Botanical Garden in Vancouver, British Columbia, to give herself and others more seed options. Needless to say, it was a success.

With each passing year the number of these events increases with over 170 held in 2019 across Canada. They have evolved from simple seed exchanges into fun-filled events where you can buy plants, experience different foods, buy crafts, attend workshops, listen to speakers and learn about your community.

So, when you read about the Ontario Iris Society attending a Seedy Saturday you now have a better idea of what they are doing.

Parts of this article were taken from an article by Judy Newman on the Seeds of Diversity website, with notes from the USC Canada website, edited by and photos provided by K. Brewitt.



From the Editor's Desk



That was one heck of an iris season with below seasonal temperatures and above average rainfalls, we were wet, we were cold and our irises were running a week to 10 days behind schedule...in some cases even more! But the upside was that we still had Siberians and TBs blooming the first week of July, something that is virtually unheard of in my part of Region 2.

This edition of the newsletter is a bit earlier than usual. Our by-laws stipulate that each member must receive notification of the annual meeting at least thirty days in advance. That said, our Annual meeting is being held in Honeoye Falls on October 4th and 5th. Details are provided in this newsletter. If you are interested in reading the minutes from last year's meeting they have been posted on the Region 2 website at www.aisregion2.org. You can also find them in the Spring edition of the newsletter.

Which takes me to my next point...

It is very important that each of you provide me with a current email address. Ten percent of the newsletters emailed in the spring came back to me as undeliverable. With a little 'sleuthing' I was able to get new e-mail addresses for about half however some of you are not receiving your newsletter. That said if your email changes please let me know (And let Tom Gormley, AIS Membership Secretary know as well). If you are aware that another Region 2 member's e-mail has changed, ask if they have advised the Region 2 editor (and Tom). Email is the easiest way to communicate and stay up to date.

Many of you will have noticed that Region 2 has a new one-page publication called 'Iris Alert'. This came into existence when Kathryn, our RVP, wanted to notify Region 2 members of some changes that were announced during the RVP meeting at this year's AIS National Convention in San Ramon, CA. I hope you are finding this publication useful as it is a good way to stay in touch in between newsletters.

I also hope many of you will attend the Annual Meeting. I always look forward to the drive through New York State. The leaves will be starting to change colour and, if it is not raining, it will be a beautiful drive. And, like Kathryn, I enjoy the social aspect of reconnecting with our Region 2 friends. Look forward to seeing you there!

I will leave you with this picture of Terry at the MIS convention in 2011 at Stout Gardens...you haven't lived until you've danced with a tree!

Until next time....Kate (just1moreiris@gmail.com)

(Pictured above 'Autumn Explosion' (Tasco, 2013) – 2019 Wister Medal winner - Taken at the 2019 AIS National Convention host garden, Dry Creek Pioneer Regional Park, Union City, CA- photo by k.brewitt)



AIS Region 2 On-Line

Do you ever go to the AIS Region 2 website?

Did you know that each affiliate has its own webpage where upcoming events are listed?

Did you know that you can also find past editions of each affiliate's newsletter?

Take a look! Bookmark a page! You'll be glad that you did!

AIS Region 2 website: <http://aisregion2.org>

Capital-Hudson Iris Society (CHIS)
https://www.aisregion2.org/region2_007.htm

Greater Rochester Iris Society (GRIS)
https://www.aisregion2.org/region2_008.htm

Ontario Iris Society (ONIS)
https://www.aisregion2.org/region2_010.htm

Western New York Iris Society (WNYIS)
https://www.aisregion2.org/region2_012.htm

Greater Rochester Iris Society (GRIS) is on FACEBOOK

Ontario Iris Society (ONIS) is on FACEBOOK

You can also find the American Iris Society On-line:

American Iris Society Website: <http://irises.org>

AIS Iris Encyclopedia <http://wiki.irises.org/bin/view>

World of Irises: Blog of the American Iris Society <https://theamericanirissociety.blogspot.com/>

The American Iris Society on FACEBOOK and TWITTER

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COPY DEADLINES

Spring Issue February 1

Fall Issue August 1

(Please note, submissions may be edited for style and clarity.)

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